

## Priority Area 2: Sexual Harm and Violence towards children (Child Sexual Abuse & Child Sexual Exploitation)

**Sexual Harm**  
& Violence towards  
children (Child Sexual  
Abuse & Child Sexual  
Exploitation)

This year, like previous years, we have been working together to identify the extent of sexual harm and violence towards children. Conscious of the risks to children who are alone, we have this year paid particular attention to work across the partnership with those children who go missing from care, home and education.

Sexual harm and violence towards children has a devastating impact on children, young people and their families and the LSCB remains committed to making sure that we get it right and provide our children with the protection and support they may need. To read more about the signs and symptoms of sexual harm and violence towards children visit our [webpages](#)

### Our progress

- Undertaken a multi-agency audit of CSE to test the effectiveness of multi-agency working with children who are being sexually exploited, or at risk of being sexual exploited (page 20)
- Commissioned a Learning Seminar to improve cross border working between Children's Social Work and Sussex Police
- Our dataset now includes information on the numbers of children who have experienced sexual harm and violence (including historic abuse)
- Learning and development opportunities have been maximised to support staff awareness and understanding of the signs and symptoms of sexual abuse, how to respond to allegations of sexual abuse, and clarity on the sexual abuse medical pathway.
- Professionals have been trained to recognise and respond to child sexual abuse.
- Professionals from across the partnership have attended training to better respond to children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviours
- In January 2017 the Sussex Children's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (CSARC) undertook an audit and review of its referrals, looking specifically at those where a child was not seen for a health assessment. This provided reassurance that CSARC is involved in decision making and highlighted the need for more support for families to uptake health assessments.
- Throughout 2016-17 the CSARC team have run regular training sessions (including through the LSCB). This includes open days to highlight CSA and show how their team can work with professionals to give the best service to children and families.
- Continued to challenge the commissioning of appropriate Return and Support Services to provide children who go missing with necessary and effective support and interventions.
- Multi-agency representation at the LSCB Vulnerable Children & Sexual Exploitation Strategic Group and CSE/CSA: Prevent, Protect and Early Identification subcommittee has increased, with attendance including CAMHS, Mankind, WiSE, Survivors Network, Sussex Police, Children's Services and others.
- YMCA, Mankind & Survivors Network joined forces to raise awareness of CSE in our schools.
- Supported efforts to address the under-identification of boys and young men as victims of CSE.
- Sussex Police and the Business Crime Reduction Partnership have worked together to deliver CSE training to hotel reception and door staff.
- Read more about what our agencies have been doing to tackle sexual harm and violence towards children from page 31.
- Worked with Sussex Police on a public awareness raising campaign which ran from 18 January – 3 May 2016. As a result of this campaign there was a 53% increase in contacts about CSE compared to the same period last year. An independent evaluation of the campaign found that 76% of those surveyed were able to recall the campaign unprompted, 90% thought the campaign was relevant.

Excerpt from Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16 This annual report outlines safeguarding activity and performance in Brighton & Hove between April 2015 and March 2016 and illustrates how we as a partnership, and individual agencies, continue to strive towards improving the lives of our children & young people. Read the full report at [brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/lscb-annual-report-2016-17](http://brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/lscb-annual-report-2016-17)

## Brighton & Hove LSCB Annual Report 2016-17

A dedicated CSE analyst post funded by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner has supported the opportunity for Pan-Sussex analysis. As a result we have established that:

- trends in CSE identified in the South East Region involve the internet & social media; drugs and alcohol; and peer on peer abuse.
- the biggest practice threats to tackling CSE in the region are information sharing; partnership working; and professionals not seeing children as children.
- Individuals are recognised as the biggest threat in the South East region, which tallies with what we already know about the local offender profile

### Still to do

- Develop and implement a Multi-Agency CSA Strategy & Action Plan
- Ensure actions from quality assurance activity are fulfilled, read more on this on page 20.
- Finalising our 'CSE Promise' which outlines a set of standards young people can expect from us when disclosing CSE concerns.

