

Cumbria Safeguarding
Children Partnership




C S C P

Child Exploitation



A Guide to level 1 for Parents and Carers



Child Exploitation (CE) can take place in many ways and may involve Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT). Child exploitation is taking place in and around Cumbria and is a safeguarding concern.

Child exploitation can happen both online and offline, to girls, boys and to any child up to the age of 18 years old.


Perpetrators of child exploitation can be male, female, adults, and peers. Child exploitation most often happens in both the online and offline world, it is sometimes referred to as extra-familial harm, meaning it's not the child's home or immediate family that poses the exploitation risks/concerns.

A Child Exploitation Level 1 meeting is taking place in respect of my child or a child I care for, what is a Level 1 meeting?

Child Exploitation Level 1 meetings are held when there are worries that a child may not be safe and may be vulnerable to or experiencing Child Exploitation. A level 1 meeting is organised by Cumbria's Child Exploitation Risk and Review Lead (CERAR Team). The meeting brings together professionals already working with your child, for example, schools, GP and social workers to talk about your child and assess the CE vulnerabilities and potential harm. The meeting also concentrates on the child's strengths and family responses to the CE concerns, the purpose being to build on these to reduce any identified risks. Other professionals are also invited to the meeting, for example, the police who can share any intelligence or concerns about people or known areas within the community that pose a risk to your child.

The aim of the meeting is to discuss all the relevant information provided by your child, you and professionals at the meeting to decide how best to support your child so that the CE worries can be sorted. A plan may be made at the end of the meeting with actions for people to follow to keep your child safe. Depending on the outcome of the Level 1 meeting another meeting will be held in a few weeks' time to see how far the worries have been sorted and if the plan needs to be changed.

The Level 1 meeting will decide whether your child requires a child exploitation status, High, Medium, or Low or whether there is no status required.



Why can't I or my Child attend?

At the moment we are working on this so that your voice and the voice of your child can be heard at the Level 1 meeting. For now, your social worker or lead professional you are working with should meet with you and your child prior to and following the Level 1 meeting to gather your views and share any outcome. If you are able to and would like to submit your views, you can do this by emailing the CERAR lead at **CERAR@cumbria.gov.uk**. Your views will be read out at the meeting. If you would rather have a telephone discussion with the CERAR lead then your social worker/lead professional can arrange this for you.

Discussions will take place within the meeting about what police information can also be shared with you and or your child so that you are able to take appropriate action to safeguard the child you are caring for.

As a parent or carer you have an important role in the meeting, and it is important that you share your views and concerns to help us to understand what may be happening for you and your family so that the worries can be sorted out. We understand that it can be difficult to think of your child being at risk of or experiencing child exploitation and that this may be impacting on you and your wider family. We would advise you follow this link for more information and support **Parents Against Child Exploitation (Pace) UK (paceuk.info)**

What will happen after the Child Exploitation Level 1 Meeting?

This depends on the Child Exploitation status, if your child is thought to be at High or Medium risk of exploitation this will be reviewed every 4 weeks and you will have an allocated social worker working with your child and you, their team manager will chair the review. If the Level 1 concludes low concern, then a review will take place every 12 weeks and will be chaired by the lead professional.

The allocated social worker or lead professional should involve you and where appropriate your child in any safety plans and keep you up to date on any relevant information that can be shared about alleged perpetrators, persons of concern or risky areas.

The multi-agency partnership will meet monthly and review all children deemed as high and medium risk in the county, they will discuss low concerns by exception. This is to help us use all our tools and powers as professionals to disrupt exploitation and reduce risks to children in Cumbria. This meeting is called a Level 2 meeting and will also look at perpetrators and places of concern.



What if I have a complaint about the meeting?

We know that meetings about very personal issues can feel very uncomfortable. We hope that we have supported you to be able to inform the CE Level 1 meeting and give your views and opinions. However, if you feel that we have got something wrong or you are unhappy with the plan for your child you can talk about this with your child's social worker or the chair of the meeting. However, if your concerns have not been addressed you can make a complaint by emailing **complaints@cumbria.gov.uk** or complete an online complaint form at contact us using this link **cumbria-contactus.onmats.com/w/webpage/contactus** Alternatively you can call **01228 221234**

Support Links

Child Sexual Exploitation & How to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC

Criminal exploitation and gangs | NSPCC

Parents Against Child Exploitation (Pace) UK (paceuk.info)

