



Stockport Safeguarding Children Board

Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy

2016-9

Prevent

Ensure information about CSE is accessible to all

Effective preventative work in schools and early prevention settings

Engage with Communities and meet diverse needs

Young people and family voices to inform planning

Protect

Professionals have the information they need

Effective services in place to support victims

Develop strategic link with other vulnerable risk groups

Integrate policies and procedures for Complex Safeguarding

Ensure smooth transition for young people between children's and adult's services

Establish effective data collection mechanisms

Pursue

Support Police and CPS in prosecution

Support victims to trial and beyond

Promote public reporting

Undertake disruption activity

INTRODUCTION

Since the Stockport CSE strategy and action plan was refreshed and relaunched in November 2014, there has been tremendous progress made to embed work with children and families that ensures that the risk of children being sexually exploited is identified at the earliest opportunity and specialist support and multi-agency effort is put in place to reduce these risks, and improve the outcomes for these vulnerable young people.

Achievements include:

- The establishment of a vibrant CSE practitioner's forum which engages with frontline practitioners from a wide range of service providers to ensure that best practice, training and information sharing, and delivery of awareness raising takes place and reaches the most diverse possible audiences.
- Delivery of an impressive twice yearly week of action by a multi-agency group of services via online media, input in school settings, community operations focussed on disruption and community engagement.
- Established pathway for children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH)
- Consistent assessment of need using the Phoenix risk measurement tool for any child where there are concerns or indicators that they may be at risk of being sexually exploited.
- Development of fully integrated specialist CSE team co-located in the MASSH and increase of the multi-agency contribution with staff from Children's Social Care, GMP, YOS and NHS Stockport. The team have implemented daily tasking meetings; excellent joint working to investigate crimes and support victims ensuring that this is child centred, focused on developing a strong relationship in order to enable change. The outstanding progress within the Phoenix/DACSE team has been commended within the most recent Phoenix Peer Review conducted in September 2016.

THE NEW STRATEGY

This Strategy is Stockport Safeguarding Children Board's (SSCB) 2016- 2019 strategy to address Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in the borough and builds on work already undertaken since 2014. It is informed by lessons learned both nationally and locally, statutory guidance and research. The aim of the strategy is to safeguard and protect all children and young people who are at risk from CSE.

This strategy sits beneath the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership policy for Safeguarding Children and Young people who are abused through sexual exploitation which standardises practice across Greater Manchester (http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_sg_ab_sexual_exploit.html).

The action plan which sits beneath this strategy has been reviewed and updated to identify the next key areas of activity which need to be driven forward in 2016-19.

The definition of CSE was updated in February 2017 as follows:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts

such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

The definition of child sexual exploitation is as follows:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.¹

Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed online.

Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs.

Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child or young person's limited availability of choice as a result of their social, economic or emotional vulnerability. Often the young person does not even recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation. This means they are unlikely to report the abuse.

We recognise the serious long term and lasting impact CSE can have on every aspect of a child or young person's life, including their health, physical and emotional wellbeing, educational attainment, personal safety, relationships, and future life opportunities particularly with regard to the challenges of parenthood. The impact of CSE on family life can be significant, placing considerable strain on all family members and can ultimately lead to family break-down. It is the ambition of our strategy that we are able to ensure that the needs of children and families are assessed and understood and responded to at the right time and that the involvement of services are sensitive to the need for long term support into adulthood.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

SSCB wants to ensure that ALL young people who are at risk of CSE are recognised and responded to in a way that recognises them as children and young people, first and foremost, who have need of protection. SSCB has a responsibility to ensure that work done across agencies is effective in relation to CSE and it wants to maintain a clear vision and strong focus on CSE which is shared by all agencies in Stockport. Every agency has a role to play in tackling CSE and effective multi-agency partnership working is essential. All agencies must be clear on their roles and responsibilities to work together to minimise the risk, and safeguard those at risk, of CSE.

¹ **Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation**
February 2017

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CSE_Guidance_Core_Document_13.02.2017.pdf

PROJECT PHOENIX

The 10 Greater Manchester Local Authorities have come together under Project Phoenix to address the issue of CSE. A project plan covering key areas of practice is in place and guidance established to ensure that there is a consistent approach across GM. This has included amongst others development of a measurement tool, interventions, training and communications strategy. Stockport will remain engaged with this work at both a strategic and operational level to ensure that we benefit from, and contribute to, the development of best practice across Greater Manchester.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES

We continue to strive to seek the voice of young people in Stockport - whether this is children and young people who have been victims of CSE, or young people living within the local communities. Young people's voices are captured in a number of different ways already in Stockport through various services, including the Participation Team based at the Safeguarding Children Unit which engages young people and their families/carers when they have been missing from home/care, subject to Child protection plans or are Looked After. We are committed to ensuring that the valuable feedback and ideas from children and young people are used in the ongoing development of safeguarding services for those who are affected by sexual exploitation.

For this Strategy we have consulted with Stockport Youth Forum, who have attended the CSE strategic sub group and who will have an ongoing and valued contribution to our CSE work and action plan. The key messages are:

- The importance of early preventative work in education as some young people talked about the lack of sexual education around positive and healthy relationships and absence of specific information about CSE and the risks.
- The crucial importance of victims having one consistent trusted professional/adult who could support them and be available at the times they need. Workers do not change unless absolutely necessary.
- CSE workers need to have specialist knowledge, are competent and reliable and have resilience.

All of the above echo the messages within National Reports.

PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

We want to adopt the 7 underpinning principles of effective practice across all partner agencies from the "See Me Hear Me" Framework which are:

1. The child's best interest must be the top priority.
2. Participation of children and young people.
3. Enduring relationships and support.
4. Comprehensive problem profiling.
5. Effective information sharing.
6. Supervision and training of staff.
7. Evaluation and review.

These principles form the basis of good practice and will be reinforced in training and through delivery of services.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

SSCB continues to have three strategic priorities to respond to Child Sexual Exploitation: These are based on the 'See Me Hear Me Framework' based on the work of the Children's Commissioner - the Framework for Action from the Final Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups.

- **PREVENT** children becoming victims of CSE through education and awareness raising and assuring local communities that agencies take the issue seriously.
- **PROTECT** children and safeguard them from risk of harm from CSE and ensure appropriate multi-agency plans are in place to support them.
- **PURSUE** and disrupt the perpetrators of CSE, and enable victims to safely disclose the abuse and provide the evidence to prosecute offenders.

PRIORITY AREAS

The Child Sexual Exploitation strategic sub group have agreed that the following areas will be the focus for activity over the next three years:

- To engage with members of the community particularly in areas of disadvantage and with those from BME community
- Meet diverse needs: in particular ethnicity, learning disability, and gender.
- Integration of the processes to support children who are missing and at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and other complex safeguarding concerns via daily and weekly tasking meetings in the MASSH and implementation of a Staying Safe Plan
- Transitions – ensure children are supported to access services to meet their needs as they become young adults and move from children's to adult's services
- Embed learning from Serious Case reviews
- Develop the remit of DACSE team with increased capacity to encompass complex safeguarding work
- Develop clear prevention and early intervention pathways
- Utilise information sharing and intelligence to target offenders and disrupt activity

GOVERNANCE

The CSE Strategic Sub Group will oversee the strategy and action plan which accompanies it and report to SSCB on a regular basis. Developments in services in relation to CSE should be co-ordinated by the CSE Strategic Sub group.

A CSE Practitioner Forum will support the operational delivery of the strategy.

All agencies are asked to give priority attention to CSE and ensure their workforce has access to training and supervision to manage the risk of CSE.

All work in schools and colleges in relation to CSE should be coordinated by the Senior Advisor for Safeguarding in Education and the School's Health and Relationship Education (SHRE) Development Adviser so that there is consistency in delivery of training and curriculum.

RESOURCES

Each SSCB partner must ensure they have the right resources and provision to respond to the needs of children, young people and their families who are at risk of CSE work within their agency and have a nominated lead person to take responsibility for this provision. It is anticipated that the delivery of the Strategy will be met out of existing resources.

Where this need cannot be met, it must be reported to SSCB.

Where there is a need for additional resources, representation will be made to the SSCB to facilitate cooperation across agencies to assist and meet these needs collaboratively wherever possible.

RISKS

All partner agencies have identified a CSE lead to promote CSE in their organisation. Any risk to the delivery of the strategy needs to be raised at the SSCB and recorded within the risk log with actions to address and minimise the risk.

EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE

- SSCB will develop a data set of performance measures to ensure its delivery of the CSE strategy and action plan is effective and improved outcomes are measurable.
- The SSCB will review progress on the delivery of the strategy on a six monthly basis.
- SSCB will hold agencies to account through action plan monitoring.

GLOSSARY

CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
DACSE	Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation Team - Specialist team based at Fred Perry House made up of Children's Social Care staff.
MASE	Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Process – arrangement to identify specialist plans to safeguard young people from CSE
MASSH	Multi Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub - based at Fred Perry house. Co- location of Police Social care, Health and supporting Families Pathway to ensure effective response to safeguarding and early help support.
Project Phoenix	Greater Manchester collaboration and approach to CSE across the 10 Authorities to try and achieve consistency of approach
Schools Framework	Locally devised framework to assist schools in using the resources provided to them to address issues which may lead to CSE – helps them to identify risk behaviours and identifies at what point they need to refer for additional assessment
Sexting Framework	Locally devised framework to assist schools to address issues which may lead to on line behaviour which is a cause for concern – helps them to identify risk behaviours and identifies at what point they need to refer for additional assessment
SHRE	Schools Health and Relationship Education
SSCB	Stockport Safeguarding Children Board – which has responsibility to ensure coordination and effectiveness of what is done across the Local Authority to safeguard children.

REFERENCES AND RELATED RESOURCES

This strategy is underpinned by a number of national guidance documents, key research and tools including:

What's Going On to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation? How local partnerships respond to child sexual exploitation.

Jago S., Arocha L., Brodie I., Melrose M., Pearce J and Warrington, C. University of Bedfordshire, October 2011

Statutory Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation.

DCSF, 2009

Out of Mind, Out of Sight; breaking down the barriers to understanding child sexual exploitation. CEOP, 2011

Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation – Action Plan.

Department for Education, January 2012

Government Action Plan Progress Report
Step by Step can be found here:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguardingchildren/a00200288/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation-action-plan>

Report on the response to sexually exploited children and children at risk of sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester.

Inspector Gareth Hughes GM Police, Kate Wood Pan Manchester Safeguarding Board Coordinator 2012

Young People and Sexual Exploitation 'Its Hidden, you just aren't looking'.

Jenny J Pearce Routledge 2009

"If only someone had listened. Office of the Children's Commissioner; Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups.

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_743

Independent Inquiry into child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham (1997-2013).

Rotherham council Website 2014

http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1407/independent_inquiry_cse_in_rotherham

Real Voices. Child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester. An independent report.

Ann Coffey, MP. October 2014

Resources

- Project Phoenix Website with resources www.itsnotokay.co.uk
- Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation <http://www.paceuk.info/>