**APPENDIX A**

**BIRMINGHAM CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION AND GANG AFFILIATION**

**RISK ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL**

**SCREENING TOOL COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS**

This screening tool must be completed by referrers who have contacted CASS regarding concerns about a child or young person that include issues of Criminal Exploitation and Gang Affiliation. The Request for Support Form must also be completed and both documents must be forwarded to CASS.

It is critical The Request for Support Form is still completed as this covers the wider concerns and protective factors around the child or young person and the family which are not covered in this screening tool. CASS Advisors together with social workers and team managers will use the information contained in both documents to decide the level of risk involved and the relevant support required by the child or young person and family.

There are three sets of risk indicators included in the screening – high, medium and low. A case may involve risks at all three levels; please indicate all relevant risks; your answers do not need to be confined to one level of risk.

It is **very important** you describe the **evidence** you have observed for each risk you have ticked in the summary of evidence boxes following each set of risk indicators. Please provide as much background information as possible to enable Birmingham Children’s Trust to make informed decisions. If the screening tool in not fully completed we will contact you to discuss to get a full picture.

Please link the concerns you are raising in this screening tool to the relevant section on concerns in the Request for Support Form to provide an overall picture of need. Also think about protective factors that are in place around the child or young person and family reducing the harm related to your concerns.

**PART ONE – RISK INDICATORS**

**HIGH RISK INDICATORS**

| **High Risk Indicators** | **Tick**  |
| --- | --- |
| Has been found in another part of the United Kingdom with Class A Drugs and / or significant sums of money in their possession. |  |
| Has unexplained amounts of money, mobiles, credit, expensive clothing, jewellery, drugs, alcohol or other items/gifts. |  |
| Is showing interest in, and may have contact with gang members that are known to hold harmful views and/or undertake harmful acts based on those views; this includes those living within their home/placement, extended family members or intimate relationships. |  |
| People demanding money for drug debts. |  |
| Regularly coming home late or going missing from home, care or education for any period of time (whether reported or not). |  |
| Reports being taken to parties, people’s houses, unknown areas, hotels, nightclubs, takeaways or out of area by unknown adults. |  |
| Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressive at home or school Including use of sexualised language and language in relation to drug dealing and/or violence. |  |
| Is carrying and/or, concealing, and/or using weapons.  |  |

**HIGH RISK SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE –**

**Please summarise what evidence you have regarding the high risks indicators you have ticked above. This section must be completed if you have indicated a risk/s above.**

**MEDIUM RISK INDICATORS**

| **Medium Risk Indicators** | **Tick**  |
| --- | --- |
| Carer needs to be prompted to report young person as missing. |  |
| There is sporadic or limited engagement with services. |  |
| Child is starting to disengage from positive activities and interests and spending more time focusing on a particular issue, viewpoint or way of living that may be unhealthy and harmful to the child or others |  |
| Is isolated from family, friends, peer and peer groups and/or is not forthcoming about how and who they spend their spare time with |  |
| Is accessing and/or sharing gang related material through social media that is harmful to themselves and/or others e.g. that encourages people to develop harmful views about others and attempts to recruit friends and other associates to join a gang and / or be involved in criminal activity.  |  |
| Has mental health concerns or developmental disorders (e.g. ASD) and there is concern that the child is vulnerable to criminal exploitation and/or gang affiliation that is harmful to themselves or others |  |
| Has alcohol and/or substance abuse issues that makes the child vulnerable to developing gang-related views that are harmful to themselves or others |  |
| Is at risk from gang initiation/s. Please state the type of risk e.g. violent acts against others, having sex or undertaking sexual act/s, recruiting friends and / or other associates, committing criminal acts, etc.  |  |

**MEDIUM RISKSUMMARY OF EVIDENCE –**

**Please summarise what evidence you have regarding the medium risk indicators you have ticked above. This section must be completed if you have indicated a risk/s above.**

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**LOW RISK INDICATORS**

| **Low Risk Indicators** | **Tick**  |
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| No concerns over child’s behaviour. |  |
| Age appropriate boundaries and routines set by carer and adhered to.  |  |
| Engaged in positive activities and has age appropriate and positive peers. |  |
| Can differentiate between safe and unsafe contacts. |  |

**LOW RISK SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE –**

**Please summarise what evidence you have regarding the low risk indicators you have ticked above. This section must be completed if you have indicated a risk/s above.**

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 **PART TWO – ADDITIONAL CONTEXTUAL QUESTIONS**

1. **Has the child experienced any significant life events or trauma such as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that may be linked to the current risks?** ACEs include being a victim of abuse (physical, sexual and emotional), being a victim of neglect (physical and/or emotional), alcohol abuse, drug abuse, domestic violence, parental separation/divorce, mental health, family member in prison and/or young offender institution

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1. **Are there any strengths based protective factors such as good support and challenge in school or concerned family offering appropriate support?**

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1. **Is there any additional information you would like to provide which is not covered by the risk indicators that you think indicates Gang Affiliation and/or Criminal Exploitation concern/s?**

**NOTE:**

Please refer to Appendix A.This contains a prompt list to support Practitioners to

identify more specific Criminal Exploitation and Gang Affiliation concerns.

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**OVERALL RISK RATING**

**Please indicate the overall level of risk you believe is present in this case in terms of the Criminal Exploitation and/or Gang Affiliation, including any other wider concerns identified:**

High 🞎

Medium 🞎

Low 🞎

**Please briefly summarise why you feel the risks in this case are high, medium or low:**

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**NOTE:**

Referrers should be aware that working with Criminal Exploitation and Gang Affiliation concerns is a developing area of practice in social work. As such the above indicators may change as more is understood about risks of Criminal Exploitation and Gang Affiliation and how to work with children and families/carers on these issues.

**[End of screening tool]**

If you need help to understand the nature of Criminal Exploitation and Gang Affiliation and the risk presented or the level of risk posed contact: Alexander Urka, Serious and Organised Crime and Gangs Co-Ordinator, 0121 464 4817, alexander.urka@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk.