

# **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

## **Core Components Checklist for Child Protection Committees (Interim)**

**Developed by The National CSE Group**

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## **Introduction**

This document has been developed by The National Child Sexual Exploitation Group as part of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation.

It is aligned with other relevant developments such as the Quality Framework for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection (Care Inspectorate, July 2018) and the Survey of Child Protection Committees to Review Process and Practices in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation.

The purpose of this document is to support Child Protection Committees with their response to Child Sexual Exploitation by considering whether the “core components” of an effective response to Child Sexual Exploitation are in place across their local areas.

These “core components” have been identified based on sharing current practice across Child Protection Committees and discussion and reflection about what elements constitute or contribute to an effective response to Child Sexual Exploitation.

This version is published as “interim” because further work to improve alignment with the Quality Framework for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection will be undertaken once the 2019 Survey of Child Protection Committees has been concluded and learning drawn from this.

## **1. Key Performance Outcomes**

- 1.1 We review our current position in relation to effective responses to Child Sexual Exploitation to identify progress from a previous position.
- 1.2 We utilise nationally developed data indicators to help measure our progress in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 1.3 We complete the Survey of Child Protection Committees to Review Process and Practices in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation in order to contribute to an improving national position in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 1.4 We provide and utilise opportunities for critical reflection and review at strategic level.

## **2. Impact on Children, Young People and Families**

- 2.1 We have education and awareness raising activity in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (including online) in place for children and young people.
- 2.2 All key partners across our Child Protection Committee contribute to education and awareness raising activity in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 2.3 Prevention is clearly incorporated into our strategy and our local prevention activity, including community awareness activity, is aligned with relevant activity at national level.
- 2.4 Our prevention activity includes activity targeted at those children and young people who may be particularly vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 2.5 This activity is tailored to the needs of the audience and it results in increased awareness of the issue, clear understanding and buy-in to prevention and tackling of Child Sexual Exploitation as a shared responsibility and empowerment of those targeted in terms of the role they can play in preventing and tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.

## **3. Impact on Staff**

- 3.1 We have training available for the multi-agency workforce which sufficiently equips them with the knowledge, skills, confidence and competence to effectively respond to Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 3.2 We analyse the learning needs of different staff groups and we have different training available to meet these needs, including both single agency and multi- agency training.
- 3.3 We have systems in place to support staff in using training to improve their practice and to identify and meet ongoing learning needs.
- 3.4 We provide appropriate learning opportunities for managers and team leaders that sufficiently equips them to fulfil their responsibilities in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation

## **4. Impact on the Community**

- 4.1 We have education and awareness raising activity in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (including online) in place for parents and carers, and members

of the community including the night time economy as well as for professionals and volunteers.

- 4.2 This activity is tailored to the needs of the audience and it results in increased awareness of the issue, clear understanding and buy-in to prevention and tackling of Child Sexual Exploitation as a shared responsibility and empowerment of those targeted in terms of the role they can play in preventing and tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.

## 5. Delivery of Key Processes

- 5.1 When it is agreed this is necessary, children and young people affected by Child Sexual Exploitation have a Child's Plan in place to address their needs. This plan includes both short and long term recovery needs.
- 5.2 Our approach to supporting and protecting children and young people in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation is set within a wider context of healthy relationships, consent, parenthood, mental wellbeing and emotional resilience and this holistic approach is embedded in our service models.
- 5.3 Staff in different services who provide support to children affected by Child Sexual Exploitation have a good understanding of the impact of trauma and use this to inform their approach. This includes links with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) research and The National Trauma Training Framework.
- 5.4 We gather and share data that assists with the identification of **perpetrators** and with managing risk from known perpetrators.

## 6. Policy, Service Development and Legal Issues

- 6.1 We have a Child Sexual Exploitation work plan that is regularly monitored and updated.
- 6.2 We can demonstrate that the work plan is informed by:
- Participation of children and young people.
  - Local knowledge.
  - Research.
  - Input from stakeholders, including recovery services.
  - Relevant work undertaken by single and joint services across the statutory and third sector.

- 6.3 The work plan incorporates cultural and diversity issues including, but not limited to, disability, gender and ethnicity.
- 6.4 We have a range of self-evaluation activities in place which provide an accurate picture of the strengths and areas for development in relation to local Child Sexual Exploitation policy and practice.
- 6.5 We have evidence that our analysis of the qualitative and quantitative information from all forms of self-evaluation activity, including activity with children and young people, has been used for improvement.

## **7. Management and Support to Staff**

- 7.1 We have Child Sexual Exploitation guidance in place for frontline practitioners which includes the following elements:
- The current definition of Child Sexual Exploitation.
  - Highlights children and young people who may be particularly vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation.
  - Indicators that a child or young person is being, or is at risk of being, sexually exploited or affected by Child Sexual Exploitation.
  - Initial response and link with child protection procedures.
  - Assessing impact of Child Sexual Exploitation.
  - Longer term support and recovery for those affected.
  - Recognition that children and young people who are sexually exploited do not usually recognise their experience as "exploitation".
  - Support for parents/carers.
  - Recording and sharing of information in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation, including information about perpetrators.
- 7.2 The guidance we have for frontline practitioners has been developed to meet the needs of the multi-agency child protection workforce including, but not limited to, housing, youth and community services, police, health, social services, education and the third sector.
- 7.3 We have Child Sexual Exploitation guidance in place for managers and planners which includes:
- How to gather and record local intelligence in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation.
  - How to use local intelligence to inform responses to Child Sexual Exploitation.

## **8. Resources and Capacity Building**

- 8.1 We have sufficient resources available to meet the needs of those affected by Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 8.2 We have sufficient resources available to meet the needs of those at risk of, or already, engaging in sexually exploitative behaviour.

## **9. Leadership and Direction**

- 9.1 We are confident that Child Sexual Exploitation is reflected as a priority in our strategic planning.
- 9.2 We can demonstrate linkage at strategic level between Child Sexual Exploitation and other relevant areas of work including equally safe/gender based violence, trafficking, missing people and on-line safety.
- 9.3 Our strategy in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation is set within the context of Getting It Right For Every Child and there are clear links locally across wider children's services planning.
- 9.4 Our strategic planning in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation includes older young people moving into adulthood and is explicitly linked to strategic planning in relation to adults who may be at risk of harm.
- 9.5 We provide appropriate learning opportunities for chief officers, elected members and strategic leaders that sufficiently equips them to fulfil their responsibilities in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation.