



# Hull All Age Exploitation Strategy 2025 – 2027



## 1. Introduction

Partners across Hull are committed to protecting children, adults, and their communities, from all types of exploitation. We recognise we have much to do to ensure that we deliver a consistently robust and integrated response to children, young people, and adults at risk of exploitation. We acknowledge that there is a constantly evolving landscape in relation to all forms of exploitation, compounded by advances in technology which has contributed to the increased risks of on-line exploitation.

There is a strong collective commitment to identify exploitation at the earliest opportunity and to ensure that individuals, their families, and support networks access the right services at the right time.

This collaborative 'Hull All Age Exploitation Strategy' outlines our joint partnership approach to tackling exploitation and is intended for all agencies and professionals working to safeguard and prevent harm to adults and children. It is essential that all partners working with people at risk, and the wider public, understand what exploitation is, and how to respond to concerns.

Our ambition is to provide a collaborative partnership response to exploitation through identifying and protecting those at risk of exploitation; strengthening the resilience of people and communities; supporting people who have experienced exploitation in their recovery; and pursuing those who perpetrate exploitation and bring them to justice. Equally as important is our focus on early intervention work and the prevention of exploitation.



### **Responsibilities and Authority**

Across the partnerships and boards, agencies will use the responsibilities and authority given to them to prevent exploitation and support victims who are at risk of, or experiencing, exploitation.

Relevant statutory guidance and legislation include:

Care Act 2014  
Mental Capacity Act 2005  
Mental Health Act 1983  
Making Safeguarding Personal: Guide 2014  
Children Act 1989 and 2004  
Children and Social Work Act 2017  
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023  
Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024  
Modern Slavery Act 2015  
Crime and Disorder Act 1998  
Serious Crime Act 2015  
Counter-Terrorism and security Act 2015

This strategy has been mandated by Hull Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB), Hull Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP), Hull Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) and Hull Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WBB).

## **2. What do we mean by contextual safeguarding and exploitation?**

Contextual safeguarding is an approach and term developed by the University of Bedfordshire. Hull have adopted the contextual safeguarding approach, in principle, when working with children, young people and adults. The Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership have previously engaged with the 'Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme' to consider how Hull would approach exploitation.

It was recognised that –

“Hull already had in place a rich and diverse membership for its contextual safeguarding partnership. This included representatives from the three statutory safeguarding partners, core partners such as education, youth, adult and probation services, and also key non-traditional, partners such as housing, parks and leisure

services. Relationships across the partnership were and well established with a collective sense of ownership voiced.”

Contextual safeguarding requires practitioners to assess and intervene outside of the persons home, relationships or family setting, in order to safeguard individuals at risk.

This enables the identification of contextual risks during interventions and encourages multi-agency actions and planning to take place to reduce risks to that individual.

Our regional definition of exploitation is:

An individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or adult and exploits them:

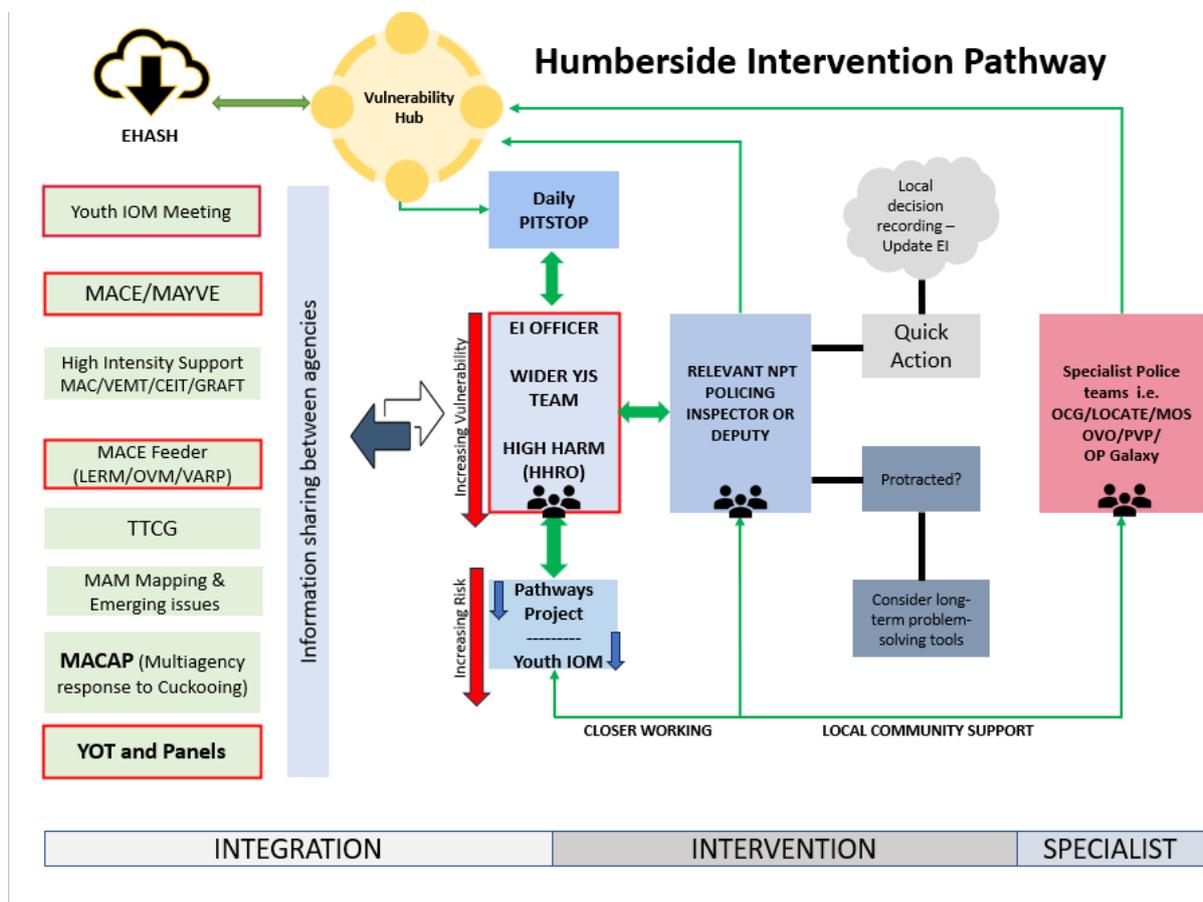
- A) through violence or the threat of violence, and/or
- B) for financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or
- C) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants.

The victim may have been exploited even if the activity appears consensual due to his /her specific situation. Exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology, e.g., as the result of a grooming process which takes place during conversations in chat rooms, or through the use of social media.

Hull recognises that exploitation is the deliberate maltreatment and manipulation of somebody, irrespective of their age, gender, ethnicity, background or ability and sexuality and comes in many forms, including:

- Modern slavery
- Human trafficking
- Sexual exploitation
- Criminal exploitation
- Cuckooing
- Slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour.

**Our approach to tackling exploitation**



In summary we will seek to identify and protect victims of exploitation by:

- adopt a principle of continued multi-agency prevention of exploitation, and early intervention
- multi-agency sharing of information in a timely manner
- taking a holistic and contextual approach to individuals, rather than concentrating on risks, incidents and indicators
- ensuring that young adults aged 18+ continue to receive services to support their safe transition to adulthood
- not criminalising victims
- giving consideration to the impact of trauma and providing support to victims in rebuilding a sense of control and empowerment

Contextual Safeguarding is not a model, rather an approach that extends the parameters of traditional safeguarding systems to extra-familial settings and relationships. Hull will seek to achieve this by taking into consideration local demographics, and the collective multi-agency systems in place to safeguard children and adults against exploitation.

During adolescence and young adulthood in particular, the nature of risks and the way they are experienced, become increasingly complex with risks posed by peers, partners, and other adults unconnected to families. These risks often manifest in

extra-familial environments including schools, public spaces, and online platforms. This can involve young people perpetrating harm, as well as experiencing harm, which can present as a perceived 'choice' and continues despite professional/parental intervention.

The importance of a focus on transitional safeguarding is recognised to improve the safeguarding response to older teenagers and young adults in a way that recognises their developmental needs. The children's and adults safeguarding systems are governed by different statutory frameworks, which can make the transition to adulthood harder for young people facing ongoing risk. MAYVE (write in full) arrangements in Hull have now extended to consider care leavers who are 18-25 years old. A transition pathway is now in place to ensure support into adulthood where risk of exploitation is identified.

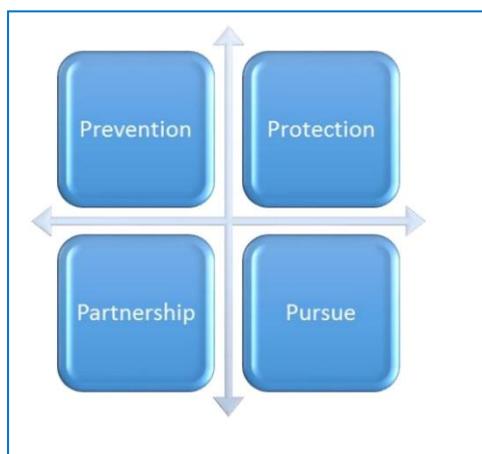
It is acknowledged that victims may lack the capacity to consent or may be being threatened or coerced. Use of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) to protect and support people is key and needs to be considered for all victims over the age of 16 years. Grooming, coercion, and control have been known to all have an impact on mental capacity, particularly where any form of exploitation is a factor.

*[Link to Mental Capacity Act 2005](#)*

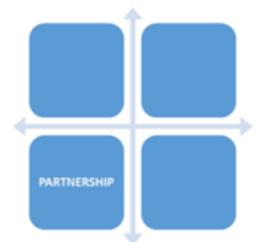
Throughout all our work with adults and children, our ambition is to support individuals through trauma informed practice. This is grounded in understanding the impact that trauma has on individuals. It emphasises the importance of physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone, and creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment. It is important that professionals work in a trauma informed way with both victims and perpetrators.

*[Link to Trauma Informed](#)*

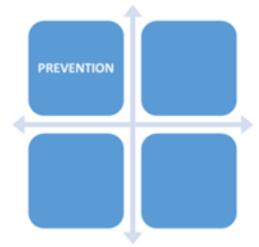
### **3. Strategic Objectives**



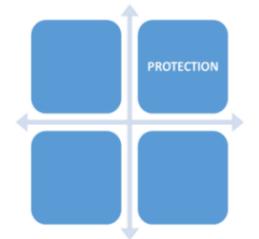
**Partnership** – ensuring that effective systems and clear governance are in place at both strategic and operational levels to enable partnership working to tackle and reduce exploitation (identify, support, and assess exploitation at the earliest opportunity, delivery of preventative interventions, education, awareness raising, workforce training and support).



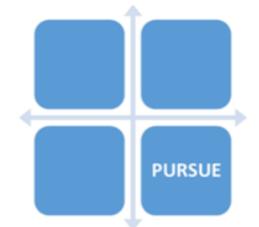
**Prevent** – preventing incidents of exploitation through supporting those who display harmful behaviours and to stop people becoming perpetrators (intelligence and data sharing, multi-agency groups i.e., partnership subgroups/ MAYVE/ NRM/ Humberside Police OCG’s, wider public awareness raising to encourage reporting, effective multi-agency risk assessments, delivery of supportive interventions).



**Protect** – strengthen protection for victims and potential victims of exploitation (delivery of training, awareness raising sessions, safety planning, vulnerable people to be safeguarded, protected, and supported).



**Pursue** - to stop incidents of exploitation through the disruption of perpetrators (prosecutions, intelligence and data sharing, targeted activity in identified locations, disruption activity).



**5. Measures of success – how will we know we are making a positive difference to adults and children?**

The impact and difference made to individuals and their families will be evaluated through audits, and other quality assurance activity, led by the Hull Safeguarding Adults Partnerships Board, Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership and Hull Community Safety Partnership. The respective partnership boards will seek assurance in relation to the impact which our approach to tackling exploitation is having on adults and children in Hull.

Quantitative Measures	Aim to
Timeliness of response to referral/ concerns	↑
Increase in exploitation referrals/concerns	↑
Improve prosecution outcomes for crimes associated with exploitation	↑
Decrease custodial sentences for those identified as victims of exploitation	↓
Increase in NRM referrals	↑
Increase in Community Partnership Intelligence (CPI) submissions	↑

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Increase in number of safety plans due to risk of exploitation	↑
Decrease in number of children/adults who are re-referred due to exploitation concerns following disruption/ safeguarding interventions	↓

Qualitative Measures	Aim to
Audits of exploitation cases evidence effective screening, intervention, information sharing and multi-agency working	↑
Positive evaluation of MACE through proportionate case tracking	↑
Increase in practitioner confidence and skills across the workforce	↑
Evidence of positive feedback from individuals, their experiences and the impact of support received	↑

### **6. Review and Evaluation**

This strategy will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis for relevance and effectiveness. The first review will be due in January 2026, through the Hull Collaborative Exploitation Group.

### **Resources and links to support practice**

1. Care Act 2014
2. Collaborative Website
3. Crime and Disorder Act
4. Cuckooing
5. HSCP Contextual Safeguarding Guidance
6. HSCP Threshold of Need Guidance
7. Information Sharing Guidance 2024
8. MAYVE
9. Mental Health Act 2005
10. Modern Slavery
11. NRM
12. Prevent
13. Resolving Interagency Differences – Resolution and Escalation Procedure – HSCP/ HSAPB
14. [www.humberside.police.uk/kinetic](http://www.humberside.police.uk/kinetic)
15. Working Together to Safeguard Children – 2023