

What is it? This tool has been developed and agreed for use across all four of the HIPS LSCP areas. Professionals should use it with any child who is thought to be at risk of or known to be at risk of one or more forms of exploitation.

The full CERAF (Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework) is for use by all professionals from all agencies across HIPS (with the exception of health settings listed below):

- Emergency Department staff
- Opticians
- Condom distributors
- Paramedics/ Ambulance service
- Dentists
- GPs / Out of Hours service
- Pharmacists

Please [click here](#) to see the health specific version of this tool (named CSERQ4)

Why is it important?

A CERAF should be completed as soon as potential concerns regarding any form of child exploitation are identified. Where possible a CERAF should be completed to inform ongoing referral to Children's Services. The long-term consequences of any form of child abuse can be devastating and early identification and providing support as soon as problems emerge is critical. Child sexual exploitation damages children and like any form of abuse it can have long-lasting consequences that can impact on every part of a child's life and their future outcomes. Child sexual exploitation has been shown to affect:

- Physical (including sexual) and mental health and well-being;
- Education and training and therefore future employment prospects;
- Family relationships;
- Friends and social relationships, current and as adults; and
- Their relationship with their own children in the future

How do we do it?

The Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF) is a child exploitation risk assessment tool. Your professional judgement is as equally important as the score. Be mindful that child exploitation does not exist as a standalone issue and that children who are being criminally exploited are also likely to have increased missing episodes, and may be victims of sexual abuse and/or trafficking.

A CERAF should be completed as soon as potential concerns regarding any form of child exploitation are identified. This may include child sexual exploitation (CSE), child criminal exploitation (CCE), county lines (CL), modern day slavery (MDS) or child trafficking concerns. The evidence may follow a missing episode, or increasing occasions of a child truanting from school, staying out late, associating with new peers/associates where there may be some concerns or known intelligence risk.

Best practice indicates that information from multiple sources (including family members, the child concerned, school, and other professionals) is needed to ensure that you have as much information as possible on the risk indicators and any explanations for these.

Give timeframes for when indicators have been identified – the frequency and extent of concerns/incidents should be informing your view of the level of risk.



One Minute Guide Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF)



You should provide relevant details for each vulnerability and risk indicator identified, as this will be informing your understanding of the nature and extent of risks – this should clearly identify the risks posed to the young person and include how it may be linked to exploitation.

Be mindful of your use of language. Children are not responsible for their own abuse/exploitation and often they do not recognise the risks we may be concerned about. Children who are groomed are unable to give consent to their abuse.

Use the scoring guides on the form to ensure that you are scoring the CERAF correctly. This needs to inform the plan to reduce risks, including disruption activity to reduce the risks to the young person.

A CERAF should be carried out at regular intervals to record any increase or reduction in risk and should inform appropriate intervention. As a minimum, it should be updated every three months or following a change in circumstances (e.g. change in placement) as this can have a significant impact on risk. High cases will be reviewed 6 weekly in line with Exploitation strategy meetings.

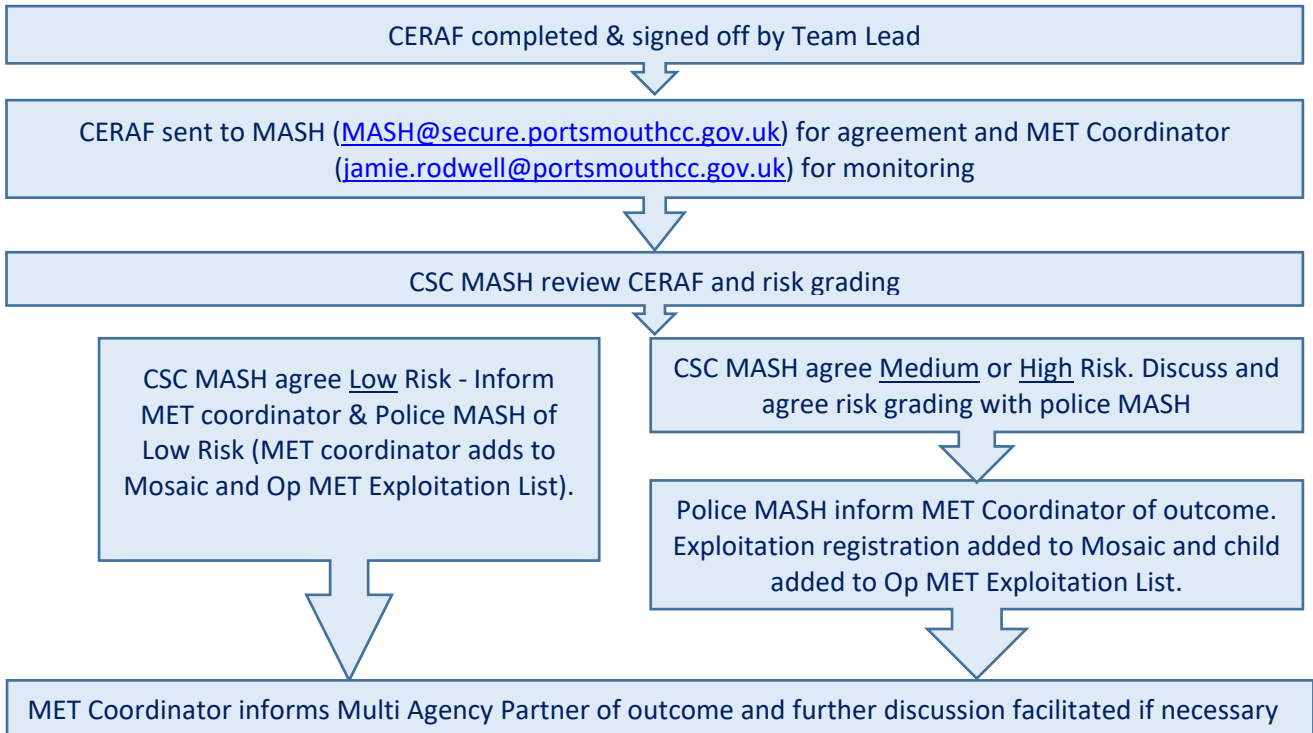
In Portsmouth, All Low, Medium and High cases should be shared with MASH.

For more information:

For any Op MET or Exploitation Grading enquiries please contact jamie.rodwell@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Please refer to the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) [Procedures website](#) for further guidance and to access the CERAF.

New referrals:



CERAF review (already on the Op MET list):

