



Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) Adult Sexual Exploitation (ASE) Referral Pathway

This document focuses on adults at risk of or subject to Adult Sexual Exploitation (ASE).

Adults at risk of sexual exploitation can be of any gender, age, culture, ethnicity, or social circumstance. Perpetrators of ASE are often male but females can also be perpetrators of exploitation. Sexual exploitation can and does happen in all parts of the country, whether in large towns/cities or rural areas.

Examples of Vulnerability factors which may increase risk of ASE

Isolation/lack of strong social network | Breakdown of family relationships | Lack of or inconsistent engagement with support | Friend/peers are subject to exploitation | History of LA care | History of child abuse | Low self-esteem | Bereavement or loss | Dependence on alleged perpetrators | Substance/alcohol use | Learning difficulty/disability | Health needs, mental/physical | Unstable housing situation | No recourse to public funds.

Examples of signs and indicators of ASE

Forced or coerced into making decisions (scared to make on own) | Missing from home/accommodation episodes | Unexplained increase in goods or money | Reduced contact with family/friends/support networks (e.g. increase in missed appointments) | Increased use of internet/social media/mobile phone | Sudden significant increase in sex work | Increase in substance use/dependency | Increased access of sexual health services | Self harming/suicidal ideation | Adverse change in physical presentation or emotional wellbeing | Fear of returning to own accommodation due to cuckooing | Increased involvement in criminal activity | Association with known perpetrators of ASE.

Examples of Critical Risk Indicators

- Groomed/abused/controlled via mobile phone or other internet enabled devices.
- Physical injuries without plausible explanation.
- Controlling partner, evidence or disclosure of Domestic Abuse (DA) or Honour Based Abuse (HBA)
- Forced to exchange sexual activity for basic needs e.g. food/accommodation/drugs.
- Forced to take part in dangerous/risky sex work/practices whether in person or via a digital platform
- Moved around or in and out of the U.K. for sexual purposes. Disclosure of sexual abuse/offences, or withdrawal of such disclosures
- Abduction and forced imprisonment.
- Multiple pregnancies.
- Coercing/encouraging others into sexual activity.

Encouraging people to seek help and support

There are many reasons why adults at risk will not, or feel they cannot, speak about their experiences or seek help and support so it is important to build trust to enable this to happen.

- Always be alert to the possibility that an individual could be experiencing sexual exploitation, regardless of their age or gender, and be prepared to offer support.
- When an adult at risk is hard to engage with, the person with the best relationship with them should lead discussions.
- Ensure professional interpreters are used, never use family members, children or friends where sexual exploitation is known or suspected.
- Only ask questions about sexual exploitation when the adult at risk is on their own and in a private place.
- Consider cultural challenges that may be barriers to seeking support.

Deal promptly with any immediate threat to life / risk of injury, address safeguarding and consider risks to others, yourself and other professionals. Check records for known risk information or warnings. Contact emergency services if required. (Use 999 for an emergency).

Use the TSAB's [ASE Risk Screening Tool](#) to support you.

Any crimes disclosed, identified or suspected should be reported to the police, if a decision is taken not to report, ensure you identify and address any risks to the victim, the source of the information and record your rationale for not reporting.

Never assume that someone else will take care of the sexual exploitation issues. You should seek confirmation that other professionals/agencies have acted in a way which you would expect. You may be the adult at risk's first and only contact. Remember that adults at risk can deny sexual exploitation is happening and minimise the risk and/or harm. Discuss with your line manager, assess the risk level and act accordingly.



Case meets Safeguarding Adults Criteria	Case meets MARAC Criteria	Case does not meet Safeguarding / MARAC Criteria
Adult Sexual Exploitation is covered by multi-agency safeguarding processes and procedures. Where an adult meets the following criteria as defined by the Care Act 2014: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aged 18 or over; and • has needs for care and support (whether or not those needs are being met); and • as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be clear with the adult about confidentiality and explain what Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is, seek their consent where possible but advise that a referral may still be made without it. 2. If your organisation has an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA)/ Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) or Domestic Abuse support staff, direct the adult to them. 3. Complete the Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) risk assessment with the adult at risk present wherever possible, this 	You still need to take action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and address immediate safeguarding and longer-term risks. • Signpost / refer the adult at risk to relevant support / specialist services (see below). • Share information with other relevant agencies. • Consider convening a professionals meeting to share information and agree tactics to manage risk • Regularly revisit level of risk in terms of

A referral for support **must** be made. For guidance on deciding whether a referral to adult services is appropriate, you can access the **TSAB Decision Support Guidance** here.

If you decide a referral is required you must complete a **Safeguarding Concern Form** and forward to the relevant local authority adult services. Adult services will then assess whether a Safeguarding Adults Enquiry needs to progress and a Protection Plan developed. For further advice you can contact Adult Services on the following numbers/emails:

- **Hartlepool:** Tel.01429 523390, email: ISPA@hartlepool.gov.uk
- **Stockton:** Tel. 01642 527764, email: firstcontactadults@Stockton.gov.uk
- **Middlesbrough:** Tel. 01642 065070, email: adultaccessteam@middlesbrough.gov.uk
- **Redcar and Cleveland:** Tel. 01642 771500, accessadultsteam@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

If there is an urgent enquiry which needs to be progressed outside of normal business hours (evenings and weekends) you can contact the Emergency Duty team (EDT) on 01642 524552.

Colleagues should also be aware of the need for continuing support for children and young people who are transitioning into adults, if they are in receipt of support as a child, their needs will still continue when they turn 18. In such circumstances, ensure the case has continued support, remember a "Looked After Child" (LAC) remains so until they reach 25 years of age.

- forms part of the Cleveland standard MARAC referral form (see ASE Toolkit Appendix 8)
4. Where the DASH score is 14 or over or your professional judgement deems the case is high risk, you must refer the case to MARAC for consideration.
 5. Email the completed referral form to marac@cleveland.police.uk
 6. If you identify safety planning and safeguarding issues that need to be addressed, you must take action to mitigate those risks.
 7. Keep in mind the referral may not be accepted into MARAC and if it is accepted there will be a delay between referral and the relevant MARAC meeting.
 8. Consider whether a referral to the Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordinating (MATAC) process is appropriate. This is a multi-agency Domestic Abuse related process which focuses on disrupting the activity serial perpetrators of Domestic Abuse (see ASE Toolkit Appendix 7). Email to MATAC@cleveland.police.uk. Please note if a case is active to MARAC it would not be appropriate to refer to MATAC.

MARAC and safeguarding action.

- Pull together a Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting (see ASE Toolkit Appendix 9)

If no specific adult at risk is identified but you have information that suggests sexual exploitation may be occurring you can inform the Police by completing the **Partnership Information Sharing Report** and emailing it to: force.intelhub@Cleveland.pnn.police.uk

Other Options

- If a perpetrator of ASE has been identified and they have a relevant qualifying offence, consider a referral in to the **Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)** (check eligibility to refer)
- Consider the National Referral mechanism (NRM) if you suspect Modern Slavery.
- Consider whether a referral to the HRAP process is appropriate/proportionate (see ASE Toolkit Appendix 5).
- In addition, see **ASE Toolkit** Appendix 3 linked to disruption tactics which contains a link to a detailed toolkit that will help both staff and organisations identify preventative/protective measures relevant to their service.
- See below contact details for a range of partners who can offer support.

*****REMEMBER TO ALWAYS*****

- Document decision-making, actions taken to manage risk and rationale for sharing or not sharing information.
- Be aware of your professional role and consult with other partners to clarify their roles and responsibilities, share information, and seek advice.
- Consider advocacy services and/or whether a key worker should be appointed.
- Follow up all referrals.
- When signposting to other agencies always consider risks associated with the perpetrator finding leaflets/letters etc.



Partner agencies' contact information by Local Authority area

HARTLEPOOL	STOCKTON	MIDDLESBROUGH	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
Hartlepool Adult Services Care and support needs. Tel. 01429 803100	Stockton Adult Services Care and support needs Tel. 01642 527764	Middlesbrough Adult Services Care and support needs Tel. 01642 065070	Redcar Adult Services Care and support needs Tel. 01642 771500
Social care out of hours Emergency Duty Team (EDT) Tel. 01642 524552			
Hartlepool Housing Tel. 01429 806834 Out of hours emergency only Tel. 01429 266522	Stockton, Housing Tel 01642 528389 Out of hours emergency only Tel. 01642 524552	Middlesbrough Housing Tel. 01642 726800 Out of hours/homeless assessment Tel. 0800 1303667	Redcar Housing Tees Valley Home Finder Tel. 01642 774774 Out of Hours emergency: Beyond Housing 0345 0655656
Harbour DA/IDVA support services Perpetrator services Tel. 03000 202525		My Sister's Place DA/IDVA support services Tel. 01642 241864	
Tees, Esk, Wear Valley HNS Trust (TEWV) Mental Health Emergency, Crisis Team / Street Triage , Tel 08000 516171			
MIND Hartlepool Tel 01429 269303		MIND, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Redcar Tel. 01642 257020	
A Way Out , (outreach Support for women, families, young people) Tel. 01642 655071			
Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) , Tel. 01642 061230, (Mon-Fri 9am – 5 pm), Tel. 0330 2230099 (5pm-9am and weekends)			
24/7 Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Line . Tel. 0808 5002222			
ARCH Teesside, Sexual Violence Services - ISVA/Counselling , Tel. 01642 822331			
We Are With You Hartlepool Drug/alcohol support services - Tel. 01429 285000	Change Grow Live (CGL) Drug/alcohol recovery Services Tel. 01642 673888	Recovery Solutions Team Tel. 01642 726800	We Are With You Redcar Drug/alcohol support Tel. 0300 3033781

Hartlepool Supporting Treatment and Recovery Together (Start) Tel. 01429 285000	-	South Tees Changing Futures Team DA/homelessness/substance/alcohol use/MH, repeat involvement with Criminal Justice processes, Tel. 01642 726800
Changing Lives , Drug/alcohol/homelessness Support, Tel. 0191 2738891		
HALO , Specialist support for adult at risks of Honour Based Abuse (HBA), Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Tel. 01642 668035		
Karma Nirvana , confidential helpline for adult at risks of HBA / forced marriage, Tel. 0800 5999247		
Mankind , Helpline for male adult at risks of DA, Tel. 01823 334244		
Hourglass , confidential helpline, info and support to anyone concerned about harm abuse or exploitation of an older person 0808 8088141		
National Suicide Prevention Helpline 0800 6895652		
Route 2 My Sisters Place (Middlesbrough) 01642 241873		
Victim Care and Advice Service 0303 040 1099		

See TSAB's [Find Support in Your Area](#) for more information around available support in Teesside.