

# Child Sexual Exploitation – Disruption

## A briefing for CHaRMM Members

### Introduction

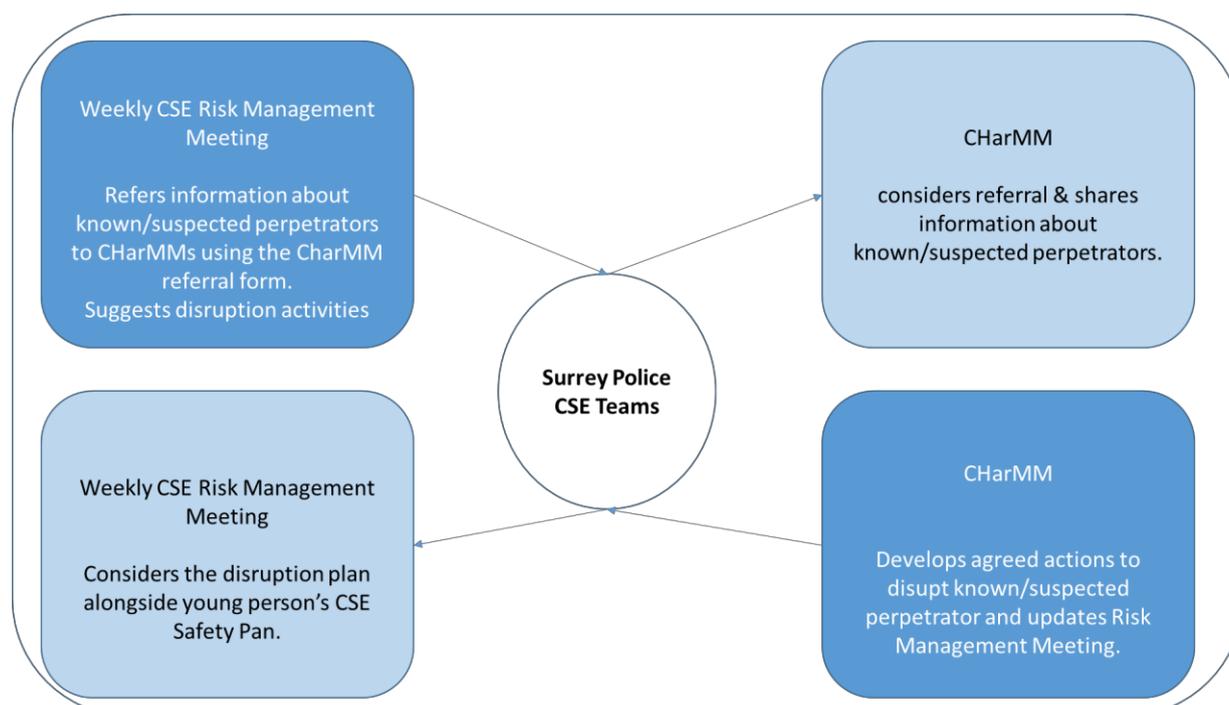
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) may be associated with other crimes and perpetrators could be involved in other criminal activity. In these instances there are a number of civil measures that can be used to disrupt the activities of individuals involved with CSE, alongside criminal and civil processes that directly address sexual offending and other child protection procedures.

### Addressing CSE in Surrey

CHaRMMs are a formal part of an integrated, multi-agency response to CSE in Surrey. CHaRMMs are the primary forum for taking action to address any additional anti-social behaviour of a known or suspected perpetrator of CSE.

Whilst all statutory agencies have a generic duty to safeguard victims CHaRMMs are NOT the primary forum to safeguard children. The safeguarding of children at risk of or experiencing CSE is the responsibility of the weekly CSE Risk Management Meetings, managed and chaired by Surrey County Council's Children's Social Care services. An [overview of CSE processes](#) is outlined in the Surrey Safeguarding Children Board's policy and procedures.

The table below outlines a simple process for sharing information between CHaRMMs and the CSE Risk Management Meetings.



## Powers to disrupt known/suspected perpetrators of CSE

The following powers were introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014. They should only be considered as disruption tactics aimed at dealing with the additional anti-social behaviour (ASB) of a perpetrator (or suspected) perpetrator of child sexual exploitation and are not tools to safeguard a victim.

- The Community Protection Notice is intended to deal with particular ongoing problems of nuisance which negatively affect the community's quality of life, including graffiti, rubbish and noise. The behaviour needs to be persistent or continuing in nature, be unreasonable and have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. Local authorities could use this tool to disrupt incidents of CSE in a housing, or other premises based setting, (social or private), where there are repeat complaints of noise or other related nuisance resulting from parties. The 'party model' is a recognised model for the grooming of a child/or children for sexual exploitation.
- The Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) is available on conviction for any criminal offence. The court must be satisfied that the offender has engaged in behaviour that caused, or was likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person, such as making threats of violence against others in the community, persistently being drunk and aggressive in public or causing criminal damage. The CBO prohibits certain behaviour for two years and requires the individual to address their behaviour. This order could be a useful tool in disrupting incidents of CSE, where a person in addition to their ASB, is also a perpetrator of CSE.
- ASB Injunction is a civil power which can be applied for by police and local authorities to deal with anti-social individuals, and is intended to tackle behaviours such as graffiti, drug and alcohol related ASB, noise and bullying. An injunction will prohibit certain activities, but also sets out positive requirements to address the ASB and could be used in certain circumstances to address exploitative or coercive behaviour before it escalates.
- The ASB Closure power can be used to tackle premises related nuisance or disorder that has occurred, or is likely to occur. This measure can be used by the police or local authority to disrupt child sexual exploitation. To issue a closure, the police/local authority must have reasonable grounds to believe that the premises were, or are likely to be, used for child sex offences (or behaviour related to CSE such as drug or alcohol misuse) and that closure is needed to prevent the place from being used for activities related to child sex offences.
- A Public Space Protection Order is intended to deal with behaviour that is occurring in a public area that has, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the local community. It could be considered to target a location at which it is suspected Child Sexual Exploitation is taking place, to reduce the likelihood of a child or young person becoming a victim there. A PSPO could be applied to a park, town centre, car park etc. to prohibit certain activities and make the area a less attractive meeting space. Prohibited activities could include:
  - gathering in groups
  - shouting
  - swearing
  - drinking alcohol
  - taking drugs, and
  - intimidating members of the public

- Through their governance and regulatory powers across a range of arenas and functions such as housing, licensing, environmental health, fire and fraud, Local Authorities already have a suite of powers and tools at their disposal which can be used to enter premises under a range of pretexts to investigate possible CSE. Information gained in this way can provide standalone intelligence and supplement information which comes directly from victims or their families.
- Local Authorities can exert pressure on perpetrators using existing housing, environmental health and licensing enforcement powers to assist the police in investigating residential properties of concern, takeaways, off-licences, convenience stores, car washes and garages. They can also assist dedicated police analysts to build a complex mosaic of the activities of perpetrators in the borough by providing information contained in existing local authority databases – “there is a lot of information there if you know where to look.”

All these tools and powers are complementary to, and not a replacement for, specific legislation available to the police to disrupt child sexual exploitation, including (but not limited to):

- Child Abduction Warning Notices, can be issued against individuals who are suspected of grooming children by stating that they have no permission to associate with the named child and that if they do so they can be arrested under the Child Abduction Act 1984 and Children Act 1989.
- Sexual Risk Order can impose restrictions on a perpetrator, such as limiting their internet use, preventing them from approaching or being alone with a named child, or restricting their travel abroad.

### Useful Links:

- [Surrey Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub \(MASH\)](#) should be contacted if you would like to report a concern about the safety of a child, young person or an adult.
- [Surrey Safeguarding Children Board](#) is a partnership of all the different organisations working to protect children and young people across Surrey.
- [Operation Makesafe](#) is an initiative focused on ensuring that people working in the business sector are aware of the early warning signs of CSE

### For further information and guidance:

- [Reflections on child sexual exploitation, a report by Louise Casey](#) (Home Office, March 2015)
- [See me, hear me? West Midlands Metropolitan Area CSE Disruption Toolkit](#) (November 2016)
- [Child Sexual Exploitation](#) - Annexes to ‘Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation’ (Department of Education, February 2017)

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