



BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership

Extra Familial Harm Strategy

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1. Introduction

This is BCP Local Children Partnership Extra Familial Harm Strategy 2024-2026.

It is acknowledged that that child exploitation and extra familial harm is a complex area requiring cohesive, multi-agency approach. As a result, this is a partnership strategy, which has been jointly drafted and is to be implemented by all professional agencies working with children and young people, the local voluntary and community and business sectors, and children, young people, parents, carers, and families in the BCP area.

This strategy sets out agreed priority areas that all partner agencies will work towards to ensure the most effective responses to children and young people identified at risk of exploitation and extra-familial harm. In addition, the strategy will work alongside BCP Safeguarding Adult Board to ensure clear transitional safeguarding arrangements in place to support all victims of Extra Familial Harm.

2. What Is Extra Familial Harm?

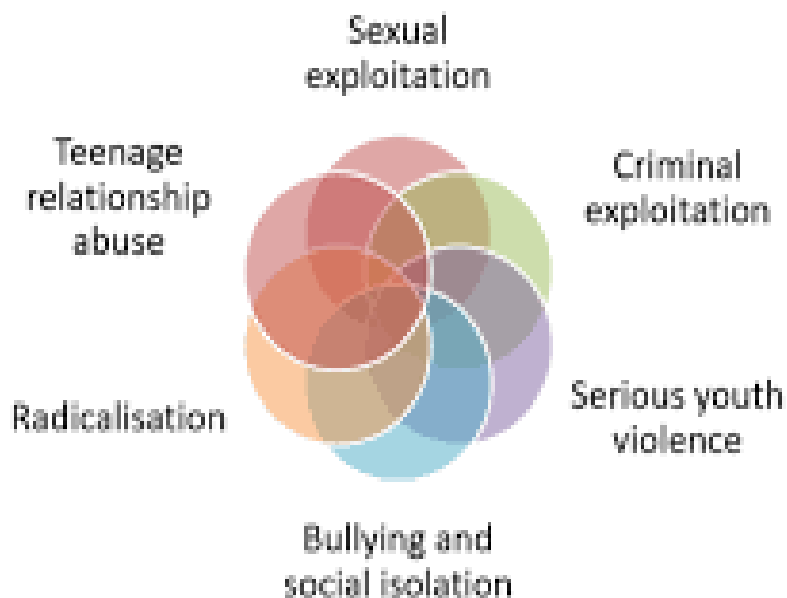


Diagram from University of Bedfordshire showing the interconnected nature of all forms of exploitation
EFH Strategy 2024

Child safeguarding risks have traditionally been associated with the family home environment and linked to parenting capacity. However, it is increasingly recognised that children and young people can also face significant safeguarding risks outside the home. This is referred to as **extra-familial harm**, where risk of harm comes from other sources, or contexts, including, for example, from drugs, gangs, youth violence, bullying, missing from care or home, radicalisation, trafficking, modern day slavery, sexual and criminal exploitation.

There can be complex overlaps and intersections of different forms of extra familial harm and in the interplay between intra- familial harm (within the family) and extra familial harm. All young people can be at risk of extra familial harm, however the cumulative experience of intra familial harm can increase young people's vulnerability.

Each form of exploitation is categorised with its own definition, however as demonstrated in the above diagram, research shows us that there are clear overlaps between the different forms of exploitation and the associated risks. Therefore, our response cannot view these risks in isolation, and it has been agreed that any reference to **extra-familial harm** should be read to include the following areas:

- Missing from home or care.
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) including online exploitation.
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) including County Lines.
- Trafficking and/or Modern Slavery.
- Drug-related harm.
- Knife crime and serious violence.
- Radicalisation and extremism (PREVENT)

3. Links to existing strategies, plans and priorities.

The strategy aims will contribute to the priorities set out in BCP's Children and Young People's Plan 21-24:

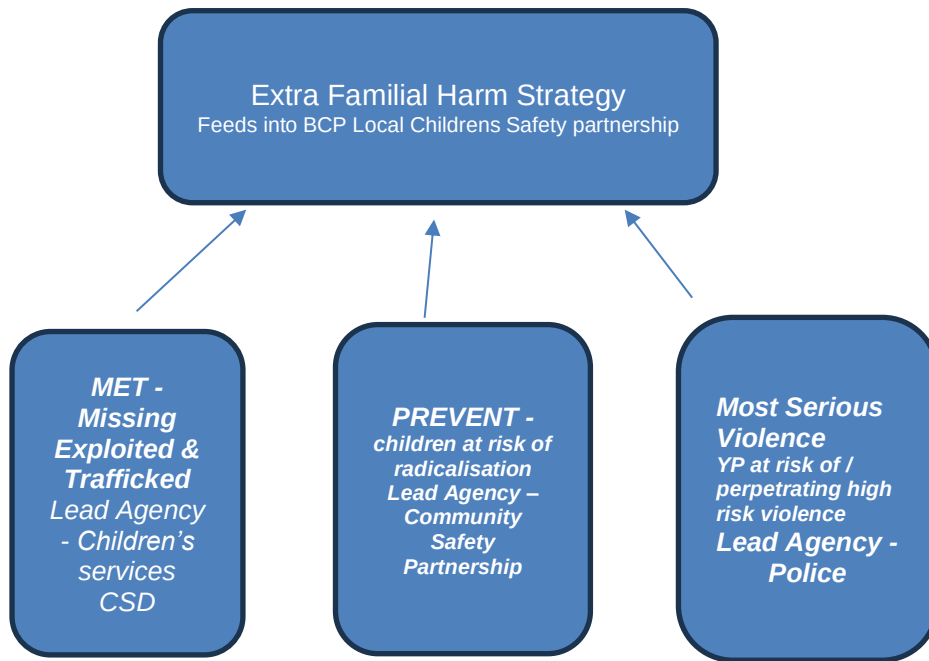
- Children and young people have the opportunities and are supported to achieve their full potential in education, learning and future employment
- Children and young people can enjoy healthy lifestyles and make positive choices.
- Children and young people are accepted as valued members of society enabling them to achieve within, and contribute to, the wider community.
- Children and young people are supported to be resilient in the face of the challenges.

The Extra-Familial Harm strategy is the overarching strategy for 3 key areas of work within BCP:

- MET - Missing, Exploited and Trafficked
- PREVENT – Children at risk of radicalisation
- Most Serious Violence – children at risk of /perpetrating serious violence in the community

Each of these subgroups will have an independent action plan detailing work to be undertaken regarding each area.

Each of these will be closely linked to each other both from a data sharing and thematic analysis.



4. Our Vision

Our vision is that children and young people in BCP feel safe in the community and are safeguarded from all forms of extra-familial harm by:

- All agencies having a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities to provide a coordinated and effective response, (including services for adults); and,
- All agencies will have a focus on prevention of harm, including through the identification, disruption and prosecution of offenders.

5. Our Practice Principles

The following eight practice principles have informed and will drive our strategy, implementation and practice:



Commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE), with support from the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, and Department of Health and Social Care, these Principles have been developed by Research in Practice, in partnership with The Children's Society and the University of Bedfordshire's Safer Young Lives Research Centre. The Practice Principles are referenced within the Government's ambition to reform children's social care, set out in its Implementation Strategy, [Stable Homes Built on Love](#).

Anna Racher, Assistant Director of the Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme, describes the development of the Principles while balancing high support and high challenge in a [dedicated article as follows](#):

The Practice Principles remind us of what we already know: that children and young people are not responsible for the harms that they face; that behaviour is often a method of communicating, that families, social networks and social contexts matter, and that structural inequalities amplify harm. The principles promote a holistic response that recognises the potential presence of different and multiple forms of harm in children and young people's lives.

6. Our Priorities and how we will achieve them

Following on from the Child Exploitation Strategy 2020 - 2023, we will focus on understanding and reducing risks, preventing ongoing risk through disruption and pursuing those responsible for exploitation- working collectively to Prevent, Prepare, Protect and Pursue.

1. PREVENT

Understand and identify, through timely intervention and effective information-sharing, those children and young people at risk of, or experiencing, extra familial harm

We will:

- ✓ Work with local partners to ensure that our shared risk assessment tools for identifying and assessing exploitation risks across the multi-agency workforce are well understood and embedded. (CERAF/ Prevent Risk Assessment)

- ✓ Develop a shared dataset on EFH forms which can be analysed alongside police-produced intelligence profiles of children who are at risk of, or have experienced, extra-familial harm.
- ✓ Promote the importance of and effectively share information and intelligence between agencies relating to victims, offenders and locations
- ✓ As a partnership, share key data and identify emerging themes, to continue to develop our contextual safeguarding approaches in different groups, spaces, and locations where children and young people are identifying or experiencing extra familial risk and harm.
- ✓ Ensure themes arising from missing/return home interviews are shared across the partnership to build a stronger intelligence picture of local push and pull factors to inform service design and delivery.
- ✓ Enhance partnership working, information sharing and the collaborative response to MET and EFH through operational functions – MET Panel/ Channel Panel/ Most Serious Violence panel and ensure consistency between partner agencies in reported occurrences of EFH.
- ✓ Develop our approach and response with Adult Services to transitional safeguarding, recognising that extra familial harm continues beyond the age of 18.
- ✓ Ensuring that the workforce is aware of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and their duty under Section 52 of the Act to use the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to report individuals who they suspect are victims of slavery and/or trafficking.
- ✓ Ensure that the workforce is able to recognise signs and symptoms of radicalisation
- ✓ Ensure the partnership is aware of 'Notice Check Share and are confident in using PREVENT risk assessment and referral pathway for Channel Panel.

2. PREPARE

Provide knowledge and education of EFH, through effective, multi-agency leadership, governance and a wider culture embedded within organisations and communities.

We will:

- ✓ Review our current workforce development plan to ensure that our workforce is confident, knowledgeable and responsive in identifying and responding to extra familial harm.
- ✓ Develop evidence-based practice toolkits and resources based on changing needs that support practitioners in their work with young people.
- ✓ Coordinate communications across BCP partners so that professionals, communities, children and families are well informed and able to recognise the early signs of children who are at risk of exploitation and extra-familial harm.
- ✓ Raise awareness within residential and foster care settings so that children and young people and their carers can recognise the signs and seek support to keep themselves and others safe from exploitation and extra-familial harm.

- ✓ Develop effective information sharing mechanisms with community groups and members, including the local business community, to promote increased understanding of exploitation risks and engage in proactive disruption plans.
- ✓ Identify specific targeting groups, i.e., the night-time economy, taxi drivers, and undertake initiatives / campaigns to increase awareness.
- ✓ Strengthen our engagement of education settings to understand the specific risks associated with children who are missing from, absent from or not in full-time education and whom may be at risk from exploitation with greater collaboration between youth work and education settings.
- ✓ Promote a common language in relation to child exploitation and extra-familial harm which recognises and reflects the presence of coercion and lack of control young people have in abusive or exploitative situations and avoids victim-blaming.

3. PROTECT & SUPPORT

Engagement with children, young people and their families at risk of or experiencing EFH, ensuring their voices are heard and responded to. Using this feedback, build safer communities and ensure there is appropriate support for children, young people and their families at risk of or experiencing EFH.

- ✓ We will listen to children, young people and their families, giving them an opportunity to share their lived experiences. We will engage them to influence practice and develop strategic responses.
- ✓ We will aim to work with groups and/or organisations within the communities to develop relationships with, to ensure they become an effective partner in developing safeguarding responses to children and young people at risk of, or experiencing, exploitation and/ or extra-familial harm.
- ✓ Undertake a mapping exercise across the partners to map out support (including specialist trauma and therapeutic support) to ensure there are suitable and sufficient resources available for children experiencing, or at risk of exploitation. Ensure that professionals are aware of what support is available, how to access it and any additional requirements are considered at a strategic level for future commissioning.
- ✓ Identify and work with minority groups, through voluntary, community and faith organisations, to understand their lived experience and develop approaches which reflect young people's differing needs.
- ✓ Ensure the workforce is aware of the practice and support available in each local area.
- ✓ Where safe to do so, work in partnership with parents/carers for prevention, early intervention, protection and reduction of risk.
- ✓ Work with partner agencies to implement the managing safeguarding risk and safeguarding people moving into adulthood policy.
- ✓ Engage in the development of the strategic response to the [Serious Violence Duty](#).

4. PURSUE

Through successful disruption and prosecution of perpetrators

- ✓ Ensure the partnership is confident in their understanding of what intelligence is, how to correctly submit this and regularly enforce the importance of submitting intelligence.
- ✓ Encourage partnership intelligence sharing to build a clearer picture of local trends/ emerging themes and to develop safeguarding responses to different groups, spaces, and locations where children and young people are identifying or experiencing extra familial risk and harm.
- ✓ Encourage the partnership intelligence to develop an enhanced understanding of perpetrator networks and tactics.
- ✓ Work with partners to engage disruption tactics and bring to justice perpetrators, with effective use of [Child exploitation disruption toolkit](#) to support and safeguard victims, assist investigations, and manage offenders.
- ✓ Produce a regular multi-agency exploitation profile including victims, perpetrators and hot spots to inform our collective response and interventions.
- ✓ Work with partners in the criminal justice process to ensure common mechanisms are in place to risk assess perpetrators.

7. Governance & Measuring Success

The operational delivery of this strategy will be undertaken by BCP Children's Services in conjunction with BCP Community Safety Partnership and all partners and will be accountable to the BCP Local Safeguarding Children Partnership. The BCP safeguarding Children Partnership will measure the impact of the implementation of the extra-familial harm delivery plan via updates being provided to the LSCP by the MET Panel, Most Serious Violence Panel and PREVENT panel, every six months.

