



TEA-BREAK GUIDE



What do we mean by extra familial harm?

Extra familial harms are significant harms that occur to young people outside of their family systems, often during the adolescent years

These may include:

- * Child sexual exploitation and other extra-familial sexual abuse of adolescents
- * Criminal exploitation
- * Peer on peer abuse (non-familial and non-sibling)
- * Gang affiliation
- * Serious youth violence
- * Trafficking and modern-day slavery

These risks have now been recognised in statutory guidance:

'Extra-familial risks and/or experiences of abuse – including, for example, harm caused by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as exploitation via county lines, and sexual exploitation – are safeguarding and child protection issues' - Working Together 2018

What is the Vulnerable Adolescent Panel (VAP)?

The vision for the Vulnerable Adolescent Panel is to address the growing problem of child exploitation and extra familial harms that present a risk to the children and young people in our communities.

The panel aims to ensure that as a multi-agency partnership we effectively share information to support young people who are at risk of being exploited and address extra familial harm with a view to utilising a contextual safeguarding approach to make our communities safer.

VAP is a multi-agency information sharing and consultative process. The panel does not hold accountability for the cases heard, this remains with the lead professional and/or team working directly with the young person.

The Aims of the Panel

To reduce risk and vulnerabilities in children and young people who may be subject to various forms of exploitation by:

- Providing expert advice and guidance to professionals.
- Providing a forum for multiagency information sharing within Working Together 2018 guidance.
- Ensuring that all agencies have oversight of young people who are at risk of, or being, exploited and that risks are fully understood.
- Utilising panel knowledge and experience to identify actions to reduce risk of exploitation over and above existing plans.
- Feeding current data regarding the risks to our young people into the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and NSCP in order to establish an accurate oversight of the extra familial harm threat in our county.
- To drive a contextual safeguarding response to extra familial harm.

Panel Processes

- The panel is held fortnightly and is co-chaired by Police, NCT, YOS, Health, Action for Children and Ngage
- Referral may be completed by the child/young person's case lead professional from any agency where there is a concern about risk of exploitation
- Where the child has a social worker, referral must be made by the social worker.
- Referral must be made via a CERAF. This can be located on the [NSCP Website](#), via Assessments on Carefirst or by emailing vappanel@nctrust.co.uk
- The referrer will present the case for discussion at panel within a 20-minute time slot.
- The referral should be discussed with young person and family prior to referral to ensure their voice is included.
- Governance is through the NSCP Child Exploitation Subgroup.