**Risk**

**Child Exploitation**

**Risk Factor Matrix Guidance Notes**

This Child Exploitation Risk Factor Matrix (RFM) has been developed to be used by practitioners working with children who are thought to be involved in Child Exploitation. The use of the term “child” in this document refers to all children under the age of 18, as defined in the Children Act 1989. However, it may be used by practitioners working with young people over 18 who have a learning difficulty or where there are competence concerns.

**When to complete the RFM:**

* Complete the RFM as soon as risk is identified, ideally with the child present and engaged.
* Consider utilising the Case Consultation Toolkit – Child Exploitation Case Consultations are an opportunity for practitioners to have time to reflect and consider aspects of their cases they may not have otherwise. The structure and format of the meetings will differ between practitioners and managers. The consultation is a meeting to discuss a case, it is not a strategy meeting.
* Give as much detail as possible around why indicators have been selected in the comments boxes provided; including sources of information, whether suspected or observed and whether recent or non-recent.
* When selecting risk level, if you are unsure please consult with appropriate partner agencies or seek managerial/supervisory support.
* It is recommended that the form is completed electronically for ease of review.

**Assessing Risk Level:**

When considering risk level, select **one** of the five possible indicators within each box and count the numbers to the left of the risk indicator chosen.



Record the numbers in the score box at the end of the assessment which will give you an overall assessment score. This can then be reviewed twice after initial completion (following this, it is advised that a new form is completed).

When you have collated each of the score, total them up and review them against the threshold indicator which will identify which risk level is the outcome:



If on completing the RFM, you feel the score does not reflect your view of risk, there is a section below where you can override the scoring system to clarify which level of risk you feel the child is at based on professional judgement.



For **medium and high cases only** the completed RFM will also act as a referral into the appropriate Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE)

Securely send all completed forms with an outcome of Medium/High Risk FAO Gareth Walker/Andrew Downing via the below email address:

CSEinbox@staffordshire.gov.uk

**When reviewing the RFM:**

Please ensure that information provided in sections A-D (protective factors & Concerns of Section D only) is current. Please also ensure that consent has been obtained and is indicated, when possible.

There is no requirement to complete the risk indicator sections in the remainder of section D. Instead, Section E is mostly free text, and requires an update about what had changed in terms of risk of exploitation since the last occasion the form was completed. Please liaise with all partners who are supporting a child when completing the reviews and ensure all possess a copy of the completed form.

Please ensure the assessed current risk is also identified at the top of the form in Section A.