

Navigating Complexity: Practice Principles for child exploitation and extra-familial harm

Join us for this exciting opportunity to directly influence systems improvement

The Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Support Programme is a Department for Education (DfE) funded consortium programme led by Research in Practice with The Children's Society and the University of Bedfordshire. TCE has been commissioned to produce a set of Practice Principles that will support local multi-agency responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.

During June and July 2022, the TCE Programme team ran a series of online events and focus groups to consult with

professionals working in all roles, agencies and organisations. These views have informed the development of draft Practice Principles and accompanying resources (more on this below).

Now, we seek your views on the draft Practice Principles.

How can these support stronger multi-agency responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm?

Our events offer an opportunity for 'check and challenge', to reflect on insights from earlier events and explore how the Principles can be useful in your role.

Join us at an event!

We will host 9 regional multi-agency events to explore local and regional perspectives, plus agency and role-specific events to understand views through varied lenses. In all our events, we welcome diversity of thought, experience, different backgrounds and thought processes, to enrich feedback. Join us for the event most suitable for you.

If you are unable to make any of the publicised events and are keen to participate, please email: tceadmin@researchinpractice.org.uk. We are eager to hear from you.

Find out more about the FAQs

Consultation Events	Date	Time
Police Consultation Event	03/10/2022	11.00am - 12.30pm
Health Consultation Event	04/10/2022	11.00am - 12.30pm
Equality, diversity, inclusion Consultation Event	04/10/2022	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Participation Professionals Consultation Event	05/10/2022	1.00pm - 2.30pm
Education Consultation Event	06/10/2022	3.45pm - 5.15pm
London Regional Consultation Event	10/10/2022	11.00am - 12.30pm
North East Regional Consultation Event	11/10/2022	11.00am - 12.30pm
South East Regional Consultation Event	13/10/2022	11.00am - 12.30pm
West Midlands Regional Consultation Event	17/10/2022	11.00am - 12.30pm
East Midlands Regional Consultation Event	18/10/2022	11.00am - 12.30pm
Practitioners (parents/carers) Consultation Event	19/10/2022	1.00pm - 2.30pm
South West Regional Consultation Event	20/10/2022	11.00am - 12.30pm
North West Regional Consultation Event	31/10/2022	11.00am - 12.30pm
Eastern Regional Consultation Event	01/11/2022	11.00am - 12.30pm
Yorkshire and Humber Regional Consultation Event	03/11/2022	11.00am - 12.30pm

We are also offering role-specific focus groups - **please share widely with all colleagues interested in Child Exploitation and Extra Familial-Harm working in the following areas:**

Focus groups for colleagues involved in the following areas	Date	Time
Children's Homes	05/10/2022	10.00am - 11.30am
Early Help & Family Support	05/10/2022	3.00pm - 4.30pm
Youth Justice	06/10/2022	10.00am - 11.30am
Youth Work	11/10/2022	10.00am - 11.30am
Sports Coaches	12/10/2022	9.30am - 11.30am
Housing	12/10/2022	10.00am - 11.30am
Youth Justice	12/10/2022	3.00pm - 4.30pm
Youth Work	19/10/2022	10.00am - 11.30am
Early Help & Family Support	19/10/2022	3.00pm - 4.30pm

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What we have heard:

Between June and July 2022, TCE held 47 consultation events and focus groups open to professionals in all agencies and organisations, as well as with children, young people, parents, carers, and community organisations.

At these events we:

- Shared our thoughts on what the Practice Principles could offer once developed
- Presented initial ideas for the principles based on a rapid evidence scoping and TCE programme learning from years 1-3.
- Sought the expertise of participants to hear their views, insights, challenges, and guidance to help shape the development of the Practice Principles.

Event and workshop participants told us that our early ideas for multi-agency principles were broadly right, with some gaps and areas to more closely explore. We were told that the behavioural focus ('how' we do things, rather than 'what' we do) was good. We were told that the voices of children, young people, parents and carers and the experiences of minoritised groups must be integral to the development of the principles (we wholeheartedly agree and are hard at work on this.)

Now, we'd like to seek your views, insights, and expertise to make sure the draft Principles accurately reflect the feedback we received, and will be useful in creating more effective responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.

What are Practice Principles?

Practice Principles are high-level, accessible ideas designed to be relevant and applicable to those affected by and responsible for tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm. They will speak to senior strategic leaders, managers and practitioners working directly with children and young people. Parents, carers, children and young people should recognise these principles in the support they receive.

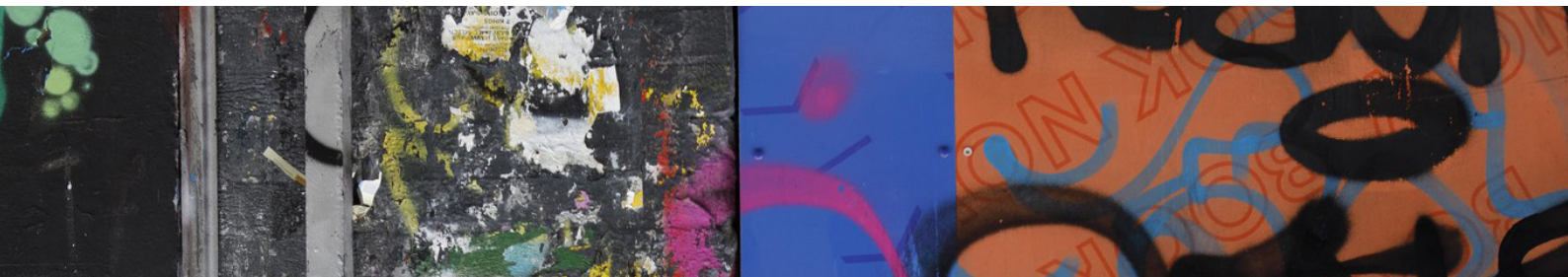
**Practice
Principles
How to get
involved**

The Practice Principles will:

- Help navigate complexity in day-to-day work
- Support effective multi-agency conversation and working
- Offer broad, high level ideas (as opposed to detailed step-by-step guidance) to maximise utility
- Be useful for everyone (all roles, all workplaces)
- Be behavioural (how we work together rather than what it is we do)
- Sustain utility over time
- Support local working agreements and add value to existing statute/guidance/policy

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Developing Practice Principles for those affected by and responsible for tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm.

Frequently Asked Questions

<p>What is the Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) 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. Exploitation is a type of child abuse, characterised by control, coercion and manipulation. Child exploitation can happen online or in person. Extra-familial harm refers specifically to forms of harm or abuse that happen outside of the family home, such as peer-on-peer abuse or harmful sexual behaviour. Learning from the first three years of the programme can be found on the TCE website.</p> <p>The DfE has recommissioned TCE for a fourth year, to March 23, to produce a set of Practice Principles that will support responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm. The Principles are being 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 Practice Principles will serve as the foundation on which local responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm are built. They will be high-level so they can be used by different groups and applied in different settings.</p> <p>They will be interlinked so that, by using them together, the Principles provide a coherent approach. The focus will be on ways of working that deepen understanding and connection rather than a prescribed pathway that must be followed.</p>

<p>Why do we need Practice Principles?</p>	<p>Tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm is challenging. There can be high levels of harm caused to those affected, and perpetrators are adept at staying one step ahead of those trying to disrupt. There are no easy answers about ‘what works’ and how to respond – there are different and competing demands to consider.</p> <p>Children and young people can be both victims and instigators of harm. It is their right to have their voices heard and this has to be balanced with safeguarding responsibilities. For those tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm, responding in a way that can hold the ‘both / and’ of these circumstances is difficult. The Practice Principles will set out ways of working that directly address these, and other challenges.</p>
<p>Who are the Practice Principles for?</p>	<p>The Practice Principles will be high-level to ensure they are relevant and applicable to those affected by and responsible for tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm. They will speak to senior strategic leaders and practitioners working directly with young people, regardless of role, agency or workplace. Parents, carers and young people should recognise these principles in the support they receive.</p>
<p>How will the Practice Principles be developed?</p>	<p>The TCE team is not starting with a blank piece of paper. The starting point is to draw on learning from research, professional wisdom and expertise from lived experience alongside three years of delivering the Programme.</p> <p>For example, themes like the importance of having a shared understanding of language and definitions, of including the voice of children, young people, parents and carers, and of equity, equality, diversity and inclusion were identified. In addition, hearing the views of those directly affected by and working to tackle child exploitation and extra-familial harm is central to the development of the Practice Principles, so a range of consultation activities with children, young people, parents, carers, communities and professionals are being carried out (see below).</p> <p>In this way, the development process will be evidence-informed and the principles will evolve as the result of feedback we receive through consultation. During October 2022, the Programme team will share a working draft of the principles and ask for feedback and reflection to ensure they respond to the real-world challenges faced by all those affected by child exploitation and extra-familial harm.</p>

<p>What do you mean by ‘evidence informed’?</p>	<p>Like all TCE work, development of the Practice Principles will be evidence-informed. This means the team will curate and reflect on evidence and research from multiple sources while drafting and refining the Principles.</p> <p>The evidence used to underpin the Principles and supporting resources will be drawn from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What we know from academic and published evidence, synthesised through TCE’s initial scoping review. • The insight and wisdom of agencies and organisations from across the statutory and voluntary sectors, which form and support children’s safeguarding partnerships and beyond. • The expertise by experience held by children, young people, parents, carers, families and communities.
<p>How can I get involved with the consultation process?</p>	<p>There are many ways to take part in consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join a multi-agency regional online event. • Fill out an online survey (open early October TBC). • Get in touch via the TCE website. • Join single agency online event or focus group. <p>The events, conversations and focus groups will all be conducted by experienced facilitators who will guide the discussion. There are no right or wrong answers; the aim is to hear your views and experiences.</p> <p>Bespoke consultation with children, young people, parents, carers and communities will also be undertaken by a dedicated team. For more information on this please email tceadmin@researchinpractice.org</p>
<p>What happens to the information?</p>	<p>Taking part is confidential and anonymous, with the exception of safeguarding disclosures (see safeguarding and disclosures). We will record the discussion (either in note form or via an audio recorder), but no names will be attached to the data so it will not be possible to identify contributors. It will also be important for participants at group events to agree to keep discussions confidential.</p> <p>The analysis will focus on the key themes used to develop the Practice Principles. If any quotes are used, care will be taken to ensure they illustrate points and do not identify any individual or service. Data will be stored securely in line with GDPR and deleted a year after the end of the Programme (March 2023).</p>

Safeguarding and disclosures	As with all consultation if, during the course of the activities any information is shared that suggests either unsafe professional practice or a risk of serious harm to a child or vulnerable adult, safeguarding measures will be followed. ³
Complaints	If you have any concerns about the Programme or its consultation activities, please contact the TCE team .
When will the Practice Principles be finalised?	<p>During June and July 2022, the TCE Programme team ran a series of online events and focus groups to consult with professionals working in all roles, agencies, and organisations. These views have informed the development of draft Practice Principles and accompanying resources.</p> <p>The draft version of the Practice Principles will be shared as part of the second round of consultation during October 2022, where we want to hear from you again! The Principles will then be finalised in December 2022. Between January and March 2023, the TCE team will launch the Principles and the accompanying resources. Please sign up to our newsletter to hear the latest TCE Programme news.</p>

¹TCE is a consortium led by Research in Practice, with The Children's Society and the University of Bedfordshire

²There are agreed legal and statutory definitions of [child sexual exploitation](#) and [modern slavery and human trafficking](#) (which also encompasses forced or compulsory labour). Child criminal exploitation (which includes county lines) is defined in the Serious Violence Strategy, but this is not legally binding.

³See TCE [safeguarding and disclosure policy](#).