



Learning Together: Staff Briefing

How do we know we are working together well to safeguard children & young people?

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation continues to be a priority area for Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board in our 2016-19 Business Plan. A multi-agency audit of CSE was undertaken in Quarter 1 2016-17 to test the effectiveness of multi-agency working with children who are being sexually exploited, or at risk of being sexually exploited. This looks at how our work with this group of children & young people has developed in the 18 months since the LSCB carried out a previous multi agency audit of CSE. This audit focused on the following areas of enquiry;

- Was CSE identified appropriately and as early as possible? (auditors were asked to look at historical involvement with young people & families)
- When CSE was identified was the response effective?
- Are agencies working together to reduce risk?
- If yes, what are they doing? (police, health, schools etc.)
- Is there a focus on the child including their involvement in decisions made in respect of them. Is the child's voice heard? If they aren't in agreement with the plan, is rationale for decision making clear?

The audit also tested the recommendations from the Barnardo's report: [Unprotected, Overprotected: meeting the needs of young people with learning disabilities who experience, or are at risk of sexual exploitation.](#)

This short briefing is aimed at professionals who work with children and families in Brighton & Hove. It presents the key findings and recommendations from a recent **Child Sexual Exploitation** multi agency Deep Dive. A full report is also available for professionals working in partner agencies in Brighton & Hove upon request. If you would like a copy of this report please contact us at LSCB@Brighton-hove.gov.uk

Overall Judgements

The final judgements for the cases rated 3 as good, 2 as requires improvement, but with some good features identified, 4 requires improvement and 1 was inadequate.

A joint agency learning review has already been commissioned for the case rated inadequate to look at the care planning for this child.

Methodology

Ten cases were selected for the audit from the Multi Agency CSE (MACSE) meeting and the sample included both young women and young men; and young people with learning disabilities.

The auditing team comprised of representatives from eleven agencies:

CAMHS	Children's Social Work	Sussex Police	The WISE Project
Youth Offending Service	r-u-ok?	Early Help	Youth Service
Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals		Schools	Sussex Community Foundation Trust

Agencies completed audit tools separately, which have been adapted to be less social-work centric following feedback from the last audit. These audits were then brought together in a moderation day chaired by Deb Austin, Head of Performance & Safeguarding, Brighton & Hove City Council: Families, Children & Learning, and DI Lee Horner, Sussex Police: Safeguarding and Investigation Unit.

What is working well?



The identification of CSE was appropriate, and the response was good with agencies working together to lower the risk



There are examples of excellent multi agency working with close liaison between social work; police, YOS, Health and Education.



There is good communication between BSUH and Social Work, School Nursing & GP each time young people attend A&E.



The excellent joint working between Social Work and Police has disrupted the harm to the young person in a number of cases.



There are good levels of practical and emotional support provided to parent(s)



In two out of the three cases where the child had a learning difficulty their needs were appropriately addressed.



Excellent work by the Adolescent Pod who have worked tenaciously with the young person and their family to try and protect the young person.



In cases where the planning for the young person has been a challenge due to the young person's risky behaviour, there is evidence that professionals have worked hard and used the available resources to protect and support young person.



Risks for the young person have reduced and their physical, emotional and educational needs are being more consistently met.



There is a question, in line with the See Me Here Me framework, around how the child's voice is heard, and in most of these cases there was a focus on including them in decisions made about them.

What do we need to improve?



Evidence of Red Op Kite MaCSE meeting oversight is not clear on the child's records. Auditors have reported that it is difficult to find the documents that evidence the co-ordination, oversight and effectiveness. This will soon be put onto CareFirst.



In one case there was a delay in recognising and addressing the CSE risk and it was not dealt with until specific allegations were made. The previous social workers were too ready to accept the parents' explanations



In one case, the young person moved across various parts of the country which means that agencies lose information and continuity



In one case where the young person has a learning disability, it appears that Adult Services have been slow to offer support and effective transition planning despite repeated attempts by the Children's Social Worker to offer support. This should improve now that Adult Learning Disability services come under the Families, Children & Learning Directorate.



The capacity of WISE is limited to one part time caseworker, which in one case meant that the service was slow to pick up the referral initially.



As in the previous CSE multi agency audit, there is a challenge in some cases in preventing and reducing risk due to the barriers of engaging young people in interventions.

Recommendations

- Ensure that there are effective communication channels in place when children are placed out of county (relates to both Children's Social Work and Police)
- Red Op Kite (MASCE) co-ordination oversight and effectiveness to be recorded on Carefirst/child's file in Children's Social Work
- We still need to improve our response to young people who do not engage with services for example, there are examples in the audit where support services have quickly withdrawn when the young person has refused to meet in clinical settings
- The use of chronologies to assist in the assessment of risk and planning for the future is essential.

Further Reading

- [Brighton & Hove Multi-Agency CSE Resource Pack](#), produced by Brighton & Hove LSCB, the Safe in the City Partnership & The Wise Project
- Pan Sussex Child Protection & Safeguarding Procedures: [Section 8.30 Sexual Exploitation](#)
- [Working effectively to address Child Sexual Exploitation: A briefing](#), Research in Practice and University of Greenwich, August 2015
- [Unprotected, Overprotected: Meeting the Needs of Young People with Learning Disabilities who Experience, or are at risk of Sexual Exploitation](#), April 2016, Barnardo's, The Children's Society, British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD), Paradigm Research and Coventry University
- [It's not on the Radar: The Hidden Diversity of Children and Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation in England](#), Barnardo's Report 2016.

Local Support

If you're concerned about a child in Brighton & Hove call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01273 290400

If you think they are being sexually exploited call Sussex Police on 101 and quote Operation Kite

Feedback

We would like to hear your thoughts, feedback and comments on findings presented to you in this briefing and any feedback on the style of the briefing itself, please contact us at LSCB@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk to ensure your voice is heard.

LSCB Multi Agency Training:

The LSCB offers two day-long courses by The Wise Project on CSE. The first session [Preventing & Disrupting Child Sexual Exploitation](#) looks at the prevalence and forms of sexual exploitation, helps professionals understand what places a young person at risk and recognise vulnerabilities and indicators, and know how to get support for young people who are exploited.

Day two [Child Sexual Exploitation: Working with Young People at Risk](#) goes on to help provide workers with the confidence and skills to work with young people around issues relating to CSE, and includes an enhanced focus on online safety and police disruption techniques as well as an outline of the local picture of CSE with reference to serious case review recommendations.

Book through the Learning Gateway [here](#) or visit the LSCB Website to view our full training offer: www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/events

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THE WISE PROJECT

Working to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and young people

