

Spotlight on...

MET Information Guide

2018-2020



The Pan-Hampshire areas of Portsmouth, Southampton, Hampshire and Isle of Wight have a collective multi agency responsibility to identify children and young people who are at risk of going missing, being exploited and/or trafficked (MET) and to safeguard and protect them from further risk of harm. The four areas have worked with Barnardos Hampshire to produce a new version of the MET Protocol (now known as the MET Information Guide) which covers all four Pan-Hampshire areas and should be read in conjunction with local strategies.

The MET Information Guide is for practitioners who become aware of children and young people up to the age of 18 who are at risk of going missing and/or being exploited. Exploitation as referred to in this information guide covers criminality, modern slavery (both within the UK and from abroad), trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The purpose of the new MET Information Guide is to:

- Inform practitioners who become aware of children and young people who may be subject to MET issues, of the broad approach of the four areas as well as locally agreed procedures
- Ensure that the Police, local authorities, education settings, health establishments and other agencies work together effectively and share a consistent approach to tackling these child protection issues
- Formalise the exchange of information between agencies
- Provide a framework for the identification of risk
- Establish a quality assurance process to monitor and evaluate arrangements.

The new MET Information Guide provides the most up to date definitions for:

- Missing Children (para 11-12)
- Child Sexual Exploitation (para 14-19)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (para 20) and County Lines (para 21-24)
- Trafficked Children (para 25-26)
- Modern Slavery (para 27-35)

Whilst this information guide discusses distinct issues in exploitation, it should also always be born in mind that these often overlap and interact with each other.

The full Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (MET) Information Guide can be found [here](#).