

Quick Reference Guide (QRG)

Child Exploitation, Missing Operational Group (CEMOG) Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Child Exploitation and Missing Operational Group (CEMOG) is a multi-agency forum which seeks to identify and respond to trends, patterns and local intelligence in relation to all forms of exploitation and missing to children and young people up to the age of 25 years. CEMOG is managed and administered through the Partnership Exploitation and Missing Hub.

CEMOG will ensure that all available resources are deployed in response to known exploitation hotspots in order to disrupt and limit opportunities for exploitation to take place and to safeguard children and young people.

CEMOG will support the development and implementation of interventions where there are links across one or more individuals and/or place. In addition, CEMOG may commission a complex strategy meeting where there is a step up from a professionals meeting and/or deeper analysis and a more intensive response is required.

A case will require a complex strategy meeting when there are groups of young people involved and need to share intelligence with a wider group of partners and formulate a safety/disruption and support plan. *This meeting would be required when a professionals' meeting with relevant partners in attendance conclude there are significant safeguarding issues that warrant a complex strategy meeting to be convened.* A complex strategy meeting may also be called to respond due to cross border interaction and intelligence needs to be shared more widely with regional partners. This will be convened by the Children's Safeguarding Manager with information made available from the professionals who gathered the evidence/intelligence including lead professionals.

CEMOG does not replace any existing systems or procedures for the investigation of child protection concerns or planning for the safeguarding of individual children/young people.

Confidentiality

Any agency in attendance or in receipt of information will be signed up to the local Information Sharing Protocol. All members will sign or agree to a confidentiality form at the start of each meeting stating:

- *All information discussed is strictly confidential and must not be disclosed to third parties. All documents circulated in connection with the meeting are to be considered restricted documents and must not be disclosed to third parties.*
- *The retention of all documentation in a secure location is the responsibility of the receiving agency. If disclosure is sought to a third party, then permission must be received from the Chair of the meeting.*
- *The disclosure of information outside of the CEMOG meeting will be deemed to be a breach of the subject's confidentiality and a breach of the confidentiality of the agencies involved. It may be considered an offence under the Data Protection Act*

CEMOG aims to focus primarily on actions related to PERPETRATORS/PERSON'S OF INTEREST and LOCATIONS, with Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Meetings focusing and managing risk with individual VICTIMS.

Perpetrators:

- Individuals believed to be harming children through activities relating to all forms of Exploitation. This can include adults and other young people.

Persons of Interest:

- Individuals raised through intelligence, multi-agency child exploitation meetings and/or partnerships as a person suspected of causing harm to children through activities relating to all forms of exploitation.

Areas of exploitation CEMOG will focus on:

- Sexual/criminal exploitation including county lines, slavery and trafficking: CEMOG will consider other relevant forms of exploitation and gangs where there are parallels with exploitation and gang activity.
- Modern Slavery: Young people who are at risk of sexual/criminal exploitation will be considered as a victim of Human Trafficking and therefore would require a National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Scope

- Share information and intelligence about individuals considered to be harming children through activities relating to exploitation.
- Direct partnership intelligence collection and/or disruption actions regarding locations and individuals who are believed to be harming children through activities related to exploitation.
- Agree individual actions to disrupt exploitation at each monthly meeting.
- Partners share intelligence using the partnership information report (PIR) and CEMOG email inbox to add and contribute to the agenda.
- Police will provide oversight of on-going criminal investigations and civil injunctions to ensure interventions reflect the risk of harm and vulnerability.
- Partners provide disruption tactics alongside police investigation processes.
- Understand and disrupt networks and connections between victims, perpetrators and locations leading to:
 - Increased identification of potential victims
 - Increased identification of potential perpetrators
 - Increased preventative disruptive action at locations considered vulnerable to exploitation activity
- Understand and respond to existing and developing trends and themes such as models of exploitation, grooming methods, links to other areas and modes of transport, which contribute to:
 - A fuller understanding of the exploitation picture in the area, through activities such as taking responsibility for the problem profile action plan, mapping exercises, auditing exercises.
 - Direction of disruptive activity
 - Direction of preventative and pro-active action and awareness raising
- Consider and share the local and regional strong associations that have been identified between different forms of sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, gangs, missing episodes and child trafficking.

- Discuss and escalate cases to the Exploitation Priority Group where safeguarding activity is not effective or where there are barriers to safeguarding children at risk of or experiencing exploitation.

Criteria for inclusion on CEMOG agenda:

Although CEMOG's agenda will focus on locations, perpetrators and offenders there may be occasions where children missing who are at risk of exploitation may also be brought to CEMOG – where risks are not able to be sufficiently managed at MACE.

Child Exploitation (CE) Victims – A CE victim should only be presented at CEMOG if:

- Cases are identified as particularly complex; multiple victims, links to numerous offenders, locations and/or the victim is being exploited through more than one form of exploitation (sexual/criminal, slavery/trafficking, gangs).
- If there is an investigation in relation to CE.
- Cases where safeguarding activity is not effective in achieving the required reduction in risk or where there are barriers to safeguarding.
- A young person placed out of area or placed within Wolverhampton with identified CE/missing risks causing significant cross border concerns.
- Young person is being trafficked for the purpose of exploitation.

Missing Victims – A missing young person should only be raised as part of the CEMOG agenda if:

- There are numerous locations, perpetrators and/or other victims identified/involved.
- The missing person has a safety plan in place which is not effective and the young person goes missing frequently where the risk is medium- high (frequently is defined as 3 or more times within a month).
- One episode of 3 or more days where there are concerns of Exploitation.
- Young people from a different Local Authorities placed in Wolverhampton and frequently associating with Wolverhampton young people and locations.
- Wolverhampton young people placed out of area where there are missing concerns with links to exploitation, locations and perpetrators.
- There are concerns the young person is a victim of Human Trafficking.

Locations – A location should only be added to the CMOG agenda if:

- The location has been shared through intelligence, multi-agency child exploitation meetings and/or partnerships (Social Care, Police, Health, Education and any partners who share intelligence relating to young people) where there is a suspicion of CE activity taking place.
- The location has been shared from another authority as a concern.

Referring a child or young person to CMOG:

Partners will be able to add any information relating to perpetrators/persons of interest and locations to the CEMOG agenda by adding intelligence to the agenda template below. Any items not sent through in this format will be challenged.

All intelligence can be sent through to CMOG@secure.wolverhampton.gov.uk to ensure they are discussed at the pre CEMOG meeting and appear on the final agenda, professionals are expected to discuss any referrals to CEMOG with their CEMOG representative or manager. The Multi-agency Child Exploitation (MACE) chair is responsible for referring any agenda items relating to perpetrators/persons of interest and locations discussed at MACE. Information and any actions from the CEMOG relating to MACE cases will be shared within individual MACE meetings with professionals.

If professionals become aware of any intelligence or information in between meetings, consider:

- Criminal activity - should be reported to the Police using 101 or 999 in an emergency.
- Safeguarding concerns - should be reported to Children’s Services following the usual safeguarding procedures.
- Information or intelligence relating to victims, offenders or locations - should be shared using the Partnership Information Report (when completing the information reports try to include names, ages, DOB’s, dates, descriptions, car registrations, addresses).

Victims, perpetrators/persons of interest and locations will only be removed from CEMOG agenda once the panel are satisfied that appropriate action has been/is being undertaken to address the concern identified. The removal of victims, offenders and locations from CEMOG will be clearly documented citing the reason for the removal and actions completed, this information should be shared with the referrer through their individual agency representative.

Please note: CEMOG aims to focus primarily upon actions related to PERPETRATORS/PERSON'S OF INTEREST and LOCATION, with Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Meetings focusing and managing risk with individual VICTIMS.

Perpetrators/Locations will be sent to CEMOG where discussed at MACE (and these will be added to the next CEMOG agenda.

Representation at CEMOG

West Midlands Police: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Protection Unit (Hub Rep.) • CID (Hub Rep.) • Locate (Hub Rep.) • NPU (Chair) 	Children’s Social Care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Manager from CYPIC, CIN or CP Team and/ or Head of Service 	Relevant Health (physical, sexual, mental) Professionals
Chair of MACE	Exploitation Hub Manager	Education Safeguarding (missing or absent from education including links with PRU’s)
Representative from the Community Safety Team/Partnership	Local Authority Regulatory & Enforcement Services (taxi and licensing)	Voluntary/community sector
Housing	Youth Offending Service (Hub Rep.)	Partnership Exploitation Strategic Lead
Power 2		

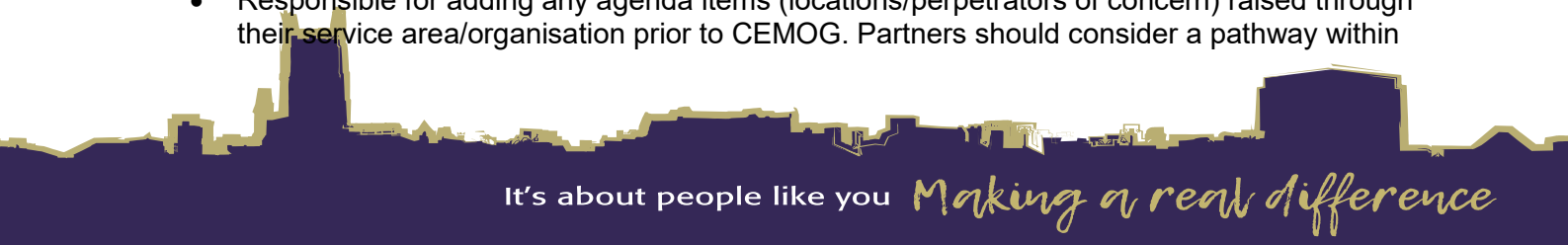
***Ad hoc/ virtual members:**

Other agencies may be required to attend on a case by case basis. They will receive a copy of the agenda and will provide the chair with any relevant information or intelligence by secure email in advance of the meeting. Their personal attendance at the meeting is at the discretion of the chair/co-chair and will be agreed with them in advance:

- Probation
- Providers (residential/supported accommodation)
- LA Commissioning team (LAC placements)
- Fire Service

Expectations from CEMOG Representatives:

- Responsible for adding any agenda items (locations/perpetrators of concern) raised through their service area/organisation prior to CEMOG. Partners should consider a pathway within



their individual service area/organisation on how colleagues can share agenda items with their CEMOG representative.

- To submit all referrals in writing prior to the meeting with a synopsis of the information (referral form attached).
- To have attended the multi-agency CE and Missing training. This is to ensure that partners have sufficient knowledge and understanding to be able to contribute meaningfully to CEMOG and to suggest disruptive and safeguarding actions which may be available to their team/organisation.
- To ensure that where possible the same representative attends each meeting. CE and missing are complex safeguarding issues and maintaining consistent representation ensures actions can be set and reviewed with all partners having a detailed understanding of cases and actions. On occasions when you are unable to attend, please nominate an appropriate replacement who can provide updates on existing actions, offer and agree new actions, provide information on the victims, offenders and locations on the agenda.
- It is the responsibility of the representative who attends to disseminate actions set at CEMOG to the appropriate members of their team and for ensuring these actions are completed within the agreed timescale. In their absence, this is the responsibility of the nominated replacement/representative. Incomplete actions delay the safeguarding of victims and the disruption of offenders.
- For CEMOG to be effective and to avoid the delay of actions, it is imperative that prior to the meeting, partners will have checked the agenda for victims, offenders and locations known to their agency and attend prepared to contribute and share their information and offer any action they may be able to undertake.
- Partners should be in a position/role which enables them to offer and agree actions which can be undertaken by their team/agency.
- Members of CEMOG will be required to contribute to the multi-agency quality assurance process which is designed to understand effectiveness of the whole system approach to exploitation. This may be involved in dip sampling and case audits.

Accountability

CEMOG will report to the local Exploitation Priority Group quarterly, to inform members of local exploitation profile and any challenges or successes to inform appropriate strategic action and commissioning for exploitation services.