

Overview of Child Sexual Exploitation based on Rochdale and Rotherham.

The media have recently highlighted a number of high risk and high profile Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking cases. It is reported that there are in excess of 1,400 female victims who were not protected from the perpetrators enabling substantial repeat and continual victimisation. Victims and their families have reported that they received little or no support from the authorities when assistance was requested. Looked after children were targeted by the perpetrators, given the number of victims and the timescales it is clear that safeguards and risk management of young people and young people reported as missing persons to the Police were ineffective. Damaging public perception of the agencies involved fuelling a lack of confidence in Local Authority Social Care and the Criminal Justice System.

- 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 (CSE) 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.
- Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from 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 (Association of Chief Police Officers CSE Report - 2013).

*Please note that the City of London do not have a designated residential unit accommodating Looked After Children. There are currently 9 Looked After Child who are in foster placements in different Boroughs around London. These young people have Care Plans which are reviewed over and above the statutory requirements. The foster placements are visited and to date there are no identifiable concerns /risks being presented for any of these young people regarding CSE.

Overview of Child Sexual Exploitation - Safer City Partnership Plan 2014-2017

The Safer City Partnership recognise that It is extremely important that there are clear referral pathways in place and that service areas are adequately trained to identify cases of CSE and Trafficking including recognising incidents, female and male victims and perpetrators of CSE and Trafficking.

Providing in depth multi-agency training is considered to be highly beneficial providing a greater understanding on the differences in approach and procedures in safeguarding children.

Locally, the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Hub recognises that CSE needs to be placed firmly in the context of abusive relationships and specifically; the impact that domestic violence can have on how a child views relationships. For a child growing up in such an environment, the impact of their experiences can create limited and limiting expectations with regards to what constitutes a healthy relationship; thus increasing their susceptibility to exploitation in the future.

The City of London Domestic Abuse Forum was set up in 2003 and brings together representatives from a variety of agencies in the City who are committed to tackling Violence against Women and girls, including Forced Marriage, Domestic Abuse, CSE, Honour Based Violence. The DA Forum develop and implement a multi-agency DA annual action plan and utilise a multi-agency approach to provide services to individuals and families experiencing abuse. The Forum and the Action plan DA legislation has recently changed and now includes 16 and 17 year olds. Previously specialist support services were unable to work with victims within the 16 and 17 year old age bracket due to funding constraints. 16 and 17 year old victims were unable to access the appropriate support. In 2012 ChildLine publicly stated that it received around 3,000 contacts a year from young people about this issue.

Safer City Partnership Actions 2014/15:

The Safer City Partnership Domestic Abuse Forum brings

The City of London Police has a CSE Operational Procedure in place and a CSE Action Plan which has been shared with partners attending the Sub Committee. The City of London Police Public Protection Unit works in close partnership with the City of London Corporation in managing risk, identification and response. The volume of referrals / activity within the City of London to date has been extremely low. Given the serious implications of CSE the City of London Corporation and the City of London Police agree there is no room for complacency.

The City of London Police has Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol which sets out the following:

- The Role of Multi-Agency Partners in Identifying and Challenging CSE
- Reporting Suspicions of CSE - Multi- Agency Responsibilities
- Support for Victims and Families
- Prevention Strategies
- Intervention Strategies
- Disruption Strategies
- Outcomes Framework for Child Sexual Exploitation
- Communication
- Protocol Agreement

The City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Hub uses a multi-agency approach within the City and Hackney CSE Sub Group to improve intelligence about and service provision to young people affected by or vulnerable to exploitation. The City and Hackney CSE Sub Group is chaired by a Hackney representative from the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Hub. The City of London Police Public Protection Unit represents the Safer City

Partnership at the above mentioned CSE Sub Group. The City Gateway attends and represents the interests of young people in the City.

In addition to the above there is a City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Sub Committee this is chaired by the Assistant Director of People Department of Community and Children Services from the City of London Corporation. CSE has been a standing item on the agenda of the Sub Committee for approximately a year. In the autumn of 2013 the City of London Police commissioned training to partners and pupils attending schools in the City of London. This training was supported by the partnership and was well received.

*Please note that there practitioners attending the DA MARAC and MAPPA are able to identify and make the appropriate referrals should victims of CSE be identified within cases heard at the DA MARAC or MAPPA case conferences. The MARAC Coordinator attends the pan London Violence against Women and Girls practitioner meetings.

Ongoing Community and Business Engagement

The Community Safety Team and the City of London Police are developing a Hotel Forum Toolkit which will include a section on Child Sexual Exploitation and clear guidance and referral pathways for Hotel Managers and Heads of Security. The Community Safety Team will coordinate appropriate training for Hotels in partnership with the City of London Police, Victim Support and Department of Community and Children Services.

The Department of Community and Children Services have worked with the Victim Support Vulnerable Victims Coordinator based within the City of London Public Protection Unit, City Gateway, the Substance Misuse Team. There have been several weekend community engagement workshops which have taken place with the Bengali Community in the Portsoken area.

The Vulnerable victims Coordinator holds regular outreach surgeries at Estate Offices and local Libraries.