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| **Contextual Risk Early Identification Tool** |

Some adolescents are at increased risk of being drawn into gangs, crime, going missing and being sexually exploited. Adolescence can be a confusing and challenging time for many young people, their parents and professionals working with them. It is essential for the multi-agency network to work closely together and alongside families to help young people and to reduce the risk.

Risk can be increasingly external and contextual at this age. Assessing risk for adolescents requires practitioners to think beyond the family situation to also focus on peer relationships, behaviour in the community and how children’s adverse history may impact on their ability to navigate situations they encounter in their day to day life.

**How should practitioners use this tool?**

* The form is designed to help practitioners link what may seem unrelated concerns and to evidence a general sense of unease about the child’s welfare and differentiate between general worrying teenage behaviour and concerns that may suggest a degree of risk, including grooming for and active child exploitation, which could be sexual as well as criminal.
* Professional judgement is key. The examples are to help build a holistic picture of a young person’s vulnerabilities, risks they may be exposed to and protective factors
* Practitioners can tick boxes, mark them yes, no or unknown to help identify the areas of concern or identify what they need to know more about. It is not a scoring system.
* Some practitioners, depending on their role, may simply use the tick box section to inform a discussion with their safeguarding lead
* For other practitioners, the most important sections of the form are the summary sections where they can review and reflect on their findings and decide on next steps. This may include a discussion with their safeguarding lead, sharing information with multi-agency partners, a referral to a specialist service or a referral to Early Help or Children’s Social Care

**This tool is not:**

* A referral form
* A score card
* A replacement for any risk assessment tools used in individual agencies

**When to use the Contextual Risk Early Identification Tool:**

* It can be used at **any time** when there are emerging or changing concerns in relation to a young person

**If there are concerns about the immediate protection of a child professionals should not delay in responding to these concerns.**

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| **Child vulnerability and risk factors - this is not an exhaustive list, always consider information shared by other professionals and the family** | **Concern?** |
| **Family history:** |  |
| Living in a dysfunctional home (DV, substance misuse, mental health, neglect) |  |
| Family breakdown-multiple partners |  |
| Attachment issues in child/parental relationship |  |
| History of abuse/neglect (previous CP plan or CIN plan) |  |
| Unresolved bereavement, loss or trauma |  |
| Adverse childhood experiences |  |
| Known to have been trafficked |  |
| Immigration status issues |  |
| Family history of crime |  |
| Looked after child |  |
| Previous involvement with Children’s social care |  |
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| **Emotional health:** |  |
| Poor self-image |  |
| Self-Harming -cutting/overdosing/ Eating difficulties |  |
| Difficulty making or maintaining friendship with peers |  |
| Mental health issues |  |
| Conduct disorder |  |
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| **School:** |  |
| History of bullying/victim of bullying |  |
| Pattern of going missing from school for a few hours in the day |  |
| Truanting from school |  |
| Fixed term exclusions |  |
| Peer relationships |  |
| Breakdown of school placements due to behavioural problems |  |
| Additional educational needs |  |
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| **Behaviour:** |  |
| Regularly coming home late |  |
| Staying out overnight without permission |  |
| Going missing |  |
| Drugs or alcohol – consider frequency and dependency |  |
| Extensive use of phone/internet, particularly late at night |  |
| Communicating with unknown people online |  |
| Posting intimate pictures online |  |
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| **Relationships:** |  |
| Associating with gang members, siblings, friends |  |
| Associating with other young person where there are exploitation concerns |  |
| Neighbourhood information |  |
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| **Other vulnerabilities or risks** |  |
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| **Protective factors - this is not an exhaustive list, always consider information shared by other professionals and the family** | **Concern?** |
| **Family history:** |  |
| Living in a stable home environment |  |
| Primary care giver is consistent and available to the young person |  |
| Strong attachment between the young person and their parents |  |
| No previous safeguarding concerns |  |
| Family and professionals have worked well together to address any trauma or loss |  |
| Positive childhood experiences |  |
| Stable situation for the family – housing, immigration, finances |  |
| Positive relationship for young person with siblings and extended family |  |
| Clear and consistent boundaries set and mostly adhered to by parent/care giver |  |
| Looked after children – stable, long-term placement |  |
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| **Emotional health:** |  |
| Young person has a positive self-image |  |
| Young person has good problem solving skills |  |
| Positive, longstanding friendship group |  |
| Robust mental health |  |
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| **School:** |  |
| Does not get involved in bullying either as a victim or perpetrator |  |
| Attending all lessons |  |
| Good attendance |  |
| Good behaviour overall |  |
| Positive peer relationships |  |
| Consistent school provision |  |
| Making good educational progress |  |
| Additional needs being well-met |  |
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| **Behaviour:** |  |
| Comes home at agreed times |  |
| Always ensures that adults know where they are |  |
| Does not go missing |  |
| Infrequent use of alcohol– consider frequency and dependency |  |
| Good awareness of keeping safe online |  |
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| **Relationships:** |  |
| Friendship group do not present concerns |  |
| Not involved in behaviour seen as a problem in the neighbourhood |  |
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| **Other protective factors** |  |
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**Child’s Details**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Full name** |  | **DOB** |  |
| **Disability** |  | **Gender** |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Home address** | **Current placement address (if different from home address)** | **School details, name and address** |
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| **Family composition:** | | |
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| **Summary of child vulnerability and risk factors** |
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| **Summary of protective factors** |
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| **Conclusions** |
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| **Action – what steps will be taken following the completion of the tool:**  ***If using this tool has identified risk or vulnerability what actions will be taken?*** |
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**Completed by**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name |  | Date completed |  |
| Agency |  |  |  |

This form can be found at <http://www.greenwichsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/site/index.php>