

The CERAF is a Tool to be used for children at risk of or being exploited & will support identification of risk areas to be addressed and next steps

Name of worker completing assessment:	Autumn Page	Date CERAF Assessment completed:	11/01/2024
Team:	Willow Team		
Child's Name:	John Spring	Age:	15
Gender:	Male	Date of Birth:	22/06/2008
Legal status (e.g. S20, ICO) (Foster Care or Care Facility)	No order	Ethnicity:	White British
Languages spoken:	English	Refugee/Asylum Seeker Status:	No
If other agencies are involved please list them here e.g. CAMHS, Early Help etc.	Summer Secondary School (Pupil Referral Unit) Sophie Sharp – social worker Autumn Page – willow team Jo Winter – Missing Exploited and Trafficked Police Team	Who has assisted in the completion of this risk assessment? E.g. involved professionals, family members, child	Willow Team Social Worker Family Police
Does the child have any communication need or a diagnosed disability:	John has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.		

Vulnerabilities (Low Risk Indicators)	Please tick Score 1 each	Provide details of all Vulnerabilities identified
Emotional neglect by parent/carer/family member	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Physical abuse by parent/carer/family member	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sexual abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Breakdown of family relationships	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Family history of domestic abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Family history of substance misuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Family history of mental health difficulties	X	John's mum has previously taken medication for anxiety. Both of John's grandfathers were treated in a mental health facility.
Low self-esteem	X	Mum feels that John presents with low self-esteem, professionals have been unable to engage John in conversations about this.
Unsuitable/inappropriate accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Isolated from peers/social networks	X	John attends Summer Secondary School which is a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). He only attends for 1 hour a day and his attendance is low.
Lack of positive relationship with a protective/nurturing adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Child has diagnosed physical and/or learning disability	X	John has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.
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Medium Risk Indicators	Tick if present during the past 3 months Score 1 each
Regularly staying out late (This may include periods of staying out all day and whereabouts unknown)	X
Multiple callers (unknown adults/older young people)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of a mobile phone that causes concern (e.g. multiple phones, contact from unknown / concerning people)	X
Expressions of despair (e.g. self-harm, overdose, eating disorder, challenging behaviour, aggression, carrying weapons, other sudden change in wellbeing)	X
Exclusion from school or unexplained absences from or not engaged in school/college/training/work	X
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), pregnancy/termination of pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug / Alcohol use	X
Use of the internet that causes concern (e.g. coerced to take/share indecent images; dealing drugs; selling stolen goods; use of the 'Dark Web')	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living independently and failing to respond to attempts by worker to keep in touch	<input type="checkbox"/>

Evidence of Medium Risk Indicators: (provide details for all identified)
<p>Regularly staying out late (This may include periods of staying out all day and whereabouts unknown)</p> <p>John has been reported missing over 14 times over a 2-year period. It is believed he is often home later than his curfew which has not been reported to the police. Recent Police report on 11.11.2023 alleges that at 1.15am John and other males walked up to someone's house and John stated that he had a gun. The Aggrieved also reported that prior to the report, John came to the property and shot a BB gun causing damage to the home address.</p>
<p>Use of a mobile phone that causes concern (e.g. multiple phones, contact from unknown / concerning people)</p> <p>John has had several phones seized by police and continues to have further phones when seen by professionals. There have been concerns raised that John has sent other young people images of guns via snapchat. In June 2023 John was arrested and whilst in custody he had calls on his mobile phone from Richard Summond (DOB: 06.09.1983) and 2 other unknown people. His phone is often used when seen by professionals.</p>
<p>Expressions of despair (e.g. self-harm, overdose, eating disorder, challenging behaviour, aggression, carrying weapons, other sudden change in wellbeing)</p> <p>Police reports have been received linking John to weapons including knives, air rifles and guns. Intelligence has been received that John has sent pictures of weapons to people in a threatening manner. Also, intelligence to suggest John has metal ball pellets in the lawn mower located in the garden. John has previously caused damage</p>

to his home address when he was angry.

Exclusion from school or unexplained absences from or not engaged in school/college/training/work

John is attending school for 90 minutes a day however his attendance is sporadic. He does not like school but does want to attend a local college.

Drug / Alcohol use

Opiates were found to be in John's system last year, but John denied using any. John has disclosed cannabis use and cannabis has been found in John's possession when stopped by the police.

Use of the internet that causes concern (e.g. coerced to take/share indecent images; dealing drugs; selling stolen goods; use of the 'Dark Web')

It has been reported that John uses social media to send threatening images and messages to people including pictures of weapons. Intelligence that John has advertised for 'drivers' on social media and is suspected to have been exploited to sell drugs and stolen goods via social media platforms.

High Risk Indicators (Exploitation linked not interfamilial abuse)	Tick if present between 3 and 6 months ago Score 1 each	Tick if present during past 3 months Score 5 each
Disclosure of sexual/physical assault (which may be followed by withdrawal of allegation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Peers suspected/known to be being sexually or criminally exploited	X	X
Periods of going missing overnight or longer, sustained increase in missing episodes	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship/s with older or controlling individual / group (e.g. older boy/girlfriend, gang / organised crime group)	X	X
Physical abuse by controlling person / physical injury without plausible explanation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emotional abuse by controlling person	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown people (not taking and driving away: car theft)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothing or other items	X	X

Frequenting areas known for sexual / criminal exploitation / associated with county lines (e.g. “trap houses”)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travelling / located out of area without plausible explanation / known link; arrested out of area (especially for drug related offences)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child found with large quantities of Class A/B drugs or suspected of/involved in the movement and selling of drugs	X	X
Child involved in robberies/thefts with no or limited signs of personal gain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child has a drug debt (and is likely to be at risk if unpaid)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child is under 13 and there is at least 1 High risk factor present: Consider Child Protection Processes/HRSM		<input type="checkbox"/> Score 5

Evidence of High Risk Indicators: (provide details for all identified)

Disclosure of sexual/physical assault (which may be followed by withdrawal of allegation)

At a visit in November 2023, John disclosed a male had ridden into him on an electric scooter and then punched him in the face. He said he did not know this male and has not seen him since; he had a black eye which is now healed. John attended A+E in January 2024 due to an injury to his foot.

Peers suspected/known to be being sexually or criminally exploited

Intelligence has linked John to several young people, that they were all ‘cutting Class A drugs’ in one of their mum’s homes. He also associates with other young people who are known to the Willow team and are managed at high risk of exploitation. There is a suspicion that this is potentially gang-related.

Periods of going missing overnight or longer, sustained increase in missing episodes

John was last reported missing in November 2023 when he was found in Norfolk and arrested for Possession With Intent To Supply Class A, this investigation is ongoing. John has not been reported missing since this incident however his whereabouts are often unknown.

Relationship/s with older or controlling individual / group (e.g. older boy/girlfriend, gang / organised crime group)

Intelligence in December 2023 to suggest John had been contacted by a Class A drug line over 40 times in one month period.

Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothing or other items

John has items such as expensive jewellery, designer clothes, designer bags, expensive shoes. It is not known how he affords this. John has had multiple smartphones seized by the police but always has access to another phone immediately. He has had sums of money also seized from police. John shared that if he was to be moved, he would lose £50,000.

Child found with large quantities of Class A/B drugs or suspected of/involved in movement and selling of drugs (in any quantity)

Intelligence December 2023: John's address has a bottle of Codeine liquid and 2 bottles of Promethazine liquid; both are prescription drugs legal to possess. These are however used in 'purple drank' or 'lean', a drug cocktail that's often abused. In November 2023 John was found in Norfolk, in a hotel where a 2-night-stay was booked and paid for in cash under a different name. He was found with various documents.

Travelling / located out of area without plausible explanation / known link; arrested out of area (especially for drug related offences)

John has been linked to various places in Hampshire and also in other areas, such as Bristol, Reading and Birmingham.

Child involved in robberies/thefts/movement of drugs with no or limited signs of personal gain

John has been recognised as a victim of Modern Day slavery and has been referred via the National Referral Mechanism, recognising him as a trafficked child. Regular intelligence has been received to suggest John is being exploited to move and sell drugs. He has links to weapons.

Child has a drug debt (and is likely to be at risk if unpaid)

Following John's arrest in November 2023, drugs were seized so it is suspected he had a drug debt after this, and he has previously had drugs seized on numerous occasions.

Protective factors & strengths:

What's working well?

(Think family & community)

- Child Protection Procedures in place.
- Child Abduction Warning Notice has been issued against one male.
- National Referral Mechanism conclusive grounds for John.

Safety measures & disruption: What has been tried so far to reduce the exploitation risk? <i>(e.g. CAWNs, C5s, disruption & community planning, specialist education)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Missing Exploited and Trafficked Police Team allocation. - Safeguarding advice to family. - Child Protection Procedures in place. - John is managed at high risk of exploitation. - Previous Youth Offending Team engagement. - High Risk Strategy Meeting's being held.
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Child's views / perception of risks / safety / push & pull factors:	John is of the view that he is not at risk of exploitation. He has shown no previous fear surrounding drug debts. John refuses to engage with professionals on a voluntary basis.
Parent / carers views / perception of risks / safety:	Mum feels that John is at risk in the community however they are inconsistent at engaging with professionals, which could be due to fear. Mum feels John's mental health is impacting him.
List the relationships, peer groups, locations or settings you think are linked to exploitation risk:	Nutley Chichester New Forrest Norfolk Richard Summond Summer Secondary School

CERAF Total Score:	41
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PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT: This section must be completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider all information and refer to risk categories below The score is only a guideline. Identify the level of risk you consider the child to be at currently and explain why. 	<p>I remain concerned about John; he has faced significant arrests in 2023 that suggest he is being exploited to sell and move drugs. Regular intel is received, giving us regular insight to John being exposed to criminality. He is linked to people of concern, and he is at risk of physical and emotional harm. Intel and police reports link John to guns and knives which is also of concern. John also has access to weapons which is of concern and unexplained injuries that have not been reported could be repercussions of drugs.</p> <p>John has not shown insight to exploitation, it is likely that he has been groomed and thinks he is making a choice when not. John has an additional need which makes him further vulnerable to exploitation.</p> <p>I am assessing John as high risk of exploitation.</p>
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RISK LEVEL		Not at risk - child may be 'in need' but grooming/exploitation not current concern (Score guideline 0 – 5)
		Low Risk – child is vulnerable/susceptible to grooming/exploitation (Score guideline 6 – 10)
		Medium Risk – a number of warning signs suggesting child is at risk of opportunistic exploitation (Score guideline 11 – 15)

	X	High Risk – strong indicators/evidence that child is currently experiencing exploitation harm (Score guideline 16+)
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What is the known/suspected exploitation risk: You may tick more than one:			
KNOWN	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> County Lines
SUSPECTED	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> County Lines

Are there reasonable grounds to suspect this child has been trafficked or a victim of forced labour?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes – Child Protection Procedures & National Referral Mechanism form must be completed.
If yes - is the trafficking internal, or international?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal e.g. moved within town/city or UK <input type="checkbox"/> Abroad e.g. separated or Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker	

CERAF Risk Categories & Associated Actions

CERAF Risk category	Associated Actions
Not at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate child to stay safe. Seek to address any vulnerability factors. Review risk following any significant change in circumstances. Update intervention/support plan
If the CERAF outcome is Low, Portsmouth cases should be referred to Portsmouth CSC MASH. Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Southampton cases do not need to be referred.	
Low Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider multi-agency meeting to share information and agree a plan to address risk and/or need. Work with child on risk awareness and safety. Seek to address vulnerability factors. Review risk following any significant change in circumstances. Update intervention/support plan.
If the CERAF outcome is Medium or High risk and the child is not open to Children’s Services – contact your Local Authority Children’s Services Referral department (MASH) to discuss/report the safeguarding concerns.	
Medium Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider MASH Referral & Strategy meeting to ensure effective exchange of information with multi-agency colleagues and agree safety plan. Consideration of child protection enquiry or CIN assessment/ intervention. At least one review meeting to be convened. Work should be undertaken with this child/young person around risk

	<p>reduction and keeping safe – consider referral for support from specialist exploitation team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update intervention and risk management plan.
High Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MASH Referral & Strategy meeting convened to ensure effective exchange of information with multi-agency colleagues and agree safety plan. • Joint child protection enquiry and any required immediate/emergency safeguarding actions. • Regular weekly/monthly reviews or HRSM meetings until risk reduced. • Protection plan should include longer term intensive direct work with the young person – consider referral for support from specialist exploitation team. • Update intervention and risk management plan.

[Link to CERAF Guidance \(hipsprocedures.org.uk\)](https://hipsprocedures.org.uk)

Hampshire MET Contact	Willow.team@hants.gov.uk
Isle of Wight MET Contact	early.help@iow.gov.uk
Portsmouth MET Contact	MET@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
Southampton MET Contact	METhub@southampton.gov.uk