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# Health and Wellbeing Board January 2020

## Child Sexual Exploitation - CSE

# Definition of CSE

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- *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*

# Volume

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- Only since 2011 has CSE been recorded in a way that can be aggregated although there have been changes to the way this is recorded so historical comparison are not always possible.
- During any given quarter there are on average in excess of 30 active CSE cases in the Borough.

# Our Approach

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- A multi agency CSE team has been established since 2013.
- The structure - Local Authority - 1 Team Manager, 2 x Social Workers 1 X Family Intervention Worker. Police - 1 x DI, 1 x DS, 5 x DC's, 1 x PC, 1 x OSO, 1 x Apprentice, 1 x investigative assistant
- Along with access to Health support..
- Pathway - referral is received by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and progressed to a duty SW for assessment.
- If appropriate SW completes a referral to the CSE Team.
- This referral is discussed at the daily governance meeting and a decision made regarding whether to allocate to a specialist CSE/CCE SW for specialised assessment.

# Our Approach continued

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- Once this is completed a programme of work is undertaken with the young person that focuses heavily on building relationships, preventative work regarding decision making, recognising the factors of exploitation – push/pull factors – grooming models, behaviours that might make us vulnerable and that perpetrators will exploit etc.
- The CSE/CCE assessment is repeated at 3 month intervals.
- In addition other vulnerability factors are taken into account such as missing episodes.
- Strategically children of concern are referred to Missing From Home panel and disruption strategies implemented from there in respect of problem areas and/or perpetrators. This is also where agency involvement with the child to support them and their family is scrutinised.
- 2 weeks each year of action to raise the profile of CSE/CCE.

# Regional Context

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- Since 2013 as part of Greater Manchester we have worked to improve our response to tackling CSE, through Project Phoenix. Launched to ensure high standards of service and consistency in practice across Greater Manchester.
- As a result of the work of Project Phoenix Greater Manchester has seen significant improvements and much success in tackling CSE.
- Programme Challenger was launched in 2013 A GM approach to tackling wider organised crime in all its forms including sexual exploitation, trafficking, modern slavery and criminal exploitation of adults and children.

# Ofsted

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- The CSE social worker focus is on relationship building with young people and this supports risk reduction. This was evidenced in the recent OFSTED Report **“Direct work with children, supporting a child-centred and relationship-based approach to practice, is strongest in teams with specific functions, such as the child sexual exploitation”** This should be the foundation for moving forward with complex Safeguarding

Peer review undertaken in July 2019 (based on a wider Complex Safeguarding approach) identified areas of good practice including -

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- Good level of detail in the CSE Victim Flags on police system.
- Using Local Crime Group to identify CCE Victims.
- Utilisation of Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN)
- Connections to appropriate therapeutic service.
- A good example of partnership working was seen with the locality for CCE.
- Investment of Health on a weekly basis for the Weekly Governance Meeting.
- Good grasp of modern slavery elements in both CSE and CCE.

# Peer Review – continued

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- Current caseloads are at a manageable level.
- An example of a comprehensive, detailed assessment which analysed the impact of the young person's history, experience of trauma and how this has impacted the young person to date.
- When staff were spoken to they were able to identify strengths of the young person and family.
- Police interventions were in place to target 'hot spots'. These operations also featured as part of the plan in risk management meetings.

# The Next Step

## Complex Safeguarding

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- A decision has been reached and commitment made through the Tameside Safeguarding Childrens Partnership to establish and appropriately resourced a Complex Safeguarding Team.
- Strategic and Operational Groups are now established.
- Peer Review identified - Frontline practitioners recognise the need for a response to Complex Safeguarding and are open to the adoption of this.

The peer review undertaken in July 2019 (which post dates the TSCP decision) identified improvements and learning in area, including:

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- A commitment needed to staffing and resourcing the complex safeguarding response.
- The need for a local delivery plan or strategy.
- The need for a timescale for establishing a multi agency CS response.
- Contextual safeguarding was not being considered in all cases.
- No consistent multi-agency response or protocol when a group of young people are affected by exploitation.
- Specialist sexual health support is not routinely offered to all young people.

# Since Which Time

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- The TSCP has adopted the Greater Manchester CS Strategy.
- Established Strategic and Operational Groups.
- Agreed ToR.
- Agreed staffing.
- Agreed an intelligence lead approach.
- Commissioned joint intelligence gathering, analysis and mapping across LA and Police based on vulnerability factors.
- Secured funding for independent therapeutic support.

# Since Which Time - continued

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- Actively developing pathways.
- Purchased “Achieving Change Together” (ACT).
- Planning staff development and training.
- Firming up go live arrangements.
- Borough wide awareness raising planned.
- We have a pool of trainers for delivering CS training in the community which will be rolled out this year alongside a pathway for complex safeguarding which will reflect the current CSE pathway initially.

# Since Which Time - continued

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- Move to Complex Safeguarding Team will extend this resource with additional capacity, including Police, Social Work, Family Support, Education and Health.
- Staffing either in place or coming on line includes an additional Sergeant DC and PC, Social Worker, Family Intervention Worker, Education post, business support and health capacity.
- The Missing from Home panel will evolve to be the Multi-agency Child Exploitation panel which will be held monthly
- Improvement Plan in place.

# Regional Focus – the GM plan

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- Complex Safeguarding is criminal activity (often organised), or behaviour associated with criminality, involving children and young adults (often vulnerable) where there is exploitation and/or a clear or implied safeguarding concern.
- The context for Complex Safeguarding is that children and young adults are targeted and subjected to serious harm. This might include individuals planning, coordinating and committing serious offences such as child sexual exploitation and abuse; illegal drugs; illegal firearms; modern slavery and human trafficking, individually, in groups and/or as part of transnational networks.
- Much of this activity remains hidden or under reported, the true scale is likely to be greater than we currently know. Evidence and intelligence is continually emerging from a local, national and international context.
- Complex Safeguarding is one of the seven key priorities in GM's Children and Young People's Plan published in May 2019 and signals our continuing commitment to leading the way in tackling the exploitation of children and young adults.

# The GM Context

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## **What has changed to improve our approach**

- Public services reform.
- The Greater Manchester Children and Young People's Plan
- Greater Manchester partnership approach to Complex Safeguarding.

## **What we are doing to challenge and improve our services.**

- Integrated Complex Safeguarding Teams.
- Achieving Change Together (ACT).
- Complex Safeguarding Hub.
- Research and evidence based approach to work with adolescents.

# The GM Context - continued

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**How do we know how well we are doing and that we are making a difference?**

- Complex Safeguarding Performance Framework
- Peer Reviews.

**What we are doing to keep improving prevention and protection**

- Continuing to listen and act on the views of children and young people who have been exploited.
- Greater Manchester Standards Board.
- Taking a leading role in national initiatives.
- Continuing to innovate.
- Continuing to invest in staff development and training.