

Referrers guide to accessing the Multi-Agency Support Panel (MASP) for Child Criminal Exploitation

The Multi-Agency Support Panel (MASP) is a panel of professionals from police, Children's Social Care, Education, Health and third-sector community organisations that meet once per half term to discuss support and actions for children who are presenting with early indicators or vulnerability for Child Criminal Exploitation in the Preston area of Lancashire.

The aim of the panel is two-fold:

1: to provide a multi-disciplinary approach to consider how best to intervene early when a child is showing indicators of vulnerability for exploitation

and

2: to share information across agencies in order to tackle CCE on a wider scale.

As with any early concerns around safeguarding or welfare of children, it is the expectation that the referrer has already discussed concerns with the parents/carers of the child being referred. Consent needs to be obtained for a referral to this panel as the panel works at non-statutory level of support.

This panel is not a referral to statutory involvement from services. For any concerns where a child is at risk of their health or development being *significantly impaired* (section 17 Children Act) or there is reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering, or is at risk of suffering, *significant harm* (section 47 Children Act) then the referrer must follow their organisations safeguarding policy.

The police should be contacted about criminal activity via either 101 (999 in an emergency) or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

To support the referral form, below are some indicators of CCE to be aware of:

- Having more clothes, mobile phones, or cash than normal
- Frequently going missing then returning home
- Using nicknames to refer to other people
- Speaking of gang names in the area
- A new boyfriend or girlfriend who may coerce or control the individual
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- Changes in behaviour/mood/demeanour
- Changes in the way young people you might know dress
- Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Concern over being involved in anti-social behaviour
- Change in friends, particularly new, older peers

This is not an exhaustive list but may help the referrer in considering indicators of vulnerability for CCE.

The panel meets as needed and following a referral you will receive feedback about actions and support identified.

The MASP is only one strand of support and does not replace other systems of accessing support and intervention for young people, e.g. from Child and Family Wellbeing Service or other agencies providing Early Help in Lancashire.

Referrals should be returned to MASPD6@larches.lancs.sch.uk