



St Illtyds High School Child Sexual Exploitation Policy July 2021

Purpose:

- In keeping with the school's values, vision and aims this policy aims to address the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- How to deal with pupils at risk of CSE and how to offer support in the short and long term
- To provide support depending upon the individual needs of the pupil
- To help all pupils improve their self esteem and emotional literacy
- How to support staff members who come into contact with pupils who are at risk of CSE
- How to prevent CSE from spreading within the school
- To have clear guidelines for staff – who needs to be informed, when do parents and agencies need contacting
- Education about CSE for pupils and staff

What is CSE?

Definition

- Sexual exploitation is the coercion or manipulation of children and young people under the age of 18 into taking part in sexual activities. It is a form of sexual abuse involving an exchange of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, 'protection' or affection.
- The child or young person often does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship (grooming process) and therefore do not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.
- The vulnerability of the young person, along with the grooming process, means they are unable to give informed consent.

The guidance applies to male and female children up to the age of 18 years irrespective of whether they are living independently, at home, with carers, or in a residential setting. All references in this guidance to children or young people mean those under the age of 18 as defined in the Children Acts 1989 and 2004.

Sexual exploitation can have links to other types of crime. These include:

- Child trafficking;
- Domestic abuse;
- Sexual violence in intimate relationships;
- Grooming (including online grooming);
- Abusive images of children and their distribution;
- Drugs-related offences;
- Gang-related activity;
- Immigration-related offences; and
- Domestic servitude.

A proactive response

Action to tackle CSE should be proactive, focusing on prevention, early identification and intervention, as well as on disrupting activity and prosecuting perpetrators. It is important for cases to be managed so that interventions to safeguard children and young people also support the gathering of evidence to increase the chance of successful criminal prosecutions of their perpetrators, thereby safeguarding potential future victims.

Referral

As with all child protection concerns, all agencies should refer any concerns that a child is at risk of any form of sexual exploitation to Social Services following the process set out in Part 2 of the AWCPP. This includes all information gathered from any source including other young people.

Early intervention

To help children and young people achieve good outcomes it is important to identify issues and problems early and to take prompt preventative action. Early intervention is likely to be far more effective than intervention at a later stage when the impact on the child or young person's health or development is likely to have escalated.

Protecting 16 and 17 year olds

It should not be assumed that children aged 16 and 17 years are safe from CSE. A young person who has been subject to a complex pattern of life experiences including sophisticated grooming and priming processes that have brought them to a point where they are at risk of, or are abused, through CSE, are often not able to recognise the exploitative relationships and situations they are in. They may even present as being in control. The Children Acts of 1989 and 2004 relate to all children aged under 18 years:

- CSE is a particularly hidden form of abuse – it takes place out of sight.
- Disclosure of this form of abuse is rare.
- Vulnerability and risk indicators of child sexual exploitation are now well established.

- A sexual exploitation risk assessment framework (SERAF) has been made available to LSCBs and provides for the identification of vulnerable and at risk children and young people.
- Early identification of vulnerable and at risk children and young people by all agencies and the provision of an appropriate, timely response is central to effective safeguarding practice.
- It is possible to reduce the risks associated with CSE at all levels of risk.

Information sharing and multi-agency working is central to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people vulnerable to, at risk of and abused through child sexual exploitation.

Staff working across agencies need to be familiar with risk indicators, assessment procedures and the contents of the ***All Wales Protocol***.

Potential indicators of child sexual exploitation

Children rarely self-report child sexual exploitation so it is important that practitioners are aware of potential indicators of risk. Child sexual exploitation is never the victim's fault.

Vulnerability and Risk Factors associated with CSE

Vulnerabilities

- Learning or functioning difficulty
- Parental substance misuse
- Parental mental health difficulties
- Domestic violence within families
- Physical abuse in childhood
- Sexual abuse in childhood
- Emotional abuse in childhood
- Neglect in childhood
- Family member involved in sex work
- Breakdown of family relationships
- Bereavement
- Low self-esteem
- Isolated from peers/ social networks
- Lack of positive relationship with a protective, nurturing adult
- Experience of local authority care (Looked after child)
- Parents/ carers who do not recognise risk/ act protectively
- Living in unsuitable accommodation
- (Aged 16-17 years living independently)

Risks:

- Victim of sexual assault (not sexual abuse in childhood)
- Exclusion/ absence/ disengagement from school/ education/ training
- Staying out beyond the permitted time
- Concerning use of a mobile phone (e.g. having more than one phone)
- Concerning use of the internet (e.g. multiple social network accounts in different names)
- Sharing/ receiving/ possessing indecent images
- Alcohol/ drug misuse
- Multiple callers
- Expressions of despair (for example self-harm, aggressive outbursts)
- Sexually active/ STIs/ pregnancy/ termination
- Not keeping in touch with a protective adult (children aged 16-17 years living independently)

Significant Risk Indicators:

- Missing overnight or longer
- Significantly older 'boyfriend' or a relationship with a controlling adult
- Getting in/ out of vehicles driven by unknown/ concerning adults
- Meeting in person people they have first 'met' on line
- Spending time in areas known for sex work/ CSE hotspots
- Peers involved in CSE
- Disclosure of a sexual/ physical assault followed by withdrawal
- Exchanging sexual acts for drugs, alcohol, money, etc.
- Coerced into sexual acts
- Having unexplained money/ mobile phone/ clothes/ drugs/ alcohol/ other items

Staff support and supervision

Training should be accompanied by:

- Opportunities to learn from other practitioners and relevant continuing professional development (CPD)
- Ongoing supervision;
- A focus on reflective practice
- A recognition of the emotional impact that such work can have on staff, and access to support in order to manage this.

Creating the right environment and ensuring good quality practice supervision are essential for developing and sustaining effective practice. Supervision can help to:

- ensure progress and actions are reviewed so cases do not 'drift';
- maintain focus on the child or young person;
- test the evidence base for assessment and intervention;

- address the emotional impact of the work on the member/s of staff

Procedures / Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body ensure that education about CSE neither promotes or stigmatises.

Headteacher

The Headteacher will appoint a designated teacher to be responsible for CSE matters and liaise with them. This maybe the same person as the DTCP/Deputy Child Protection Officer.

Ensure that the Designated teacher receives appropriate training about CSE.

Ensure that the CSE Policy is followed by all members of staff.

Designated Teacher for Child Protection / Deputy Child Protection Officer

To know when and be responsible for contacting appropriate services according to the All Wales Protocol safeguarding Children and Young People at risk of CSE.

DTCP / DCPO / Wellbeing Team

Keep records of CSE incidents and concerns

Use the SERAF tool to monitor and identify vulnerability

Contact parents at the appropriate time

Know when people / services other than parents need to be informed

Know when to seek help to deal with their own feelings and distress

Liaise with local services about help available for support

Keep up-to-date with information regarding CSE

Liaise with Headteacher

All Staff:

All Staff have responsibility to report any concerns regarding a child at possible risk of CSE. Where a member of staff has concerns about a child they should **immediately** verbally report their concerns to the DSP (or deputy DSP) and then follow this up in writing **via My Concern** (Safeguarding tool). The DSP (or Deputy DSP) will appropriately consider the concern and what actions, if any, should be taken.

All staff and teachers are expected to listen to pupils in emotional distress calmly and in a non-judgemental way and to reassure pupils that in order to seek health and happiness people need to know about their problems so that they can help

Guide pupils towards seeking health and happiness

Enable pupils to find places for help and support

Widen their own knowledge about CSE

Report CSE concerns to the designated staff member within the Wellbeing and Safeguarding Team

Be clear that these concerns must be reported within the expected time scale.

Not to make promises assuring confidentiality which cannot be kept

Pupils:

Talk to a trusted member of staff if they are in emotional distress

To talk to a trusted member off staff if they suspect a fellow pupil of being at risk of CSE and to know when confidentiality must be broken.

Parents will be encouraged to:

To widen their knowledge about CSE

Work in in partnership with the school

Assessment: To use the SERAF tool to monitor and identify children at risk of CSE

A sexual exploitation risk assessment framework which includes four categories of risk has been developed for inclusion in the *All Wales Protocol*. The SERAF enables safeguarding actions to be linked to evidence of risk, facilitating both preventive action and appropriate interventions and is intended to inform appropriate responses in relation to children and young people's safeguarding needs.

A sexual exploitation risk assessment should be undertaken to establish if a child is in need and requires protection. This should be completed by Social Services, within 7 working days of the referral. The risk assessment will consider all the vulnerabilities and risks and place the child in one of four categories of risk: not at risk, mild risk, moderate risk or significant risk.

Important Contact numbers:

Referrals to Children's Services – Safeguarding at CARDIFF MULTI –AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH). Where we have URGENT and IMMEDIATE concerns for the safety and welfare of a child or young person during office hours telephone:

- MASH - (unknown cases) - 029 20536490
- Children's Services for cases that are open and have an allocated social worker - 029 20536400

- Further information can be sought from the All Wales Protocol Safeguarding Children and young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation 2013 Cardiff Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Strategy and the Cardiff 'Think Safe' Team.
Cardiff Think Safe Team: 02920 536 310

CSE Police Team:

- Child Police team – 029 2022 2111
- Sergeant Andy Mills - 029 2052727
- PC Debbie Farrar - 02920338570
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Request for Police Welfare Checks: 101

Date established by Governing Body:

Date for Full implementation:

Date for review: