



**North East Lincolnshire Council
Local Safeguarding Children Board**

**Child Sexual Exploitation
Practice Guidance & Procedure
2016**

**Includes Child Sexual Exploitation Risk
Assessment and Management Tool**

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION				
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All people in NEL enjoy & benefit from a strong economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
All people in NEL feel safe and are safe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All people in NEL enjoy good health and well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All people in NEL benefit from sustainable communities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
All people in NEL fulfil their potential through skills and learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Chapter 1

1.1 Introduction

The sexual exploitation of children and young people has been identified throughout the UK, in both rural and urban areas, and in all parts of the world. It affects boys and young men, as well as girls and young women. It can have a serious long term impact on every aspect of their lives, health and education. It damages the lives of their families and carers, and can lead to family break ups. Sexual exploitation of children and young people is completely unacceptable.

Research indicates that Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is more prevalent in areas with high deprivation and also seaside/costal resorts which have a high influx of passing trades and tourists. North East Lincolnshire's profile includes both of the above. Children and young people who are sexually exploited, or at risk of sexual exploitation, are the victims of sexual abuse and should be safeguarded from further harm. Sexually exploited children and young people should not be regarded as criminals and the primary law enforcement focus should be aimed at the perpetrators of such crimes. Sexual exploitation of children and young people crosses boundaries of culture, disability, social class, and gender and other diverse issues.

1.2 Equality and Diversity

All developments are intended to ensure that no-one is treated in any way less favourably on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic or social origin, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, age, religion / belief or political / other personal beliefs.

1.3 Aim of the Guidance

This guidance sets out the practice guidance and procedure for safeguarding and protecting children and young people from sexual exploitation. It is designed to assist practitioners in preventing CSE, protecting children and young people who are at risk of abuse or are abused through sexual exploitation, and disrupting and prosecuting those who perpetrate this form of abuse.

It sets out how through our partnerships we assess, challenge and provide an enhanced, effective service to reduce the harm and threats posed to children and young people from CSE.

These standards operate in conjunction with any current safeguarding procedures.

1.4 What is child sexual exploitation (CSE)?

Sexual exploitation is child abuse and children and young people who become involved face huge risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health and well being.

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, attention, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, or others performing on them, sexual act or activities.

CSE grooming 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. 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".

1.5 How do children and young people become involved?

The common issues and reasons can be due to a number of factors including a young person's low self-esteem and a poor self-image. Young people who run away from home are recognised as being more at risk of being targeted as a victim of sexual exploitation.

Vulnerabilities are identified and targeted by the abuser, whether the young person is living with their family, looked after, away from home or they have run away. Figures show that the majority of CSE victims in North East Lincolnshire are actually living with their families. It is often the case that children and young people do not perceive themselves to be victims, as they consider they have acted voluntarily. The reality is that their behaviour is not voluntary or consenting.

1.6 Scope

- To apply pro-active problem solving to address the risks associated with victims, perpetrators and locations and ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people who are or may be at risk from sexual exploitation
- To provide awareness raising and preventative education for the welfare of children and young people who are or may be sexually exploited
- To take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people in this way
- To provide timely and effective interventions with children and families to safeguard those vulnerable to sexual exploitation
- The Multi-Agency partnerships will safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation in accordance with the policies, procedures and guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

1.7 Prevention

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 managed so that interventions to safeguard children and young people also support 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.

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.

Chapter 2

2.1 Principles

Any child or young person may be at risk of sexual exploitation, regardless of their family background or other circumstances. This includes boys and young men as well as girls and young women. However, some groups are particularly vulnerable. These include children and young people who have a history of running away or of going missing from home, those with special needs, those in and leaving local authority care, migrant children, unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children who have disengaged from education, children who are abusing drugs and alcohol, and those involved in gangs.

A young person who has been subject to a complex pattern of life experiences including, grooming processes that have brought them to a point where they are at risk of, or are abused through, sexual exploitation, are often not able to recognise the exploitative relationships and situations they are in. They may even present as being in control. CSE involves a process of grooming, control, force and coercion. Children and young people do not volunteer to be sexually exploited and they cannot consent to their own abuse.

This applies equally to young people aged 16 and 17 years, it should not be assumed that they are safe from CSE. Children at risk of CSE will often be in high risk situations and isolated from protective, nurturing adults. They will need to be encouraged to express their wishes and feelings to make sense of their particular circumstances and contribute to decisions that affect them. Of particular relevance is the impact of those who may have groomed and conditioned children, in order to coerce and abuse them. Children may also be under very strong pressure, intimidated, afraid and/or dependant on those that have exploited them where substance misuse is a factor. Children may therefore reject offers of help and support and appropriate interventions need to be designed to address this.

Patterns of family life vary, and there is no single way to bring up children and young people. Parenting can be challenging, and parents and carers deserve support. Asking for help should be seen as a sign of responsibility rather than a parenting failure. In most cases parents or carers will decide when to ask for help and advice but, in some cases, professionals will need to intervene with support for parents and carers to prevent problems or difficulties escalating.

It is important that authorities and their partners consider the need for support services for parents which help them gain the information, and access the services they need to protect and support their children. The Community also have a role to play in ensuring children and young people are kept safe.

Parents and carers play the most important role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of their children. If a child or young person is suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm through sexual exploitation by someone outside the family, this will not necessarily be as a result of parents or carers having difficulties in meeting their child's needs.

While professionals will need to take account of family circumstances in assessing and deciding how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child or young person, only in exceptional cases should there be compulsory intervention in family life – that is, where this is necessary to safeguard a child from significant harm. Professionals also need to be aware that, in some cases, parents and carers will be complicit in the exploitation of their children.

Children and young people who are sexually exploited should not be regarded as being involved in criminality: they are the victims of sexual abuse. The responsibility for the sexual exploitation of children or young people lies with the abuser.

What does CSE Involve?

2.2 Trafficking

Children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation are vulnerable to internal trafficking across cities and counties within the UK and also international trafficking into and out of the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Trafficking involves the illegal trade in human beings for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

The 'Trafficking Protocol' defines human trafficking as:

“Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

2.3 Grooming

Child grooming refers to an act of deliberately establishing an emotional connection with a child to prepare the child for child abuse. Child grooming is undertaken usually to carry out sexual abuse and other child exploitation like trafficking of

children, child prostitution or the production of child pornography. Currently child grooming occur through the use of internet.

Sexual exploitation can take many forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for attention, affection, accommodation or gifts, to serious organised crime and child trafficking. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power within the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim, increasing the dependence of the victim as the exploitative relationship develops.

Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from their peers to have sex, sexual bullying (including cyber bullying), and grooming for sexual activity. Technology can also play a part in sexual abuse; for example, through its use to record abuse and share it with others or as a medium to access children and young people in order to groom them. A common factor in all cases is the lack of free economic or moral choice.

Many children and young people are groomed into sexually exploitative relationships but other forms of entry exist. Some young people are engaged in informal economies that incorporate the exchange of sex for rewards such as drugs, alcohol, money or gifts. Others exchange sex for accommodation or money as a result of homelessness and experiences of poverty. Some young people have been bullied and threatened into sexual activities by peers or gangs, which is then used against them as a form of extortion and to keep them compliant.

The perpetrators of sexual exploitation are often well organised and use sophisticated tactics. They are known to target areas where children and young people might gather without much adult supervision, such as shopping centres, cafes, takeaways, pubs, sports centres, cinemas, bus or train stations, local parks, playgrounds and taxi ranks, or sites on the Internet used by children and young people. The process of grooming may also be visible in adult venues such as pubs and clubs. In some cases perpetrators are known to use younger men, women, boys or girls to build initial relationships and introduce them to others in the perpetrator networks.

However, young people can also be sexually exploited by informal and unorganised groups of people. Children and young people, who are themselves the victims of exploitation, may introduce other young people to their abusers. This may not be a deliberate attempt to groom others into sexual exploitation, but rather a way of ensuring that their abuser's attention is deflected away from themselves. These children and young people are themselves victims and should not be prosecuted except as a last resort when other interventions have failed and there is an absolute need to protect others.

Children and young people may be groomed into 'party' lifestyles where they go to houses/flats with numerous men and other young women. These 'parties' often introduce children and young people to alcohol and drugs and offer a space to 'chill'. Young men may be groomed through 'casual' social relationships formed at common meeting places with perpetrators introducing them to a 'macho' lifestyle of cafes/bars/arcades, etc. This may develop into socialising and making money from criminal activities such as shop lifting or car theft and be linked to other risky behaviours such as drinking and smoking. Many young men and boys who are being exploited may be secretive or ambiguous about their actual sexual orientation.

Other perpetrators will include friends, peers and friends of older siblings. In some cases, perpetrators may target young people through their parents or carers, by providing drugs, alcohol or money to the parents or carers. This can often mean that the parents or carers approve of the perpetrator as a potential boyfriend or girlfriend as they are trusted and needed by the family.

Although the predominant evidence is of men sexually abusing children and young people, both men and women have been known to sexually exploit young men and young women. There is a presumption that children and young people are sexually exploited by people they do not know. However, evidence shows that they are often abused by 'boyfriends' or people with whom they feel they have a relationship. Professionals should also be alert to organised familial abuse or abuse within closed community groups, including sexual exploitation and the making and distribution of abusive images of children and trafficking of children into, within and out of the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

The hidden nature of this form of abuse has a significant impact on the visibility of the problem. Disclosure of sexual abuse and violence is always difficult for children and young people. The sophisticated grooming and priming processes executed by abusing adults and the exchange element of the abuse act as additional barriers, which increase denial and make disclosure especially difficult.

Children and young people are increasingly using computers and mobile phones to access the internet for social networking or to visit potentially risky websites such as dating services. This opens up further opportunities for perpetrators to make contact and to groom children and young people for sexual exploitation. The fact that online users often lie about their true identity means that young people can be more easily groomed and coerced into meeting up with potential perpetrators. (For more information, contact CEOP or visit their website <http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk>)

2.4 Vulnerabilities

- Social exclusion
- Poverty and deprivation
- Prior experience of sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse
- Familial and community offending patterns
- Prevalence of undiagnosed mental health problems/ Family history of mental health difficulties.
- Family history of abuse or neglect
- Family history of domestic abuse
- Family history of substance misuse
- Breakdown of family relationships
- Low self-esteem
- History of Local Authority care

2.5 Warning Signs/Risk Indicators

Children are groomed in different ways. It may be difficult for parents and carers to differentiate between ordinary teenage rebellion and the risk of sexual exploitation but below are some of the signs that may signify if children are being groomed or being sexually exploited.

- Being secretive or withdrawn
- Being hostile or physically aggressive in their relationship with parents/carers and other family members
- Associating/developing relationship of a sexual nature with a significantly older man or a woman
- Having money, mobile phones, clothes, jewellery or other items not given by parents/carers
- Changing physical appearance - new clothes, more make-up
- Being defensive about where they have been and what they've been doing.
- Having increasing health-related problems
- Staying out late and/or going missing
- Returning home after long intervals but appearing to be well cared for
- Becoming disruptive or using abusive language
- Getting involved in petty crime
- Volatile behaviour
- Having marks or scars on their body which they try to conceal by refusing to undress or uncover parts of their body
- Having multiple mobile phones or use of a mobile phone that causes concern; multiple callers and/or more text messages than usual
- Expressions of despair (self-harm, overdose, eating disorder, challenging behaviour, aggression, appearing drunk or under the influence of drugs, suicidal tendencies, looking tired or ill, sleeping during the day)
- Disclosure of sexual or physical assault followed by withdrawal of allegation
- Sexually transmitted infections/become pregnant
- Peers involved in clipping (receiving payment in exchange for agreement to perform sexual acts but not performing the sexual act) or sexual exploitation
- Use of the internet that causes concern
- Unsuitable or inappropriate accommodation (including street homelessness, rooflessness, and living in a place where needs are not met)
- Isolated from peers and social networks; not mixing with their usual friends
- Lack of positive relationship with a protective, nurturing adult
- Exclusion and/or unexplained absences from school or not engaged in education or training
- Living independently and failing to respond to attempts by workers to keep in touch

2.6 Significant risk indicators

- Periods of going missing overnight or longer
- Older 'boyfriend/girlfriend' or relationship with a controlling adult
- Physical or emotional abuse by that 'boyfriend/girlfriend' or controlling adult
- Entering and/or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults
- Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothing or other items
- Physical injury without plausible explanation
- Frequenting areas known for sex work

2.7 Working with children/young people who have experienced or are at significant risk of being abused through CSE

Children and young people who are at significant risk of experiencing abuse through CSE can present as 'streetwise' or 'problematic' rather than in need of support. Intervention, support and action should be based upon the child or young person's individual needs and be delivered by a trusted worker in conjunction with a protective network of appropriate agencies. Studies indicate that most of those at risk of sexual exploitation have a crime committed against them and have committed crime whilst they have been 'missing' 90% of sexual exploitation is committed whilst a person is reported 'missing'.

Workers need to be realistic about expectations and to understand that this is long term, intensive work, where progress will not always go forward, and where some level of regression is likely.

If suspicions are confirmed the following steps should be taken:

- Treat the child as a victim, not a troublemaker or a criminal;
- Ensure that all relevant information is recorded in the child's care plan and file – concerning adults and identifying information e.g. appearance, street names, cars registration details etc, telephone activity, the child's patterns of missing behaviour etc – together with decisions and clear directions for action;
- Making every effort to dissuade the child from leaving to engage in CSE by talking to them, involving them in alternative activities, and ensuring they have the resources to attend those activities, including escorting where necessary;
- Ensuring that the child is aware of the legal issues involved, for example that those exploiting them are committing a range of offences;
- Monitoring telephone calls, text messages and letters and being present when phone calls are made, opening some letters in the presence of the child and withholding letters if necessary; reasons for intercepting letters and calls (for example, that they relate to a dangerous adult) should be included in the care plan;
- Monitoring callers to the home, or adults collecting children by car. This may involve turning visitors away, or passing information directly to the Police, monitoring any suspicious activity in the vicinity of the home and informing the Police;
- Using appropriate methods, in accordance with relevant guidance, to prevent the child leaving home to engage in sexual exploitation (these should be recorded in the care plan);
- Where these efforts fail, and the child leaves, staff need to decide whether to follow them and continue to encourage them to return;
- If they will not return, staff should inform the local Police that the child is missing and pass on all relevant information
- Liaising with outreach agencies, so they can look out for a child who has gone missing;
- Offering sensitive and welcoming responses to children returning home and consider future preventative intervention in order to reduce further missing episodes.

Please refer to Missing from Home and Missing from Care Protocol.

Chapter 3

Multi agency response

3.1 LSCB

Chapter 2 of *Working Together* sets out details of the roles and responsibilities of the organisations involved in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, Chapter 4 focuses specifically on the role of the LSCB's; this guidance should be read in conjunction with these chapters.

“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.

3.2 NEL CSE Operational Group

This group meet on a bi-monthly basis and are responsible for the management / implementation of the CSE strategy through the CSE action plan. The CSE strategy and action plan will be overseen by the LSCB via the Operational Board on an ongoing basis in order to ensure its impact/ effectiveness. Issues that may need further addressing are then escalated to the Keeping Children Safe Board which has full representation from key agencies.

3.3 MACE Process

The purpose of the MACE panel is to identify high risk victims and offenders in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation offering added value solutions to the victim's care plans and clearly identifying disruption and criminal justice responses to offenders. MACE panel is an overview panel to ensure robust scrutiny of the Local Authority and policing response to CSE – it is not a referral pathway and is not intended to be used instead of the usual safeguarding processes when concerns for a child arise (see sections 3.6 and 3.7). Mace panel is widely represented by all children's social care teams, early intervention and prevention, targeted policing, community policing, housing, health, mental health services, education, education welfare, youth offending service, YPSS, residential care and probation.

MACE panel sits every six weeks and uses the Signs of Safety approach to “map” cases and thematic areas to understand the presenting risks and the safety and strengths that mitigate against these risks so children's stories can be understood and interventions can be appropriately targeted. Panel will review the care plans

(victims) and risk assessments (perpetrators) offering opinion on the quality and credibility of the plan and making added value additions and suggestions to enhance any care/disruption plan. A key panel function is reviewing progress and effectiveness of allocated actions holding to account the individuals and agencies responsible for completing such tasks.

MACE panel will also present an opportunity for mapping and analysis of geographic hotspots, victim groups, offenders and addresses that are currently considered at highest risk of CSE to ensure appropriate intelligence is gathered and shared to inform decision making and future activities.

MACE panel will also produce a task and action log that identifies thematic issues/places/people requiring attention and suggesting solutions. This log will be shared each month with the Local Authority lead for CSE.

The PRE-MACE meeting provides a screening and quality assurance function to ensure that incoming risk indicator tools provide the type and quality of information required to inform good quality decision making.

PRE-MACE panel will also undertake a mapping exercise alongside scrutinising assessments. The mapping will build upon current intelligence re: victims, offenders, vehicles and locations etc.

3.4. Multi Agency approach

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 should be underpinned by:

- A strong commitment from leaders and senior managers
- A shared understanding of the problem of sexual exploitation
- Effective coordination by the LSCB for the area

3.5 Multi- Agency Objectives

- Identify those who are or who are at risk of being sexually exploited by sharing information and assessing risks
- To address the risks associated with victims, perpetrators and locations by proactive problem solving
- To work collaboratively to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people who are being or are at risk of being sexually exploited

- To take effective action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people in this way
- To provide awareness raising and preventative education for children and young people who are at risk of being sexually exploited
- To provide awareness raising to other professionals and members of the general public
- To carry out risk assessment according to a common framework
- To develop a shared picture of intelligence on all threats
- To grade responses to the risks identified including an escalation procedure for those graded as high risk
- To provide early intervention to reduce the harm posed to children and young people
- To investigate, prosecute and disrupt perpetrators
- To adopt a collective watching brief to determine further interventions required
- Promote positive physical and emotional health and well being
- Ensure relevant and timely access to appropriate health services

This process will bring together organisations and individuals with a diverse range of skills, experience and responsibilities.

3.6 Families First Access Point (FFAP)

FFAP is the multi-agency single point of access for advice support and guidance for practitioners who identify a child/young person and family is in need of additional support but do not meet the threshold for statutory interventions.

A single assessment is completed with the families to identify support that could be initiated for early intervention and prevention support.

Single assessments are discussed in locality areas during Cluster Single Assessment Meetings (CSAM) where the author is invited to attend and a plan of support or additional agencies required to support the family is identified.

3.7 Children's Social Care

Children's Social Care have 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.

There is an expectation that assessment of all new referrals to the Children's Assessment & Safeguarding Service will include the use of the Risk Assessment and Management Tool (Appendix 1) 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 are used appropriately and that children and young people's needs are met, employing a multi-agency approach. See 4.2 for appropriate referral pathways and level of threshold.

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, procedures outlined in Section 3 of the LSCB procedures (Managing Individual Cases where there are Concerns about a Child's Safety or Welfare) should be followed and an Initial Child Protection Conference convened.

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.

3.8 Police

The priorities for the police are the safeguarding of children and the investigation and prosecution of offenders who have been involved in abusing children and young people through sexual exploitation. Within Humberside Police there is a dedicated Missing Exploited and Trafficked Team, 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.

Whilst 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. Their work around prevention and disruption is equally as important, this is evidenced through their use of Child Abduction Notices (CAN). 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 Chapter 5).

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'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.

All officers 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 (see Chapter 2) and should be aware of what action to take to ensure that the child or young person is appropriately safeguarded. Where an officer has a concern of CSE (or any other vulnerability), a referral should be to the Police PVP made by using the form 125. 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 (Children Act 1989 Section 46) and joint working with Children's Social Care

3.9 Prevention and Early Intervention Services

The role of Targeted Services staff in relation to children abused through sexual exploitation is primarily in the prevention, recognition, early intervention and referral stages.

These services include street based teams, who are actively engaging with young people within parks and open spaces encouraging conversation in an attempt to raise resilience and self-confidence. This leads to an increase in intelligence being gained and supplied to Humberside Police and the MACE process to aid pro-active tasking.

- All staff who come into contact with young people and have concerns should discuss these with their safeguarding designated officer / lead and identify appropriate referral pathways
- In the case of street activity being noted, including within parks, staff should contact the local police who will inform operation PRIAM staff
- 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
- Through the Resilience and Relationship Strategic Vision North East Lincolnshire will offer free sexual relationship education programmes to all schools, academies, FE and HE this will include subjects such as friendships, relationships, on line safety and sexual health in an attempt to provide young people with the knowledge and tools to keep themselves safe.

3.10 Education

Staff in schools, further education colleges and other education establishments are uniquely placed to recognise and refer children who are abused through CSE. They are also in a position to support children to reduce their vulnerability to and risk of sexual exploitation and to support abused children to recover.

- School staff should be alert and competent to identify and act upon concerns that a child is vulnerable to, at risk of, or experiencing abuse through CSE. They should be familiar with the MACE (Multi Agency Child Exploitation Risk Assessment (Appendix 1) and appropriate associated actions in relation to each level of risk
- The school's Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum provides clear opportunities for schools to teach about all aspects of relationships. Specifically 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 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 school, home or care. See 3.8.
- Staff should be aware of the importance of reporting any concerns related to children and young people who go missing during the school day, reporting information that perpetrators may be targeting an educational facility or other relevant information. This includes responding to concerns related to a child in local authority care.

3.11 Health Services

As most health provision is provided universally, health professionals may often be the first to be aware that a child may be vulnerable to, at risk of or abused through CSE. These children may be in contact with a range of services, including sexual health services, advice and counselling, School Nursing Service, CAMHS, substance misuse services and accident and emergency services.

Health professionals are to access LSCB CSE Safeguarding training.

Health staff should offer and/or continue to provide health education, counselling, sexual health and medical intervention to the child as an appropriate part of early intervention.

3.12 Voluntary Agencies

Because of their often chaotic circumstances and past family experiences, many 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 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 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 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 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 with access to the widest possible range of intervention and support services.

Chapter 4

Managing individual cases through multi agency working

4.1 Tiered Approach

NELC takes the ["Think Family"](#) approach to early intervention and prevention in providing the right level of support at the right time based on the child's assessed needs. This procedure is consistent with and works alongside the LSCB safeguarding procedures.

Using the NEL MACE Risk Indicator Tool (Appendix 1)

The Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) risk indicator tool supports professionals to work to the same criteria using a unified approach in assessing the risk of CSE to children and young people.

The Risk Indicator Tool is consistent with the “Threshold of Need and Response/ Child Concern Model” in providing guidance in assessing the factors impacting on children and young people and in identifying the appropriate level of support/ intervention required in a timely manner.

The CSE Risk Indicator Tool should be used by professionals in assessing concerns in respect of CSE and in determining the level of support/ intervention required. This is specific to CSE concerns and should be used as a global assessment tool.

The CSE Risk Indicator Tool offers an actuarial scoring function to assist professional to reach a conclusion in respect of the level of risk present. However, this scoring system is advisory and professional judgement must be employed to reach an opinion in relation to risk. As such, a Risk Indicator Tool that offers a score of less than 10 will almost always be low risk and will be RAG rated Green however, if the person completing the assessment believes that there is unknown information that increases the risk they should offer a RAG rating of Amber or Red (as appropriate) and explain this judgement in the rationale section that follows the final risk assessment box. PRE-MACE and MACE panel as well service receiving Risk Indicator Tools will use RAG rating rather than actuarial scores to inform their decision making and assessment.

4.2 CSE Information and Intervention Pathway

<p>Level 1 Child Concern Model <u>universal / Universal plus</u> (needs met through universal service provision)</p>	<p>Category 1 Low risk (RAG Green) Score 0 - 10</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Education/awareness raising of CSE with young people by professionals <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Where additional needs are identified contact YPSS with regards to advice, information and support 01472 325252. <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Initiate a Single Assessment meeting where criteria met</p>
<p>Level 2 Child Concern Model <u>Targeted Services / Complex</u> (Assessed with more significant needs, potentially meeting the Child in need criteria)</p> <p>Vulnerable child or young person with a number of risk indicators present</p>	<p>Category 2 Medium risk (RAG Amber) Score 11-19</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Professionals should speak to their designated CP officer and contact FFAP with regards to advice, information and support 01472 323439 <input type="checkbox"/><input type="checkbox"/> Complete Single Assessment where criteria met <input type="checkbox"/> Work with child on sexual exploitation risk awareness and staying safe</p>

		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to NEL CSE local practice guidance <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Professionals should <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Direct work with child <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Reviews
<p>Level 3 Child Concern Model <u>Severe</u></p> <p>(Children assessed as having more complex needs, subject CIN / CP, looked after, learning difficulties and/or disability)</p> <p>Vulnerable child or young person with multiple risk indicators present,</p>	<p>Category 3</p> <p>High risk</p> <p>(RAG Red)</p> <p>Score 20+</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to local CSE NEL protocol <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Professionals should speak to their designated CP officer and make a referral to CASS 01472 325555 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Agree multi agency protection plan <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Intensive direct work with child <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular reviews

4.3 Process

Within the four categories of risk framework, different responses are required in relation to each level of risk. Each of the four categories of risk has an associated action. All agencies are responsible for undertaking the CSE Risk Assessment and Management Tool, where there are risks / concerns around Child and young people at risk of CSE. The Toolkit should be completed in conjunction with agency referral pathways.

Category 1 – Low risk of sexual exploitation (Universal)

(RAG rating Green)

Children and young people in Category 1 who score 5 and below will not always have indicators of risk in relation to sexual exploitation. However children and young people in contact with support agencies such as children’s services are likely to have some vulnerability present.

Children and young people assessed as being in this category need access to basic information that will enable them to develop an awareness of the risks that can lead to a situation in which they may be exposed to sexual exploitation. They need access to information that will equip them to avoid risk situations and to protect themselves. Practitioners working in children’s services teams are well placed to deliver such information as part of their interaction with the children and young people with whom they are in contact.

In the event that additional needs are identified, there is the need to assess the holistic needs of the child, parent/s and family by raising a Single Assessment which will enable practitioners to find out who else is involved, be supported to convene a multi-agency Team around the Family meeting where necessary to co-ordinate service provision.

Children and young people who score between 6 and 10 in this category are likely to have multiple vulnerabilities such as problematic parenting and childhood experiences present. One or two risk indicators may also be present. These vulnerabilities increase the risk of such children and young people being groomed for

sexual exploitation. Early intervention and preventative work is needed to protect children and young people who have multiple vulnerabilities present.

A planned programme to raise awareness of sexual exploitation and to provide tools for children and young people to self-protect is required. Such an intervention should raise risk awareness, provide information on keeping safe and address specific identified issues that pose a threat to safety. Such a programme should be delivered by a practitioner who has a good working relationship with the child or young person. It should include opportunities for children and young people to understand the very real risks involved in staying out late and going missing from school, home or care.

Risk needs to be regularly reassessed as part of the planned work undertaken with a child or young person. Any significant change in circumstances which might increase vulnerability or any incidence of behaviour associated with risk should result in an immediate reassessment of risk.

Following completion of the MACE Risk Assessment and Management Tool and a score of 6 – 10 there is an expectation that a referral will be made to the Young and Safe team with a completed Single Assessment and MACE screening tool.

Category 2 – Medium risk (Complex)

(RAG rating Amber)

Children and young people identified as being in Category 2 are likely to have multiple vulnerabilities present as well as one or more indicators of risk. The range of need within this category of risk is wide in terms of the difference between a child or young person with a risk assessment score of 11 and a child or young person with a risk assessment score of 19. Children and young people at moderate risk may be groomed or targeted for opportunistic abuse and/or exploitative relationships by abusing adults.

Following completion of the MACE Risk Assessment and Management Tool, where a child or young person is assessed as being at risk of or involved in CSE, a referral should be made to FFAP and a Single Assessment completed. Appropriate referrals should be made to services to support the child or young person.

Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Risk Management meetings should respond to the needs of children and young people for whom risk of sexual exploitation is indicated but not known, as well as responding to cases where evidence of sexual exploitation is available. In light of the complex and hidden nature of this form of abuse which children and young people rarely disclose, it is important to work on the basis of concerns rather than relying on hard evidence.

The MACE Risk Management meetings should review and agree the overriding plan for the young person, with the key CSE needs identified, this will be evidenced within the Risk Assessment & Management Tool, to include direct work with the individual child or young person. The focus of any protection plan and of direct interventions should be the reduction of specific risks which are causing concern. In particular where staying out late and/or going missing from school, home or care is identified, these should be addressed as a priority. The safeguarding implications of staying out late and going missing should not be underestimated by any agencies. The length of intervention required will be different in each case and is reliant on the specific circumstances of the child or young person and the nature of the risks which are being addressed. Individual children and young people may respond to

intervention in different ways and this will also impact on the length of the intervention required.

A change of circumstances such as a placement change for example may serve to support the reduction of risks in a relatively short space of time; conversely a placement change could serve to quickly escalate risk. Review meetings should be convened to ensure that actions have been taken, assess progress, consider the impact of interventions, share further information and reassess the level of risk. Risks should be carefully monitored and reviewed over time in relation to children and young people for whom there have been concerns as part of assessment and planning processes already in place within teams.

Category 3 – High risk (Severe)

(RAG rating Red)

Where children or young people are assessed as being in Category 3 there is a clear indication that they are at significant risk of sexual exploitation or that they are already being abused through sexual exploitation. This should always result in a referral through to CASS. This is likely to include cases where abuse is habitual, denied and where coercion and control is implicit.

CASS will convene a multi-agency 'Strategy Meeting' for children abused through sexual exploitation should be convened in relation to children and young people assessed as at 'significant risk'. As with Category 2 The MACE Risk Assessment & Management meetings should ensure the effective exchange of information between representatives of key agencies. The meetings should include the individual who has identified risk or raised concerns in relation to the child or young person and representatives of Children's Services, Police, Health, Education, and any specialist CSE service as well as any other relevant agencies as required. The meetings may include the manager for the FFAP, if a single assessment has previously been in place. Participants of the meeting should agree a protection plan and action to include long term intensive direct work with the individual child or young person. Review meetings should be convened throughout the period in which the specialist intervention is taking place to ensure that agreed actions are implemented, and to assess the progress and impact of agreed interventions, these will take the form of already established FFAP, CIN and CP meetings. Risk should be closely monitored and regularly reassessed as part of the risk reduction process. This should be undertaken under S17 or S47 of the Children Act and must be led by Children's Social Care, and will then form part of any CIN/ CP plan.

All agencies involved in working with the child or young person should address issues of sexual exploitation whether in relation to, for example, placements, offending behaviour, work with the child or young person's family, education or sexual health as part of their work with that child or young person. A coordinated and synchronised approach by all agencies maximises the effectiveness of interventions and the impact of planned actions. All agencies and professionals need to be aware of the intensive and long term nature of the approach required. The presence of multiple vulnerabilities and risks in the lives of children and young people at significant risk often means that they are difficult to engage and that positive outcomes take time.

4.4 Information sharing

In relation to confidentiality, where there are concerns that a child or young person is subject to sexual exploitation, all agencies have a responsibility to report their concerns and share information. The need for a child or young person to be safeguarded overrides their right to confidentiality. Data protection should not prevent the sharing of information but ensures that personal information is shared appropriately. When working with cases where children and young people are at risk of or victims of CSE, there is a high likelihood that in order to safeguard wellbeing, a number of young people will need to be discussed at the same meetings.

4.5 The PRE-MACE & MACE Risk Indicator Tool meetings

Pre-MACE screening Meeting

PRE-MACE meeting is structured in line with the Working Together (2015) expectations of a strategy discussion – children’s social care and police decision makers and a representative from children’s health; given the nature of CSE a young and safe and Youth Offending Service decision maker are also present as is a representative of the FFAP, this is supplemented by the presence of an Independent Reviewing Officer (not otherwise involved in the MACE process) to provide challenge to decision making processes and risk judgements reached by PRE-MACE.

At the point of screening at PRE-MACE, any risk indicator tools that have been submitted where it is not clear that a team around the family is in place whether at the early intervention and prevention level, or statutory level will result in a contact to the FFAP (low and medium risk) or MASH (high risk) immediately from this meeting.

After reviewing the risk indicator tools and perpetrator risk assessments PRE-MACE will reach a joint judgement of whether the individual should be consider low, medium or high risk (as a victim or likely perpetrator) this then informs their placement on the agenda and the amount of time assigned for mapping by the main MACE panel.

Pre-MACE membership:

CASS – Team Manager/Case Supervisor (Chair)
Police – Detective Sergeant (Vice Chair)
Young & Safe – Operational Manager (Vice Chair)
Youth Offending Service – Operational Manager
Children’s Health – Safeguarding lead
FFAP – Locality Team Lead
Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)

MACE Meeting

The purpose of the MACE panel is to identify high risk victims and offenders in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation offering added value solutions to the victim’s care plans and clearly identifying disruption and criminal justice responses to offenders.

MACE panel is not a care planning meeting panel will instead consider activities that can be undertaken in addition to the existing care plan to further enhance and safeguard children at risk of CSE.

MACE panel is an overview panel to ensure robust scrutiny of the Local Authority and policing response to CSE – it is not a referral pathway and is not intended to be used instead of the usual safeguarding processes when concerns for a child arise (see sections 3.6 and 3.7). Mace panel is widely represented by all children’s social care teams, early intervention and prevention, targeted policing, community policing, housing, health, mental health services, education, education welfare, youth offending service, YPSS, residential care and probation.

MACE panel sits every six weeks and uses the Signs of Safety approach to “map” cases and thematic areas to understand the presenting risks and the safety and strengths that mitigate against these risks so children’s stories can be understood and interventions can be appropriately targeted. Panel will review the care plans (victims) and risk assessments (perpetrators) offering opinion on the quality and credibility of the plan and making added value additions and suggestions to enhance any care/disruption plan. A key panel function is reviewing progress and effectiveness of allocated actions holding to account the individuals and agencies responsible for completing such tasks.

Any child considered to be at risk of being sexually exploited, or of being currently being sexually exploited, will be brought to the attention of the CASS service manager and the Local Authority lead for CSE within 1 working day of panel sitting by the panel chair.

MACE panel will also present an opportunity for mapping and analysis of geographic hotspots, victim groups, offenders and addresses that are currently considered at highest risk of CSE to ensure appropriate intelligence is gathered and shared to inform decision making and future activities.

MACE panel will also produce a task and action log that identifies thematic issues/places/people requiring attention and suggesting solutions. This log will be shared each month with the Local Authority lead for CSE.

MACE Panel Membership

CASS – Team Manager/Case Supervisor (Chair – lead member)
Police – Detective Sergeant (Vice Chair - lead member)
Young & Safe – Operational Manager (Vice Chair – lead member)
Police – CSE/Missing officer
CASS Senior Social Worker
YOS - Operational manager
Police – Police Community Support Officer
Police – Community Police Sergeant
Through Care Service – PSW/SSW
Residential Care Service – Unit Manger
CAMHS – Strategic Lead
Hospital Safeguarding
School Nursing
LAC health

Sexual health
Education Welfare Officer (EWO) - Senior
FFAP – Locality Team Lead
Safer & Stronger Communities
Education – Behaviour Service Manager
Home Options
Doorstep
Shoreline Housing
Foundations
Probations

Chapter 5

5.1 Identifying, Disrupting and Prosecuting perpetrators

Identifying, disrupting and prosecuting perpetrators must be a key part of work to safeguard children and young people from CSE. While the police and criminal justice agencies lead on this aspect of work, the support of other partners, for example in recording information and gathering and preserving evidence is also vital. Identifying and prosecuting perpetrators should be a key consideration of all agencies working to address the issue of CSE locally but, any work to identify and prosecute perpetrators should not put children and young people at any further risk of harm.

Locally we have adopted a three-pronged approach to dealing with CSE, including prevention, providing support and protection for young people and prosecuting offenders. These areas of work should not be undertaken in isolation. Work to identify and address the risk factors that make young people vulnerable to CSE and the provision of support and protection will enable agencies to gain the trust and confidence of the young person, in many cases so that they can be part of the work to tackle the exploitation itself. Specialist agencies, particularly those that are non-statutory, that work with victims of CSE will most frequently be in this position and it is vital that where a young person wants, and is able to be a part of a prosecution, the agency is able to support them through the process and post-conviction, including consideration of special measures and support in giving evidence in Court. (North East Lincolnshire Young Witness Support)

5.2 Taking action against perpetrators

Work to identify concerns about children and young people may mean that agencies become aware of perpetrators of CSE. Suspected perpetrators may also be identified through other work such as neighbourhood policing / dedicated Police CSE patrol or work to trace organised crime. Agencies and professionals should contribute to action taken against perpetrators. The details will be for local operations and the most effective tactics will change and develop, not least to keep up with perpetrator behaviours.

5.3 Disrupting perpetrator behaviour

Disrupting perpetrator behaviours should be viewed as an important part of local work to tackle CSE. Whilst there should always be a pro-active investigation aiming for successful prosecutions, a disruption plan targeting suspected perpetrators can be extremely beneficial. A disruption plan might involve a number of activities,

ranging from simple observation of an individual's activities, to the use of a range of civil orders including Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPO), Child Abduction Notice (CAN) and Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO), depending on the type of behaviour and evidence available. Other legislation, such as the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, Protection from Harassment Act 1997 or Family Law Act 1996 or Child Abduction Act 1984 might be used to disrupt incidents of CSE while other measures to safeguard children and young people or gather evidence are taking place. The Licensing Act 2003 can be used to prevent children and young people gaining access to adult venues such as pubs and clubs where they may be especially vulnerable to grooming.

Local authorities may be able to use their statutory powers to disrupt incidents of sexual exploitation. For example, if practitioners are aware of locations where sexual exploitation is taking place, local authority licensing or housing departments can be invited to exercise their powers to close down venues. If a child is in the care of the local authority and the child is missing, the local authority can apply to the court for a recovery order under s50 Children Act 1989.

5.4 Child Abduction Notice (CAN)

This has been recognised Nationally and has been documented as one of the disruption tactics in the HM Government manual for Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation, which is supplementary guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Section 7.4 – Disrupting perpetrator behaviour states:

Disrupting perpetrator behaviour should be viewed as an important part of local work to tackle CSE. Whilst there should always be proactive investigations aiming for successful prosecutions, a disruption plan targeting suspected perpetrators can be extremely beneficial. A disruption plan might involve a number of activities, ranging from simple observations of an individual's activities, to the use of a range of civil orders including SHPO's and SOPO's, dependent on the type of behaviour and evidence available. Other types of legislation such as CBO's, restraining orders or Child Abduction notices can be used to disrupt incidences of sexual exploitation while other measures to safeguard children and young people or gather evidence are taking place.

Section 7.6

Child Abduction Notices are not long term solution to the problem, however they are a useful tool in terms of immediately breaking contact between the child and the individual exploiting them. They are also useful in ensuring that suspected perpetrator cannot claim they did not know the age of the child. The perpetrators details will also be input onto the Police National Computer System.

Child Abduction Notice, under Section 2 of the Child Abduction Act 1984 can be used to disrupt contact between an adult and a child or young person where a child is under 16 years old.

Child Abduction Notice under Section 49 of the Children Act 1989 can be used to disrupt contact between an adult and child or young person where a child is under 18 years of age **AND** in Local Authority Care under Section 31 or 38 of the Children's Act 1989.

Although in these cases a complaint from the child or young person is not necessary, it does require the child's parent, guardian or the person with Parental Responsibility to make a statement.

5.5 Tackling child sex offenders and/or organised criminal networks

Information and intelligence gathered through the joint investigation of CSE is the starting point for building up local knowledge about people responsible for exploiting children and young people. This should enable Police and Children's Social Care to recognise situations where organised and complex abuse is taking place, and instigate the necessary investigations. The information from investigations can then be linked together by different authorities and police forces to establish whether or not cross-border networks of exploiters are operating.

5.6 Evidence gathering and information sharing

Information sharing and multi-agency working is central to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people vulnerable to, at risk of and/or abused through CSE.

The effective identification and recording of information and intelligence in relation to individual cases is crucial to the successful disruption and prosecution of perpetrators. All people involved in the welfare of a child or young person who is suspected to be at risk of CSE should continually gather, record and share information with the appropriate authorities. Parents and carers should be encouraged and supported in identifying perpetrators, collecting and preserving evidence (medical, forensic and circumstantial) as well as in supporting their children through the criminal justice process. Such information can form the basis of strong intelligence and can help the police to start an investigation.

The CSE lead must work in partnership with their counterparts in other agencies to ensure that information and intelligence is recorded and shared appropriately. Effective recording systems should be in place to enable information to be shared between agencies, support individual investigations and enable local areas to monitor and map sexual exploitation to identify specific problems and monitor trends. Ensuring that evidence is gathered in a way that will be accepted by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and can be used in court is critical. The CPS should work with local partners to discuss how to build a successful case in order to support successful prosecutions.

The investigation should seek to identify and assemble evidence that will support charges to reflect the full extent of the abuse. Photographic evidence of physical abuse should be obtained whenever appropriate. It will help in establishing severe abuse even when the child may be unwilling or unable to give evidence. Photographic evidence of the conditions in which a child was kept could also provide valuable evidence for charges of kidnapping or false imprisonment. Care should be taken, however, in obtaining such evidence to ensure that it does not compound the abuse suffered by the young person, and she or he should be made aware that photographs are being taken for evidential purposes. Those investigating criminal actions must understand that the welfare of the child is the paramount concern.

5.7 Special Measures for Victims/Witnesses in Court

The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 introduced a range of measures that can be used to facilitate the gathering and giving of evidence by vulnerable and intimidated witnesses. The measures are collectively known as "Special Measures" and are subject to the discretion of the court.

The special measures available to vulnerable and intimidated witnesses, with the agreement of the court, include:

- Using a video of their evidence to give their account of what happened;
- Answering questions from the defence using the live link from another room;
- In sexual cases, giving evidence in private by clearing the court of people who do not need to be there;
- Advocates and judges in the Crown Court removing their wigs and gowns;
- Aids, such as sign and symbol boards, for children who have difficulty speaking;
- Screens to prevent a witness who is in court from having to see the defendant;
- An intermediary to help explain the questions or answers if necessary.

For all child witnesses there is a presumption that they will give their evidence in chief by video recorded interview and any further evidence by live link unless the court is satisfied that this will not improve the quality of the child's evidence.

However a child witness may opt out of giving their evidence by either video recorded interview or by live link or both, subject to the agreement of the court. If the child witness opts out then there is a presumption that they will give their evidence in court from behind a screen. Should the child witness not wish to use a screen they may also be allowed to opt out of using it, again subject to the agreement of the court.

In deciding whether or not to agree to the wish of the child witness the court must be satisfied that the quality of the child's evidence will not be diminished. The prosecutor must make an application to the court to allow special measures to be considered. In addition to this there is also access to a dedicated young person's ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) support throughout the process.

5.8 Links to other safeguarding procedures

NEL LSCB CSE practice guidance and procedure is aligned to other key NEL safeguarding children protocols procedures

- Missing from home and care
- Harmful sexualised behaviour
- Domestic violence

5.9) Links to Prevention and Early Intervention

North East Lincolnshire Prevention and Early Intervention agenda will be launched towards the end of 2015. The Child Sexual Exploitation Practise, Guidance and Procedure will be refreshed to show how it connects to the Early Help allocations process and offers support to those young people identified as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Exploitation On Line Protection (CEOP)

