

Child Sexual Exploitation Multi-Agency Strategy 2012-14

Working Together to Safeguard Children from Sexual
Exploitation in Nottingham City & Nottinghamshire



Statement of Intent

Sexual exploitation of children is child abuse and is completely unacceptable; the only effective way to tackle sexual exploitation of children is via effective multi-agency and partnership working. Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) remains one of the most important challenges for the Safeguarding Children Boards across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County.

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative relationships, violence, coercion and intimidation, 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.

It is our collective multi-agency responsibility to identify those children and young people at risk of exploitation and our joint responsibility to protect them and safeguard them from further risk of harm. It is also our joint responsibility to, where possible, prevent children becoming victims of this form of abuse.

We will develop an effective local strategy to ensure a co-ordinated multi-agency response to CSE.

We recognise that sexual exploitation can have serious long term impact on every aspect of the child or young person's life, health and education. It also damages the lives of families and carers and can lead to family break ups. It is important that agencies support young people and their families to reduce and begin to repair harm.

We recognise that changes and improvements, whilst needing to be rapid, will realistically be incremental, but they will be based on Statutory Guidance and the DfE Action Plan for tackling CSE as well as utilising research and information from The University of Bedfordshire, Barnardos and the NSPCC. Our approaches will also be consistent with the Missing Children and Adults Cross Government Strategy that requires LSCBs to be pro-active in respect of children who may suffer harm and exploitation as a result of going missing'.

It is our clear intent to improve the lives of children living in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire. We will do so by ensuring children and young people understand the risks of being exploited, enabling them to cease contact with the perpetrators of this abuse and we will endeavour to bring the perpetrators to justice.

This will lead to better outcomes for children and young people through raised self esteem, engagement in other activities, and through attending school or college to plan for their future.

The strategy for 2012-2013 has an emphasis on:

- **Prevention & Response**
- **Safeguarding & Protection**
- **Bringing Offenders to Justice**
- **Public Confidence**

Our shared key strategic priorities are:

- **Mapping needs in relation to levels of CSE**
- **Putting in place systems for monitoring the prevalence and response to CSE, i.e. through the use of data**
- **Working towards a co-located multi-agency team to deliver a co-ordinated response**
- **Increase understanding & awareness of CSE among professionals and the wider community**
- **Training staff across agencies to identify CSE and respond appropriately**

How we will achieve our priorities?

A multi-agency child sexual exploitation (CSE) cross authority group will meet regularly.

This will enable us to work collaboratively, consistently, and effectively to improve the lives of children and young people at risk of harm from, or subject to, child sexual exploitation.

The group will:

- Identify what needs to be done to safeguard children and young people from CSE
- Drive forward and support the work that needs to be done to tackle child sexual exploitation
- Work towards ensuring consistency of practice



| Prevention & Response | |
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| What are we going to do? | How will we do it? |
| Gain a better understanding of the practice of CSE, develop activities which will dissuade children and young people becoming involved in CSE and identify those at risk of CSE. | Initially, we will use the research available to develop a complete picture of CSE and to identify actions and practices for tackling CSE in a preventative and early intervention way. |
| All agencies to ensure staff working with, or in contact with, children understand the signs of precursor types of behaviour and develop intervention strategies to prevent escalation. This will include those displaying precursor behaviour in relation to victimisation and offending. | Through training and development ensure all staff has sufficient awareness of potential indicators of CSE. Review victim profiles to gain improved understanding of underlying factors which may be precursor indicators. |
| Develop local problem profiles. | Identify what local factors are enabling perpetrators or increasing risk to victims and eliminate that risk through an intelligence led multi-agency approach. Identify high risk or hot spot locations and implement multi-agency preventative plans. Develop clear referral and assessment processes for those at risk to match with preventative service delivery such as Early Intervention Services. |
| Deliver a universal education and marketing package to the children and young people of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire designed to heighten awareness and reduce risk taking. Raise awareness of CSE within our communities. | Develop a package of training resources for young people. Identify those agencies that need resources and those who are best placed to deliver training according to local problem profiles. |

| Safeguarding and Protection | |
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| What are we going to do? | How are we going to do it? |
| Work towards specialist co-located multi-agency teams covering Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Local Authorities, which can support victims as well as deter offending and maximise prosecution activity. | Seek agreement in principle from the LSCBs and partner agencies to establish co-located teams. Agree service levels and joint resourcing commitments between partner agencies, including the voluntary sector. This may be an incremental process. |
| Identify children at risk at an early stage across all agencies and ensure those children have a full assessment of their needs and referral to relevant services for intervention and support. | Develop clear referral pathways that ensure effective information sharing, assessment and subsequent co-ordinated service delivery. Ensure all staff in contact with young people has training consistent with their role to identify those at risk of exploitation and those suffering exploitation. |
| Adopt a whole family approach when supporting families to parent, protect and engage. Highlight and educate parents and carers of the benefits of working collaboratively with agencies. | Ensure the commitment of all agencies to work with families to agree plans of support to educate and assist parents. Identify and then reduce the factors which will cause the child or young person to remain in a risky situation. |
| Set the DfE guidance Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation as well as the DfE Action Plan as the minimum standard across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire. | The LSCBs will continue to review current arrangements, protocols and policies of member agencies to assure compliance. The LSCBs will establish CSE as a priority area. |
| The NSCB and NCSCB will provide ongoing scrutiny and governance of policy, procedure and practice in service delivery. | To monitor compliance through the CSE Cross-Authority Task & Finish Group and address any shortfalls. |

| Bringing Offenders to Justice | |
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| What are we going to do? | How are we going to do it? |

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| Identify Offenders. | <p>We will ensure that CSE victims receive follow up visits post incident, in order to capture vital intelligence and ensure full disclosure. This aims to close the intelligence gap, support prosecutions and create a clear picture of CSE.</p> <p>Conduct debriefs of convicted offenders to gain an improved intelligence picture of offender behaviour.</p> |
| Ensure victims' are supported throughout the Criminal Justice process from report to court. | <p>Enlist help and support to victims by the non statutory / voluntary sector to improve their engagement and experience throughout the Criminal Justice System process.</p> |
| Develop CSE problem profile, incorporating data from improved intelligence collection and data from all agencies. | <p>All front line agencies should develop ways of capturing and recording data relating to known or suspected cases of sexual exploitation.</p> <p>A multi-agency data set will be established for use by the Police and services for sexually exploited children. This will also be the basis of reporting to the LSCBs.</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Police will use the data along with intelligence to develop regular problem profiles of sexual exploitation</p> |
| Learn from previous, current and future prosecutions to ensure all investigations into CSE are undertaken by professionally trained staff. | <p>Outline best practice in relation to the support available for victims, including after the process has completed.</p> <p>Review all recent cases to identify key aspects of the investigation and Criminal Justice process that can lead to successful or unsuccessful prosecution outcomes.</p> <p>Ensure suitably qualified investigators with specific knowledge of CSE and Child Abuse undertake investigations.</p> |
| Develop a CSE Victims' Charter | <p>Closer liaison with Criminal Justice partners to ensure the provision of CPS specialists and specialist courts. The adoption of this methodology within the domestic abuse arena has led to improved victim experience and ensures county wide continuity of processes.</p> |

| Public Confidence | |
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| What are we going to do | How are we going to do it? |
| Engage with our local communities and raise awareness of CSE and how it affects individuals and wider communities. | LSCBs to develop key messages for engagement strategy. All agencies to utilise their existing partnerships and develop new arrangements of community engagement. Standing Agenda item for LSCBs. |
| Agree a Multi-Agency Media Strategy | Develop a strategy which will target different sections of the community in the most appropriate manner. This will involve utilising multi-media /social networking technology to raise awareness and increase reporting. Through use of the media the LSCBs will seek to promote the activity defined within this strategy. |
| Educate all sections of our communities. | Linked with the Media Strategy. Partnerships agencies will engage with our communities in a multi-stranded way to educate and raise awareness to all sections of the community and increase reporting among key groups within the community for example hoteliers, taxi drivers, door staff etc |
| Develop plans reflecting local problem profiles in line with the LSCB strategy. | Develop engagement plans in line with LSCB key messages to reflect local problem profiles and requirements. Plans to be reviewed by LSCB CSE Cross Authority sub group. |
| Proactively engage businesses within our communities. | Plan how to engage with businesses to prevent and respond to CSE, which may include disruption techniques. |