

LB Sutton Children and Family Service Practice Directive

Subject: Child Sexual Exploitation Practice Toolkit - Practice Directive

Issue date: February 2018

Target Group: Social Workers, Family Support Workers, Managers, IROs, CP Chairs.

Purpose of the Practice Directive:

This guidance is designed to assist children social care practitioners and managers in ensuring a robust response to children and young people who are vulnerable to or who are experiencing sexual exploitation (CSE). This will include preventing any child suffering harm, identifying multi-agency safety plans to address the exploitation and ensuring that practitioners know the appropriate pathways to follow in identifying and assessing the needs of children experiencing CSE.

There are often links between children running away and the risk of child sexual exploitation, with the push and pull factors taking children away from home similar to those increasing their vulnerability to CSE. Therefore this practice directive should be read in conjunction with the Missing Practice Directive.

Legislation and Statutory Guidance:

This guidance is based on Working Together (2015), the London Child Protection Procedures (2017) and the London CSE Operating Protocol (June 2017)

The LSCB CSE Practice Toolkit (January 2018) provides multi-agency guidance on the roles of each agency in working with CSE. The governance of the CSE Practice Toolkit is with the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) strategic group which is under LSCB governance. The MASE membership reflects lead responsibilities for CSE and to ensure that the link between children and young people going missing and child sexual exploitation (CSE) is fully addressed.

Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

(Department of Education, February 2017. Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation)

Several principles need to be born in mind when working with CSE:

- CSE is a form of Child Sexual Abuse
- The children and young people are victims, not offenders
- CSE includes sexual, physical, emotional abuse and neglect
- Children do not make informed choices to enter or remain in sexual exploitation – they are coerced, enticed, manipulated or desperate
- Children may have multiple vulnerabilities – multi-agency response essential
- Peers who sexually exploit may also be victims
- Children are in need of services under Children Act 1989 and 2004 and may also be in need of immediate protection

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There are many different models of CSE through which children and young people can be groomed and exploited: Peer on Peer, Online CSE, 'Inappropriate' Relationship, County Lines, Gangs, Familial, Organised Gangs or Trafficking.

Risk Factors:

Any child or young person can be vulnerable to exploitation and with certain models of CSE, it is not always possible at an early stage to identify that they are being groomed – particularly with online CSE. There are 'push and pull' factors though, that need to be considered when assessing risk of CSE:

Push	Pull
Neglect	Street life – dissociation from family and education
Disruption	'Safety' of adults
Violence	Gang activity
Sexual abuse	Peers already involved
Substance misuse (parents)	Economic
Mental health (parents)	Criminal activity
Gang association	Blackmail
Conflict	
Over strict	
Forced marriage	
Care system	
School not working	
Loss and bereavement	

When considering evidence of vulnerability to or presence of CSE, the Mnemonic below is a useful guide:

- S**exual health and behaviour concerns
- A**bsent from school or repeatedly running away
- F**amilial abuse and/or problems at home
- E**motionally and physical condition
- G**angs, older age groups and involvement in crime
- U**se of technology and sexual bullying
- A**lcohol and drug misuse
- R**eceipt of unexplained gifts or money
- D**istrust of authority figures

Role of Children's Social Care

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Children's Social Care hold lead responsibility for responding to children who may be experiencing or at risk of significant harm through CSE.

The response is likely to be:

1. No further action where no concerns are identified or
2. An assessment will be undertaken to identify the child's level of risk and need for service provision.
3. The assessment may identify the child to be at risk of significant harm and in need of protection. This will necessitate a child protection enquiry and a child and family assessment as part of a section 47 (Children Act 1989) investigation.

In cases where an initial assessment confirms that a child is at risk of significant harm, they will convene a Strategy Discussion, (within 3 working days of a referral of concern) in order to determine whether child protection enquiries must be made.

The CSE Risk Screening Assessment Tool should be completed on MOSAIC as part of the initial assessment and consultation should take place with the Specialist Safeguarding Practice Leads, Suzy Mullally: suzy.mullally@sutton.gov.uk (0208 8770 5967) or Sara Ward: sara.ward@sutton.gov.uk (0208 770 5674) for complex CSE cases.

For complex cases of CSE, the strategy meeting will be chaired by the Specialist Safeguarding Practice Leads.

The strategy meeting will coordinate the multi-agency professional response and ensure that all appropriate actions are being taken to disrupt any perpetrators, and to safeguard/divert the child from CSE. It will consider whether a S47 Enquiry, Child Protection Conference or legal advice may be required, or whether the family can be supported via a Child in Need Plan.

A CSE Safety Plan must be put in place where risk of harm is identified.

Active work must be undertaken with the child to address issues set out in the CSE Safety Plan.

CSE Risk Screening Tool and MASE Panel:

The outcome of the CSE Risk Assessment will help inform whether the threshold for the MASE Operational Panel is met and serves as the referral to the MASE Panel.

The Tool will provide a score to indicate the level of risk and some brief advice. This is a tool which needs to be used in conjunction with professional judgement. i.e if the score is low, but professional concern is high, there should still be consultation with your manager/Specialist Safeguarding Leads to consider further action required.

The scores are:

- 0** A child is potentially vulnerable to CSE but no concern that they are being targeted or groomed.
- 1** A vulnerable child or young person, where there are concerns they are being targeted and groomed and where any of the CSE warning signs have been identified. However, at this stage there is no evidence of any offences

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- 2 Evidence a child or young person is being targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for drugs, perceived affection, sense of belonging, accommodation (overnight stays), money and goods etc. The likelihood of coercions and control is significant.
- 3 A child or young person whose sexual exploitation is habitual, often self-denied and where coercion/ control is implicit

A score of 1-3 necessitates consideration of a strategy meeting and a referral to the MASE Panel. To refer a case, the CSE Risk Assessment Tool on MOSAIC needs to be emailed to MASH@sutton.gov.uk.

The purpose of the MASE Panel is to have tactical oversight of CSE cases, information, intelligence and activity across each LA area and across borough boundaries. MASE should have the capacity to remove blockages or obstacles in cases, as well as considering and directing resources and activity in response to trends identified from those cases.

The MASE Operational Meeting takes place on a monthly basis. The MASE will not case manage individual cases but should identify, discuss and deliver a partnership response to short-, medium- and longer-term themes, trends and patterns emerging from CSE cases. All cases must have followed existing child protection procedures prior to being discussed at the MASE, must have been subject to a strategy meeting/discussion and should have a corresponding police CSE CRIS number for the young person.

The CSE Risk Screening Tool should be reviewed on a 3 monthly basis until the assessed risk is 1 or 0, with further strategy meetings taking place if the assessed risk level remains at 2-3.

Strategic Oversight

The Specialist Safeguarding Practice Lead and Data & Intelligence Analyst monitor data for children who are referred to the MASE Panel and report back to the Heads of Service and the MASE Strategic Group.

CSE LEAD ARRANGEMENTS

Local Authority Strategic Lead for Missing Children and CSE

- Jonathan Williams, Assistant Director for Children's Services
- Tel: 020 8770 6534
- Email: jonathan.williams@sutton.gov.uk

Children Social Care Head of Service Strategic Lead for CSE and Missing Children

- Averil Kathan, Head of Service, Referral, Assessment and Intervention, Co-chair of MASE
- Tel: 0208 770 4326
- Email: averil.kathan@sutton.gov.uk

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Specialist Safeguarding Practice

- Suzy Mullally, Specialist Safeguarding Practice Lead, Quality Assurance
- Tel: 020 8770 5967
- Email: suzy.mullally@sutton.gov.uk

- Sara Ward, Specialist Safeguarding Practice Lead, Quality Assurance
- Tel: 020 8770 5674
- Email: sara.ward@sutton.gov.uk

CSE and Missing Data Analyst

- Toby Meller, Data & Intelligence Analyst, Data & Intelligence Team
- Tel: 020 8770 6054
- Email: toby.meller@sutton.gov.uk

CSE SPOC

- Matt Harris – CSE Police SPOC, Sutton Police Station
- Tel: 0208 8649-0454
- Email: matt.harris@met.pnn.police.uk

Multi-Agency Assessment Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Manager

- Mike Montrose-Francis
- Tel: 0208 770 6001
- Email: mike.montrose-francis@sutton.gov.uk

Education Safeguarding Lead

- Jenny Rowley, Education Safeguarding Lead
- Tel: 020 8288 5630
- Email: jenny.rowley@cognus.org.uk

Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children

- Sarah Galvin, Designated Nurse for CP and LAC, Sutton CCG
- Tel: 020 3668 1256
- Email: sarah.galvin@nhs.net

Voluntary sector work on CSE/Missing

- Pam Byfield, Director of Operations, Jigsaw4u
- Tel: 0208 687 1384
- Email: pambyfield@jigsaw4u.org.uk

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MASE operational group

- Averil Kathan, Head of Service, Referral , Assessment and Intervention, Co-chair of MASE
- Tel: 0208 770 4326
- Email averil.kathan@sutton.gov.uk

- DI James Carrington, Co-chair of MASE, Sutton Police Station
- Tel: 0208 649 0724
- Email: james.d.carrington@met.pnn.police.uk

References:

- LSCB CSE strategy, plans and practice toolkit <http://www.suttonlscb.org.uk/>
- The London CSE Operating Protocol (June 2017)
- LSCB London Child Protection Procedures (2017)

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Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Referral and Risk Assessment Pathway

