

Adult Sexual Exploitation (ASE)

Risk Screening Tool

**This screening tool has been developed by the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) to help frontline practitioners identify Adult Sexual Exploitation (ASE) or adults at risk of ASE. This checklist should be used in conjunction with the** [**Adult Sexual Exploitation Toolkit, Referral Pathway and TSAB Decision Support Guidance**](https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/policies-strategies/)**. Key terms are noted with an asterisk (\*) and more detail is provided on page 6.**

# Adult Sexual Exploitation (ASE)

“Adult sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive an adult into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for 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. Adult Sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology.” (UK Government definition)

Anyone can be a victim of Adult Sexual Exploitation. While the majority of victims are women, men can also experience ASE. Adults can be groomed and sexually exploited in many different ways, e.g. online, street, gangs, leisure industry, religion, position of authority, celebrity. Perpetrators may work together in groups, or as individuals. At one end of the scale adult sexual exploitation can be described as a one-off situation between two adults, while at the other end it may include instances of Serious and Organised Crimes (SOC) with multiple adults and/or multiple perpetrators. The common theme in all cases is the imbalance of power and the control exerted on the victims.

# Using the Screening Tool

**What is the screening tool?**

This is a checklist that you can use to help you decide whether an adult is at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation.

**Who should use it?**

This screening tool should be used by frontline practitioners working with adults at risk of sexual exploitation. Where possible it should be completed alongside the adult at risk, if this is not possible, please make the individual aware of your concerns and intended actions; and obtain their consent to refer them for support. If consent is not given but there is a risk of harm to themselves or another (whether child or adult), then normal safeguarding procedures need to be explained and followed.

**What is the screening tool for?**

It is intended to assist practitioners in making an initial assessment about the level or risk of sexual exploitation, **it is not intended to be a referral form**. However, it should form the basis of discussions when making a referral into safeguarding procedures or other onward support and can be shared with adult’s consent or if no consent given to share sufficient information can be extracted from the screening tool for the recipient of the support referral to make informed decisions.

**How to use the screening tool**

Practitioners should ensure there is a safe, quiet space to discuss the potential risk factors with the adult who may find it extremely difficult to open up about any exploitation/risk they are experiencing. Be patient, calm, empathetic and person centred, ensuring their needs are core to the discussion. Consider each individual case in relation to all of the criteria in each of the three segments. The results can be used to indicate the risk or presence of sexual exploitation, though they are not a definitive assessment of risk. They should provide you with a structure to inform your analysis, risk assessment and decision making. If the checklist identifies a risk or presence of ASE then a referral into safeguarding procedures and/or any other relevant support should be made following the [ASE Referral Pathway](https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/policies-strategies/). If any indicators of critical risk are identified then immediate action needs to be taken to safeguard the individual(s).

# Details of the person completing this screening tool:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Job Title: |  |
| Agency / Organisation: |  |
| Telephone: |  |
| Email: |  |

# Details of the adult that the concern relates to:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: |  | | | | |
| Date of birth |  | Age |  | Gender |  |
| Address |  | | | | |
| Contact number(s) |  | | | | |

# Vulnerability Factors

**Presence of these factors could indicate an increased risk of sexual exploitation taking place:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mark the box if the risk factor is present.** | | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know** | **Source / Notes** |
| 1. Isolation, lack of strong social networks | |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Breakdown of family relationships | |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Lack of engagement/ inconsistent engagement with support networks | |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Friends/peers are victims of sexual exploitation | |  |  |  |  |
| 5. History of local authority care (looked after child) | |  |  |  |  |
| 6. History of abuse (including as a child) | |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Low self-esteem | |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Exploring Gender Identity\* | |  |  |  |  |
| 9. Bereavement or loss (e.g. child entering the care system?) | |  |  |  |  |
| 10. Dependency on alleged perpetrator(s) | |  |  |  |  |
| 11. Substance misuse/dependency | |  |  |  |  |
| 12. Needs for care and support | |  |  |  |  |
| 13. Learning Disability/difficulty | |  |  |  |  |
| 14. Mental/physical health needs | |  |  |  |  |
| 15. Unstable housing situation\* | |  |  |  |  |
| 16. No recourse to public funds\* |  |  |  |  |

# 2. At Risk Indicators

**Presence of these indicators could detect identifiable features of adult sexual exploitation:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mark the box if the risk factor is present.** | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know** | **Source / Notes** |
| 17. Forced or coerced into making decisions (scared to make own)  (possible criminal offence) |  |  |  |  |
| 18. Going missing from accommodation for periods of time (frequent trips away) |  |  |  |  |
| 19. Unexplained increase in goods or monies |  |  |  |  |
| 20. Reduced contact with family, friends/support networks (i.e. sudden increase in missed appointments/disengagement) |  |  |  |  |
| 21. Increase in use of internet, social media and mobile phone |  |  |  |  |
| 22. Forced to significantly increase sex work/forced entry into\*  (possible criminal offence) |  |  |  |  |
| 23. Increase in substance misuse/dependency and/or reliance on others to administer drugs |  |  |  |  |
| 24. Regular and/or concerning access of sexual health services\* |  |  |  |  |
| 25. Increase in interactions with other health professionals (i.e. A&E/ hospital admissions) |  |  |  |  |
| 26. Self-harming |  |  |  |  |
| 27. Negative change in physical presentation or emotional wellbeing |  |  |  |  |
| 28. Fear of going back to own accommodation due to cuckooing (perpetrators taking over accommodation)\*  (possible criminal offence) |  |  |  |  |
| 29. Involvement in criminal activity  (possible criminal offence) |  |  |  |  |
| 30. Dependence on unknown males/known perpetrators of sexual exploitation |  |  |  |  |

# 3. Critical Risk Indicators

**Presence of these indicators identify critical concerns of adult sexual exploitation and link to the** [**Adult Sexual Exploitation Referral Pathway**](https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/policies-strategies/) **and TSAB Decision support guidance:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mark the box if the risk factor is present.** | | **Yes** | | **No** | | **Don’t know** | **Source / Notes** | |
| 31. Groomed/abused/controlled via internet or mobile technology\*  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  |  | |
| 32. Physical injuries without plausible explanation  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  |  | |
| 33. Controlling partner/family/friend e.g. preventing access to services  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  |  | |
| 34. Honour Based Abuse\*  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  |  | |
| 35. Disclosure of current/recent domestic abuse  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  |  | |
| 36. Forced to exchange sexual activity for base needs such as food, accommodation or drugs\*  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  |  | |
| 37. Forced into offering/partaking in unsafe sex work (digital/face-to-face)\*  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  |  | |
| 38. Being moved around or in/out of the UK for the purpose of sex\*  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  |  | |
| 39. Disclosure of rape/sexual assault/ exploitation  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  |  | |
| 40. Sudden withdrawal of allegations of rape/sexual assault/exploitation  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  |  | |
| 41. Abduction and forced imprisonment  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  |  | |
| 42. Multiple pregnancies, miscarriages or terminations | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| 43. Forced to coerce others into sexual exploitation (Procurement)\*  (possible criminal offence) | |  | |  | |  | |  |

**(Where possible criminal offence is noted, seek advice from line manager or police)**

**Professional Assessment:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Please provide any information which you feel is relevant. Consider the adult at risk’s situation in relation to factors such as needs for care and support, cultural or language barriers and their willingness to engage with services. | | | |
| **What are the primary risks?** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Are there any protective factors? (i.e. existing support in place (family and/or services)** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **What are the views of the individual?** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Professional judgement i.e. what needs to happen next?** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Actions taken (safety planning/advice, safeguarding measures implemented, referrals made)** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Signed Name** |  | **Date** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Consent to share with Adult Safeguarding** |  |
| **Consent to share with relevant support services** |  |
| **Consent to share with Police** |  |
| **NB: If consent has not been given to share this form with services but a safeguarding risk and/or a critical risk indicator has been identified please explain in the ‘Actions taken’ box.**  **To access key contacts for advice/onward referral please refer to the** [**Adult Sexual Exploitation Referral Pathway**](https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/policies-strategies/)**. If you are still unsure of where to refer to please speak to your line manager/supervisor.** | |

**\*Key terms relating to this document:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Exploring Gender Identity** | An individual exploring their gender identity who could feel vulnerable/marginalised or fears negative perception of gender identify |
| **Unstable housing** | Temporary accommodation, sofa surfing, street sleeping |
| **No recourse to public funds** | An individual subject to immigration control, not entitled to welfare benefits or other public support |
| **Forced increase of/entry into sex work** | Forced/coerced into increasing sexual services or forced/coerced entry into selling sexual services |
| **Concerning use of sexual health/family services** | Multiple/repeated STIs, multiple pregnancies and/or miscarriages |
| **Cuckooing** | When a person’s home is taken over for the purposes of exploitation; this can include sexual exploitation, drug use/dealing/storage and/or financial exploitation |
| **Groomed/abused/controlled via internet** | Groomed/abused through social media; non-consensual profiles selling sexual services uploaded to ASWs (Adult Services Websites), threatened outing/doxing (sharing personal information) |
| **Honour Based Abuse** | An incident committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of a family or community. If a perpetrator who may be your family or community think you've shamed or embarrassed them by behaving in a certain way, they may punish you for breaking their 'honour' code |
| **Forced to exchange sexual activity for base needs or drugs** | Exchanging sexual services for accommodation/food etc or drugs with no control over services offered, when, location, who to etc. |
| **Forced unsafe sex work** | Forced to sell unsafe sex, i.e. bareback (without a condom) |
| **Being moved around or in/out of the UK for the purpose of sex** | Being moved between locations to offer sexual services, attend sex parties with no control/choice also known as trafficking. |
| **Forced to coerce others into sexual exploitation** | Coercing others into sex work, facilitating the coerced sexual services of someone to another party |