

Northamptonshire Child Exploitation Hub

What is the CE HUB?

The CE Hub is a co-located multiagency team of police officers, social workers, health professionals, youth workers and early intervention practitioners who specialise in safeguarding children who are at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation, including online exploitation.

What is the purpose of the Hub?

The purpose of the Hub is to prevent, intervene and reduce the risks faced by children vulnerable to and at risk of exploitation by working together as a partnership, with parents and local communities. It will take action to ensure adult perpetrators, who select, recruit and control children to manipulate/enforce them to commit crimes or sexually abuse them, are detected, pursued, disrupted and where possible prosecuted. It will take a contextual safeguarding approach to reducing risk and increasing safety in all areas including: the young person, their parents and family, their school, their peer group, and their neighbourhood/community. The CE Hub will join up services to prevent fragmentation and to add value to and compliment statutory interventions by Children's Services, Police, Education, YOT, health etc without duplication, ensuring a one assessment and one plan approach. The CE Hub will also seek to mobilise how the wider community work together in preventing and responding to risks of exploitation.

Which children can get support from the Hub and what will this support look like?

The Hub offers support to children who have a Social Worker and who have been assessed, using the Northamptonshire CERAF, as being at HIGH or MEDIUM risk of exploitation. Referrals into the Hub are made by the child's social worker.

The CE Hub will take a Contextual safeguarding approach in its response to child exploitation. Context weighting tools will be used to inform and prioritise outcomes for young people and evidence-based resources will be utilised. The support offer will be adapted to young people's individual needs but may include:

- Engaging young people – prioritise engagement with the young person, including opportunities at reachable/teachable moments when a young person is most receptive to support.
- Build supportive networks – identify and build a trusted network of safe people around the child in the community.
- Work with parents and partners – seek opportunities to work with parents/carers as safeguarding partners.
- Positive diversion – seek opportunities for positive activities that can divert young people from harmful influences.
- Disruption of perpetrators – work with partners to disrupt those who pose risk to the young person.
- Place-based approaches - influence and build safety in recognised spaces linked to young people by working with wider safeguarding partnerships and communities.

How can I ensure that children I have concerns about get the right support?

The flowchart below describes the route for partner agencies to get support for children for whom they have concerns about risks of exploitation. Advice and support can be sought from your organisations' safeguarding lead.

Child Exploitation training is available via the NSCP [Face to Face Training - Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board \(northamptonshirescb.org.uk\)](http://northamptonshirescb.org.uk)

CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD AT RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Child has a Social Worker

Contact child's social worker and share your concern's.

Social worker should complete CERAF and make referral into the CE HUB if risk is assessed as high or medium.

Social worker can contact HUB duty line for advice if necessary

CERAF outcomes should be discussed at the appropriate professional's meetings i.e. Child in Need, core group etc. and should be reviewed regularly.

Child does not have a Social Worker

COMPLETE CERAF

[Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework \(CERAF\) - Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board \(northamptonshirescb.org.uk\)](http://northamptonshirescb.org.uk)

LOW RISK

When there is a low level of risk, the threshold for Police or Social Care involvement is unlikely to be met, where this is in isolation of other safeguarding concerns.

Consider the vulnerabilities identified in the assessment and identify appropriate support for young person and family to address these

Consider offering support via an Early Help Assessment [Early Help – Professionals | Northampton Children's Trust \(nctrust.co.uk\)](http://nctrust.co.uk).

There are a range of universal and preventative services available that can offer support. [Local-services-Guide \(1\).pdf](#)

Consider referral to VAP for multiagency discussion vappanel@NCTrust.co.uk

MEDIUM OR HIGH RISK

Complete a MASH referral, attaching a copy of the CERAF assessment, ensuring appropriate consent is in place as per MASH policies. [Report a concern or request support | Northampton Children's Trust \(nctrust.co.uk\)](http://nctrust.co.uk)

MASH will review the CERAF with experts from the CE Hub to reach a decision about appropriate intervention/support required.

Referrer will receive an outcome from MASH which will give a clear rationale for the outcome of the referral.

Use ['Escalating for the right Outcome' - Professional Disagreements - Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board \(northamptonshirescb.org.uk\)](http://northamptonshirescb.org.uk) where agreement cannot be reached on actions to be taken.

Any Criminal Offences identified during screening, such as physical or sexual assault, should be reported directly to the Police