

Dudley Child Exploitation Partnership Group

Purpose

The Child Exploitation Partnership Group (CEPG) is a multi-agency leadership and coordination group which looks to;

- Have a detailed understanding of the risk and impact of exploitation across Dudley, and across other Local Authorities that impact on Dudley.
- Build partnership capability and capacity to prevent, protect and respond to young people at risk of exploitation in all forms.
- Ensure there are clear pathways for referral and support for all young people.
- Understand patterns and trends in exploitation
- Discuss victims, perpetrators and locations linked to exploitation which have been escalated from other forums.

Young people at high risk of exploitation can also be escalated to CEPG if their risk is not being reduced. Multiple victims linked via the same perpetrators can also be discussed collectively in this forum.

Scope:

- Share intelligence and/or disruptive actions with regard to individuals who are believed to be harming children and young people through exploitation
- Provide updates on pertinent ongoing investigations, interventions and offender management activities
- Understand trends, networks and connections between victims, perpetrators and locations.
- Discuss previously shared information and intelligence.
- Understand and respond to key locations that are being used to exploit children and young people
- Develop multi-agency plans to disrupt and manage key locations; and to prosecute/disrupt perpetrators.
- Identify and implement prevention and awareness raising activities

Frequency

CEPG will meet once per calendar month on a set date

Accountability

The group will report to each meeting of the Child Exploitation Sub Group.

Membership

The listed agencies are considered to be the minimum full members and require routine attendance at the meeting.

Core members

- Superintendent Dudley Neighbourhood Policing (Chair)
- Children's Social Care (Vice - Chair)
- YOS
- West Midlands Police:
 - *Public Protection*
 - *FCID*
 - *Local Policing*

- Administrator
- MASH
- DEx Team Manager
- Education
- Early Help
- Regulatory Services (as required)
- Public Health
- Adult Social Care
- Housing and Welfare
- Black Country Women's Aid
- Dudley Healthcare Trust- Designated Safeguarding Nurse
- Black Country ICB Designated Nurse
- National Probation Service
- Commissioned Services
- Third Sector Providers

Ad hoc members

Other agencies may be required to attend on a case by case basis. They will receive a copy of the agenda and will provide the chair with any relevant information or intelligence by secure email in advance of the meeting. Their personal attendance at the meeting is at the discretion of the chair/co-chair.

Confidentiality Statement

Any agency in attendance or in receipt of information circulated from the CEDG will be signed into the local Information Sharing Protocol. All Panel members will sign a confidentiality form at the start of each meeting based on the following statement:

All information discussed is strictly confidential and must not be disclosed to third parties. All documents circulated in connection with the CEDG are to be considered restricted documents and must not be disclosed to third parties.

The retention of all documentation in a secure location is the responsibility of the receiving agency. If disclosure is sought to a third party then permission must be received from both Co-Chairs.

*The disclosure of information outside of the CEDG will be deemed to be a breach of the subject's confidentiality and a breach of the confidentiality of the agencies involved. **It may be considered an offence under the Data Protection Act.***

Chairing of the Meeting

The meeting will be co-chaired by the Head of Service for Exploitation (Children's Social Care) and the Dudley Local Policing Superintendent. The purpose of a co-chair is a facilitative one and reflects the Partnership commitment to collaboration.

In practical terms this will mean an agreed lead at each meeting to take chairing responsibilities and shared agreement on actions.

Administration

The meeting will be administered through business support from the Local Authority.

Role and Responsibilities:

The agreed Chair will:

- Chair the meeting.
- Confirm the confidentiality statement.
- Authorise the action document for distribution within 7 days of the meeting.
- Ensure all allocated actions are reviewed and formally subject of closure once completed or dismissed (escalating concerns around actions not completed by the agency through the agreed escalation process).
- Raise any concerns/issues raised from the meeting to the Strategic Sub-Group.
- Attend the Strategic Exploitation sub-group and feedback.
- Regularly review attendance, challenging persistent non-attendance and ensure that all new members are fully inducted into the process.

Specific cases for consideration for escalation to CEPG

Cases can be escalated to CEPG if:

- Dudley Child Exploitation Team put forward cases as there are blockages requiring partnership intervention
- Any representative from a stakeholder organisation believes that intervention is required due to blockages from within the partnership

One week before the meeting the Chair should meet with the DEX Team Manager to agree agenda for CEDG and any escalations should be included prior to circulation of the papers to allow attendees to research and provide updates.

Victims, perpetrators, locations and themes will only be removed from the CEPG agenda once the group is satisfied that appropriate action has been undertaken to address the concern identified and the risk is mitigated. The removal of victims,

offenders and locations from CEPG will be clearly documented and the reasons for the removal, and actions completed, will be documented.

Review

The TOR will be reviewed annually to consider any changes to membership / reporting / process. 1st Review due July 2023.