

# Referral to MATE (Multi-Agency Transitional Enablement)

The MATE meeting will be convened by Adult Social Care (ASC) when the need arises, to consider risks to adults aged 18 and over, who may be experiencing exploitation and or harm, who may struggle to protect themselves. They may not always have clearly defined care needs as specified in the Care Act (2014) but may still be vulnerable to exploitation/abuse. This may include protecting someone from serious harm or preventing crime and disorder. The aim is to investigate a crime and safeguarding matters with a multi-agency response.

The purpose of the MATE meeting will be to work as a partnership to understand service roles and responsibilities to enable effective, timely and efficient information sharing. It will monitor and review multi-agency activity and the roles/responsibilities each agency can offer to support the reduction of risks to the young adult as a response to transitional safeguarding concerns.

Through MATE the partnership monitors and reviews multi-agency activity and responses to known and potential Adult transitional safeguarding and other forms of adult exploitation across Essex within the 4 operational service quadrants.

This meeting will follow the approaches taken in relation to MACE meetings by colleagues in Essex Children & Families and the Childrens Partnership, so that there is a seamless approach to supporting young people before and upon reaching their 18th birthday. Therefore, ASC will be the lead agency who will take responsibility for organising the meeting and invites for those young people over the age of 18, who are assessed or considered as being at high risk of exploitation/abuse.

The meeting may consider any person over the age of 18, who are vulnerable perpetrators of exploitation to their peers, by nature of exploitation happening to them. Some of these cases will be identified by Children & Families as they will have been known and supported via a Child In Need Plan or Child Protection Plan, however in some cases the person may be referred for discussion by other agencies, particularly by Essex Police Triage Operation Centre. Where agencies have referred a case for discussion to a Chair but agreement cannot be found see *Professional Disagreements* (as per the Joint ASC/CFS Safeguarding Young People protocol section 7.7). If a person is not known to ASC but is identified as at High Risk of exploitation/abuse then SET Adults Safeguarding Guidelines should be adhered to and an immediate referral to ASC.

The criteria for safeguarding response is as follows;

* **Where the young adult (18-25), does not have a ‘traditional’ care and support needs however is vulnerable and;**
* **At risk or experiencing harm (associated with sexual and criminal exploitation) and;**
* **Is unable to protect themselves (due the ongoing coercive influence of exploiters).**

|  |
| --- |
| Referral date: |

## Detail of the young person (aged 18-25yrs)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full name |  |
| Gender |  |
| Home address |  |
| Date of birth |  |
| Ethnicity |  |
| Have there been any previous allegations or concerns regarding this person?  *Please give details (use further notes section if required)* |  |
| Is the person aware that an allegation or concern has been raised?  *(use further notes section if required)* |  |

## Current overview of situation (including brief history)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please **summarise** the allegation or concern below – use the notes page or additional sheet if required | |
| What are the current risks which need to be considered through the MATE meeting  (*please share any MACE action plans as appropriate)* | |
| Has anyone else been notified of the concerns, such as the police/regulatory bodies? |  |
| What safeguards are in place **currently**? |  |

## Referrer’s details:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Role |  |
| Name of setting |  |
| Contact details (Tel) |  |
| Contact details (E-mail) |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Referrers full name (print) |  |
| Referrer’s signature  *When sending by e-mail please use electronic signature if available* |  |

**How do I refer an Adult that I am worried about?**

Please refer to the MATE referral process map.

Email: [MATE@essex.gov.uk](mailto:MATE@essex.gov.uk)

Revised and current procedure documents will be available via [Essex Safeguarding Adults Board - Guidance, Policies & Protocols (essexsab.org.uk)](https://www.essexsab.org.uk/professionals/guidance-policies-protocols/)

Consent:

For adults (over 18 years old) practitioners should seek the consent of the person who may be at risk of exploitation before taking action or sharing in-formation. In some cases, where a person refuses consent, information can still law-fully be shared if it is in the public interest to do so. This may include protecting someone from serious harm or preventing crime, disorder, coercion and exploitation. Please refer to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 for further information.

Internal ECC referrals:

Firstly you need to discuss this in supervision with your manager to ensure that this is the best referral for the young adult at this time. Your manager can consult the Terms of Reference and speak to one of the Panel members for advice if needed.

You should discuss the referral with the young adult concerned to obtain their consent, if this is not agreed, you should discuss with your line manager who will contact the Chair/vice chair of the MATE Panel for advice.

The social worker will be asked to **attend Panel in person** as well as providing written information in advance on the **MATE Panel Referral Form.**

**Important:  The Form needs to be submitted at least 7 working days before the Panel date to:**  [MATE@essex.gov.uk](mailto:MATE@essex.gov.uk)

If not received in time, the referral will be deferred until the following month.

**Contact in Adults Services:**

Alison Clark, Head of Safeguarding & Mental Capacity (Chair).

Email: [alison.clark@essex.gov.uk](mailto:alison.clark@essex.gov.uk).

Emma Bundy, Service Manager, Safeguarding (Vice Chair)

Email: [emma.bundy@essex.gov.uk](mailto:emma.bundy@essex.gov.uk)