

Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Together

April 2014

Welcome to our special bulletin on **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**. Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board's Business Plan 2013-16 identifies three key areas of concern to focus on: Neglect, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation, and we will be producing a feature on each of these throughout the year. This bulletin aims to spread **awareness** of what CSE is, highlight **risk factors** that may make children & young people vulnerable to this type of abuse, tell you how to **spot the signs**, let you know where & how to access **help** & services, and update you on the work that is being done in our city to **stop** this abuse and **support** victims.

There are several strategies & practice guidelines

- Brighton & Hove LSCB & the Violence Against Women & Girl's Programme Board's (VAWG) joint **Brighton & Hove CSE Strategy** was agreed at our Board meeting in December 2013
- We signed up to the **Pan Sussex CSE** strategy in March 2014
- Brighton & Hove's Missing Children Policy is important in how we support children vulnerable to CSE
- The NSPCC have recently published a **factsheet** for Schools on CSE. For advice from our LADO on managing allegations of abuse against adults who work with children see [here](#).

Sexual Exploitation is:

“Sexual exploitation involves exploitative situations, contexts & relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ 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.”

Often young people receive something as a result of them engaging in sexual activities. This might be gifts or money, alcohol drugs or cigarettes, food or accommodation, or affection. Involvement in exploitative relationships are often characterised by the child or young person's limited availability of choice, usually concerned with their social/economic situation and/or emotional vulnerability. Violence, coercion & intimidation are common features of these relationships.

Both girls and boys are at risk of sexual exploitation, and it is seriously harmful to children both emotionally and physically. They may not understand or accept that they are being abused through sexual exploitation, and find it difficult to see themselves as victims.

The WiSE Project's video **Spud's WiSE Words**, written and produced by young volunteer, Kim Shippam & animated by BlueStar Animations, follows Spud's experience of being groomed for Sexual Exploitation. It depicts how a young person might find themselves a victim of CSE, and effectively portrays their journey.



Worried about a child? call **Advice Contact & Assessment Service**

01273 295920 or emergency out of hours **01273 335905**

How does CSE work?

Sexual exploitation can take a number of forms and Barnardos report: “**Puppet on a String**: The urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation” (2011) identified 3 models of child sexual exploitation:

Abuse Model 1 - Inappropriate relationships: 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.

Abuse Model 2 - Boyfriend: 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 and sleep 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.

Abuse Model 3 - Organised exploitation and trafficking: Victims are trafficked through criminal networks – often between towns and cities – and forced or coerced into sex with multiple men. They may also be used to recruit new victims. This serious organised activity can involve the buying and selling of young people.

There is also the ‘**Party**’ model where parties are organised by groups of men to lure young people. They 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 social media, 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 future bribery.

Peer on Peer exploitation is also increasing, and the Office of the Children’s Commissioner has done an extensive study into the extent of Sexual Exploitation in Gangs “**It’s Wrong... But You Get Used to It**”. The insights in this study raise serious questions about how young people understand the notion of consent and their expectations of healthy relationships.

What are the increased risk factors?

Any child or young person, from any social or ethnic background, can be exploited, including boys & young men as well as girls & young women. However a number of factors can increase a young person’s vulnerability to sexual exploitation including:

- children who go missing
- a history of physical or sexual abuse,
- a history domestic violence in the family
- parental drug or alcohol misuse
- parental poor mental health.
- problematic parenting
- misuse of drugs and alcohol
- mental health problems
- learning difficulties
- children living in care
- children excluded from mainstream school

Learning from SCRs clearly shows a link between missing episodes & an increased risk of CSE, so it’s vital that we have a joined up approach to these groups of young people in our city. In my role as the Single Point Of Contact (SPOC) for Missing Children, I meet regularly with Practice Leads for Children Missing from Education & those Missing from Home & Care. I also sit on the CSE Red Op Kite Group to facilitate an integrated response to these vulnerable groups of children.

Deb Austin, Single Point of Contact for Missing in Brighton & Hove

Signs that a young person might be experiencing CSE

- Going **missing** from home for periods of time
- Frequently staying out **late** or overnight with no explanation as to where they have been.
- Going places that you know they **can not afford**.
- **Skipping school** or being disruptive in class
- Suddenly getting **expensive gifts** like as mobile phones, jewellery – even drugs – and not
 - being able to explain how they came by them.
- Having **mood swings** and changes in temperament
- Noticeable changes in behaviour - becoming secretive, **defensive** or aggressive when asked about their **personal life**.
- Wearing **inappropriate clothing** that is too adult or revealing for their age.
- Displaying inappropriate **sexualised behaviours**, such as over familiarity with strangers or dressing in a 'sexy' manner.
- **Sexting** - sending sexualised images by mobile phone
- Getting into **trouble** with the police.
- Having **bruises** or marks on the body.
- Getting **sexually-transmitted diseases** or being **pregnant**.
- Drug & **alcohol abuse** or **self-harm**.
- Receiving **repeated phone calls**, letters, emails from adults outside family social circle.

How2Spot CSE

The wider community, especially those working in the night-time economy, may often spot young people who are sexually exploited. The WiSE Project have produced cue cards for workers in hotels, bars, clubs, takeaways & taxis to look out for the following signs of CSE:

You Spot: Alcohol or drugs being given to someone who is...

- young or vulnerable
- already more drunk or high than the person offering them
- the only male/female in the group (or a disproportionate gender split)

You Spot: Unequal levels of control in a relationship...

- One person telling the other what to do, i.e. what's going to happen on their night out
- One person being sober and in control whilst the other is not
- One person paying for all of the drinks, club entry and other goods throughout the night

You Hear: A young person saying they've had sex in exchange for...

- Drugs or Alcohol
- Rent or accommodation
- 'Paying someone back for the night out'

You Spot: Emotional abuse by a controlling adult..

- A controlling adult being inconsistent with their affection/words
- A controlling adult making negative comments until they get what they want

You Spot: Someone out every weekend..

- With different people / groups of people
- Binge drinking or taking drugs
- Needing support from police or door staff every weekend
- Being ejected from clubs for being too drunk/high

They encourage anyone seeing this to react by calling **101** and quoting **Operation Kite**, or by telling a police officer of their concerns.

How to Report CSE

The agreed City-wide referral mechanism is to phone Sussex Police on **101** and quote **Operation Kite**. They will create a log and pass this onto the **Brighton Child Protection Team**, and information shared will be subject to multi-agency consideration.

Alternatively:

- Contact Sussex Police Missing Persons Coordinator, Vicky Morris for informal advice on 101 extension 550834.
- See advice from WiSE on 01273 222 583
- Speak with Social Services Advice Contact & Assessment Centre on 01273 295 920.

Brighton Police have put the issue of child sexual exploitation at the top of our agenda for the forthcoming year raising awareness via Operation Kite and safeguarding this children deemed to be at risk working with our partners. **Carwyn Hughes, Sussex Police & Chair of the Violence Against Women & Girls Programme Board's CSE Sub Committee**

HOW2 REPORT C.S.E.



Call **101**, quoting '**Operation kite**'. Calls shouldn't take too long.



Call anonymously to Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**



Online at www.sussex.police.uk



If you see an officer, stop and have a chat and pass on your information in person. There's always lots of police patrolling on a Friday and Saturday night in town.

Passing on information about Sexual Exploitation helps professionals and police working in the night time to do their job and protect the public from harm. It need only take 5 minutes of your time.



Sussex Police
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www.sussex.police.uk



WiSEUp

The WiSEUp campaign is giving workers in the night time economy these cue cards to prompt them to take action if they spot vulnerable young people out & about. More information on page 5.

There are many multi-agency groups working to protect & support young people from CSE in Brighton & Hove.

This includes the VAWG's Sexual Exploitation Operational Group chaired by Carwyn Hughes, the CSE Safety Planning Group chaired by Lee Horner, and the Vulnerable Children & Young People Group chaired by Richard Haikin.

The LSCB's new **Vulnerable Children Monitoring Group** looks at the work of these groups and scrutinises it on a strategic level, including the work on Missing Children done by the Single Point Of Contact, Deb Austin.

The WiSE Project (What Is Sexual Exploitation)



The WiSE Project is part of Central Sussex YMCA, and has been offering support for 13-25 year olds who are experiencing sexual exploitation, and preventative work to those who may be at risk, in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex since 2010. They work closely with many partners to raise the profile of CSE in the city, and have an influential role on the strategic & operational groups working to stop the abuse in Sussex.

The WiSE project works very closely with Sussex Police, as well as other agencies throughout the city. They have trained ambassadors in social services teams, and have a close relationship with local sexual health clinics and GPs, as well as working with schools to providing training & support to staff & pupils. They have built links with street pastors and safe space projects which support vulnerable people in the city centre at night, and are planning to build a stronger relationship with ambulance and A&E staff.

WiSEUp **WiSE Up & the Night Time Economy**

WiSE recently launched the WiSEUp Campaign, focussing on raising awareness of Sexual Exploitation within the Night Time Economy. An important strand of this work is to train staff who work in the night-time economy to recognise and report sexual exploitation. They are distributing How2Spot CSE & How2report CSE cards to professionals, targeting hotel receptions, bar staff & door security, taxi drivers and those who work in takeaways.

A parallel strand has seen them work with young people to design promotional materials that encourage their peers to think about healthy relationships in social situations, including interactive beer mats which provoke questions & discussion around consent, control and keeping safe. Some LGBTQ specific resources were developed by a group of young people from Allsorts, and you can read more from the WiSE project's LGBTQ worker Meghan Lewis [here](#).

Case Work

The WiSE project undertake 1:1 case work with young people who have experienced sexual exploitation, or who may be at risk of experiencing it, supporting them in making the best decisions for themselves. As a small team, Brighton & Hove is only able to take a maximum of 25 cases, and East Sussex 30 cases, which is a low percentage of victims. One of the main problems with targeting sexual exploitation is that young people rarely recognize themselves as victims so it is difficult to intervene, and often young people who come from a troubled background can have a distorted concept of an equal or fair relationship. The support they offer is not a 'quick fix' as it takes time to earn a young person's trust and work with them on this complicated and sensitive issue, and it is not uncommon for them to work with the same young person for up to 10 months.

They also run group work at youth centres or supported housing units spending up to four weeks exploring the issues. In the future they would like to do more work to develop peer support systems.

Outreach work and training:

WiSE delivers the Brighton & Hove LSCB Multi Agency training course: Preventing & Disrupting the Sexual Exploitation of Children & Young People. This helps practitioners:

- Understand the sexual exploitation of children and young people & what places a young person at risk;
- Gain knowledge of prevalence and forms of young people's sexual exploitation;
- Recognise vulnerabilities and risk indicators;
- Support young people who are sexually exploited;
- Be aware of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and other relevant legislation and guidance;
- Help to monitor and record the sexual exploitation of young people.

This is a half day course and the dates for this year are Wednesday 28 May, Thursday 24 July & Friday 10 October 2014. More information & how to book here: www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof_training

WiSE also offers bespoke training for teams (minimum 10 persons) which can include; Definition and models of CSE, The WiSE Screening tool, CSE and the law, approaches to working with young people and resources, challenging myths and attitudes towards CSE. For more information please contact wise@centralsussexymca.org.uk

If you run a drop-in or service for young people in Brighton & Hove, WiSE can attend a session to promote healthy relationships and raise awareness of CSE. Please get in touch if you would like to book in for this.

For more information please visit www.sussexcentralymca.org.uk/information_advice_support/_wise_project

We work with young men and women to promote discussion & thought about healthy relationships. Some young people are targeted by perpetrators because of a vulnerability, which could just be their age. It's important that young people understand and learn about relationships, so that they can spot the signs of a relationship that is unequal or exploitative and have the confidence to know what to do if that does happen

Gemma Doughty, WiSE Project Co-ordinator

Sussex Police: Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation



Sussex Police
Serving Sussex

The nature and extent of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) within Sussex is an emerging picture. A recent 'problem profile' created by the police's Force Intelligence Bureau provides a better understanding of this type of criminality and highlighted the role that all must play in reducing the risk posed to some of the most vulnerable children in our communities; this is work being coordinated under the name of Operation Kite.

CSE involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (for example accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts or even affection) as a result of performing, or others performing on them, sexual activities. As well as physical abuse, CSE can also take place online, this can involve using persuasion to post sexual images on the internet. A key objective of Operation Kite is to raise awareness of the 11 main warning indicators of this crime type – these include children regularly going missing from home or care, living a chaotic lifestyle, having a history of abuse or abusing alcohol or drugs.

Detective Inspector Jon Gross of the Protecting Vulnerable People Branch has been working to raise awareness of these signs. Jon said, "this is one of the most complex types of criminality that officers and staff will come across as the children & young people involved often do not recognise themselves as being victims of exploitation. That's why it's absolutely vital that everyone takes personal responsibility for remembering the warning signs. Until recently there was no means of identifying CSE-related intelligence logs within our system but now officers and staff can flag CSE related intelligence logs, using the marker 'Operation Kite'."

As well as continuing to raise awareness, Operation Kite is a chance for the police to define their intelligence collection & management processes and produce a more accurate picture of the extent of CSE in Brighton & Hove to help the city understand what is happening. They are also coordinating resources to inform staff of the tactics & guidance that will help safeguard those at risk, and allow us to disrupt and prosecute those facilitating or perpetrating offences linked to CSE. There will posters and car stickers (tailored to include relevant partnership details in each geographical area), a specific CSE page within the Sussex Police external website, and a media launch on a date to be confirmed towards the end of May.

Sussex police are committed to the continuation of the multi-agency working now so firmly embedded across all three LSCB areas. In Brighton & Hove DCI Carwyn Hughes chairs a multi agency CSE Sub Committee, under the governance of the Violence Against Women & Girls Programme Board, and DS Lee Horner chairs a Safety Planning Group which meet to consider the circumstances of all those children that have been identified as at risk of CSE, and evaluate the progress.

One of the biggest warning signs of child sexual exploitation is when children regularly go missing from home or from care. Sussex Police have put into place a dedicated 'Misper Team' led by Inspector Jon Brydon . Jon said: "It is important that children who go missing are not dealt with in isolation, but that this symptom is recognised as part of a wider safeguarding issue; as an indication of other problems or issues. As well as reducing vulnerability, it's believed that our dedicated team will also reduce costs by offering a focused team and expert advice to facilitate change in young people. The team will take ownership and responsibility for all missing persons and absentee incidents after the initial report is dealt with by the NRT. Of all the missing people in West Sussex 80% are children, many of whom are children from children's homes or who are in care. This is a worrying statistic as the 2013 report from the Office of the Children's Commissioner shows that regularly being 'missing' is one of the greatest indicators of child sexual exploitation."

Protecting children from sexual exploitation in Brighton and Hove

OPERATION KITE

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse, it is where a young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in sexual activity. This could be as part of a relationship which to the child or to outsiders might appear loving and normal or, in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay.

It is vital that professionals and organisations who work with young people are familiar with the signs of child sexual exploitation and are able to respond accordingly. Often, victims are not aware they are being exploited.

Warning signs to look out for:

- ◆ The child has unexplained gifts or unaffordable new things (clothes, mobiles) or expensive habits (alcohol, drugs)
- ◆ They have substance misuse problems
- ◆ The child often goes missing, runs away or is homeless
- ◆ They are not engaged with their school, have been excluded or have long periods of truancy
- ◆ The child has repeated sexually-transmitted infections pregnancy and terminations
- ◆ They have an association with men or groups who are older than them, or contact with people who are known to commit crime.

If you recognise any of these signs - act now

What You Said About CSE in Brighton & Hove

In March 2014 we surveyed nearly 100 professionals working with children, young people & families in Brighton & Hove to find out how CSE is perceived in our city.

What happens? We asked whether you thought the Brighton & Hove LSCB definition of CSE, on the first page of this bulletin, adequately covered all types of CSE. 80% of respondents agreed but some of you thought the following should also be included:

- Being coerced into watching pornography
- Child may believe they are friends or in a relationship
- Children can also be sexually exploited by other children within their family or outside. So I am not sure if this seems to be covered in this definition. This definition suggests it is an older, stronger, person which may not always be the case
- Some children may not be receiving 'something' for what they are doing. I am not sure that it should be conditional on the receipt of something or some service
- I feel there is a lower level of exploitation that starts a grooming process. It feels that they are exposed to sexual images from a very young age which means that they are more vulnerable to CSE
- It does not cover trans and sexual orientation is factors which add complexity and isolation
- 'Performing on them' is an unhelpful phrase as it's interpretive. Technology can also be used with the child's recognition too - its still exploitation.
- Some mention should be made of the use or sharing of any images with or without the child or young person's knowledge. Non sexual images can be used or manipulated abusively in a sexual context. Such images could later be used to coerce compliance in further acts of abuse.
- Something about arranged marriages being seen as exploitation where the young person is under 18 years of age and doesn't want to get married

We asked how prevalent you thought CSE was in Brighton & Hove. Over half (52%) of respondents said that CSE is a significant issue in the City and is on the increase, a quarter (25%) reported that CSE is a significant issue but that it is not on the increase, 18% identified CSE as a minor issue and 5% believe CSE is not an issue in Brighton & Hove.

We asked you how you think CSE happens in our city:

- 74% of you think cases include older adults showing children & young people a lot of interest and affection at the beginning, and making them feel special.
- 58% think that groups of young people are being asked to go to adult's houses or parties
- 58% think that children & young people are offered drugs and alcohol and a place to chill out.
- 55% recognised that children & young people may receive presents like clothes, phones, or money to buy alcohol and cigarettes.

Where? We asked you where you thought CSE took place. Online (78%) & mobile phones (72%) were highlighted as the main locations, followed by parties (63%), Brighton Pier (47%), parks (44%), Takeaways/Restaurants (38%), hotels (28%), schools (25%) & nightclubs (25%). You also suggested that it took place on The Level, public transport, Churchill Square/Town Centre, on the streets at night and in the victim or perpetrators homes as well as squats & hostels.

What do we do? 79% of respondents said that their organisations does have a mechanism to flag suspected CSE. 9% of respondents said their organisations didn't have a way of flagging CSE and 12 % of respondents were not sure. Systems included discussions with a manger or child protection lead, calling ACAS, calling the Police or contacting WiSE. Only 69% of respondents knew that they could report any concerns about CSE activity to the local Police by dialling **101**.

What could we do? Respondents suggest maximising learning opportunities, including a focus on national Serious Case Reviews, to explore the patterns of behaviour played out in cases of CSE, how young people behaved and why to enable a clearer idea of patterns of behaviour that could suggest CSE. One respondent advocated an in-depth course on social websites.

Improved multi-agency working (including multi-agency meetings and assessments), transparency and better information sharing are highlighted as areas for individual and collective improvements when CSE is identified. Clarification of the local pathway, contact numbers and assessment tools were listed amongst suggestions for improving responses in day to day practice. Supporting victims, facilitating policing and prosecutions, transition between children and adult services, and ensuring capacity for WiSE to manage referrals are mentioned by some respondents as areas requiring further attention.

Further links & Resources

Barnardo's have been working to end CSE for many years and have undertaken a lot of research as well as launching a parliamentary **inquiry** with MP for Rotherham Sarah Chapman that was completed in spring 2014. They are the largest provider of child sexual exploitation support services in the UK, and last year worked with 1,940 victims through 29 specialist services.



In April 2014 Barnardo's launched an app **Wud U?** that teaches young people about CSE and making safe choices through interactive stories. It also helps parents & professionals understand how young people may be coerced into exploitative situations by their abusers and can be downloaded for free from the Microsoft App Store, the Apple Store or Google play.

PACE (Parent's Against Child Sexual Exploitation), have been working for over 17 years to support families who are affected by CSE and promote the role that parents should have working in partnership with professionals to safeguard their children. They have recently launched a free online course **Keep Them Safe**, for parents to raise awareness of the dangers of CSE, teach them how to spot the signs, and how to get help & support.



National Working Group is a charity and network of practitioners, researchers & policy makers organisation covering voluntary & statutory services and private companies working with children & young people. They offer support, advice and influence the development of national & local policy informed by practice. The NWG Network organises regular forums, events & surgeries for its network including forums for practitioners and specialist seminars. They have also developed 'Our Voice' Young People's Participation to enable their voices to be heard.



The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre works to eradicate the sexual abuse of children, tracking and bringing offenders to account either directly or in partnership with local and international forces. They work closely with online technological industries to make the internet a safer place to be, and ClickCEOP is a application that helps to report inappropriate online behaviour.



The **ThinkUKnow** website, run by CEOP, promotes online safety for children & young people, as well as explaining sexual exploitation & abuse, and promoting safer relationships. about safer internet use. It has sections for **11-13** year olds and **14+**, as well as advice for parents & carers, and sections for younger children. They also provide resources targeted for schools as well.



Don't forget if you suspect CSE is happening locally, call **Sussex Police** on **101** and quote Operation Kite.



If you are worried about a child call ACAS on 01273 295920

For advice on supporting young people who are victims of CSE contact **The Wise Project** on 01273 222 583



Useful numbers:

Brighton & Hove LSCB office: 01273 292379 LSCB@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children: 01273 265788
Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children: 01273 574680
Brighton & Hove Police Child Protection Team: 101
Local Authority Designated Officer: 01273 295643

