

# Developing Practice Principles for those affected by and responsible for tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm.

## Frequently Asked Questions

<p><b>What is the Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Programme?</b></p>	<p>The TCE Support Programme was funded by the Department for Education (DfE) from 2019 to March 2022 to work with strategic leaders from local areas in England on tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm. Exploitation is a type of child abuse, characterised by the control, coercion and manipulation involved. Child exploitation can happen both within the home (for example, online grooming) as well as beyond. Extra-familial harm refers specifically to forms of harm or abuse that happen outside of the family home, such as peer-on-peer abuse or harmful sexual behaviour. Learning from the first three years can be found on the <a href="#">TCE website</a>.</p> <p>The DfE has recommissioned TCE for a fourth year to produce a set of Practice Principles that will support responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm. The Principles will be developed in consultation with children, young people, parents, carers, community organisations, government departments and sector professionals.</p>
<p><b>What are Practice Principles?</b></p>	<p>The Practice Principles will serve as the foundation on which local responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm are built. They will be high-level so they can be used by different groups and applied in different settings.</p> <p>They will be interlinked so that, by using them together, the Principles provide a coherent approach. The focus will be on ways of working that deepen understanding and connection rather than a prescribed pathway that must be followed.</p>

<p><b>Why do we need Practice Principles?</b></p>	<p>Tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm is challenging. There can be high levels of harm caused to those affected and perpetrators are adept at staying one step ahead of those trying to disrupt. There are no easy answers about ‘what works’ and how to respond – there are different and competing demands to consider.</p> <p>Children and young people can be both victims and instigators of harm. It is their right to have their voices heard and this has to be balanced with safeguarding responsibilities. For those tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm, responding in a way that can hold the ‘both / and’ of these circumstances is difficult.</p> <p>The Practice Principles will set out ways of working that directly address these challenges.</p>
<p><b>Who are the Practice Principles for?</b></p>	<p>The Practice Principles will be high-level to ensure they are relevant and applicable to those affected by and responsible for tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm. They will speak to a senior strategic leader and a practitioner working directly with a young person. Parents, carers and young people should recognise these principles in the support they receive.</p>
<p><b>How will the Practice Principles be developed?</b></p>	<p>The TCE team is not starting with a blank piece of paper. The starting point will be learning from research, professional wisdom and expertise from lived experience alongside three years of delivering the Programme.</p> <p>For example, themes like the importance of having a shared understanding of language and definitions, of including the voice of children, young people, parents and carers, and of equity, equality, diversity and inclusion were identified. In addition, hearing the views of those directly affected by and working to tackle child exploitation and extra-familial harm is central to the development of the Practice Principles, so a range of consultation activities with children, young people, parents, carers, communities and professionals are being carried out (see below).</p> <p>In this way, the process will be evidence-informed and deliberately iterative. The Programme team will share working drafts and ask for feedback and reflection to ensure the Principles respond to the real-world challenges faced by all those affected by child exploitation and extra-familial harm.</p>

<p><b>What do you mean by ‘evidence informed’?</b></p>	<p>Like all TCE work, developing the Practice Principles will be evidence-informed. This means the team will curate and reflect on evidence and research from multiple sources while drafting and refining the Principles. The evidence used to underpin the Principles and supporting resources will be drawn from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What we know from academic and published evidence, synthesised through TCE’s initial scoping review.</li> <li>• The insight and wisdom of cross-sector agencies and organisations, which form and support children’s safeguarding partnerships and beyond.</li> <li>• The expertise by experience held by children, young people, parents, carers, families and communities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How can I get involved with the consultation process?</b></p>	<p>There are many ways to take part in consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Join a national online event.</a></li> <li>• Fill out an online survey (open mid-June).</li> <li>• Get in touch <a href="#">via the TCE website.</a></li> <li>• Join single agency conversations and focus groups.</li> </ul> <p>The events, conversations and focus groups will all be conducted by experienced facilitators who will guide the discussion. There are no right or wrong answers, the aim is to hear your views and experiences. Bespoke consultation with children, young people, parents, carers and communities will also be undertaken by a dedicated team. For more information on this please email <a href="mailto:tceadmin@researchinpractice.org">tceadmin@researchinpractice.org</a></p>
<p><b>What happens to the information?</b></p>	<p>Taking part is confidential and anonymous, with the exception of safeguarding disclosures (see <a href="#">safeguarding and disclosures</a>). We will record the discussion (either in note form or via an audio recorder), but no names will be attached to the data so it will not be possible to identify contributors. It will also be important for participants at group events to agree to keep discussions confidential.</p> <p>The analysis will focus on the key themes used to develop the Practice Principles. If any quotes are used, care will be taken to ensure they illustrate points and do not identify any individual or service. Data will be stored securely in line with GDPR and deleted a year after the end of the Programme (March 2024)</p>

<b>Safeguarding and disclosures</b>	As with all consultation if, during the course of the activities any information is shared that suggests either unsafe professional practice or a risk of serious harm to a child or vulnerable adult, safeguarding measures will be followed. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Complaints</b>	If you have any concerns about the Programme or its consultation activities, please <a href="#">contact the TCE team</a> .
<b>When will the Practice Principles be completed?</b>	The Principles will be drafted in the summer 2022 to include the outcomes of initial consultations. Further consultation will then follow in the autumn, so that more views and feedback can inform the Principles before they are finalised in December 2022. Between January and March 2023, the TCE team will launch the Principles and any accompanying resources.

<sup>1</sup>TCE is a consortium led by Research in Practice, with The Children’s Society and the University of Bedfordshire

<sup>2</sup>There are agreed legal and statutory definitions of [child sexual exploitation](#) and [modern slavery and human trafficking](#) (which also encompasses forced or compulsory labour). Child criminal exploitation (which includes county lines) is defined in the [Serious Violence Strategy](#), but this is not legally binding.

<sup>3</sup>See TCE safeguarding and disclosure policy