

Extra Familial Risk Pathway for Children and Young People

Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES)

Introduction

This document sets out the Extra-Familial Risk Pathway (FPR) within B&NES Children's Social Care for children identified as being at risk of significant harm, where the harm is not attributable to the care they receive from parents/ carers. This document will explain the process that should be followed for an individual young person or when there are a number of young people are identified as being at risk of extra-familial harm in the same place/ location and/ or from the same perpetrator/s.

Significant harm which is not attributable to the care provided by parents/carers

The term extra-familial harm refers to harm that young people experience beyond the family/ home environment. The risks young people face during adolescence, compared with those faced by younger children, are more likely to be situated outside of the home environment and in public places where young people socialise. These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online. Sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, radicalisation, trafficking and peer on peer violence (gangs) (where parents/ carers are not perpetrators/ involved in the exploitation of the young person) are examples of extra-familial harms that young people may suffer. These extra-familial harms are safeguarding issues and require a safeguarding response as they pose a direct risk to young people. Extra-familial harm can also lead to further risks at the home for the young person or their family members.

Scope

This process applies to all B&NES children who are looked after by the Local Authority (up to the age of 18), children living within their families (up to the age of 18), and B&NES care experienced young adults who are at risk of significant harm whereby the harm is not attributable to the care they receive from parents/ carers.

Aims

- To identify children at risk of being exploited, both criminally and sexually.
- To work collaboratively to ensure the children and young people at risk of being exploited are safeguarded.

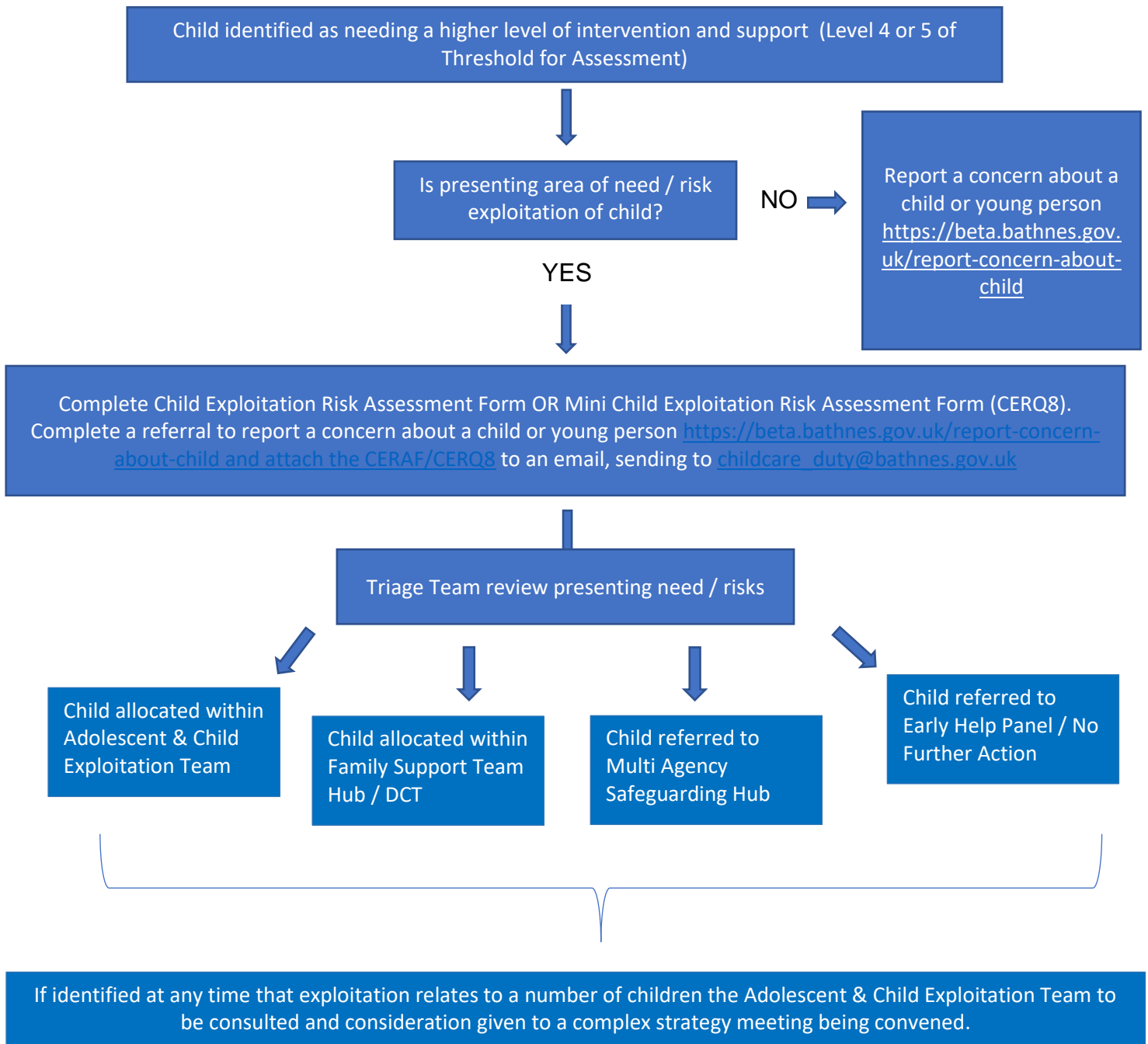
- To provide timely and effective interventions with children and families to safeguard those vulnerable to exploitation.
- To apply pro-active problem solving to address the risks associated with victims, perpetrators and locations, and ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children / young people who are, or may be, at risk from exploitation.
- To take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people by prosecuting and disrupting perpetrators.
- To raise awareness and provide preventative education for the welfare of children and young people who are, or may be, sexually exploited.

Principles

The principles underpinning a multi-agency response to the exploitation of children and young people include:

- Exploited children should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders.
- Exploitation may include sexual, physical and emotional abuse and in some cases, neglect.
- Children do not make informed choices to enter or remain in exploitation, but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation.
- Young people who are, or at risk of being exploited may have varying levels of needs. They may have multiple vulnerabilities and therefore an appropriate multiagency response and good coordination is essential.
- Law enforcement will direct resources against those that exploit children, who are often adults, but could also be the child's peers. However, these peers may also be victims themselves.
- Exploited children are children in need of services under the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and may also be in need of immediate protection.
- A multi agency strategy discussion should take place for all children considered to be at significant risk of exploitation.

1. Concern about a child or young person



2. Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Form (CERAF)

The CERAF is a dynamic tool and used throughout the Pathway. It aims to assist with identification and analysis of risk within assessments. It is also designed to be used to inform the child in need plan, child protection plan or child's care plan.

At the point of referral

Where there are concerns about child exploitation at the point of referring to children's social care a CERAF form must be completed and attached to the referral form.

If you are an agency with ongoing involvement with the child / family, you will be expected to complete the full CERAF (Appendix **). If your agencies concerns are based on a single contact with the child /family then completion of the mini CERAF is required (Appendix **).

Children's Social Care teams

When an assessment is being undertaken by children's social care and this identifies risks related to child exploitation a CERAF must be undertaken alongside the assessment and inform the assessment recommendations and plan.

CERQ8 (Mini CERAF)



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NES%20Health%20Pr

This form is to be used by health practitioners who have 'time limited' contact with children under the age of 18 to help them quickly identify children at risk of sexual exploitation and other types of exploitation. These areas include:

ED/ UTC staff

MIU

Condom distributors

111/ OOHs service

Primary Care

Pharmacists

For professionals not listed above it is expected that a full risk assessment is completed in line with agreed BCSSP procedures.

The CSE/ CE risk assessment requires a child-centred approach which considers the holistic needs of the child. The CERQ8 checklist is intended to help health practitioners in time limited settings to assess a child's risk and to support their professional judgement on deciding when to make a child protection referral.

If a child between the ages of 10 – 17 presents to one of these services with **one** or more of the following, a short CERQ8 (Questions 1-5 focus on CSE) should be completed:

- Contraception or STI testing/treatment (including emergency contraception/pregnancy testing)
- Pregnancy

- Drug or alcohol problems or overdose
- Self-harm
- Disclosure of sexual assault or sexual activity that raises concern
- Domestic violence in the home

Professionals listed should ask questions 1- 5 as a minimum. If they are concerned about CCE (yes to questions 1,4 or 5) then they should also complete questions 6-8. If they **are** able to complete a fuller risk assessment with the child, they should do so.

Practitioners may like to introduce the questions: *'I would like to ask you some questions to check that you are safe and no one is harming you or pressurising you to have sex'.*

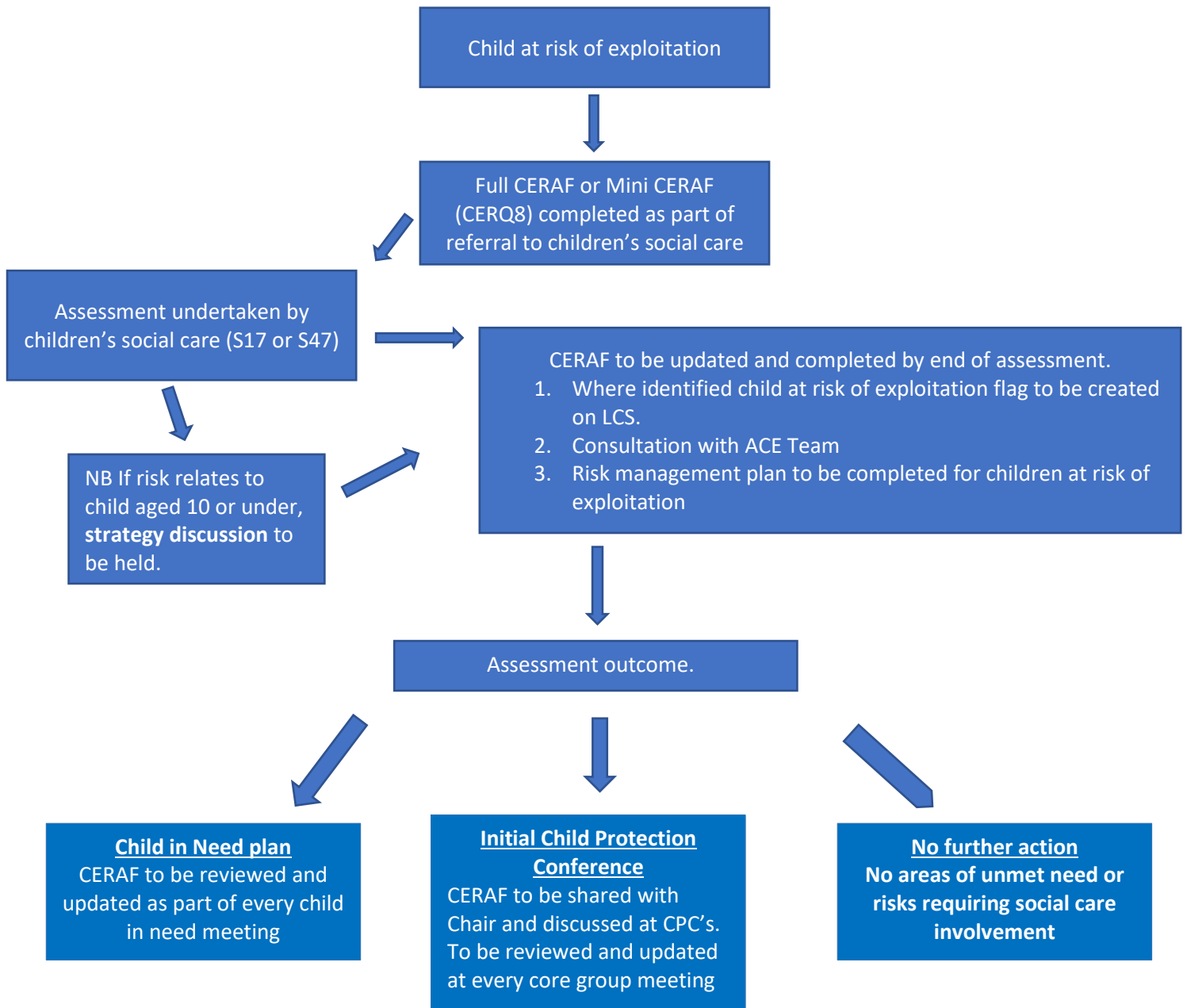
Points to remember:

Children under 13 years of age cannot consent to sexual activity - refer to social care under child protection procedures.

Have you considered if the child has capacity to consent to sexual activity?

Have you considered other types of exploitation?

CERAF



3. Children identified as being at medium-high risk of exploitation:

Consultation with ACE Team:

A consultation with the ACE team will be held for all children identified at medium and high risk of exploitation during completion of the assessment / CERAF. NB: at the point of conclusion, children identified as being at *high* risk of exploitation to be considered for allocation within the ACE Team.

Partnership working to Reduce Exploitation and Violence (PREV)

When a child is deemed at medium or high risk of exploitation, the allocated social worker will refer the child to PREV.

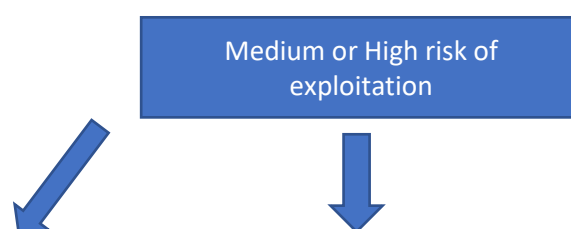
This PREV is a forum in which information is shared at a multi-agency level in order to reduce the risk and impact of exploitation and serious violence. Information is shared to support the safeguarding of individuals and to help prevent offending. It is important to note that some of what is shared is 'intelligence' and has not always been tested as reliable.

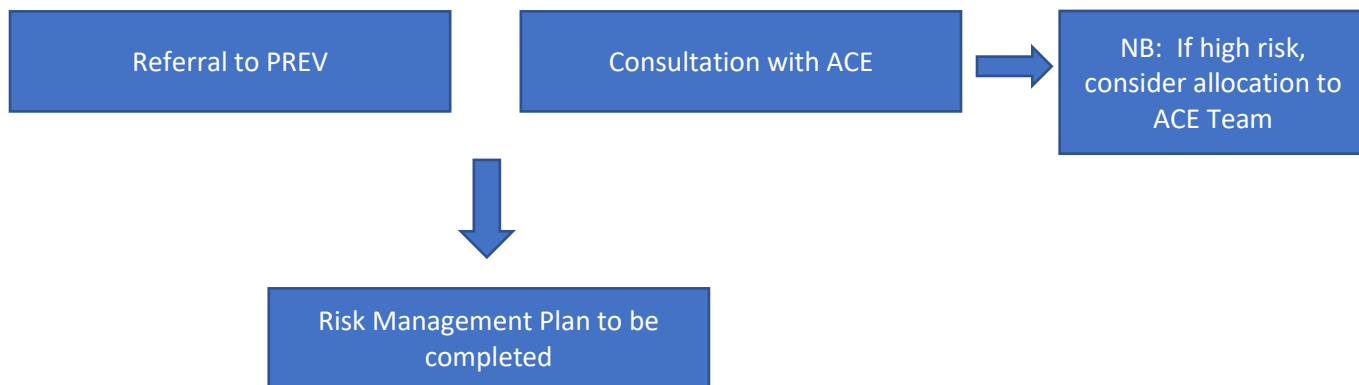
The group replaces the two previous Operational Groups which focused separately on exploitation and on serious violence, in recognition that in a small Local Authority, some of the same individuals and issues were discussed in both groups, by some of the same agencies and staff.

The purpose is to identify individuals of any age who are at high risk of exploitation and/or becoming perpetrators of serious violence, share key information and ensure there is a co-ordinated assessment and provision of support across agencies to address this and link it wherever possible with Police and other agencies' disruption activities. The group is also interested in identifying public spaces where exploitation and/or serious violence tends to occur, in order to address how to make these spaces safer for children and the wider community. This is part of a wider approach to contextual safeguarding, increasing our understanding and helping us to address extra familial harm to children.

The Risk Management Plan (RMP): alongside the CERAF, a RMP will be completed for all children identified through completion of the CERAF as being at Medium or High risk of exploitation. The RMP will sit alongside the child in need plan. The RMP identifies the risks to the child and the plans in place to mitigate these. Where possible and appropriate the RMP should be co-produced with the child, their family and the professional network. All RMP's will be shared with the child, their family and the professional network.

The RMP should be discussed between the social worker and their manager in supervision and timescales for review should be agreed and set out within the RMP or at a minimum every two months.





4. Child Protection Conferences

An initial child protection should be considered for all children at high risk of exploitation, it is expected that an ICPC will be convened if one or more of the following are identified:

- Lack of engagement by the child's parents / carer is directly linked to significant harm being suffered by the child
- Risks relate to exploitation **and** parenting
- There are difficulties in establishing a multiagency approach to working with the child i.e. there is only one other agency alongside children's social care working with the child, the child is disengaged and contact with them difficult to establish and sustain
- There is an immediate risk of physical harm to the child
- Children's Social Care are considering the need for legal advice due to identified risks

NB; For those children where the CERAF and RMP identifies risks to be high and a child protection conference is not being convened, the statutory assessment and RMP will be signed off by the Team Manager and Head of Service should be informed/alerted. The Head of Service is then responsible for ratifying this plan within three working days.

5. Missing

The B&NES 'Children Missing from Home, Care and Education Settings Protocol' sets out the key principles of practice and steps to be taken when a child is missing.

The B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) regards all children who go missing from home, Care or education settings as a priority group who may be at risk of significant harm. Going missing is a safeguarding issue. Children may be at particular risk of sexual exploitation but could also be running away from or into situations where they could be exploited through trafficking, radicalisation or other dangerous and/or criminal activity. Some missing children may also be those at risk of forced marriage or female genital mutilation. They may have difficulties with

accommodation or placements or with family relationships or education and/or face significant health and safety issues. Any missing episode should always be treated as a clear indication that something is not right in a child's life.

Our local objectives are to reduce the number of children who go missing by promoting prompt reporting to the Police when they do go missing in order that they can quickly be found and returned to a safe place, and by working in partnership to reduce repeat incidences and keep children safe. Where there is a criminal element to children going missing, for example grooming for exploitation, our intention is to disrupt this activity and support Police in bringing offenders to justice.

Specific Principles

- a) We regard children going missing as a safeguarding issue and young people's safety and well-being is paramount;
- b) Locating and returning the child to a safe place is the main objective and timely information sharing is key to quickly finding them and planning to keep them safe. There is no data protection issue in sharing missing person's reports in order to achieve this. All partners will follow the BCSSP Information Sharing Protocol;
- c) Child protection procedures will be initiated whenever there are concerns that a child who is missing or has been missing may be at risk of significant harm;
- d) We will actively support the 'reintegration' of children who have been missing to reduce the risk of reoccurrence and promote their achievement of positive outcomes.

Safeguarding

Child protection procedures will be initiated whenever there are concerns that a child who is missing may be suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.

Social Care will treat the notification as a referral or significant event and decide whether an immediate Strategy meeting is warranted. If not held immediately, the need for a Strategy meeting will be kept under review, as the risk of significant harm increases over time.

Social Care will complete a Risk Management Plan for all children who go missing repeatedly or regularly. This will be shared with all agencies known to the child including their school or college and, unless it is not in the child's interests, with the child and their parents/carers.

Return Home Interviews (RHIs)

The undertaking of a Return Home Interview is important for all children who go missing. If the child has an allocated social worker, the RHI should be undertaken by that team, unless the child requests for an independent person to complete the RHI, in which case Youth Justice Service Integrated Working staff will allocate the case to Compass. If the child is not open to children's social care, then the Compass team will undertake the RHI. Wherever possible, this interview will take place in a neutral setting, within 72 hours of the young person returning home. Where a young person expresses a preference, the interview can take place at their home or school. The

young person will be seen on their own unless they specifically ask to have someone with them.

All interviews will be recorded using a standard checklist and will identify and follow up on any harm the young person has suffered either before they ran away or whilst missing. This may include making a safeguarding or early help service referral. Interviews will inform an understanding of why the young person went missing and help them understand what alternatives they have and what they and others can do to keep them safe (including giving them a card with helpline numbers).

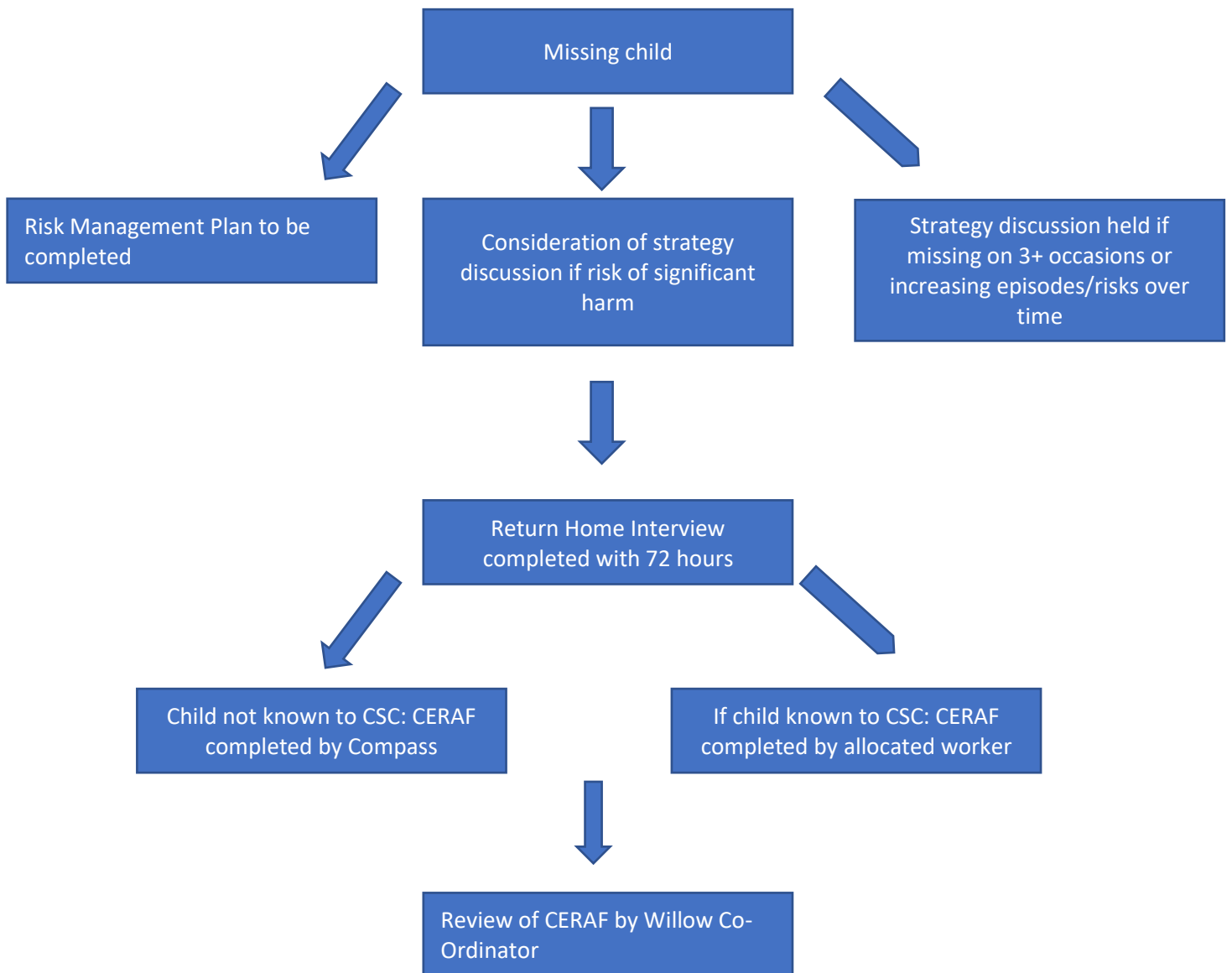
All For those young people aged 11 and over and not currently known to Children's Social Care, a CERAF will be completed unless the Team Manager agrees and records that the circumstances do not require it.

A CERAF may be completed on a younger child if concerning information is disclosed during the RHI.

Where the young person has an allocated worker, they will complete the CERAF and update the RMP based on information provided within the RHI.

All completed CERAFs are reviewed by the Willow Coordinator to determine whether the young person meets the criteria for receiving a support service to address the risk of exploitation.

If a young person has gone missing on three or more occasions or for one episode lasting more than twenty-four hours or there are missing episodes over a very long period of time with no sustained reduction, then a Manager will hold a Strategy meeting, including a fuller review of actions following earlier incidents and consider alternative strategies for reducing the risk of reoccurrence. However, if there is a pre-planned professionals meeting happening within 24 hours, then this meeting can additionally take on this function.



6. Further/Useful information

Policies that underpin the Pathway are available on the BCSSP website, and this site should be visited to ensure the most recent versions are being accessed

<https://bcssp.bathnes.gov.uk/policies-and-procedures-> :

- Threshold for assessment
- Youth @ Risk Strategy
- Multi Agency Protocol for Children and YP at risk of Sexual Exploitation
- One minute guide to CSE
- Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Form (CERAF)
- Children missing from home, care and education setting protocol
- Radicalisation Protocol
- One minute guide to Radicalisation

Documents to refer to in pathway:

- CSE leaflet for professionals – Girl
- CSE leaflet for Professionals
- CSE leaflet for parents
- CSE card for YP
- Children Missing Protocol
- Willow referral form
- BCSSP Exploitation and County Lines briefing
- One minute guide to CCE

Services / Information:

- Childline
- NSPCC
- Project 28 – young people’s drug and alcohol service
- Barnardos against sexual exploitation
- Sexual Health For Everyone (SAFE)
- The Riverside Clinic – sexual health and contraceptive needs
- The Bridge – Help after rape and sexual assault
- Off the Record
- Parents against child exploitation

Guidance

- How to complete CERAF / Mini CERAF
- Risk Management Plan
- PREV

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