

MANCHESTER JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2015/16

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (STARTING WELL AND DEVELOPING WELL)

CHAPTER: Safeguarding

TOPIC: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Why is this important?

Definition

The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

The Ann Coffey report, 'Real Voices', describes a number of forms of child sexual exploitation:

- interfamilial
- one to one
- young people exploiting other young people
- young people helping perpetrators to recruit other young people
- groups or gangs
- online, which can include persuading children to produce indecent images of themselves; or engaging in sexual chat or activity over a webcam. This can lead to further offending, such as meetings between an offender and a child for sexual purposes
- the 'boyfriend model', typically an older man introducing a young girl to a 'party' lifestyle and sex, and taking her away from positive influences, such as parents and teachers

In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person, have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability (Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation, Department for Education (DfE), June 2009)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-from-sexual-exploitation-supplementary-guidance>

Prevalence

It is difficult to find reliable data regarding the prevalence of CSE. However the National Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) estimate the numbers to be 5-16% of children under 16yrs i.e. 650,000 to 2,000,000

(Cawson, P et al (2000) Child Maltreatment in the United Kingdom: A Study of Child Abuse and Neglect. NSPCC)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/child-maltreatment-uk-executive-summary.pdf>

It is recognised that there is significant under reporting of the issue which is felt to be due to issues of shame, perceived or actual threats to the young person or their family, or to the young person's failure to recognise that they are being exploited.

The average age of victims of CSE is 15 but there is a growing cohort of younger children identified (10 -14 years).

Vulnerable groups

Any young person can become a victim of CSE including boys and young men, as well as girls, and can come from all social backgrounds. However, some young people are at greater risk. These include:

- young people whose home life is dysfunctional or who have a history of abuse
- Looked After Children (LAC) and those living semi-independently
- young disabled people
- young people who go missing from home or care
- young people with gang associations
- young people who are uncertain around their sexuality
- young people who have been bereaved

Perpetrators of CSE can be both male and female and from all ethnic groups. Young people can also sexually exploit their peers. Work with these young people needs to take into account that they may be doing so due to the context of their own experience of abuse. In peer on peer exploitation all young people involved need a safeguarding response.

Impact of CSE

Young people who are sexually exploited are at risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unplanned pregnancy. A recent call for evidence by the Office of Children's Commissioner enquiry into CSE in groups and gangs identified that 41% of victims had an A&E attendance with physical injuries.

Victims of CSE experience significant impact on their mental health with mood disorders, anxiety disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Of the young people identified to the Office of Children's Commissioner, 85% had self-harmed or attempted suicide.

Recent high profile cases such as that of a young man from Surrey demonstrate that the risk of significant harm can extend as far as murder.

The Manchester Picture

As with all areas of the country, the true extent of CSE within Manchester is not fully known. Real Voices, Child Sexual Exploitation in Greater Manchester, an independent report by Ann Coffey, MP in October 2014 notes that “in some neighbourhoods child sexual exploitation has become the new social norm”.

Manchester has a well-established multi-agency CSE team. The Protect team received 79 referrals from October to November 2015. The majority of these referrals came from Children’s Services. Of these referrals, 54 resulted in a CSE assessment. The remaining 25 were passed to universal services to continue to monitor and to offer prevention based work. Sexual Exploitation Services work within Barnardo’s 4 A’s model (Assertive Outreach, Advocacy, Attention & Assess) – interventions at this level include an understanding of attachment, child development and the impact of trauma and how this effects young people’s vulnerability to CSE and their assessment of risk.

What would we like to achieve?

Following a number of high profile reports into CSE single agency and multi-agency recommendations have been issued. These include the recommendations of the Jay report into CSE in Rotherham and the Coffey report into Greater Manchester.

Key priorities have been identified by the Protect team:

- To identify and understand the scale of CSE in Manchester
- To prevent children and young people becoming victims of CSE
- To develop a multi-agency response to CSE ensuring the safeguarding and support of young people and their families who are affected by CSE
- To disrupt offenders suspected of CSE activity
- To actively prosecute perpetrators of CSE whilst maintaining a victim focused approach

What do we need to do to achieve this?

The Manchester Safeguarding Children’s Board (MSCB) CSE and Related Issues Sub Group (CSE&RI SG) action plan includes the following:

- To ensure the voice of young people, families, carers and survivors is central to strategy and solutions developed to tackle CSE.
- Identification of children and young people at risk - all children and young people at risk of CSE are known to services and ‘hotspots’ are identified.
- Work with schools – schools are engaged and there are effective partnerships and interventions which are regularly evaluated.
- Action to address peer on peer CSE – appropriate responses to issues of peer on peer CSE are implemented by all agencies.
- Training and awareness – there is broad understanding of CSE and everyone

takes responsibility for tackling it.

- Information sharing – there is effective information sharing across agencies leading to greater understanding, better protection for young people and the prosecution of perpetrators.
- Early intervention – to address CSE at the earliest point possible preventing escalation.
- Develop support – all victims of CSE and their families and carers receive the help and support they require.
- Focus on LAC and missing from home/care – children and young people in the LAC population are well supported by their allocated social worker, in consultation with protect workers and lessons from the experiences of missing young people are used to inform services.
- Local Authority and others to use full range of powers – disruption and prosecution of CSE is maximised.
- Developing links with the voluntary sector, youth provision and communities – voluntary sector and communities are effectively engaged and supported in tackling CSE.
- Strong leadership and shared vision – there is a common approach to tackling CSE at strategic and operational level under strong leadership.
- Governance and scrutiny – there is effective governance and scrutiny.

What are we currently doing?

The MSCB CSE and Related Issues Sub Group provides strategic management to implement and support the work that needs to be done to tackle CSE and closely related vulnerabilities across the city. It acts to develop and promote effective, integrated and consistent multi-agency working practice and relationships in relation to key issues such as CSE, Missing from Home or Care, trafficking, forced marriage and FGM. The CSE&RI SG is accountable to the MSCB through the MSCB Executive and is required to report activity to MSCB in keeping with the Performance Management Cycle.

A CSE Delivery Group brings together partners agencies with regard to joining up activities to address CSE across the city. This includes GMP, MCC colleagues from Education, Licensing, Children's Services, Protect, VCS organisations including Barnardos and Men's Room. This group works together to progress the action plan and also to identify emerging issues and responses.

Licensing Teams have introduced CSE into the knowledge test for taxi drivers and have also devised a handbook for taxi drivers that includes information on recognising CSE and how to report it.

The Phoenix Protect team is made up of specialist police officers, social workers, Barnardo's workers, a youth worker, a health worker, parenting workers and a Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE) worker. Protect functions under the umbrella of Phoenix which is a Greater Manchester initiative to develop a uniform response to CSE across the divisions of Greater Manchester Police. A standardised CSE assessment tool is in use in all Phoenix teams including Protect.

Social workers within the Protect team undertake CSE assessments and co-ordinate the input of support work for victims of CSE. They offer consultation and advice to

professionals who feel they may have identified young people experiencing CSE.

Police officers in the team take primacy for investigation of offenders. The officers work with a victim focus, engaging young people and working collaboratively with them where possible.

The Barnardo's workers and youth worker work directly with young victims of CSE, building relationship and supporting them to understand the abuse they have experienced. They offer advocacy and support which is not time limited.

The health worker co-ordinates the input of health support for young people, ensuring that their health needs are identified and plans are in place to address these. She offers consultation and support for health staff who have concerns around possible CSE.

The parenting workers support parents to develop strategies to manage their children's risk taking behaviour and to tackle any 'push' factors that may be in operation in the home.

The PACE worker supports parents and carers through the court process.

Members of the Protect team deliver training and awareness-raising sessions to professionals (both single agency and multi-agency) and young people and are developing awareness-raising in communities.

Protect police officers lead on CSE disruption operations at weekends, monitoring 'hotspots' and concerning adults.

All agencies are working to meet the objectives of the CSE action plan, including ensuring that all frontline staff receive training to identify young people who may be victims of CSE as well as prevention work for those at risk of CSE.

There are strong links between CSE and children and young people who go missing. Missing from home incidents involving identified victims of CSE are monitored by the Protect team on a daily basis and strong links have been developed between the Protect team and Missing from Home services in Manchester.

Barnardo's have developed a resource to support schools in offering prevention based work. The 'Real Love Rocks' resource will be provided free to all Manchester schools along with training in its use.

Real Love Rocks Resource - <http://www.barnardosrealloverocks.org.uk/>

The Healthy Schools team have developed lesson plans for schools around a variety of safeguarding topics and have ensured that CSE is threaded through all Sex and Relationships lessons.

An app, #citizen is under development which will provide information and support around CSE to young people.

Unity Radio has a show run by Next Generation Youth (NGY) allowing young people with a history of missing from home episodes to produce and present a weekly radio

show.

Barnardo's have developed In Plain Sight, a project to work with the night time economy developing awareness with workers from a range of industries including security guards, taxi drivers, fast food outlets and others who work at night.

Central Manchester Foundation Trust (CMFT) has formed a CSE sub-group to look at their response to CSE. The sub-group have formulated a training strategy for staff and a CSE indicator check list is currently under development which will be trialled in Accident & Emergency.

The Greater Manchester Sexual Health Network has developed tools and training for workers in sexual health services to identify young people who at risk of exploitation and young people who are being exploited. The tools developed in Greater Manchester are being used in contraception and sexual health services in Manchester and have been adopted for use nationally.

The RUClear Chlamydia Screening Programme has put in place a flagging system on its IT database to highlight any young person taking a number of Chlamydia tests in a short period of time. This has identified vulnerable young people who are then followed up by safeguarding teams. Some of the young people using the Chlamydia screening service on a regular basis have been identified through information sharing as being sexually exploited.

Training has been delivered to new taxi drivers, and existing taxi drivers have been issued with a safety handbook that includes awareness-raising on CSE.

Links have been made with Midland Security. This has allowed for information to be shared between the police and hotels resulting in the identification of victims of CSE and the location of young people who have been missing.

Community and Stakeholder Views

Ann Coffey's report (Real Voices, 2014) gave voice to a large number of young people who spoke about their experiences. She spoke to school girls, a peer mentor, vulnerable young people from a youth centre, vulnerable young mothers, young people with experience of Local Authority care, victims of CSE including a young woman who gave evidence in court and a young woman in a secure unit, and a group of boys in a youth provision. Young people spoke about how normal it was for them to be stopped by men in cars, their difficulties in disclosing information to the police or schools, the support they found from attending groups that were not time limited, the difficulties they found with frequent changes of workers and the normalising of boys controlling behaviour in relationships.

The Protect team are currently conducting a service user consultation using a young people's evaluation tool. The views expressed by young people will contribute towards the development of the team.

References and Links

Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, Children's Commissioner 2012

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/inquiry-child-sexual-exploitation-gangs-and-groups>

Real Voices - Child Sexual Exploitation in Greater Manchester, Ann Coffey 2014

<http://anncoffeymp.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Real-Voices-Final.pdf>

Independent Inquiry - Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, Lord Jay 2014

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

Other JSNA Topics that this links to

Adolescence

- Young people's sexual health
- Smoking, alcohol and drug use
- 16-18 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training
- Mental Health & Emotional Health and Wellbeing - Self harm and suicide

Safeguarding - all topics

Key Groups -

- Looked After Children and Young People
- Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Refugee and asylum seekers (including unaccompanied children)
- Children and young people experiencing domestic violence and abuse
- Young LGBT people
- Young carers
- Teenage Parents
- Young Offenders

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