



BARNSLEY CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION STRATEGY 2017 – 2019

Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board and its partners are committed to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.

STRATEGIC AIM:

Barnsley LSCB recognises the long term and detrimental impact of child sexual abuse on primarily the victims, but also the families and communities it affects. Historically Child Sexual Exploitation has not been recognised and dealt with appropriately. It is therefore the aim of this strategy to ensure an effective partnership response to Child Sexual Exploitation, from prevention through to pursuing offenders. By delivering on this strategy, the LSCB partners will endeavour to prevent Child Sexual Exploitation and will ensure that effective services are provided to children and young people who are at risk of or are victims of Child Sexual Exploitation.

PURPOSE:

The key priorities of this strategy are:

- Keep children and young people at the heart of planning and delivering services
- Agencies work together to provide an effective joined up response to Child Sexual Exploitation
- Learn from National best practice
- Define and understand Child Sexual Exploitation and the requirements at all organisational levels
- Assess the risk relating to Child Sexual Exploitation within Barnsley
- Progress a plan based upon preparation, prevention, protection and pursuit
- Identify roles and responsibilities at all levels
- Ensure activity is undertaken against the action plan to provide for continuous improvement in service

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Barnsley LSCB and its partners use the nationally agreed definition of Child Sexual Exploitation:

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.

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Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice, as a result of their social, economic or emotional vulnerability.

A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.

Child Sexual Exploitation can take many forms, however the following are examples of the types of activity which may be seen:

- **Inappropriate relationships** involving a lone perpetrator who has inappropriate control or power over a young person, whether physical, emotional or economic. There is likely to be a significant age gap between the perpetrator and victim. The young person may believe that they are in a loving, equal relationship
- The **'boyfriend model'** of exploitation and peer exploitation where the perpetrator befriends and grooms the young person into a relationship and subsequently coerces them to have sex with friends or associates. This includes gang exploitation and peer on peer exploitation.
- **Organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking** – young people (often connected) are passed through networks possibly over geographical distance between towns and cities, where they may be forced/coerced into sexual activity with multiple men. This may include sex parties and young people used to recruit others.
- **Abuse of children over the internet** which can include grooming, particularly through social networks and may include non-contact abuse (for example sharing of indecent images) and/or later contact by face to face meetings

Source - Barnardos

Though reference is often made to female victims of Child Sexual Exploitation it should be recognised that males may also be vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation and will need support which demonstrates an understanding of their needs.

Barnsley Safeguarding Board recognises that Child Sexual Exploitation can have a serious long term impact on children, young people and their families including:

- Physical and emotional health and well being
- Educational attainment
- Personal safety
- Relationships
- Future life opportunities
- Impact on family life placing considerable strain on all family members and increasing the risk of family breakdown

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- Becoming involved in criminal activity
- Being drug and/or alcohol dependant
- Lack of trust
- Increased risk of further abuse such as domestic and/or sexual violence

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Nationally, as a result of several high profile Child Sexual Exploitation investigations, understanding and recognition has grown leading to increases in recorded concerns and offences. It is important to recognise that Child Sexual Exploitation does not come in one form and that it can happen anywhere.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). Between 2010 / 11 and 2014 / 15, the number of police recorded sexual offences rose significantly across all four nations in the UK, ranging from 80% in England to 48% in Wales. The reason for these increases is unknown however, it is likely that a number of factors have contributed, for example; increased willingness of victims to report abuse.

Contemporary depiction of child abuse in the media has been sustained in regards to both current and historic offending. The increased volume of CSE offences reported to South Yorkshire Police in 2014 / 15, following publication of the Professor Jay report in August 2014, demonstrates the impact of national coverage on recorded volumes. This, in combination with a number of high profile cases, such as Operation Yewtree, have reintroduced child sexual abuse to public and political consciousness and facilitated a renewed focus on the issue.

Consequently, child abuse is now regarded as a national threat.

Online offences:

Reports of online abuse have also increased exponentially. In the last five years, a 134% increase in recorded offences relating to 'obscene publications', including the production, distribution and viewing of child abuse images, has been observed in England.

It is recognised that CSE is often facilitated online, allowing for virtual grooming, and an increase in non-contact offending.

BARNSELY CONTEXT

Barnsley has seen significant increases in referrals of concern that children are linked to Child Sexual Exploitation.

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Analysis of data covering 2016/17 shows that the majority of victims in Barnsley are from a white North European background, with a distinct peak in complainant age at 14 years.

White North European males also make up the highest percentage of suspects / perpetrators, with Asian males making up the remainder. However, the totals for Barnsley are low overall. The prevalent age for suspects is between 15 & 19 years. The majority of offenders are already known to the victim.

It is recognised at a strategic level that CSE concerns and vulnerabilities, are at times linked to overall neglect within the family. The ongoing strategy ensures better communication between the two subgroups, ensuring better liaison in the two areas of concern.

It is also recognised that Online CSE is a growing area of concern nationally and Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board, and the partnership, will continue to tackle CSE online, ensuing robust action is taken against perpetrators and safeguard victims.

Barnsley has a changing demographic of population, and targeted work is ongoing to build relationship with harder to reach groups and raise awareness of CSE, in line with BSCB CSE Strategic Sub Group's action plan.

BARNSELY'S APPROACH TO TACKLING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Prepare

- Ensure that effective governance structures are in place to monitor and manage the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation
- Understand the prevalence and profile of Child Sexual Exploitation in Barnsley by mapping partnership data
- Ensure effective training is available to empower staff to recognise Child Sexual Exploitation and take appropriate action
- Ensure that structures and processes are in place to support the effective sharing of information between partners and ensure that those vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation are identified at the earliest opportunity
- Review the provision of services (preventative and post-abuse) to ensure that victims and those at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation are supported
- Undertake multi-agency audits of Child Sexual Exploitation cases to identify areas for development and learning
- Ensure all staff understand their responsibility in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation Ensure opportunities are taken to share best practice

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Prevent

- Use innovative campaigns to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation amongst young people, parents/ carers and professionals
- Ensure that children are supported to help them understand and identify Child Sexual Exploitation
- Ensure that where risks of Child Sexual Exploitation are identified, effective early intervention is put in place for both victims and potential perpetrators
- Identify trends in relation to offender activity which may lead to Child Sexual Exploitation
- Ensure appropriate interventions and disruption activity takes place to make it more difficult for offenders to target young people

Protect

- Ensure that staff recognise signs of Child Sexual Exploitation at the earliest opportunity and take appropriate action to safeguard the child involved
- Ensure that information is shared between partners effectively and in a timely fashion to enable an holistic assessment of the risk and appropriate intervention
- Ensure that statutory child protection procedures are being used for Child Sexual Exploitation cases and that partners are working together to safeguard the child and other potential victims
- Ensure that plans and interventions meet the needs of the young person and are reviewed to ensure effectiveness
Ensure that non-statutory support services are available for those at risk of and victims of Child Sexual Exploitation

Pursue

- Ensure that information and intelligence about perpetrators is shared with police
- Ensure that all investigative and intelligence opportunities to pursue offenders are seized
- Ensure that the partnership uses the full range of the powers available to them to disrupt and/or prosecute offenders
- Ensure effective risk management of perpetrators in the community

GOVERNANCE

This strategy will be delivered through a multi-agency action plan

Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board

Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board are responsible for monitoring and challenging agencies to ensure that they meet the objectives within the

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strategy. They will hold the CSE Strategic Group and its members to account for delivery of this strategy through the action plan and will require updates on progress every quarter. Audits commissioned by the LSCB will also provide evidence of whether the strategy and delivery plan are being achieved.

Barnsley Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Group

The Child Sexual Exploitation strategic group are responsible for maintaining an overview of interagency working in the area of Child Sexual Exploitation through a multi-agency group. The group is also responsible for the implementation of the strategy and management of the Child Sexual Exploitation action plan to ensure continuous improvement and for providing updates as required by the Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board.

Barnsley CSE (MASH) Meeting

The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Meetings are held weekly.

Where there is concern that a young person is a victim of CSE and/or vulnerable to CSE a referral should be made to the CSE Meeting. The key purpose of this meeting is to share multi-agency information; assess the level of risk; explore areas of risk/support /intervention/action; provide advice and complete a multi-agency Action Plan aimed at reducing the identified risks and providing targeted intervention where needed.

The CSE meeting is multi-agency in nature and includes representation from Police; Children's Social Care; Health; Barnardo's & Targeted Youth Support. There is also a virtual link to Education.

In this meeting the Child Sexual Exploitation Screening tool is utilised to risk assess the risk level of a child or young person. This sharing of information can then assist in targeting those vulnerabilities and enable better safeguarding.

Multi-Agency Missing Panel

The Panel meets weekly to consider all children reported to the Police as missing the previous week.

The Panel consists of:

Service Manager Safeguarding (chair)
Missing Officer (Police)
CSE Social Worker/ Team Manager Assessment Team
YOT
Education
Return Home Interviewers (Integrated Youth Support)

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The Process:

All notifications are sent by South Yorkshire Police to the Social Care Assessment team. The Team will record the missing incident on the child's electronic file. The Team Manager will consider the circumstances of the child's missing episode within a context of other information regarding the child and determine any required actions.

The representatives of the Missing Panel receive the information regarding the children who have been reported missing and will undertake agency checks prior to the meeting. Each child is then considered within the meeting including information from the return home interview. The Panel will discuss the missing episode and the actions being undertaken.

The Panel can make recommendations which include:

- The Police to make further enquiries/actions regarding the incident. This can include consideration of any actions regarding possible perpetrators.
- Social Care to undertake further screening and/or assessment.
- The child to be considered at the CSE/MASH meeting.
- The child to be considered at the Multi Vulnerability Complex Abuse (MVCA) Panel.
- A multi-agency strategy meeting is convened in accordance with the South Yorkshire Missing protocol.
- A referral is made for Early Help support through Integrated Youth Support.
- Liaison with schools and other agencies to ensure information is shared and any required actions undertaken.
- Information has been shared with other LA's regarding children placed in Barnsley.

The Missing Panel ensures good communication and information sharing with other processes for safeguarding children including the CSE MASH arrangements and the MVCA. The Panel will ensure there is consideration of any missing episodes regarding looked after children placed in Barnsley by other LA's. The possible risks for children placed in Barnsley is considered at the Private Providers meeting attended by both LA and none LA children's homes in Barnsley.

The Multiple Vulnerabilities and Complex Abuse (MVCA) panel.

The MVCA panel brings together managers from different agencies to ensure that those children with the most complex safeguarding needs are considered.

Children will be subject to LAC or child protection planning / section 47 **and at least 2 of** a combination of the following risk factors including:

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- Victim of, or risk from, CSE;
- Repeatedly missing from home/care
- Mental health episodes
- Self harming
- Significant drug, alcohol use
- Violence or threats of violence to self or others

The Panel meets on a monthly basis and consists of:

- Chair: HOS/Service manager Safeguarding & Quality Assurance
- HOS Children's Social Care/Service Manager Safeguarding Unit
- HOS Children Social Care/Service Manager Looked after Children
- Social Care CSE Team Manager
- Service Manager Social Care
- South Yorkshire Police: PPU CSE/MASH
- South Yorkshire Police PPU Missing from Home Officer
- BHNFT: Named Nurse and GU Medicine
- SWYPFT: Public Health Nurse
- Named Nurse for Looked After Children
- Education Welfare Service: Children Missing Education Lead
- YOT
- Early help services
- BSARC
- Spectrum CIC
- Barnardo's
- Berneslai Homes
- CAMHS

The Panel has determined a Risk Matrix tool that is used to by agencies to share any relevant information about the young person and their circumstances and any known perpetrators.

The Panel will consider from the information:

- What is known about the child?
- What it is assumed maybe happening for the child?
- What enquiries are required to provide evidence to support or dispel assumptions?
- What is in place to offset the risks?

The Panel from this information will:

- Set further actions in light of additional information or emerging risks.

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- Identify any further support required to the child and their family.
- Identify perpetrators and their activities and map their offending in order to protect and safeguard all young people in Barnsley.
- Ensure governance and oversight of the CSE and other arrangements through audit.

Outcomes from the Panel:

- Children and young people in Barnsley will be more effectively protected and supported.
- Develop and enhance communications between all partner agencies who are working to improve the services for children, young people and their families.
- Be a conduit for the identification of and sharing of good practice across all agencies.
- Inform Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board's Strategic approach to safeguarding Children and Young people felt to be at the highest risk due to MVCA.
- Through effective interagency information sharing will assist in the mapping and understanding of perpetrator activity and geographical hotspots. Information about current levels of CSE, missing and high risk activity and action to address and reduce incidence will be regularly reported into the full Safeguarding Board via the CSE and missing strategic group.