



**Barking &
Dagenham**

NRM Pilot Site update

June 2022

one borough; one community; no one left behind

The pilot process

Barking & Dagenham are one of 10 pilot sites across the UK, as part of a Home Office funded project to see if NRM decision making is quicker when made within the Local Authority (each pilot site has it's own approach to information gathering for pilot panels).

*SCA = Single Competent Authority



Pre-pilot experiences and challenges

Difficulty with evidence gathering process

The Home Office would initiate contact with the First Responder by email for further information.

First responder could be from a range of professionals. Evidence gathering was delayed by change of staff and failure to respond to HO emails resulting in decisions not being able to be progressed. LA not aware of NRM referrals from first responders in different agencies – No single oversight in LA of NRM process

Delays in decision making

Pre-pilot children could wait for more than a year for the Conclusive grounds decision to be made.

On other occasions decisions may have been made but the child and LA were not aware of this due to the lack of single oversight.

Delays with court hearings

Pre-pilot children experiencing frequent adjournment of Court hearings while the NRM outcome was awaited – sometimes resulting in unnecessarily lengthy remands

LA not always able to respond to Court request for NRM outcome decisions due to lack of single oversight.

Improvements in processes and timescales

Improved evidence gathering process

Over **70%** of the pilot NRM referrals have been made by social workers. This has enabled us to efficiently gather supporting evidence for panels.

Panel is multi-agency and supports evidence gathering from across partnerships even where the LA are not the first responder

Improved decision making timescales

Decision making timescales are **under a month** compared to several months outside the pilot.

More than **80%** of Conclusive Grounds decisions are made at the first panel meeting (within 1 month of receiving an NRM referral).

Fewer delays with court hearings

With pre- pilot referrals awaiting Conclusive Grounds decisions for several months, court hearings become delayed.

The pilot provides flexibility for LBBD to put on additional panels at the request of the court, to meet the timescales for a hearing.

Single Oversight

Local Authority Now able to have single oversight of all children with positive NRM decisions regardless of first responder

NRM Coordinator in post funded by the Home Office grant for the pilot who is able to track and monitor all NRM referrals, evidence gathering, panel decision making and outcomes

Strengthening of existing safeguarding response

Letter sent to lead professional following a Conclusive Grounds to ensure a relevant strategy meeting has taken place and an 87a form is completed.

LBBB children with positive CG decisions are scrutinised at a panel of senior leaders and managers.

Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTG) are present at every panel meeting and provide valuable insight.

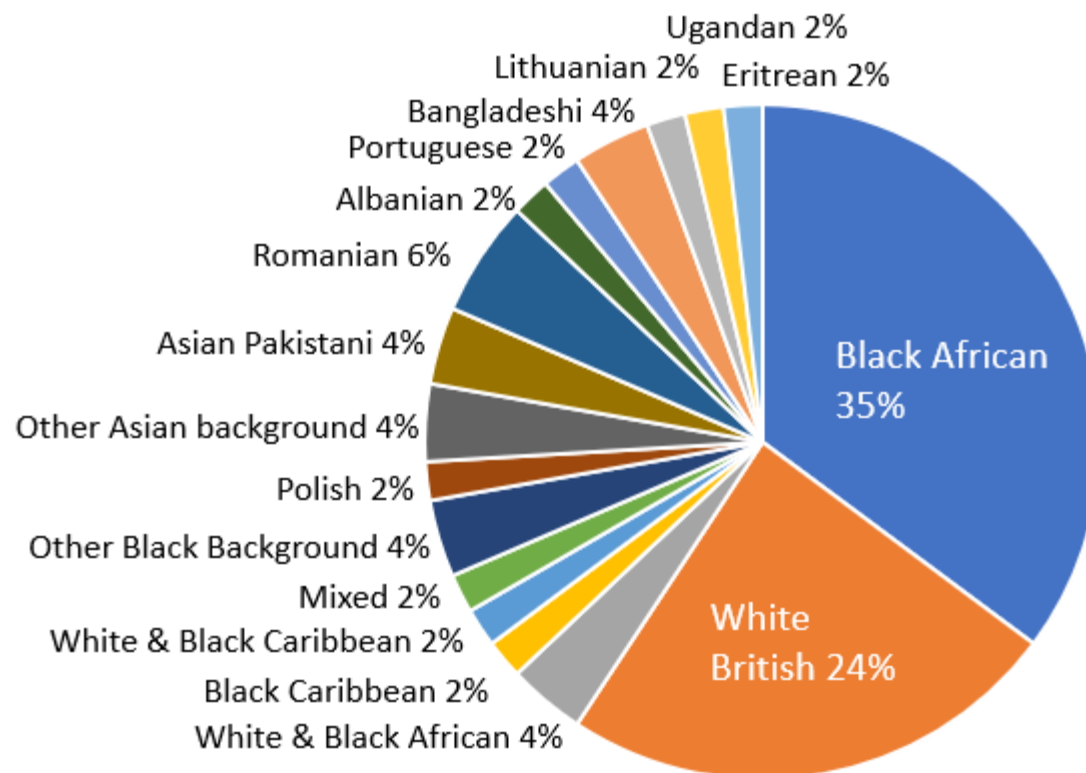
Notification of NRM referrals being made by other agencies, particularly those made by police.

Improvements made to partnership working- and all children receive a social care response as a result exploitation strategic group oversight

Internal staff training has raised awareness of the NRM and referral quality, with access to user- friendly resources.

Involvement of lead professionals in the NRM process.

Ethnicity of children with NRM referrals within the pilot (42 referrals received in total as of 30/04/22)



- **White British and Black African are the two groups that have had the most referrals submitted to the NRM.**
- **3 UASC referrals received in total (2 Albania, 1 Sudan).**

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Summary of findings since July 2021 – April 22

42 NRM referrals with Child Exploitation concerns have been discussed at multi agency panels to date.

31 of these referrals (74%) received positive **Conclusive Grounds** decisions.

84% of Positive Conclusive grounds decisions made at first Panel.

For 34% of the children, an NRM referral was made following their first offence.

28% had a sibling who was known to be involved with criminality.

79% of referrals are for Criminal exploitation, with 17% of these children present on the Gangs Matrix

55% of children had made a disclosure about their exploitation.

7% of the children had known learning difficulties.