

WISE (Working to Increase Safety in Exploitation) – TIDieR

Why?

Describe any rationale, theory, or goal of the elements essential to the intervention. What is the purpose of your intervention and what did you set out to achieve?

Research on child sexual exploitation (CSE) risk assessment tools had highlighted that assessments were missing cohorts of young people who are vulnerable to exploitation; oftentimes conflated risk with vulnerability; produced victim blaming language which narrowly focused on "risk taking" behaviors and were also employed differently by different partners for differing purposes.

Our rationale for choosing to focus on risk assessment tools came from a wider discussion around how we are responding to exploitation; from research (Franklin et al., 2018; Hallett et al, 2019) into the efficacy of CSE risk assessments which "frequently linked the behaviors of a young person to the abuse they experienced."

In order to meet the challenges around recognizing, recording and responding to exploitation; the WISE group was formed to produce a multi-agency response which would be contextual in approach and not singularly focused on the risks a young person may experience.

The main goal for this intervention is to create an approach that would enable exploitation services, or wider services responding to young people's needs, to focus on "creating safety" and improving well being rather than seeking to reduce risk.

The outcome of this aim would be to provide or create greater aspiration around a "positive outcome" for a child or young person.

A strengths based, future focused approach to working with young people and families.

Who With?

Which group/demographic is the intervention aimed at? How will these people be identified/referred? How many can receive the intervention at any one time?



The assessment and intervention consists of working with professionals [social workers, police & third sector partners] to inform practice with young people (broadly aged between 11yrs and 18 yrs) who are being exploited or targeted for exploitation.

Professionals completing the assessment will be experienced social workers who understand the impact of trauma, adolescent development, exploitation and context on young people, however other professionals may support the assessment process. They will be compiled by professionals who have completed specific training for completing the assessment prior to undertaking it.

Young people being exploited or groomed for exploitation are often adolescents, but expected to be between the ages of 11-18 yrs, however there may be exceptions to this, especially in cases where children have disabilities or are looked after.

While the intervention will be delivered in Greater Manchester only, it is not designed to be geographically based and therefore would be able to be lifted and used in other locations.

What?

Describe what will be done with the recipients. The activities of the intervention. Attach or refer to any relevant materials or procedures that are required for delivery.

Different versions of the intervention will be piloted, with the intervention being continually refined. To begin with, two versions will be piloted in two different local authorities. Central to both versions of the intervention, is taking strengths based, systemic and future focused approach to working with young people and families.

In more detail, this will aim to encourage the assessment process to:

- Focus on safety rather than risk
- Involve more reflection on the part of the social worker
- Take into account the role of the perpetrator more than previous tools
- Take into account the different demographic characteristics and identities of young people more and how intersecting identities may influence how they young person is responded to by professionals
- Increase the sense of professional accountability, encouraging social workers to consider how their decisions may influence the child's safety
- Shift from passive recording to a more active model
- Involve a (brief) narrative based assessment rather than a simplistic coding (high/medium/low risk)

Stockport version



In Stockport, the pilot intervention will be delivered through a new template which embodies these above characteristics, and facilitates

There are five components to the form:

- 1) Training delivered to social-workers and supporting professionals. The precise format has yet to be defined, but will begin with a one-to-one online mentoring approach that focuses on both theoretical and practical elements of the new approach, including the use of a new template form template. This will be in addition to existing complex safeguarding training. A package will be developed, tailored to the local area.
- 2) The new form template (“Working title”) that embodies the above principles. This will be completed by the social worker, with relevant input from the young person and other key stakeholders.
- 3) Support planning. Following the completion of the new form template, a detailed support plan will be developed by the social worker.
- 4) There will also be a narrative based assessment which identifies if the young person is experiencing abuse or exploitation, whether they are at risk of abuse or exploitation or whether there is no known risk/or the risk is manageable.
- 5) Stability will also be assessed in regards to the young person’s systemic needs (from a professional perspective). This will include a narrative about the level of stability experienced in the home, school environments and the professionals working with the young person.

Who by?

The dynamic meeting will consist of multi-agency professionals (social workers, police, health & third sector partners, education where possible) to inform practice with young people (broadly aged between 11yrs and 18 yrs) who are being exploited or targeted for exploitation. The meeting is not a duplication of a meeting, but an attachment to existing processes.

Professionals completing the tool, which is the product of the meeting (the data capture), will be experienced social workers who understand the impact of trauma, adolescent development, exploitation and context on young people, however other professionals may support the assessment process. They will be completed by professionals who have completed specific training for completing the assessment prior to undertaking it.

Though adopting differing approaches, Salford and Stockport are underpinned by the same key theories and projected outcomes. They are aligned to one another. The process of delivery is different.



Salford's objectives embody those characteristics listed above, and facilitates the same five components being met as Stockport (also referred to above).

For the initial pilots, the training to the professionals will be provided by the WISE team.

For the roll out, following the initial pilot, regional infrastructure will be used that goes beyond the individual local authorities. For example, the police force acts as a boundary for Greater Manchester. There will be a train-the-trainer model, in which the WISE team will train people to be able to sustain it locally.

The core WISE team is made up of a working partnership between Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding Hub, The Children's Society and Listen Up (Listen Up coordinates the partnership on behalf of the WISE's core members). The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse supported the initial practice based research element to WISE.

The WISE partnership will design the initial training. The CS hub, going forward, will provide the training, keep it updated, and quality assurance of the implementation of the model.

The hub consists of practitioners who are experts in the field and have an overview of contemporary practice and current trends.

How?

Describe the mode of delivery, such as; in-person, by phone, online etc and if it is provided 1-2-1 or in groups.

As outlined above, for the pilot, the training will be delivered online as a group and one-to-one, local authority based sessions will also be provided to answer questions and explore progress. There is not a concrete plan for how the training will be delivered beyond the pilot phase, as the aim is to tailor it to the needs of the individual areas.

Materials

Describe any informational or other materials used during the intervention.

Stockport version



- The 'Keeping Young People Safe: Pen Picture/Passport' tool and assessment developed by WISE, which will be used in practice
- Written summary guidance to provide support to trained professionals implementing the new approach
- Training resource

Stockport version

- RISE meetings (the dynamic meeting) template and subsequent pen picture will be developed by WISE, which will be used in practice
- Written summary guidance to provide support to trained professionals implementing the new approach
- Training resource (as above)

Where?

Describe the location and any relevant features, such as; access, privacy and availability of child care.

The initial phase of the project involves trialling our approach with two similar interventions, in Stockport and Salford. The intervention is designed to be delivered within existing teams working with CSE and complex safeguarding.

The training will be delivered online but due to the highly sensitive nature of the potential discussions, both parties will be given guidance to be based in locations where others would not be able to over-hear the discussion.

Both LAs will be responsible for providing secure formats for discussions given the sensitive and confidential nature of the topic area. Personal/identifying information will not be shared with WISE.

Paper versions of the form will be completed by the social worker working with the young person. The data from these forms will then be entered into the local authorities and will be embedded into their integrated children's systems (ICS). This facilitates the secure storage of the document which should be kept confidential.

In terms of participation and third party confidentiality, a key priority is how and where we include parents and young people's ability to be at the forefront of this process. This will form part of the training delivered to professionals.

When and How Much?



Specify how often, for how long and over what duration the activity will last.

Based on current approaches to working with young people in the context of complex safeguarding a RISE meeting or WISE form would be completed early on in the intervention with the young person and then at approx 3 monthly intervals or if there is a significant event or a change in circumstances. The approach is about systems change and will last the duration of the services' involvement.

Tailoring?

Describe how the intervention can be adapted to the needs of service users and which aspects would be delivered with some consistency from one service user to the next.

The approach is framed around the seven principles of effective service design (RiP, 2018) This approach underpins Complex Safeguarding's approach.

These are:

- 1) Young people should be at the centre; their developmental needs and their strengths must drive our response
- 2) Context matters; young people need a holistic approach
- 3) Exploitation is complex therefore the response cannot be linear or simple
- 4) No agency can address exploitation in isolation, collaboration is essential
- 5) Knowledge is crucial
- 6) Communities and families are valuable assets and may also need support
- 7) Equip and support the workforce; effective services require resilient practitioners

Central to the approach is taking into account the demographic characteristics and identities of the children and young people, so we would expect a high degree of tailoring by social workers for each young person based on their intersecting identities and needs.

Further, as outlined above, WISE is piloting multiple approaches (initially two), and aiming to continue to adjust the intervention as it goes through the piloting process. The aim is to have a newly adapted model ready for further testing in 2021.



Monitoring?

Describe how the delivery of the intervention will be monitored, for example, consider if anything will be documented after a session.

We are working with What Works for Children's Social Care to develop a pilot evaluation methodology that we will employ to iteratively learn and refine our intervention, to ensure that it meets the agreed aspirations for the family.

We will produce a report of initial findings of the pilot in March 2021. This will lead to a further evaluation of possible outcomes and impact over a longer period of time and in relation to implementation.