



# South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

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CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

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## CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION - BRIEFING

This report is provided to South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to support the current priorities<sup>1</sup> and assist with the understanding of the issues facing the district. The paper includes description of examples of interventions to tackle, reduce and support victims both locally and nationally.

### INTRODUCTION

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a newly acknowledged form of child abuse. Any child or young person, from any social or ethnic background, can be exploited. There are a number of factors that can increase the vulnerability of a young person to sexual exploitation. These can include disrupted family life and domestic violence, a history of physical or sexual abuse, disadvantage, poor mental health, problematic parenting, parental drug or alcohol misuse and parental mental health problems. Further to this, some young people are more vulnerable to targeting by perpetrators, and include those children with disabilities, those living in care (particularly residential care), those who are excluded from mainstream school, and those who misuse drugs and alcohol<sup>2</sup>.

#### *Definition of child sexual exploitation (CSE)*

Within official guidance Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is defined as:

*"involving exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) 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 sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability"*<sup>3</sup>

In addition to the statutory definition, Barnardo's recognises that there are different types of CSE based on the nature of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator(s). **Table 1** below shows the definitions of the different types of CSE.

**Table 1: Barnardo's definition of child sexual exploitation**

Type of CSE	Description
<b>Inappropriate relationships</b>	Usually involving one perpetrator who has inappropriate power or control over a young person (physical, emotional or financial). One indicator may be a significant age gap. The young person may believe they are in a loving

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.scambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/SC\\_CDRP\\_Action%20Plan%202015-6%20final%20and%20published.pdf](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/SC_CDRP_Action%20Plan%202015-6%20final%20and%20published.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> LSCB CSE strategy [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lscb/info/3/child\\_sexual\\_exploitation](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lscb/info/3/child_sexual_exploitation)

<sup>3</sup> Department for Education 2012 Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation: National Action Plan Progress Report.

	relationship.
<b>'Boyfriend' model of exploitation</b>	The perpetrator befriends and grooms a young person into a 'relationship' and then coerces or forces them to have sex with friends or associates.
<b>Peer exploitation</b>	Peer exploitation is where young people are forced or coerced into sexual activity by peers and associate's. Sometimes this can be associated with gang activity but not always
<b>Organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking</b>	Young people (often connected) are passed through networks, possibly over geographical distances, between towns and cities where they may be forced/ coerced into sexual activity with multiple men. Often this occurs at 'sex parties', and young people who are involved may be used as agents to recruit others into the network. Some of this activity is described as serious organised crime and can involve the organised 'buying and selling' of young people by perpetrators.

Source: Adapted from Cambridgeshire LCSB CSE Strategy quoting Barnardo's

## LOCAL PICTURE

It is the last of these (organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking), in particular a pattern of abuse involving predominantly White British girls as victims and gangs of predominantly Asian heritage men as perpetrators, that has had such a high profile nationally. But to solely focus on this would limit the impact of the Partnership and fails to recognise other victims and potential victims. Work and intelligence gathering continue through the Force Serious and Organised Crime Profile and the Force Operation Makesafe.

Within Cambridgeshire, in 2013/14 the vast majority of victims of sexual abuse were females aged 12 to 16 years<sup>4</sup>. At least 10.5% of child sexual abuse offences that were reviewed fell into CSE. Recorded CSE offences usually involved an adult who had gained the trust of a child and taken advantage of this relationship. The Force wide serious Organised Crime Local Profile July 2015 did not find a significant problem of CSE in South Cambridgeshire.

It should be noted that the Serious and Organised Crime Profile and action coming from that are focused on only the last category – 'organised/networked sexual exploitation'. Prevention work and raising awareness is being co-ordinated through Operation Makesafe at this time. Data, both in terms of police recorded crime and suspected or anecdotal information on other types of CSE in South Cambridgeshire is currently lacking.

The Health Related Behaviour Survey (HRBS) provides some indications of experiences and opinions of children and 12-13 and 14-15 years olds in school (year 8 and 10). Questions are asked about sexual experience and online activities. In South Cambridgeshire the following results were published from the 2014 survey in relation to sexual relationships;

<sup>4</sup> Problem Profile: Child Abuse in Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

## UNCLASSIFIED

- 19% (22% in Cambridgeshire) of Year 10+ pupils responded that they are either in a sexual relationship or have had one in the past, or were thinking about having sex in their current relationship.
- 53% (56%<sup>5</sup>) of Year 10+ pupils who have had sex responded that they 'always' used a method of protection or contraception, while 17% (15%) said they 'never' did and 15% (11%) did so only 'sometimes'. The figure for 2014 is lower than 2012, where 60% of year 10+ pupils responded that they 'always' used a method of protection or contraception.
- Of the 98 (608) pupils who have had sex, 24% (30%) responded that they have taken risks with sex (infection or pregnancy) after drinking alcohol or drug use.
- 9% (9%) of Year 10+ pupils responded that they have gone further than they would like (sexually) after drinking alcohol or drug use. 7% (8%) said they are 'not sure' if they have.

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### ONLINE SAFETY

While the internet is a valuable tool for children to learn, communicate, develop and explore the world around them, it often leaves them vulnerable to risks and experiences they may find upsetting. The internet provides children with the opportunity for a separate identity in which they can be who they want and take risks that perhaps they wouldn't offline.

With over 90% of children in the UK having access to the internet, it makes them more accessible to online offenders. Online child sexual abuse is defined by the NSPCC as *"the use of technology to manipulate, coerce or intimidate a child, to engage in sexual activity that is abusive and/or degrading in nature"*. It often involves an imbalance of power and lack of choice due to vulnerabilities, and can be misunderstood by children or others as consensual due to lack of immediate recognition or understanding by the child of abusive or exploitive conduct<sup>6</sup>. It can include the grooming of children, and production, distribution or possession of indecent images of children. It can also lead to or be preceded by contact abuse, and online CSE can lead to offline CSE<sup>7</sup>.

In South Cambridgeshire the following results were published from the 2014 HRBS in relation to internet safety;

- 97% (95%) of pupils responded that they have access to the internet outside school lessons.
- 55% (56%) of pupils responded that they spent at least 3 hours using the internet on the day before the survey. South Cambridgeshire recorded a small increase in the proportion of pupils stating that they spent at least 3 hours using the internet on the day before the survey.
- 28% (32%) of pupils responded that they spent 'a lot' or 'most or nearly all' of their time online the previous day posting messages on MySpace, Facebook etc., while 25% (25%) spent their time chatting live.
- 77% (76%) of pupils responded that they have a profile online for Facebook/Twitter/Bebo etc. and 49% (48%) said this profile is set to be friends-only and not public.

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<sup>5</sup> Figures in brackets are for Cambridgeshire as a whole

<sup>6</sup> Jutte et al. (2015) How safe are our children? NSPCC

<sup>7</sup> CEOP: Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, June 2013

The survey also indicates that 36% (37%) of pupils responded that they have found school lessons about personal safety ‘quite’ or ‘very’ useful, while 12% (12%) have found them ‘not at all’ useful and 14% (13%) couldn’t remember any. Further, only just over half (53%) of pupils living in South Cambridgeshire followed advice given in lessons about how to stay safe online (52% in Cambridgeshire).

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### CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS

The statutory guidance<sup>8</sup> clearly identifies **the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) as having the lead role** in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the work of their members in tackling child sexual exploitation. This function is discharged by ‘*participation in planning & commissioning*’ of services to meet the needs of children, young people and their families as well as ‘*developing policies and procedures*’. As a minimum, the LSCB procedures should support professionals in identifying signs of exploitation, providing the framework within which information is shared and action taken and identify how victims are supported (see section 4.10 of the guidance<sup>9</sup>).

The Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children’s Board child sexual exploitation strategy<sup>2</sup> is available on the internet [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lscb/info/3/child\\_sexual\\_exploitation](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lscb/info/3/child_sexual_exploitation) and should be considered in conjunction with this report.

The guidance does identify that beyond the LSCB other local partnerships have a role to play, including Community Safety Partnerships and that links between the two “*can be used to ensure a common understanding of the nature of the problem, local priorities and how different agencies will cooperate to address it*” (Section 4.18 of the guidance)<sup>10</sup>.

A more recent thematic inspection of measures to tackle CSE by Ofsted of eight local authorities<sup>11</sup> identified that LCSB progress against CSE action plans should be shared regularly with Community Safety Partnerships (page 8, recommendations, paragraph five) and Partnerships should ensure that information and intelligence is also shared. Ofsted also considered strong governance arrangements between the respective boards of the LSCB, CSP and H&WB<sup>12</sup> as being indicative of a holistic approach to CSE being taken; with links to related strategies such as those covering gangs, domestic abuse, licencing and PSHE in Schools.

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### EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

Below is an example of national practice to tackle and prevent CSE. It has been included in this briefing to provide an opportunity for the Partnership to understand what works in other areas.

Barnardo’s has created and run the Families and Communities Against Child<sup>13</sup> Sexual Exploitation (FCASE) project in three pilot sites. The FCASE model consists of the following elements: a structured programme of six to eight weeks direct work with young people and families where a risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) has been identified; delivery of CSE training with professionals; and

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<sup>8</sup> Safeguarding Children and Young People for Sexual Exploitation, Supplementary Guidance, 2009

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Safeguarding Children and Young People for Sexual Exploitation, Supplementary Guidance, 2009

<sup>11</sup> The Sexual Exploitation of Children: It Couldn’t Happen Here, Could IT?, Ofsted 2014

<sup>12</sup> Health & Well Being Board

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/our\\_work/sexual\\_exploitation/cse-professionals.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation/cse-professionals.htm)

undertaking community awareness raising. The University of Bedfordshire has conducted an evaluation<sup>14</sup> of the programme. Below are some key findings from it.

It found that one benefit of the model was the provision of separate workers for the parent/carer and the young person. Those young people engaged in the project knew that the separation of workers enabled greater opportunity for disclosure. It enabled families to build on their strengths in order to prevent and support those affected by, and at risk of, CSE. Further it found the model provided the following positive outcomes<sup>15</sup>;

- Equipping families with the knowledge and information to help them safeguard their children.
- Promoting the role and value of the voluntary sector in developing working relationships with families and ‘building bridges’ between families and statutory services.
- Engaging workers with specialist knowledge, relational skills, and family centred / victim centred working.
- Providing continuity of workers in building trusting and productive relationships.
- Providing effective training that makes appropriate and accurate referrals more likely.
- Improvement in family and community relations and consequently a reduction in risk

## SUMMARY

South Cambridgeshire records low levels of crime, including sexual offences. However, It is important to bear in mind that a large number of crimes against children and young people are not reported to the police, and often children and young people do not know what they have experienced is a crime. This is particularly true if the type of criminal behaviour has been normalised within a peer group or community. Children at risk of CSE aren’t always able to recognise signs of CSE and grooming, particularly due to the nature of the grooming process, and instead often believe they are in genuine relationship with the individual who exploits them<sup>16 17</sup>.

Examples of good practice are now coming through for tackling CSE. Training staff should be seen as a first step in tackling and preventing it. Working directly with children and their families and with the wider communities is also vital if CSE is to be prevented.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.beds.ac.uk/ic/publications>

<sup>15</sup> Families and Communities Against Child Sexual Exploitation, Final Evaluation Report – University of Bedfordshire

<sup>16</sup> Beckett and Warrington. (2014) Suffering in Silence: Children and unreported crime, Victim Support and University of Bedfordshire,

<sup>17</sup> CEOP Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

**APPENDIX 1: HEALTH RELATED BEHAVIOUR SURVEY 2014 - Q73 SOUTH  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE BY POSTCODE**
Percentage of pupils responding 'yes' to the following questions about the internet  
(Cambridgeshire data in brackets):

	Year 8		Year 10		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Have you ever been told how to stay safe while online?	85 (80)	88 (88)	85 (80)	90 (89)	87 (84)
<i>If yes, do you always follow the advice you have been given?</i>	55 (54)	61 (63)	36 (38)	51 (51)	53 (52)
Have you ever got a message that scared you or made you upset?	12 (12)	27 (28)	13 (13)	37 (36)	22 (22)
Has anyone posted something online in order to upset you?	10 (11)	15 (18)	13 (13)	28 (27)	16 (17)
Have you ever looked for new friends online?	15 (16)	12 (17)	17 (20)	22 (26)	16 (19)
Have you ever met someone in real life whom you first met online?	14 (15)	13 (13)	17 (20)	23 (24)	16 (18)
<i>If yes, was this someone about your age?</i>	13 (13)	11 (12)	15 (17)	18 (20)	14 (15)
Have you ever seen pictures/videos/games online that were for adults only?	41 (38)	22 (21)	67 (61)	36 (35)	39 (38)
Have you ever looked online for adults-only pictures/videos/games?	25 (25)	5 (5)	55 (49)	9 (9)	22 (21)
Have you ever seen pictures/videos/games online that upset you?	10 (10)	18 (20)	10 (11)	20 (25)	14 (16)
Have you ever placed a bet or played games for money online?	5 (6)	2 (2)	10 (9)	2 (2)	4 (5)
Do your parents have rules about what you can do on the internet?	46 (40)	48 (48)	22 (21)	34 (30)	40 (36)
Have you ever regretted sending personal information or images to someone, or decided afterwards you should have thought more about it?	9 (10)	15 (14)	15 (13)	25 (23)	15 (15)
Do you have a profile online for Facebook/Twitter/Bebo etc.?	66 (65)	76 (78)	83 (77)	90 (88)	77 (76)
<i>If yes, are all your profiles set to be friends-only and not public?</i>	39 (39)	54 (52)	49 (46)	58 (56)	49 (48)