



Bristol Safeguarding  
Children Board

making safeguarding everybody's business

Child Sexual  
Exploitation  
Strategy

2015

## **Foreword**

This strategy sets out the commitment of Bristol Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and stakeholders to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in a co-ordinated, multi-agency and strategic manner, and to support victims in mitigating the impact of CSE.

The strategy is endorsed by all professionals and organisations in contact with or providing services to children and young people in Bristol (whether in a statutory or voluntary capacity), in order to identify, support and equip professionals to effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people affected by CSE, and to encourage a culture of professional challenge in order to effectively address the complex issues that CSE involves.

Young people who are victims of sexual exploitation require comprehensive, long term support, often into adulthood. This strategy will, where concerns arise, ensure that support is provided at the earliest opportunity.

***Sally Lewis***

***Independent Chair***

***Bristol Safeguarding Children Board.***

## Definition

Sexual exploitation of children and young people is child sexual abuse. A more thorough definition is provided from joint work between project members of the 'National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People' (NWG) 2008.

*“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, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation 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.”*

## Aim

To provide a strategic response and framework to tackle issues relating to child sexual exploitation in Bristol in order to identify, reduce and where possible, eliminate sexual exploitation.

## Our Pledge

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse which involves children and young people (male and female, of a range of ethnic and religious backgrounds and ages, and in some cases as young as 9).

Child sexual exploitation is not unique to Bristol and occurs in all parts of the country. Children and young people can be trafficked across geographical areas and internationally for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

BSCB is responsible for ensuring that appropriate local procedures are in place to tackle child sexual exploitation. All frontline practitioners need to be aware of their responsibilities and take appropriate action to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who are sexually exploited

All agencies and organisations in Bristol sign up to the following principles:

- No child or young person is to blame for being sexually exploited regardless of their behaviour or the risks / actions they take.

- The behaviour of young people who have been sexually exploited will be understood and considered in the context of their abuse, considering the neuro-biological impact of trauma and grooming.
- Access to support services for those at risk of or those who are being sexually exploited should be simple and straightforward, recognising their immediate need for support as victims of sexual violence and abuse.
- Children and young people will receive appropriate recovery support.
- Support will not be dependent on a child or young person recognising themselves as a victim of sexual exploitation or making a complaint to police.
- Agencies will work together to identify, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of sexual exploitation, being aware that perpetrators will use coercion and threats in an attempt to silence their victims.

**Signed on behalf of the BSCB**

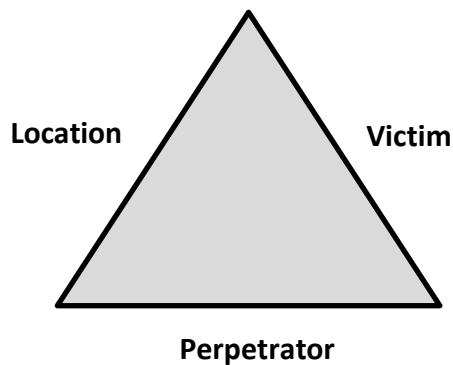


**Sally Lewis,  
Independent Chair, BSCB**

## Strategy

In order to combat the systemic nature of child sexual exploitation, this strategy is based on a framework of achieving:

### **Prevention – Protection – Prosecution (including dispersal and disruption) by considering**



The multi-agency response consists of addressing emerging risk in any one of the above domains, gathering operational evidence in respect of known locations where activity has or is likely to take place, identification of victim(s) in order to protect and support them to exit CSE, and actively pursue the prosecution and disruption of activity by known perpetrators.

Professionals from a number of agencies, but in particular the police, health and education establishments, are a key source of referrals to Children's Services. Specialist services such as Barnardo's and Brook Sexual Health services may already know these children and their families well and are thus key in assisting Children's Services undertake their assessment functions under the Children Act 1989 by contributing to the assessment and any multi-agency safety plan.

A range of organisational arrangements will need to be in place to ensure sound practice in delivering the strategy and improve on the effectiveness of the assessment process. The impact of the strategy will be measurable over time by the:

- Establishment of a CSE Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to consider, collate and analyse operational intelligence in relation to victims and perpetrators;
- numbers of referrals to the police and/or Children's Services;
- improved outcomes for children and young people, and;
- increased number of prosecutions.

Processes for collating data and evaluating performance in these areas will need to be developed.

## Prevention

- Equip young people in understanding sexual exploitation and risks they may face in this regard, developing skills in relation to 'peer support and mentoring' within schools and other settings
- *(Universal)* Training of all PSHE Leads in CSE and providing support to develop appropriate preventative PSHE programmes in school using national tools such as Real Love Rocks, which are quality evaluated by Public Health, and linking in with school e-safety programmes
- *(Targeted)* Programme of preventative group work delivered through Bristol Youth Links and Brook to young people who are more at risk of being targeted i.e. looked after children; young people with learning difficulties; young people out of mainstream education; young people in youth justice systems; missing / runaways; homeless / sofa surfing; substance misuse (parents and young people); mental health needs and young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
- *(Targeted)* 1-2-1 support for young people where there is emerging vulnerability in their sex and relationships choices, currently delivered by Barnardo's as part of Bristol Youth Links
- *(Specialist)* Robust missing procedures for children who runaway and those missing from education, Return Interviews and 1-2-1 support for young people who go missing to reduce risk ([Linked to BSCB Missing Guidance](#))
- Early Identification – all professionals working with children trained to the appropriate level through 4YP and BSCB
- Toolkit – develop threshold guidance and tools to provide advice and support to professionals working with children
- Good quality use of the Single Assessment Framework
- Access to Bristol Youth Links where risk is emerging in a young person's behaviour towards others: 1-2-1 sex and relationships support for up to 8 sessions
- Links with Be Safe Team for support of young people with sexually harmful behaviour
- Probation and police management of Registered Sex Offenders and appropriate access to support in prisons
- Police to have plans in place to manage adults who pose a sexual exploitation risk to children
- All locations where there is an increased risk of targeting by exploitative individuals or groups to have a risk reduction action plan i.e. children's homes, schools, youth centres.
- Development of prevention strategies in the wider community such as taxi ranks (licensing), hotels, shopping areas and licensed premises
- Training and support to parents and carers through advice from knowledgeable and trained parenting workers and easy access to support and guidance materials.

## Protection

- [BSCB guidance on CSE for procedures](#) relating to strategy discussions and inclusion of BASE on any strategy discussion regarding CSE and [BSCB Strategy for children missing from Home and Care](#)
- CSE MARAC
  - o referrals to be for victim/s; perpetrator/s; or location/s;
  - o jointly chaired by a Detective Inspector and Children's Social Care Service Manager with
  - o access to a budget to allow effectiveness in their decision-making.
  - o core group of agencies in regular attendance.
- Shared agency risk plans for young people with regular reviews
- Parental support: parenting workers to be aware of Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE<sup>1</sup>) and PACE documents for working with parents affected by child sexual exploitation
- Access to appropriate placements and placement stability strategies
- Specialist and tailored support services for victims of CSE:
  - o Barnardo's Against Sexual Exploitation (BASE),
  - o BASE/CAMHS and
  - o BASE Sexual Health clinics
- Intelligence sharing (Intelligence email address for police widely distributed with professionals)
- Links to Diversionary Group, SV MARAC and SVP MARAC. The aim is for CSE cases not to sit in these, but to use information from them to identify unknown vulnerability or risk and to map trends of sexual violence and gang activity.
- Link to local and national strategies and guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Forced marriage and Honour based Violence (HBV), gang violence, international trafficking, missing, professional training, e-safety and Safeguarding Children Substance misuse group
- Regular auditing of casework in relation to CSE in order to develop plans in order to improve practice.
- Where young people are victims of CSE but are also incriminated in possible offences linked to their abuse, their status as a victim will be given priority and information shared will not normally be used to seek a conviction or undermine the support they need. However, each situation will be judged on its own merits but it is very much the case that the context of any associated offending will be taken into account before ever deciding to treat such victims as perpetrators.
  - o It is widely recognised that victims of CSE may become involved in introducing other young persons to perpetrators who are then sexually exploited.
  - o In some cases the victims can be involved in potential criminal offences themselves.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.paceuk.info/>



- This behaviour may be motivated by fear, duress, peer pressure, non-recognition of an abusive situation or due to a desire to ease the sexual demands being placed on themselves.
- Professionals should look at the whole picture and firstly bear in mind the vulnerability of the victim
- Safeguarding of the victim and other young persons must be the priority
- Consideration of any offences disclosed should be based on a full understanding of an individual's position
- Decisions should be made following multi agency strategy discussions
- Early consultation should be made with the Crown Prosecution Service where there is information that a CSE victim may have committed similar criminal offences

## **Prosecution and Disruption**

Strategic management to ensure effective links to:

- Safer Bristol (Community Safety Partnership)
- Neighbourhood Partnerships
- Anti-Slavery Partnership
- Avon and Somerset CSE Consortium
- CSE MARAC to be used to plan disruption responses in locations and with individuals of concern
- Investigations into CSE offences to include multi-agency disruption plans alongside prosecution responses
- Data collection overseen by the CSE sub-group to monitor prevalence and trends of CSE and shape operational response
- Recording use of 'abduction notices' and flagging with appropriate agencies when a person has been issued a notice in relation to a CSE concern, and which child(ren) the notice relates to

## **Campaigning and Awareness Raising**

- Linking with Bristol Ideal
- Using existing youth groups to develop campaigns such as young people who have accessed BASE, Girls Making History, Urban Fit
- Develop an effective resource highlighting the voices of young people through the use of social media and accessible services

## **Evaluation of strategy**

The strategy will be reviewed and operated by the BSCB CSE Sub Group and agencies involved in the sub group will be committed to ensure that the strategy is effectively

implemented over the next 2 years. An independent review of the impact of the strategy will be completed in 2016-2017.