

Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm

<p>What is the Tackling Child Exploitation Programme?</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 to strengthen local responses to tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm. Learning from the first three years of the programme can be found on the TCE website.</p> <p>The DfE recommissioned TCE Support Programme for a fourth year, to March 2023, to produce a set of Practice Principles that will support multi agency responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.</p> <p>The Principles have been developed in consultation with children, young people, parents, carers, community organisations, government departments and professionals in all agencies and organisations who work to safeguard children and young people.</p>
<p>What are Practice Principles?</p>	<p>The multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm aim to guide ways of working for professionals involved in responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm. Grounded in research and informed by practice wisdom and expertise from lived experience, they are designed to support partnership working by providing professionals at all levels across all agencies with a common starting point to underpin local responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.</p> <p>There are eight high-level, interrelated and interdependent Principles, which apply to direct work with children, young people, their families and communities, operational management and strategic leadership.</p> <p>The Practice Principles are not intended to be prescriptive guidance: the Principles offer a compass to help guide local ways of working, with a focus on behaviours that can support an effective multi-agency response.</p>

<p>What is the status of the Practice Principles?</p>	<p>The Practice Principles have been commissioned and funded by the Department for Education and are published as non-statutory guidance with cross-government support from the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Department for Health and Social Care.</p>
<p>What accompanying resources have been developed?</p>	<p>A suite of supporting resources have been developed alongside the Practice Principles to support professionals to implement them in their local area. These are freely available to access, download and share from the TCE microsite.</p> <p>Each resource has a specific aim and audience:</p> <p>Animation – developed as a clear introduction to the Practice Principles, in order to support multi-agency sharing and dissemination.</p> <p>Multi-agency partnership reflective tool – developed to support partnerships to reflect locally on the Practice Principles and to collectively identify strengths and scope for developing partnership responses further.</p> <p>Practice reflection tool – developed to support individual and peer reflection on how the Practice Principles might be used in practice, through a scenario-based exercise.</p> <p>Evidence summary – developed for those interested in understanding in more depth the research underpinning the Practice Principles.</p> <p>Key messages from children and young people – developed to illustrate ways to meaningfully incorporate children and young people’s views at a strategic level.</p> <p>Shifting Mindsets; starting premises when approaching parents and carers – developed to help enable multi-agency professionals to approach parents and carers as partners wherever possible.</p>

Why do we need these Practice Principles?

The systems and structures in place to protect children and young people were not specifically designed to address child exploitation and / or extra-familial harm, though there has been a significant amount of innovation over recent years. No one set of local circumstances are the same as the next, and there isn't a single 'answer' for what to do to support children, young people, and those who care for them. This presents a number of complex challenges for professionals trying to respond to child exploitation and / or extra-familial harm.

The Principles focus on behaviours that can support an effective multi-agency response. They aim to support a culture in which it is more possible to stand back, slow down and purposefully reflect, so that:

- children, young people and those who care about them are respected, valued and helped in ways that matter to them.
- professionals are curious, confident and well-supported
- local partnerships are continuously learning and feel proud of their work.

Why do the Practice Principles focus on responding to both child exploitation and extra-familial harm?

The Practice Principles were commissioned by DfE to respond to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.

The Principles recognise that child exploitation and extra-familial harm, though often overlapping, are not interchangeable terms. Child exploitation can include harm that is both intra and extra-familial in nature, whilst extra-familial harm can include other forms of harm beyond those classified as child exploitation.

The Practice Principles promote a holistic response that recognises the potential presence of different and multiple forms of harm in children and young people's lives.

Though commissioned to focus on child exploitation and extra-familial harm, the Practice Principles are relevant to other forms of harm that children and young people experience.

Which children and young people do the Practice Principles apply to?

The Practice Principles are deliberately relevant to all children and young people on the basis that any child or young person can experience child exploitation and/or extra-familial harm, and many do without our knowledge.

Those affected by child exploitation or extra-familial harm are due the same rights and protections as other children and young people, though the complexities and presentation of child exploitation and extra-familial harm can mean that responses sometimes undermine the realisation of their rights to support and protection.

The Principles may also be useful to those working with young adults facing exploitation; although the legislative frameworks differ, many of the needs young people have extend into adulthood.

How were the Practice Principles developed?

The Practice Principles draw on the learning and expertise that already exists and, as such, should feel familiar.

Adopting an evidence-informed approach they draw upon:

- The published research base
- The insight and wisdom of professionals from across children’s safeguarding partnerships and beyond including:
 - Learning from the first three years of the TCE Programme (2019-22)
 - TCE Practice Principles consultation held June-November 2022
- The expertise by experience held by children, young people, parents, carers, families and communities.

<p>Who did you talk to during consultation?</p>	<p>The TCE team ran open-access consultation events and focus groups between June-November 2022 for professionals, reaching all nine English regions.</p> <p>Overall, TCE consulted with 752 professionals across policing and criminal justice agencies, health, children’s social care, education, central government and national agencies, and charity and voluntary organisations and agencies.</p> <p>The TCE team also ran dedicated focus groups and interviews, speaking directly with 203 children and young people and 39 parents and carers. This included children and young people with a diverse range of experiences and expertise: their lived experience of child exploitation or extra-familial harm included being harmed directly; knowing a family member or friend who has suffered harm, or living in a community where exploitation and extra-familial harm is prevalent.</p>
<p>Do the Practice Principles impose any new duties or requirements on local areas?</p>	<p>The Practice Principles are non-statutory guidance and do not impose any new requirements on children’s safeguarding partnerships.</p> <p>The Principle focus on behaviours that underpin an effective response to child exploitation and extra-familial harm. As such, they offer ways of working to strengthen responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.</p> <p>The Principles are intended to act as a compass rather than a map to support professionals and partnerships navigate the complexity of these types of harm.</p>
<p>What is the link between the Practice Principles and inspection?</p>	<p>The Practice Principles are non-statutory guidance and as such do not form a formal part of any regulatory or inspection framework.</p> <p>All current inspection frameworks and guidance were considered as part of scoping the Practice Principles to ensure they clearly align to the expectations on local safeguarding partnerships.</p> <p>Ofsted, HMICFRS, HMIP, and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel all directly contributed to the development of the Practice Principles, as did the Association of Directors of Children’s Services, the Youth Justice Board the National Police Chief’s Council, The College of Policing and NHS England.</p>

<p>How do these Practice Principles fit in with local strategies / national strategies</p>	<p>No one set of local circumstances are the same as the next, and there isn't a single 'answer' for what to do to tackle child exploitation or extra-familial harm. The Practice Principles therefore are not prescriptive.</p> <p>The Practice Principles are high-level rather than step-by-step guidance and should complement current local working arrangements while accommodating any future guidance.</p>
<p>How are the Practice Principles being implemented nationally?</p>	<p>The Practice Principles will be taken forward locally by safeguarding partnerships.</p> <p>The six supporting resources to support local implementation, along with wider open-access resources, will remain available on the TCE microsite until March 2026.</p>
<p>Will the Practice Principles be evaluated?</p>	<p>No. The Practice Principles are non-statutory guidance and their use will, necessarily, look different across the country.</p> <p>Safeguarding partnerships may wish to look locally at impact which is meaningful to them.</p> <p>All efforts to share insights, learning and expertise across professionals, agencies and organisations involved in responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm is to be welcomed.</p>
<p>How could I use these Practice Principles in my local area?</p>	<p>Apply the Practice Principles in your own context. Share widely with your multi-agency partners and at all levels</p> <p>Use the accompanying resources to support you, your colleagues, and your partnership to collectively strengthen and align your multi-agency response to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.</p>
<p>Is there any funding/ new resource attached to these Principles?</p>	<p>There is no funding attached to the Practice Principles.</p> <p>The Practice Principle are non-statutory guidance. They build on existing strengths, resources and skills across the sector and focus on what is within the professional's and partnership's gift to enact: the behaviours that underpin responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.</p>

<p>Where can I access the Practice Principles and accompanying resources?</p>	<p>There is no funding attached to the Practice Principles.</p> <p>The Practice Principle are non-statutory guidance. They build on existing strengths, resources and skills across the sector and focus on what is within the professional's and partnership's gift to enact: the behaviours that underpin responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.</p>
<p>Complaints</p>	<p>If you have any concerns about the Programme or the development of the Practice Principles, please contact: ask@researchinpractice.org.uk.</p>

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