



CSE

Child sexual exploitation **Strategy**

December 16 – December 18

North East Lincolnshire

LSCB

Local Safeguarding
Children Board

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 (updated February 2017)

“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”

Child sexual exploitation is never the victim’s fault, even if there is some form of exchange: all children and young people under the age of 18 have a right to be safe and should be protected from harm.

Department For Education – Child Sexual Exploitation – Definition and guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation. Updated February 2017.

MISSION STATEMENT

Chapter 1 of **Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015)** sets out details of the roles and responsibilities of the organisations involved in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, Chapter 3 focuses specifically on the role of the LSCB’s; this guidance should be read in conjunction with this strategy along with North East Lincolnshire’s Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2016-2018 and North East Lincolnshire Council’s Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Practice Guidance and Procedure 2016.

“Sexual Exploitation is not limited to particular geographical areas and all LSCB’s should assume that it is an issue in their area. Even in areas where there is no apparent, clear evidence of CSE, the guidance is relevant in the context of awareness raising and preventative education. The guidance is aimed primarily at LSCB partners, managers and practitioners, but is relevant for all professionals working with children, young people and families”

LSCB’s have a key role to play in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the work of its members. They should act in accordance with this guidance in carrying out their functions and should make arrangements to ensure that children and young people are appropriately safeguarded from sexual exploitation. Providing an appropriate response to CSE requires the combined efforts and skills of a protective network for children and young people and depends heavily on a multi-agency response.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people depends on effective joint working between different agencies and professionals that work with children and young people. Their full involvement is vital if children and young people are to be effectively supported and action is to be taken against perpetrators of sexual exploitation. All agencies should be alert to the risks of sexual exploitation and be able to take action and work together when an issue is identified.

This joint working is underpinned by:

- A strong commitment from leaders and senior managers with clear lines of accountability
- A clear governance, operational structure and standalone action plan (which is overseen and driven by the LSCB Keeping Children Safe Group) defining the here and now and future plans
- A clear alignment to the North East Lincolnshire Outcomes Framework showing how the process around reducing the risk of CSE contributes to the outcomes, All People in North East Lincolnshire Feel Safe and are Safe. This is clearly detailed within quarterly score cards presented to the Keeping Children Safe Group and LSCB Operational group. Outcome Based Accountability is the golden thread throughout all performance in North East Lincolnshire.
- Clear risk management and risk action planning process in tandem with safeguarding policy and practice
- A shared understanding of the problem of child sexual exploitation
- Clear information sharing agreements and protocols.
- Clear pathways for referral depending on the threshold of need, as per the Child Concern Model.
- Collective training and briefing sessions for all practitioners, elected members and the wider community
- Reaching young people through formal and informal education
- Effective coordination by the LSCB
- A clear communication strategy
- A clear link to the Families First Early Intervention Strategy 2016 – 2018.

This strategy sets out to address such issues and ensures that all children and young people in North East Lincolnshire feel safe and are safe and are away from risk and harm and draws on *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (DfE 2015), *Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation* (DCSF, 2016), and the *Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan* (DfE, 2016) and the North East Lincolnshire *Missing from home and care strategy(2014-2016)*.

The Purpose of the strategy is :

- To focus and co-ordinate robust multi-agency resources in tackling CSE.
- To ensure that children and young people and the wider community across North East Lincolnshire, in particular parents and carers, are aware of CSE and its effects
- To enhance training for professionals
- To ensure that children, young people and the community are made aware of the issues around exploitation
- To support the use of disruption tactics, such as Child Abduction Notices (CANs), where necessary.
- To bring to justice the perpetrators of CSE and to ensure that children and young people are properly safeguarded in the course of any criminal proceedings.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The principles underpinning a multi-agency response to the sexual exploitation of children include:

- Recognition - Sexual exploitation includes sexual, physical and emotional abuse, as well as, in some cases, neglect.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- Children do not make informed choices to enter or remain in sexual exploitative relationships, but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation.
- Children under sixteen cannot consent to sexual activity; sexual activity with children under the age of 13 is statutory rape.
- CSE covers a range of vulnerabilities which will need differing responses from a range of agencies; it is a multi causal issue that needs to be addressed within a multi-agency filter.
- Locally it is recognised that CSE is linked to County Lines activity and Ending Youth Gang Violence issues. As such the EYGV agenda and CSE are closely linked and considered in tandem..
- Sexually exploited children and young people should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders.
- Many sexually exploited children and young people have difficulty distinguishing between their own choices around sex and sexuality and the sexual activities they are coerced into.
- The primary law enforcement effort must be against the coercers and sex abusers, who may be adult, but could also be the child's peers or young people who are older than the child.
- A Multi-agency network or risk assessment and management meeting/discussion should take place for all children and young people considered at risk of sexual exploitation.

Child Protection Procedures should always be followed where:

- The child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm and/or has other additional vulnerabilities.
- There is concern that the sexual exploitation is being facilitated by the child/young person's parent/carer.
- There is concern that the sexual exploitation is facilitated by the child/young person's parent/carer failing to protect.
- There is concern that a related or unrelated adult in a position of trust or responsibility to the child or young person is organising or encouraging the sexual exploitation.

INTRODUCTION

Sexual exploitation of children and young people is child abuse and tackling child sexual exploitation is one of the most important current challenges for the LSCB. It is the responsibility of all partner agencies to identify all children and young people at risk of exploitation, in order to prevent them from becoming victims, and it is the responsibility of all partner agencies to protect and safeguard all children and young people who are experiencing exploitation from further harm. In order to meet this challenge, a shared understanding of the problem and a shared responsibility to proactively address all areas of sexual exploitation is required. This will be achieved by efficient working partnerships between agencies with active coordination by the LSCB, in recognition that the most effective way to tackle this form of child abuse is via a committed coordinated multi-agency approach, in partnership with children, young people, families and communities.

In doing so partner agencies should focus on the child's or young person's needs and recognise the fact that they are not always aware, recognise or acknowledge that they may be in an exploitative or abusive situation. Whilst also incorporating a needs led, child and family centred approach; a focused approach towards prevention, early identification and intervention is central whilst proactively targeting, disrupting and prosecuting individuals or groups who seek to exploit children and young people.

There are strong links between children and young people being at risk of sexual exploitation and other behaviours, in particular missing from home or care and being criminally exploited and involved in county lines activity. Significant evidence highlights that children and young people who go missing from home or care are at increased risk of being at risk of, or experiencing sexual exploitation and or criminal exploitation. It is therefore essential that all partner agencies act rigorously to reduce incidents of children and young people going missing. In addition, robust efforts to locate a child or young person if known to be missing is required, and once located, agencies must ensure that they have processes in place to assess why a child / young person went missing, what they experienced whilst missing and how any future risk of that child /young person going missing could be reduced

Children and young people who are subjected to sexual exploitation can have serious long term issues affecting their physical and mental health and their overall well-being. Although young people aged 16, 17 and 18 are able to consent to sexual activity, they can still be subjected to exploitation and the exploitation can continue through to adulthood. It is recommended that the LSCB will therefore work closely with Adult Services to ensure children and young people continue to receive support through the transition phase from childhood to adulthood. CSE can also affect the lives of the child or young person's family and carers and can lead to relationship breakdown.

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 will normally, but not exclusively, involve an adult developing a relationship with the child or young person: this adult will then groom or utilise violence, coercion and intimidation to sexually exploit the child or young person.

Agencies have a responsibility to do what they can to prevent children and young people becoming victims of child sexual exploitation. All staff should recognise when a child or young person is involved in or at risk of sexual exploitation as a result of training and by being aware of the vulnerabilities and warning signs/risk indicators (as referenced in NEL CSE Practice, Guidance and Procedure document 2016) and should be aware of what action to take to ensure that the child or young person is appropriately safeguarded.

The local concerns around the presence of county lines activity is one that cannot be ignored in relation to CSE and our strategies around it. Whilst CSE may not be the driving force in county lines gangs exploiting children, females who are being groomed to hold or move drugs for gangs become more accessible and are therefore at higher risk of exploitation by members or being trafficked to other county locations or entering into relationships with gang members. Therefore the linked between the two is intrinsic and must be considered together where there is county lines activity evidenced. North East Lincolnshire recognises this and takes measures to ensure a multi-faceted approach to the two issues.

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

The effects of sexual exploitation are harmful and far reaching for children and young people and the ultimate aim for the North East Lincolnshire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy must be to prevent them from being exploited in the first place.

Action to tackle sexual exploitation should be proactive, focussing on prevention, early identification and intervention, as well as on disrupting activity and prosecuting perpetrators. It is important for cases to be risk managed so that interventions to safeguard children and young people are at the appropriate level according to the risk score. This process also supports and encourages the gathering of evidence to increase the chance of successful criminal prosecutions of their perpetrators, thereby safeguarding potential future victims.

In order to help children and young people achieve good outcomes it is important to identify issues and problems early and to take prompt preventative action. Early intervention is likely to be far more effective than intervention at a later stage when the impact on the child or young person's health or development is likely to have escalated. Prevention strategies should therefore be regarded as a key part of agencies' approaches to sexual exploitation. Early identification that a child or young person is at risk of, or experiencing, sexual exploitation and involving their families early in interventions can be a key step in helping them achieve good outcomes. Looked after children are particularly vulnerable to child sexual exploitation and going missing from home or care. All care plans will take into account particular risks in relation to individual children.

CSE must be tackled effectively to prevent further problems in later life. Many adults involved in prostitution report difficult childhood histories that include domestic violence, familial child abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, time spent in care, disrupted schooling and low educational attainment. Many were also coerced into sexual exploitation as children or young teenagers.

Children and young people should be provided with preventative education at the earliest opportunity providing them with critical thinking skills and knowledge in relation to safe and healthy relationships. This will help them to avoid situations that put them at risk of sexual exploitation and know who to turn to if they need advice and support.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

It is paramount that the child/young person is kept at the heart of practice and their voice is heard throughout and that this can be evidenced for the duration of their experience.

Children and young people may become involved for many reasons and commonly they may suffer with low self esteem. This can then make them vulnerable to unwittingly becoming involved in situations which ultimately exploit them. It is very common for children and young people not to recognise that they are being abused due to the grooming methods often used by the perpetrators.

The needs of children and particularly of young people aged 16 and 17 years are likely to be overlooked for this reason. Although faced with limited choice, they may believe themselves to be acting voluntarily. It may take many weeks or months for practitioners who work with young people to build up their trust, and help them to recognise that they are being sexually exploited.

PARENTAL SUPPORT

Child Sexual Exploitation affects the whole family. Parents have often reported feelings of anger, guilt, shame, embarrassment, confusion and profound isolation. As part of the grooming process the perpetrator will deliberately seek to sever family relationships and instil a sense of distrust by the child towards their family. The child might act violently or out of control, leading to possible problems at schools or with the police. Relationships or marriages can come under strain and parents' own mental health can be seriously challenged.

Young and Safe Vulnerability team will work closely with partner agencies such as Integrated Family Services (IFS) and with parents to ensure holistic support is offered to the whole family.

- Parents are the primary safe guarder of a child, with 90% of exploited children living at home. Parents are providing the 24/7 support when others are no longer there.
- Parents and family carers are best placed to understand their child, to identify changes in behaviour and to intervene early when risks are identified.
- Supported parents can explore their own feelings in a safe and non-judgemental environment.
- Parents who are informed about CSE and grooming can begin to see why their child has become a changed person since the abuse started.
- Parents can speak to their child(ren) about the dangers of CSE by accessing a wide range of literature from Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE) who provide virtual support.
- Informed and engaged parents, working with PACE / Integrated Family Services (IFS) as a bridge, can establish good working relationships with police, social care, health and education professionals.

THE ROLE OF PARTNER AGENCIES

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Children's Social Care has the lead responsibility for responding to children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation and should act in accordance with their responsibilities under the Children Act 1989.

Following a referral, all Local Authorities have a duty, under [Section 17] of the Children Act 1989, to ensure that the needs of all children and young people who are involved in, or are at risk of, being sexually exploited are assessed and that appropriate multi-agency engagement and appropriate interventions are undertaken.

The assessment of all new referrals to the Children's Assessment and Safeguarding Service should include the use of the Risk Assessment and Management Tool, also known as the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) tool cited in the NEL CSE Practice, Guidance and Procedure 2016 document, where it is thought that CSE is an issue. Likewise, practitioners should ensure that for ongoing / open cases in Children's Social Care, the guidance is used appropriately and that children and young people's needs are met, employing a multi-agency approach.

This process is only applicable where there are no other child protection issues and parents / carers have no part in the sexual exploitation of the child or young person. Should the assessment identify concerns in relation to the parents/carers, then normal safeguarding procedures should be followed.

Where a child or young person is already in local authority care, concerns may be raised by another professional or by the child's social worker. The risk of harm to the child or young person needs to be re-assessed in light of the information relating to CSE and any existing plans amended accordingly.

POLICE

The priorities for the police are the safeguarding of children and young people and the investigation and prosecution of offenders who have been involved in abusing children and young people through sexual exploitation. Through working with other agencies in securing the safety of victims, the police will seek to secure evidence against those suspected of exploiting children and young people. The police will work together with other agencies to support the child or young person throughout any prosecution.

The police will focus their enquiries on investigating and prosecuting those who sexually abuse a child or young person and will pursue prosecution of the most serious charges that evidence will support. The police, who support the child or young person through any prosecution, will take any measures that are necessary to ensure that the child or young person is safeguarded through the criminal justice system, giving particular consideration to the use of 'special measures' during the court process (see NEL CSE Practice, Guidance and Procedure document 2016).

It has been identified through national best practice and focussed visits that CSE investigations are very difficult to prosecute due to lack of engagement by victims. Therefore Humberside Police will identify other means to disrupt criminal activity. This will include gathering intelligence and information through a problem profile, linking evidence where possible and targeting potential perpetrators through distribution tactics such as the use of Child Abduction Notices (CANs) and Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs). Where there is insufficient evidence around CSE, Humberside Police will look at other criminal activities, for example drugs and illegal immigration.

Enquiries should consider information about the alleged abuser/s own family and whether they should be referred to Children's Social Care as a cause for concern and whether further enquiries should be made. Where there are concerns that the child/young person's family have had a role to play in the abuse or have not taken appropriate action to protect the child or young person, consideration will be given to investigating this as neglect.

Where an officer has a concern of CSE (or any other vulnerability), they need to challenge any adult with the young person and take details. They must also gather relevant information about the young person, including checking to see if they have a tactical document on the Force intranet with any required actions. Enquiries, including completion of a form 125 (police safeguarding referral form) and a referral should be made to relevant agencies including the Child Sexual Exploitation team (CSE) who work in collaboration with the missing person's team which sits within the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit (PVPV).

Consideration should be given to providing immediate protection where it becomes apparent that action needs to be taken to safeguard a child or young person's welfare. This may involve the use of Police Protection Orders (Children Act (s)1989, and 2004) and joint working with Children's Social Care. Humberside Police are joint chair of the Multi-Agency Child sexual Exploitation.

NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE (NPS)

On 1st June 2014 the National Probation Service (NPS) was established across England and Wales, a public sector organisation as part of the National Offender Management Service responsible for the delivery of public protection. The NPS is responsible for;

- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in conjunction with the Police
- The management of offenders assessed to present a high risk of serious harm
- The management of Life and Indeterminate sentenced Prisoners
- Approved Premises
- The delivery of Sex Offender Treatment Programme
- Court Services

Although the NPS and previously Humberside Probation Trust in North East Lincolnshire does not work directly with young people, one of the key roles is the sharing of intelligence to the Police and Children & Young People's Services. This is central to identifying children at risk of sexual exploitation and taking early and pro-active action to address any such risk.

The NPS primarily contributes to addressing CSE through the MAPPA framework. MAPPA provides a co-ordinated, multi-agency approach to the management of offenders convicted of specified violent and sexual offences who are made the subject of community based and prison sentences. All offenders are risk assessed and managed in conjunction with partnership agencies to ensure a comprehensive and enhanced strategic and operational delivery of public protection in the community. The Sex Offender Treatment programme is delivered as a statutory requirement to relevant offenders directly targeting the reduction in their assessed risk of causing serious harm and their risk of re-offending.

The NPS is a statutory member of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board with identified local operational management leads for safeguarding. The NPS is also responsible for the provision of a Probation Officer to the Youth Offending Service to ensure the appropriate transition between children's and adult services is delivered in line with the needs of the individual and their risk management plan.

During 2013 / 14 all staff previously employed by Humberside Probation Trust were required to undertake mandatory online basic CSE awareness training. This was completed for all operational and non-operational staff.

SUPPORT TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

A child looked after by the local authority is deemed to be in their care with the agreement of their parents / section 20 of the Children's Act (1989, updated in 2014), known as accommodated, or by order of the court. A young person is normally looked after until they are 18, at which point they are classified as "former relevant" under the children leaving care act 2000.

Young people enter care in most cases because either they have been abused or neglected or rejected by their families, they can be estranged from their families. All of this increases their individual vulnerability and they are particularly vulnerable as their judgement about levels of risk are likely to be poor. Owing to this looked after children are more likely to be vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

Support to looked after children is offered in a variety of ways which includes social workers, link workers, Independent Review Officers (IROs), youth workers, care officers and staff involved in education. The child's looked after plan will ensure all key workers are clear around their individual roles and responsibilities in safeguarding young people. All staff have a responsibility to ensure their safeguarding training is up to date.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (HEALTH RELATED)

The majority of victims of CSE are living at home. However, looked after children account for a disproportionate number of victims and can be particularly vulnerable. An estimated 20-25 per cent of victims are looked after, compared with 1 per cent of the child population being in care (LGA 2014).

Strategically and operationally Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups are responsible for the health of looked after children. This includes those children and young people who have become looked after and experience sexual exploitation whilst in care or in care as a result of sexual exploitation, whether they are placed in the local area or live outside of the authority that looks after them. When Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups place a looked after child out of the local area, the originating CCG remains the responsible CCG for commissioning and securing secondary healthcare services. Providing continuity of current health needs/services ensures children are not disadvantaged by their looked after status particularly when moving area. The health of looked after children who experience sexual exploitation, will be monitored as part of the review of a child's care plan.

References

LGA (2014) Tackling child sexual exploitation A resource pack for councils Report and case studies Local Government Association, December 2014

DOH, DFE, (2015) Promoting the health and well-being of looked-after children Statutory guidance for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England March 2015

RCPCH (2015) Knowledge, skills and competences of healthcare staff INTERCOLLEGIATE ROLE FRAMEWORK March 2015

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUPPORT SERVICES (YPSS)

Young and Safe is part of YPSS and encompasses 'vulnerability' and crime reduction through targeted street based youth work linked to the Youth Offending Service. This team offers individual and tailored support to young people identified at risk of domestic abuse, CSE, harmful sexualised behaviour (HSB), sexual health, teen parents, teen pregnancy and universal educational packages (Safe Relationships 4 Young People (SR4YP) delivered through the schools PSHE curriculum. Young and Safe have an allocations process which enables the effective coordination and allocation of referrals in line with PEI strategy 2016. These meetings identify young people in need of support and services inclusive of targeted preventative services (universal plus) and allocate to the most appropriate member of the team.

The Prevention and Early Intervention offer includes the following:

- Street based Youth Work offer which includes early identification of hotspot areas and those deemed to be at risk of CSE and E-Safety. This element of proactive information, advice and guidance is delivered in a setting that young people feel comfortable in accessing with their peers by using up to date ICT within mobile units.
- Educational Packages delivered under the SR4YP umbrella. These packages are delivered in both primary and secondary educational and community settings.

- One to One tailored support for young people which involve regular planning and reviews with said young person.
- Group work delivered in locality settings in conjunction with academies.
- Development and delivery of approved LSCB Level 2 CSE Safeguarding Training which is audited via North East Lincolnshire Council Workforce Development.
- Child Exploitation Online Protection(CEOP) Training delivered to both professionals, parents and young people.
- Information and intelligence gathering which is supplied to Humberside Police Service to support with new and on-going investigations.
- Operation Priam is a partnership Police Patrol involving a team of dedicated CSE Police Officers and Youth Workers operating on a weekly basis between 17:00 – 22:00 hours. This Patrol is focused upon early identification and prevention of CSE and is task focused receiving direction from both MET Team and MACE
- Awareness Raising Briefings are delivered by Young and Safe, this includes a host of agencies including elected members.
- Youth and community services have a key role to play in offering educating children and young people to stay safe and preventing the risk of CSE through awareness-raising, resilience building and keeping safe work

HEALTH SERVICES

The role that health services play in the lives of children means that they are in a position to make a significant contribution to identifying children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, participating in action to promote safety and supporting the recovery of children who may have been harmed.

Children and young people affected by CSE can present with a range of physical and or emotional problems to:

- School Nursing Services
- Primary Medical Care i.e. GPs
- Sexual Health Services;
- A&E/ minor injury centres
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Drug and Alcohol Services
- Looked After Children health services

though this is not an exclusive list. Other services, including:

- Maternity
- Adult Mental health
- Health Visiting
- Specialist Therapeutic Services

will be involved in the identification of and providing ongoing support, along with all other involved services (health and otherwise) to those who may be at risk of, or suffered harm.

It is therefore essential that all health care professionals are aware of the range of presentations, which may include but not be limited to: poor self-care, sexually transmitted infections, contraception, pregnancy, termination, drug and alcohol problems and self-harming behaviours, and that they know how to respond appropriately. This awareness

will be promoted through multi-agency training, supplemented by in-agency development coordinated by Named and Designated Professionals, and other organisational safeguarding professional leadership.

Recent reports clarify the specific responsibilities of health services and staff, who are in a unique position to recognise and assist children and young people who are subject to sexual exploitation ([Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, 2014](#); [Department of Health, 2014](#)).

All healthcare staff should:

- Understand their role in identifying those at risk of or experiencing CSE;
- Identify the warning signs of risk or indicators of CSE;
- Communicate and engage with children and young people so they are encouraged to share information, and are open to the possibility of disclosure;
- Act to safeguard children/young people at risk of or experiencing CSE, regardless of whether they make a disclosure;
- Carry out holistic risk assessments;
- Ensure they access appropriate specialist support from Named professionals in their own organisations, or Designated professionals who act as strategic professional leads on all aspects of health service activity across the area, and
- Share information with and make referrals to other agencies including Police and Children's Social Care.

In supporting the identification of CSE, health professionals will utilise, or develop service specific risk assessments. For sexual health services, 'Spotting the signs' <http://www.brook.org.uk/about-brook/single/spotting-the-signs-a-national-proforma> is a recognised framework.

Practitioners must be equipped and able to refer children and young people to appropriate services. This includes immediate treatment for physical and/or psychological harm, or longer-term recovery treatment when the person is ready. Health practitioners will also be involved in assessing and identifying the most appropriate support packages, where children or young people have learning disabilities or language or communication difficulties.

All Health professionals will be involved, as appropriate in multi-agency activity to assess, support and delivery of recovery support for individual children and young people.

Commissioners of health services will work together to identify gaps in services required to meet the needs of children and young people at risk of, or experiencing CSE.

EDUCATION

Staff in schools, academies, further education colleges and other education establishments are uniquely placed to recognise and refer children and young people who are identified as at risk of CSE. They are also in a position to support children and young people to reduce their vulnerability to, and risk of, sexual exploitation and to support children and young people who may find themselves as victims.

Staff in all education establishments should be alert and competent to identify and act upon concerns that a child or young person is vulnerable to, at risk of, or experiencing abuse through CSE. They should be familiar with the sexual exploitation Risk Assessment and Management Tool (Appendix 1 of the CSE Practice, Guidance and Procedure document 2016) and appropriate associated actions in relation to each level of risk.

The Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) curriculum provides clear opportunities for schools, academies, further education colleges and other education establishments to teach about all aspects of relationships. Specifically, children and young people as learners should be given opportunities to understand the features of safe and potentially abusive relationships and the risks involved in sexual activity, including potential sexual exploitation. By exploring the features of safe and healthy relationships, schools, academies, further education colleges and other education establishments can help children and young people to develop the skills to negotiate behaviour in personal relationships, identify potential risks, stay safe and seek help if needed. PSHE provides a sound platform through which to deliver basic safeguarding information, to explore ideas around 'healthy' sexual relationships. This also needs to include opportunities for children and young people to understand the risks involved in staying out late and going missing from their education establishment, home or care.

Staff should be aware of the importance of reporting any concerns related to children and young people who go missing during the school or college day given the correlation between children who go missing and CSE.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

Because of their often chaotic circumstances and past family experiences, many children and young people are reluctant to engage with statutory services and might often find voluntary agencies more approachable sources of help. By working in partnership with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies are able to offer services which help children and young people understand the grooming process and raise awareness of risks and the implications of risk taking behaviour.

There is a wide range of specialist and other voluntary and community agencies and groups who might be well placed to identify children and young people who are at risk of, or are experiencing abuse, through CSE. Voluntary and community sector agencies often have a close relationship with their local communities and can develop trusting relationships and maintain a link to the children or young person if they become 'lost' to statutory services. Outreach agencies are often the first point of contact for children and young people in risk situations and specialist voluntary agencies often have the opportunity to provide vital risk reduction support.

Staff should be alert and competent to identify and act upon concerns that a child or young person is vulnerable to, at risk of, or experiencing abuse through sexual exploitation.

It is essential that voluntary and community groups and agencies operate as multi-agency network partners in order to provide children and young people with access to the widest possible range of intervention and support services.

REFERENCES

Department of Health (2014) Health Working Group Report on Child Sexual Exploitation. January 2014. An independent group chaired by the Department of Health focusing on: improving the outcomes for children by promoting effective engagement of health services and staff.

OFSTED (2014) The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it? Thematic inspection.

Dr P Kirtley (2013) NWG Network Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation. Report of a Grass Roots Survey of Health Professionals with Regards to their experiences in dealing with child sexual exploitation.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015)

Putting Children First (July 2016)