



Edinburgh Strategic Oversight Group for Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

Terms of Reference

Name of Group	Edinburgh Strategic Oversight Group for Child Exploitation, (Child Exploitation Subgroup)
Definition	<p>In Scotland, child exploitation refers to the manipulation or coercion of children for the purpose of benefiting from their vulnerability. This exploitation can take various forms, including but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): This involves the manipulation, coercion, or deception of young people into sexual activity in exchange for something they need or want, or for the gain of others. It can also occur using technology, such as social media. 2. Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE): This refers to situations where children are coerced or manipulated into committing crimes, often for the benefit of adults or criminal organizations. This may include activities such as drug trafficking, gang involvement, or theft. 3. Labor Exploitation: This can involve children being forced or coerced to work in exploitative conditions, which can include low wages, long hours, and unsafe environments. 4. Human Trafficking: Children can be trafficked for various purposes, including sexual exploitation, enforced labor, or other forms of exploitation. 5. Online Exploitation: This encompasses a range of activities where children are exploited through digital means, including grooming, sharing of explicit material, and cyberbullying. 6. Contextual safeguarding, which has been developed by Dr Carlene Firmin at the University of Bedfordshire's Contextual Safeguarding Network, recognises that as young people grow and

	<p>develop they are influenced by a whole range of environments and people outside of their family. For example, in school or college, in the local community, in their peer groups or online. Children and young people may encounter risk in any of these environments. Sometimes the different contexts are inter-related and can mean that children and young people may encounter multiple risks. Contextual safeguarding looks at how we can best understand these risks, engage with children and young people and help to keep them safe. It's an approach that's often been used to apply to adolescents, though the lessons can equally be applied to younger children, especially in today's changing world.</p>
Purpose	<p>Safeguarding children and young people at risk of exploitation is a key priority for the child protection committee. There is a need for joined up multi-agency 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.</p> <p>The Child Exploitation Sub-Group is responsible for overseeing the partnership arrangements for tackling child exploitation across the city.</p> <p>The Child Exploitation Sub-Group remains responsible for maintaining a clear oversight on both the strategic and operational response to children who are exploited.</p> <p>Whilst there is a child missing from home framework, We recognise that children missing from home incidents, child sexual and criminal exploitation, and county lines are too often seen as separate – when they can be closely linked.</p> <p>While working to prevent and tackle the exploitation of young people in all its forms, there are often interrelated issues which need to be considered and addressed.</p> <p>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 with, young people, and families.</p>
Key Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain an oversight of the patterns and trends of child exploitation operational responses and risks in each area of Edinburgh. 2. To provide a central place for review of all national and UK wide strategy, legislation, policy and current thinking 3. Our objective is to join up efforts across our partnership to prevent and tackle child exploitation issues and identify responses required for prevention and to mitigate risks

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To enable professionals who work with children and young people to identify risks and vulnerabilities, coordinate partnership work to support vulnerable children and their families. 5. Agree and review actions to reduce risk and support children and families. 6. To provide early identification of themes and trends and problem solve. 7. Ensuring our response is co-ordinated and that services are available to support young people. 8. To consider what is in place already and to ensure we are able to respond to safeguarding and child protection concerns, disruption and mapping of individuals. 9. A monthly meeting focusing on all aspects of child exploitation. Its membership would consist of partners from health, education, drug and alcohol services, mental health, housing among others and it helps to reduce the chances of agencies working in silos or duplicating work or resources. Setting up a meeting like this is pivotal to sharing intelligence to develop a picture of the young person at the centre of the exploitation concerns and develop ways to mitigate the exploitation risk to all children and young people. 10. To learn from serious case and learning reviews and good practice examples in our own and other local authorities. 11. To incorporate learning from our contextual safeguarding pilot in Edinburgh 12. To respond to learning and recommendation from the JAY review, CELCIS overview and other learning that becomes available.
Key Functions	<p>The oversight group will deliver its purpose and objectives by undertaking the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 and Chief officers' Group of impact and progress made and on any outstanding actions for the multi-agency partnership or any individual agency.
Chair	Responsibility for Chair and Vice Chair will rotate amongst CSWO and Police.

Core Membership (plus exceptions)	Chief Social Work Officer	CEC
	Service Director / Head of Service - Children's Services	CEC
	Director of Public Protection/lead nurse/lead paediatrician	NHS
	Clinical Nurse Manager or Equivalent	NHS
	DI Public Protection	Police Scotland
	Legal Representation (as Required)	CEC
	Chairs / Lead Officer for AP/CP as required	
Member responsibilities	<p>All Group Members will require to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend meetings of the Group • Agree and adhere to the remit of the Group • Undertake pieces of work as directed by the Group • 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 can nominate a deputy to attend in their absence by prior notification only.	
Frequency of Meetings	Monthly moving to quarterly once all group members confident of progress being made	
Accountability	This group will report to the CPC and the COG	
Review	Terms of Reference will next be reviewed June 2026.	