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Youth Risk Panel Policy

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Department Responsible	MOSOVO		
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Senior Owner	DCI Harriet Spittles		
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Date Last Reviewed	05/06/2025	**Reviewed By**	DI Hayley Thurston

1. Introduction

This policy has been produced to document and clarify Northamptonshire Police's stance on the Youth Risk Panel which is the Potentially dangerous persons referral process for children – **under the age of 18 years old** – identified as appropriate for the programme. Children referred would ordinarily have been referred to the Potentially Dangerous Person Panel (PDP). (Please note that there is a separate policy, Terms of Reference and Force process for PDPs – which is aimed to review the risk and subsequent management of serious harm for individuals aged 18 or above).

This policy is not intended as a guide for how to risk assess or risk assess the children referred. This is a matter for the ongoing offending management and their supervision.

The College of Policing (CoP) have provided broad guidance for Forces for Potentially Dangerous Persons. It can be found here: Potentially dangerous persons | College of Policing

2. Legislative Compliance

Equality and Diversity concerns and issues have been considered to ensure compliance with current Equality Legislation and policies. All Equality, Diversity and Wellbeing considerations have been recorded in the accompanying Equality Impact Assessment (EWIA) which is stored within the Force Policy Library system.

GDPR, Data Protection and Freedom of Information issues have been considered. Adherence to this policy will therefore ensure compliance with all legislation and internal policies.

This policy has been subject to consultation as per the requirement in the Force's policy and procedure for policy.

3. Policy Statement

This policy will apply to referrals made into the Youth Risk Panel for consideration to be heard. Their potential adoption and any subsequent reviews.

4. Who *Should* be Heard at the Panel?

This policy and process follows in a similar vein to the Potentially Dangerous Person (PDP) process. Northamptonshire Police do not actively label and identify a child as 'potentially dangerous' therefore the Youth Risk Panel has been implemented. The PDP process looks to develop a stringent suspect strategy along rehabilitation and reoffending – the Youth Risk Panel process is intended to focus towards rehabilitation and effectively managing and

supporting the youth, whilst protecting local community interests.

Northamptonshire Police take the view that, if adopted at the Youth Risk Panel, it is wholly inappropriate for the child to be added to Visor for ongoing management. This will be managed within local Force systems, namely Niche under a management occurrence, which will avoid the requirement of Visor altogether.

For clarity – (taken from the College of Policing) a Potentially Dangerous Person is defined as:

Although not defined in statute, a Potentially Dangerous Person is an individual who is not currently managed under one of the three MAPPA categories but reasonable grounds exist for believing that there is a risk of them committing an offence or offences that will cause serious harm.

These types of individuals could benefit from active management and this may be by Police alone, or multiple agencies. There must, however, be a risk of the subject causing serious harm for their case to be managed. Examples of PDPs include;

- *an individual who is continually investigated for allegations of child sexual abuse but is never charged or never receives a civil order, but whom agencies still believe poses a serious risk of sexual harm to children*
- *a person charged with domestic abuse offences on a number of occasions against different partners but is never convicted of offences that would make them a MAPPA-eligible offender*

Whilst MOSOVO only manage sexual offenders, any individual can be referred as a PDP (providing they are at risk of causing serious harm) and initially given an Offender Manager from MOSOVO. This could be a domestic violence/abuse perpetrator who, whilst having been charged, has never been convicted or received a civil order and as such, has no active management to prevent further serious harm.

When looking at cases appropriate for the Youth Risk Panel the same criteria does apply as the PDP however examples of individuals may include the following:

- *an individual under 18yo with numerous allegations for sexual offences but is never charged or never receives a civil order, but whom agencies still believe poses a serious risk of sexual harm*
- *an individual under 18yo with numerous allegations of violent offences but is never charged or never receives a civil order, but whom agencies still believe poses a serious risk of sexual harm*

The criteria for adopting at the Youth Risk Panel is:

- Not managed in MAPPA
- No civil orders
- No active management in place – active management will be discussed at the Youth Risk Panel

- There is a potential risk of *serious harm*
- No MAPPA eligible convictions.

5. Initial Referrals

A referral form has been created for officers and staff to complete should they wish for a nominal to be heard at the panel. Please note this is a different form to the PDP referral; if the individual being referred is a youth the **Youth Risk Referral Form must be used** – subject to a complete PND and PNC check being completed first.

A child safeguarding referral (PPN) must be submitted for every Youth Risk Panel Referral form and the PPN occurrence number documented on the referral form.

This allows for the sharing of information between the key stakeholders outside of the organisation that will form part of the panel.

This form is then submitted via email to PDPReferrals@northants.police.uk by the referring officer.

The referral is reviewed by a DS within MOSOVO and an OM with consideration given to being taken to a panel.

The DS or Offender Manager (OM) assesses the referrals and if they meet the following criteria they are added to the agenda for the next panel.

The MOSOVO DI has the right to also send referrals to the panel if they deem it proportionate and necessary.

6. Preparing for the Youth Risk Panel

You will be expected to provide the panel with a short presentation around concerning behaviour, incidents, events or intelligence that may have led you (or your colleagues) to submit the referral. Think 'threat, harm and risk' and what quick or early intervention from an OM might look like to negate potential *serious harm*. You may also be asked to comment upon the status of an ongoing investigation as OIC, any legal considerations and whether the level of risk has changed since the referral was submitted.

If adopted at panel by MOSOVO, the nominal will be managed within MOSOVO by an Offender Manager for a minimum period of eight weeks. As such, the panel will discuss what an OM can do, positive action to be taken and the necessity of allocating an OM. You (or the OIC) will be expected to provide any relevant updates to the OM and complete any subsequent actions agreed at the panel.

There is also an option at the panel when MOSOVO adoption is not required however one of the other key agencies will take ownership of the individual due to support the can offer the individual/family.

In the event that you're unable to attend, please provide details for a representative happy to attend on your behalf and let us know in advance by way of email to: PDPReferrals@northants.pnn.police.uk – otherwise the referral may be withdrawn and the panel will not be able to proceed.

7. Youth Risk Panel Review

The Purpose of the Youth Risk Panel is:

- Identify and assess referrals to the Potentially Dangerous Persons Panel involving children.
- Provide a mechanism for offender management and safeguarding of children who are either a risk or at risk, particularly where there is no current case ownership.
- Apply problem-solving approaches to reduce both the risk posed by and to the individual.
- Where adopted, initiate an initial 8-week management period within MOSOVO, including a risk assessment.
- Facilitate a multi-agency approach to reduce victimization, reoffending, and escalation to MAPPA eligibility.

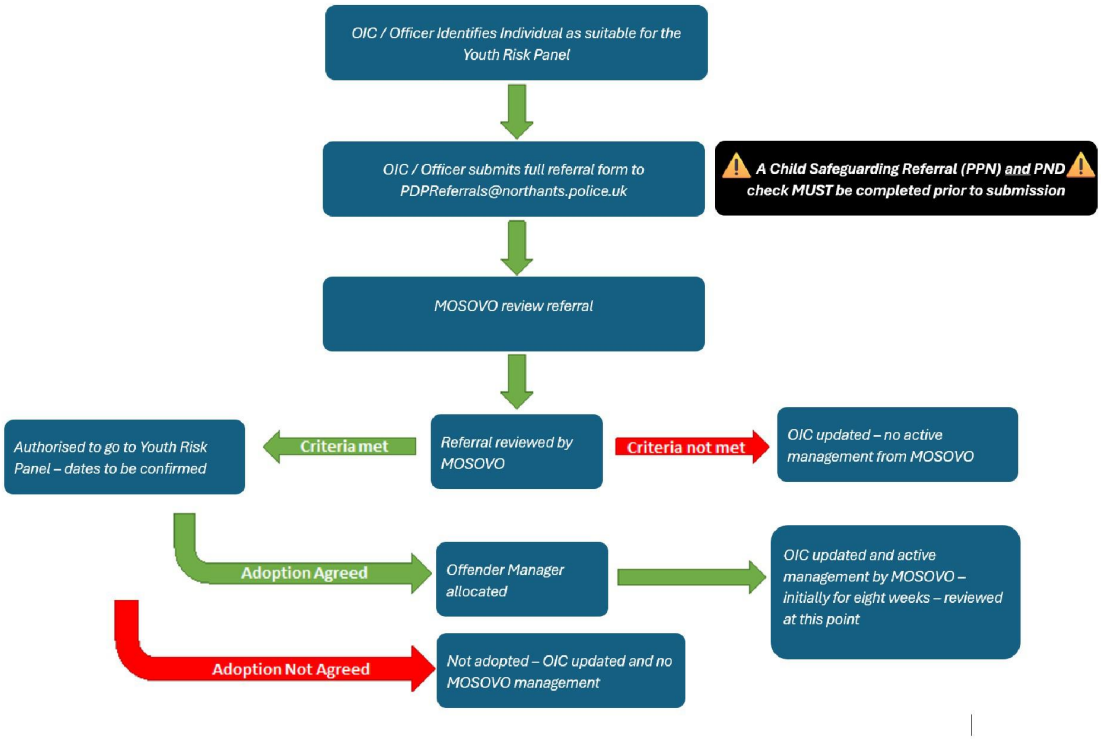
The Panel meeting is held on the **first Thursday of every month**. The panel consists of a wide representation of managers and supervision from across the force as well as key stakeholders from outside of the organisation as detailed in the Terms of Reference. The agenda and case details are shared via a Microsoft Teams invitation. The MOSOVO DI chairs the panel.

The actions from previously meetings are continually reviewed until closed.

Any new referrals are then heard. A summary of why the nominal has been referred into the panel is presented by the referrer or dedicated Offender Manager (OM). Then questions are invited. Once these have been considered attendees will share their thoughts about adoption.

The Panel Chair (MOSOVO DI) makes the final decision on adoption. If adopted the nominal will complete an initial eight-week management period within MOSOVO. This can be amended specifically to the individual case. If the nominal is not adopted the referrer will be given feedback including any actions that have been identified by the panel to complete.

8. Youth Risk Panel Process Map



9. Monitoring and review

The senior owner will review the content of this policy annually to ensure that this is relevant and up to date. The author has agreed that this document will be reviewed within twelve (12) months of the effective date.

10. Related Documents

Youth Risk Panel referral form – please visit Force Library
Youth Risk Panel Threshold document – please visit Force Library
Youth Risk Panel Guidance – please visit Force Library

11. Document Control History

DATE	VERSION	INDIVIDUAL	CHANGES MADE

04/06/2025	V1	DS Cory Wise	Initial Policy drafted from PDP policy
05/06/2025	V1.1	DI Hayley Thurston	Amended first draft
05/06/2026	V1.2	DI Hayley Thurston	Amended to include multi agency option