

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This strategy sets out how we will take action to safeguard children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation or those who are being abused through child sexual exploitation.
- 1.2 This strategy is based on a core understanding that an effective response requires:
- a multi agency approach (including non-statutory partners),
  - a whole community approach (including parents, carers, families, children and young people), and
  - a due regard to equality and diversity issues.
- 1.3 See Appendix A for a substantive report to the Brighton & Hove Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 setting out a summary of the local situation and ongoing responses. This strategy is informed by that report.

## 2. What is child sexual exploitation?

- 2.1 B&H LSCB has adopted the definition of sexual exploitation that is set out in statutory guidance:

“Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) 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 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. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships 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.” (Reference: Statutory guidance Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation, 2009)

- 2.2 Sexual exploitation can take a number of forms and Barnardos (Puppet on a String: The urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation, 2011) has 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 victim.
- *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.

- 2.3 Sexual exploitation can take many forms from seemingly “consensual” relationship where sex is exchanged for attention, affection, accommodation or gifts, to serious organised crime and child trafficking. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power within the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim, increasing the dependence of the victim as the exploitative relationship develops.
- 2.4 Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from their peers to have sex, sexual bullying (including cyber bullying), and grooming for sexual activity. Technology can also play a part in sexual abuse, for example, through its use to record abuse and share it with other like-minded individuals or as a medium to access children and young people in order to groom them.
- 2.5 To effectively reduce the risks of and the incidences of harm to children through sexual exploitation, links must be made across other vulnerability factors, such as trafficking, missing from home or care, missing from education and online safety. Identifying child sexual exploitation and the types of interventions to reduce harm may be different to these other issues, but should not be seen in isolation from other child protection issues.
- 2.6 Sexual Exploitation sometimes includes the “movement” of children/young people between houses/premises, hotels, locations, towns or cities. When concerns for such movements arise, there will need to be a response that addresses the issue of internal/domestic trafficking as well as child sexual exploitation. This may include a referral to the UK Human Trafficking Centre.
- 2.7 In addition, links between children/young people missing from care/home and action to safeguard children/young people at risk of harm via sexual exploitation need to be made both at an operational and strategic level. The vulnerability of those missing from home/care to sexual exploitation needs to be understood by the workforce and appropriate responses made to explore potential exploitation. For example, children may run from a situation where they feel unsafe or run to a situation where they are being drawn to.

### 3. National agenda

3.1 In December 2011, the Department for Education wrote to LSCB Chairpersons announcing the national 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan'. This was a follow up to the 'Government Guidance on safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation' in issued in 2009. In July 2012, a further letter was sent to LSCB Chairpersons and Director of Children's Services. A report 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan: progress report' was published at the same time. And, a 'Step by Step Guide' was issued by the Department of Education that practitioners need to know about the issues and responses. Reference was made to the University of Bedfordshire's data monitoring and assessment tools.

3.2 The first Action Plan published by the Department for Education cited the expectation that LSCB's will implement a local action plan to:

- **map the needs of their own area** to identify levels of child sexual exploitation and locations or circumstances where children are particularly at risk (and repeat the exercise periodically);
- put in place systems to **monitor ongoing prevalence and responses** to child sexual exploitation within their area, making use of existing monitoring tools like the one developed by the University of Bedfordshire if they find it helpful to do so;
- develop **an effective local strategy ensuring there is a co-ordinated multi-agency response** to child sexual exploitation, based on a robust, thorough risk assessment of the extent and nature of child sexual exploitation locally;
- **increase understanding of child sexual exploitation**, in the professional and wider community (for example, contributing to public campaigns in the local area, talking and listening to children's views on welfare services, locally-led engagement with faith and minority communities and wider public). Where appropriate, they might seek to raise awareness through race and faith networks, based on agreed messages and materials;
- **safeguard and promote the welfare of groups of children who are potentially more vulnerable** than others and are at increased risk of child sexual exploitation, by:
  - establishing effective communication channels between the LSCB and partner agencies, including specialist services which have an important role to play;
  - attending voluntary and community sector conferences to increase personal knowledge;
  - providing briefing to social care teams; and
  - arranging multi agency training days/courses;
- consider whether it is appropriate to set up a **working group or sub-group on child sexual exploitation, either on a short term or standing basis**, and appoint a **lead officer** who provides a co-ordinated response across statutory authorities and the voluntary sector; and
- develop **links with neighbouring authorities** and meet them on a formal basis and as required where there are cross border concerns.

3.3 In July 2012 the Children's Commissioner published a briefing for the Secretary of State for Education on child exploitation in gangs and groups, with a focus on children in care. Then in November 2012, the Children's Commissioner published

'Seeing the signs of sexual exploitation' in which it identifies running away as an indicator that a child is at risk and extremely vulnerable. The report cites that, one in four of such children will end up in a harmful or dangerous situation and more needs to be done to keep children safe.

- 3.4 Several national charities have raised the profile of child sexual exploitation such as The Children's Society with 'Childhood Lost' and Barnardos with 'Cutting Them Free' – both setting out advice for multi agency working. Such guidance will be used in planning operational work and training.

#### **4. Local Arrangements**

##### ***Understanding what's happening***

- 4.1 Data on prevalence across the area is not easily available due to the nature of the issue. Identifying the difference between actual and suspected CSE can be problematic.
- 4.2 In 2012-13, WiSE received 86 referrals including those believed to be at risk of and those experiencing CSE. 63/86 were provided one-one case work and 67% were looked after or had been in the care system at one time. 23/86 either did not engage or did not want the support of the service. A comprehensive overview of the number of CSE cases known to Children's Social Care is not possible due to the way cases are recorded. This is an area for action.
- 4.3 Further work needs to be done to record and monitor the prevalence of CSE and the responses when it is identified in the area, including the use of the monitoring tool developed by the University of Bedfordshire. The CEOP assessment tool has now been adopted by Sussex Police.
- 4.4 The Strategic Assessment commissioned by Sussex Police will be available in late 2013 and will provide the Sub Group with significant data concerning CSE.

##### ***Raising Awareness***

- 4.5 The B&H LSCB multi agency training programme includes 4 half day courses on 'Preventing and Disrupting the Sexual Exploitation of Children'. This course was successfully piloted in 2011 and additional course were put on facilitated by WiSE in 2011-12. In addition, WiSE has continued to train a large number of frontline workers from professional teams from a wide range of organisations, including Sussex Police as well as a large training day in 2012 of 80 Social Workers and Social Work Resource Officers (SWROs) from Brighton and Hove's Children's Services Advice, Contact Assessment Service (ACAS) Duty Team.
- 4.6 All staff across partner agencies were issued with the 'Step by Step Guide for Frontline Practitioners' issued by the Department for Education in 2012.
- 4.7 Access to schools is essential in relation to early intervention, and WiSE has been able to build upon the links that the YMCA already has in schools and the local authority, to get CSE on to education agendas. WiSE has been a part of the development and design school's group-work programme entitled 'Positive Choices'.

- 4.8 The Whole School Approach to Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and CSE in local schools ensures there is a joined up approach to cross cutting issues particularly in secondary schools.

### ***Developing a Strategic Response***

- 4.9 Following a pan-Sussex study of young people at risk of sexual exploitation and trafficking in 2005, a final report 'Tipping the Iceberg' was published on the findings in 2007. That study helped to inform setting up the specialist sexual exploitation service for 13-25 year olds managed by the Sussex Central YMCA, which was operational from April 2010 through charity grants and B&H City Council funding for 3 years. A full time project worker was employed to work directly with young people at risk of and had experienced sexual exploitation. An additional part time project worker subsequently joined the project. The project was renamed 'What is Sexual Exploitation (WiSE) and the key aims include:
- Providing a specialist service for young women and young men aged 13 – 25 at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation.
  - Working in partnership with Sussex Police, Children's Services and the LSCB.
  - Raising awareness through a young people-led eyes and ears campaign.
  - Delivering a multi-agency training programme.
  - Case working young people at risk and /or experiencing CSE through one-to-one and group work.
- Further funding has been secured for a further 3 years through charity grants, Sussex Police and B&H City Council.
- 4.10 In October 2010, a local multi agency CSE Steering group was convened to support the project and became a B&H LSCB Sub Group in September 2011.
- 4.11 All cases known to WiSE are discussed at a fortnightly meeting between WiSE, Children's Social Care and the Police. This facilitates intelligence sharing and ensures cases which are not known or open to other agencies have oversight, 'supervision' and appropriate coordinated action is taken by WiSE staff or other partner agencies. Where young people are identified as at risk of sexual exploitation, they are referred to the Vulnerable Young Persons Meeting. This is chaired by CSC and is multi agency. The aim is to gather and develop information, address and identify risks to individuals, adopt child protection procedures when appropriate and to put in place resources to ensure safeguarding.
- 4.12 In November 2012, the CSE referral process was implemented with relevant agency sign up to ensure there is a timely and assured response across partner agencies to CSE referrals. It was agreed that any information in relation to CSE be rung in to the police on 101 and flagged up as CSE. This initiative ensures improved responses to:
- identifying children who at risk of CSE,
  - gathering intelligence and recording of information
  - instigate the necessary investigations
  - disrupting individuals and groups who pose a risk to children being sexually exploited, and
  - access to support services.

- 4.11 The Sub Group is chaired by the Police and meets quarterly. There is good representation from all relevant partner agencies. See Appendix B for The Terms of Reference.
- 4.12 There are clear operational links with the Police Missing Persons and Child Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator who may identify a child as missing and/or at risk of sexual exploitation at home or the community. Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) have been cited as effective in responding to child sexual exploitation referrals and new information in 'Multi-Agency Working & Information Sharing Project: early findings' published by the Home Office in July 2013. A local MASH is being planned.
- 4.13 In July 2013, the LSCB confirmed child sexual exploitation as a top priority as part of the LSCB's Business Plan for the next 3 years. The Board committed to ensuring there are, 'timely, assured and measurable interventions which evidence children are effectively safeguarded from sexual exploitation' and has drafted a core dataset for outcome based accountability. This will assist the Sub Group and the Board to measure effectiveness (see Appendix C).
- 4.14 This strategy links with other important partnership initiatives, including Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership, Rape Prevention Steering Group and the Violence Against Women & Girls Board.
- 4.15 The pan-Sussex procedures set out clearly the action that needs to be taken to children who are missing from home or care, and children who are at risk of sexual exploitation. In addition, children may also go missing because they are being trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Staff across all agencies are expected to be familiar with both these procedures and use these appropriately to safeguard children's welfare. There is now a 'Brighton & Hove Runaway and Missing from Home Policy'. It is accepted that there are clear links between children who go missing and sexual exploitation; some may be running from and others may be running to this type of abuse. Whilst recognising the indicators of sexual exploitation and a missing child may be generally different and the interventions to reduce harm in these areas are also different, there needs to be a joined up approach to our responses to both these child welfare concerns. Where this would be beneficial (e.g. mapping exercises, multi agency training, promotional campaigns, audit work) then the strategic leads will liaise and progress appropriate actions.

### ***Supporting Victims of Exploitation***

- 4.16 There are a range of local services who support the victims of suspected and reported sexual exploitation, both within the statutory and the non-statutory sector. Good partnerships have been developed between WISE, Survivors Network, Children's Social Care, Police and Health to try to ensure that support delivered is timely, takes account of safeguarding and provides the victim with a level of support that is sustainable given some of the challenges in engaging victims of Sexual Exploitation with interventions designed to improve safety. All agencies working with victims have access to support and consultation from WISE, Children's Social Care, Clermont, targeted Youth Support, Witness Support scheme, Survivors Network, CAMHS, and the Claude Nicol Clinic and there are established forums for raising need and concern.

## ***Facilitating Policing and Prosecutions***

4.17 The effective identification, coordination and recording of evidence and intelligence in relation to individual cases is crucial to the successful disruption and/or prosecution of perpetrators. All people involved in caring for a child or young person who is suspected to be at risk of sexual exploitation or being sexually exploited should continually gather, record and share information with the appropriate authorities. Information and intelligence gathered through a joint investigation of sexual exploitation is the starting point for building up local knowledge about people responsible for exploiting children and young people. This should enable police and LA's children's social care and partner agencies to recognise situations where organised/complex abuse is taking place, and instigate the necessary safeguarding and investigations.

## **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 We are clear on what needs to happen next. Our priorities to tackle child sexual exploitation in Brighton & Hove will focus on the following inter-related themes:
- raising awareness across practitioners and the community to reduce children's vulnerability, improve early identification
  - understanding what's happening (i.e. improving our evidence base)
  - developing a joined up approach across statutory and voluntary agencies
  - improving interventions when CSE is identified
  - supporting victims and families following trauma
  - facilitating policing and prosecutions.
- 5.2 Responsibility for implementing the CSE Strategy will now be overseen by the Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) Programme Board and the CSE Sub Group will come within the remit of the VAWG Programme Board. This is effective from December 2013. The B&H LSCB will now undertake a scrutiny role into these activities with the VAWG Programme Board reporting to the LSCB.

## APPENDIX A

### REPORT FROM BRIGHTON & HOVE LOCAL CHILDREN SAFEGUARDING BOARD TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION – 23 APRIL 2013

#### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. **Research – ‘Tipping the Iceberg’** - A pan Sussex study of young people at risk of sexual exploitation and trafficking was commissioned and funded by Barnardo's and the three Sussex wide Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) in 2005. The study was carried out by researchers from Barnardo's Policy and Research Unit between December 2005 and December 2006. The findings were produced in a final report entitled Tipping the Iceberg in September 2007.
- 1.2. **Sussex Central YMCA – Specialist Sexual Exploitation Service**  
Following publication of the Tipping the Iceberg research report, a project advisory group was subsequently established to consider the findings of the report. As a result of the work of the group, Sussex Central Young Man's Christian Association (YMCA) was supported to set up a specialist service for young people aged 13 - 25 in Brighton & Hove regarding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) issues. Nine months development funding was initially secured from the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, and later joint funding for three years was secured from Comic Relief and the former Children and Young People's Trust.
- 1.3. **Vulnerable Young Person's (Sexual Exploitation) Development Worker** - As a result of the work of the project advisory group, a jointly funded post was established within Sussex Central YMCA to take work forward. A Vulnerable Young Person's (Sexual Exploitation) Development Worker was subsequently employed from the joint funding on a three year contract from April 2010. Due to the success of the work in the city, Sussex Central YMCA has recently secured a further 3 year funding stream from Comic Relief. In addition, Sussex Police provided additional funding in 2012-13 and 2013-14 which has enabled the recruitment of a 0.5 support worker.
- 1.4. **Sexual Exploitation Steering Group** - A multi-agency Sexual Exploitation Steering Group was set up in October 2010 to support the Young People's Sexual Exploitation Project. Membership of the group was from a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations across the city. Following a presentation by Sussex Central YMCA to the September 2011 Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), the LSCB Chair and Board agreed that the work of the Sexual Exploitation Steering Group was importantly sufficient for it to become an official LSCB sub group.

#### 2. LSCB CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION SUB GROUP

- 2.1. **LSCB CSE Sub Group** - The LSCB CSE sub group meets quarterly and is currently chaired by T/Superintendent Jeremy Graves, Crime Manager, B&H Division, Sussex Police. The purpose of the city-wide multi-agency sub group is to engage all relevant agencies and promote the delivery of an enhanced service to ensure children and

young people who may be sexually exploited or at risk of exploitation are identified, safeguarded and supported.

## **2.2. The main aims of the LSCB Sexual Exploitation Sub Group are:**

- To support Community Safety Partnership/Police/LSCB Strategic plans regarding CSE
- To gain an understanding of the City Problem Profile
- Monitor ongoing prevalence and responses to CSE
- To develop and maintain an effective local strategy ensuring that there is a co-ordinated multi-agency response to CSE
- Increase understanding of CSE in both the professional and wider communities
- Address issues around Trafficking of young people for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

2.3. The CSE sub group also helps support the 'What is Sexual Exploitation (WiSE) project which is led by Sussex Central YMCA's Vulnerable Young Person's (Sexual Exploitation) Project Worker.

## **3. WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (WiSE) PROJECT**

3.1. Following consultation with the Vulnerable Young Person's (Sexual Exploitation) Development Worker, the Young People's Sexual Exploitation Project was named WiSE (What is Sexual Exploitation). Key aims of the WiSE project include:

- Providing a specialist service for young women and young men aged 13 – 25 at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation.
- Working in partnership with Sussex Police, Children's Services and the LSCB.
- Raising awareness through a young people-led eyes and ears campaign.
- Delivering a multi-agency training programme.
- Case working young people at risk and /or experiencing CSE through one-to-one and group work.

## **4. CARE PATHWAY**

4.1. There have been significant developments within Brighton and Hove to review the care pathway for CSE, which have included the evaluation of existing meetings and forums to reform the processes by which children and young people at risk of CSE are identified. Changes have included how cases of concern are raised and discussed with key agencies, information sharing, allocations support plans, accountability and reviews.

4.2. The Missing Young People steering group is due to extend its remit from the 1<sup>st</sup> April to include any child or young person who is deemed to be vulnerable and this includes sexual exploitation. Children and young people will be referred to the steering group which will be multi-agency and the group will have responsibility to ensure the most appropriate response is given. The group will also act as an

intelligence gathering forum in order to establish patterns and trends among groups of young people or possible perpetrators.

## **5. INFORMATION SHARING**

- 5.1. There is an excellent working relationship between WiSE, Sussex Police and Children's Social Care, regarding CSE. WiSE is a key member of the Police's information sharing meetings and has been invited to use their intelligence systems, ESINS. This allows WiSE to inform and update Sussex Police and Children's Social Care of any intelligence gathered around both perpetrators and survivors of CSE and trends/locations of concern. This allows key statutory agencies to be linked into information that may otherwise have been unavailable.
- 5.2. CSE has been recognised in the job title and responsibilities of a key member of the Police Child Protection Team which is further evidence of the commitment the force is making to the work around CSE. A 'marker' is now put on Police reports to ensure that any information where CSE is mentioned gets sent to the Child Protection Team.
- 5.3. CSE has been added as a 'client characteristic' to the new Single Assessment document that will be replacing Children's Social Care's Initial and Core Assessments as of mid April 2013. This will enable Children's Social Care to draw upon data regarding those cases where CSE has been identified as an issue.

## **6. TRAINING**

- 6.1. The 'Preventing and Disrupting Sexual Exploitation' multi-agency training course run by WiSE was successfully piloted on the LSCB multi-agency programme in 2011. Additional courses were run in 2011/2012 and more dates are being put on during 2013 in order to raise awareness of the project to more professionals across the city including a level two course for practitioners who want to develop their understanding of CSE.
- 6.2. In addition, WiSE has continued to train a large number of frontline workers from professional teams from a wide range of organisations, including Sussex Police and a large training day of 80 Social Workers and Social Work Resource Officers (SWROs) from Brighton and Hove's Children's Services Advice, Contact Assessment Service (ACAS) Duty Team.
- 6.3. WiSE has also delivered lectures to Brighton University Social Work Master's students. The training programme has become embedded within the training of health professionals. WiSE sessions have become part of core training for student midwives and paediatricians in the city.
- 6.4. Professional training has had an extremely enthusiastic response from a huge number of organisations across the city. This has led to the large increase in the numbers of young people who are at risk/being exploited being identified and referred to the project; providing evidence for successful awareness raising across

the city.

- 6.5. The training programme has been significant in changing professional attitudes around the risky behaviours young people undertake as a result of CSE, the training has opened people's eyes and provided them with the confidence to identify abusive relationships with confidence, and an understanding of what support is available to children and young people.

## **7. OUTREACH WORK**

- 7.1. WiSE has developed and maintained strong links with services across the city delivering support to young people around Housing, Sex Working, Sexual Health and within the Night- time economy. WiSE has made particularly good progress at the Claude Nicol Clinic (GUM) providing outreach during young person's drop-in sessions.
- 7.2. Outreach sessions increase accessibility for vulnerable children and young people and help host providers talk about the service highlighted CSE as an issue within the service integrating the screening tool as part of their assessments.

## **8. MARGINALISED GROUPS**

- 8.1. WiSE has been working with organisations in Brighton and Hove to ensure that services are available for young people who may be 'hard to reach' or not in contact with many support services.
- 8.2. WiSE work very closely with Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVA's), meeting every two weeks to share information and refer into each others services. ISVA's from Survivors Network (a local voluntary organisation that supports female survivors of childhood sexual abuse) will also be co-delivering group work to young people in order to build capacity in both services.
- 8.3. The recent training of the whole ACAS team referred to in section 6.2 has led to a whole section of vulnerable young people being offered support from WiSE. ACAS were also joined by members of the Police Child Protection Team and the Police Anti Victimization Unit on their training. The purpose of which was to develop a common language and understanding between agencies with statutory safeguarding responsibilities, in terms of identification and response.
- 8.4. At the beginning of the year, WiSE trained the staff team at St John's College for children and young people with learning difficulties, this was in response to the number of referrals made to the service of young people with learning disabilities.
- 8.5. WiSE is also working with the staff (and some of the young people) of the local Asylum Seekers support group, to train staff and raise awareness of the understanding of sexuality and relationships in the UK, based on a few incidents of cultural differences causing problems for young male asylum seekers in Brighton and Hove.

- 8.6. WiSE aim to work with 'Mosaic' (Children and Family Service) and B&H BME Youth Group to raise awareness of the WiSE Project with BME young people in the city.
- 8.7. A Practice Lead in respect of CSE has been created in both ACAS and the Police Child Protection Team. The Practice Leads are available as Specific Points of Contact to staff for the purposes of consultation in respect of identification and response to CSE. In addition the Practice Leads have taken responsibility for the dissemination of advice, training and development within their respective teams on the issue. The Practice Leads also meet on a fortnightly basis with a WiSE representative to complete a safeguarding review in respect of children and young people who have come to the attention of services as a result of CSE.

## **9. WORK WITH YOUNG MEN**

- 9.1. WiSE has recently given particular focus on how to promote the service and the support offered to young men. This has been done through linking in with 'Mankind' (a local voluntary sector organisation for providing support to male survivors of sexual assault) and Allsorts (an LGBT youth organisation offering activities and support). It is the intention of the project to fund raise for a specialist young men's worker to increase accessibility to the service.
- 9.2. WiSE also reviewed the content of their training sessions to include discussion about the needs of young men in order to support male referrals to WiSE.
- 9.3. Currently the referrals for young men at risk of CSE are 14%, 84% female and 2% transgender. As WiSE enter their fourth year of funding they plan to work with 'Mankind' to create further specific promotional material, based on the recent evaluation of a research survey produced for men in the city around attitudes and understanding of sexual assault, unhealthy relationships and SE.

## **10. DATA 2012-13**

- 10.1. There were 86 referrals including those believed to be at risk of CSE and those experiencing CSE into WiSE in 2012-13. Of the 86, 63 ended up being worked with through one-one case work. The remainder were non-engaging and/or did not want the support of the service. Out of the 63 being worked with, 67% were, or had been in the care system at one time.

## **11. WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH**

- 11.1. Access to schools is essential in relation to early intervention, and WiSE has been able to build upon the links that YMCA already has in schools and the local authority to get CSE on to education agendas. WiSE has been a part of the development and design school's group-work programme entitled 'Positive Choices'.

- 11.2. The Positive Choices Programme will be delivered in partnership with WiSE, Survivors Network and Rise (Women's Refuge) and is being supported across the local authority through the Partnership Adviser: Health and Wellbeing who is looking to promote this as part of a whole school approach across Brighton and Hove secondary schools. The successful pilot was completed in autumn 2012 and the partnership aims to roll out the programme to other secondary schools in the summer 2013.
- 11.3. The local authority Partnership Adviser: Health and Wellbeing, with support from Wise and Rise, will support and review and development of planning tools for the primary and secondary school PSHE curriculum to ensure these cover age appropriate issues related to safe touch, healthy relationships, domestic and sexual violence and sexual exploitation.
- 11.4. Through a Whole School Approach to Domestic Violence and Sexual Exploitation, training will be provided to schools to support the development of understanding CSE.

## **12. PAN SUSSEX CONFERENCE**

- 12.1. A Sussex wide conference regarding Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking and Missing Children was held in October 2012 to further raise awareness and increase understanding for practitioners and managers across the county. The conference was very well attended with over 100 multi-agency partners from a range of agencies.
- 12.2. Key note speakers included Sheila Taylor, the Director of the National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and a live theatre performance called 'Chelsea's Choice' by Alter Ego Theatre Company. Participative workshops included: best practice and legislation for health care professionals around confidentiality and sharing information; group work sessions based on activities and exercises that are normally undertaken with young victims of CSE; Identifying and Safeguarding Trafficked Young People and Operation Newbridge; on-line CSE and examination of the latest national and local data with regard to the types of online sexual behaviours that young people engage in on the internet and other connectable devices and identifying and reducing missing young people from local authority care and from the community.

## **13. NATIONAL WORKING GROUP FOR TACKLING CSE**

- 13.1. The National Working Group (NWG) for tackling CSE is the main national forum where practice issues and learning is exchanged amongst professionals working on CSE Projects. Sussex Central YMCA is a member of the National Working Group on CSE and has tools published on the NWG website. YMCA staff have participated in practitioner forums and has fed into the development of the University of Bedfordshire data management tool.

13.2. The LSCB Business Manager has also attended NWG network meetings to share information and best practice examples with other LSCBs.

#### **14. OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONERS' TWO-YEAR INQUIRY INTO CSE IN GANGS AND GROUPS**

14.1. WiSE has supported all the calls for evidence in relation to the inquiry and has been interviewed by the Office of Children's Commissioners (OCC), the project has regular contact with Sue Berelowitz (Deputy Children's Commissioner) exchanging information and providing learning from the work in Brighton & Hove.

14.2. The LSCB has also been actively involved with the OCC Inquiry. The previous chair of the LSCB (Alan Bedford) was interviewed as part of the evidence gathering process in year one of the inquiry and the LSCB has recently completed the OCC dataset request required for year two.

#### **15. UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE RESEARCH**

15.1. Sussex Central YMCA took part in the University of Bedfordshire's research project, supported by Comic Relief, exploring the extent and nature of the response LSCBs to the 2009 Government guidance on safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation on behalf of Brighton & Hove LSCB. The research is referenced in the Government's action plan on tackling child sexual exploitation.

#### **16. CONCLUSION**

16.1. It is fair to say that Brighton & Hove has well supported multi agency processes in place and is making good progress compared to other areas where high profile CSE cases have not been triggered. Nonetheless, there is still further work to be done in terms of capacity, understanding networks of perpetrators and recognising the national drive. LSCB partners will therefore continue to work as jointly as possible in order to address such issues.

16.2. In summary, the overarching achievement over the past three years is that the sexual exploitation of children and young people in the city of Brighton and Hove is being recognised by statutory services as a safeguarding issue in which a lot of joint work has been put in place. Furthermore, key achievements over the last three years include the following:

- WiSE steering group adopted as a sub-group of Brighton & Hove LSCB with excellent multi-agency membership which is now chaired by Sussex Police.
- Referral pathway embedded amongst professionals including connection with SARC, health, social care partner agencies.
- Adoption of CSE screening tool
- Missing Persons Panel changed to Vulnerable Young People's Panel to reflect inclusive of missing children and CSE.

- Information-sharing protocol with Sussex Police developed fortnightly meetings with ACAS and Police with WiSE.
- Police Missing Persons lead has CSE formally recognised and integrated into their role.
- Marker put on Police reports to ensure that any information where CSE is mentioned gets sent to the Child Protection Team – (process tested via mystery shopper and verified as working accurately)
- Citywide training of professionals being included within B&H Children's Workforce development and LSCB multi-agency training programme.
- Increased numbers of young people supported to reduce risk taking behaviours, minimise harm and exit sexually exploitative relationships.
- Changes to PSHE curriculum in schools to include CSE.
- Development of a whole schools training package with WiSE, Survivors Network and RiSE
- Close working links with the National Working Group, Office of Children's Commissioner and University of Bedfordshire (academic lead for CSE in country).
- Young people's participation in the development of posters, leaflets and DV.
- Established cross border relations with neighbouring LSCB's including regular meetings between Business Managers and pan-Sussex conference on CSE
- WiSE project is very well-regarded by funders Comic Relief and has been re-funded for another three years plus years funding from Police to provide a part time case worker due to an increasing demand on case load.

## APPENDIX B



### LSCB Children and Young People's Sexual Exploitation Sub Group

#### Terms of Reference

##### **Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation:**

*The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.*

*Child sexual exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones with no 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.*

*Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships 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."*

##### **Background:**

The Sexual Exploitation Steering Group was set up in October 2010 after Sussex Central YMCA secured joint funding to set up a specialist service for young people aged 12 - 25 in Brighton & Hove as a result of the 'tipping the iceberg' research' undertaken by Barnardo's in 2007. Membership is from a range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations across the city.

##### **Purpose:**

This is a city-wide multi-agency group which seeks to engage all relevant agencies and enables and promotes the delivery of an enhanced service to ensure children and young people who may be sexually exploited or at risk of exploitation are identified, safeguarded and supported.

The group also helps support the 'What is Sexual Exploitation (WiSE) project which is led by Sussex Central YMCA's Vulnerable Young Person's (Sexual Exploitation) Project Worker

Following a presentation by Sussex Central YMCA to the Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in September 2011, the LSCB agreed to make the steering group a formal LSCB sub group

## **Aims:**

1. To support Community Safety Partnership/Police/LSCB Strategic plans
2. To Support WiSE
3. To understand the City Problem Profile
4. Monitor ongoing prevalence and responses to CSE
5. To develop and maintain an effective local strategy ensuring that there is a co-ordinated Multi-agency response to CSE
6. Increase understanding of CSE in both the professional and wider communities
7. Address issues around Trafficking of young people for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

## **Membership:**

To include:

- BHCC Head of Safeguarding
- LSCB Business Manager
- Designated Nurse for B&H
- Representatives from Sussex Police: including Special Investigations team and Missing Persons Co-ordinator
- Sussex Central YMCA - WiSE Project Worker
- Sussex Central YMCA - WiSE Support Services Director
- Representatives from other voluntary sector organisations, to include: Oasis, Allsorts, Terrence Higgins Trust, Survivors' Network
- Representative from Youth Offending Service
- Representatives from CDRP and Community Safety Team
- Representative from Education services, BHCC

## **Meetings:**

As at July 2013, the chairperson will be from Sussex Police (DCI Jez Graves and the vice-chair is DI Lee Horner).

In order for the group to be quorate, 4 members must be in attendance or decisions/actions will be deferred to the next meeting. The sub group will meet on a quarterly basis; meetings to be a maximum of two hours. Meetings will be structured with a set agenda. Minutes will be taken and circulated to members of the sub group and to the LSCB Business Manager within one month of the meeting.

## **Accountability:**

The group is accountable to the LSCB and will publish an annual report for the LSCB. It will also provide relevant information to the LSCB as necessary including input into the LSCB Annual Report. In addition, the group will also report to the Brighton and Hove CDRP Operations Meeting and Sexual Violence Reference Group

## **Review:**

The terms of reference will be reviewed annually. Any changes must be agreed by the LSCB.