

# Tackling Child Exploitation

Darran Hope – Service Lead Children and Families and HOTH

# Tees Harm Outside of the Home Strategy 2024 - 2027



## Vision

**Our Vision is for children and young people across Tees to be safe from harm outside of their homes.**

## Definition

Harm Outside of the Home is:

- **Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSA&E)**
- **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**
- **Online Exploitation**
- **Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

In addition, risks associated with:

- Missing from home, care or education
- Radicalisation and Extremism
- Serious Youth Violence



## Aim and Priorities

**Our aim is to create safety for young people by:**

1. Having a **consistent** approach to harm outside of the home across Tees
2. Identify and take action to prevent harm as **early** as possible
3. Improving our **understanding** of harm outside of the home
4. **Protecting** children from harm outside of their home

## Core Principles

Putting children and young people at the heart of decision-making; learning from their voice and experience

Being strengths and relationship-based.

Supporting and engaging parents and caregivers as partners

Being curious, evidence-informed and knowledgeable

Creating safer spaces and places for children and young people; disrupting the

Recognising and responding to trauma

Recognising and challenging inequalities, exclusion, and discrimination

Creating a transitional safeguarding approach with our colleagues in the adult care sector; as we recognise that the risk of exploitation does not cease at 18 years of age

# HARM OUTSIDE THE HOME (HOTH)TEAM

## What we do:

### Information & Intelligence Gathering and Early Identification

- **Daily police intelligence review:**  
HOTH attends the daily Police Partners District Meeting, reviewing incidents, information and intelligence from the previous 24 hours to identify emerging risks.
- **Multi-agency intelligence triage:**  
HOTH chairs a daily multi-agency triage, considering intelligence from PPDM, missing-from-home episodes, screening tools, CHUB dashboard requests and partner information.
- **Early identification of risk:**  
Intelligence-led discussions enable early identification of children and young people vulnerable to exploitation and extra-familial harm.
- **Partnership working with CHUB:**  
HOTH works closely with CHUB, making referrals where required, contributing to decision-making, sharing intelligence on persons and locations of concern, and attending CHUB Strategy Meetings.
- **Tasking and screening activity:**  
HOTH tasks appropriate actions, screens concerns, and completes HOTH Screening Tools where needed to inform proportionate and timely responses.

# HARM OUTSIDE THE HOME (HOTH)TEAM

## How we do it:

### **Real-time intelligence sharing:**

HOTH shares new information and intelligence with locality teams and allocated workers all day, every day, with updates recorded on children's case records.

### **Daily multi-agency triage:**

All screening tools are reviewed through daily multi-agency HOTH triage. Where required, an Initial HOTH Meeting is convened to assess risk of exploitation/extra-familial harm and agree actions.

### **Wraparound and targeted intervention:**

All HOTH cases remain open to Social Care, Early Help or YJS. HOTH acts as part of the multi-agency care team, wrapping around existing pathways with a focus on exploitation, disruption and risk reduction.

### **Flexible multi-agency engagement:**

HOTH attends existing meetings (e.g. TAF, Core Groups, Care Team Meetings) or convenes stand-alone HOTH Review Meetings,

### **National Referral Mechanism (NRM):**

HOTH is responsible for completing and submitting NRMs and acts as the single point of contact (SPOC).

### **Contextual safeguarding and mapping:**

HOTH completes mapping of peer groups, persons of concern and locations of concern to inform disruption activity and risk management.

# Adolescent team

The team comprises of 1 Team Manager and 5 Social Workers who work directly with young people, and their families to empower and enable them to address presenting needs.

A key responsibility is keeping young people safe from harm. This includes:

- Identifying risks of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or radicalisation
- Working under child protection legislation and local safeguarding procedures
- Developing and reviewing safety or protection plans
- Coordinating with police, health, education, and other professionals

## **Interventions:**

The Team deliver interventions around healthy relationships, consent, online safety, exploitation awareness and empowering young people to make informed safe choices. Emotional support is embedded throughout using trauma informed practice, offering a safe space for young people to talk, process experiences, and develop coping strategies.

# HARM OUTSIDE THE HOME (HOTH)TEAM

## Contextual Safeguarding/POC/LOC

### Person and Location of Concern:

- HOTH triages locations and/or persons of concern on a daily basis, If/when required, HOTH completes Location Assessments
- Attendance at JAG - Provide to JAG the identified Locations and Persons of Concern requiring disruption management on a monthly basis. HOTH will include a summary of exploitation risk concern and note identified contextual safeguarding opportunities to disrupt the risk identified.
- Monthly HOTH POC & LOC Meetings (well-attended by a variety of key partner agencies) during which People and Locations of concern are discussed, disruption opportunities and tactics are agreed and the relevant agency is tasked. The POC & LOC Meeting then reviews progress until disruption is considered to have been positive/effective. Focus on Transitional safeguarding
- HOTH attend, and actively contribute to, Police-led Meetings such as TCG, MARSOC.HOTH put forward subjects/targets for consideration at these meetings if/when needed.

**Examples of Disruption:** intelligence tasking, licensing/trading standards visits, leaflets, premises closures, civic enforcement/NP patrols, youth outreach; escalated via **JAG** and **MARSOC** for high-risk contexts.

# HARM OUTSIDE THE HOME (HOTH)TEAM

## 24/25 Data

- **Demand is high but targeted:** 209 referrals into HOTH over 2025; 99 children active at some point (105 episodes). 58 became active at **significant/strong risk**; 50 were active at year-end.
- **Risk profile:** Predominantly **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**; **74% male** (37/50) at year-end; **18%** (9/50) involved CSE or dual CCE/CSE.
- **405** POC triaged → **146** assessed (**36%** conversion). **56** required Level 3/4 disruption. **53** closed with risk reduced (**95%** success).
- **118** LOC triaged → **36** assessed (**31%** conversion). **14** required Level 3/4 disruption; **100%** closed with risk reduced.
- **Workforce/capacity pressure:** HOTH currently supports ~**60** children at significant/strong risk with **two coordinators**; maintaining 4-/8-weekly reviews is a challenge.
- **System changes bedding in:** Tees-wide HOTH procedures and new screening/triage tools went live **1 Apr 2025**; *LCS HOTH Pathway* introduced for better data capture.
- **74** children/YP closed to the Adolescent Team; reasons included **51% no longer in need after assessment**, **34% services ceased (including no longer in need)**, **13% referred to Early Help**, **1% SGO**, **1% transferred to Adults**.