Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

21.9.2015

Functions of SSCB:

- Develop Policies and Procedures for Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Communicating to bodies and persons the need to safeguard children and raising awareness of safeguarding issues and messages.
- Evaluating and monitoring the effectiveness of partners and where necessary holding them to account.
- Participating in the planning of services for children.
- Provision of suitable multi-agency training.
- Commissioning Serious Case Reviews and advising agencies of lessons learnt.
- Oversight of the Child Death Overview Panel.

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

SSCB's Priorities:

- Ensure the effectiveness of child protection processes and engagement by all professionals.
- Work with partner agencies to develop timely and effective early help for children and families.
- Work with partner agencies to reduce incidences of domestic abuse and the impact this has on children.
- Develop and implement a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy and monitor the effectiveness of operational procedures to tackle CSE.

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

Abuse of Children

Working Together defines abuse of a child as: " *A form of maltreatment by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or an institution or community setting by those known to them, or more rarely by others*."

This may be physical, sexual, emotional abuse, or neglect.

Sexual Abuse is defined, as forcing, or enticing a child, or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.....It may include assault such as rape, or be non-penetrative such as touching. It may also include non-contact such as involving children in looking at or in the production of sexual images.

Child Sexual Exploitation is a particular form of sexual abuse.

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

ACPO Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

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' (e.g, food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child Sexual Exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

The facts about CSE

- Age 12-15 year olds highest risk group **both genders.**
- Victims can come from any background, or ethnicity, (research suggests that Asian girls are less likely to come forward due to fear of rejection (Ward & Patel 2006)
- Young people come from any background, although statistics for LAC are 20% higher than for young people living at home.
- Perpetrators are from all backgrounds and cultures, irrespective of race, culture or class.
- 'Constrained Choice' – cannot be deemed if consenting if coercion or exploitation is present.

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

Why do children become involved?

- Unaware they are being targeted and groomed by perpetrators
- Introduced by friends
- Enjoy being treated as a “grown up”
- Money for drugs/alcohol
- Bullied or threatened by peers or gangs
- Genuinely believe they are being loved and cared for
- Survival

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

Why is it difficult for children to say anything?

- No perception of abuse
- Fear of not being believed
- Fear of being judged
- Guilt and shame “it was my fault”
- Fear for personal or family safety
- Dependency on “groomers”
- Terrified

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

How it begins…

- Targeting of vulnerable groups of young people
- Knowledge of where young people hang out
- Use of subtle techniques to form relationships – hard to distinguish from genuine relationships at first
- YP are made to feel grown-up – using arguments with family, 'they don't understand you' 'treat you as a child'
- Exploitation of any weakness/vulnerability to create emotional control e.g. few friends
- Tricked into revealing information about where they live
- Appeal to young person's vanity/self esteem/confidence with gifts, comments, treats, drugs & alcohol
- Girls encouraged to unknowingly bring friends round
- Gradually isolate young person from peer friends and family

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

Maintaining Control of victims

- Use of drugs or alcohol as a form of control
- Exposure to porn – de-sensitisation
- Threaten violence then say it is because victim made them angry
- Threaten to tell parents they are drug user/prostitute or to harm family
- Exert emotional pressure on young person to perform sexual activities e.g. guilt about debt
- Keep young person a prisoner so they are unable to leave and seek help
- Frequently move young people around geographically to disorientate them

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

Responsibility of Professionals:

"Every Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) should assume that sexual exploitation occurs within its area unless there is clear evidence to the contrary, and should put in place systems to monitor prevalence and responses." (DCSF, 2010; 191.)

- Identify children who are at risk of sexual exploitation.
- Prevent sexual exploitation.
- Respond to the need of children who experience harm and abuse from sexual exploitation.
- Take action against perpetrators.

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

Principles for Intervention:

- Any young person is potentially at risk from sexual exploitation.
- Children & young people who are sexually exploited are not perpetrators.
- Young people of 16 & 17 years are able to consent to sexual activity, but they cannot consent to their own abuse.
- Those being exploited may not even realise that they are being abused.
- CSE is occurring in Surrey.

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

CSE Meetings

- Chief Officers Meetings – to provide oversight and “line of sight” on CSE profile, operations, trends and patterns to senior managament.
- MAECC (Missing and Exploited Children’s Conference) – to provide quality assurance of multi-agency work, a key representative will be there from all the key agencies.
- A MAECC will be held for each of the different Children’s Services areas;
- South West (Guildford and Waverley)
- North West (Woking, Surrey Heath, Runnymede)
- North East (Spelthorne, Elmbridge, Epsom)
- South East (Reigate and Banstead, Mole Valley, Tandridge)
- MAECC Oversight Group to quality assure the work of the Area MAECCs and make recommendations and changes to processes
- SSCB CSE Strategy Group – to lead on the implementation of national CSE strategy in Surrey

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

Working together

- CSE is squarely a community safety issue and local government working with the police and others need to make use of community safety tactics and action to keep children safe. The regulatory and enforcement functions of the local authority are vital in preventing and disrupting CSE and in building intelligence which can help with prosecutions.

- The Local Authority's powers provide for legal entry to premises: properties can be inspected, instructions issued and conditions placed on them often with immediate effect. By "getting a foot in the door" of a premises, LA can gather intel which either prompts immediate Police action or will form part of mapping and profiling for perpetrator "hot spots".

Powers - Orders

- **Civil Injunctions** under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (previously Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, ASBOs). These are civil orders which replace the powers previously available to Councils through ASBOS and Housing Act injunctions.
- **Closure Orders** associated with Nuisance and Disorder. Closure orders are civil orders available in the Magistrates Court which stop anyone entering or residing at a named property. There are three types of closure order - drug closure orders, brothel closure and anti-social behaviour closure.
- **Section 222 Local Government Act 1972.** A Local Authority can bring criminal or civil proceedings in its own name, including applying for injunctions, where it considers it expedient for the promotion or protection of the interests of the inhabitants of their area. Local Authorities may use this provision to enforce their Children Act duties – as such wide-ranging injunctions could be obtained against known perpetrators.

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

Powers - Licences

- Local Authorities can apply a ‘balance of probabilities’ standard of proof when deciding whether to revoke licences where a driver’s conduct may contravene fit and proper behaviour. So while suspected criminal behaviour will be passed on to the Police, licensing Authorities may conduct investigations based on their own specified standards and are not required to prove their case ‘beyond reasonable doubt’ should they wish to suspend or revoke a licence for CSE-related activities.

Future Actions to consider

- Ensure that CSE and vulnerability features on the agenda for all Community Safety Partnership meetings.
- Ensure that LA staff receive CSE awareness training to identify the warning signs for CSE, and that they know mechanisms to report concerns either to Police or Children's Services.
- Use of posters and other visual aids to be displayed prominently in public spaces to raise awareness throughout the community, e.g bus stops, train stations, parks, libraries, sports and leisure centres.
- Explore CCTV opportunities in areas identified as hotspots for either CSE or locations that repeat MISPERS congregate.
- Start collating their own data on the issue – so incidences of reporting, information on local trends and prevalence of core risks (they currently do this for glue sniffing and teenage pregnancies). This would allow for better problem profiling

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

Further Actions to consider

- Provide police and other partner agencies with a list of support services that the LA can offer to children at risk or being exploited.
- Ensure there are tough policies around licensing when there are CSE concerns – Pubs, Off Licences, Hotels and Taxis; including robust enforcement through revoking of licences when conduct is inappropriate.
- Use the CIAG and JAG meetings as a means of identifying CSE concerns, sharing intelligence that can feed into the MAECC and CSE Strategy group
- Ensure that the Family Support Programme staff are skilled in being able to identify potential risk of CSE and can link into the lead agencies with responsibility for tackling CSE.

Useful resources:

SSCB	www.surreycc.gov.uk/safeguarding
Surrey Police	www.surrey.police.uk/cse
PACE	www.paceuk.info
	'Are Parents in the Picture?'
Parents Protect	www.parentsprotect.co.uk/resources
National Working Group	www.nationalworkinggroup.org
CEOP	www.ceop.police.uk
'Exploited' film	www.ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Press-releases/2013/School-best-place-to-learn-about-sexual-exploitation
Childline	www.childline.org.uk
Barnardos	www.barnardos.org.uk
NSPCC	www.nspcc.org.uk

Keeping children safe in education: for schools and colleges: *www.gov.uk/.../**keeping-children-safe-in-education**--*

The step-by-step guide for frontline practitioners, May 2012

www.education.gov.uk/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation

SURREY

surrey safeguarding CHILDREN BOARD

This page is intentionally left blank