



Stockport Safeguarding Children Board

Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy

2014-6

Prevent

Ensure information about CSE is accessible to all

Effective preventative work in schools

Improve links to residential sector

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

Review processes and procedures

Information sharing protocol in place

Establish effective data collection mechanisms

Pursue

Support Police and CPS in prosecution

Support witnesses to trial and beyond

Promote public reporting

Undertake disruption activity

INTRODUCTION

This Strategy is Stockport Safeguarding Children Board's (SSCB) plan to address Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in the borough and builds on work already undertaken since 2006. 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.

CSE is a form of child abuse – affecting boys and girls under the age of 18 – where the vulnerable young victim is given something (e.g. food, money or drugs) in return for sexual activity with the abuser or others. It is an insidious crime that can be hard to detect and there is clear evidence that CSE is currently under-reported.

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. 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.

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.

STOCKPORT OVERVIEW

Stockport has had a CSE Strategy and an action plan to support the work done across partner agencies since 2012. During this period Stockport has made considerable strides in developing services and partnership working to support victims of CSE, and those at risk, to include the following: SSCB training has been in place since 2006, and additional training has been commissioned; a Framework of Intervention for Schools was developed and resources purchased for every secondary school and college to support it; a specialist CSE team has been in place since 2012 resourced by both the Police and Children's services; a multi-agency CSE specific process for planning about individual cases is in place led by the Safeguarding Children unit; CSE policy and procedure has been updated; and strong links have been developed between partner agencies to include sexual health school nurses, substance misuse services social care and the police.

This strategy for the coming years is the result of a review of the work undertaken to date, and identification of developments still required. Much has been achieved but there is still work to be done to improve the services and to ensure that each and every young person presenting as at risk of exploitation is recognised and given the appropriate support.

Consideration of the work that needs to be done has been influenced by local and national reports and guidance - referenced at the end of this document. In addition two independent reviews of services for CSE have been undertaken in Stockport, which have been influential in development of this strategy. Most recently the Independent 'Review of Arrangements for Protecting Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation in Stockport' provided 9 challenges to the SSBC in relation to CSE and these have been addressed within the action plan.

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, and plans to have a new Participation Team based at the Safeguarding Children Unit provides a great opportunity to strengthen the engagement of young people and their families/carers and ensure that their valuable feedback and ideas are used in the ongoing development of CSE services.

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 has 3 overarching priorities for 2014 – 2016. These are based on the 'See Me Hear Me Framework'¹ 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 work to be undertaken over the next two years as part of the Strategy is identified as follows:

Prevention

- To hear the voice of victims and families and use it to inform plans and practice.
- To improve communication with the public and community services in Stockport including leisure facilities, hospitality, transport, local community interests such as Faith groups, young people and parents.
- To have effective preventative education in Schools and colleges and embed the Schools Framework for CSE.
- To address the unsafe use of technology amongst young people through the On Line Safety Sub group.
- To make it easy for any person living or working in Stockport to access information about CSE and to know where to seek help and support.
- To strengthen the LA's relationship with private residential children's homes as 'importers' of other Local Authority's children and to work with other LA's to improve arrangements for out of area placements.

Protection

- To ensure that all partner agencies have the information they need to recognise and responds to signs that a child may be at risk of CSE at the earliest opportunity and that services are able to support children and families at the right time with the right services, including therapeutic support and post-abuse work.

¹ <http://www.rbscb.org/UserFiles/Docs/YP1-6%20SCR%20RBSCB%2020.12.13.pdf>

- To have in place a comprehensive service to young people who are at risk of CSE to include effective assessments of their needs, provision of specialist responsive help and on-going support into young adulthood.
- To ensure that awareness about the needs of male victims is raised and that services are able to provide support services specific to their needs including the provision of interventions.
- To identify any victim links with other forms of abuse or risk to children and young people (trafficking, missing from home/care and education, domestic abuse, and male victims).
- Review pathways for referral into Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation Team (DACSE) and the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Process. Ensure that resources are adequate deployed to the level of need and that the processes identify and address perpetrator threat and activity.
- To agree an Information sharing protocol specific to CSE across partner agencies
- To have data on prevalence and risk of CSE in Stockport.

Pursue

- To support the Police and CPS to detect and pursue offenders and support prosecution
- To support any young person and their family who is witness in a CSE case through the trial and beyond
- To support disruption of offenders in our communities by encouraging the reporting of any suspicious behaviour and activity
- To undertake disruption activity - liaison with Taxi firms Hotels, Licensing Board, Alcohol Licensing and Housing

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. There may be some risks to the delivery of the strategy which may need further planning if the need arises:

- Staff and available resources diminish.
- An inaccurate picture of the problem in Stockport.
- Perpetrators become more sophisticated and more difficult to detect and disrupt, e.g. advances in digital technology.

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.

RK/UH 23.3.2015

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/>