



# **Buckinghamshire Strategy for Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation 2016-2019**

**January 2016**

'Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is sadly a reality in most parts of the UK and takes on many different forms. It poses significant risks for our children and we need to work in partnership with parents, schools and other local agencies to stamp it out. This is one of the top priorities for the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and will remain so until we are confident that children and young people can keep themselves safe, that parents, schools and other agencies can recognise the signs that a child may be at risk and know how to report a concern.

Significant work has already taken place through agencies working together in Buckinghamshire. This has included implementing learning from other areas such as Oxfordshire and Rochdale, and continued awareness raising to ensure front line staff across agencies and the voluntary and community sector understand CSE, how to spot the signs and report a concern. Work has taken place with schools so that staff and pupils are aware of the risks and can help children build awareness and resilience. We are also working closely with Thames Valley Police to support victims of CSE and to ensure perpetrators are brought before the courts.

This joint strategy shows a joint commitment to tackling CSE across agencies working in Buckinghamshire. It brings together what we are trying to achieve along with the work that still needs to be completed to make Buckinghamshire a safe place for children to thrive and develop.'



Frances Gosling-Thomas  
Independent Chair

### **A thank you from one of the girls**

*Thank you for helping me and telling me a thing or two,  
Thank you for helping me with the things I find hard to do.*

*Thank you for helping my confidence raise,*

*Thank you for encouraging me and giving me praise.*

*Thank you for making me see what life is about,*

*Thank you for helping me stay when I wanted to find a way out.*

*Thank you for your time and your care,*

*Thank you for taking me for me and just being there.*

*Thank you for all the hard work you have put in for me,*

*Thank you for mending the relationship with my mummy.*

*Thank you for helping to get me out of that relationship,*

*Thank you for telling me advice when my life's about to slip*

(Thank you poem from a Buckinghamshire child receiving support, RUSafe, Barnardo's)

All agencies and individuals in Buckinghamshire can make a difference to children at risk of or victims of Child Sexual Exploitation

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*All day I dream about  
Something I know I have no doubt  
I can't be happy I can't pretend  
I can't wait until the day this all ends  
Is there something I can't see?  
Because it seems everyone's happy apart from  
me  
I feel like life's a waste of time  
I can't wait until it is the end of me  
If only I could have some hope  
Then maybe I could feel I cope*

Extract from a poem by a Buckinghamshire young person

# 1 Introduction

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is recognised nationally as one of the most important challenges facing agencies today. It is a devastating form of abuse that can have damaging and long lasting impacts for children and their families.

Throughout this document the term 'child' has been used to describe any child or young person aged 0-18 years. Whilst it is acknowledged that teenagers would wish to be referred to as 'young people' the term 'child' in this context provides clarity for professionals and the public that the victims are children being abused and not young adults making positive choices.

This strategy sets out a coordinated, partnership approach to tackling CSE in Buckinghamshire building on work already undertaken, lessons learned nationally and locally, statutory guidance and research. This strategy is overseen by the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB), which is responsible for coordinating local arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and ensuring that these arrangements are effective. Under *Working Together 2015*<sup>1</sup> the BSCB is also required to make an annual assessment of the effectiveness of our local response to CSE.

Although the BSCB is the strategic lead for CSE, this strategy is also supported by the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board (SSBPB) the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), and the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). The success of this strategy will depend upon the strategic support of these Boards, and on the collective action of their constituent agencies. CSE cannot be dealt with solely by individual local authorities, police divisions, educational establishments or health providers each operating in their own silos. We recognise that only a proactive, co-ordinated, multi-agency approach will be effective in preventing CSE, protecting children and their families and pursuing perpetrators. **Everyone has a role to play.**

This strategy aims to set out:

- Our joint vision for responding to CSE in Buckinghamshire
- The ways we will work together to achieve our vision and the best possible outcomes for victims and their families in Buckinghamshire
- The roles and responsibilities that everyone will need to fulfil to help achieve this vision, from strategic through to operational level

This strategy is designed for staff across Buckinghamshire at all levels from Chief Executives and strategic managers to frontline, operational staff. It is supported by policies, procedures and practice guidance that will be helpful to practitioners in their everyday working environment. Links to these documents are provided at the back of this strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> HM Government, 2015. *Working together to Safeguard Children 2015: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children*

## 2 Our Vision

Agencies in Buckinghamshire are committed to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation by developing a strong multi-agency and child-centred approach in order to:

- **Prevent** CSE from happening and to stop existing CSE from continuing.
- **Protect** those who are at risk of, or victims of, CSE and ensure an appropriate multi-agency response is available to support them and their families. This includes support for adults who have disclosed CSE in their childhood. It also includes support for young people who have perpetrated as we recognise these young people are also likely to be victims of abuse themselves.
- **Pursue** and disrupt the perpetrators of CSE and support victims to safely disclose abuse and provide the evidence to prosecute offenders.

Through this approach we are seeking to achieve the outcomes set out on the following page.

## Prevent

- Buckinghamshire communities can easily access information advice and support and know how to report concerns
- Awareness raising is appropriately targeted, including through robust links with minority communities
- Our school age population has a good understanding of healthy relationships and consent, and is supported to build resilience to CSE and to look after others, including knowing where to get help
- There is a good understanding of, and sense of responsibility for, reporting concerns amongst specific employment sectors
- Commissioned services are aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to CSE
- Children who are vulnerable to CSE receive early and coordinated support
- Plans and practice are informed by the views and experiences of victims and their families
- Suspected perpetrators are identified and disrupted through good information-sharing, local intelligence, surveillance and proactive joint operations
- Agencies work together to identify emerging trends relating to hotspots or geographic areas and where necessary put appropriate interventions in place
- Agencies work together to identify and support those who may be at future risk of perpetrating

## Protect

- Children who are at risk or being exploited are identified and supported as quickly as possible
- Data around CSE, including local trends and patterns, is used effectively to challenge and inform practice and services
- There are effective services in place to assess the needs of, and provide support to, victims and their families
- Effective support continues for victims who reach 18 and transition to Adult Services
- Adults who experienced CSE in their past are supported to access appropriate services
- There is a good understanding of the links between CSE and other vulnerable risk groups, and this is used to inform practice and services
- Arrangements are in place to cooperate with neighbouring areas around CSE

## Pursue

- Relevant staff understand how to gather information that can be used to bring prosecutions against abusers
- The Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) are supported to detect, pursue and prosecute abusers
- Victims and their families are supported through, and beyond the conclusion of, the criminal justice process
- Perpetrator behaviour is disrupted through the full use of legislative powers
- Local perpetrator profiles are used to inform practice and the delivery of services

### 3 What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

#### Definition of CSE

CSE is a form of child abuse that is often hidden from sight, difficult to identify, and harder still to stop. It preys upon the most vulnerable in society and perpetrators in previous years have evaded prosecution. CSE can happen to both girls and boys, and victims are found across all socio-economic and ethnic groups.

This strategy works to the following definition of CSE as developed by the National Working Group for sexually exploited children and young people. However, we recognise that CSE can take many forms and the different types of CSE are outlined in more detail on the next page.

*“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”<sup>2</sup>*

A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation. CSE is a form of child sexual abuse, but what differentiates it from other forms of abuse is the concept of exchange - the fact that the young person or the person abusing them receives something in return for the abusive act.

A victim of CSE in Buckinghamshire described her experience;

*“You get passed round...It wasn’t particularly me looking for them. It was them looking for me. It’s just that they pass your number around. Or you’re with one of them and they invite three or four of their friends round and then you have to sleep with them. Because you’re in their place and they’re making your life a bit more exciting you do what they want. I didn’t think they found me attractive... I was happy that I was wanted but I think that was about it. It was the attention”  
(2015)*

**It is crucial that in Buckinghamshire we are able to understand and articulate CSE from the viewpoint of the child.**

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<sup>2</sup> The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People, 2008

## Types of Child Sexual Exploitation

The Barnardo's *Puppet on a String* report<sup>3</sup>, the University of Bedfordshire<sup>4</sup> and other research<sup>5</sup> have identified a number of categories of CSE. Whilst there is variation between research reports, the list below seeks to summarise the variety of forms that CSE can take.

- **Inappropriate relationships**

This usually involves one perpetrator who has inappropriate power or control over a child, whether this is physical, emotional or financial control. One indicator of an inappropriate relationship may be a significant age gap, even if the child believes that they are in a loving relationship.

- **Boyfriend model**

The perpetrator befriends and grooms a child into a seemingly loving 'relationship' often involving gifts and outings to cause infatuation. They initiate a sexual relationship with the child, which the child is expected to return as proof of his/ her love or as a way of returning the initial attention and gifts. The child is then told they owe the perpetrator money for cigarettes, alcohol, drugs etc. and that sexual activities are one way of paying it back. The child is then coerced into having sex with friends or associates often by threats of violence towards themselves or their loved ones.

- **Party model**

Parties are organised by groups of men to lure children. Children 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. 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.

- **Organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking**

Children who are often connected to one another are passed through networks, possibly over geographical distances, between towns and cities where they may be forced or coerced into sexual activity with numerous men.

- **Peer on Peer<sup>6</sup>**

In such cases both victim and perpetrator are under 18. A quarter of CSE cases are peer-on-peer as opposed to adult on child.<sup>7</sup> Where the perpetrator is also a child, it is

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<sup>3</sup> Barnardo's, 2011. *Puppet on a string: The urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation*.

<sup>4</sup> University of Bedfordshire, 2011. *What's going on*, and University of Bedfordshire, 2012. *Research into gang-associated sexual exploitation and sexual violence*

<sup>5</sup> For example CEOP, 2011. *Out of mind, out of sight* and Department for Education, 2011. *Tackling child sexual exploitation action plan*

<sup>6</sup> Firmin, C. and Curtis, G, 2015. Practitioner Briefing #1: What is Peer on Peer Abuse provides further information on peer on peer abuse.

<sup>7</sup> Berelowitz et al, 2013. "If only someone had listened" Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups

important to recognise that they are also likely to be victims of abuse themselves, and will need to be supported as such.

- **Exploitation linked to poverty and exclusion**

Grooming is not necessarily involved, but there is opportunistic abuse of a child in need of help. For example, the offer of accommodation to a runaway in exchange for sex. The child tends to view this arrangement, not as exploitation, but rather as a short term survival mechanism.

- **Commercial CSE**

This was historically known as known as abuse through prostitution; where an exchange of sex for money, goods or the discharge of a debt takes place.

- **Online**

Technology is widely used by perpetrators as a method of grooming and coercing victims, often through social networking. The abuser may pose as another child or an adult. The abuser may talk to the child via web cam striking up a relationship and encouraging them to pose or send indecent images of themselves, take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone or have sexual conversations by text or online. Explicit images will be stored and shared with other abusers or used as a form of blackmail to pressurise the child.

- **Gang Associated CSE<sup>8</sup>**

Sexual violence can occur within or between gangs but professionals often fail to classify this activity as CSE. Sexual exploitation may be evident in gangs in the following forms:

- Inter gang exploitation – punishment/retribution/threat or ad hoc and opportunistic
- Intra gang exploitation – punishment, set up scenarios or the initiation of males

This list is not exhaustive and there is no typical CSE case. It is crucial that we remain aware of the different forms CSE can take, including as technology and perpetrator tactics evolve over time.

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<sup>8</sup> A number of reports provide more detailed information on gang associated CSE including the following.  
Beckett, H., Brodie, I., Factor, F., Melrose, M., Pearce, J., Pitts, J., et al. (2013). *It's wrong but you get used to it: A qualitative study of gang-associated sexual violence towards, and sexual exploitation of, young people in England*. London: Office of the Children's Commissioner.  
Firmin, C. (2011). *This is it. This is my life...Female Voice in Violence Final Report*. London: ROTA.

## 4 The National Picture

CSE is an area of national concern following a number of high profile prosecutions and serious case reviews. However, the prevalence of CSE nationally is difficult to ascertain with any accuracy for a number of reasons including:

- Low levels of reporting by victims; failure to disclose may be because the child does not identify their experiences as CSE or fears retribution
- Lack of identification of CSE by professionals
- Inconsistency in the way agencies differentiate between those at risk of, and victims of, CSE in recording
- Variable levels of awareness and understanding of CSE across communities
- The need to improve intelligence gathering and information sharing
- Uncertainty or differences in interpretation or definition of CSE

Existing national estimates are:

- 2,038 victims of CSE (localised grooming, rather than online grooming, trafficking, or peer-on-peer abuse) were reported to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) in 2011. Although relevant data is not available for all cases, 311 (15%) of these were known to be in care, 842 (41%) were known to have been reported missing at least once, 61% were white, and most came into contact with agencies at the ages of 14 or 15.<sup>9</sup>
- 1,145 reports of online CSE were received by CEOP in 2012. 80% of victims were female. 13-14 year olds were the largest victim group at 35%.<sup>10</sup>
- 2,409 children were known to be victims of CSE by gangs and groups from August 2010-October 2011 and 16,500 children from across England were identified as being at high risk of CSE from April 2010 - March 2011.<sup>11</sup>
- There were 1,400 cases of CSE in Rotherham between 1997 and 2013<sup>12</sup>. The CLG inquiry indicated that Rotherham was not an outlier, and CSE in the UK is large scale, nationwide and increasing.<sup>13</sup>

The figures build year on year and it is likely that these figures have now grown considerably and represent 'the tip of the iceberg'.

## 5 The Local Picture

Our starting point is that we know children in Buckinghamshire are subject to CSE. Arriving at a definitive number for the cases of CSE in Buckinghamshire is challenging for a number of reasons. This includes the fact that whilst all agencies use the same definition for CSE, each agency uses different criteria for identifying a victim, or potential victim, of CSE. This in turn means that a case might be identified as CSE by one agency but not by another.

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<sup>9</sup> CEOP, 2011

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Berelowitz et al, 2013

<sup>12</sup> Jay, A. (2014) *Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham (1997 – 2013)*

<sup>13</sup> Communities and Local Government Committee, 2014. *Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham: Ofsted and further government issues*

Three key agencies involved in CSE prevention and support have completed a joint audit of their data. Each of the agencies ran a report from their systems for all cases where a child or young person was known to be a victim of CSE and / or was known to be at risk of becoming a victim within the period April 2014 – March 2015.<sup>14</sup>

### ***Thames Valley Police (TVP)***

The police had an indication that 87 children and young people were potentially the victim of CSE in Buckinghamshire within this timeframe. The youngest child was 10, 8% were males, and the peak ages were 14 - 16.

The police also suspected that 135 children were the victim of CSE by groups of offenders from 1st April 1998 until the 31st March 2014.

Despite the lower numbers of males being identified as victims of CSE, TVP have begun to identify further concerns for young vulnerable males.

### ***Children's Social Care***

Children's Social Care does not currently distinguish in their recording between children at risk and subject to CSE. The figures also include all children over 10 in a household where one child is known to be subject to, or at risk of, CSE to ensure preventative support services are provided.

The system audit found that 38 children were recorded with CSE as the primary reason for being known to social care at the time of the audit (June 2015). The 'snap shot' audit showed that teams are currently working with 80 children known to be subject to, or at risk of, CSE. 25% of those currently being worked with are male.

### ***Barnardo's RUSafe*** (commissioned CSE Service)

Barnardos worked with 206 children in Buckinghamshire between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015. These children were either at risk of or being sexually exploited. The youngest child they supported was 10, the peak ages are 14 and 15 and the oldest was 18. 15-16% were males. The vast majority (78%) of actual or at risk victims of CSE seen by R-U-Safe? in 2014/15 were white British but the others came from many other ethnic backgrounds.

Many of these young people had significant vulnerability factors; 21% reported domestic violence in their homes, 16% were children in need, 11% were subject to a Child Protection Plan, 10% were Children Looked After, 7% were in the youth justice system and 6 of the young women had teenage pregnancies. Anecdotally, several of these young people appeared to have learning needs but this was not recorded officially.

Of the 80 children being worked with by Children's Social Care, 26 are also on the TVP list. Of the 206 children that Barnardos worked with, 38 are also on the TVP list.

**During the period that the audit covered, a total of 313 different children were known by at least one of the three agencies as being subject to, or at risk of, CSE.**

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<sup>14</sup> To put the figures in this section in context, there are approximately 62,570 10-19 year olds in Buckinghamshire (Buckinghamshire Population Projections Dec 2014: [www.buckscc.gov.uk/community/research/current-population/](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/community/research/current-population/))

Work is ongoing to improve our understanding of the local picture, including developing stronger perpetrator profiles and incorporating into this contextual information about the localities where CSE take place and the risks that children may face in these vicinities.

## 6 Risk Factors and Vulnerabilities

Staff should recognise that young people at risk of, or victims of, CSE will also be affected by other issues and may come to the attention of other services as a result of these issues. Any child or young person may be at risk of sexual exploitation, regardless of their family background, ethnicity, or other circumstances. However, there are strong links between children involved in CSE and other behaviours such as absconding or going missing from home or care, missing education, bullying, self-harm, substance misuse, repeated access to emergency hormonal contraception (EHC), attendance at sexual health services for repeated sexually transmitted infections (STIs), abortion and accessing contraceptive service under the age of 16 years. **These behaviours, particularly in isolation, will not always be linked to CSE. However, professionals should be aware of the potential link, particularly in cases where a number of these behaviours are present together.** The BSCB Aide Memoire sets out a number of possible indicators of CSE and should be used alongside the BSCB Practice Guidance to help professionals recognise the possible signs of CSE and take appropriate action.

In addition, some children are more vulnerable to CSE, for example, children with special needs or disabilities, those in residential or foster care, those leaving care, migrant children, unaccompanied asylum seeking children, victims of forced marriage and those involved in gangs. Additional factors such as these can make children easier to target or make it easier to build relationships that are exploitative.

CSE also has strong links with other forms of crime, for example, domestic violence and abuse, online and offline grooming, the distribution of abusive images of children and child trafficking.

It can have strong links to particular locations, for example, specific parks, streets or buildings may remain sites where CSE takes place even where the initial victims and perpetrators are moved away from the areas. Children may face additional risks in and around these areas.

Professionals working with children should be alert to these additional vulnerabilities.

## 7 Diversity

There is no simple link between CSE and ethnicity. However, there are some issues that need to be considered, both in relation to perpetrators and victims.

**Perpetrators:** A number of high profile CSE cases that have gone to court have involved groups of Asian men, and the Home Office describes a widespread perception that the

majority of perpetrators are of Asian, British Asian or Muslim origin. However, the vast majority of convicted sex offenders are White British<sup>15</sup>.

Perpetrators can come from all ethnic groups and it is important not to generalise or stereotype. However, it is also important that people do not hold back from raising concerns about CSE because they are concerned about being labelled as racist.

*“Stereotyping offenders as all coming from a particular background is as likely to perpetuate the problem as is a refusal to acknowledge that a particular group of offenders share a common ethnicity.”<sup>16</sup>*

It is likely that different perpetrator profiles may be linked more strongly to particular forms of CSE. For example The Home Affairs Select Committee found that the majority of CSE conducted online is by White perpetrators. Locally, it will be important that we develop good perpetrator profiles, so we have a better understanding of patterns of abuse that are taking place.

The Jay report<sup>17</sup> found there was too much reliance by agencies on traditional community leaders such as elected members and Imams as being the primary conduit of communication with minority ethnic communities. We must therefore develop good links with local and faith communities so that we can establish an open and honest dialogue to help people understand the issues and be confident about how to raise concerns.

**Victims:** Victims of CSE can come from any ethnic background. However, for victims from some black and minority ethnic groups there can be additional complexities linked to their cultural and ethnic background. The Home Affairs Committee<sup>18</sup> commented that *“Asian victims (of child sexual exploitation) are often alienated and ostracised by their own families and by the whole community if they go public with allegations of abuse.”* Many South Asian victims come under pressure not to speak out about abuse. Issues of "honour and shame" play a large part, especially the "honour" of women and girls. Recent research<sup>19</sup> revealed that Asian girls, who were being sexually exploited, were most vulnerable to offenders from their own communities who manipulated cultural norms to prevent them from reporting their abuse. The Office of the Children's Commissioner also found that there was under identification by professionals of ethnic minority victims of CSE, these being generally hidden within youth justice services.

## 8 Parents, Carers and Families

Our approach to CSE must recognise that it can have profound and damaging consequences for the child's family. Parents and carers are often traumatised and under severe stress. Siblings can feel alienated and their self-esteem affected. Family members

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<sup>15</sup> House of Commons, 2013. *Home Affairs Committee – Second Report: Child Sexual Exploitation and the response to localised grooming*

<sup>16</sup> House of Commons, 2013. *Home Affairs Committee – Second Report: Child Sexual Exploitation and the response to localised grooming*

<sup>17</sup> Jay, A., 2014

<sup>18</sup> House of Commons, 2013

<sup>19</sup> Shaista Gohir, 2013. *Unheard Voices: The Sexual Exploitation of Asian Girls and Young Women*

can themselves suffer serious threats of abuse, intimidation and assault at the hands of perpetrators.

## 9 Transitions

Children at risk of or being sexually exploited may have needs which extend into adulthood (age 18, or 21 in the case of children looked after, or 25 for children with disabilities). At this point they are no longer eligible for support from Children's Social Care or other specialist services for children. Strong links with the Safeguarding Adults Board and with Adult Services are required to ensure that victims continue to get support as they transition to adulthood.

There are two groups of adult victims. First, those who continue to be abused by perpetrators once they become an adult, and who should subsequently become the subject of a safeguarding adult enquiry. Second, survivors who are no longer being abused but disclose previous CSE, to which the statutory adult agencies have a duty to respond. Even when the sexual, physical and psychological abuse has stopped, the majority will require some level of care and support as adults because of issues including mental ill health, self-harm, problematic use of illicit drugs or alcohol, interrupted education resulting in no or low paid jobs and economic insecurity.

## 10 Local Roles and Responsibilities

### The Importance of Working Together

Although there are recent high profile cases involving prosecution of groups of adults<sup>20</sup> these are the exception, and require concerted multi-agency effort and resources to achieve. Recent studies<sup>21</sup> suggest that a proactive, joined-up, strategic approach is necessary to increase the number of prosecutions brought against perpetrators. In 2014 Ofsted<sup>22</sup> made a recommendation that all areas have a CSE action plan that robustly monitors the capabilities and progress of agencies to keep children safe from CSE.

The key message is that the response to CSE is not the responsibility of a single agency and there should be a shared commitment to partnership working with a multi-agency response embedded at all levels.

***“Local authorities, police, children’s and health services have a statutory duty to work together to identify and stamp it out in their areas.”<sup>23</sup>***

We also acknowledge the role local communities can play in sharing information, and identifying areas of concern. Local residents are very often the eyes and ears of the community and must be empowered to pass on concerns and must feel confident that these concerns will receive an appropriate response. Strong communities can also act as

<sup>20</sup> Rochdale (2010), Derby (2010), Oxfordshire (2013)

<sup>21</sup> For example, Barnardo's, 2012. *Cutting them free: How is the UK protecting its children from sexual exploitation*, University of Bedfordshire, 2012, CEOP, 2011 and Department of Education, 2011.

<sup>22</sup> Ofsted, 2014. *The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?*

<sup>23</sup> HM Government, 2015. *Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation*

protective factors by helping provide a safe environment which can protect children from harm and help them build resistance to exploitation.

## **Information Sharing**

Successfully tackling Child Sexual Exploitation requires good information sharing between agencies in order to identify actual or potential victims and provide them with timely support, identify potential perpetrators and physical locations where CSE may be a persistent problem. Good information sharing is also likely to be needed across borders, both with neighbouring authorities and with authorities further afield where our Looked After Children may be placed, or who may be placing children within Buckinghamshire.

The Children Act 2014, amongst several other regulations, clearly stresses the legal duty and professional responsibility on agencies to share information. The BSCB Information Sharing Protocol outlines the principles and practice which govern the sharing of information between agencies, for the purposes of identifying, safeguarding and promoting the welfare and protection of all children and young people. This code of practice sits below the overarching Buckinghamshire Information Sharing Protocol.

It is important that all professionals understand the importance of information sharing and are confident about when and how they can share information. All agencies are responsible for ensuring that their staff have sufficient confidence and competence in this regard.

## **Cascading Information**

All staff working with children and vulnerable adults should be aware of, and have easy access to, relevant policies, procedures and guidance to support their work, including documents relating specifically to CSE. The BSCB will publish policies, procedures and guidance documents on their website and will disseminate any other messages relating to CSE either via their website or via the BSCB newsletter. However, all agencies need to take responsibility for cascading and embedding relevant information, to making it easily accessible to their staff and to ensuring that further communication or awareness raising activity is undertaken within their own agency where there is an identified need.

## **Training**

At the frontline it is expected that all staff working with children have an awareness and understanding of CSE including knowledge of how to spot risk factors and signs and raise concerns. Training will also be relevant to some staff who only have very infrequent or indirect contact with children. For example, staff who are responsible for commissioning and will need to ensure responsibilities relating to CSE are embedded into the commissioning process, or staff who work in the community and may enter particular settings or situations where CSE may be present such as environmental health officers, social landlords or other housing officers. Training will also be appropriate for professionals working with perpetrators and for some professionals working with vulnerable adults.

Organisations have a responsibility to ensure that all staff understand their agency's role in tackling CSE and have a level of knowledge and training appropriate to their role. Different

agencies may put in place their own training provision and training is also available through the BSCB at the following levels:

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>
Awareness raising	√	√
Identification	√	√
Engagement and intervention		√
Support		√
Disruption		√
Prosecution		√

Information on BSCB CSE training can be found on the BSCB website and the BSCB can support agencies to understand the levels of training their staff may need.

More specialist Spotting the Signs training is also available for those working in sexual health services using the national British Association for Sexual Health (BASHH) / Brook screening tool for CSE.

As part of the BSCB's duty to assess the effectiveness of the local approach to CSE, the Board's Learning and Development Sub Group will seek assurance from partners that staff are undertaking appropriate training. The Board will also undertake some quality assurance of CSE training across agencies in line with the BSCB Learning and Development Strategy including seeking evidence of impact. The BSCB Learning and Development Strategy is available at: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb-procedures/).

## **Commissioning Services**

Where services are commissioned it is important to ensure that robust arrangements are in place to safeguard children and young people. Commissioners are responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements and requirements form a key part of service specifications, are clearly stated within contracts and regularly monitored. The level of safeguarding requirements for commissioned services will depend upon the type of service that is being commissioned and the level of contact that commissioned staff have with children or vulnerable adults. However, where specialist services are being commissioned, or commissioned staff have regular and sustained contact with children, it is recommended that specific reference is made to CSE within service specifications.

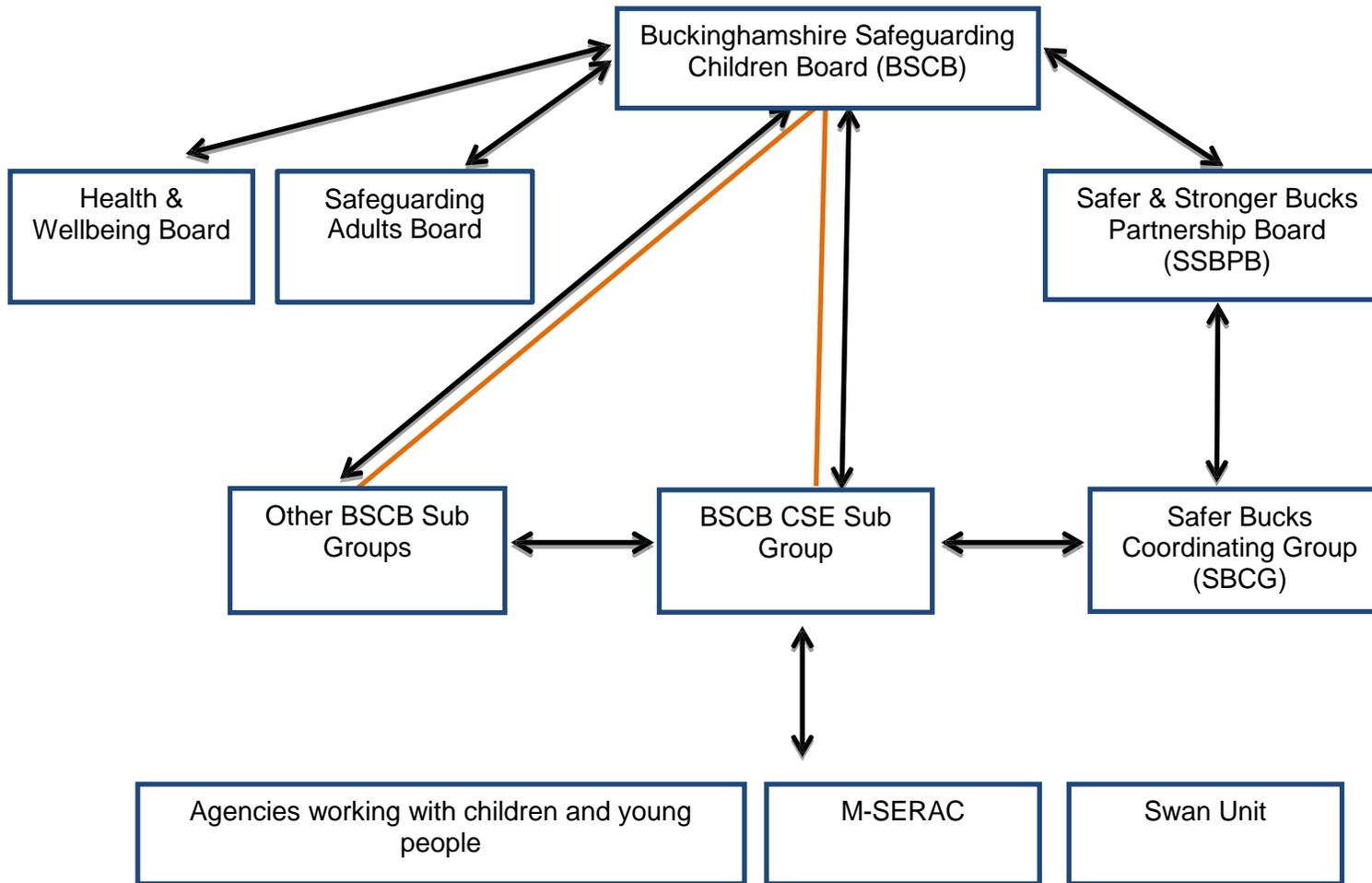
## **Strategic and Operational Framework**

The following diagrams set out:

- 1) How CSE is managed in Buckinghamshire at a strategic level
- 2) CSE referral pathway

The diagrams are followed by a list outlining the specific roles and responsibilities that individual groups and agencies play in relation to CSE.

**Diagram 1: Strategic Management of CSE in Buckinghamshire**



The BSCB is the overall strategic lead for CSE in Buckinghamshire. The CSE Sub Group will oversee progress towards the CSE Work Plan with regular reporting to the BSCB.

The BSCB will work in partnership with the other strategic Boards to ensure a joined up and coordinated strategic approach to tackling CSE. In particular the SSBPB will lead on the 'Pursue' strand of this strategy.

The CSE Sub Group and the Safer Bucks Coordinating Group (SBCG) include members from the District Councils who will provide links to the District level Community Safety Partnerships.

The CSE Sub Group will maintain strong links with other BSCB Sub Groups who will need to contribute to areas of the CSE Work Plan.

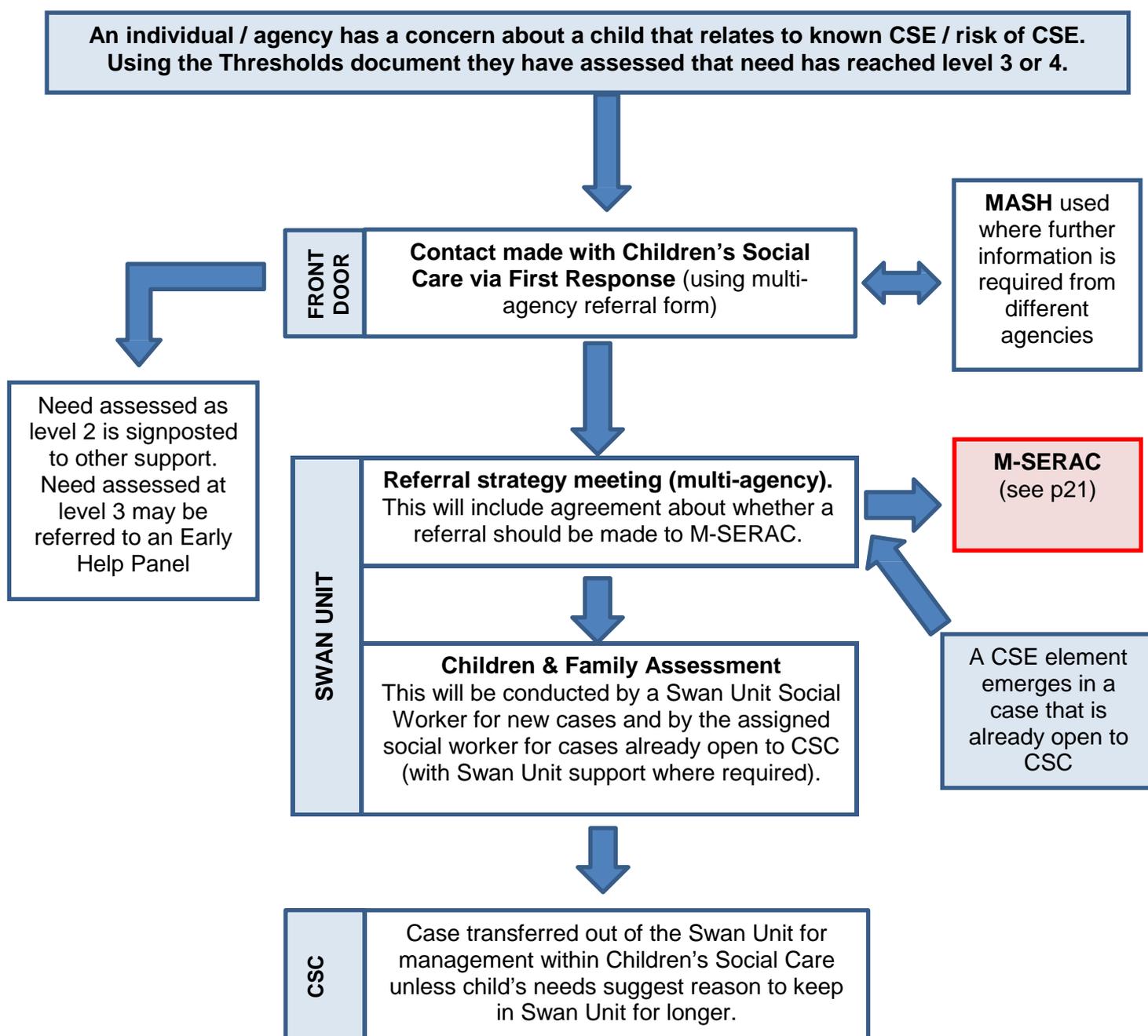
Membership of the CSE Sub Group includes key agencies working with children and young people and both Co-Chairs of M-SERAC. The Work Plan will be achieved by all agencies working together. Regular reports will be requested by the Sub Group to assess progress against the Work Plan and to contribute to the BSCB's overall assessment of the effectiveness of the local approach to tackling CSE.

## Diagram 2: CSE Referral Pathway

The BSCB has produced a referral flow diagram that shows the action individuals / agencies should take if they have a concern about a child in Buckinghamshire. This should be followed whatever the nature of the safeguarding concern. [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/)

Where there is a risk or concern relating to CSE, the Aide Memoire can be used alongside the Thresholds document to help identify the level of need and decide on appropriate action. [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/child-sexual-exploitation-2/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/child-sexual-exploitation-2/)

Where need is identified at level 2, in line with the referral flow diagram, agencies should seek to provide support themselves, or signpost to other appropriate organisations. The diagram below shows what happens where need is felt to have reached level 3 or 4.



## **Strategic Level Roles and Responsibilities**

### **1 Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and BSCB Sub Groups**

The BSCB is the strategic lead for CSE in Buckinghamshire. It is responsible for:

- Overseeing the development of the CSE Strategy and monitoring progress towards achieving the vision set out in the strategy
- Supporting links (including appropriate reporting arrangements) with other strategic partnerships to ensure an appropriate level of strategic ownership of the strategy. The way in which the BSCB works together with other strategic partnership to support safeguarding issues is outlined in more detail in the Joint Protocol, available from: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/)
- Coordinating a CSE Work Plan and monitoring progress against this plan (overseen by the CSE Sub Group)
- Developing and maintaining a dataset to monitor CSE locally (overseen by the Performance & Quality Assurance Sub Group and the CSE Sub Group)
- Making an annual assessment of the effectiveness of our local approach to CSE. This includes challenging performance where there is a need for improvement as well as highlighting good practice
- Providing multi-agency CSE Training (overseen by the BSCB Training Manager and the Learning & Development Sub Group)
- Maintaining up to date multi-agency CSE policies and procedures (overseen by the Policies & Procedures Sub Group and the CSE Sub Group)

The CSE Sub Group includes membership from those agencies providing frontline and specialist CSE services. It will receive regular reports from M-SERAC, the Swan Unit and local Community Safety Partnerships. It will also receive regular data and request reports from single agencies. The current Terms of Reference and membership for both the BSCB and the CSE Sub Group can be found on the BSCB website. BSCB Terms of Reference and membership: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/) CSE Sub Group Terms of Reference and membership: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/sub-committees-2/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/about-the-bscb/sub-committees-2/)

CSE is a standing item on the BSCB agenda and regular reports from the Sub Group will contribute to the overall ability of the BSCB to have effective oversight and challenge.

### **2 Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is the key partnership for promoting the health and wellbeing of residents. Its focus is on securing the best possible health outcomes for all local people. The key functions of the board include:

- Coordinating the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to understand the health and wellbeing needs of the people of Buckinghamshire

- Determining the priorities for, and preparing, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Buckinghamshire, that spans the NHS, social care, public health, and wider health determinants
- Promoting integration and partnership across areas, including through promoting joined up commissioning plans across the NHS, social care and public health
- Ensuring that, regardless of provider, commissioning decisions for health and wellbeing are in line with the joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and take due notice of the JSNA
- Coordinating effort to make the public monies invested in health and wellbeing work effectively to deliver the priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Holding to account those responsible for the delivery of the outcomes set out in the Strategy

The HWB will need to ensure that the JSNA includes robust and up to date profiling relating to CSE and ensure that CSE is taken account of within the Director of Public Health's Annual Report as well as within health needs assessments for commissioned services. Terms of Reference and membership can be found at: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=710>

### **3 Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board (SSBPB)**

The SSBPB is responsible for promoting safer and stronger communities and crime and disorder reduction at the county level. The SSBPB will play a key role in the 'pursue' strand of this strategy and in the disruption elements within the 'prevent' strand. The SSBPB will work closely with the BSCB and with district level local community safety partnerships in this respect. There is some cross-over between CSE and crimes involving adults such as human trafficking. There are also similarities in the grooming behaviours associated with CSE and other forms of crime such as gang activity and radicalisation. Given this, it is important that the SSBPB understands the local situation in relation to CSE and can transfer any applicable lessons or practice to an adult context. Terms of Reference and membership are currently under review.

### **4 District Level Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)**

Chiltern and South Bucks CSP, Aylesbury Vale CSP and Wycombe CSP all have priorities and actions to address CSE and work closely with the BSCB through the CSE Sub Group to tackle this issue. For further information on the CSPs, please see the District Council websites:

- Aylesbury Vale: [/www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/community-safety-partnership-news-and-events](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/community-safety-partnership-news-and-events)
- Wycombe District: [www.wycombe.gov.uk/council-services/community-and-living/community-safety/community-safety-partnership.aspx](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk/council-services/community-and-living/community-safety/community-safety-partnership.aspx)
- Chiltern and South Bucks District: [www.southbucks.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/communitysafety)

## **5 Safeguarding Adults Board**

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is responsible for coordinating and ensuring an effective and proportionate multi-agency response to concerns around adult safeguarding or the protection of adults at risk of harm. It can also hold partners to account for their activity in relation to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. The SAB will therefore have a role in ensuring there is appropriate provision in place for children as they transition into adulthood, and for adults disclosing CSE in their past. There is cross-over between CSE and crimes involving adults such as human trafficking. There are also similarities in the grooming behaviours associated with CSE and other forms of crime such as radicalisation. Given this, it is important that the SAB understands the local situation in relation to CSE and can transfer any applicable lessons or practice to an adult context. The SAB will work closely with the BSCB, SSBPB and HWB to this end. Terms of Reference and membership can be found at: [www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults-board/about-the-board/](http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults-board/about-the-board/)

## **6 Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committees**

Two Buckinghamshire County Council select committees have within their remit responsibility for oversight and scrutiny of safeguarding for children and adults. These are the Children's, Social Care & Learning Select Committee and the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee.

The Select Committees are formal Council Committees comprising primarily of elected Members (with some co-optees). Select Committees have a role in scrutinising the work of both the Council and partners, including in relation to safeguarding matters. Recently the Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee has conducted a detailed enquiry into CSE and will continue to have a role in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations made during this review.

The Select Committees will develop their work programmes in conjunction with partnership boards, including the BSCB, SSBPB, SAB and HWB in order to ensure a complementary approach.

### **Operational Level: Multi-agency Groups**

#### **1 Missing and Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (M-SERAC)**

M-SERAC is a multi-agency risk management meeting that seeks to ensure that children living in Buckinghamshire are effectively safeguarded and protected from harm in cases where:

- They are, or might be, victims of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- They are high risk missing children or children who regularly go missing

Partner agencies come together to share information and set actions to address the potential or recognised risk to a child who has been, or could become, subject to sexual exploitation or who is a 'High Risk' or 'Regular' Missing Person. This meeting is intended to share intelligence, provide early intervention, reduce the risk to the child and consider how harmful activities can be disrupted.

M-SERAC does not replace the provisions of Section 17 (Child in Need) or 47 (Child in need of protection) of the Children Act. It complements these statutory processes by ensuring that the bigger picture is considered, that action to safeguard is being completed and the appropriate multi-agency response is in place.

The M\_SERAC Operating Procedure can be found at: [ADD LINK WHEN AGREED](#)

## **2 Swan Unit**

The Swan Unit is a multi-agency team based in Aylesbury Police Station. The Unit has 5 specific functions in relation to children at risk of CSE.

- *Assessment of risk:* All new cases coming into the Swan Unit will be risk assessed. Workers within the Swan Unit will also provide advice to Social workers and other agencies about assessment of risk in relation to young people who are open to other services (including those young people already open to other Social Care teams)
- *Strategy meetings:* The Social Care manager of the Swan Unit will Chair all Strategy meetings in relation to CSE
- *Advice:* The Swan Unit workers will provide advice and consultation to professionals who have concerns about young people at risk of CSE. This will be in the form of a duty system through a telephone advice line from 9:00-17:00 Monday to Fridays (apart from Bank Holidays)
- *Direct work with young people:* The social workers within the Swan Unit will be allocated up to ten complex situations for young people for assessment purposes. This work will be short term although there may sometimes be a need for the Swan Unit social worker to remain involved for a longer period if this enables ongoing engagement of the young person
- *Co-ordination of Information and intelligence:* All information in relation to CSE will be passed through to the Swan Unit. This will involve co-ordinating intelligence of possible and actual victims and possible perpetrators of CSE. The co-location of the Swan Unit in the same building as the MASH will aid this information sharing process

The Swan Unit Operating Procedure is currently under development and a link will be added to this strategy as soon as it is available.

### **Operational Level: Single agencies and specialist services**

All agencies have a responsibility to respond to any safeguarding concerns and should use the BSCB Thresholds document and referral diagram alongside their professional knowledge and expertise to help them decide on an appropriate course of action. Where there is a risk or concern relating to CSE, the Aide Memoire can be

used alongside the Thresholds document to help identify the level of need and decide on appropriate action. If a child is at immediate risk of significant harm, then the Police should be contacted on 999.

### **Children's Social Care**

Working Together 2015 requires that following a referral Children's Social Care should ensure that the needs of all children who are being, or who are at risk of being, sexually exploited are assessed and that appropriate multi-agency engagement and appropriate interventions are undertaken. The duties under the Children Act 1989 apply to all children under the age of 18 years. Children's Social Care should also be alert to the possibility of sexual exploitation of children who are already in receipt of services. It is also important to recognise that perpetrators may also be children who will require support through Children's Social Care, and that child perpetrators may also be victims of abuse themselves.

### **Police**

The police will investigate all reports of CSE and seek to bring perpetrators to justice via the criminal justice system as well as helping to support victims through the criminal justice process. They are also in a position to identify children who may be at risk of CSE and any such cases will be notified to Children's Social Care.

### **Health**

All health practitioners and organisations have a key role in actively promoting the health and wellbeing of children. Health services are in a key position to recognise children who are suffering sexual exploitation and adults who may have experienced sexual exploitation in their past. They may also be able to identify concerns about adults who may be perpetrators of sexual exploitation.

- Sexual health services including integrated sexual health and reproductive services (formerly known as, genito-urinary medicine (GUM) and family planning or contraceptive clinics), abortion and sexual assault services will all be aware of sexually active children (i.e those aged 13 to 18 years) and may have knowledge of abusers. Such services will be aware of the indicators and signs of sexual exploitation. Services should use standard Under 18 proformas, sexual history taking and screening tools to flag and report those at risk. It is also key that all sexual health services have input and / or referral pathways into M-SERAC and MASH.
- General Practitioners and all primary care staff need to be aware of the indicators and signs of sexual exploitation. They will see children and young people with a wide range of physical and mental health issues and be involved in offering contraceptive advice and treatment to young people. Primary care staff will also be aware of other issues within families which could be impacting upon a young person's health. Parents and carers may share concerns about changes in a young person's behaviour. In all these situations there are opportunities to remain alert to any signs and indicators of child sexual exploitation.
- Community pharmacists who deliver the provision of emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) and chlamydia screening services should be aware of the indicators and signs of sexual exploitation and local policies and procedures.

- Child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS), adult mental health service and speech and language therapy may encounter children at risk of suffering CSE. All staff working within Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust should consider child sexual exploitation (both in terms of those being exploited and those exploiting) as part of their assessment and care planning, following the relevant pathways. Adult mental health services should be aware of the indicators of CSE and alert Children's Social Care or the police of any adults they suspect of being the perpetrators of CSE, following Trust / local guidelines. Child victims of CSE who are approaching adulthood (18 years or 21 for those with learning difficulties) will have their on-going needs for therapeutic support assessed and met through a smooth transition to adult services. Adults who disclose they were victims of CSE will have their needs assessed and be referred to appropriate services.
- Paediatric, Accident and Emergency Department and Minor Injury Unit staff see children who have been physically or sexually assaulted, or present with other injuries and illnesses. They also see children who attend due to alcohol or drug misuse or deliberate self-harm. They should be aware of the indicators and signs of sexual exploitation and local policies and procedures.
- School Nursing services and other services such as Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) will be aware of sexually active children and will come into contact with children at school drop-in and at other health related activities. They should be aware of the indicators and signs of sexual exploitation and local policies and procedures.

Further information on sexual health services in Buckinghamshire can be found at [www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.net](http://www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.net)

### **Barnardo's R-U-Safe?**

Barnardo's R-U-Safe? is a BCC commissioned service which works with children and young people living in Buckinghamshire, aged between 11-18 years old (up to 21 years for those with learning difficulties). Their direct work focuses on supporting the most vulnerable, those who are at risk, or are victims, of CSE. Where a young person presents as a victim of CSE alongside sexually harmful behaviour, R-U-Safe is able to work with them as a victim.

Work is delivered through one-to-one regular contact, or in targeted groups. Their holistic provision of support includes promoting understanding of the grooming process, recognising healthy relationships, keeping safe and exiting harmful relationships. They offer practical support such as advocacy and assistance in accessing sexual health services and other appointments. They also provide their clients' access to in-house, trauma focused, counselling, where there is either current need or need arising from CSE that has happened in the past.

They work closely with partner agencies to ensure the needs of the young people they work with are met, according to their individual circumstances. With support from Thames Valley Police, they currently conduct Return Interviews for all young people (aged 11-18) resident in Bucks who have returned from going missing.

Their additional work includes CSE training, awareness raising and prevention work, for which they have a dedicated worker able to deliver to both professionals and young people. Barnardo's has piloted training across the Night Time Economy in Buckinghamshire, spreading the message of CSE awareness within the private and service sector across the county.

### **Schools and other Educational Establishments**

*Keeping Children Safe in Education* (2015) makes specific reference to school safeguarding responsibilities. Schools, pupil referral units and colleges are responsible for creating an environment in which children can form healthy and safe relationships, guarding against peer-on-peer exploitation and peer recruitment and building resilience to all forms of exploitation. Whilst such an environment will be supported by a whole school ethos, it should be underpinned through the curriculum, for example through developing an understanding of healthy relationships and consent in PSHE and SRE, and helping children build healthy online relationships through up to date input on social media, safe use of the Internet and sexting.

Staff in educational establishments are in a prime position to recognise sexual exploitation and should be able to identify the signs and indicators of CSE. Any concerns must be discussed with the designated safeguarding lead or appropriate senior safeguarding staff. Children should be informed of risks specifically around sexual exploitation and should be given information on how to seek help and guidance. Educational establishments can also support parents, for example through signposting to information and advice. There is also an expectation that schools, Pupil Referral Units and colleges have robust and clearly understood expectations on the conduct and behaviour of staff to ensure children are kept safe.

### **Buckinghamshire County Council Education Welfare / Children Missing from Education Services**

Where a child is of statutory school age and found to be "Missing from Education", the service will work with parents/carers and other services to return the child or young person to full time education; thus ensuring that they can access support from their educational setting. In this work, professionals should be vigilant to indicators that children are vulnerable to CSE, and ensure that there is up-to-date awareness of, and understanding around, the links between "Missing from Education" (truancy and going missing from education) and risk of CSE. Professionals should be mindful that missing education can increase a young persons' vulnerability to exploitation, and may be an indicator that they are involved in, or at risk of, CSE.

### **Learning Disability Services**

Learning disabilities can contribute to children being more vulnerable to exploitation. Those working with children or adults with learning disabilities should be aware of this vulnerability and ensure they are familiar with the indicators and signs of sexual exploitation and local policies and procedures.

### **Youth Offending Service (YOS)**

The YOS work with those young people who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system and those that are in the system and at risk of reoffending. These children and young people may perpetrate sexual exploitation, but they are also vulnerable and at risk of being victims of this behaviour. This will be considered as

part of the ongoing assessment and intervention planning process in every case using the BSCB 'Aide memoire'. The YOS will work closely with partner agencies to ensure the needs of these children and young people are met, including appropriate referrals to Social Care, the Police and RU Safe?

### **Drug and Alcohol Services**

Young people's substance misuse services operate in the community and are well placed to work with young people in any situation. Working in partnership they focus their attentions on where young people are as opposed to waiting for them to come into services. Their presence in schools, pupil referral units, youth clubs, community groups and in recreational settings, housing projects and children's homes allows them to interact in an environment where young people feel more comfortable. In addition the young people's service has workers embedded into the youth offending and social care teams and are able to offer specialist substance misuse support to young people and workers alike. By strategically placing workers in environments where young people can be found they are able to spot the signs of CSE and assist other teams in addressing this swiftly. Moreover drugs and alcohol are often used as grooming tools and sometimes a substance misuse issue can be the first indication that there is potentially an issue. An agreement with Barnardo's R U Safe and regular joint work has enabled the utilisation of an incredibly skilled workforce to work in parallel and address issues as they arise.

### **Voluntary Sector**

Many children are reluctant to engage with statutory services and may find voluntary agencies more approachable sources of help. By working in partnership with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies are able to offer services which help children understand the grooming process and raise awareness of risks and the implications of risk taking behaviour. All voluntary and community sector organisations in contact with children and families should be alert to the signs and indicators of sexual exploitation.

### **Youth Services (including community youth services)**

Youth work relies on young people's voluntary participation and often takes place in informal settings including community buildings as well as on the streets and in parks. As such youth workers are well placed to both recognise changes in young people's behaviour as well as notice specific concerns within locations that can help identify if someone is at risk of, or is being sexually exploited. Any concerns must be discussed with the designated safeguarding lead and shared with appropriate agencies. The Youth Service also has a role to play in raising young people's awareness of sexual exploitation as well supporting young people in need of extra help to build their resilience and reduce their vulnerabilities to different risk factors. They are also well placed to put into place early interventions such as engaging with whole friendship groups and localities about which concerns around CSE are emerging.

### **Probation Service - National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)**

Both NPS and CRC have a duty to refer any child identified or suspected to be vulnerable to services which can support them and to follow this up to ensure children are safe. NPS and CRC will each separately share information through

multi-agency fora, including Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), Missing and Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conferences (M-SERAC) and also directly with Police and Social Services to protect potential victims through multi-agency assessment of the risks of serious harm posed and development of joint risk management/risk reduction plans. This will be in relation to perpetrators known to CRC/NPS or to perpetrators who may be identified to CRC/NPS through working with other Service Users and also potential victims. National Probation Service will additionally provide information through Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) meetings.

### **Leisure Services**

Many activities take part in premises managed by local authorities or their agents. Services such as libraries, parks and gardens, sport and leisure centres, events and attractions, museums and arts centres will all have children visiting and using their facilities some of whom may be at risk of sexual exploitation. Any concerns regarding sexual exploitation should be discussed with senior colleagues and be referred to the appropriate agencies. Public areas such as parks and leisure centres are often used by perpetrators to target victims. Therefore managers should comply with requests for assistance from the police and other agencies to help in disrupting the activity.

### **Housing Services and Environmental Health Services**

Housing staff in local authorities or registered social landlords and environmental health officers are often aware of children with needs and welfare issues, including those who are assessed as homeless. They may also be able to identify cases where certain areas of housing are being used for the purposes of CSE. They should be aware of the risk of sexual exploitation and may be able to identify adults about whom they have concerns as possible perpetrators of sexual exploitation.

### **Local Authority Licencing Services**

Local Authority Licensing Services will be informed of concerns relating to licensed premises and taxi licensing. They have a role in training and awareness raising within these sectors and will work with other agencies to reduce risks in licensed premises.

## **11 Implementation, Monitoring and Review**

This strategy will only be delivered by partners working together. The action plan at appendix 2 sets out 3 strands of work (Prevent, Protect and Pursue) and associated actions that will help us to achieve the vision set out in this strategy.

The delivery of the action plan will be monitored by the BSCB CSE Sub Group at each meeting, with regular reporting to the BSCB and other strategic groups as set out in the diagram on page 17. The action plan will be updated regularly to show progress, and will be reviewed in detail on an annual basis as part of the BSCB business planning process.

The strategy runs from January 2016 – January 2019, but will be reviewed on an annual basis. The first review will take place in January 2017 and will be led by the CSE Sub Group.

## Appendix 1 - Policies, Procedures and Guidance

### Local Policies and Procedures relevant to CSE

**Thresholds Document:** Sets out circumstances and key features across 4 levels of need to help professionals identify when a child and their family may need additional support to help the child reach their full potential. It also sets out the appropriate action to take to secure this support and provides examples of services across the 4 levels of need: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/)

**Referral Flow Diagram:** Describes what to do if you have a concern about a child in Buckinghamshire: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/professionals/thresholds-document/)

**CSE Aide Memoire:** Sets out the possible indicators of CSE. Should be used alongside the BSCB Practice Guidance to help professionals recognise the possible signs of CSE and take appropriate action:  
[www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CSE/CSE-Aide-Memoire-April-2015.pdf](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CSE/CSE-Aide-Memoire-April-2015.pdf)

**CSE Multi-agency Practice Guidance:** Provides further information for professionals on CSE, what it is and how it can be recognised:  
[www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CSE/CSE\\_Practice\\_Guidance\\_2014.pdf](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CSE/CSE_Practice_Guidance_2014.pdf)

**M-SERAC Procedure:** Describes the function, operating procedure and governance for M-SERAC: UNDER DEVELOPMENT. TO BE LINKED ONCE PROCEDURE AVAILABLE

**Swan Unit Procedure:** UNDER DEVELOPMENT TO BE LINKED ONCE PROCEDURE AVAILABLE

### Related Local Policies, Procedures and Guidance

Given the strong links between CSE and a number of other types of behaviour and abuse, the following BSCB multi-agency policies, procedures and guidance are also relevant.

**Joint protocol concerning children and young people who run away or go missing from home or care:** Sets out roles and responsibilities relating to children missing from home or care: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/TVP\\_Missing\\_Children\\_Sept\\_2014.pdf](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/TVP_Missing_Children_Sept_2014.pdf)

**Safeguarding Children Affected by Gang Activity:** This includes guidance for frontline staff, managers and community members on identifying and safeguarding children who are vulnerable or at risk from involvement in gang related activity, or in serious youth violence perpetrated by children acting on their own. It also includes the BSCB Procedure for responding to concerns of gang activity:  
[www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/Safeguarding\\_Children\\_Affected\\_by\\_Gang\\_Activity\\_Revised\\_Dec\\_2014.pdf](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/Safeguarding_Children_Affected_by_Gang_Activity_Revised_Dec_2014.pdf)

**Self-Harm Guidance:** Guidance to help professionals support young people who harm themselves, and to access appropriate services where needed.

[www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/Self\\_Harm\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/Self_Harm_Guidance.pdf)

**Children who Exhibit Problematic or Harmful Sexual Behaviour:** Procedure which applies when there is an allegation or suspicion that a child has abused, or is at risk of abusing, another child:

[www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/Children\\_who\\_Exhibit\\_Problematic\\_or\\_Harmful\\_Sexual\\_Behaviour.pdf](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/Children_who_Exhibit_Problematic_or_Harmful_Sexual_Behaviour.pdf)

**Domestic Abuse Procedure:** Describes some indicators of domestic abuse and sets out the roles and responsibilities and referral process in relation to domestic abuse:

[www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/Domestic\\_Abuse.pdf](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSCB-Procedures/Domestic_Abuse.pdf)

## Useful Local Websites

Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board: [www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/)

Buckinghamshire Sexual Health: [www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.uk](http://www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.uk)

## National Statutory Guidance

A number of useful reports on CSE are referenced throughout this strategy, and links to further documents and reports can be found on the BSCB website. However, the government's statutory guidance on CSE is a key document that underpins many aspects of this strategy. It sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to protect children from sexual exploitation.

Statutory guidance 'Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation' (DCSF, 2009): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-from-sexual-exploitation-supplementary-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-from-sexual-exploitation-supplementary-guidance)