

Child Protection and Sexual Exploitation process

1. Sexual exploitation is child abuse. As such any concerns about potential or incidents of sexual exploitation are managed within the existing safeguarding and child protection processes.
2. In Wiltshire any professional or adult who becomes aware that a child or young person is vulnerable to CSE they should refer to the CSE Handbook and complete the Initial CSE Screening tool. This will inform the practitioner as to whether to complete a Common Assessment or take further action to safeguard the young person (as set out below).
3. Where a professional has assessed that a young person is at risk of or experiencing sexual abuse via exploitation they should consult with their safeguarding advisor within their agency and with them agree a referral to Children's Social Care, based in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
4. Where the professional does not have a safeguarding advisor, they should make contact with Children's Social Care and seek advice regarding the next course of action. This may become a referral, where requested by Children's Social Care.
5. Any referral will be considered by the specialist Sexual Exploitation Team based in the MASH and where appropriate will undertake a Comprehensive CSE screen and Single Assessment to inform next steps. Where the assessment indicates the young person may be at risk of or suffering Significant Harm a Strategy Discussion will be held.
6. Where the professionals attending the Strategy Discussion conclude that the young person is at risk of or experiencing **Significant Harm** a S47 Enquiry will be undertaken to establish risk; the level and source of risk and identify any protective action required in relation to the young person and any others.
7. Where the S47 Enquiry identifies that the young person has suffered and is at ongoing risk of **Significant Harm** a Child Protection Conference will be held to consider and put in place a multi-agency plan to safeguard the young person. (Please see below for process where a child is Looked After)
8. Where the young person is not at ongoing risk of significant harm but risks and needs are identified the child will be assessed and supported as a Child in Need under s17 of the Children Act 1989

Looked After Children and Young People (LAC)

1. Where a Looked After child or young person is assessed to be at risk of or suffering significant harm via sexual exploitation this will be referred directly to the CSE social care team for consideration of a strategy discussion and s47 enquiry. Any identified risks will be managed within the care planning process.
2. Where necessary an early review will be held and additional meetings convened with a core membership between reviews.

3. The Care Plan will be updated to reflect the risks identified and actions/ outcomes to address identified risks.
4. A single assessment will be completed or updated to reflect the assessed risks and interventions across agencies required to address and reduce risk.

Wiltshire Risk Management Group

Referrals to and consideration of children and young people at WRMG is not intended to replace individual agency procedures, the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, or other actions that workers must take to safeguard young people.

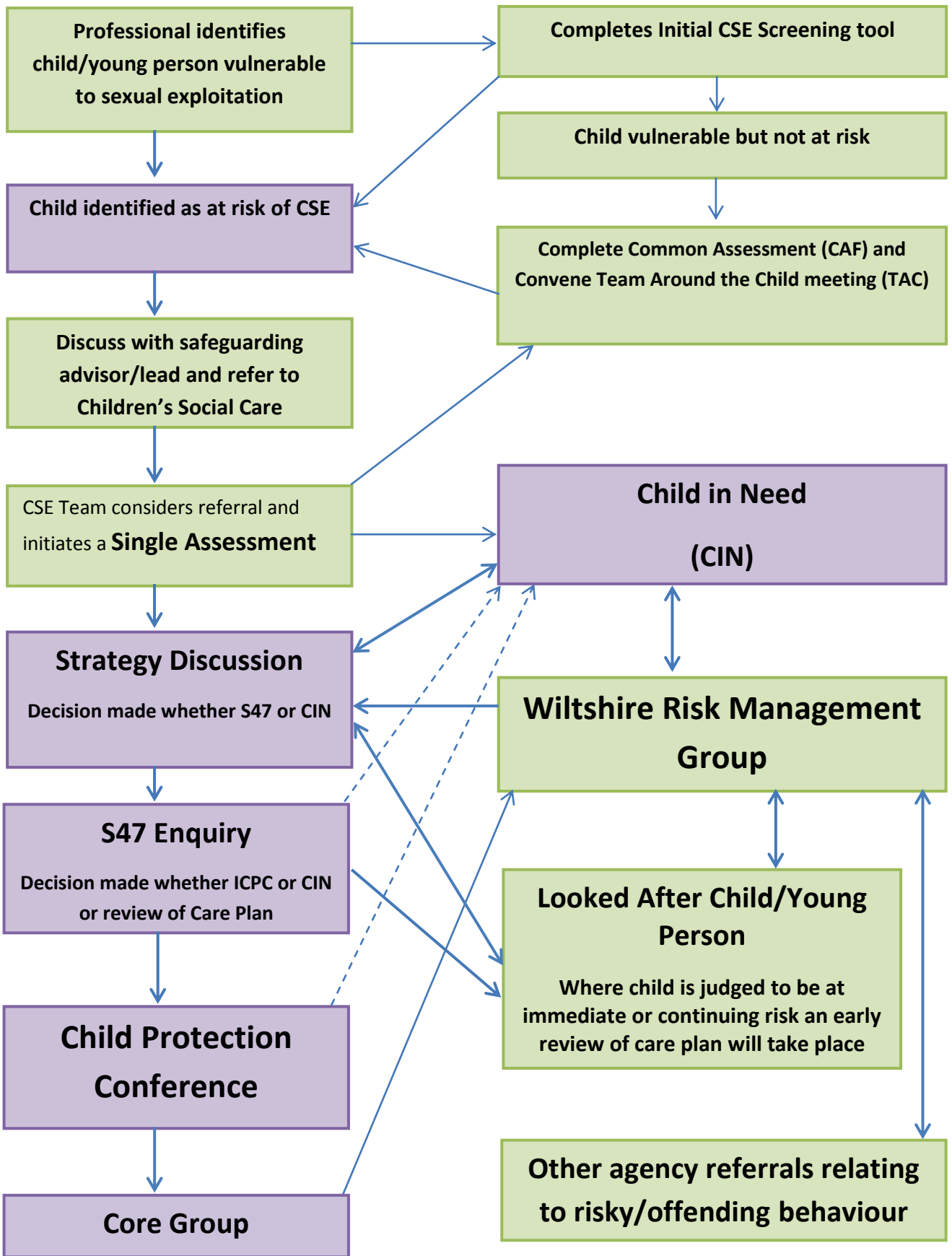
Wiltshire Risk Management Group has special responsibilities with regard to Missing children and Child Sexual Exploitation. As a standing multi-agency Group with representatives from all key partner agencies; the WRMG has membership at an appropriate level to be able to respond to the operational Child Sexual Exploitation agenda.

The purpose of WRMG is to ensure that a coordinated approach is taken when considering and responding to the level of vulnerability of individual young people who are deemed to be at risk and a multi-agency plan that is in place requires additional oversight and interventions to help manage, mitigate and reduce the risk.

The circumstances where the WRMG will consider children at risk of sexual exploitation are set out below:

1. Where a professional has undertaken a CSE screening and identifies risks of, but no actual sexual exploitation. The young person will be referred to the CSE Social Care Team in the MASH for further consideration. Where the child is considered to be a Child in Need a plan and single assessment will be completed and as appropriate the social worker will make a referral to the WRMG. The WRMG will agree an appropriate plan across agencies to safeguard the young person and review this at regular intervals.
2. Where a professional presents a case to the WRMG and risk of or actual significant harm is identified due to sexual exploitation. In such circumstances the Chair will request the presenting professional to undertake the Initial CSE screen and make a referral to the CSE Social Care Team in the MASH without delay.
3. Where a Strategy Discussion is held or S47 Enquiry is undertaken and the outcome is that the young person is not felt to be at ongoing risk of significant harm but there are risk indicators of sexual exploitation. In these cases a Child in Need plan and single assessment will be in place.
4. Where a child or young person with a child protection plan is referred to the WRMG to assist in identifying and accessing services to safeguard the young person. Any plan developed and agreed by WRMG will be incorporated into the Child Protection Plan.
5. A Looked after Child or young person is going missing regularly or is assessed to be at risk of sexual exploitation. Any plan developed and agreed by WRMG will be incorporated into the Care Plan.

Flow Chart for Managing Child Sexual Exploitation concerns



In cases of CIN, CP and LAC a Risk Management plan will be developed. Initial and subsequent meetings may be convened in the period between LAC reviews, CIN and Core groups. Frequency is determined by the level of risk and must be clearly evidenced in the plan. Actions identified in the Risk management plan are incorporated into the CIN, CP or Care Plan.