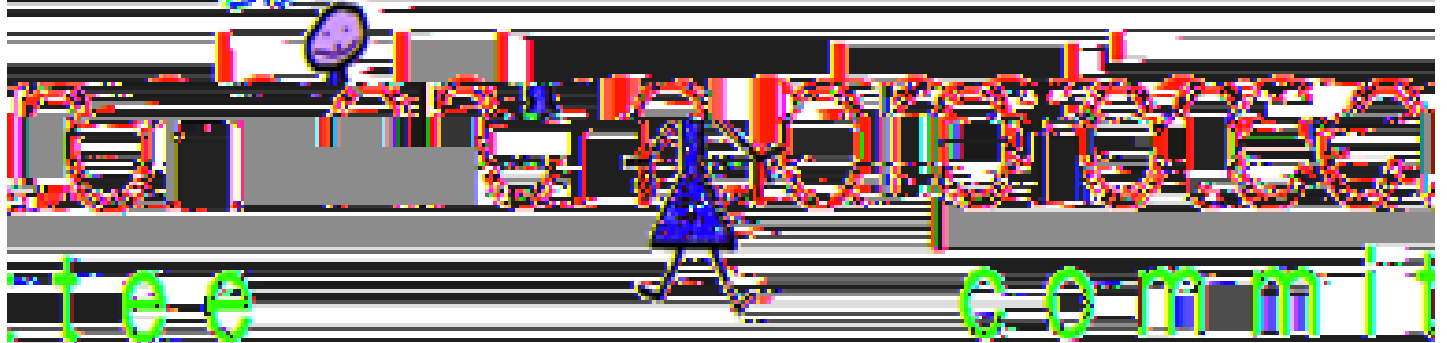


argyll & bute



Working together to achieve the best outcome for children, young people and families

# 1. Introduction

## 2. Categories of Risk (Refer to Appendix A)

The Argyll & Bute CSE Screening Tool enables the identification of children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation. It is an additional tool, specific to child sexual exploitation, to be used alongside the National Risk Assessment Toolkit. The tool is intended to inform appropriate responses in relation to protecting children and young people. Providing an appropriate response requires a protective network for children and young people. Effectiveness depends heavily on a multi-agency response. Different responses are required in relation to each level of risk. Each of the four categories of risk has an associated action.



Category of Risk	
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and services. It may be that a professional from an agency other than social work is best able to provide a direct service. Nevertheless, the case should remain allocated to a social worker as Lead Professional, whilst child sexual exploitation concerns remain, as a point of contact for the child, family and professionals, and to co-ordinate the plans. Plans should address each identified risk.

The priority for Police Scotland is the investigation









of behaviour associated with risk should result in an immediate reassessment of risk using the sexual exploitation risk assessment.

The approach to working with children and young people at significant risk or who have been abused set out below can also be applied to children and young people in category 3.

This category is where a child is assessed as being at significant risk of sexual exploitation or where they are already being abused. This is likely to include cases where abuse is habitual, denied, and where coercion and control are strong factors.

A multi-agency risk strategy meeting for children at risk should always be convened in relation to a child or young person assessed as at significant risk. As with Category 3, multi-agency risk strategy meetings should ensure the effective exchange of information between representatives of key agencies. The meetings should include the individual who has identified the risk or raised concerns in relation to the child or young person, and representatives of social work, police, health, education, placements and any specialist child sexual exploitation services. Participants in the meeting should agree a protection plan and action to include long-term intensive direct work with the individual child or young person.


Review meetings should be conducted regularly to ensure that agreed actions are implemented, and to assess the progress and impact of agreed interventions. Risk should be monitored closely and reassessed regularly, as part of the risk management plan.

A coordinated and synchronised approach by all agencies maximises the effectiveness of interventions and the impact of planned actions. All agencies should agree and adopt a consistent approach, which does not shy away from or collude with risky behaviour. All agencies and professionals need to be aware of the intensive and long-term nature of the approach required. The presence of multiple vulnerabilities and risks in the lives of children and young people at significant risk often means that they are difficult to engage and that positive outcomes take time.

The use of a fit-for-purpose sexual exploitation risk assessment framework should allow for the identification of vul.4( )JT#T96661 1893(ic)12(at)CET

Below are the legislative tools available to Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) to prosecute those who exploit children and young people sexually.

The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 introduced a range of new offences. The Act includes clauses relating to offences against children under 13, rape, sexual coercion, communicating indecently, as well as providing a concrete definition for 'consent' to mean free agreement. In addition, part 5 of the Act provides for offences concerning abuse of positions of trust.

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- (b) knowingly and persistently attempts to induce a child so to abscond
  - (g) knowingly harbours or conceals a child who has so absconded; or
  - (h) knowingly prevents a child from returning

The sale, publication and possession of indecent images of children under the age of 18 are prohibited by Section 52 and Section 52A of this Act (as amended by the Protection of