

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Briefing – January 2015

There has been considerable discussion and media coverage of the topic of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) across the country in recent months. A number of national and regional reports and studies have been published. Some of the key reports, together with their recommendations are listed below. (please click the blue links to access the reports).

[*If only someone had listened* - Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups Final Report \(2013\)](#)

[Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham \(1997 – 2013\) - Alexis Jay \(2014\)](#)

[*It couldn't happen here could it?* - Sexual exploitation of children: Ofsted thematic report \(2014\)](#)

[Summary of Recommendations: A summary of all recommendations from a range of Reports, Inquiries, Serious Case Reviews and Research', NWG Network Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation \(2014\)](#)

Enfield Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) has been proactive in meeting the challenge locally and a wide range of activities have been undertaken. The above reports all make recommendations on how agencies can effectively tackle CSE. These recommendations have been collated and used to steer our activity and to directly inform our CSE strategy and Business plan.

Ongoing activity

Enfield's **Multi-agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE)** meetings have been in operation since 2013. The meetings are police lead and convened on a monthly basis. They are attended by the strategic CSE lead for each agency. The meetings are designed to provide a forum in which to;

- Share information and intelligence to help develop an understanding of individual cases where CSE has been identified and to identify trends, perpetrators, hotspots etc.
- Provide a strategic approach to confronting CSE in premises or businesses, utilising preventative action (media, youth services) and enforcement (Police, Licensing etc.) where appropriate.

The meetings provide an opportunity for each of the leads to review progress of each case where children are identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation and ensure actions are being taken by all agencies. MASE meetings are underpinned by the [The London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol \(2014\)](#) developed by the Metropolitan Police Service and used across London.

The **Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Missing (TSEM)** subgroup of the LSCB has existed since early 2012. It is a multi-agency group which coordinates and oversees our operational and strategic response to CSE including the implementation of the CSE strategy and action plan. Meetings provide

a forum for agencies to share operational issues with each other and also to provide transparent information on issues within their own agencies and to develop a strategy and protocols where required to deal more effectively with the issues and highlight any specific areas of risk. It has representation from all agencies working with children and young people in Enfield.

There is a clearly defined **CSE Referral** route for cases where CSE is suspected through the Single Point of Entry (SPOE). All referrals where there is a suspicion of CSE are considered through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and are researched by the partnership. Where information indicates that concerns are of medium or high risk (Level 2 or 3 of the Indicator Matrix) young people are referred on to Children's Social Care for a statutory assessment. Young people identified as vulnerable to CSE (Level 1) are offered help and support from a variety of partner agencies. The SPOE partnership will identify associated concerns such as whether the young person is 'missing' and whether there is gang involvement and will then send to the relevant service(s) for support based on level of risk. The [Safer London Foundation's](#) Empower service, which specialises in work with girls affected by gang related activity, is working in partnership with London Borough of Enfield to support young women at risk of or directly experiencing CSE.

A new **CSE Risk Assessment Tool** for use by practitioners has been adopted in Enfield. This uses the 'SAFEGUARD' mnemonic of risk indicators, offering a simpler, more comprehensive tool to assist practitioners in identifying young people at risk of exploitation.

Developing our understanding of the local picture

We have been working hard to increase our understanding of the local problem in order to help us address it effectively. A **CSE 'Problem Profile'** which will provide us with greater knowledge about prevalence of CSE and the vulnerabilities and risk factors for young people is in progress to complement the work that is already being done through TSEM the MASE. The Problem Profile will inform the revised CSE Strategy and Action Plan which will be implemented in January and will be monitored by TSEM and the board.

In September 2014, a **survey was commissioned by the ESCB** to ascertain the level of awareness of CSE amongst professionals who work in child-related roles both within the Council, in external agencies and in voluntary organisations. Over 100 responses were received, offering an insight into professionals' understanding of the issues, of the levels of training undertaken, and suggestions on how Enfield could improve its response to tackling CSE in the borough. These findings were presented to the Board in November and have informed the CSE Strategy and Action Plan, as well as discussions at the Training and Workforce sub-group.

We are part of a North London cluster of Local Safeguarding Boards which successfully bid for a **programme of support on tackling CSE from [MsUnderstood](#)** a third sector organisation which aims to improve local and national responses to young people's experiences of gender inequality. The programme, which will be delivered in the New Year, will help us improve our strategic response to CSE and specifically ensure we have robust and effective links with key related initiatives such as the work being undertaken to tackle gang related activity.

We are already working with the Gangs Partnership Group to build our understanding of CSE in relation to associated issues. Together we have **mapped the locations of looked after children's**

placements in Enfield and overlaid them with serious youth violence hotspots and gang territories, indicating where looked after children are at greater risk of CSE. We have done the same mapping exercise with children's homes and providers of semi-independent living accommodation.

The information from the mapping exercise is being used by the Access to Resources Team (ART) to inform decisions on where to place children in care in Enfield. ART is currently piloting a new initiative from the Department for Education for boroughs to **share information when placing children across borough borders**. This means that not only are placements for Enfield children placed out of borough being assessed on the basis of CSE-related risk, but also that other boroughs wishing to place children in Enfield are being made aware of relevant issues, such as gang activity, in the areas they are considering for a placement.

Where children's homes and semi-independent providers come to our attention, either as new establishments or due to particular safeguarding concerns, the Head of Safeguarding and a representative of the Borough Fugitive Unit have undertaken **visits to these providers** to build relationships with the staff and help them to understand their safeguarding responsibilities. As a result, particular providers who previously caused concern are now sharing information with Children's Social Care that assists us in tackling CSE risk to children placed by those providers.

A CSE Peer Review Commissioned by the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) has recently been undertaken by an independent consultant. For this review Enfield was joined with Harrow and Hounslow. The consultant reviewed the functional operation of MASE and conducted detailed case audits on six cases where CSE had been identified. A number of recommendations have been made, some specifically for Enfield and some with broader implications for local authorities across London. The final report will be submitted to ALDCS in January and the findings will inform a regional strategy as well as our local action plan.

Training and Awareness Raising

Safer London Foundation have been commissioned by ESCB to deliver two levels of multi-agency training for professionals working with young people at risk of CSE. There is a half day ['Introduction Session'](#) and a more advanced two-day ['Tools for Practitioners working with child sexual exploitation'](#) workshop. Both sessions have been well attended and both will be commissioned again for the coming year. The ESCB has also purchased an online [Child Sexual Exploitation training package](#) which is available at no cost to **all** Enfield staff.

In January Safer London Foundation will be providing specialist two-day training to a group of 20 **CSE Champions**. The Champions are all front line practitioners from a wide range of agencies who work directly with young people. Once trained the champions will act as a source of information and advice to colleagues and provide clear guidance on referral and support pathways.

There is a comprehensive **Schools Safeguarding Programme** including 'whole school' sessions and tailored sessions for Designated CP Leads which include up to date information on CSE and referral routes in Enfield.

The Board is working with the **Young People's Safeguarding Champions Group** to look at ways of increasing understanding of CSE amongst children and young people in Enfield. Currently the group is involved in the design of a CSE leaflet aimed at young people and we will continue to work with them to develop innovative ways of raising awareness.

On two occasions in November and December, ESCB independent Chair Geraldine Gavin, has had the opportunity to directly address elected members on the subject of CSE and activity to tackle it in the Borough. We are keen to continue to work with members and professionals in Enfield to ensure there are robust channels of communication and high levels of understanding of the issue and our strategies to deal with it.

The Future

Whilst considerable work has already been undertaken we are conscious that we need to continue to work hard to ensure our strategic and operational approach to tackling CSE remains robust and effective.

Our revised CSE Strategy and Action Plan are being finalised and activity is already underway to ensure the recommendations from national and local reports and studies are being effectively implemented.

Opportunities for developing a multi-agency **CSE Team** are currently being explored. The team will act as the central point of contact for CSE and will lead on all CSE related child protection investigations, provide advice, direct support, coordination and signposting. Details are still to be finalised but the intention is that the team will be operational in early 2015.

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For further information on our approach to tackle CSE in Enfield please do not hesitate to contact;

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Remember, if you are worried about the safety of a child, Report it.

Contact Children's Social Care on 020 8379 2507 (Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm; Fri 9am-4.45pm).

- **Out of office hours call: 020 8379 1000 (select option 2 and you will be transferred to an advisor)**

Visit the ESCB website www.enfieldlscb.org