

Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Terms of Reference

Aims

The Hackney Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Group has been established to develop a detailed overview of both child sexual exploitation (CSE)* and harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) within the borough and to use this profile to inform multi agency work priorities including the development of appropriate prevention and intervention strategies.

The MASE focuses primarily on young people under the age of 18 years; however the group will also consider cases of young people up to the age of 25 years who are care leavers or young people with learning difficulties receiving services from Young Hackney.

The group will aim to reduce the risk to children and young people at risk of, or experiencing sexual exploitation or at risk of demonstrating harmful sexual behaviour, by building an understanding of the links between victims and perpetrators, identifying emerging themes and trends, and using these to inform diversionary measures and interventions.

Agenda

New Cases

A summary of information, agencies involved, proposed or identified interventions and case management

Review Cases

Progress of case and any issues i.e. agency involvement or strategic issues in relation to resources

Children placed out of borough

Information from liaison with local area, review of risks identified

Cross border issues

Identification of trends, review of liaison/joined up working with neighbouring boroughs

Trends/Problem locations

Issues identified from problem profile and progress against issues identified. Identification of other agencies/departments that may need to be involved

Categories of Risk

The MASE will use the categories allocated to children/young people at their multi-agency planning (MAP) meetings.

Risk categories for young people at risk of, or experiencing CSE:

Category 1 (at risk)

A vulnerable child or young person, where there are concerns they are being targeted and groomed and where any CSE warning signs have been identified. However, at this stage there is no evidence of any offences.

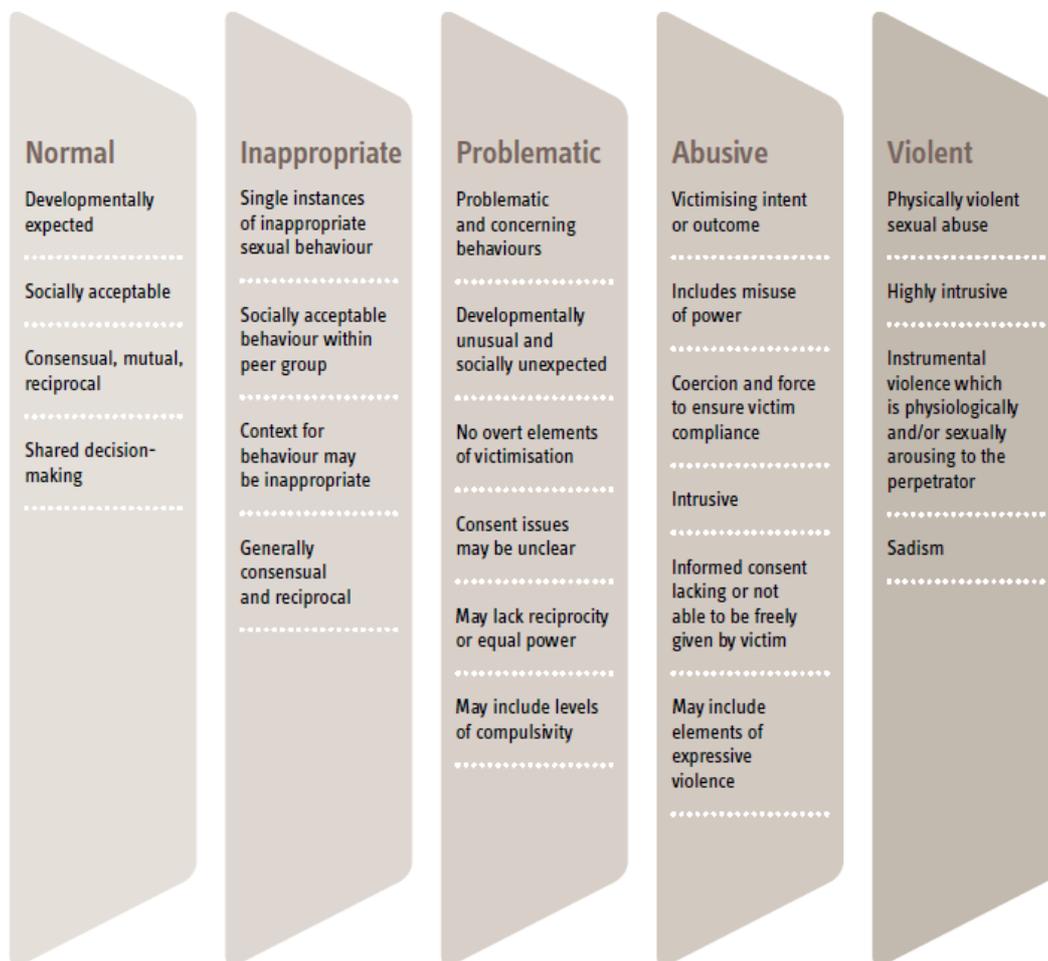
Category 2 (medium risk)

Evidence a child or young person is being targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for drugs, perceived affection, sense of belonging, accommodation (overnight stays), money and goods etc. This will also include a child or young person being sexually exploited through the use of technology and without the child or young person receiving any reward ie. the exchange of indecent images on-line. The likelihood of coercions and control is significant.

Category 3 (high risk)

A child or young person whose sexual exploitation is habitual, self denied and where coercion/ control is implicit. This is often carried out by multiple perpetrators.

Risk categories for young people at risk of demonstrating HSB:



(Hackett 2010)

Frequency and Organisation of the MASE

The MASE will meet on a monthly basis.

Members will be sent a reminder one week prior to the next meeting advising them of outstanding actions and requesting submission of intelligence on new and review cases.

Attendance

Named single points of contact (SPOCs) from each agency are expected to attend MASE meetings along with any specialist providers. If a named SPOC is unable to attend for any reason then they should identify a representative to attend in their place.

Agencies who are committed to attend the MASE:

Police (Borough Police, Regional Sexual Exploitation Team, Missing Persons)
Children's Social Care (Children In Need, Corporate Parenting, Safeguarding and Reviewing Unit)
Health (Sexual Health, CHYPS Plus, School nursing, Homerton Hospital Accident and Emergency, Mental Health, LAC Health Team)
Hackney Learning Trust
Young Hackney
Youth Offending Team
Gangs Unit
Empower
Off Centre

Reporting

The MASE will report to the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children's Board 'Sexual Exploitation Working Group' through the Head of Safeguarding and Learning. *Reporting lines for other agencies to be confirmed.*

***Definition**

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, attention, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, or others performing on them, sexual acts or activities. Child sexual exploitation grooming can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

(Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2009)