



city & hackney  
safeguarding  
children board

# **Child Sexual Exploitation**

## **City of London Action Plan**

2014

## Introduction

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is child abuse. For those children and young people who are abused through CSE, they face huge risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health and wellbeing. 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' (eg, food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

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.

The City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) and its partners are wholly committed to tackling CSE. This plan sets out the actions required in the City of London in response to the agreed strategic priorities identified within the CHSCB strategy for CSE.

**Priority 1: Knowing our problem, knowing our response**

**Priority 2: Strong leadership**

**Priority 3: Prevention and early Intervention**

**Priority 4: Protection and support**

**Priority 5: Disruption and prosecution**

For further information about this action plan or for information about CSE, please visit [www.chscb.org.uk](http://www.chscb.org.uk) or contact Andrew Merkley, CHSCB Board Co-ordinator on 0208 356 4183 / [andrew.merkley@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.merkley@hackney.gov.uk)

## PRIORITY 1: KNOWING OUR PROBLEM, KNOWING OUR RESPONSE

No.	Outcome	Actions	Lead	Timescale	RAG
1	The City operates a regular forum that oversees the operational responses to CSE that builds and interrogates the local problem profile	Establish a City of London Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meeting with associate terms of reference and relevant documentation supporting its functions.	CHSCB	Dec 14	Green
		Ensure joint chairing arrangements b/w Police and social care to balance support and investigation			
		Develop and publish an information sharing protocol for MASE to assist with the development and dissemination of the local problem profile	CHSCB	Jan 15	Yellow
2	The MASE and CHSCB steering group has a clear analysis of all available City information on CSE activity in order to understand the nature and scale of CSE and plan strategic and operational responses	Develop further the City's problem profile and regularly collect and monitor this data at the CHSCB CSE working group and the City MASE	MASE Chair	Dec 14	Yellow
3	Professionals who come into contact with children and young people have knowledge of the local child sexual exploitation profile.	Review and ensure that the CSE training delivered by the CHSCB cites key data in respect of the City's problem profile (without compromising any sensitive information).	T&D Chair	Jan 15	Yellow
		City MASE to agree the methodology by which intelligence and information is shared by partners to directly inform prevention and investigation activity.	MASE chair	Jan 15	Yellow
		The City MASE to develop links with neighbouring authorities and meet them as required where there are opportunities for cross border collaboration / sharing of intelligence and targeted prevention activity	MASE chair	Mar 15	Yellow
4	A baseline audit is undertaken to ensure there are no children and young people currently being worked with by City Children's Services that are at risk of CSE that hasn't yet been identified.	Children's Services to deep-dive audit all open cases to establish if CSE vulnerabilities are a factor in any open case and to contribute to City of London problem profile	CP	Dec14	Green
5	Professionals in City Gateway, know how many of their young people have identified vulnerabilities associated with child sexual exploitation, and are able to address these vulnerabilities therefore building young people's resilience to exploitation.	City Gateway undertake a baseline audit of all children working with them against the SAFEGUARD mnemonic identified in the City of London Police Operating protocol.	City Gateway	Jan 15	Yellow

## PRIORITY 2: STRONG LEADERSHIP

No.	Outcome	Actions	Lead	Timescale	RAG
1.	Senior leaders across all organisations in the City set a culture that CSE will not be tolerated; commit to taking CSE seriously, and provide the best possible service for our communities.	Develop a CSE pledge / statement of intent which is signed by all key statutory organisations of the CHSCB, partners and key organisations within the City of London.	JG	Jan 15	
2.	Local community leaders and businesses recognise and act on their responsibility to protect children and young people from CSE	Develop a CSE pledge / statement of intent available for local businesses and community leaders to sign to demonstrate their leadership and commitment to tackling CSE	JG	Jan 15	
3.	The local response to CSE is regularly subject to leadership scrutiny and challenge in relevant partnership forums in the City – including the Safeguarding Committee (scrutiny), Health and Wellbeing Board, Safer City Partnership	That the CHSCB receive 6 monthly progress reports against the City action plan from the CoL Safeguarding Sub Committee Chair	CoL Sub Chair	-	Complete
		CSE to be a standing reporting item on the City of London Safeguarding Sub Group under the CHSCB and to include updates from the CHSCB working group / MASE chair	CP	-	Complete
		The CHSCB Annual report to provide an assessment on the City's progress and response to CSE and be subject to scrutiny through its dissemination. Specifically, this to provide opportunity for CSE to be addressed as part of the strategic plans involving the Health & Wellbeing Board and the Safer City partnership.	RM	-	Complete
		The independent chair of the CHSCB to ensure that the local strengths and weaknesses of City's response to CSE are communicated directly to the Town Clerk as part of bi-annual meetings, and/or when relevant issues arise.	JG	-	Complete & Ongoing
4.	Front-line staff know who to approach in their organisation to raise / discuss concerns about CSE and know what needs to be done and how to respond.	Each agency to identify a named lead for CSE as the contact point for front-line staff in those respective agencies	JG	Jan 15	
		The City's Children's Social Care team to undertake shared learning exercises with colleagues in Hackney to develop expertise (i.e. attendance at Hackney MASE)	CP	Mar 15	

5.	All staff are supported in knowing how and when to provide professional challenge to other agencies concerning the safety and welfare of children and young people.	The CHSCB to seek assurance that all agencies have actively disseminated and supported the implementation of the CHSCB policy on escalation and that internal whistle-blowing policies are in place to support staff raising concerns.	JG	Dec 14	
		The CHSCB to review all Group A safeguarding training content to ensure sufficient emphasis is given to escalation / professional challenge and curiosity as part of any work where people may come into contact with children / young people.	T&D Chair	Mar 15	

## Priority 4: PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

No.	Outcome	Actions	Lead	Timescale	RAG
1	Children, young people, parents and carers have appropriate information available to them to help them understand the risk of CSE.	Review, develop and make available on the CHSCB web clear advice and guidance on CSE for parents/carers, children and young people.	CHSCB Team	Mar 15	Complete & Ongoing
		Deliver awareness raising sessions to children and young people in the City.	City Gateway	Mar 15	Complete
	Looked after children and young people are better supported to understand CSE. This supports their ability to identify and self protect from risky situations where CSE might be a factor.	Establish a targeted preventative and self-protection programme on child sexual exploitation for looked after children.	CP	Mar 15	
2	Children and young people are more self-aware of the risks of CSE which supports their safety and that of their friends.	City Gateway to engage young people to help develop communication materials that target young people in the City regarding risks / warning signs	City Gateway	Mar 15	
3	There is improved identification of children who are being sexually exploited – professionals and volunteers know of the CSE warning signs, what and where to go for help.	Include CSE risk factors as part of the City's "Notice the Signs" campaign to raise awareness among young people, parents and professionals with explicit reference to CSE being a form of child abuse requiring a referral to Children's Services.	CP	Feb 15	complete
		CHSCB to theme the 2014/15 Annual Conference on CSE.	RM	Mar 15	
		Bi-annual training sessions involving the <i>Alter-Ego</i> company to be delivered within the City of London	City Police	-	
		The CHSCB develop and deliver a rolling programme of multi-agency CSE training to professionals in the City with specific reference to:the local City CSE problem profile and: professionals adopting a consistent attitude towards consent, gender identity, healthy relationships, and sexuality, and model this in every aspect of their practice	T&D Sub	-	complete

## Priority 4: PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

No.	Outcome	Actions	Lead	Timescale	RAG
		Identify and promote relevant e-learning tools regarding CSE and ensure these are available for City's professional network	T&D Sub	Feb 15	
		CSE awareness sessions to be delivered to local schools (City Police)	City Police	-	complete
		CSE awareness sessions to be delivered to City sexual health service providers	Health	Mar 15	
		Identify and contact private health care provision in the City and target awareness raising via communication from the Independent Chair / Town Clerk / Police	Health	Mar 15	
		The CHSCB to make available the risk assessment tools that can be utilised by front-line practitioners to help identify CSE	CHSCB Team	Dec 14	
		Specific training and awareness raising on CSE is built into single agency training and development plans; Reported to T&D Sub Committee	ALL	Mar 15	
	There is increased awareness of CSE across the business community. There is an increase in referrals to the MASE as a result.	City of London, via the CHSCB, to engage in Operation <i>Makesafe</i> , to engage the wider community and business sector in protecting children and young people from CSE.	CP	Mar 15	
	Practitioners identify young people at risk of CSE and they receive appropriate services to reduce risk	In all cases of missing children and young people in the City, a risk assessment specifically in relation to CSE is completed + comprehensive return from missing interviews / de-briefs	City Police	-	
4.	Schools deliver high quality PSHE and where they strive to take a whole-school approach to gender equality, safeguarding, and preventing sexual exploitation.	City Gateway to map all secondary provision accessed by children and young people resident in the city and establish quality of PSHE provision in terms of its focus to issues relating to CSE.	City Gateway	Mar 15	
5.	Professionals engaged in providing universal and targeted services to young people identify harmful attitudes associated with perpetrating or instigating abusive behaviours, and are able to support young people to build positive and healthy attitudes towards relationships and friendships, gender identity, and sexuality.	City Gateway to progress through themed interventions	City Gateway	Mar 15	

## Priority 5: PROTECTION & SUPPORT

No.	Outcome	Actions	Lead	Timescale	RAG status
1	All professionals have clear written guidance to support their response to CSE and this helps ensure effective multi-agency practice on individual cases.	Agree and implement operating protocols that clearly set out the necessary pathways, information and guidance supporting effective multi-agency practice.	CHSCB Team	Jan 15	
		Operating protocols to specifically include a robust policing response to perpetrators: drafting, agreeing, and monitoring investigation plans to run alongside support plans developed in response to a child sexual exploitation referral			
		Revise and include clear guidance in the City of London Threshold tool with regards to the different levels of provision offered to children and young people at risk of or who have suffered from CSE in the City, based on their individual needs.	CP	Dec 14	complete
2	Enduring support is delivered to children who have been sexually exploited, ensuring that what is offered is appropriate for each individual child based on their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, and the nature of the exploitation that they have experienced	Establish a directory of services in place that are available to support children and young people who have been or are at risk of being abused through CSE. Undertake a gap analysis of support required.  The CHSCB to work with local agencies, including health, to secure the delivery of post-abuse services where gaps identified.	Chair MASE	Jan 15	
3.	The voluntary sector reach young people not engaged with statutory and targeted support services, in addition to providing time-intensive support and sustainable relationships to young people that mainstream services are unable to offer	City Gateway to confirm, via City MASE, that their service is able to identify and reach young people in the City. Map other voluntary sector services available to children and young people.	City Gateway	Mar 15	
4.	Appropriate placements and support are available for cyp who need to be moved in order to respond to their experience of sexual exploitation.	Children's Services to risk assess all placements of children / young people prior to placement in terms of safety regarding CSE. This to include liaison with the LA in which the child / young person will be placed re the local CSE problem profile.	CP	Dec 14	

## PRIORITY 6: DISRUPTION & PROSECUTION

No.	Outcome	Actions	Lead	Timescale	RAG
1	Police have access to lawyers with specialist CSE knowledge to allow effective liaison with Crown Prosecution Service throughout life of CSE investigation to maximise opportunities for prosecution	To identify specialist CSE lawyer within CPS for early pre charge and post charge liaison	AR	-	
2.	Victims are provided with ongoing care and support throughout criminal justice journey and beyond.	Local support groups identified within COL and Vulnerable Victim Coordinator within PPU to work closely with all victims of CSE (Green)	AR	-	
3.	There is high quality of evidence and high standard of prosecution file submissions to CPS for all CSE cases, to maximise prosecution opportunities.	All PPU CSE case files to be reviewed by PPU DS (Evidence Review Officers) prior to submission to CJU/CPS to assess file quality (Green)	AR	-	
4	Victims are supported and offenders managed by utilising ancillary orders such as SOPOs, ROSHOs, bail conditions utilised to maximum effect.	PPU officers knowledge in this area kept up to date and will actively seek to apply for orders in relevant cases	AR	-	
5	Children and young people are protected through intelligence-led disruption by the partnership on any local businesses, individuals or groups associated with sexual exploitation in the local problem profile	<p>The Police and partners to strategically introduce disruption options to exploitation cases based on identified models of exploitation in the City identified in the local problem profile.</p> <p>All disruption activity is reported through to the MASE</p> <p>MASE to map all existing disruption methods involving both criminal and civil interventions and ensure these are clear within operating guidance for staff.</p>	<p>City Police</p> <p>All</p> <p>MASE Chair</p>	Jan 15	