

Appendix 1

Harm Outside the Home Strategy

51

Progress Update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

March 21st 2022

Contents

	Section	Page
1	Purpose of the Harm Outside the Home Strategy	3
2	Scope: what issues does this strategy seek to address?	4
3	Inputs into the Strategy so far <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports, strategies, plans, stakeholder views and strategic partner engagement• Summary overview of our current approaches to Harm Outside the Home• Data and evidence	5
4	Emerging insights from our work so far <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 emerging Strategic Priorities• 10 emerging areas of Focus	8
5	Emerging thinking about how we should work together <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In development: a unique model and approach• Common thresholds and understanding of risk of harm outside the home	10
6	Next Steps	15

1. Purpose of this Strategy

Safeguarding children and young people from psychological and physical harm outside the home is a key priority for the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP).

53

Our principal aim with this Strategy is to prevent and respond effectively to Harm Outside the Home.

Our definition of "Harm Outside the Home" encompasses:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Children missing and/or excluded from education
- Risks of becoming a victim or perpetrator of serious youth violence.

The contexts in which Harm Outside the Home take place include:

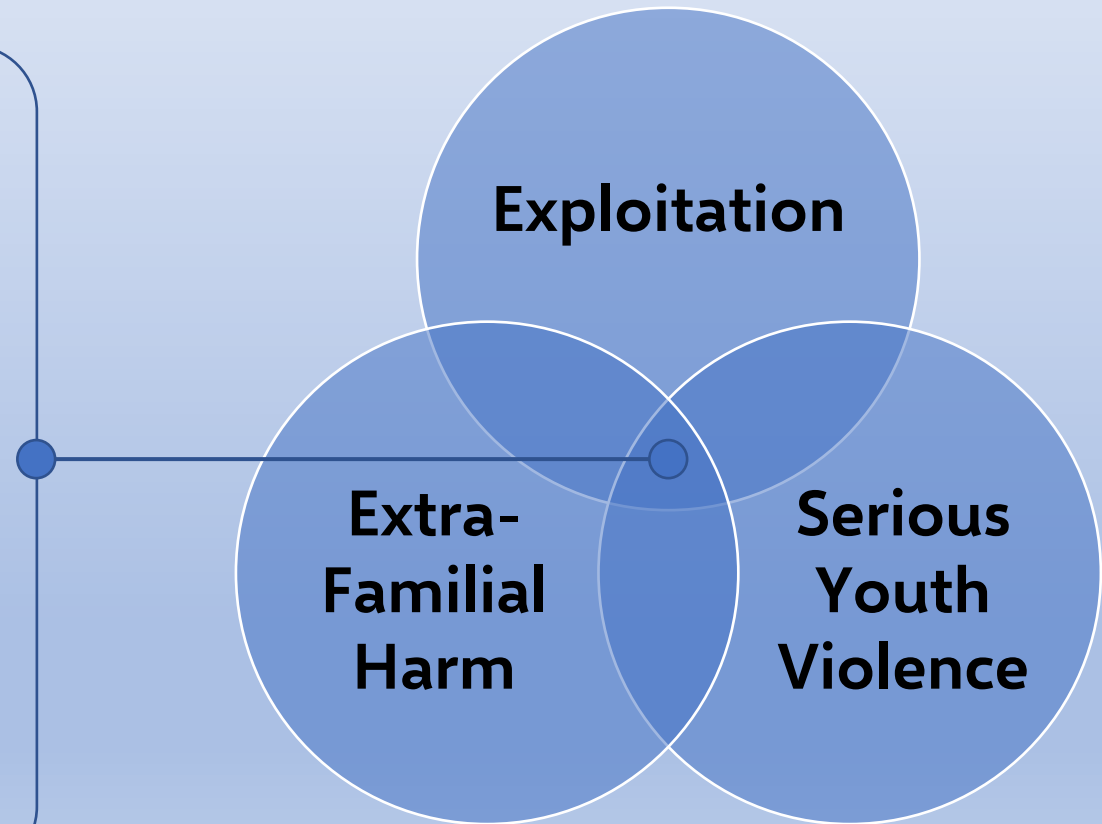
- online and in the digital world
- amongst peer groups
- within schools and places of learning
- within and between neighbourhoods and borough boundaries
- on and around public transport
- wider community settings where young people live their lives.

2. Harm Outside the Home: Scope and focus of this Strategy

54

Harm Outside the Home Issues in scope of this Strategy

Child Criminal Exploitation	Contextual Safeguarding	Vulnerable children and young people with SEND
Child Sexual Exploitation	Trauma-informed practice and approaches	School exclusions
Youth violence & weapon carrying	Therapeutic Thinking	Children missing
Substance misuse and drug crime	Support for vulnerable parents	Children and young people on part time timetables
Domestic abuse	Resilience, mental health and wellbeing	Vulnerable children and young people who are NEET
Equality, diversity and inclusion, and addressing disproportionality		



3. Inputs into this Strategy so far (i)

The Harm Outside the Home Strategy has been developed and shaped by a combination of contextual drivers (including statutory duties); engagement with key stakeholders and strategic partners; reviews and reports on issues in scope already completed or in development; developments in practice and models of multi-agency delivery; and existing strategies and plans (within Wokingham Borough, as well as examples of Strategies and best practice elsewhere, and national/regional studies and policy reviews).

55



3. Inputs into the Strategy so far (ii): Summary of current approach and interventions

Several interventions – at the strategic and operational level – are already in place across the Borough which are designed to tackle and prevent Harm Outside the Home. A selected summary of these follows in the table below. Please see the body of the covering report to the O&S Committee for further detail.

56

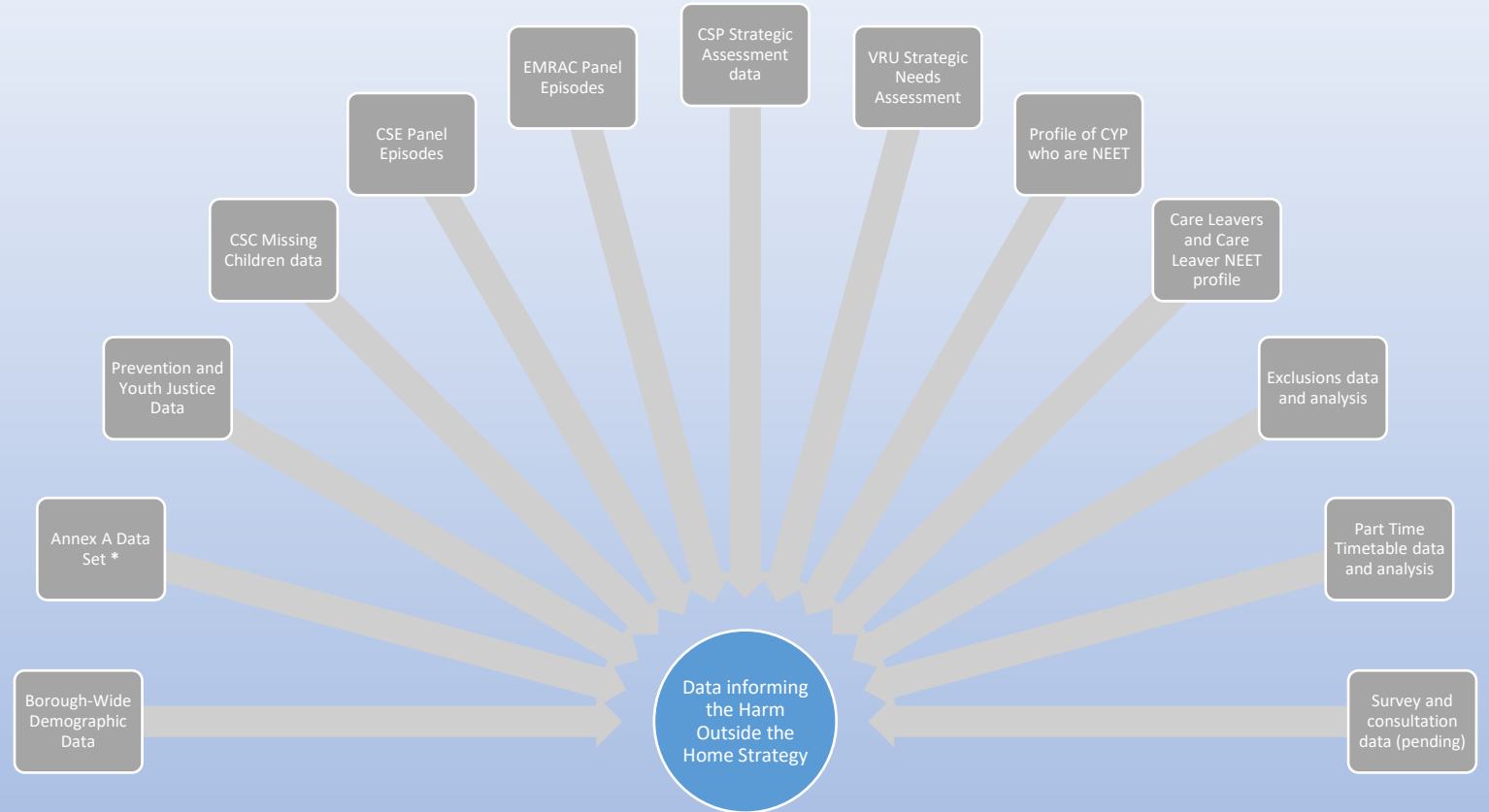
Strategic interventions	Operational interventions
Work of the Community Safety Partnership and Children and Young People’s Partnership	Early Help provision
Exploited and Missing Risk Assessment Conferences (EMRAC)	Core Statutory Social Work Services and support
Serious Violence and Exploitation Group activity	KICKS and targeted KICKS projects
Pan-Berkshire Child Exploitation Meeting	Youth Mentoring
Strategic work of the Prevention and Youth Justice Service	Positive Pathways Project
	Operational Work of the Prevention and Youth Justice Service

3. Inputs into this Strategy so far (iii): Data feeding into our evidence base

Over a dozen substantial datasets have been submitted by partners to help inform the evidence base behind this Strategy. Each of the datasets contains indicators which reflect vulnerability, actual or potential risk of harm outside the home.

57 In order to ensure these datasets are used to quantify levels and types of vulnerability in Wokingham, to help determine the evidence base and priorities for our Strategy, over the coming weeks we will be gathering:

- a) **trend and comparators information: what are the trends and patterns in the Borough? How does data compare one year to the next? How does our data compare with other areas (e.g. geographical and statistical neighbours)?**
- b) **intersectional analysis: where do the same children/young people occur in multiple categories?**
- c) **analysis in the context of agreed thresholds and levels of vulnerability**



* Includes information relating to Children's Social Care contacts, early help, referrals and assessments, CJN, CP, Looked After Children and Care Leaver data

4. Emerging Insights (i)

Emerging strategic priorities

1) Focus on Prevention

Making sure that young people feel safe at early intervals is the most effective way of reducing Harm Outside of the Home.

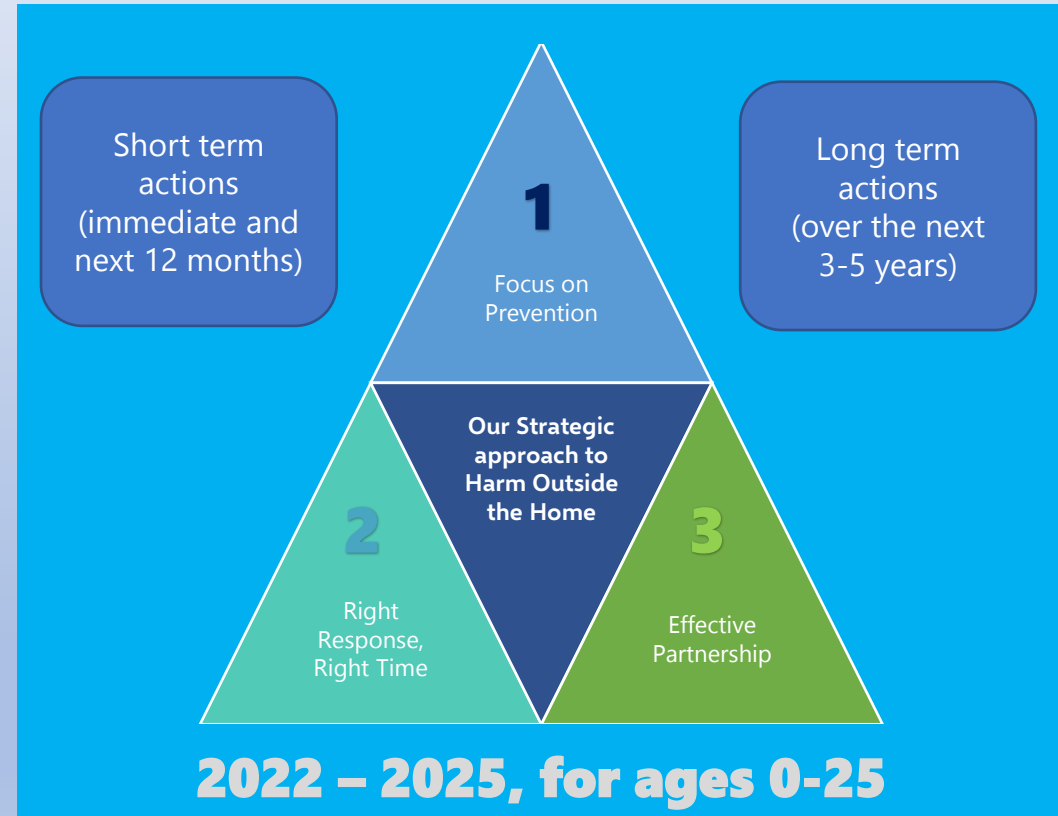
Stopping Harm before it takes place to help sustain the low levels of serious youth violence in Wokingham. Intelligence-led, public health and inclusive approaches. Tackling the underlying causes, not just the symptoms.

2) Right Response, Right Time

Not all harm can be prevented. Where incidents have taken place they must be noted, learnt from and reacted to; in order to stop similar events occurring repetitively. Consistent approach to interventions and responses – e.g. Trauma Informed, Therapeutic Thinking approaches. Tiered responses according to situations / needs / context

3) Effective Partnership

Interagency co-operation is key so that no young people aren't cared for when taken either out of or into the borough. Clear lines of communication are required so that standards of care provided to young are maintained.



4. Emerging Insights (ii)

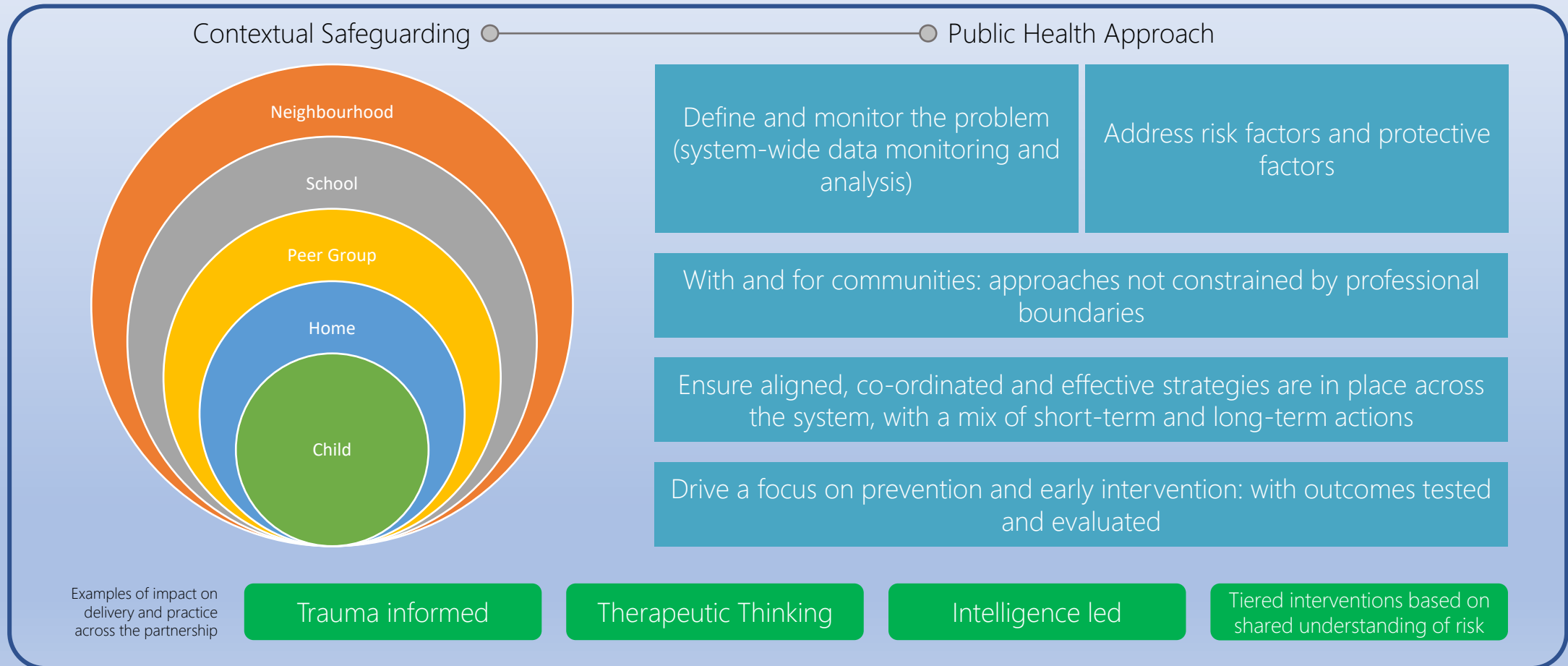
10 emerging insights from data and consultation to date about areas of focus for the Harm Outside the Home Strategy

1. The Strategy and actions within it needs to reflect the heightened vulnerability of some children and young people in terms of risk of Harm Outside the Home, including:
 - a) Children and Young People with SEND
 - b) Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
 - c) Children and young people missing and/or excluded from education, or on part-time education timetables
 - d) Children and young people in care / leaving care who are not in education, employment or training
 - e) Children exposed to Domestic Abuse and conflict
2. Strengthen consistency in professional engagement with children and young people: in terms of who is working with the child/young person, and how
3. Ensure we are listening to families (particularly those in crisis) and putting in place the right help at the right time. This may involve looking again at our model of support for families in crisis, and our support for vulnerable parents
4. Build a better shared understanding across agencies and partnerships of Child Criminal Exploitation: how it works, warning signs, effective multi-agency interventions
5. Strengthen interface between Schools, Police, Social Care and Youth Justice – particularly in terms of sharing information relating to risk and vulnerability
6. The Strategy should set out clear actions to ensure that professionals working on the “front line” with vulnerable children, young people and families are supported to take effective and timely actions to prevent and address harm outside the home, and protect and enhance their own resilience and wellbeing
7. Continue to strengthen partnership approaches to enhanced vulnerability around borough boundaries – for example through the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership
8. Establish shared, partnership-wide thresholds and indicators of vulnerability. Develop a shared understanding of “red flags” indicating risk of harm outside the home and the agility to act on these in a preventative way
9. Continue to drive forward with substantial information and data-sharing projects such as Thames Valley Together (TVT) and Better Together, to improve the efficacy and timeliness of information about vulnerable children and young people to prevent and address harm outside the home
10. Ensure all meetings about vulnerable individuals or groups at risk of harm outside the home have clear remits, appropriate decision-making and recording arrangements, and accountable governance

5. How we will work (i): our unique model and approach

In terms of how we work in partnership to deliver the Harm Outside the Home, latest discussions have focused on a unique approach which **integrates Contextual Safeguarding and Public Health approaches** to improving outcomes, as shown below:

60



Level 1 – Low level Risk Indicators – any three indicators

- a. Regularly coming home late or going missing
- b. Sexualised behaviour, including on the phone and internet which is not age appropriate
- c. Associating with unknown adults or other exploited children or young people
- d. Reduced contact with family and friends and other support networks
- e. Sexually transmitted infections
- f. Experimenting with drugs and/or alcohol
- g. Poor self-image, eating disorders and/or some self-harm
- h. Change in behaviour — being more secretive/ withdrawn/ isolated from peers and not mixing with usual friends
- i. Involvement in offending
- j. Exclusion from school, disengaged from education, unexplained absences from school
- k. Failing to respond to attempts from workers/carers to keep in touch/disengagement from professionals

Level 2 – Medium Level Indicators – any of level 1 and ONE or more of these indicators

- a. Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults
- b. Persistently missing from home/care/school for different periods including overnight
- c. Associating with known adults who exploit children
- d. Being groomed on the internet
- e. Concern that an online relationship has developed into an offline relationship.
- f. Frequenting areas known for on/off street sex work and/or drug supply
- g. Having a significantly older boyfriend/girlfriend
- h. Possessing multiple mobile phones, sim cards, or concerning use of a phone
- i. Concealed/concerning use of the internet and/or mobile phone, including during the night
- j. Breakdown of placements due to behaviour
- k. Increasing use of drugs/alcohol or misuse of drugs/alcohol.
- l. Unexplained money/clothing/goods/activities
- m. Multiple sexually transmitted infections
- n. infections
- o. Increased self-harming.
- p. Association with gangs/fear of victimisation from gangs.
- q. Arrested for PWITs (Possession (drugs) With Intent to Supply)
- r. Carrying, or in possession knife / other weapon

Level 3 - High Level Indicators- any of Levels 1 and 2 and ONE or more of these indicators

- a. Child under 13 years engaging in sexual activity
- b. Pattern of street homelessness and staying with an adult believed to be exploiting them
- c. Child aged 13 years or over meeting with different adults/peers and exchanging/'selling' sexual activities
- d. Disclosure of serious sexual assault and then withdrawal of statement
- e. Abduction and forced imprisonment
- f. Being taken to/trafficked to an area/place for the purposes of exploitation e.g. sell drugs/sexual activity
- g. Disappearing from the 'system' with no contact or support
- h. Being bought/sold/trafficked
- i. Multiple miscarriages or terminations
- j. Indicators of exploitation in conjunction with chronic alcohol and drug use
- k. Child receiving money, goods or status for forcing or coercing other children into child exploitation
- l. Attendance at a hospital / surgery with a stab wound

5. How we work (ii): Shared thresholds of vulnerability and risk CSE / CCE Example

Pan-Berkshire EMRAC Risk Matrix

5. How we will work (iii): common tools to address vulnerability and risk

Example of option under review: Vulnerable Adolescents S.A.F.E.G.U.A.R.D. tool

Sexual health & behavior	Concerns of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and termination; inappropriate sexualised behaviour
Absent	From school or running away – episodes of truancy or periods of being missing from home or care
Familial abuse	Problems at home – familial sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, risk of forced marriage or honour-based violence; domestic violence; substance misuse; parental mental health concerns; parental criminality; experience of homelessness; looked after child
Emotional and physical condition	Thoughts of or attempted, suicide or self-harming; low self-esteem or self-confidence; problems relating to sexual orientation; learning difficulties; poor mental health; unexplained injuries or changes in physical appearance identify

Gangs	Older age groups and involvement in crime – involvement in crime; direct involvement with gang members or living in a gang-afflicted community; involvement with older individuals or lacking friends from the same age group; contact with other individuals who are sexually exploited
Use of technology, sexual bullying	Evidence of ‘sexting’, sexualised communication on-line or problematic use of the internet and social networking sites
Alcohol & drug misuse	Concerns regarding alcohol and or substance use
Receipt of unexplained gifts or money	Unexplained finances, including phone credit, clothes and money
Distrust of authority figures	Resistance to communicating with parents, carers, teachers, social services, health, police and others

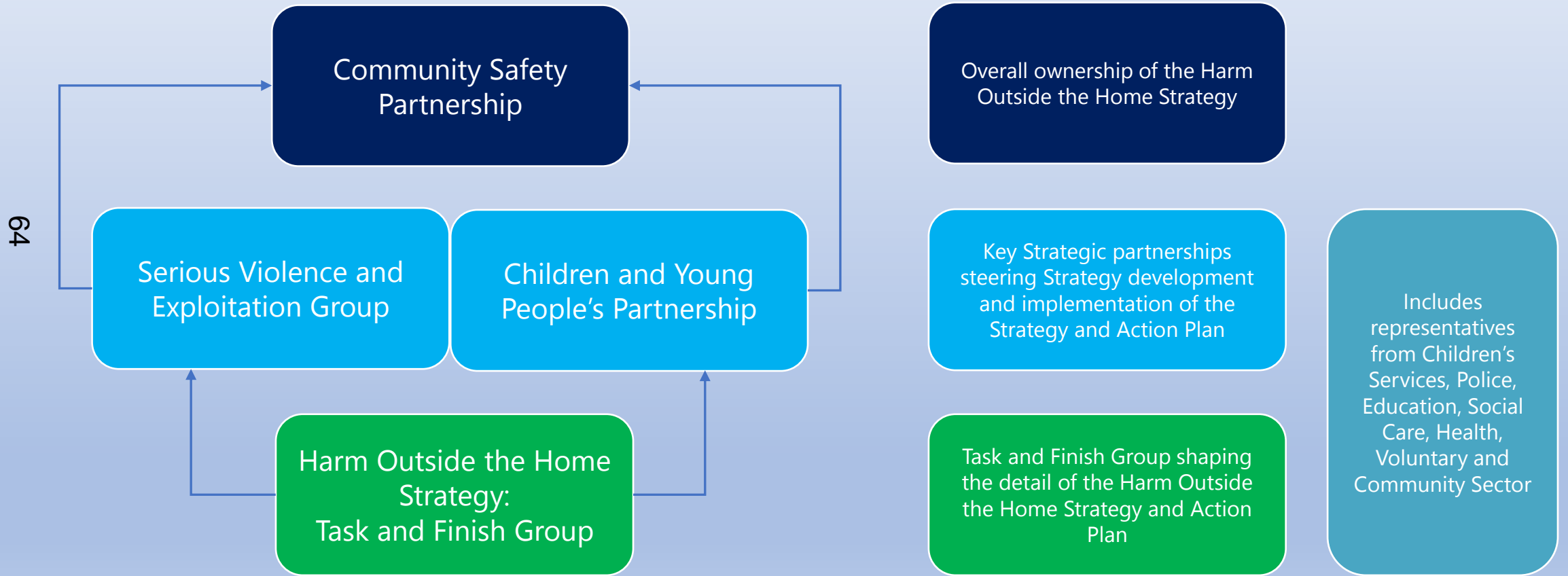
Consultation and Engagement

- Further consultation with key stakeholders through 121 meetings, discussions and updates to Strategic Partnerships and multi-agency groups, as directed by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and its subgroups, and Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP)

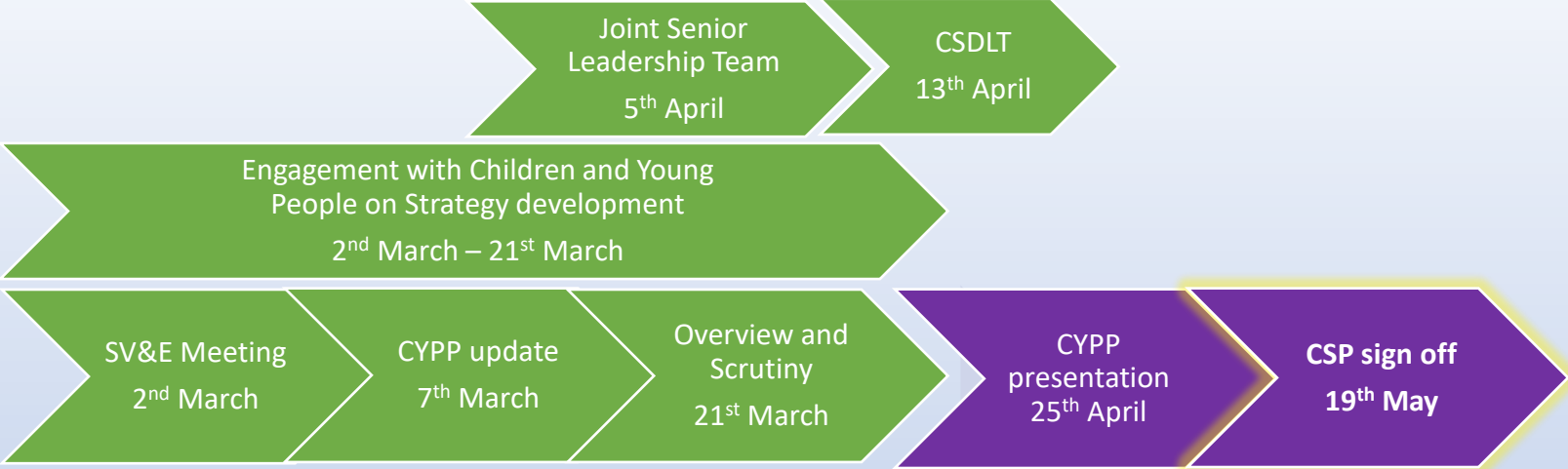
63

- Consultation and Engagement with Children and Young People (detailed consultation and engagement Plan has been prepared, which includes engagement activities to inform development of the Strategy, as well as activities post-implementation)
- CSP commissioned survey specifically on issues around Serious Violence and Exploitation, to help feed into the Strategy development process

Governance of the Harm Outside the Home Strategy



Timeline and Next Steps



Nov 9th – Jan 10th

Jan 10th – Feb 28th

March 2nd – March 31st

March 31st – April 18th

25th April – 19th May

65

Initial engagement and information gathering

Data and Analysis & Consultation Draft development

Data and Analysis & Additional stakeholder engagement

Revisions, Consultation Draft of Strategy and Action Plan developed

Sign-off by Governance Groups

We are here

Please note: report prepared 23rd Feb 2022

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