

**FIVE RIVERS RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**NAME OF YOUNG PERSON: Kaya Douglas DOB: 13/05/2000 Home: Beck House**

**NAME OF PERSON COMPLETING: Zoe Petrowsky Signature: DATE of COMPLETING: 18/03/2016**

**REVIEW DATE:**

**Introduction**

The following risk assessment tool is to support five rivers staff in assessing young people they feel may be at risk of sexual exploitation. It will allow staff to identify the nature and the level of risky behaviours a young person is engaged in to assess whether sexual exploitation is a factor in the young person’s presentation.

This is a step by step guide to identifying risks posed to young people and offers actions that should be taken to address these risks. This is not an exhaustive list and using the indicators is a guide only and should not replace an individual’s professional judgement or risk assessments that are currently in place by local safeguarding boards.

This risk assessment should be used in conjunction with the child’s care plan and any ICMP.

In addition to the risk assessment tool a prompt sheet is included for use in exploring levels of risk and also a Strategy for intervention options

**A young person presenting with 1-4 indicators set out below would be considered a low level risk**

**More than 4 indicators will then become a `Medium` risk (see medium indicators)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **LOW RISK INDICATORS REQUIRED ACTIONS** | | | |
| 1. | Returning late |  | * **No child under 13 years old or with a disability can be categorized as LOW** * Keep detailed information/records of incidents and risks * Keep Social Worker updated, family, and any other agencies involved with the young person * Notify MISPER Police if the child or young person is going missing * Raise red flag/multi agency/at risk meeting to discuss concerns and note any actions * If required call a strategy meeting * ICMP must be updated to include these identified risks * One-to-one work with young person raising awareness of “healthy relationships”, risk taking behaviours and consequences * Continue to assess risks |
| 2. | Missing for long periods of time |  |
| 3. | Leaving home in unusual clothing or borrowing clothes from older young people; which could be seen as overt sexualised dress |  |
| 4. | Young person in possession of large amounts of money which cannot be explained |  |
| 5. | Young person associating with adults/individuals who are known to sexually exploit children |  |
| 6. | Young person is associating with other young people who are known to be sexually exploited |  |
| 7. | Young person is known to have sexually transmitted infections |  |
| 8. | Young person is known to experiment with drugs and/or alcohol |  |
| 9. | Self-image is poor and issues with eating disorders and self-harm |  |
| 10. | Chronic fatigue |  |
| 11. | Considerable changes in performance at school |  |
| 12. | Abusive Language/sexualised language |  |
| 13. | Getting involved in petty crime such as shop lifting and stealing |  |
| 14. | Secretive behaviour |  |
| 15. | Change in physical appearance i.e. mood; behaviour; overall demeanor, detachment |  |
| 16. | Concerns shared from parents/friends/carers or other professionals in relation to the young person |  |
| 17. | Phone calls, text messages from unknown adults/individuals |  |
| 18 | Unusual activity outside of the home with regard to unknown adults and young people |  |
| 19. | History of neglect, physical, sexual, emotional abuse or domestic violence |  |

**More than 5 indicators will then become a `Medium` risk**

**Young people presenting with several indicators from Low and Medium indicators would move to a HIGH risk (see high risk indicators)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MEDIUM RISK INDICATORS** **REQUIRED ACTIONS** | | | |
| 20. | Young person seen getting into or out of unknown vehicles driven by unknown adults/individuals |  | Depending on the outcomes of the above meetings; we would consider:   1. Early intervention with the young person identifying the services required such as YOT, SECOS, CAHMS and MISPER 2. Continue discussion with Police regarding any required investigations 3. Initiate Child Protection Procedures 4. No need for further assessment as the risk has been minimized/eradicated  * More intensive work on CSE on grooming, positive choices, safety, raising awareness of “dangerous”   adults/individuals and situations   * Continue to share information on perpetrators, hotspots and adults/individuals associated with the young person * I risk is escalating report the change in situation via the LSCB |
| 21 | Disengagement with school |  |
| 22. | Inappropriate use of the Internet forming relationships particularly with unknown adults/individuals |  |
| 23. | Clipping |  |
| 24. | Symptoms of physical abuse or sexual assault; such as bruising, emotional, subdued emotions; |  |
| 25. | Disclosure of physical assault and then refusing to follow through the disclosure by withdrawing the complaint |  |
| 26. | Has been seen in areas that are known hotspots i.e. recruiting grounds or houses known for sexual exploitation |  |
| 27. | Sexual relationship with a significantly older person |  |
| 28. | Staying out overnight without permission and failing to give an explanation |  |
| 29. | Placement breaking down regularly due to behavioural problems |  |
| 30. | Young person has unaccountable money/goods i.e. mobile phone/clothes/drugs/ alcohol |  |
| 31. | Increased sexually transmitted infections |  |
| 32. | Self-harming behaviour that has increased and requires medical attention |  |
| 33. | Increased and repeat offending behaviour |  |
| 34. | Gang membership or associated with gangs |  |

**Young People presenting with several indicators from all categories and one or more high risk indicators must be considered a HIGH risk**

**Any child under the age of 13 years or with a disability; must be considered a high risk**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **HIGH RISK INDICATORS REQUIRED ACTION** | | | |
| 35. | Sexual activity of a child under 13 years old |  | * Immediate strategy discussion to agree section 47 and joint investigation * Continue to review under Child Protection of children in need until child is protected from abuse * Police to liaise with the crown prosecution for thresholds of prosecution * Continue to update ICMP * Child safety must be paramount * Discussions need to take place through multi agency meetings on how best this can be achieved * Continue to assess placement in meeting the young person’s needs |
| 36. | Young person staying with an adults/individuals believed to be sexually exploiting them |  |
| 37. | Exchanging or selling sexual activity by a child under 16 years old |  |
| 38. | Frequenting clubs and hotels accompanied by unknown adults/individuals and loitering outside public conveniences (Cottaging) |  |
| 39. | Young person withdraws statement of disclosure following a serious sexual assault |  |
| 40. | Concerns are raised following discussions with young person which may lead you to believe that they have been imprisoned or abducted by unknown adults/individuals |  |
| 41. | Concerns are raised following discussion with young person that they may have been moved around by unknown adults/individuals for sexual activity |  |
| 42. | No contact from the young person for substantial periods of time |  |
| 43. | Concerns for young person that they are being groomed for trafficking/being sold on/bought |  |
| 44. | Young person has had several pregnancies; miscarriages or terminations |  |
| 45. | Increased use of alcohol and drug use which may be an indicator of increased sexual exploitation |  |
| 46. | Increase in self-harming/cutting/overdosing/eating disorder and sexualised risky behaviours |  |
| 47. | Concerns around young person recruiting peers for sexual exploitation |  |
| 48. | Persistent breakdowns of school placements or non-attendance |  |
| 49. | Increased offending behaviour |  |

**Strategies for Intervention**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AIM** | **OBJECTIVE** |
| Disengage young people from relationships with adults/individuals and other young people suspected of introducing them to gang activity, violence and sexual exploitation | * Establish who the young person is spending time with and identify negative relationships * Ensure the identify of all young people who visit the home to ensure these are not people who may introduce young people to sexual exploitation * Monitor telephone calls to the home * Complete log book, daily reports with information on known associates that may pose any risks |
| Staff to disrupt, where possible, the contact with young people or adults involved in violence, drugs and sexual exploitation. | * Acknowledge and recognize abusive relationships * Prevent adults/individuals suspected of recruiting, abusing or grooming the young person coming into the home * Staff to remove mobile phones that are suspected of being given to young people by abusers and pass to the Police * Staff to monitor internet, telephone calls and text use and where there is significant concern agree the mobile phone must be removed from the young person at night |
| Information gathering to assist Police in the prosecution of adults/individuals suspected of being involved in the sexual exploitation, violence, drugs and gang activities. | * Keep accurate records on young people’s personal files, it is important to date and time the information and note any involvement of others in incidents and interventions * Social Worker to be contacted with regular reports i.e. via email or telephone * Ensure all members of multi-agency meetings i.e. education, health, YOT, Police, are kept up to date with relevant information * Staff to ensure where possible they obtain as much information to identify associates or those who pose a risk to young people, this should include numbers, addresses and car registrations |
| Promote positive relationships with family, friends and carers. | * Staff must engage parents (where appropriate) to show the young person that everyone is working to safeguard them * Staff to encourage a positive relationship with family and friends * Staff to work with families to make sure they young person knows they care about them * Staff to be identified as Link-workers and complete one-to-one sessions with young people to discuss healthy relationships and risk taking behaviours |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AIM** | **OBJECTIVE** |
| Protect young person from physical harm. | * Staff must endeavour to build relationships with young people which will allow them to discuss any sensitive information. * In line with TCI where it is permissible to physically intervene to stop a young person from running away staff should follow procedures * Where the young person has to be continually restrained and this is not reducing then a multi-agency meeting should be held and discussions taking place how best to protect the young person; this could involve moving the young person temporarily from the Home to enable a settling period for the young person. This must be agreed with all parties with timescales set and reviewed. * If a young person returns to the Home and staff are informed by the young person they have been sexually assaulted, staff need to preserve, where possible, the clothing of the young person and pass to the Police for their investigation * Staff must through all levels of any intervention with young people ensure the young person is made to feel cared for and supported |
| Maintain contact with the young person whilst absent/missing from the Home. | * Make contact with the young person via their mobile either by call or text using language that the young person relates to, to let them know staff are concerned and care about their safety and encourage them to make contact, either with staff or a family member * Staff must ensure that young people are able to contact the Home 24/7 therefore, must keep the Home’s telephone with them at all times * Staff to ensure that through the young people’s brochure and information available within the Home that young people have access to the young people’s missing from placement and Child line telephone numbers or have the availability to text these numbers to young people * Staff to consider, with Social Worker, if other organisations such as SECOS, Neighbourhood Watch, Police specialist services such as MISPER are made aware of where the young person may be so that all services can watch out for the young person * If the young person continues to be missing then strategies need to be put in place via a strategy meeting that may require going public to look for the young person |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AIM** | **OBJECTIVE** |
| Making a return Home a positive experience. | * A staff member that a young person respects and finds it easy to talk to must be made available upon return for the young person. This person should undertake a return interview (life space interview) on every occasion the young person returns following being missing from placement * Police Officers will need to speak to the young person, this should be done by the Police division that relates to young people who go missing to ensure that the young person does not feel threatened, therefore, being able to give valuable information * Return interviews (life space interview) should be followed up by ongoing support for the young person to make returning Home a positive experience * If the young person has become involved in offending behaviours where possible restorative justice solutions should be identified |
| To motivate the young person and set clear boundaries | * Consultation between the Home and the young people needs to take place to agree rewards and consequences * Reward schemes need to be flexible and could contain outcomes such as monetary/vouchers/trips out etc * The Home needs to adopt a behaviour management strategy * Where possible the young person should be given more independence in response to positive behaviours |
| Empower the Parents and Carers | * Parents and carers need to be aware of any guidelines and their own responsibilities and duties in working with young people who are at risk * Safeguarding training needs to cover identifying the signs of sexual exploitation and encourage the use of information to inform reports |
| Self-esteem building for the young person | * Staff to take time to ensure young people are kept informed and updated on any information relating to themselves * Young people should be involved in looking at alternatives and decision making in the Home and in their own lives |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AIM** | **OBJECTIVE** |
| Raising young people’s awareness of danger | * Raise young people’s awareness of the dangers of internet sites and that there must be young people focused and user friendly. Staff should where possible research sites and also ensure young people have access to report any concerns or inappropriate contact made with them. The Home computer must have a monitoring program on the computer system, and an identified staff member must monitor and review internet access on a regular basis (as per policy requirements) * Staff to work with schools to raise the awareness of risk * Staff to raise awareness of dangers in one-to-one sessions and young people’s meetings * Where possible if required young people should be given personal safety training * Specialist groups in relation to sexual exploitation such as SECOS should be invited to give talks to young people * Staff to encourage community police to become a friendly face for young people within the Home * Staff to ensure communication is undertaken with schools- |
| Health needs of the young person | * Young people must have access to sexual health and contraception advice * Young people must have, where needed, therapeutic intervention * Young people must have access to the LAC and School Nurse * Young people must be given access to immediate medical attention if required i.e. hospital, walk-in centers or Doctors |
| Use of diversion techniques for young people | * Positive activities that the young person can participate in need to be made available for the young person to engage in * Staff need to identify self-esteem building exercises for young people via multi agency provisions * Staff to encourage young people to participate in work experience opportunities |
| Ensure the Home is a positive place to be in | * Staff need to identify any issues of bullying/relationships that are having a negative effect on the young person * Staff to look at what are “the pull/push factors” for a young person * Encourage the young person to take more responsibility and have more independence within the Home * Discuss and look at alternatives to drug and alcohol problems * Manager to ensure the continuity of staff * Staff to ensure that environment is friendly, warm, comfortable and supportive * Ensure there is a consistent approach to the care of the young person |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AIM** | **OBJECTIVE** |
| Encourage the young person to participate in Education | * Staff to ensure information sharing takes place between education placement and the Home * The young person is not being bullied or under peer pressure * Staff to provide funding for after school activities and encourage the young person to take part in them, and if needed staff to attend and support the activity * If required Staff to encourage engagement with alternative education |
| Identify other specialist support groups | The following list is not exhaustive   * Therapeutic Services * Young people advocacy services * Independent visitors * YOT * CAHMS * Mentoring services * SECOS * Barnados * Child Line * Safe and Sound * Connexions |
| Set small targets to enable change | * Targets need to be agreed with young person and staff need to encourage young people signing up to these to make it work |
| Non engagement of young person | * Staff need to use the above aims to encourage the engagement of young people |