



Child Sexual Exploitation Multi-Agency Strategy 2011- 2014

*Working Together
to
Safeguard Children
from
Sexual Exploitation
in
Lancashire*



**Blackpool Safeguarding
Children Board**

Statement of Intent

Sexual exploitation of children is child abuse and is completely unacceptable; the only effective way to tackle sexual exploitation of children is via effective multi agency and partnership working.

Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation remains one of the most important challenges for the Safeguarding Childrens Boards of Lancashire.

We recognise that sexual exploitation can have serious long term impact on every aspect of the child or young persons lives, health and education. It also damages the lives of families and carers and can lead to family break ups.

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative relationships, violence, coercion and intimidation 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.

It is our collective mutli-agency reponsibility to identifiy those children and young people at risk of exploitation and our joint responsibilty to protect them and safeguard them from further risk of harm. It is also our joint responsibiilty to prevent children becoming victims of this form of abuse and reassure our communities we can perform our duties effectively.

Our shared key strategic priorities for 2011-2014 are:

- **Prevention**
- **Safeguarding**
- **Bringing Offenders to Justice**
- **Public Confidence**

***Child abuse casts a shadow
that can last the length of a lifetime***

“She thought that they were her friends”

“She was forced into having sex, she felt
she couldn’t say no...”



Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility

Prevention

What are we going to do?				
Engage with children and young people to gain a better understanding of the practice of CSE and develop activities which will dissuade children and young people becoming involved in CSE and identify those at risk of CSE.	All agencies to ensure staff working with or in contact with children understand the signs of precursor types of behaviour and develop intervention strategies to prevent escalation. This will include those displaying precursor behaviour in relation to victimisation and offending.	All agencies to identify those who introduce victims to the CSE environment and develop interventions to stop this behaviour.	Develop localised preventative plans inline with LSCB strategy but reflecting local problem profiles.	Deliver a universal education and marketing package to the children and young people of Lancashire designed to heighten awareness and reduce risk taking. Raise awareness of CSE within our communities.

How are we going to do it?				
<p>Consult with established youth panels such as Young Persons Council and Youth PACTS to assist in developing a complete picture of CSE and the victimisation process.</p> <p>Conduct multi-agency debriefs of young people who have been victimised to learn lessons.</p>	<p>Ensure all staff have sufficient awareness of potential indicators as specified in DCFS Statutory Guidance and CEOP “Out of Sight, Out of Mind.”</p> <p>Develop clear referrals and assessment process for those at risk to match with preventative service delivery such as Early Intervention Services.</p> <p>Review victim profiles to gain improved understanding of underlying factors which may be precursor indicators.</p>	<p>Ensure frontline staff have an awareness of how victims are introduced to exploitation. To consider that an existing victim may influence those not currently subject to exploitation.</p> <p>If a victim is identified as a risk to others through engagement interventions to raise awareness regarding victimisation to be identified and implemented.</p> <p>Assess association patterns of existing victims in social and educational settings.</p>	<p>Identify what local factors are enabling perpetrators or increasing risk to victims and eliminate that risk through an intelligence led multi agency approach.</p> <p>Identify high risk or hot spot locations and implement multi agency preventative plans.</p> <p>Review links with existing strategies such as Nightsafe to consider how victim behaviour engaging with existing problems exposes them to risk of sexual exploitation.</p>	<p>Establish a schools charter for the delivery of key messages which can be varied according to local problem profiles.</p> <p>Develop E Safety A Pan Lancashire Strategy to secure minimum standards of delivery within education.</p>

Safeguarding and Protection

What are we going to do?				
<p>Develop Specialist Multi Agency teams covering both Lancashire and unitary authorities that can support victims as well as deterrence and prosecution activity.</p>	<p>Identify children at risk at an early stage across all agencies and ensure those children have full assessment of their needs and referral to relevant services for intervention and support.</p>	<p>Adopt a Total Family approach when supporting families to parent protect and engage.</p> <p>To highlight and educate parents and carers of the benefits of working collaboratively with agencies within the LCSB.</p>	<p>Set the DCFS guidance Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation as the minimum standard across Lancashire.</p>	<p>LSCB to provide ongoing scrutiny and governance of policy, procedure and practice in service delivery.</p>

How are we going to do it?				
<p>Agree service levels and joint resourcing commitments between partner agencies.</p> <p>Identify those agencies within the voluntary and non statutory sectors best placed to assist victims if CSE and incorporate their services within risk management plans. CROP, Barnardos, Lucy Faithful Foundation</p>	<p>Standardise operating procedures and establish a risk management model for use across agencies. Set minimum standards for service delivery throughout the county.</p> <p>Develop clear referral pathways that ensure effective information sharing, assessment and subsequent coordinated service delivery.</p> <p>Ensure all staff in contact with young people have training consistent with their role to identify those at risk of exploitation and those suffering exploitation.</p>	<p>To ensure the commitment of multi-agencies response to work with families to agree plans of support to assist to educate and assist parents.</p> <p>Identify and then reduce the domestic motivating factors which will cause the child or young person to choose to be in a risky situation.</p>	<p>LSCB to review current arrangements protocols and policies of member agencies to assure compliance.</p> <p>Develop an action plan to address areas where agencies do not comply with minimum standard.</p>	<p>To monitor compliance through CSE strategic sub group and address any shortfalls via the board.</p>

Bringing Offenders to Justice

What are we going to do?				
Develop a CSE victims Charter	Identifying Offenders	Ensure victims' are supported throughout the CJ process from report to court.	Develop CSE problem profile, incorporating data from improved intelligence collection and data from all agencies.	Learn from previous, current and future prosecutions to ensure all investigations into CSE are undertaken by professionally trained staff.

How are we going to do it?

Closer liaison with Criminal Justice partners to ensure the provision of CPS specialists and specialist courts. The adoption of this methodology within the DA arena has led to improved victim experience and ensures county wide continuity of processes.

We will ensure that CSE victims receive follow up visits post incident, in order to capture vital intelligence. This will close the intelligence gap and create a clear CSE picture for each division.

Conduct intelligence debriefs of former victims to ensure full disclosures were made to support prosecutions or to inform the intelligence picture.

Conduct debriefs of convicted offenders to gain an improved intelligence picture of offender behaviour.

Enlist the help and support to victims of non statutory/ voluntary sector, organisations such as Banardos, Lucy Faithfull Foundation, and CROP. This will improve continued engagement of victims throughout the CJS process. Ensure all CSE victims are fully prepared for court through pre- court familiarisations/ witness service.

All front line agencies should develop ways of capturing and recording data relating to known or suspected cases of sexual exploitation.

LSCB to coordinate The development of a multi agency data set which is of use to the police and services for sexually exploited children.

Lancashire Constabulary will use the data along with intelligence to develop regular problem profiles of sexual exploitation.

Review all CSE prosecutions to identify barriers to taking cases forward and outline best practice in relation to the support available for victims.

Review all recent cases to identify key aspects of the investigation and criminal justice process that can lead to successful prosecution outcomes.

Ensure suitably qualified investigators with specific knowledge of CSE and Child Abuse undertake investigations.

Public Confidence

What are we going to do?				
Engage with our local communities and raise awareness of CSE and how it affects individuals and wider communities.	Agree a Multi Agency Media Strategy	Educate all sections of our communities.	Develop plans reflecting local problem profiles in line with the LSCB strategy.	Proactively engage businesses within our communities.

How are we going to do it?				
<p>LSCB to develop key messages for engagement strategy.</p> <p>All agencies to utilise their existing partnerships and develop new arrangements of community engagement. Obtain an engagement commitment from Statutory partners, Children Trust and CSP. All agencies to update the LSCB of their engagement through the CSE.</p> <p>Standing Agenda item for LSCB.</p>	<p>This strategy will explore several options of engagement appropriate to target all sections of the community. Utilising multi media /social networking technology to target different social groups and to raise awareness and increase reporting.</p> <p>Through the media the LSCB will seek to promote the activity defined within this strategy.</p>	<p>Linked with the Media Strategy. Partnerships agencies will engage with our communities to educate and raise awareness to all sections of the community. Develop a multi stranded approach to raising awareness and increasing reporting among key groups within the community</p> <p>I.E. Hoteliers, Taxi Drivers, Door Staff etc</p>	<p>Each team to develop their own engagement plan in line with LSCB key messages to reflect their local problem profiles and requirements.</p> <p>Plans to be reviewed by LSCB CSE sub group.</p>	