



What information is needed as part of a multi-agency assessment?

Information about the person(s) of concern

As part of a comprehensive multi-agency assessment, it is essential to consider information about the person(s) of concern – the individual(s) who may pose a risk of harm to the child. A person of concern may be someone within the child's family, or part of their wider network (such as a peer, neighbour, practitioner or community member).

Considering the person(s) of concern can help you to:

- clarify **the nature of the relationship** between the child and that individual
- assess **the level and pattern of concern**, including any wider network of children who may also be affected
- inform immediate and longer-term safety planning for the child and others
- support appropriate disruption, safeguarding, and criminal justice responses
- identify opportunities to provide **early intervention or support** for children or young people who are displaying harmful behaviours. Where a person of concern is a child themselves, the multi-agency assessment must prioritise their needs as a child – so you will need information to help you understand the potential risks they pose and the support they need to reduce these risks.

If you are the social worker conducting a multi-agency assessment, the tables in this document indicate the relevant information about *each* person of concern that may already exist across different organisations. Incorporating this information into the assessment ensures that decisions are grounded in a clear picture of both the child's lived experience and the risks presented by those around them.

If you are a practitioner in another organisation, the tables show you the information that you can contribute to a multi-agency assessment in order to meet your safeguarding responsibilities.

These tables are part of our online resource [Sharing information to tackle child sexual abuse: An introductory guide for practitioners.](#)

Previous convictions, cautions or intelligence concerns, relating to sexual or non-sexual offending

This information provides important insight into patterns of behaviour and potential risks, even where the individual's previous convictions are not related to sexual offences.

Source of information	Who holds it?
Records of criminal convictions (sexual or non-sexual)	Police – held on the Police National Computer (PNC)
Records of police cautions (sexual or non-sexual)	Police – held on the Police National Computer (PNC)
Police intelligence (suspicions, allegations, or soft intelligence not resulting in a charge)	Police – held on the local force's intelligence system, and in some cases on the Police National Database (PND)
Youth offending history <i>(relevant if the person of concern is a child or had any contact with the youth justice service as a child)</i>	Youth justice service – held on the AssetPlus framework
Records of behaviour while on probation	Probation Service – held on the nDelius case management system
Records from the Prison Service and Youth Custody Service/youth secure estate (including offence history)	Prison Service and Youth Custody Service
Records of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)	Police, Probation Service and Prison Service jointly hold MAPPA records
Sexual offences notification requirements (sometimes referred to as the Sex Offender Register)	Police
Assessment or analysis of what these behaviours or offences mean in terms of current risk	Police or sometimes the Probation Service – held on the Offender Assessment System (OASys)

Concerning behaviour in current or previous relationships

Previous or ongoing behaviours such as emotional abuse, controlling actions, sexual harassment or exploitation may indicate an elevated risk of harm to a child. Including this information in an assessment helps you to identify recurring risk patterns, understand potential impacts on the child, and develop targeted safeguarding and protective interventions – whether the person of concern is within the family or part of the child’s wider social network.

Source of information	Who holds it?
Domestic abuse incident reports (current or historical)	Police – held on local police systems and, where relevant, on the Police National Database (PND)
Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare’s Law) information	Police – disclosure process managed by local force
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) records	MARAC coordinator (usually within local authority or police); shared with relevant organisations
Safeguarding records relating to relationship concerns (e.g. coercive control, harassment, stalking)	Children’s social care, adult safeguarding teams
Probation Service case notes (offender management records, risk assessments)	Probation Service – held on the nDelius case management system or the Offender Assessment System (OASys)
Prison records (behaviour in custody relevant to relationships)	Prison Service
Specialist domestic abuse service case files (including perpetrator programmes and survivor support)	Independent domestic violence adviser (IDVA) or independent sexual violence adviser (ISVA) services
Health service safeguarding notes (if disclosures of concerning behaviour have been made in medical settings)	GP, mental health services, midwives, health visitors
Notes recording concerns about a person’s behaviour as a child or young person	Youth justice service – held on the AssetPlus framework

Previous interventions or treatments for sexual behaviour

Reviewing past interventions helps you to understand which interventions have been completed and how well the person of concern has engaged with them. This enables more informed risk assessment, safeguarding planning, and targeted interventions, whether the person of concern is within the family or part of the wider network.

Source of information	Who holds it?
Records of interventions to address sexually harmful and offending behaviour	Specialist sexual behaviour intervention services (e.g. NSPCC, Lucy Faithfull Foundation, locally commissioned services), Probation service
AIM assessment (for children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour)	Youth justice service
Records of previous or current youth offending interventions for harmful sexual behaviour as a child	Youth justice service – held on the AssetPlus framework
Probation records (completion of accredited programmes such as Building Better Choices; information from polygraph tests)	Probation Service – held on the nDelius case management system
Prison records (completion of accredited programmes, therapy, or treatment in custody)	Prison Service
Notes from therapy or counselling where sexual behaviour concerns were addressed	Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), adult mental health services, independent therapists

Employment status and history

Considering a person's employment status and history is important because research and safeguarding guidance highlight that patterns in employment – such as instability, working in positions with access to children, or past employment-related concerns – can indicate potential risks or opportunities for harm (Hackett, 2014; Brandon et al, 2020). It can help you to assess exposure, monitor risk and plan protective measures, whether the person of concern is within the family or part of the child's wider social network.

Type of information	Who holds it?
Current employment status (employed, unemployed, self-employed, student)	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP); Jobcentre Plus; HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC); employer (HR records)
Employment history (previous roles, dates, gaps, dismissals)	Employers (HR/payroll records); HMRC (tax and NI contributions); professional registration bodies if relevant (e.g. Nursing & Midwifery Council, Health & Care Professions Council)
Current education or training if not employed	Colleges, universities, training providers; local authority (for young people in education/training)
Occupational health concerns affecting employment	Occupational health services; employer HR/health and safety departments
Disciplinary history in employment	Employers (HR records); professional regulatory bodies (if applicable)

Possible or diagnosed mental health difficulties

Many individuals convicted of sexual offences against a child or children report that they perpetrated their first offence at times of depression, anxiety and stress (Gillespie et al, 2018; Walker et al, 2018), which may have precipitated their offending. Understanding the presence, history and management of mental health difficulties helps you to assess potential risks, plan appropriate safeguarding measures, and coordinate support.

Source of information	Who holds it?
Mental health diagnoses (e.g. depression, anxiety, psychosis, eating disorders)	GP, child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), adult mental health services
Therapy or treatment records (e.g. counselling, psychotherapy, CBT)	CAMHS, adult mental health services, private therapists
Crisis intervention records (A&E visits, crisis team involvement)	Hospital records, mental health crisis team
Notes of mental health concerns recorded during social care assessments	Children's social care, Early Help teams
Specialist service assessments (neurodevelopmental, trauma-related, substance misuse co-occurrence)	Specialist health teams – e.g. autism/ADHD clinics, substance misuse services

Dependency on alcohol or substances

This is particularly important where the person of concern is part of the child's family network, as children who live in a household with someone who misuses alcohol or drugs are three times as likely to have been sexually abused as those who do not.

Source of information	Who holds it?
Therapy or treatment records (e.g. counselling, psychotherapy, CBT)	Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), adult or young person's substance misuse or mental health services, private therapists
Crisis intervention records (A&E visits, crisis team involvement)	Hospital records, mental health crisis team
School/college observations (changes in mood, engagement, attendance linked to mental wellbeing) if the person of concern is under 18	Designated Safeguarding Lead/Person (DSL/DSP)

Any previous experience(s) of trauma

If an individual has experienced trauma or abuse, this is **not** an indicator that they will go on to abuse others. However, there is evidence to suggest that traumatic experiences can influence the way individuals think, interact with others, regulate and respond to emotions, and control their behaviour in response to impulses/situations.

It is therefore important that any assessment relating to child sexual abuse considers whether the person of concern has experienced trauma, not least because this may affect their ability to engage with programmes to manage their behaviour.

Type of information	Who holds it?
Social care records (historical safeguarding concerns, child protection plans, looked-after status, records of abuse or neglect)	Children's social care, Early Help teams
Health service records (disclosures of trauma, injuries consistent with abuse, mental health presentations linked to trauma)	GP, hospital records, mental health services
Therapeutic service notes (counselling, trauma-focused therapy, play therapy)	Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), adult mental health services, independent therapists
Education safeguarding files (disclosures to staff, behavioural indicators, referrals to external organisations)	Designated Safeguarding Lead in school/college
Police records (crime reports, statements, intelligence related to victimisation)	Local police force, Police National Database (PND)
Youth justice records (trauma history relevant to offending behaviour assessments)	Youth justice service – held on the AssetPlus framework
Specialist support services (domestic abuse, sexual violence, exploitation, refugee/asylum support)	IDVA/ISVA services, rape crisis centres, trafficking/exploitation support organisations