



Cumbria LSCB - Child Sexual Exploitation

Briefing Note to those working with children, young people and their families

Purpose

In light of the publication of the [recent report by Alexis Jay OBE](#) into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Rotherham, this briefing is intended to inform staff of the work that the Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is doing to identify and protect children at risk of being sexually exploited in Cumbria.

The Cumbria LSCB Response

The LSCB has a strategic sub group devoted to CSE and Children Missing from Home. The subgroup is chaired by a member of the LSCB, Mark Bowman - Chief Executive of Inspira, and has membership from all agencies represented at the LSCB, demonstrating that this is a partnership response to the problem.

The LSCB has a [CSE Strategy](#) which shows a very clear commitment to working together to prevent CSE and how to respond collectively to it.

The CSE strategy contains a number of strands:

- Providing Leadership and Working in Partnership,
- Training and awareness raising,
- Identification and understanding risk
- Engagement, intervention and supporting victims.

To ensure good engagement across the frontline, an operational group has been established, reporting directly to the strategic subgroup, tasked with implementing the strategy on the ground.

Alongside the strategy the CSE Subgroup has developed procedures for staff to follow, should they identify anyone they feel may be at risk. ([Click here for the CSE procedure - referred to as Chapter 12](#))

The subgroup monitors CSE intelligence, including CSE reports to police, numbers of children missing from home and number of CSE cases reported through the County Triage Team. This is helping the LSCB understand the nature and extent of the issue in Cumbria.

Additionally, there have been two very successful awareness raising conferences attended by 200+ staff and managers from across the partnership.

What are the signs you need to know?

- Repeatedly going missing-particularly overnight
- Coming home with unaccounted gifts, i.e. clothes, money, food, jewellery, drugs or mobile phone
- Having a relationship with an older partner with whom there may or may not be concerns
- Mood swings and changes in behaviour
- Excessive and secret use of Internet and /or mobile phone (potential grooming)
- Spending more time in their room and was accessing their computer late at night
- Having several SIM cards, frequent mobile phone top ups
- Being unusually secretive
- Losing contact with family and friends of their own age and associating with an older age group
- Unrecognised cars arriving at the home, especially at strange times
- Alcohol/Substance misuse
- Unexplained injuries
- Lacking self-esteem, leading to a change in personal appearance
- Excessive washing or bathing particularly when returning from missing episodes

And what makes a child more at risk?

- If they come from a chaotic or dysfunctional household
- A lack of friends in the same age group
- Confused about their sexuality
- History of domestic abuse or neglect
- Learning disabilities
- Have come into contact with other exploited youngsters, e.g. at school
- Have suffered a recent bereavement or loss
- Are homeless or living in residential care, a hostel or bed and breakfast
- Have low self-esteem or confidence
- Young carer

Questions to ask your staff

1. Are you aware of [Cumbria procedures](#)?
2. Are there any children and young people that you work with that are displaying the signs above or fulfill any of the criteria, making them more at risk?
3. What additional skills and knowledge do you feel you need to effectively be able to identify CSE?
4. What further support do you need to be able to identify or protect children at risk of CSE?

Further information:

- Cumbria CSE Strategy - <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/professionals/cse/default.asp>
- Information for Parents - <http://www.cumbrialscb.com/parents/cse.asp>
- BLAST project: <http://mesmac.co.uk/blast>
- PACE www.paceuk.info^[2]
- Cumbria Constabulary www.cumbria.police.uk/cse^[2]
- Inspira www.inspira.org.uk^[2]
- [Stop it Now!](#)^[2] - a child sexual abuse prevention campaign. We support adults to play their part in prevention through providing sound information, educating members of the public, training those who work with children and families.
- [NSPCC - Identifying children and young people sexually exploited through street grooming](#)^[2]
- [NSPCC - Puppet on a string - The urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation \(PDF\)](#)^[2]