

1. Context

A Multi-agency Case File Audit (MACFA) took place in January 2023. The audit reviewed multi-agency involvement in relation to four young people where there were concerns that they were at risk of exploitation.

The audit was attended by Children's Social Care, Police, Shropshire Community Health Trust, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust, Integrated Care System, SEND Team, Education Access Service, Youth Justice, Housing Options and Welfare support.

The Audit identified the following themes: Exclusion from school, substance use, diagnosis of ADHD, Anti social behaviour,

2. Learning – Be Curious

When working with an individual be professionally curious and ask questions! Ask more, use proactive questioning and explore with the person. Don't make assumptions! Don't take things at face value and ask 'why'?

[Professional curiosity guidance](#)

Being curious means we have better quality information to pull together and have a full picture, in doing this we are less likely to miss something important.

3. Learning – Exploitation Risk Assessments

Exploitation Risk Assessments need to be completed by agencies when they identify possible indicators of child exploitation. The indicators of exploitation can be found [Here](#) If you are working with the child / young person it is your responsibility to complete it.

1 Risk Assessment needs to be completed in conjunction with the Child/Family. 2. Risk Assessment needs to be timely! It informs decisions about managing the risk of harm NOW. 3. Risk Assessment needs to be updated and resubmitted if concerns escalate or change. [Exploitation pathway and risk assessment tool](#)

The TREES (Together Reducing and Ending Exploitation in Shropshire) Team are available for professional consultation. Find more information including the CE directory and TREES Newsletter [Here](#)

8. Tackling Child Exploitation Practice Principles

The Tackling Child Exploitation Practice Principles will be launched soon. Further information can be found [Here](#)

The eight Practice Principles build on the expertise of children, young people, parents, carers and professionals – and on key research – to offer a guide to professionals across multi-agency partnerships, with a role in responding to child exploitation and/or extra-familial harm. They are deliberately relevant to all children and young people on the basis that any child or young person can experience child exploitation and/or extra-familial harm, and many do without our knowledge.

There will be a number of learning events – see the link for details.



4. SMARTER Screening Tool

We Are With You offer specialist support for young people and adults in relation to substance misuse across Shropshire.

The SMARTER Screening Tool can be completed by any agency. It needs to be timely and completed at the earliest opportunity! [SMARTER Screening Tool](#)

We Are With You offer a 'Meet and Greet' service to give a young person the opportunity to find out more and engage.

A Learning Briefing has been developed by SSCP to provide information on substances being used by young people in Shropshire. Find this [Here](#)

7. Relationship based practice is a key for positive outcomes!

Having access to the same consistent professional supports the development of positive working relationships not only with the child/family but also within the multi-agency professional team involved.

Good Practice..

The audit highlighted that having access to a range of consistent professionals had a positive impact upon outcomes for the young person and their family. This included consistent professionals from a number of agencies, including school nursing, police, targeted early help, children's social care, youth justice.

6. Importance of Early Intervention

Support should be put in place for a family at the earliest opportunity to enable preventative work to be undertaken.

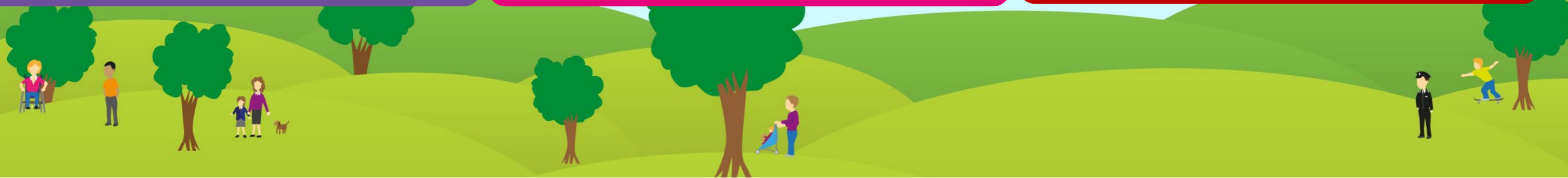
- If a child is at risk of exclusion – hold a pupil planning meeting at the earliest opportunity; liaise with the Local Authority Education Access Team – we need to prevent young people at risk of exclusion being excluded – we KNOW it increases the risk of them being exploited significantly.
- If your concerns are changing/escalating, offer the family early help support and complete a Whole Family Assessment. Consider the Threshold Document and complete a MARF if concerns escalate.

Remember the importance of your agencies Chronologies!

5. Learning - Information Sharing

- When you have contact with a child/individual, consider and ask which other agencies are involved. What do I need to share with them? What can I share with them? Do I need permission to share?
- Remember the importance of information sharing with those involved – especially the GP' – they hold vital information about the child and the family and can have the missing piece of info you need.
- Remember to TRIANGULATE the information you have – is what your being told backed up by other information.

Also remember to share any intelligence with the Police via the professionals intel email address or via Crimestoppers. Remember to report crimes via 999/101.



1. Context

Following the death of a young person due to an overdose of illicit drugs, a review of the circumstances and professional involvement took place. This has identified that further support is required for professionals in understanding substances being used by young people today.

It is important to remain professionally curious and explore with the person their use of substances and be consider the indicators of exploitation.

Here is a summary of some popular substances being used across Shropshire.

2. Xanax

- Xanax is the brand name for the drug Alprazolam - a benzodiazepine.
- Street names include: Planks, Footballs, Bars, Totem-poles, White-girls, ladders, Xans, School-bus, poles, blues, handlebars
- 20 times stronger than diazepam.
- It is a depressant
- Usually comes in white, green or blue pill form.
- Slows the brain and nervous system making you feel relaxed, euphoric, disinhibited.
- Can lead to dizziness, slurred speech and vision, difficulty breathing.
- Class C drug that is only available on private prescription in the UK.

3. Nitrous oxide

- Nitrous oxide is a depressant with anaesthetic properties
- Street names include – Noz, Nos, Whippits, Chargers, Laughing Gas, Balloons, Cracker.
- It is inhaled through the mouth, usually from a balloon.
- Slows the brain and body responses, making you feel euphoric, relaxed and calm.
- Can result in hallucination, give severe headache, dizziness, paranoia and cause nausea.
- It can cause irregular heart beat. Those with pre existing heart conditions should avoid it. Regular use can have health implications.
- It is illegal to give away or sell for human consumption. There is no penalty for possession.

8. Support

We Are With You offer specialist support for young people and adults in relation to substance misuse across Shropshire. Their website provides further in-depth information relating to a wide range of substances and how these are used, their impact and harm reduction

www.wearewithyou.org.uk [01743 294700](tel:01743294700)

The Smarter Screening Tool is in place to be used by agencies across Shropshire to explore substance use with a young person.

[SMARTER Screening Tool](#)
[Exploitation Risk Assessment](#)



4. Alcohol

- Also referred to as Moonshine, Amber-nectar, Sherbert, Gooch, Sauce, Juice.
- Alcohol is a depressant.
- Alcohol has a lasting and damaging effect on your body. Short term risks include alcohol poisoning, injuries and blackouts. Long term risks include high blood pressure, stroke, liver disease, diabetes, sexual dysfunction and malnutrition as alcohol can stop vitamins being absorbed. Alcohol can cause anxiety and depression and hallucination.
- It is against the law to be sold alcohol, to try and buy alcohol or for an adult to buy alcohol for someone under 18.
- If someone under 18 is caught with alcohol three times they can face a social contract, fine or arrest.

7. MDMA (Powder form), Ecstasy (Pill form)

- A synthetic stimulant with mild hallucinogenic effects
- Also known as Pink, Rolexs, Mandy, Ecstasy, Molly, Supermans, Beans, Doves, Mitshubishis, Instagrams, Dolphins, Crystal, Cowies, Dizzie, Mud, Brownies, Pills, XTC
- Pill form – white or coloured often with different shapes stamped on. Powder – white or grey crystals.
- It is swallowed, snorted, gummed, dabbed or bombed. Dabbing or gumming is rubbing powder onto your gums. Bombing is when the powder is wrapped in cigarette paper and swallowed. This is also known as parachuting.
- Effects the heart rate, body temperature and muscles.
- Class A drug. Possession, or supply can result in a prison sentence.

6. Cocaine

- Powerful stimulant and highly addictive.
- Also known as White, Marching Powder, Bump, Sniff line, Blow, Dust, Snow, Toot, Coke, Charlie.
- Cocaine is usually snorted as a powder but can come in other forms – Crack and Freebase.
- Cocaine can also be ingested by bombing where the cocaine powder is wrapped in cigarette paper. It can also be smoked but this is rare as the powder easily burns out.
- Cocaine increases heart rate and body temperature. It can cause palpitations.
- Mixing cocaine and alcohol makes a dangerous chemical called Cocaethylene which is toxic to the liver.
- Class A drug. Possession or supply can result in prison sentence

5. Cannabis

- Cannabis is a sedative with hallucinogenic effects
- Cannabis can be smoked, eaten or vaped.
- Cannabis is also known as hash, bush, weed, Oabs, Herb, Shake, Slate, Dope, Moroccan, Bhang, Nine-Bar, BHO, Henry, Sinsemilla, White-Widow, Puff, Resin, Rocky, Sensi, Pollen, Bubblegum, Northern-lights.
- Can come in the following forms: weed, skunk, hash, cannabis oil, DAB/Shatter (A highly concentrated form extracted using butane and can be used in vapes).
- Cannabis is a Class B drug. It is illegal to possess, give away or sell and can result in a fine or prison sentence.
- Police can give a discretionary warning. If you are caught 3 times, police will arrest and take to the station.

