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Guidance for joint targeted area inspections on the theme: Child sexual exploitation, children associated with gangs and at risk of exploitation and children missing from home, care or education

A 'deep dive' theme for joint targeted area inspections

This document should be read alongside the framework and inspection guidance for joint targeted area inspections (JTAI).

JTAIs include an evaluation of the multi-agency 'front door' for child protection, when children at risk of harm first become known to local services. This is a part of all JTAIs. They also include a 'deep dive' investigation. The deep dive is an evaluation of the experiences of children and young people at risk of a specific type (or types) of harm, or the support and care of children looked after and/or care leavers. This part of the JTAI will periodically change to investigate different themes.

Inspectors will use this guidance document when the deep dive focus is on children and young people:

- who are at risk of, or who are experiencing sexual exploitation
- who are at risk of, or who are experiencing criminal exploitation through association or involvement with gangs
- who have been missing from home, care or education.

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Introduction

1. This guidance is for inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMI Probation) when conducting a joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of a local area, with a deep dive investigation into how local services respond to child sexual exploitation, children at risk of exploitation through association or involvement with gangs and children missing from home, care or education. It should be read alongside the framework and guidance for these inspections.¹ We have updated the guidance to:
 - incorporate learning from previous JTAIs
 - extend the scope of the guidance to include children at risk of exploitation through association or involvement with gangs.
2. Between February and June 2016, five JTAIs focused on child sexual exploitation and children missing from home, care and education. The findings from these inspections are summarised in our overview report: Time to listen – a joined up response to child sexual exploitation and missing children.²
3. These inspections found evidence of improvement in the multi-agency response to tackling child sexual exploitation over the past two years. However, the report was clear that there can be no room for complacency and more needs to be done to ensure that all children receive consistently good support from all agencies. Raising awareness is central to protecting vulnerable children. Schools have an important role to play here, as do parents and carers, public services such as transport and recreation, and the local business community.
4. The report also found that:
 - vulnerable children greatly benefit from building a relationship with one trusted individual, such as a social worker, and being actively involved in decisions about their lives
 - there needs to be a better understanding of why children go missing; the current requirements around return home interviews are not working well enough

¹ 'Joint targeted area inspections: framework and guidance'; www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspection-of-arrangements-and-services-for-children-in-need-of-help-and-protection

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspections-of-child-sexual-exploitation-and-missing-children-february-to-august-2016



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- the response to children going missing should be based on a proper assessment of all known risks; current risk assessments by the police are inconsistent and their effectiveness is limited for some children
 - in too many areas the health community has insufficient resources and, in a minority of cases, an inadequate understanding of the signs of child sexual exploitation
 - there is variation in police practice between and within areas, which means some children have to wait too long to get the help and support they need
 - in most cases observed, professionals were highly committed to engaging with children, listening to their views and understanding their experiences; however, in some cases, this engagement is hampered by poor quality assessments, inappropriate language and ill-informed statements
 - oversight of front line practice by leaders and managers is critical; while there was much evidence of good management in the inspected areas, inspectors still found examples of significant failures
5. In 2018, we will carry out a further sample of inspections on this theme. We aim to identify whether agencies have made further progress since the JTAIs in 2016.
 6. For 2018, we have widened the scope of the deep dive investigation to include children associated with gangs or involved with gangs who are at risk of exploitation. This will include those children associated with gangs and who are being sexually exploited as well as children who are at risk of other forms of exploitation through gang association. This in response to an increasing awareness of the risks to children being exploited for criminal reasons by gangs, in particular the risk of involvement in 'county lines', and the recognised relationship in some cases between risk of child sexual exploitation and gang association.
 7. There is no legal definition of 'county lines' or criminal exploitation. For the purpose of these inspections, we use the term 'county lines' to describe situations where children may be trafficked within England for the purpose of criminal exploitation by urban gangs that supply drugs to suburban areas, market or coastal towns and/ or other urban areas. Criminal exploitation includes activities such as using children to move drugs or money.
 8. These inspections will aim to provide findings on frontline practitioners' understanding of and ability to recognise the risks to children who are missing, at risk of sexual exploitation and/or criminal exploitation by gangs. Inspectors will look at the experiences of these children and the strategic response by the multi-agency safeguarding partners.



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9. Inspectors will track and sample the experiences of children and young people. Tracking is an in depth, 'end to end' look at the experiences of between five and eight children and young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation, and/or criminal exploitation by gangs. Sampling is a more targeted look at the experiences of a greater number of children, focusing on particular points in these children's journeys. Sampling will focus on the experiences of children at risk of sexual exploitation, children at risk of criminal exploitation by gangs and children who have been missing from home, care or education. Inspectors may need to sample more widely than these defined areas of risks in order to identify those children at risk of sexual or criminal exploitation. Guidance on tracking and sampling is in the inspection framework and guidance.
10. Children who have been missing from home, care or education are not automatically at risk of sexual exploitation, nor of exploitation by or involvement in gangs. However, going missing is a recognised risk factor. Looking at the experiences of children who have gone missing will help inspectors to evaluate whether local agencies accurately and reliably identify the risks to these children.

Scope of the inspection

11. All JTAIs are of multi-agency arrangements for:
 - the response to all forms of child abuse, neglect and exploitation at the point of identification
 - the quality and impact of assessment, planning and decision-making in response to notifications and referrals
 - protecting children and young people at risk of a specific type (or types) of harm, or the support and care of children looked after and/or care leavers (evaluated through a deep dive investigation into the experiences of these children)
 - the leadership and management of this work
 - the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding partner arrangements in relation to this work.
12. Our evaluation of the initial response and the quality and impact of planning and decision making will mainly focus on children at risk of sexual exploitation, exploitation through association or involvement with gangs and children missing from home, care or education.

Evaluation criteria

13. When the deep dive investigation is of the response to children at risk of sexual exploitation, exploitation through association of involvement in gangs and children missing from home, care or education, inspectors will evaluate the extent to which:

- risks to missing children are appropriately assessed and individual children and families receive support (ESN 23)³
- agencies effectively track and respond to children missing from education (ESN 24)
- all agencies work together effectively to investigate and respond to the circumstances that cause children to be missing (ESN 25)
- all agencies effectively assess risks to tackle child sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation of children by gangs and support those children (ESN 26)
- return home interviews are offered to children, are of good quality and are used at an individual and strategic level to tackle risk (ESN 27)
- work with young people who are perpetrators of sexual and/or criminal exploitation, such as those involved with gangs or peer-on-peer exploitation is effective (ESN 28)
- any concerns raised through whistleblowing about the protection of children have been responded to effectively (ESN 29)
- the agencies effectively combat and disrupt sexual and other forms of exploitation of children (ESN 30)
- children suffering sexual exploitation and/or criminal exploitation by gangs have access to post- abuse therapeutic help and good quality support (ESN 31)
- children and their families feel that their views have been heard. This leads to improvements in the help and support that they receive (ESN 32)
- schools have effective systems to identify children at risk of or subject to sexual exploitation, and/or criminal exploitation by gangs and children who are missing from school. They make timely referrals to early help or children's social care where appropriate and children receive support within the school and/or from external agencies where required (ESN 33)
- schools contribute effectively to inter-agency working to improve outcomes for children who are at risk of or subject to sexual exploitation and/or

³ The evaluation schedule numbers (ESN) are a referencing system to support inspectors when they record their findings in evidence records.



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criminal exploitation by gangs, and children who are missing from school.
(ESN 34)

- the workforce meets its responsibilities to children at risk of sexual exploitation, and to children at risk of criminal exploitation by gangs and to children missing from home, care and education (social workers, family support and social work assistants; police officers and other police staff; health professionals and support staff; National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Companies and youth offending team personnel) (ESN 35)
- leaders and managers know and understand the experiences of children at risk of sexual exploitation, children at risk of criminal exploitation by gangs and those who go missing from home, care or education, and the prevalence of these issues in their area (ESN 36)
- leaders and managers use their knowledge to challenge and support practitioners and promote continuous improvement in services for children at risk of sexual exploitation, and /or criminal exploitation by gangs and those who go missing from home, care or education (ESN 37)
- local safeguarding partners actively monitor, promote and coordinate and evaluate the work of partner agencies to help, protect and care for children at risk of sexual and/or criminal exploitation by gangs and those who go missing from home, care or education⁴ (ESN 38)
- awareness raising and preventative work is in place with the community, businesses, parents and children to alert them to the risk of child exploitation (ESN 39)
- the police force captures preventative work, including how effectively they map patterns and profile the overview of cases, and the quality of the response from local services (ESN 40)
- the cases of children at risk of sexual exploitation and /or criminal exploitation by gangs are investigated effectively and perpetrators are arrested and prosecuted (ESN 41)
- work with adult offenders on reducing risks of harm to children which may stem from the adult's offences or their role as a parent/carer is effective (ESN 42)
- the roles and responsibilities of support staff are appropriate, and whether the training and support they receive meets their needs and impacts on the quality of service delivery (ESN 43).

⁴ The role of the LSCB or the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is in line with the Working Together requirements and guidance on the arrangements for transition.

Annex A. Local information to support the inspection

14. This annex lists the information inspectors request from local agencies when the deep dive theme for the JTAI is child sexual exploitation, children at risk of criminal exploitation by gangs and children missing from home or education. The information is listed in the order that the local agencies are asked to provide it.

List of children at risk of child sexual exploitation

15. **By the end of the day that the area is notified of the inspection** (Tuesday of week one), the Director of Children’s Services (DCS) should provide a list of those children identified as child in need and children who are the subject of a child protection plan, both living in the local authority area and those living outside the area for whom the local authority is responsible. The list should indicate whether these children are at risk of child sexual exploitation and or criminal exploitation from gangs, and whether they have been missing from home or care. The lead inspector will use this list to select the children whose experiences inspectors will track and the local area are asked to jointly evaluate. Where possible, the list should include the fields stated below.

List	Detail required
<p>Children identified as child in need All those in receipt of services as a child in need at the point of inspection and those who ceased to receive services as a child in need in the three months before inspection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child unique ID ■ Gender ■ Ethnicity ■ Date of birth ■ If unborn: expected date of birth ■ Age of child (in years) ■ Does the child have a disability? (Y/N) ■ Number of episodes when the child or young person has been missing from home or care in the last six months ■ Whether the child or young person is currently in receipt of full-time school education ■ Child In Need start date ■ Primary need code ■ Date child was last seen ■ Child in need closure date ■ Reason for closure ■ Allocated team



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Allocated worker■ Whether child is currently in receipt of full time education■ Whether the child is at risk or subject to child sexual exploitation (Y/N)■ Whether the child is at risk of gang association or involved in gangs and at risk of criminal exploitation (Y/N)
<p>Children on a child protection plan All those who are subject of a child protection pan at the point of inspection and those who ceased to be the subject of a child protection plan in the three months before inspection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Child unique ID■ Gender■ Ethnicity■ Date of birth■ If unborn expected date of birth■ Age of child (years)■ Does the child have a disability (Y/N)■ Numbers of episodes where the child has been missing from home or care in the last six months■ Child protection start date■ Initial category of abuse■ Latest category of abuse■ Date of the last statutory visit■ Child seen in accordance with the timescales specified within their plan, by the lead social worker? (Y/N)■ Was the child seen alone?■ Child protection plan end date■ Subject to emergency protection/care/supervision order or protected under police powers in last six months (Y/N)■ Number of previous child protection plans■ Allocated team■ Allocated worker■ Whether child is currently in receipt of full time education■ Whether the child is at risk or subject to child sexual exploitation (Y/N)■ Whether the child is at risk of gang association or involved in gangs and at risk of criminal exploitation (Y/N)

16. **By 3pm on day one (Wednesday)** the local authority with partner agencies should also provide the following lists, which need to include both child protection and child in need cases:
- 10 cases that the local authority identify where child sexual exploitation is a current or significant factor or criminal exploitation by gangs is a current and significant factor, and there is multi-agency involvement.⁵ The list should include the child's ID number and whether they are a child in need or on a child protection plan.
 - 10 cases that the local authority identify where child sexual exploitation is a current or significant factor or criminal exploitation by gangs is a current and significant factor, and the agencies believe there has been positive intervention by agencies to engage with the child and their family to improve outcomes for the child. The list should include the child's ID number and whether they are a child in need, on a child protection plan or a child looked after.⁶
 - 10 cases where Youth Offending Teams and 6 cases where the National Probation Services or the Community Rehabilitation Company are involved, as well as children's services and there are current or significant concerns about child sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation by gangs. The list should include the child's ID number and whether they are a child in need or on a child protection plan and clearly indicate which agencies are involved.
17. If there are any particular contextual issues in the local area in relation to sexual exploitation and or criminal exploitation by gangs, for example a specific programme of work or service, the DCS can advise the lead inspector of this when they provide these lists. The lead inspector will take this into account when selecting the children whose experiences inspectors will track and sample.
18. **By 5.30pm on day one (Wednesday)**, the lead inspector will select 20 children from all the lists provided and ask the local authority to provide additional information on these 20. **By 4pm of day two (Thursday)**, the local authority should provide the following information on each of the 20 children:
- is the child or young person known to the youth offending team? (Y/N)
 - is the National Probation Service working with a parent or any adult living in the same household as the child or who has a close connection to the child or young person? (Y/N)

⁵ Multi-agency involvement means at least two agencies.

⁶ We have not requested lists of looked after children but there may be cases where children have recently become looked after and fit the criteria outlined above.



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- is the community rehabilitation company working with a parent or any adult living in the same household as the child or who has a close connection to the child or young person? (Y/N)
 - is there a current police investigation or any criminal proceedings? (Y/N)
19. The local authority to indicate which of the above applies to each case.
20. **By mid-day on day three (Friday), the lead inspector will select between** five children whose experiences the local partnership should evaluate jointly, and between five and eight cases for inspectors to track. By 10am on day three, the lead inspector may request a phone call with the local authority to confirm that the selection of cases include multi-agency involvement and current or recent work to address concerns about sexual exploitation and or criminal exploitation by gangs. The lead inspector may ask the local authority to review the cases on the electronic recording system to ensure this.
21. Inspectors will focus their evaluation on the experiences of the specific children identified. Although family context will be taken into consideration, the experiences of any brothers or sisters will not be evaluated in detail.
22. Inspectors will focus on practice over the six months before the inspection, but will take into account the child's experiences prior to this point. The local agencies should provide key documents associated with these children by the end of day five (Tuesday of week two) and the joint evaluations **by the end of day seven** (Thursday of week two). See the section 'Key case file documents' below for further information.

Child-level lists and details of planned multi-agency meetings

23. **By the end of day two** (Thursday) the local authority should provide the lead inspector with details of multi-agency meetings taking place during the fieldwork week, including: initial child protection conferences; review child protection conferences; looked after children's reviews; strategy discussions; and any other planning or review meeting relating to children at risk of sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation by gangs or children who have been missing.
24. The local authority should also provide further lists of child-level data. Inspectors will use these lists to develop lines of enquiry and identify children whose experiences they will sample while onsite in the local area.⁷ These lists are of all children in each category known to the local authority, not just those at risk of sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation by gangs and those missing.

⁷ Unless otherwise indicated, the content of these lists is the same as the equivalent lists requested for an inspection of the local authority as part of Ofsted's single inspection framework.

List	Detail required
<p>Contacts</p> <p>All those who have been the subject of a contact in the three months prior to inspection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child unique ID ■ Gender ■ Ethnicity ■ Date of birth ■ If unborn: expected date of birth ■ Age of child (years) ■ Date of contact ■ Contact source
<p>Referrals</p> <p>All those who have been the subject of a referral in the three months prior to inspection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child unique ID ■ Gender ■ Ethnicity ■ Date of birth ■ If unborn: expected date of birth ■ Age of child (years) ■ Date of the most recent referral ■ Referral source ■ Referral NFA? (Y/N) ■ Number of referrals in last 12 months ■ Allocated team ■ Allocated worker
<p>Assessments</p> <p>All those who have been the subject of a statutory assessment in accordance with section 17 or section 47 of the Children Act 1989 in the six months prior to inspection.</p> <p>This includes assessments that have started but are not yet completed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child unique ID ■ Gender ■ Ethnicity ■ Date of birth ■ If unborn: expected date of birth ■ Age of child (Years) ■ Does the child have a disability? (Y/N) ■ assessment start date ■ Child seen during assessment (Y/N) ■ assessment date of authorisation ■ Allocated team ■ Allocated worker ■ If assessment has been completed has sexual exploitation been identified? ■ If assessment has been completed has criminal exploitation by gangs been identified?



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List	Detail required
<p>Section 47</p> <p>All those who have been the subject of a section 47 enquiry in the six months prior to inspection</p> <p>This includes enquiries that are ongoing and an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) decision has not yet been made.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child unique ID ■ Gender ■ Ethnicity ■ Date of birth ■ If unborn: expected date of birth ■ Age of child (years) ■ Does the child have a disability? (Y/N) ■ Section 47 enquiry start date ■ Number of section 47 enquiries in the last 12 months ■ Initial child protection conference not required (Y/N) ■ Date of initial child protection conference ■ Did the initial child protection conference result in a child protection plan? (Y/N) ■ Number of ICPCs in the last 12 months ■ Allocated team ■ Allocated worker
<p>Children identified as a child in need (CIN)</p> <p>All those in receipt of services as a child in need at the point of inspection and those who ceased to receive services as a child in need in the three months prior to inspection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child unique ID ■ Gender ■ Ethnicity ■ Date of birth ■ If unborn: expected date of birth ■ Age of child (years) ■ Does the child have a disability? (Y/N) ■ CIN start date ■ Primary need code ■ Date child was last seen ■ CIN closure date ■ Reason for closure ■ Allocated team ■ Allocated worker

List	Detail required
<p>Children missing from home or care⁸</p> <p>A list of children who have gone missing from home or care in the six months prior to the inspection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child unique ID ■ Date of birth ■ number of episodes when the child or young person has been missing ■ any additional information that the local area uses on a day-to-day basis to monitor these children ■ details about whether they are known to be vulnerable to sexual exploitation ■ is the child or young person known to the Youth Offending Team ■ is the national probation service working with an adult that may pose a risk to the child or young person ■ is the community rehabilitation company working with an adult that may pose a risk to the child or young person ■ whether the child is placed in the area but looked after by a different local authority
<p>Children not in full-time school education⁹</p> <p>A report on children, for whom the local authority is responsible, who are of school age and who are not in receipt of full-time school education at the time of inspection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ child unique ID or UPN ■ date of birth ■ type of educational provision that they are receiving, including home tuition ■ number of hours provision per week ■ type of exclusion (if the child has been excluded) ■ date when alternative provision commenced

Key case file documents

25. **By the end of day five** (Tuesday week two) the local agencies should provide electronic copies of the following key documents for each of the children whose experiences they have been asked to evaluate (where recent examples exist):

- initial referral/contact/notification (where applicable)
- most recent assessment, including a common or early help assessment
- strategy or other multi-agency discussion or equivalent
- section 47 investigation documentation/ICPC minutes

⁸ This list is the same as item 2.07 in Annex A of Ofsted's single inspection framework for local authorities. The last four fields are additional requests specific to the joint inspection.

⁹ This list is the same as item 2.06 in Annex A of Ofsted's single inspection framework for local authorities



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- most recent plan for the child and/or review of the plan
 - latest return home interview and any subsequent risk assessments (where appropriate)
 - minutes of any multi-agency meetings in respect of the child such as MASE
 - where applicable, the most recent pre-sentence report relating to the child or any relevant adult
 - a chronology of significant events in the six months prior to the inspection. Significant events may include:
 - episodes of the child missing from home, care or education
 - any contact the child or relevant adults had with the police – as either a victim or suspect – such as reported incidents, crimes and investigations, and reports of the child being missing or absent
 - information on events earlier than the six months prior to the inspection where this is necessary to understand the context of the child's experience.
26. The CQC will request documents about the children whose experiences inspectors will track. However, as the specific health agencies involved will vary, the CQC will determine which agencies to request information from following inspectors' review of the evaluations undertaken by the local partnership. The CQC will make this request on the Friday of week two.
27. The local agencies should provide their joint evaluations, and where possible individual agency evaluations of children's experiences electronically **by the end of day seven** (Thursday of week two). Access to a secure online site has been arranged to receive the case file documents and evaluations electronically. Printed copies of the documents related to the children whose experiences the partnership has evaluated should be made available for when inspectors arrive onsite.

Other information to support the inspection

28. **By the end of day five** (Tuesday, week two) the local agencies should provide the information outlined below to help inspectors understand the work of agencies within the area. The local agencies should not provide everything they hold on each subject; they should provide the area's **best and most recent examples that relate to the scope of this inspection**. They should provide this information electronically.

The local authority

- 1.1 – **organisational structures** showing lines of reporting and accountability



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1.2 – **management information reports** for those children within the scope of the inspection, at both a local and agency level

1.3 – **assessment and threshold criteria** for helping families and protecting the identified children

1.4 – **practice audits, including multi-agency**, over the six months prior to the inspection relating to the focus of the inspection, and associated **improvement/action plans**

1.5 – details of any services in the area that have been **commissioned from the community or voluntary sector** for children who have been missing, absent and sexually and/ or criminally exploited children

1.6 – minutes of Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meetings, or Multi-Agency Child Exploitation meetings and /or Multi-Agency meetings relating to gangs and/ or criminal exploitation

1.7 – terms of reference for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) or local equivalent

1.8 needs analysis, strategies and action plans relating to sexual and / or criminal exploitation and children missing, any success criteria and any analysis impact

Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

2.1 – **organisational structures** showing lines of reporting and accountability

2.2 – minutes of meetings of the local safeguarding partners from the 12 months prior to the inspection (including executive board meetings where applicable)

2.3 – sub-group minutes as relevant to the scope of the inspection (requested by the lead inspector).

The Police force

3.1 – **organisational structures** showing lines of reporting and accountability

3.2 – child sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation risk or vulnerability assessment process

3.3 – learning and development regarding vulnerability, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and child protection

3.4 – child protection referral document



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- 3.5 – policy & guidance on missing from home
- 3.6 – strategy, policies and guidance relating to child sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation
- 3.7 – problem profile related to missing, and sexually exploited and criminally exploited children
- 3.8 – three most recent sets of minutes for any force strategic governance meetings on missing, and sexually exploited and criminally exploited children
- 3.9 – any audits and action plan(s) relating to missing, and sexually exploited and criminally exploited children
- 3.10 – performance management information / data for child sexual exploitation, criminally exploited children and missing and absent children

The National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company/Companies

- 4.1 – **organisational structures** showing lines of reporting and accountability
- 4.2 – policy/procedures with regard to child protection and safeguarding
- 4.3 – policy/procedures for the management of risk of harm to others

Youth Offending Team

- 5.1 – **organisational structures** showing lines of reporting and accountability
- 5.2 – policy/procedures with regard to child protection and safeguarding
- 5.3 – policy/procedures for the management of risk of harm to others
- 5.4 – policy/procedures for the management of sexual or criminal exploitation

Health partners

- 6.1 – **Organisational structures** showing lines of reporting and accountability including details of local health commissioning and /or provider services
- 6.2 – Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and provider services with details of who is providing commissioned services, including school nursing, young people's substance misuse services, Contraceptive and Health (CASH) services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health services, Urgent Care units and Midwifery.
- 6.3 – CCG and provider services annual reports on safeguarding and child protection, including for children looked after.



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6.4 – Provider policies relating to child sexual exploitation, children who are criminally exploited, including local primary care policies

6.5 – Any commissioner or provider audits and action plans relating to child sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation of children

Consent to meet with children, young people, parents and carers

29. The lead inspector will ask the local agencies to arrange opportunities for inspectors to talk directly with the children whose experiences they will track. The local agency should record consent from children and parents or carers. Where consent is not given or a discussion is not possible, the local agency seeking that consent should inform the lead inspector of the reasons. Arrangements to talk with these children, parents or carers, or the reasons why these discussions cannot take place, should be confirmed by local agencies in writing as soon as possible and by the end of week two.



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Annex B. Tool for tracking children’s experiences

The inspection team uses the tracking tool to ensure that they are consistently recording evaluations of evidence from tracking individual children and young people’s experiences. The questions reflect the experiences of children and young people at each key stage of intervention.

Inspector	
Inspectorate	
Case number	
Age of child/young person	
Does the child have any individual needs relating to their circumstances? (for example, their ethnicity or a disability)	

Evaluation by the local area

Does the joint evaluation by the local partnership accurately evaluate the experiences of the child? (where an evaluation has taken place)	
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Inspector’s evaluation

	Evaluative summary of child/young person’s experience
Was referral for action timely for the child?	
Is risk identified, understood and prioritised? Does the child appear to be safe?	
Has decision-making matched the priority risks and needs?	
Where an assessment has been completed, are risks, needs and strengths clear?	
Is there a plan? Is it sufficient to address risk and need? Is it making a difference?	
Has the child been involved/engaged at all stages? Have family/carers been involved at all stages?	
Have individual needs and circumstances been taken into account?	



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	Evaluative summary of child/young person's experience
Do the agencies work together effectively to protect the child?	