

Essex Child Exploitation Arrangements

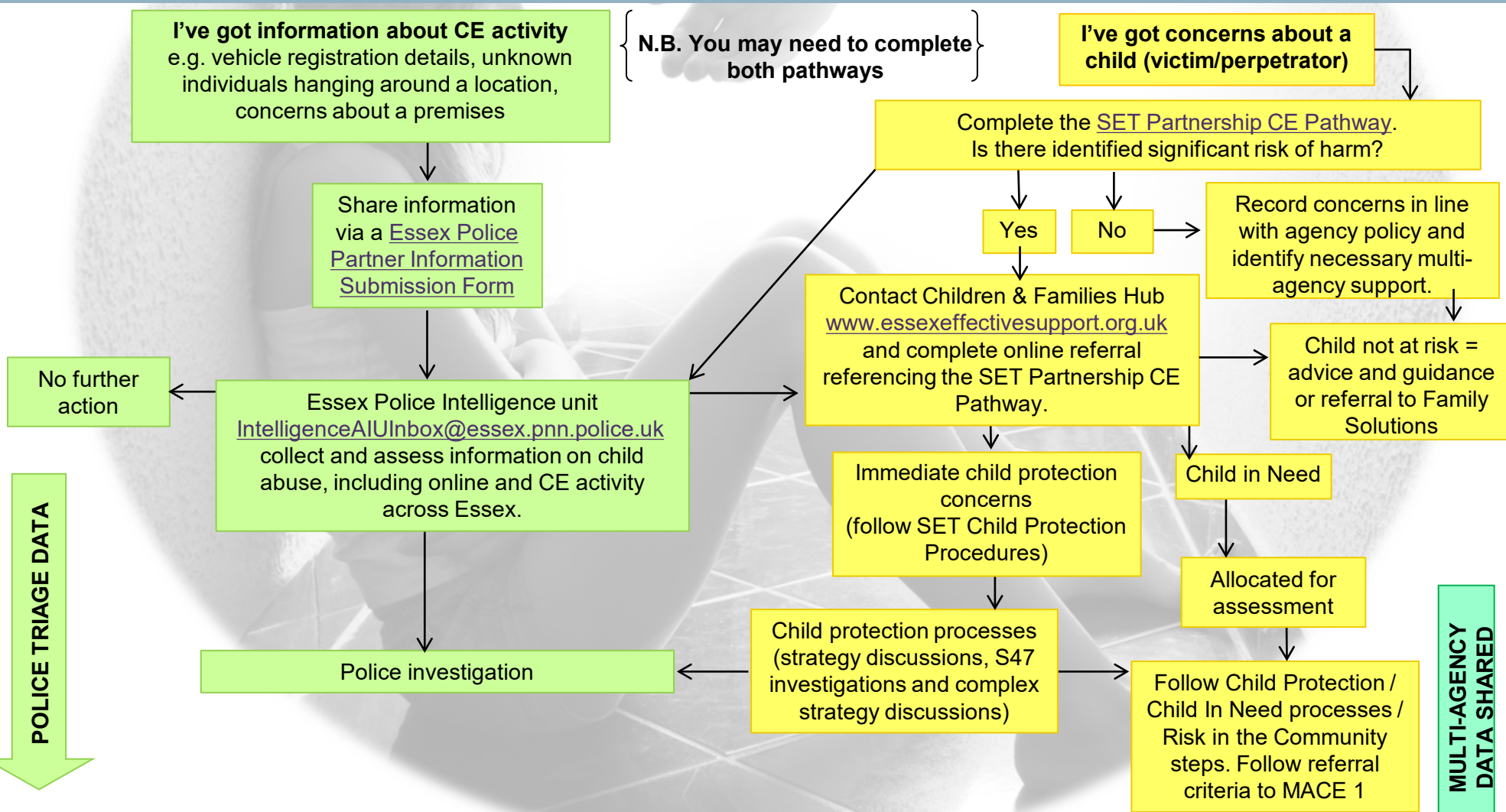
DEFINITION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. (Home Office Definition for 2017)

DEFINITION OF CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION: Child Criminal Exploitation is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 years. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.' (Home Office, 2018)

INDICATORS OF CE (See SET Partnership CE Pathway for indicators of CE risks and vulnerability factors which increase likelihood of CE)

- ❖ You may notice a change in a young person's behaviour, they may be disruptive or hostile, and associating with older men or women.
- ❖ Their health or mental health might change, for example you may notice marks or scars which they try to conceal or increased health / sexual related problems.
- ❖ Their behaviour might change and you may notice them concealing their use of the internet, exclusion from school or unexplained absences and sexualised risk-taking, including on the internet or mobiles, or association with gangs.
- ❖ Their possessions may change including having unexplained amounts of money, credit, gifts, having multiple phones, sim cards and possession of hotel keys or keys to unknown premises.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REFER TO FULL **ESSEX CE & MISSING ARRANGEMENTS** ON WWW.ESCB.CO.UK



CRITERIA FOR MACE: Children and young people known to be exploited and assessed as high risk from the Risk in the Community Record, including those assessed as high risk from missing episodes (3 missing episodes in a 4 week period).

Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) Meetings (A meeting held in 4 quadrants; Mid, North, South and West)

MACE part 1 (monthly): Focus on individual case discussion. Provides opportunity for multi-agency senior management oversight and comment for children and young people assessed as high risk from exploitation and/or missing episodes, considers plans, further disruption opportunities and collection of evidence to support prosecutions.

MACE part 2 (quarterly): Considers wider operational activity necessary to tackle CE threats through analysing local trends, patterns and hotspots. Responsible for building a local problem profile to better understand what threats exist locally and how these can be managed.

ESCB Child Exploitation & Missing Sub-Committee

This Sub-Committee oversees the statutory functions of local agencies to drive forward work across Essex around Child Exploitation and Missing.

District Councils (DC) & Community Safety Partnerships (CSP)

Local Councils have a range of functions, which should all be considered in effectively tackling local threats of CE. DC regulatory powers can be used to detect, disrupt and support prosecutions. CSPs can support in local community engagement, supporting victims and their families and awareness raising projects. Representatives from DCs and CSPs attend quadrant MACE meetings.

Stay Safe Groups

Leads for Partnership Delivery attend quadrant MACE Part 2 meetings, this provides the mechanism for themes to be shared to support, training and develop the wider workforce.