



Edinburgh Child Exploitation Oversight Sub-committee

Terms of Reference

Name of Group	Child Exploitation Oversight Sub-Committee (CE CS Sub-Committee)
Definition	Child exploitation refers to the manipulation or coercion of children for the purpose of benefiting from their vulnerability. It is often a group-based activity, where two or more individuals take advantage of a power imbalance to coerce, manipulate, or deceive a child into sexual and/or criminal activity. The group recognises exploitation can take various forms, including but not limited to: • Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) • Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) • Labour Exploitation • Trafficking • Online Exploitation. Contextual safeguarding is an ecological approach to risks outside the home (ROTH). <i>For more information please see:</i> <u><i>National Guidance for Child Protection Scotland (2021);</i></u> <u><i>Edinburgh and the Lothians Multi-agency Child Protection Procedures (2024);</i></u> <u><i>Contextual Safeguarding - Risks Outside the Home (ROTH) Multi Agency Guidance</i></u> <u><i>Criminal Exploitation: Practitioner Guidance</i></u>
Purpose	Safeguarding children and young people at risk of exploitation requires joined up multi-agency strategic oversight to develop local strategies, policies and protocols and set out our approach to tackling the wider and connected issues regarding child exploitation in all its contexts within Edinburgh. It is recognised that children who go missing, those who experience child sexual and/or criminal exploitation, child trafficking and exposure to county lines are closely linked and the Child Exploitation Oversight Sub-Committee will work to understand developmental

	strands across strategic forums, so they inform the overall objectives of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee with regards to child exploitation. Partnership and collaboration are fundamental to how we work. Our vision, principles and priorities will be set out and co-designed as a partnership and, wherever possible, with children and their families.	
Key Objectives	1. To provide a central place for the review of local and national strategy, legislation, policy, research and learning from recent reviews related to child exploitation and contextual safeguarding against systems in Edinburgh. 2. Join up efforts across our partnership to prevent and tackle child exploitation issues; identify responses required for prevention and to mitigate risks; and strategically plan to address any identified gaps. 3. Receive regular updates from the Child Exploitation Governance Group (CEGG) on patterns, trends, mapping and operational responses to deterring exploitation, disrupting those who seek to exploit and responding to concerns for children in the city who experience or are at risk of experiencing exploitation. 4. To ensure we have a workforce who are confident and competent in identifying and addressing child exploitation.	
Key Functions	The oversight group will deliver its purpose and objectives by undertaking the following functions: • Provide scrutiny and oversight of improvement and develop implementation plans. • Develop a joined up clear process for overseeing and monitoring concerns for young people • Provide a central learning forum. • Advise the Child Protection Committee (ECPC) and Chief Officers' Group (COG) of impact and progress made and on any outstanding actions for the multi-agency partnership or any individual agency. • Have an overview national working groups.	
Chair	Chief Social Work Officer (to be reviewed annually alongside the Terms of Reference)	
Core Membership (plus exceptions)	Chief Social Work Officer	CEC
	Service Director / Head of Service – Children & Justice	CEC
	Director or Head of Service Education	CEC

	Director of Public Protection	NHS
	Clinician – <i>to be confirmed by NHS Lothian</i>	NHS
	DCI Public Protection	Police Scotland
	DI Public Protection (Chair CEGG)	Police Scotland
	Lead Officer Contextual Safeguarding/PP Lead Officer	CEC
	Relevant Strategic Representation from Youth Work and the Third Sector	EVOC/LAYC
Member responsibilities	All Group Members will require to: • Attend meetings of the Group • Agree and adhere to the remit of the Group • Undertake pieces of work as directed by the Group • Feedback on involvement in relevant national Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding groups • Represent the view of their services from both strategic and operational perspective • Carry the authority to make decisions on behalf of their service/organisation, as appropriate • Be willing and able to make changes to achieve shared goals • Feedback to their own organisation/service • Respect and adhere to the protocols of the Group • Respect and listen to the views of all members	
Quorum	Members require to nominate a deputy to attend in their absence by prior notification only. Meeting will go ahead if there is representation from three separate agencies.	
Frequency of Meetings	Quarterly	
Accountability	This group will report to the ECPC and the COG.	
Support to chair	The Public Protection Team will provide support, notably the Lead Officer for Contextual Safeguarding.	
Directorate support	There is a business support requirement to support the chair by delivering the following administration functions including: • Undertake meeting administrative requirements. • Ensure that papers are circulated in advance. • Ensure Room bookings are done. • Provide an access point for reports/contacts and members. This is currently provided by the Executive Assistant to the Interim Chief Social Work Officer.	
Review	Terms of Reference will next be reviewed June 2027	