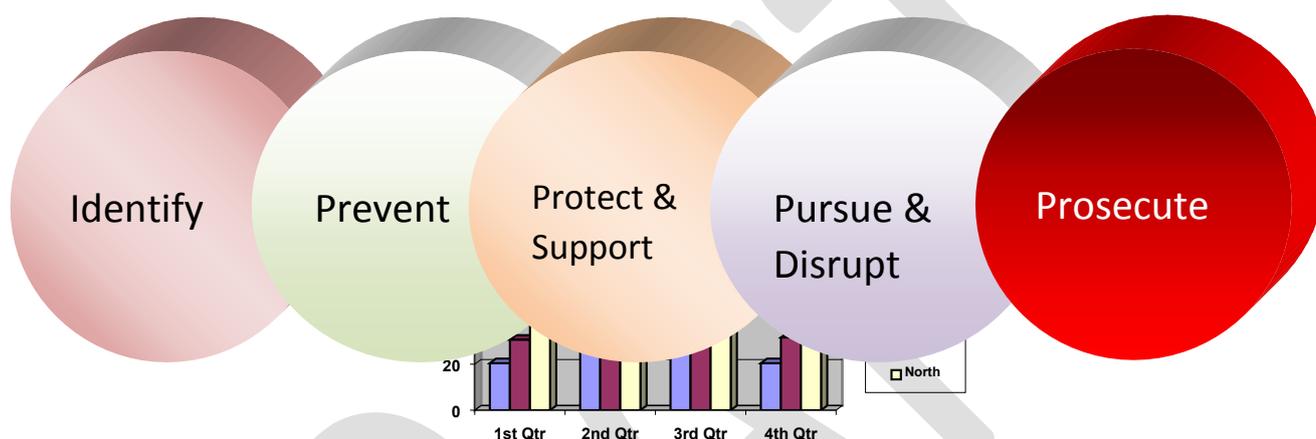




**Slough Local Safeguarding Children's Board (SLSCB) Child Sexual Exploitation and its links to Missing & Child Trafficking Strategy**

**2015 – 2017**



**Working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children & young people from Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking**

1. Summary

The strategy sets out how Slough Local Safeguarding Children’s Board will intervene and prevent child sexual exploitation, child trafficking and missing from home or care incidences through a pro-active, coordinated and multi-agency approach.

We aim to do this under the following key strategic priorities:-

<p><b>Identify</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a comprehensive and accurate ‘Problem Profile’ to enable identification of locations and individuals or groups who sexually exploit, whilst timely identifying children’s vulnerability indicators in a timely manner, in order to provide a responsive multi-agency approach</li> <li>• Ensure that all incidents of children missing from home, school, care or from the sight of universal services are reported to police</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prevent</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the issue through education and training and provision of early help to prevent exploitation, trafficking and missing from home or care incidents.</li> <li>• Reducing numbers subject to CSE, trafficking and/or running away through 1:1 work with children.</li> <li>• Identifying and engaging with groups of children and young people who are potentially at a high risk of being exploited</li> <li>• Being tenacious about ensuring that all children who go missing from home or care are offered timely return home interviews that appropriately explore and address risk and need</li> <li>• Continue to promote the use of the police CSE intelligence form and use the information gained to intervene in identified networks and target identified hotspots as well as places of concerns.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protect &amp; Support</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking urgent steps to ensure that all children who are identified as being at risk of going missing or being sexually exploited are subject to risk assessment (using the CSE Risk Indicator Tool) and are offered responsive and appropriate help</li> <li>• Ensure that the needs of parents and families of victims of CSE and trafficking are considered and appropriate support provided</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pursue &amp; Disrupt</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use information to disrupt patterns of exploitation &amp; trafficking</li> <li>• Provide timely and effective interventions to support victims to break free from sexual exploitation &amp; trafficking</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prosecute</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people something misomethinby prosecuting perpetrators.</li> <li>• To successfully prosecute those who perpetrate or facilitate the exploitation of children &amp; young people - something missing here?</li> </ul>

Fundamental to achieving these objectives is a commitment from Slough LSCB to building a shared understanding of the CSE and trafficking profile in Slough and risk linked to missing from home or care incidences across all agencies as well as sectors of the community to ensure the wellbeing of all children.

Expected **outcomes** from this strategy are:

- All professionals have a better understanding of the risk factors and prevalence of CSE in the Slough area
- Children, parents, carers and the wider community have an increased awareness of risks relating to CSE
- There is improved identification of children at risk of sexual exploitation, trafficking and other related risks
- There is increasing evidence of effective prevention of sexual exploitation of those at risk
- Children at risk and victims as well as their parents/carers are engaged in developing support plans and agreeing outcomes
- Victims are effectively supported to exit exploitative relationships during investigations, prosecution and post prosecution
- Activities of perpetrators are either successfully disrupted or result in prosecutions

## 2. Key principles

Slough Local Safeguarding Children Board is committed to meeting the diverse needs of all children and young people in relation to their health, relationships and emotional health and wellbeing.

All members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board will treat all children and young people with fairness, dignity and respect regardless of age, disability, health status, gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, family situation, beliefs, religion or economic and social standing in order to meet their identified needs and priorities.

The principles underpinning Slough's multi-agency responses to the sexual exploitation of children and young people are:

- To ensure that anyone who comes into contact with a child or young person who has been or is at risk of being sexually exploited reports the matter to the police;
- To ensure that children are given assistance to **participate** as fully as possible in all decisions that are made in respect of them. The involvement of parents or carers is fundamental to this principle.
- Continue to raise awareness that children and young people do not make choices to enter or continue to be sexually exploited, but do so from **coercion, enticement, manipulation** and/or **persuasion**.
- To ensure that all children and young people who are subject to sexual exploitation are treated as **victims of abuse**.
- To empower children and young people to make realistic choices and to be supported with effective resources for **"exiting"** from the circumstances where they are being sexually exploited.
- Professional judgements regarding levels of risk should be consistently clear and the sources of information should reflect a multi-agency consultative approach.
- **Prevention, protection, pursuance and prosecution** should be given equal importance. Timely legal action and disruption strategies are essential to ensure that perpetrators of sexual exploitation are identified and prosecuted.

- Where the police are considering criminal action against children and young people, they should consult with partner agencies through the CSE meetings or appropriate multi-agency routes for other offences to ensure that all alternative and appropriate actions have been considered in line with ensuring adherence to ACPO guidance.
- To ensure that all professionals involved in working with children and young people subject to sexual exploitation show **professional resilience** and are committed to taking a pro-active approach in engaging the child or young person as they do not always engage easily. Ongoing training must be provided to increase the skills base and professional resilience of staff working with children at risk of exploitation.

### 3. Definition of CSE & Child Trafficking

#### Child Sexual Exploitation

*'Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status. Consent is irrelevant, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and may occur online'.* (The government is proposing to bring the revised definition into effect on 1 April 2016 and including it within the statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children).

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 years 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 children's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice as a result of their social, economic or emotional vulnerability. A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.

#### Child Trafficking

Child trafficking is the recruitment and movement of children for the purposes of exploitation. Children are most commonly exploited for sexual purposes, exploited to carry out forced labour or criminal activity, or held in servitude. There are three main elements:

- The movement – recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children
- The control – threat, use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or the giving of payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim child
- The purpose – child sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices, and the removal of organs

#### 4. Models of Child Sexual Exploitation

Slough will use the following models and other emerging patterns, to identify children at risk of CSE as well as the perpetrators. Barnardos definition indicates that child sexual exploitation tends to be a hidden activity and much more likely to take place in private residences than visibly, on the streets. Barnardos has identified different models of activity; they are not exhaustive, but show a spectrum of exploitation, as follows:

**Inappropriate relationships model:** Usually involves one abuser who has inappropriate power – physical, emotional or financial – or control over a young person. The young person may believe they have a genuine friendship or loving relationship with their abuser. Many cases show the enormity of this problem as girls engage with young men who appear to be genuine but further down the line become aggressive and controlling

**Boyfriend model:** Abuser grooms victim by striking up a normal relationship with them, giving them gifts and meeting in cafes/ fast food outlets or shopping centres. A seemingly consensual sexual relationship develops but later turns abusive. Victims are required to attend parties have sexual contact with multiple men and threatened with violence if they try to seek help. They may also be required to introduce their friends as new victims.

**Organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking:** Children and 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 children/young people by perpetrators.

**The ‘party model’;** parties are organised by groups of men to lure young people. Young people are offered drinks, drugs and car rides often for ‘free’. They are introduced to an exciting environment and a culture where sexual promiscuity and violence is normalised. Parties are held at various locations and children are persuaded (sometimes financially) to bring their peers along. Children are also encouraged to associate with others via Snapchat, Whatsapp kik, Instagram, Facebook, Bebo, ooVoo, etc. The parties may be held some distance from the child’s home, enabling the perpetrators to force the child to have sex in return for a lift home. Drugs and alcohol are used to suppress the children’s resistance. Images may be taken of them without their clothes for purpose of bribery.

The third model - organised sexual exploitation or trafficking, is the most sophisticated and complex form of child sexual exploitation and those young people involved would be considered at very high risk. However, young people from any of the models described above can be victim to extreme levels of intimidation, and physical and sexual violence. Organised exploitation varies from spontaneous networking between groups of perpetrators to more serious organised crime where young people are effectively ‘sold’.

## 5. Strategic Priority 1: Identify

Develop a comprehensive and accurate 'problem profile' to enable identification of locations and individuals or groups who sexually exploit, whilst timely identifying children's vulnerability indicators in order to provide a responsive multi-agency approach.

Slough will achieve this by:

- Taking decisive action to ensure that the local extent of child sexual exploitation and trafficking is known and understood and that intelligence information is used proactively to inform risk management and disruption activities.
- Identifying suspected and known perpetrators and ensure that any intelligence regarding suspected adults is shared with police
- Ensuring an effective single point of contact for all CSE referrals and missing children. This should be aligned with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding (MASH) soon to be in place.
- Developing and maintaining a responsive multi-agency map of service provision to:
  - Engender effective multi-agency working
  - Ensure that identified need matches services provided
  - Ensure that service development and commissioning priorities are responsive to the children identified to be at risk and in need of support.
  - Improve multi-agency intelligence sharing and data analysis
  - Problem Profile mapping - i.e. children exploited and potential exploitation networks relating to perpetrators and vulnerable children and young people
  - Identify and monitor geographical places of interest and 'hot spots'

Because of the complexity, these activities receive dedicated police resources to investigate and are described as 'internal trafficking' or 'trafficking for child sexual exploitation'. In these cases, perpetrators may not always be engaging in sexual activity with young people themselves but arranging for others to do so. Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (S.58), this is defined as trafficking within the UK<sup>1</sup>.

The Association of Chief Police Officers and Pan Berkshire Safeguarding Board have agreed an operating protocol which includes three levels of risk based on a range of indicators and vulnerability factors. The CSE Risk Indicator Tool, now in place across Pan Berkshire authorities identifies vulnerabilities in children prior to abuse and specific risk indicators to be aware of under each of the three outcomes/ risk categories:-

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<sup>1</sup> Puppet On A String - reveals the urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation.

Barnardo's [http://www.barnardos.org.uk/ctf\\_puppetonastring\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/ctf_puppetonastring_report_final.pdf)

- **Low Risk** – A vulnerable child/young person, where there are concerns they are being targeted and groomed and where any vulnerability factors have been identified. At this stage, there is no evidence of any offences - (one or more of the following identified);
  - Regularly coming home late or going missing
  - Overtly sexualised dress, sexualised risk taking (including on the internet)
  - Unaccounted for monies or goods
  - Associating with unknown adults
  - Associating with other sexually exploited children
  - Reduced contact with family and friends and other support networks
  - Sexually transmitted infections
  - Experimenting with drugs and alcohol
  - Poor self image, eating disorders, self harm
  - Non school attendance
  
- **Medium Risk** – Evidence that a child/young person is being targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for drugs, perceived affection, sense of belonging, accommodation (overnight stays), money and goods etc. The likelihood of coercion/control is significant. (two or more of the following indicators) ;
  - Getting into cars with unknown adults or associating with known CSE adults
  - Being groomed on the internet
  - Clipping
  - Receiving rewards of money or goods for recruiting peers in to CSE
  - Disclosure of physical sexual assault and then refusing to make or withdrawing a complaint.
  - Reports of being involved in CSE through being seen in hotspots
  - Having a much older boyfriend / girlfriend
  - Missing school or excluded from school due to behaviour
  - Staying out overnight with no reasonable explanation
  - Breakdown of residential placements due to behaviour
  - Unaccounted for money or goods including mobile phones, drugs, and alcohol
  - Multiple sexually transmitted infections
  - Self harming
  - Repeat offending
  - Gang member or association
  
- **High Risk** – A young person/child, whose sexual exploitation is habitual, often self-denied and where coercion/control is implicit - any one or more of the following indicators;
  - Child under 13 engaging in penetrative sex with another young person over 15 years
  - Pattern of street homelessness and staying with an adult believed to be sexually exploiting them
  - Child under 16 meeting different adults and engaging in sexual activity
  - Removed from known “red light” district by professionals due to suspected CSE
  - Being taken to clubs and hotels by adults engaging in sexual activity
  - Disclosure of serious sexual assault and then withdrawing of statement
  - Abduction and forced imprisonment

- Being moved around for sexual activity
- Disappearing from the “system” with no contact or support
- Multiple miscarriages or termination
- Chronic alcohol and drug use
- Indicators of CSE alongside serious self harming

Young people being assessed as being low, medium and high risk will be provided with a range of services from relevant agencies, informed by the specific needs of each case. Cases assessed within medium to high will require specialist police interventions in line with Pan Berkshire CSE Protocols alongside intensive social care intervention in accordance with best practice protocols.

## **6. Strategic Priority 2: Prevent**

- Raise awareness of the issue through education and training and provision of early help to prevent exploitation, trafficking and missing from home or care incidences.
- Reducing numbers subject to CSE, trafficking and/or running away through 1:1 work with children.
- Identifying and engaging with groups of children and young people who are potentially at a high risk of being exploited
- Being tenacious about ensuring that all children who go missing from home or care are offered timely return home interviews that properly explore and address risk and need
- Continue to promote the use of the police CSE intelligence form and use the information gained to intervene in identified networks and target identified hotspots as well as places of concerns.

## **7. Strategic Objective 3: Protect & Support**

- Taking urgent steps to ensure that all children who are identified as being at risk of going missing or being sexually exploited are subject to risk assessment (using the CSE Risk Indicator Tool) and are offered responsive and appropriate help
- Ensure that the needs of parents and families of victims of CSE and trafficking are considered and appropriate support provided

This will be achieved through:

- Piloting of a police led multi-agency team to support children and young people at risk of, experiencing sexual exploitation to ensure that the response to CSE is well coordinated and effective.
- Undertaking high quality assessments through the use of the Pan Berkshire CSE Risk Indicator Tool for children and young people at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation.

- Supporting and protecting children and young people, who are at risk of exploitation, experiencing exploitation, or survivors of exploitation and their parents, carers and families through responsive and consistent service provision.
- Improving the function of the CSE & Trafficking Strategic Group, SERAC Panel and CSE Champions Group.

#### **8. Strategic Objective 4: Pursue and Disrupt**

- Use intelligence gathered to disrupt patterns of exploitation & trafficking
- Provide timely and effective interventions to support victims to break free from sexual exploitation & trafficking

#### **9. Strategic Objective 5: Prosecute**

- Take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people by prosecuting perpetrators
- To successfully prosecute those who perpetrate or facilitate the exploitation of children & young people

This will be achieved through:

- Prosecuting perpetrators of child sexual exploitation
- Ensuring that all children and young people who have experienced sexual exploitation are fully prepared for court and supported throughout the criminal justice process.
- Using intelligence data to develop problem profiles of individuals or groups to assist with prosecutions.
- Supporting the parents/carers and families of children and young people who are witnesses in court
- Make best use of child abduction notices, harbourers warnings, and other appropriate legislation where applicable and utilise other forms of litigation.

#### **10. Intelligence Sharing and Performance Monitoring**

In order to understand the prevalence/scale of CSE in Slough, the necessary data management processes and agreed data set needs to be in place. Referral trends are also crucial in understanding which types of agencies tend to refer to police and social care as well as clarifying how well thresholds are being applied. As part of understanding the needs of children at risk/being abused as a result of CSE, the current operational working group (Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference - SERAC Panel provides a multi-agency oversight and tracking of cases. The SERAC links into the CSE & Trafficking Strategic Sub-group, to enable strategic oversight. Robust partnership working and a programme of the CSE service and practice development is central to achieving improved safeguarding

responses and outcomes for children and young people at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation across the borough.

Child sexual exploitation cannot be addressed by one agency alone or in isolation from other related safeguarding issues. The LSCB has a role and responsibility to have an oversight of safeguarding within Slough Borough Council and the CSE Sub-Group directly reports into it. The action plan directs clearly their role and responsibility in terms of providing an annual report for scrutiny by elected members. All agencies have a responsibility to fulfil their obligations in providing information to inform the annual report. To ensure consistent best practice, the Pan Berkshire CSE Protocol is adopted and applied in conjunction with all Slough CSE documents.

### **11. CSE & Trafficking Subgroup**

The CSE Subgroup is a strategic group to share information and intelligence and additionally receives feedback on operational issues and individual CSE referrals in order to understand the nature and prevalence of CSE in Slough. It aims to reduce the number of children and young people at risk and provide a strategic overview of CSE activity in Slough and monitor the CSE Action plan to ensure effectiveness and timely execution. This helps to ensure agreed common thresholds and categorisation for interventions in response to CSE are consistently adhered to.

The CSE & Trafficking Subgroup is chaired by a senior police officer and mandatory membership includes all agencies across the partnership to promote shared accountability. The CSE & Missing lead manager in social care, reports into the CSE and Trafficking Subgroup in line with the expectations of the LSCB Business Plan and the group will report to the LSCB on progress of specific activity such as CSE investigations, information from SERAC to inform learning and responsive action regarding themes. The CSE & Trafficking Subgroup meets 6 weekly.

CSE is a standing item on the bi-monthly local police area tasking meetings which Safer Slough Partnership (SSP) partners attend. Information from these meetings needs to be relayed to the designated CSE Social Work Lead.

### **12. The role of Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference – SERAC**

The Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (SERAC) in Slough reviews individual cases and provides multi agency risk management oversight. This includes looked after children placed in Slough by other authorities. The panel meets every 4 weeks and is chaired by the safeguarding lead in Children's Social Care. The objective of SERAC is to track the safety plans in place to help tackle issues of child sexual exploitation while increasing intelligence and identifying gaps in data around CSE trends. Representatives attending the conference include Children's Social Care, Targeted Family Support, Engage, Emergency Duty Team, Police, Youth Offending Team, Turning Point, Education, Health, CAMHS & Education Safeguarding Lead and Early Help. Information from this conference will feed into CSE Subgroup data reporting for LSCB.

### 13. CSE Awareness Champions

The role of the CSE Awareness Champion is crucial to enabling the coordination of activity and raising awareness regarding CSE. All agencies/organisations have nominated a professional within their organisation to act as a champion for CSE. The purpose of the role is to keep up to date with CSE activities, developments, policy and procedures in relation to CSE, to act as a focal point within their organisations and to provide advice and signposting in relation to individual cases.

The CSE Awareness Champion Group continues to ensure that:

- All agencies fully understand the nature of CSE
- They are up to date with the policy and procedures that relate to CSE
- They act as a focal point within their organisation to promote awareness of CSE
- They disseminate information relating to CSE within their organisation
- They provide advice and signposting in individual cases where CSE is suspected
- They submit any information/intelligence received to the police for collation
- The action plan activities are progressed in a timely manner.

#### Document Control

17/02/2016	CSE Strategy Revised by Jes Mupombi and sent to Robina Khan – Interim Head of Safeguarding, Inspector Sarah Cook – TVP Slough CSE Lead Inspector, Jayne James – LSCB Business Manager and Sandra Davies – Head of QA and Performance.
22/02/2016	Robina Khan amendments returned to Jes Mupombi.
22/02/2016	Further amendments made following feedback from Inspector Sarah Cook. V6.1 Sent out to Robina Khan, Sarah Cook, Jayne James and Sandra Davies.
26/02/2016	Final Amendments to the Strategy and Action Plan made – following feedback from DI Richard Cow – Force Intelligence Detective Inspector. Strategy and Action Plan discussed with Inspector Sarah Cook and Phil Picton – LSCB Chair.
29/02/2016	Final Draft Strategy and Action plan send to Nicola Clemo, Slough Children’s Services Trust Chief Executive and Robina Khan.