



Child Sexual Exploitation Multi-Agency Strategy 2015- 2018

*Working Together
to
Safeguard Children
from
Sexual Exploitation
in
Lancashire*



PROTECT-POLICY

Statement of Intent

Child Sexual Exploitation is child abuse.

This strategy is the Joint Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen Safeguarding Children Boards plan to address child sexual exploitation (CSE).

It builds on work already undertaken since the last strategy was launched in 2011 and is informed by lessons already learned both nationally and locally; statutory guidance and research.

The aim of this strategy is to safeguard and protect children and young people in the county.

Definition of CSE

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where the young person (or third person/s) 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 images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. 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.

Our key strategic priorities for 2015-2018 are:

- 1. Prevention: Public Confidence and Awareness**
- 2. Protect: Protecting, Supporting, Safeguarding Victims and Managing Risk**
- 3. Pursue: Identifying and bringing offenders to justice**
- 4. Partnerships: Co –location and Co- working**
- 5. Intelligence & Performance Monitoring**
- 6. Leadership**
- 7. Learning and Development**

Implementation

The CSE sub groups of each board will develop and monitor action plans for the strategy and report on outcomes on a quarterly to their respective LSCB.

1. PREVENTION, PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AND AWARENESS

	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?
1.1	Engage with children, young people and their families to raise their awareness and understanding of CSE and inform them of what to do if they are worried that their child, or a child they know, is at risk of CSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that a range of community engagement activities are delivered in identified localities to increase confidence within our diverse local communities • Support national awareness week, prioritise organising an awareness day 2015 • Plan, develop and review public campaigns re CSE and ensure that these are effectively targeted in areas of greater risk, including on-line offending • Develop awareness about children who are vulnerable due to MFH or missing from school • Develop partnership working with care providers, including private children's homes, police and other partner agencies awareness around vulnerability of children who go missing/absent
1.2	Enable all staff including strategic leaders to understand CSE, recognise and respond when a child/family they work with is at risk/experiencing CSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear policies and procedures are in place and communicated to the children's workforce • All staff receive regular CSE service development updates from their respective boards • Regular briefings to elected members • Processes are in place to measure the impact of policy/guidance on practice
1.3	Provide the local community with information and resources about CSE and a clear process to follow when they are concerned about CSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make available and publicise a CSE community resource that informs and guides parents and the local community regarding CSE issues and developments • Develop a parents/community pathway to follow when there are concerns regarding CSE • Use effective communication tools to demonstrate to the community that organisations welcome approaches from anyone who has concern • Continue to contribute to training of key players in the community who can identify and respond to risks e.g. taxi drivers and hotel staff
1.4	Develop a Media strategy that informs the community and professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree a multi-agency Media strategy which includes key messages and enables interactions with the media to be well informed and constructive • Provide a task and finish group to identify effective ways of engaging with local faith and minority ethnic communities, as well as the wider community, and agree messages and materials relating to CSE

2. PROTECT: PROTECTING, SUPPORTING, SAFEGUARDING VICTIMS AND MANAGING RISK

	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?
2.1	Have dedicated multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation teams that have integrated processes to provide multi-agency support for victims and their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist teams are already in place (AWAKEN, DETER and ENGAGE) • Pan- Lancashire operating protocol is under development • Teams available for advice and training of the multi-agency workforce • Impact measured through individual boards QA framework • Contribute to, and learn, from national reports on CSE and multi-agency audits
2.2	Enable staff to identify Children at risk of CSE and respond at the earliest opportunity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff from all agencies, including care providers and providers of education, to be trained in recognition and response • Policies and procedures available and understood • Specialist training programme for key workers • Briefings on latest research made available to children’s workforce • Take up opportunities for Pan Lancashire training and development opportunities
2.3	Throughout interventions at all levels of need we will develop and offer mechanisms and processes that provide support to victims and their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist support services are in place and accessible to children and their families • The workforce and families know how to access these services • Develop and implement arrangements for talking with and listening to the experiences and perspectives of children and young people who have been at risk of or have suffered from CSE • Ensure that all partners involved in interviewing children who go missing apply a consistent approach and evidence based methodology, which takes full account of the risk of the child being trafficked for sexual exploitation • Ensure that there is a designated member of staff in schools/colleges who children, young people and parents can approach regarding worries or concerns they have re CSE

3. PURSUE; IDENTIFYING AND BRINGING OFFENDERS TO JUSTICE

	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?
3.1	We will work with the Police and CPS to develop a coordinated approach to bring offenders to justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure operating protocols are fully informed by developments in criminal justice approach • Identify dedicated CPS CSE leads in Lancashire
3.2	We will develop processes that disrupt offenders attempting to groom children into sexual exploitative situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear disruption policies are in place understood and used • The children’s workforce understands their role in providing information to assist specialist team interventions • Engage with the hospitality and night time economy industry staff to raise awareness of CSE, perpetrators and victims • Work with taxi licensing authorities to raise awareness of CSE • Further the development of responses to on-line offending through the OCAIT (Online Child Abuse Investigation Team)
3.3	Understand and learn from local and national developments that will help inform the partnerships approach to bringing offenders to justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By engaging in national CSE research, development and policy and protocol development • Pan- Lancashire CSE group to co-ordinate good practice

4. PARTNERSHIPS: CO-LOCATION

	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?
4.1	LSCB's will oversee partnership activity and the level of commitment by agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSCBs will provide the forum for discussion and challenge regarding multi-agency commitment to sustaining the specialist resource • Ensure local strategies and partnerships are reviewed and updated • Early Identification of risk of CSE through improved multi agency information exchange pathways within MASH • Develop a Pan-Lancashire approach to the deployment of ISVAs which identifies areas and responds to the diversity of needs across the county • Work with CCG's and Public Health to commission health services to support victims of CSE
4.2	The Pan- Lancashire CSE sub group and the Blackpool and BWD Sub groups together with the five Lancs Children's Partnership Boards will drive tactical activity to ensure strategy is delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSCB Members/deputies will chair sub groups • Members of specialist teams and LSCB business managers sit on Children's Partnership Boards

5. INTELLIGENCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?
5.1	Each LSCB will collect and conduct analysis of data from partner agencies to gain a greater understanding of CSE across Lancashire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of six monthly problem profile • Comprehensive review of partnership data • Mapping of Organised Crime Groups • Regular multi agency risk and intelligence briefings • Sub groups will provide LSCB's with regular reports on trends and patterns

6. LEADERSHIP

	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?
6.1	The LSCB must provide clear Leadership and a long term vision and aim in relation to CSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSE to be a priority area of business for all LSCB's • LSCB's to hold agencies to account in terms of response and commitment • Each agency to identify a lead officer for CSE • All LSCBS to consider an implement recommendation from national policy, expert groups and reports

7. LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

	What are we going to do?	How are we going to do it?
7.1	The LSCB must ensure that appropriate learning and development opportunities are in place for all staff regarding CSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff from all agencies to complete online level 1 CSE training • Each LSCB to produce training plan for CSE • E-safety training to be provided for all children and young people • Scope and review CSE training packages for schools • Continuous Professional Development events • Hold annual CSE Awareness week