



CHILD EXPLOITATION - Things to consider

Child Developmental Needs:

- Challenges with physical and emotional health (incl. sudden and/or significant changes in presentation / concern for self-injury)
- Missing from home and/or education
- Sexual health / identity / wellbeing and understanding of consent
- Substance misuse
- Past trauma / adverse childhood experiences

Parenting Capacity:

- Attachment and stability (family relationships now and in the past)
- Ability to provide consistent guidance/ supervision (incl. digital / online safety)
- Awareness of or understanding of what might be safe or unsafe for their child(ren)

Family and Environmental Factors:

- Stability in the home and/or family resource (incl. homelessness / transience / financial pressures / family breakdown)
- Availability of community resources – i.e. youth provision / accessible community spaces
- Stability / safety of wider support network of family, friends and peers (within local community and virtual / online)
- Vulnerability to and/or links to criminality / anti-social behaviour
- Treating the child as older or more 'mature' than their age



Somerset Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Things that can help:

- Seeing children as victims
- Positive attachment with a primary care giver
- Relational strength-based work with key adults
- Safe network to offer support, raise concerns and share information
- Visibility of the child to professionals, e.g. engagement in education, training or employment
- Prevention, disruption and diversion through community resources- i.e. youth provision / accessible community spaces
- Collaboration with children and their families
- Realistic and achievable safety planning

USEFUL RESOURCES:

[Multi-Agency Exploitation Screening Tool](#)

[Child Exploitation Initial Response Pathway - incl serious youth violence](#)

[SSCP website resources](#)