

## **Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership Terms of Reference for Multi Agency Case Audit on Child Criminal Exploitation**

### **1. Background**

An increase in the identification of children in Torbay vulnerable to child criminal exploitation has highlighted the need for an improved and better coordinated local multi-agency response. The absence of a contextual safeguarding framework has challenged how we approach exploitation outside of the family home and achieve improved outcomes for our children. The results of this Multi-Agency Case Audit will help inform a more focused and systemic framework enabling services to better understand and respond to the complexities and impact of child criminal exploitation on the lives of children and their families.

To ensure the voices of children and families are heard, the 10 individuals identified within the MACA arrangements will be encouraged to participate in the process. The MACA team will identify who is best placed to speak with each relevant individuals about their engagement in the process.

### **2. What is child criminal exploitation?**

The term child criminal exploitation has no definition in law.

*TSCP definition, adopted from the NSPCC.* “Criminal exploitation is child abuse where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes”. Child criminal exploitation may have taken place even if a child appears to be agreeing to it, this is because the power of control is with the person who is benefiting from the exploitation.

### **3. Purpose of the MACA**

This MACA will consider:

- The effectiveness of individual local Agency practice in protecting children who are either vulnerable to or being criminally exploited.
- Whether all Partnerships collaborate together effectively to collectively reduce harm from criminal exploitation.
- How prepared local Agencies and practices are for the development of a Contextual Safeguarding model for Torbay.
- Recommendations for further Operational and Strategic consideration by Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership

#### **4. Objectives of the Audit**

1. Understand individual agencies collation of child criminal exploitation data, the sharing of data to inform local service delivery, themes, and practice.
2. Assess the effectiveness of the early identification of child criminal exploitation and immediate risk management and planning.
3. Understand current child criminal exploitation assessment and referral pathways in Torbay.
4. Understand local planning and multi-agency approaches to tackling child criminal exploitation and their impact on reducing harm.
5. Gain an understanding of local child criminal exploitation interventions and their impact.
6. Understand contextual safeguarding practice and its relevance to Children.
7. Understand workforce development, oversight, and training needs (for completion by managers).

#### **5. Identification of MACA cohort**

- Children subject to this audit will be identified by the Local Authority Exploitation Team and will number 10 in total.
- The audit cohort will be comprised of children subject to criminal outcomes between January 2022 and January 2023.
- The demographics of the children identified will be varied to ensure diversity across the cohort.

#### **6. Professional engagement in the MACA**

To ensure that the objectives of the audit are effectively met, and to support robust analysis of the cases, there should be contribution from the following partners where involved:

- Children's Social Care
- Education and School Services
- Youth Justice Service
- Health Providers
- Police
- Voluntary Sector

#### **7. Timeline for Audit**

- Audit tool to be distributed week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- Audit tool returns due week ending 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023
- Audit Panel to sit 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023
- Final draft of report / themes to be presented to the TSCP Quality Assurance Group on 7<sup>th</sup> June and TSCP Business Group on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023

- Final report to be presented to the TSCP Executive Group on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023
- Best Practice Seminar/Learning to be held/disseminated across the partnership in 2023 (tba)
- Auditing of learning/local practice in 2023/24 (6 to 8 months post final report)