

Exploitation and Risk Panel (ERP)

Purpose

The Exploitation and Risk Panel (ERP) is a multi-agency panel working to safeguard young people and vulnerable adults from exploitation and extra-familial risk. Alongside this, the ERP also coordinates interventions to disrupt and safeguard those that may be at risk of and/or causing harm to young people. Extra-familial risks include criminal exploitation (county lines), sexual exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour, serious youth violence and going missing from home/care.

For the purposes of the ERP, a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18. Though there will not be an upper age limit on those who are discussed at the ERP, as it is recognised that vulnerabilities can often continue into adulthood and in order to effectively intervene with those causing harm, it is vital that there is not an age limit for the ERP.

As well as looking at individuals, the ERP will also have a focus on peer/group networks and the contexts that facilitate harm to young people and vulnerable adults.

The ERP quality assures, monitors and evaluates existing safeguarding measures taken by organisations and facilitates interventions to reduce and prevent harm.

The ERP will inform the Exploitation and Risk Strategic Panel, which has strategic oversight of exploitation and extra-familial risks. The Exploitation and Risk Strategic Panel will provide a strategic response to the themes identified by the ERP.

Aims

The ERP aims to:

- Bring together relevant professionals from across the partnership to work together to keep young people and vulnerable adults safe from exploitation and extra-familial risk.
- Have a focus on transitional safeguarding to ensure young people receive the right support as they enter adulthood.
- Reduce siloed thinking by bringing together existing separate safeguarding panels.
- Support the operational delivery of Waltham Forest's violence reduction partnership, in relation to serious youth violence.
- Co-ordinate and track activity around identified young people and networks, ensuring information is shared across the partnership where relevant.
- Identify strategic issues, themes and patterns emerging from analysis of current cases and raise through appropriate channels including the Exploitation and Risk Strategic Panel.
- Develop links with agencies in other local authorities to assist cross borough work and intelligence sharing.

Referral Process

Referrals to the ERP are made via the MASH referral form (request for support and protection).

Referrers should, where possible, explain to young people and their parents/carers why an ERP referral is being made and seek the views of the young person and parents to contribute to the meeting

The referral deadline for referrals is one week before the ERP. Any referrals received after the deadline will be added to the agenda of the following ERP.

Information Sharing

The ERP shares information about young people and vulnerable adults who are at risk of harm and as such, information must be shared between relevant agencies to help keep them safe.

Information sharing about children, young people and adults can be based on the legal authority of:

- Children Act 1989
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Care Act 2014
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Human Rights Act 1998
- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018 Article 6(1)(e)

Where relevant, information will be shared with other risk management meetings such as ASBRAC, MARAC and Chanel Panel to ensure full safety planning takes place.