

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Slough Health & Wellbeing Board
Date:	17 th September 2024
Subject:	Safeguarding children, young people and young adults from exploitation and harms outside the home 2024 – 2026 strategy
Chief Officer:	Sue Butcher
Contact Officer:	Betty Lynch
Ward(s):	ALL wards
Exempt:	NO –
Appendices:	Exploitation strategy

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 This paper presents the Slough strategy for tackling risks from exploitation and harms outside the home faced by children, young people, and young adults 2024-2026

Recommendations:

The Health & Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- Approve the Slough Safeguarding Partnership strategy for tackling risks and harms from exploitation faced by children, young people and young adults.

Reason:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline our vision, ambition, principles, and priorities for action to tackle child and adolescent exploitation and related harms outside the home. The priorities have been developed and agreed in partnership with agencies working across Slough and have been approved by the Slough Safeguarding Partnership Board in June 2024.
- 1.2 This strategy outlines eight evidence-informed principles for multi-agency practice, based on national research, and four priorities for action on tackling risks and harms from exploitation faced by children, young people, and young adults. Each of the four strategic priorities requires commitment and action from all council departments, and from multi-agency partners in Slough.
- 1.3 A safeguarding practice review in response to the tragic homicide of a young adult in Slough in September 2023 has informed all aspects of this strategy, as has learning from another tragic homicide in May 2022.
- 1.4 The strategy includes up-to-date evidence from local, regional, and national reviews, and is informed by learning from the review of Criminally Exploited Children, chaired by Professional Alexis Jay CBE, published March 2024.

- 1.5 The strategy demonstrates how partners in Slough commit to collaboration in our response to the needs of children, young people, and young adults. Once we have strong foundations in place, we aspire to develop a safeguarding offer across developmental stages in response to young people and vulnerable adults. Such an approach, known as **transitional safeguarding**, ‘builds on the best available evidence, learns from both children’s and adults’ safeguarding practice and prepares young people for their adult lives’ ([Holmes and Smale 2018](#)). This strategy lays foundations for a step-change, so that all our children, young people and all vulnerable adults are protected from harms.

2. Report

Introductory paragraph

Tackling violence and exploitation are a key focus for Slough Safeguarding Partnership and Safer Slough partnership. The exploitation of children, young people and young adults is a complex type of abuse that takes different forms. The definitions below are in summary form only for brevity in this report. Further information and related definitions are included in the strategy.

- **Child criminal exploitation** is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or vulnerable young adult to undertake an activity which constitutes a criminal offence. In England there is currently no statutory definition of child criminal exploitation (written as CCE).
- **Child sexual exploitation** is a form of child sexual abuse. This abuse occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person or vulnerable adult into sexual activity. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual.
- **Human trafficking** involves the recruitment, harbouring, movement of receiving of children or adults for exploitation using threat, force, fraud, or the abuse of vulnerability.
- **Modern slavery** is the common ‘umbrella’ term for all kinds of slavery, trafficking, and exploitation, involving children and adults.

Background

- 3.1 While the safeguarding practice review is in progress, partners have agreed to the proactive development of a strategy, with four key priorities, in direct response to the emerging learning from the review. These priorities have been developed and agreed by partners via the Slough Safeguarding Partnership Board – partners, council departments, police, health, education, and others – with the aim of laying strong foundations for an effective safeguarding response to all children, young people and young adults who are exposed to risks and harms from exploitation.

3.2 There is currently no one coordinated strategy and action plan to make sure that in Slough we have a consistent, reliable offer of preventative help and support to children, young people and young adults who are experiencing risks and harms from exploitation. The four priorities are designed to support all partners in Slough to get lay strong foundations to respond to this gap.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

There are no immediate financial implications for the well being board at present.

3.2 Legal implications

There are no immediate legal implications for the well being board apparent.

3.3 Risk management implications [Mandatory]

There is evidence to support local community and professional concern about the risk of harm to children and young adults outside the home with two fatalities occurring in 2022 and 2023 from fatal stabbings of young adults. A multi-agency strategy reflects partners commitment to working together and finding new ways of working to mitigate risk to young people, emphasising key priority areas for action and also agreeing on the need for prevention, linking in with early help initiatives, to mitigate risk long term as well as short term.

3.4 Environmental implications

There are no environmental implications.

3.5 Equality implications

An equality impact assessment is underway in preparation for presenting the strategy to Cabinet. Key areas identified in learning from reviews and audits are around the following pre-disposing factors:

Children with Adverse childhood experiences, such as those living with domestic abuse, violence, and/or parental mental health and substance misuse issues.

Children of black and mixed-race heritage particularly those who are dislocated from their cultural and ethnic heritage.

Children with Special Educational Needs- particularly those with neuro-diverse issues and learning disabilities.

More details on this will follow.

3.6 Procurement implications

There are no procurement implications immediately apparent.

3.7 *Workforce implications [Discretionary]*

The strategy has highlighted the need for a whole systems multi-agency workforce development strategy. Some of this will involve the Early help, Safeguarding and Community safety partnership working together to establish appropriate competencies and professional confidence in the workforce. Core to this is the importance of trauma informed and relational practice.

3.8 *Property implications [Discretionary]*

There are no property implications apparent

4. **Background Papers**

Contextual safeguarding strategy document.