



**Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board**

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# Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB)



**Seven point strategic response to  
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

**September 2016- August 2018**

Working Together to Safeguard Children (WTSC) 2015 gives Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) a key responsibility. This is to ensure relevant organisations in the local area co-operate effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

In Kirklees this responsibility falls to the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB). The KSCB has a central role in overseeing compliance with the Department of Education's "Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation" action plan (2011) alongside the College of Policing's "National Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan" (2014/2016).

### Why do we need a Strategy?

The CSE Strategy sets out our response to tackling CSE within Kirklees. In order to do this we aim to:

- Prepare - by providing strong leadership and effective systems whilst working with partners to tackle CSE
- Prevent - by raising awareness and preventing CSE from occurring in the first place or by being repeated
- Protect - by safeguarding children and young people who are or may be at risk
- Pursue - by disrupting, arresting and prosecuting those who may be offending, ensuring a victim centred approach at all times.

Across all four strands our focus will be on early intervention.

CSE cuts across safeguarding for both adults and children and therefore we recognise the need for a joined up and co-ordinated multi-agency approach with both the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Community Safety Partnership to prevent things from happening in the first place.

This CSE Strategy also takes into consideration and reflects on;

- New guidance and recommendations from Ofsted.
- A number of independent reports in respect of CSE. In particular the CASEY and JAY reports.
- Links between neglect and missing children.
- The Kirklees Council Response to CSE document 2016. See Appendix A.
- [http://www.barnardos.org.uk/cse\\_learning\\_and\\_disability\\_report\\_2015a.pdf](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/cse_learning_and_disability_report_2015a.pdf)

## What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

The Department for Education (2017) defines Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) as

*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.*

*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 relationship being resulting from their social/economic and or emotional vulnerability.*

CSE is child abuse and can have damaging and long lasting impact on children/ young people and their families. It can also have a negative impact on communities and public confidence and we need to demonstrate a partnership approach to effectively dealing with CSE. The guiding principle being that, tackling CSE is everyone's responsibility.

It is recognised that often a child/ young person is unaware they are being abused or exploited and at times may be reluctant to report such. This makes it even more important for organisations to work together in identifying children/ young people at risk as well as those that are committing offences and locations for such offences.

## What We Will Do To Prevent CSE

- Ensure effective systems are in place for the early identification of children and young people at risk of CSE.
- We will use multi-agency intelligence to inform our interventions in order to assist in the protection of young people from serious harm.
- Ensure mechanisms are in place to collect data of CSE cases. This includes multi-agency sharing of information of low risk indicators, including behavioural changes; missing from home incidents; locations frequented.
- Raise awareness of CSE amongst children, young people, parents and carers, including where to obtain help and how to report concerns. Ensuring children and young people are involved in the drafting of CSE strategies.
- Provide preventative activity through helping those being exploited and targeting perpetrators
- Assess and identify patterns of exploitation (problem profiling) to amend interventions and reflect the local picture.
- Training will be provided to include the warning signs of CSE, how to report concerns, how to safeguard and how to prevent children and young people.
- Support cross-organisation training and workforce development. We will ensure all professionals working with children and families are familiar with this information and are trained and equipped with the skills required.
- LSCB/LSAB/Community Safety sub-groups should be established to lead on CSE, with close links to other groups (e.g. trafficking, missing children).

- Adopt a victim centred approach across partner agencies. We will aim to protect every child and young person from being at risk, or experiencing sexual exploitation. Enabling all children and young people to feel safe and protected and have improved life experiences, allowing for better outcomes for all children young people, families and communities.

### How We Will Do This?

- **We will develop preventative services which reduce risk and raise awareness of CSE among children, young people, parents/carers and communities.**
- **We will support families and communities who are dealing with the consequences of CSE**
- **We will develop community resilience to the potentially divisive and damaging impact of CSE on Kirklees and its constituent members**
- **We will safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who have been or may be sexually exploited and to ensure they are properly supported in the course of and after any criminal proceedings.**
- **We will offer support and therapeutic services to survivors of CSE.**
- **We will successfully prosecute those who perpetrate or facilitate CSE and enable the delivery of effective interventions to reduce the risk of further offending by perpetrators of CSE.**
- **We will limit the opportunities for both potential and convicted perpetrators to abuse children and young people**

### Governance of the Strategy

- The KSCB has overall responsibility for the CSE Strategy.
- The CSE Work-stream will be lead at a strategic level in reviewing the Strategy and will be accountable to the KSCB for the action plan progressing.
- The CSE Work-stream will be supported by an operational multi-agency CSE group.

### CSE Action Plan

The CSE Work-stream has agreed a detailed action plan to deliver the CSE Strategy. Structured around the four themes of the National Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan of:

#### Prepare:

**Objective 1: To develop preventative services which reduce risk and raise awareness of CSE among children, young people, parents/carers and communities.**

**We will achieve this by:**

- 1.1 Raise awareness with children and young people, parents and carers through training or direct child or family programmes of the prevalence of CSE, the outcomes of this sort of crime and support mechanisms that reduce the risk of its occurrence.
- 1.2 Completion of “ My first Mobile phone digital badge project using PCC funding including lesson plans, Vimeo video and resources. Publicise within schools, to parents and to youth groups.
- 1.3 Local Authority and Partners to challenge attitudes and develop where necessary individuals or groups within the community who may seek to use racial, cultural or religious reasons to minimise their activities.
- 1.4 Plan and commission services to protect children from CSE by raising awareness within school and community settings.
- 1.5 Develop policies and procedures and dynamic practices to tackle CSE.
- 1.6 Work with children residential homes, especially where missing episodes are prevalent, to raise awareness, risk indicators, early intervention and prevention.
- 1.7 Ensure every child who is at risk of CSE is notified to the relevant educational establishment.
- 1.8 Educational establishments to ensure Social Care is notified of any child who is at risk of CSE and absent from school in live time.
- 1.9 Identify appropriate services for supporting and safeguarding 16 to 18 year olds transition into adulthood

### **Prevent:**

#### **Objective 2: Support families and communities who are dealing with the consequences of CSE**

##### **We will achieve this by:**

- 2.1 Scope the availability of support services for families and communities, commission services as appropriate and raise awareness of the impact of CSE within families and the wider community.
- 2.2 Develop an information pack specifically for Statutory /Non Statutory Practitioners specifically around Referral systems and Risk indicators.
- 2.3 Challenge risky behaviours of children through awareness raising including harmful social fields they may be navigating.
- 2.4 Ensure that appropriate training is in place for both statutory and non-statutory agencies to raise awareness of CSE and how it should be tackled.
- 2.5 Identify appropriate services and pathway required to refer for support for children and their families/carers who have suffered or at risk of CSE.

**Objective 3: Develop community resilience to the potentially divisive and damaging impact of CSE on Kirklees and its constituent members.**

- 3.1 Identify community groups where CSE awareness is relevant and work with the community members to challenge attitudes of those who seek to minimise the impact of CSE within their community.
- 3.2 Ensure that robust audits occur in a timely manner that review mechanisms and the performance of our impact upon CSE within the Kirklees District
- 3.3 Clear Communications strategy for community awareness raising in respect of areas and behaviours of concern
- 3.4 Develop links with neighbouring authorities and meet them regularly as required where there are concerns of cross border information
- 3.5 Raising awareness of child sexual exploitation among young people, parents, carers and potential perpetrators, to prevent incidents/repeat incidence of child sexual exploitation.
- 3.6 Through shared agency intelligence collect data to identify perpetrators / locations / sexually harmful behaviour.
- 3.7 Identify and task actions based upon information received either through criminal proceedings or civil proceedings.
- 3.8 Flagging systems upon all agency systems to identify possible perpetrators of CSE/CSA
- 3.9 LA and partners to challenge attitudes and where necessary develop individuals within the community who may seek to use racial cultural or religious reasons to minimise or excuse their activities

**Protect:**

**Objective 4: To safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who have been or may be sexually exploited and to ensure they are properly supported in the course of and after any criminal proceedings.**

**We will achieve this by:**

- 4.1 Specific resources to be developed for raising awareness of CSE for young people with Learning Disabilities
- 4.2 Ensure practitioners are able to identify the vulnerability of young people with learning or physical disabilities and difficulties.
- 4.3 Ensure there are pathways for support, risk assessment, and investigation for CSE victims and that these are embedded as standard practice.
- 4.4 Ensure robust risk assessment processes exist to identify victims and potential victims of CSE thereby ensuring their protection.

- 4.5 Identify a specific programme of work to address sexual attitudes of boys and young men aged 11 to 17 years.
- 4.6 Ensure links are made with children missing from Home/Care and Education and that all agencies are aware of the links and the specific actions that are required.
- 4.7 Scope and commission services to cater for the needs of LGBT children and young people at risk of CSE and to identify processes that support and risk assess their needs and concerns.
- 4.8 Scope and commission a service to work with boys at risk of CSE and identify processes to support and risk assess their needs.
- 4.9 Engage with children and young people to seek their views on what support is required either as a victim or potential victim of CSE, putting the voice of the child at the heart of what we do.

**Objective 5: Offer support and therapeutic services to survivors of CSE.**

- 5.1 Identify and commission therapeutic services for survivors of CSE.
- 5.2 Ensure a referral system operates clearly the threshold required for these services.
- 5.3 Consideration for CAMHS to be based within the CSE integrated Hub.
- 5.4 Identify opportunities for intervention and support where Voluntary Community and Faith organisations are already working with communities that are vulnerable to CSE.
- 5.5 Ensure that emotional health and wellbeing support is offered to those at risk of or who have experienced CSE
- 5.6 Ensure any CSE victims are properly supported in the course of or after any criminal proceedings.
- 5.7 Provide support to individuals who have been victims of CSE through non-recent sexual abuse. .
- 5.8 Identify the relevant support for individuals who are in the transition from children to young adults.

**Pursue:**

**Objective 6: To successfully prosecute those who perpetrate or facilitate CSE and enable the delivery of effective interventions to reduce the risk of further offending by perpetrators of CSE.**

**We will achieve this by:**

- 6.1 Progress the process for identification of perpetrators of CSE across agencies which facilitates the use of risk factors /assessments thereby ensure appropriate action is taken to address instances of known or potential crimes/behaviours relating to CSE.

- 6.2 Identify and deliver sources of treatment programmes for offenders of CSE in order to minimise the chances of reoffending.
- 6.3 To arrest, prosecute or prevent individuals who are involved in the commission of offences relating to CSE and Missing

**Objective 7: Limit the opportunities for potential and convicted perpetrators to abuse children and young people.**

- 7.1 Share agency intelligence and information to identify and disrupt perpetrators / locations / sexually harmful behaviour in a robust manner.
- 7.2 Ensure links are made on partner agency systems which link perpetrators. Ensure a flagging system exists upon all agency systems to identify possible perpetrators of CSE.
- 7.3 Task and action procedure embedded with practitioners and Police for offenders identified. This may take place through both criminal and civil routes including ASB and licensing legislation.

## CSE Integrated Hub

The co-located CSE team within Kirklees District Police is a specialised team that will undertake enquiries and referrals directed through the Referral and Response system. The main focus of the team is to reduce the threat and risk to the victim. This is achieved by having a multi-agency personalised protection plan for every child at risk. The plans have a specific focus on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child or young person and supporting her or him through the criminal justice system. The plans will address the need for any therapeutic and support services for children and young people, after the abuse has stopped.

Partners also collaborate to share information about potential perpetrators, who are dealt with dynamically to reduce the risk to the victim and other children. The Multi-Agency Operational Group meets monthly and consists of representatives from the Police, Children Social Care, Targeted Youth Support, Learning Services, Housing, Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Agencies, Health, the Youth Offending Team, Barnardo's and Early Intervention, Pennine Domestic Violence Group and Child and Mental Health Team.

The meetings follow the MACSE model whereby agencies consider children who have been referred to the co-located team who are believed to be at possible risk through CSE. The Group considers information to identify the risks to the child within the Risk Assessment Framework in line with the West Yorkshire Procedures model. Actions are then identified to protect the child and support potential prosecutions against perpetrators and disrupt harmful activities.

The CSE Hub has agreed to follow a number of processes where information indicates offences amounting to CSE may have taken place. This ensures the appropriate action bespoke to each case is provided. The prime focus will be to manage emerging current risks, secure prosecution and provide additional support to victims.

It is recognised that a number of young people who go missing are also vulnerable to CSE. In order to address this we have identified that we should identify, support and protect these young people and ensure all statutory duties are fulfilled (West Yorkshire Joint procedures for children missing from home and local authority care). We need to ensure that robust processes are in place, to address and link children who go missing either as a Looked After or Non Looked After Child.

Kirklees CSE work stream will evaluate our operational response and its effectiveness and the impact of safety and welfare of children and young people and will seek to disrupt and prosecute offenders by:

- Carrying out case audits as required.
- Listening to Children & Young People to ensure their voice is heard and documented.
- Listen to practitioners.
- Monitoring and analysing data as required.

KSCB have recognised a need to develop training to raise awareness with both children and professionals within the Learning Disability arena and to ensure the pathways for referral and support are easily accessible to all.

It has also been recognised that attitudes towards women, appropriate sexual relationships and consent in sexual relationships are of concern. It is important to ensure that boys and young men have access to positive examples of masculinity and male role models that reinforce messages regarding healthy emotional and sexual relationships. (link to Kirklees Gangs strategy).

There needs to be wider access to direct work with this age group of young men to explore issues of respect, consent and sexual behaviour, with a particular focus on the issue of CSE.

The objective is to change some of these young men's stereotypical views of women by increasing the understanding of the social and legal implications of becoming involved in these crimes.

**This strategic plan should be read in conjunction with current KSCB/KSAB and Community Safety partnerships policies, procedures and protocols.**