

# Introduction

- \* Traditional approaches to safeguarding focus on intra-familial harm and on care provided by parents
- \* Whilst difficulties in the home environment such as abuse and neglect can increase vulnerability to harm outside the home, a safe, loving and protective family may not be enough to protect young people from these risks
- \* These risks have 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

# Extra Familial Harm

Significant harms that occur to young people outside of their family systems, often during the adolescent years

Includes :

- \* 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
- \* Radicalisation and violent extremism

# Vulnerable Adolescent Panel

- \* 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.

# Aims of Vulnerable Adolescent 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 WT 2018 guidance
- \* Ensuring that all agencies have oversight of these young people and that risks are fully understood
- \* Utilising panel knowledge and experience to identify actions over and above existing plans
- \* Feeding current data regarding the risks to our young people into the CSPs and NSCP in order to establish an accurate oversight of the extra familial harm threat
- \* To drive a contextual safeguarding response to extra familial harm

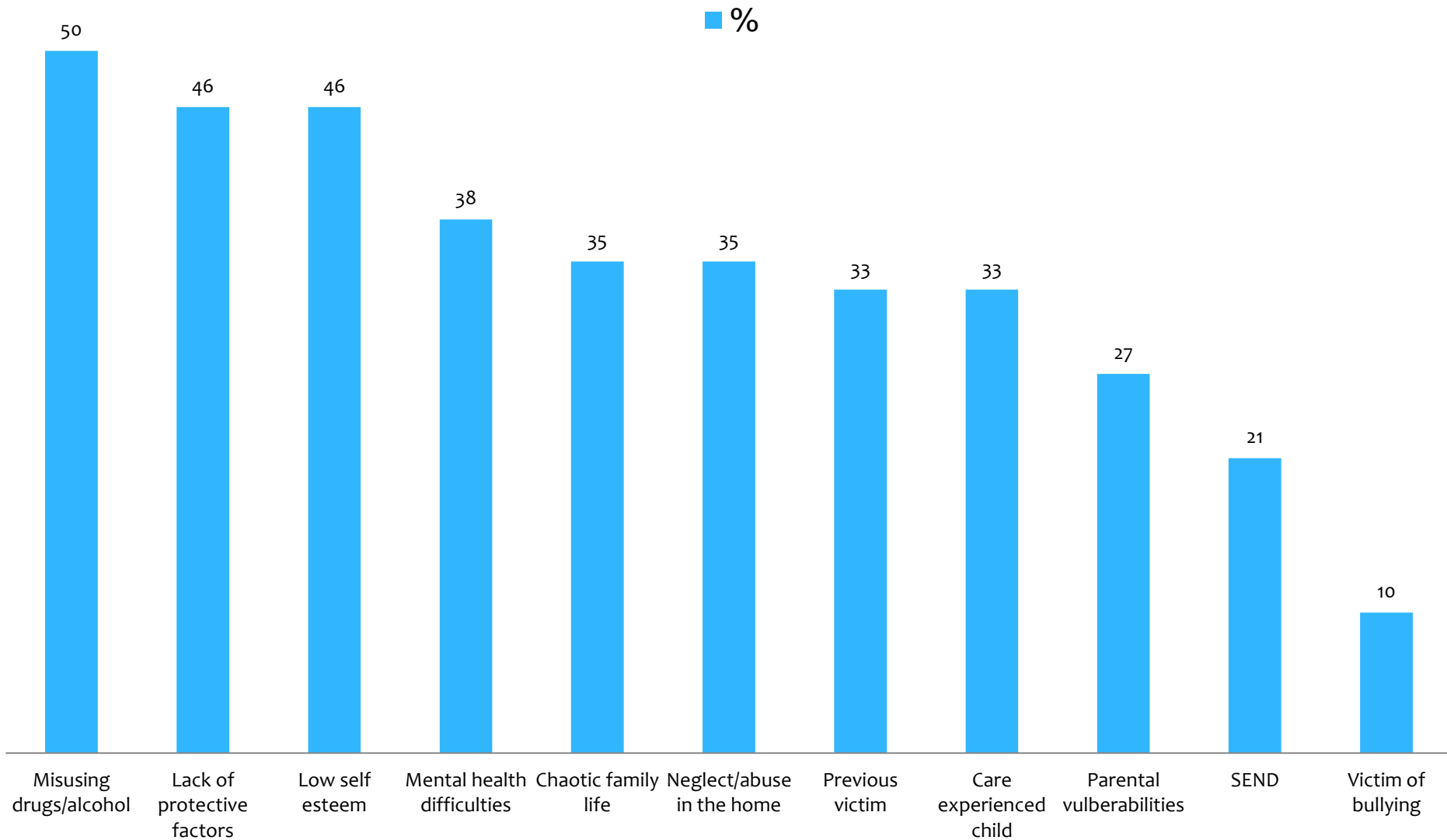
# Panel Processes

- \* Panel is held fortnightly and is co-chaired by Police, YOS, NCC and Health
- \* 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 should be made in consultation with social worker
- \* The referrer will present the case for discussion at panel which will take place within a 20 minute time slot.
- \* Risk rating and direction will be given by the panel
- \* The referral should be discussed with young person and family prior to referral to ensure their voice is included.
- \* To request a referral form and refer a young person to the panel, email the dedicated email address [vappanel@nctrust.co.uk](mailto:vappanel@nctrust.co.uk)
- \* Governance is through the NSCP Child Exploitation Sub-group

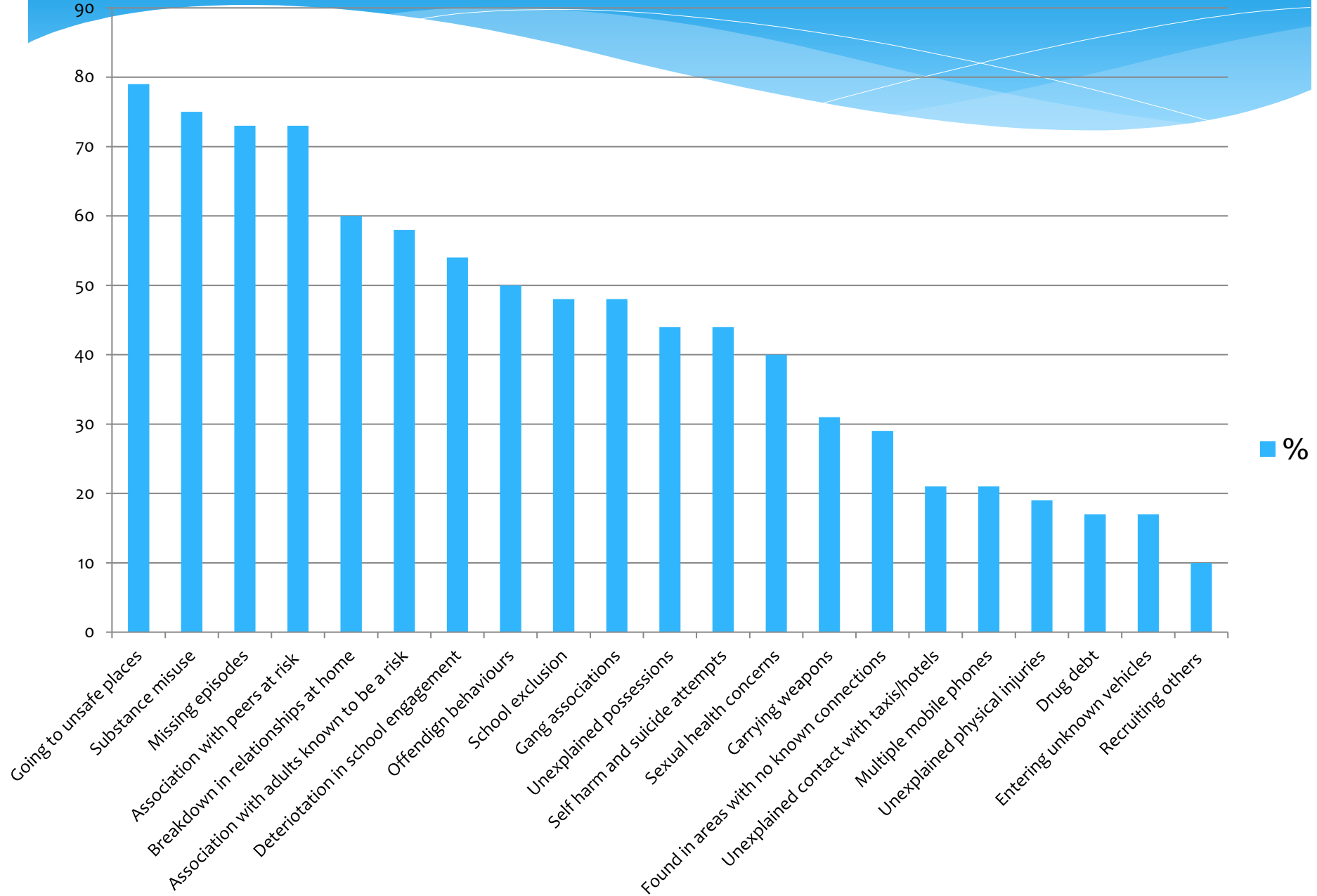
# Data analysis – first six months

- \* 48 young people heard
- \* 58% male, 42% female
- \* Most common forms of exploitation were county lines (33%) and gangs (33%)
- \* Females more likely to be referred with concerns about CSE
- \* 83% assessed as at high risk of exploitation
- \* Most common age group 16/17 year olds (60%)
- \* High proportion of young people NEET (19%) or in alternative provision (15%)

# Vulnerabilities identified at referral %



# Risk Indicators identified at referral %





# Successes and Challenges

## Successes



Building partnership and trust

Information sharing

Building a contextual safeguarding response

Sharing expertise between agencies

Hearing young people's voices and recognising young people as victims

## Challenges



Difficult to quantify impact for individual children

Understanding of panel purpose and managing expectations

Getting referrals very late in a young persons journey

Inappropriate use of language in referrals

# Case example

- \* Sam is a 15 year old who is frequently missing from home and attending the address of a young adult male with a previous history of grooming young people for sexual and criminal exploitation. It is believed that this adult male is supplying Sam with alcohol and cannabis.
- \* It is believed that Sam is being groomed to move and sell drugs
- \* Relationships in the home have broken down and Sam has moved from mother's to father's care, where there are little protective factors in place.
- \* Sam has low self esteem and self confidence and uses social media unsafely to seek positive affirmation.
- \* Sam is not engaging with any professionals and is not attending school.
- \* Sam has had input from RISE and CIRV however has disengaged from services.



## Panel Risk Assessment:

Risk assessed as HIGH risk of sexual and criminal exploitation.

## Panel Recommendations:

- NRM referral to be made
- Police to share with social worker their intelligence held about Father which raise concerns about his ability to safeguard Sam.
- All agencies to put appropriate flags on their system around Sam's risk of exploitation
- CAWNs to be put in place for adult males
- CIRV to make further engagement attempts
- Support for Sam around positive activities and building self esteem



## Outcomes:

- As a result of information shared at panel and placed on police systems, Sam was police protected after being found at a property of concern.
- CAWNS are now in place which has disrupted the relationship with the adult males of concern.
- Concerns shared by police about Father led to a parenting assessment which identified that he was unable to care safely for Sam who was placed into LA care under s20.
- Reasonable grounds NRM decision made
- Sam reports being happy in the foster placement.
- Sam is back in school fulltime and has applied for college.
- Sam's health is noted to have improved since leaving fathers care, as has relationship with Mum and there is a plan for return home.
- Engagement with support agencies has improved.
- Further referrals for other young people attending the property have resulted in police disruption activity at the address



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Any  
QUESTIONS?