



**Child Sexual Exploitation in Stockport
(Including the Multi- Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Procedure and the role of
DACSE team and DACSE coordinator)**

This document contains the pathway and procedures to be followed in Stockport.

This procedure is to be read in conjunction with Greater Manchester Safeguarding Policy- Safeguarding Children and Young People abused through sexual exploitation.

http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_sg_ab_sexual_exploit.html

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Agency responsibility in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation

All agencies should be aware of the Greater Manchester policy relation to young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation which contains the policy information:

http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_sg_ab_sexual_exploit.html

All services working with children and young people in Stockport have a responsibility to be alert to signs of potential exploitation concern ranging from early identification of additional need through to the need to protect from significant harm. It is easy to misinterpret behaviours in teenagers in particular as being attributed to factors other than CSE. All practitioners must be alert to the possibility that exploitation from individuals or group related perpetrators is a possible reason for poor behaviour. When a young person is at risk of, or is suffering sexual exploitation, action must be taken to ensure the young person is safeguarded.

This responsibility includes the following:

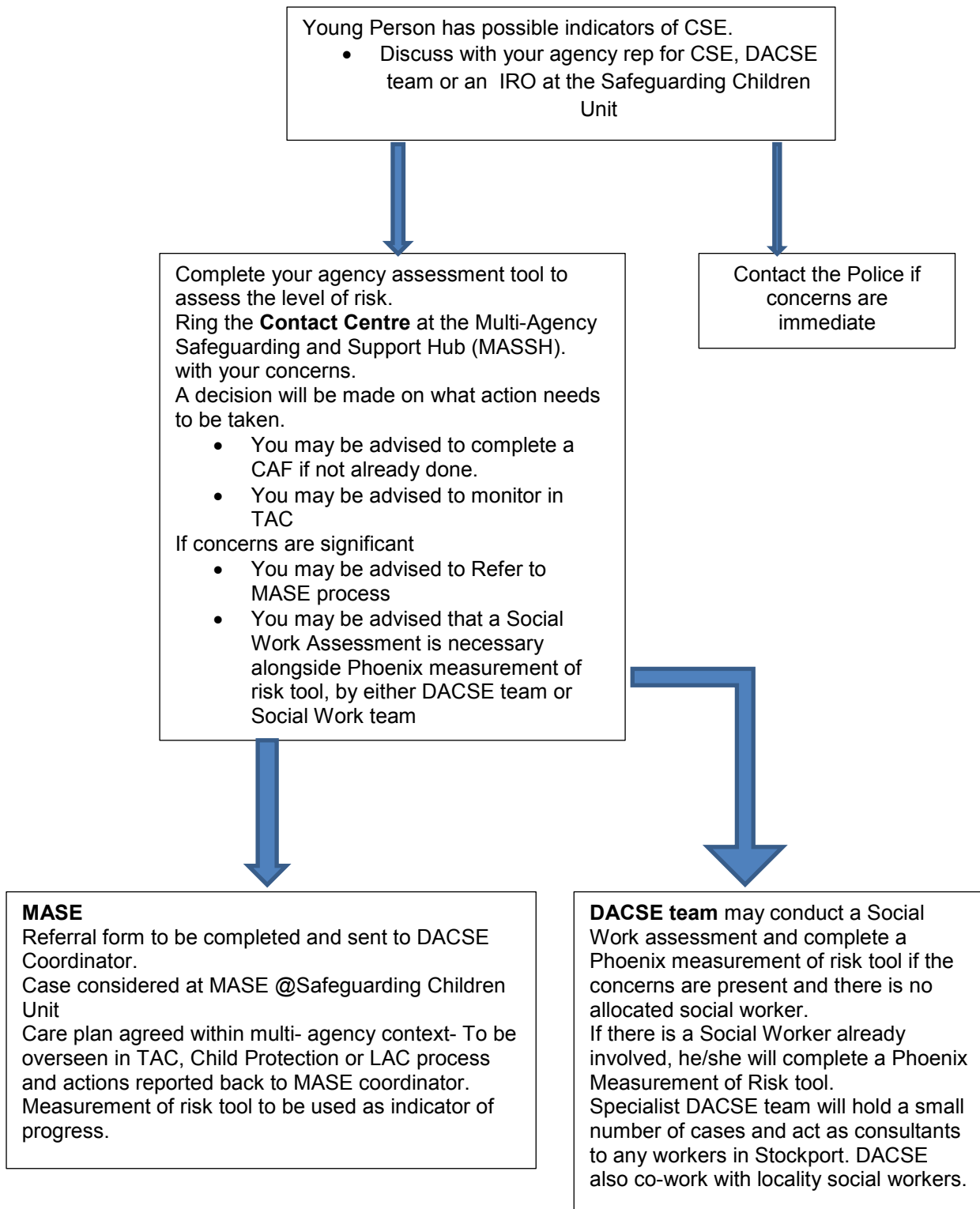
- Being alert to potential signs of sexual exploitation
- Consulting managers about any concerns identified in order to agree appropriate action and referring to social care in accordance with agreed criteria
- Sharing information at the earliest possible stage to enable professionals to consider jointly how to proceed in the best interests of the child
- Contributing as appropriate to agreed action to safeguard a child

- Supporting and assisting action taken against those who sexually exploit children and young people as necessary in order to minimise further risk of harm

Referral route for Young People who present with Risk factors Child Sexual Exploitation in Stockport

The following diagram represents the route for all concerns about CSE in Stockport.

PATHWAY FOR Young People at risk of CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Managing individual cases

When any worker identifies the possibility that a child or young person is being sexually exploited they should discuss this with their manager or designated safeguarding lead within their organisation.

It is important to recognise that behaviours evidence in CSE are behaviours that are recognisable in adolescents who are not subject to CSE as well and therefore it is important to monitor the behaviours carefully and consult with experienced colleagues if you are unsure - i.e. the named CSE lead in your organisation, a member of the DACSE team (see detail below), or an IRO at the Safeguarding Children Unit, or the duty manager from Children Social Care.

All concerns related to CSE must be reported to the Contact Centre in the MASSH. (0161 217 6028).

Any referral going directly into the Contact Centre where CSE is a possibility will be assessed by the Referral and Information Officers who will also check the relevant databases, including Police for other chronological information. The referrer will be advised at this point what course of action is deemed to be appropriate.

1. Screening through the Supporting Families for an offer of help from a relevant agency.
If the concerns of CSE are at a low level or there is uncertainty about the significance of the behaviour the referrer may be asked to complete a CAF and assessment relevant to their agency if this has not already been completed. In common with other presenting issues in Stockport, the Common Assessment Framework is the first tool to consider, sharing your concern with parents of young people and engaging other agencies in managing the emerging issues. The CAF does not prompt consideration of CSE directly and therefore the other tools which are available will support you to consider CSE risk factors. Agencies must also complete a specialist assessment tool relevant to their agency if there is one:
 - **SERAT** tool in Education settings in conjunction with the CSE Framework for Education
 - **Sexual Health Screening Tool** in Health settings
 - **Phoenix CSE Measurement Tool** – Completed by Social Workers
(See below)
2. If the concerns are indicating a significant risk of harm and/or the criteria for a Section 47 appears to be met, the DACSE team social workers will initiate a Social Work assessment. If the young person already has a Social Worker the assessment will be carried out by that social worker if the concerns are new or escalating.
3. Where there is a high risk of immediate harm the referral will be made to the Police for immediate investigation

Other Local Authority Young People

Where a young person has been placed in Stockport by another Local Authority, a notification should be received from the placing Authority or the residential setting that the young person is here. A referral to MASE can be made for young people from another Local Authority placed in Stockport. Please see referral process to MASE outlined below.

Stockport young people placed out of area should have a Measurement of Risk tool completed along with a Missing from Home trigger plan which will be provided to the Authority

in which they are placed. The other Local Authority will receive a notification from Stockport that the young person is in their area.

The Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation team (DACSE team)

The DACSE team is a specialist team within Stockport Children's Social care, consisting of a team manager and five social workers and a DACSE coordinator based at the Multi-agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH). The team is concerned with both CSE and Domestic abuse and is co-located alongside the Police specialist CSE team. This team exists to ensure consistency of the process and development of the coordinated response to young people at risk of, or caught up in this behaviour. The team will offer a consultation service to any practitioner. The DACSE Team Social Workers undertake Social Work assessment and other statutory Children Social Care interventions, Child Protection Process, Looked after Children Process and take the lead on level 3 TAC cases.

The role of the DACSE coordinator is to maintain the data in relation to CSE including intelligence information, and to offer administration and support to the MASE process.

The DACSE team will take a lead role in those very high risk cases when there is a criminal prosecution pending. Each young person in this position is likely to have a nominated social worker in any event, and the work should be complementary within the care planning process.

Project Phoenix Measurement of Risk tool

This tool formulates an assessment of risk and helps practitioners identify what is happening for a child/young person therefore supporting appropriate plans being made. The tool is also a data collection tool which is used by each Local Authority in Greater Manchester to allow accurate collection of data and to ensure each Authority is consistently measuring the same information and risk.

- If you work in a service where there is a social worker - ie Children Social Care, MOSAIC , YOS or the Integrated Children's Service, the Social worker will need to complete an **Project Phoenix Measurement of Risk tool** (at present permission is only secured for Social Workers to complete this tool) which will give you a score for presentation of risk.
- This Measurement of Risk tool must be submitted to the DACSE team coordinator for collation with other data for the authority.
- If you do not have a Social Worker in your service, please speak to the DACSE Team Manager or Coordinator for consultation on how to proceed and whether the case requires a referral to Children's Social Care for the Measurement of Risk tool to be completed by the DACSE team.

It is very important this tool is completed for every young person at risk of CSE.

The Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Process

The MASE process in Stockport has developed to coordinate care planning for young people at risk or involved in CSE. It also provides an information sharing point and alert for those agencies who may not be immediately involved with the child but may come across them due to their chaotic/ troubled behaviour e.g. A&E referrals, presentation at Central Youth. MASE meetings take place monthly at the Safeguarding Children Unit. The meetings are chaired by the Independent Reviewing Officer with specialist responsibility for CSE, at the Safeguarding Children Unit.

The main purpose of the MASE process is to;

- Provide an overarching consistent approach to young people at risk of sexual exploitation by producing a multi-agency risk management plan. This plan will be carried out and monitored through the care planning process which the child is in i.e. TAC, Child Protection or LAC.

Additionally MASE will:

- Collate data and intelligence to inform local practice but also regional and national strategies.
- Support and develop disruption activity to encourage perpetrators to desist from operating locally.
- Support the investigation of crime and prosecution of offenders.

Core membership of MASE

It is expected that a nominated representative from each of the key agencies will attend the meeting on a regular basis. They must be able to speak on behalf of their agency, commit resources and make decisions for their agency at this meeting. The core membership of the MASE meeting will consist of representatives from Children Social Care, DACSE Team, Greater Manchester Police including Licencing, NHS Stockport, Community Safety, Youth Offending Service, and Sexual Health Services and Probation/Community Rehabilitation Company. Each MASE meeting representative will come apprised about each case known to their agency.

Agencies who are not core members of MASE meetings will be invited to either attend the MASE Meeting to provide their input, or to provide written information along with an offer of service that they can make to support the MASE Plan, when it is appropriate.

Referral Criteria

All Children and Young people who score medium to high on the measurement of risk tool should be referred to MASE. All cases coming to a MASE meeting should have a completed MASE Referral Form and where possible a relevant assessment.

The referral form is available on the Early Intervention and Safeguarding Children's Care System (EIS), from the DACSE Coordinator or from the safeguarding children unit at Sanderling building.

MASE outcomes

Each young person considered will have recommendations for actions in relation to the management of their sexual exploitation and a MASE Plan will be established.

- A recommendation for a Step-Down Service may be made e.g. to the Early Help Service, YOS early intervention team, Services for Young People, Mosaic, Community Outreach, and Family Support. The pathway for access to these services is via the Contact Centre.
- There may be a recommendation for a Social Work Assessment if it is felt that there is significant harm or likelihood of significant harm and one has not already been completed. The outcome of a social work assessment might be:
 - Step- down recommendation for another agency or
 - An Initial Child Protection Case Conference or

- Need for accommodation - On occasions it may be essential to consider accommodating a young person to disrupt their involvement in CSE and keep them safe.

The DACSE coordinator will follow up on Agency action to check they have been completed.

- Risk will be monitored through the Measurement tool and there is an expectation this will be repeated on a 3 monthly basis by the Lead practitioner/Social worker. If risk is rising, then a re-referral will be required to MASE risk to reconsider the protective actions required. That might include a recommendation for a Child Protection Plan for example, or a recommendation for a child to be accommodated for safety purposes.

The MASE process will not replace any local or statutory functions in relation to these arrangements. The care management of these young people will remain with the existing care management systems of:

- Team around the Child Plan
- Child Protection Plan
- Looked After Children arrangements

Disclosure issues

It is important that all staff are aware that information that they come across can be vitally important in the circumstance of prosecution of offenders, and this is particularly so in the cases of CSE. Staff should record information carefully with dates and times if possible. It should also be clear in the recording if an item is recorded as a fact, something that has been said in a conversation, or if it is the professional view of the staff member. All intelligence information, no matter how small, can be very important in building up an accurate picture so that potential perpetrators of CSE can be identified and prosecuted.

Additional meetings

Additional Meetings such as Strategy meetings or Care Planning arrangements may be required on occasion if there are particular issues that need to be addressed as part of the Plan for the young person and this is best done outside the MASE process, but informing it.

Education route

Schools have a risk matrix to assess risky behaviour associated with CSE and this is available from the designated child protection lead for individual schools or on the SSCB website. The matrix contains guidance about what intervention can be offered to a young person as their behaviours increase in severity. Resources have been made available to support this. This will help schools to identify those children who need to be referred. Primary schools have a Sexting Framework which will help inform decision making around the emergence of that behaviour.

Victimisation

SSCB takes the view that all young people who have been abused through sexual exploitation have been victims and should be treated as such. Some of these young victims will be groomed to become 'recruiters' in the sexual exploitation of others but they are first and foremost victimised by their experiences and should be assessed with this in mind. However, while every care is taken to maintain this principle, there may be instances where young people will, for instance, be served with abduction notices where they are persistently placing another young person at risk by encouraging them to go missing or introducing them to exploiters.

For Children who display Harmful Sexual Behaviour please refer to the following:
http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_harm_sex.html

Voice of child

Young people and Parents/Carers will not generally attend MASE meetings, as it is anticipated that they will be invited to share in case planning about them under their other care processes. It is expected that a young person's views will be included in the MASE meeting by those agencies already in contact with them.

Contacts

For concerns of immediate risk to children or to make a referral where there is significant harm to a child:

Or Police 999 or 101 to speak to local division.

Stockport Children Social Care Contact Centre

0161 217 6028

DASE team

The DACSE coordinator and members of the DACSE team (Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation) can be contacted :

Fred Perry House

Edward Street

SK1 3XE

0161 474 2385

Independent Reviewing Officers

Safeguarding Children Unit

Sanderling Building

Birdhall Lane

Stockport

SK3 0RF

01614745657

Resources

See SSCB list for agencies locally and nationally supporting CSE. Video resource and publications are also available on the website. www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk

'It's not okay' - The Project Phoenix website contains much useful information about CSE, and useful resources and links including the CSE measurement tool.

<http://www.itsnotokay.co.uk/>