

JOINT PROTOCOL:

Relating to

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
AT RISK OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**



Parties:

This protocol has been developed and agreed between representatives of the Vulnerable Adolescent Partnership under the auspices of the Dundee Child Care and Protection Committee

Contents

DEFINITION OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	2
INTRODUCTION.....	3
KEY MESSAGES AROUND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.....	3
OWNERSHIP	5
PURPOSE	6
VULNERABILITY AND RISK INDICATORS	7
RESPONSE	9
FLOWCHART.....	10
INFORMATION SHARING.....	11
ROLE OF RELEVANT AGENCIES.....	12
RELEVANT LEGISLATION.....	16
RELEVANT REPORTS.....	17

DEFINITION OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

'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 the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet or on a mobile phone without immediate payment or gain. (See below)

In all cases, those exploiting the child or young person will 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 is characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social, economic, and emotional vulnerabilities.'

This definition, initially offered by the National Working Group in 2008 is used in Barnardo's Scotland - Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation February 2014 and mirrored in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, 2014

Please note that young people can sometimes participate in the exchange of sexual images/videos for reasons of conformity and the pressures of living within a society which is becoming increasingly sexualised. Many young people are exploited by their peers.

CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON

There are a number of different definitions of a child in Scottish legislation. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child defines a child as being under 18 years of age. For the purposes of this document, references to '*children*' and/or '*young people*' includes all those under the age of 18.

INTRODUCTION

It is recognised that, historically, the nature and extent of child sexual exploitation has not been fully understood and the term has even been subject to different terminology and interpretations. In the past it has been described as 'child prostitution' or 'teenage prostitution' and responses have often been set in the context of youth justice rather than child protection, which had the potential to attribute blame to the actions of the victim.

However, it is now well accepted that child sexual exploitation is very much a child protection concern. It is also understood that CSE is often hidden and difficult to identify, particularly where it involves the use of the internet. Like all matters concerning child protection, victims are often reluctant to disclose and the children and young people involved in CSE may also perceive themselves to be involved in a healthy sexual relationship in which they have control. Children and young people are often unlikely to recognise their own exploitation relying on adults/professionals to make the assessment. As a result of this, it has been very difficult to establish the full nature and scale of CSE.

It is the aim in Dundee that Dundee City Council, in partnership with Police Scotland, NHS Tayside and Voluntary Agencies, provide a caring and appropriate response to children and young people who have been, or are at risk of being, sexually abused and exploited.

It is a tragedy for any child to be sexually exploited. It exposes them to abuse and assaults and may even threaten their lives. They can be robbed of their childhood, self esteem, and opportunities for good health, education and training.

KEY MESSAGES AROUND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of abuse and therefore a Child Protection issue.

Children and Young People should be treated as victims.

Children and young people cannot "consent" to their own abuse and exploitation. (This principle is not always understood)

Children and young people have the right to full protection from abuse and exploitation.

Research suggests that some young people are more at risk of sexual exploitation than others including those where there is existing abuse, neglect, domestic violence and parental difficulties. The risks are increased by factors such as going missing, placement breakdown, disengagement from education, drug/alcohol misuse, homelessness, peer involvement in prostitution and association with 'risky' adults.

However it should be noted that all children are vulnerable to the grooming process. While boys are, and can be, victims of sexual exploitation, girls have been found to be more at risk 'due to the way some men and boys perceive women and girls'. (Internet – New Technology Sexualisation – Pornography – Sexting Briefing and Resources paper – March 2015)

Research has shown that perpetrators are more likely to be aged 18-25 years however some research has found in peer-on-peer exploitation 29% of perpetrators were under the age of 19 and the youngest was 12. ("If only someone had listened: Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups", England and Wales, 2013.)

The criminal justice system focus should be on targeting adults who abuse and exploit children.

The welfare of children and young people will be the paramount concern in any decision made, fitting with the Getting it Right for Every Child principles which underpin all work with children and young people

The views of children and young people should be ascertained and taken into account, however such views should be balanced with the duty to take positive action to ensure their safety and welfare.

Protection should not depend on disclosure. Disclosure of this form of abuse is rare as young people are often not able to recognise the exploitative situations they are in, and/or may often be threatened with violence if they were to tell anyone.

This Protocol sets out the overarching roles and responsibilities of the police, relevant local authority departments, NHS Tayside and voluntary agencies in relation to such children and young people, taking into account best practice in relation to the response to children and young people who may be at risk of sexual exploitation. Each agency accepts a responsibility to ensure that it has and puts in place appropriate guidelines or procedures.

This Protocol should be read in conjunction with Dundee Multi-agency Child Protection Guidelines and other relevant guidelines which are in place within each department and agency. Where a child/young person is not known previously or has not been an open case to social work for more than six months, a referral or advice request can be made to the Multi-agency Support Hub (MASH).

These procedures and guidelines are compatible with the national guidance published by the Scottish Government, including 'Scotland's National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation' 2014.

Key elements underpinning this protocol are that -

- The young person must be involved wherever possible and consulted on his/her views
- Workers must familiarise themselves with their own agency's child protection procedures and other relevant procedures/guidelines
- Early intervention is needed to ensure a proactive service
- Inter-agency working and planning is essential in providing positive outcomes for children and young people involved in sexual exploitation
- Commitment to sharing information and developing clear lines of communication across agencies is needed to protect children at risk
- Planning is a necessary component of any intervention. This must be constituted at the earliest opportunity and reviewed regularly throughout
- Risk assessment should highlight the safety needs, specifically in relation to 'persons of concern', of any young person who has disclosed or is being protected from sexual exploitation.

OWNERSHIP

The ownership of this document lies with those in the positions named below who will be responsible for ensuring that its effectiveness is maintained through the performance and review process.

Officers responsible:

Chief Executive, Dundee City Council

Divisional Commander, D Division, Police Scotland

Commissioner for Children's Services, NHS Tayside

Chief Executive, Dundee Voluntary Action

The document should be reviewed by the Vulnerable Adolescent Partnership on an annual basis.

PURPOSE

Scotland's National Action Plan has been developed with specific areas of focus for tackling Child Sexual Exploitation:

- Prevention of abuse (with specific measures for dealing with particularly vulnerable children)
- Disruption and prosecution of offenders through legislation; and
- Supporting children and young people affected by CSE.

Prevent

- Prevent children and young people being sexually exploited.
- Promote the use of data information gathering tools in order to understand as much about it as possible; the scale, nature, locus, victims and perpetrators
- Challenge and change negative perceptions of children and young people who are sexually exploited, which may be held by the media, the general public and agencies collectively, in order to pursue cultural change and safeguard children and young people
- Identify and consolidate best practice already in operation, and build on it
- Develop specific provision for more vulnerable children such as those who are looked after and accommodated, and those with disabilities.
- Work with ALL young people to help them identify and report grooming, abusive and exploitative behaviours and challenge peer-on-peer exploitation.

Disrupt

- Disrupt and prosecute those offenders who sexually exploit children and young people.
- Maximise the impact of the range of specialist skills and expertise that the police and other agencies, nationally and locally, have in protecting children across Scotland and further improve the co-ordination and intelligence gathering around Child Sexual Exploitation.

Support

- Support and encourage a child/young person's recovery from sexual exploitation and offer protection from further abuse.
- Improve services for children affected by CSE.
- Ensure that local services work together better to plan and monitor the delivery of services to tackle prevention, early intervention and support for potential and actual victims of child sexual exploitation.

VULNERABILITY AND RISK INDICATORS

Adults should be aware that children or young people vulnerable to, and involved in, sexual exploitation, may be unable to comprehend the extent to which they have become involved or are at risk of harm. They can present to agencies as 'streetwise' or as 'problematic' rather than in need of support. The list below is not conclusive, nor should one or more indicator be taken as proof of the risk of sexual exploitation.

The worker should gather as much information as possible to help them to consider all the risks and vulnerabilities.

Vulnerability Factors can include:

- A disrupted family life including family breakdown and /or domestic violence.
- Being looked after or formerly looked after, specifically in residential care
- A history of abuse and disadvantage
- Problematic parenting
- Disengagement from education
- Experience of bullying and learning difficulties
- Going missing from home or care environments
- Poor health and well-being
- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Homelessness
- Disability

However, the power of the grooming process can mean that children and young people, without apparent or specific vulnerabilities, can become sexually exploited.

Risk Indicators may include:

- Staying out late/missing episodes
- Multiple callers
- Use of a mobile phone or multiple mobile phones
- Expressions of despair
- Disclosure of sexual/physical assault followed by withdrawal of allegation
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancies
- Peers involved in sexual exploitation
- Drugs/alcohol misuse
- Lack of positive relationship with a protective/nurturing adult
- Truancy or exclusion
- Living independently and failing to respond to attempts by worker to keep in touch
- High number of sexual partners
- Unexplained amounts of money or other material items
- Presence of an older partner or relationship with a controlling adult.
- Physical or emotional abuse by partner or controlling adult.
- Entering and leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults.
- Frequenting areas known for on/off street prostitution.
- Physical injury or symptoms of sexual/physical abuse.
- Children under 13 years asking for sexual health advice.
- Being taken to flats, houses and/or hotels and engaging in sexual activity.

There are specific risks associated with the internet in terms of child sexual exploitation, including:

- Grooming children on-line for sexual abuse offline;
- Children viewing abusive images of children/pornographic images;
- Selling children on-line for abuse offline;
- Making abusive images of children;
- Viewing abusive images of children;
- Access to chat lines via the internet or mobile phones;
- Sexting
- Being involved in online gaming chat rooms

(Taken from Barnardo's Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation February 2014 and National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, 2014)

RESPONSE

A National risk assessment process is being considered but is not yet in place.

Staff are expected to use their professional judgement, alongside their knowledge of the vulnerability and risk factors, to decide on a plan of action to safeguard a child or young person. In addition to the risk assessment, remembering to consider any 'person of concern', a full SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Responsible, Respected, Included) assessment should be completed.

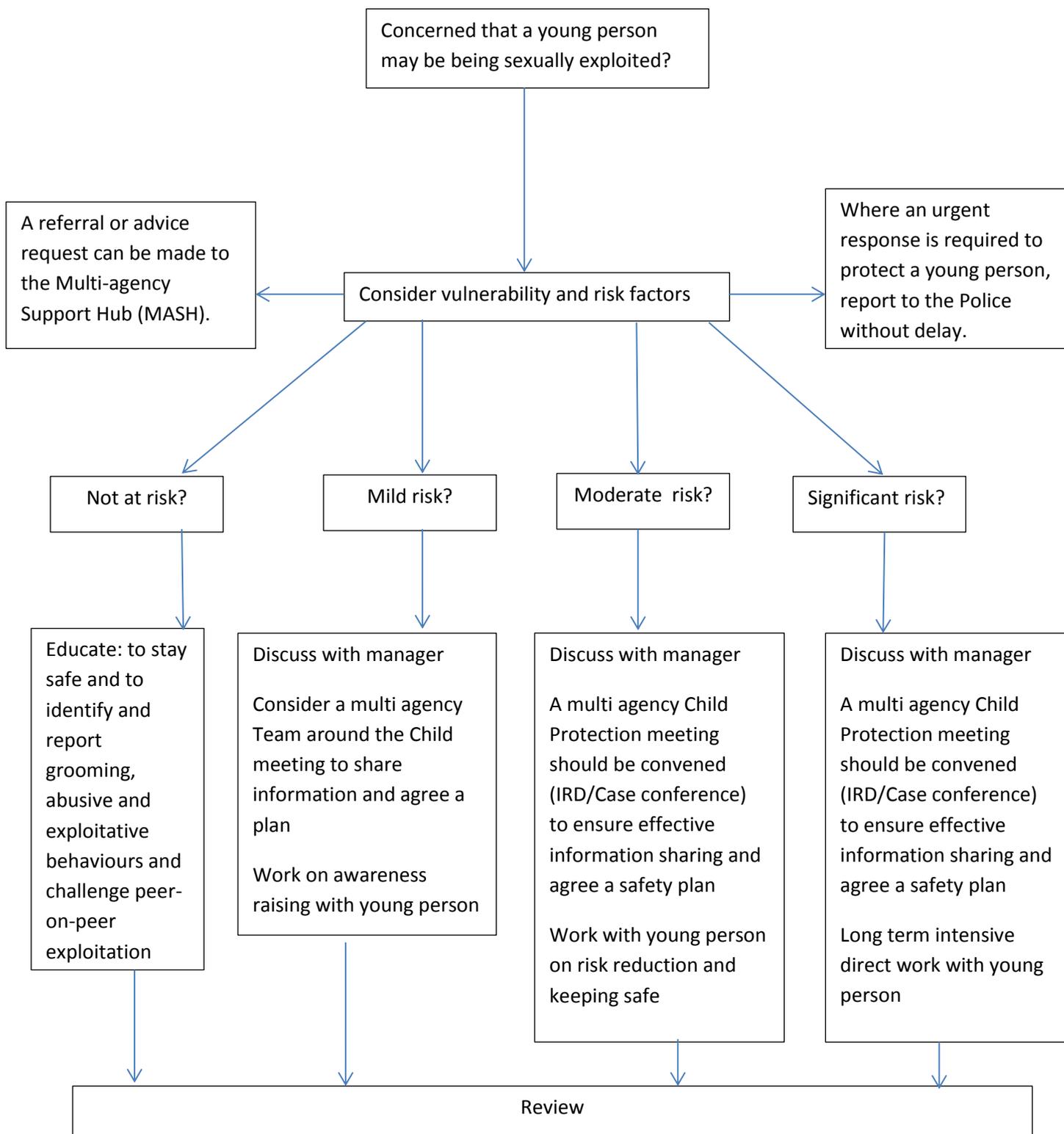
Interventions with individual children and young people should be aimed at addressing the specific areas causing concern, beginning with the most risky or dangerous as well as those areas identified by the child or young person as areas where they are willing to work on making changes. This supports reduction of risks and progresses cases to positive outcomes.

Where a child/young person is not known previously or has not been an open case to social work for more than six months, a referral or advice request can be made to the Multi-agency Support Hub (MASH).

Use of multi-agency meetings such as the Team around the Child, or Initial Referral Discussions (IRD) should be utilised in bringing together all the necessary information and relevant workers.

Where a crime is identified or an urgent response is required to protect a young person, the matter should be reported to the Police without delay.

FLOWCHART



INFORMATION SHARING

The key to good multi-agency working is information sharing. Information sharing will be central to any multi-agency meetings, however formatted; successful exchange of information supports both the identification of victims, the development of appropriate responses and the identification of 'persons of concern'.

Often practitioners can be wary of sharing information about a child they feel is at risk due to the Data Protection Act 1998. This Act can often be seen as a barrier even though there may be a genuine concern about a child or young person's wellbeing. Where there is a child protection risk, practitioners are more confident about sharing information, however if there is a professional concern but the circumstances do not reach the threshold of child protection confusion can arise.

Within the Scottish Government's National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014) the concept of 'significant harm' is shown to be complex and subject to professional judgement based on a multi-agency assessment of the circumstances of the child and their family. If there are concerns about wellbeing, harm, abuse or neglect, these must be shared with the relevant agencies so that they can decide together whether the harm is, or is likely to be, significant. It is essential that, when considering the presence or likelihood of significant harm, the impact (or potential impact) on the child takes priority and not simply the alleged abusive behaviour. See also the Scottish Government's National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014).

In terms of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 there is a wider definition and threshold for information sharing. It states that information ought to be provided if the likely benefit to the wellbeing of the child or young person outweighs any likely adverse effect.

The guidance from the Information Commissioners Office on this matter states that: 'Where a practitioner believes, in their personal opinion, that there is risk to a child or young person that may lead to harm, proportionate sharing of information is unlikely to constitute a breach of the Act in such circumstances'

In order to improve disruption and ensure Dundee is a hostile environment for potential perpetrators consideration should be given to sharing unsubstantiated intelligence with the Police around possible perpetrators, hot spots or developing trends.

As long as practitioners are only sharing information that is relevant and proportionate to the situation in which they think a child may be at risk then the Act should not be seen as a barrier to this.

If in doubt practitioners should consult their local authority's child protection procedures and vulnerable young person and adult protection guidance/procedures. Multi-agency strategy meetings can also be used to plan and monitor action.

ROLE OF RELEVANT AGENCIES

VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The voluntary sector is diverse. The approaches taken will also be diverse. Voluntary and statutory sector agencies are committed to working together within a framework which respects each agency's role and remit and confidentiality policy.

The voluntary sector has a significant part to play in identifying and working with children and young people who are involved in sexual exploitation. As a result of their lifestyle and past family experiences many children and young people are reticent to engage with statutory services and find voluntary agencies more approachable sources of help. By working in partnership with statutory bodies voluntary agencies are able to offer support and services to reduce the harm to children and young people and in helping protect them from sexual exploitation.

Examples of services in Dundee include:

Safe and Sound is an award winning project that provides invaluable support to young people and their families in helping young runaways to return and stay in the family home. Our key goals are to promote and enhance skills which can reduce risks for young people at risk of homelessness, and to improve communication and conflict resolution through family mediation. The service – which is a partnership between Shelter Scotland and Relationships Scotland Family Mediation Tayside and Fife – has prevented homelessness amongst some of the most vulnerable young people in our community through supporting over 200 young people and their families since its launch in July 2012.

Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Dundee and Angus provide emotional and practical support to women and girls aged 13 years+ who have experienced any form of sexual violence within their lifetime. We provide support via one to one, group, email, letter, telephone helpline, outreach and drop-in. We can initially support male survivors via our telephone helpline, family and friends of survivors and sign post to other agencies as appropriate.

We also work in partnership with CAIR Scotland to deliver the Vice Versa Project which is a specialist support service aimed at supporting women aged 16+ whilst involved in prostitution and which supports women to find routes out of prostitution.

We are one of ten Rape Crisis Centres throughout Scotland who deliver the Sexual Violence Prevention Project working with young people in education, residential care settings and local community groups on topics such as what is sexual violence, consent, gender, sexualisation, social media, the impact of sexual violence and preventing sexual violence.

Barnardo's Family Service Dundee works alongside children and young people who have been significantly impacted by their own sexual behaviours or the sexual or abusive behaviours of others towards them. We also work with parents, carers and other people who are involved in the child/young person's life. Central to our work is the belief that we can build on the strengths of children, young people and their families to ensure risks are reduced and safety is increased. We can help when lives have been affected by past abuse or when there are present concerns, and assist children, young people and families to make sense of how difficult life experiences may have impacted on their lives and empower them to develop skills and strategies which will allow them to move forward.

We provide a range of interventions including individual work, group work, and consultations. Much of our work is delivered in partnership providing group work sessions to other agencies

focussed on prevention, identification and early intervention in relation to CSE. As part of Dundee CSE development plan we co facilitate interagency CSE training for staff.

Rape Crisis Scotland are in the process of working with partner agencies to develop a resource to support schools to address gender based violence.

Action for Children, Dundee Youth Housing Service:

The service provides temporary supported accommodation to young people aged 16-21 who are registered as homeless.

The provision operates on a 24/7 basis and provides opportunities to young people to assist them to develop the skills and qualities needed to live independently and to manage the loneliness and isolation they face. The service currently has 32 tenancies spread over sites in the Hilltown and Stobswell areas.

The service will support young people to attend appointments and will refer onto specialist agencies as necessary. The project offers a holistic approach and provides young people with a variety of opportunities to develop confidence and self-esteem including use of gym passes, outdoor activities, issue based group work and volunteer mentors.

Action for Children also provides a Housing Options service which focuses on the prevention of homelessness and works in partnership with the City Council to provide conflict resolution, mediation and support to maintain young people within their family homes.

HEALTH

Children and young people for whom there are child protection concerns may come to the attention of a wide number of health professionals, including General Practitioners, Family Planning, Genito-urinary Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Accident and Emergency, Child and Family Psychiatry, Child Protection Services and Community Child Health. Raising awareness of child protection issues is a key component of workforce development and this is undertaken through a programme of child protection training and education for specialist child protection staff and staff working with children and families. Steps have also been taken to encourage sharing of appropriate information between specialities, in order to promote holistic management, along with the identification of key professionals for each young person to prevent any unnecessary duplication of investigation or involvement. Health care staff in key areas have been made aware of issues relating to child protection including how to pursue any child protection concerns.

POLICE

Children and young people who are being sexually exploited will be treated as victims and local child protection procedures will be followed. All efforts will be made to identify who is coercing the child/young person into that situation and the circumstances will be fully investigated. Details of the vulnerable child or young person will be recorded on the Vulnerable Persons Database and shared with the named person and/or lead professional.

A full criminal investigation will be conducted in respect of sexual offences committed against any young child, described as under 13 in the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009. In respect of older children and young people, a full criminal investigation will be conducted where force, abuse or exploitative behaviour is identified, the perpetrator is in a position of trust or that older child is likely to be at risk of harm. In these circumstances and where sufficiency of evidence exists, the circumstances will always be reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal

Service. The child/young person may be required as a witness and support through the criminal justice process will be considered at all times.

Where intelligence is received about perpetrator activity Police will consider preventative activity and disruption using partner agencies where necessary via the Multi-Agency Operational Group.

All children and young people who have been reported missing will be subject of a return home interview. This will not always be by Police Officers and the most appropriate professional to undertake this process will be identified. Whilst such an interview is voluntary it provides an important opportunity to discuss the activities of the child or young person during their period of absence and assess factors which led them to go missing as well as identifying any further risk of harm. Suggestions of sexual abuse will be dealt with through Child Protection procedures. Children and young people identified as regularly going missing will be considered by the Divisional Missing Persons Tactical Group and where that child is looked after a joint response will be agreed with the local authority.

SOCIAL WORK

The Social Work Department has particular duties and responsibilities in relation to young people who may have been or who may be at risk of sexual exploitation. These include a duty and responsibility:

- To give paramount consideration to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of such children and young people.
- To inquire into the circumstances when information is received suggesting that the child or young person may be at risk of being subject to sexual abuse.
- To properly consider how best to intervene in the life of the child or young person and his or her family.
- To seek the views of the child or young person and take account of these.
- To inform and involve parents / guardians.
- To refer a child or young person to the Reporter if he or she may be in need of compulsory measures of supervision.
- To develop and implement, along with other agencies, a protection plan for those young people deemed to be at risk of significant harm. This plan to include references to how a sexually exploited young person should be helped to recover from sexual exploitation.
- To recognise that children and young people looked after away from home require advice on sexual health and to work with other agencies towards providing that.

Referrals regarding children not currently open cases to social work will be dealt with under the multi agency Child Protection Procedures by the Care and protection team based at Seymour Lodge. For children who are open cases to social work, the allocated worker will most commonly be the Lead professional and they will liaise with police and other agencies regarding the need for an IRD (Initial Referral Discussion) to inform planning and subsequent action.

The first priority will be the safety of the child. If assessed to be unsafe, appropriate interventions will be taken immediately. When the safety of the child has been considered and addressed, then a fuller assessment of the child's circumstances and the risks to the child will

proceed. Liaison with other agencies will be instigated at an early stage and arrangements will be made for the staff involved to maintain contact with each other throughout the joint investigation. Following the initial inquiry phase of the work, a child protection case conference or other more appropriate multi-agency planning forum may be arranged to consider the circumstances, establish an intervention plan and consider the need to make a referral to the Reporter.

On a child or young person's return after being missing or having absconded, every effort will be made to talk to the child to ensure that they are physically safe and well and to establish whether any harm has occurred to them during their absence. The medical condition of the child will be discussed immediately and an offer made to arrange medical attention if necessary.

EDUCATION

Education staff can respond in a variety of ways to the issue of children and young people involved in sexual exploitation. Most commonly this would be in terms of Prevention, Recognition, Referral and Post Referral.

- **Prevention:** A long term strategy which would seek to change attitudes and raise awareness. Abuse prevention programmes would go some way in achieving this aim, alongside the issue based work already being done in Personal and Social Development.
- **Recognition:** Daily contact with children and young people allows teachers to recognise concerning behaviour and respond. Every school has a trained Child Protection Officer who provides support/advice to school staff.
- **Referral:** Concerns about a child or young person's involvement in sexual exploitation will be reported to the Designated Child Protection Officer who will follow the Education Department's Child Protection Guidelines. For children who are not open cases to social work, this will involve liaising with the joint Police and Social Work Team at Seymour Lodge, in order to ascertain the best course of action for the young person involved. For children who are open cases to social work, the allocated worker will most commonly be the Lead professional and concerns should be discussed with the Lead professional. Most children suspected of being involved in Child Sexual Exploitation will be of school age and the Education Department will provide the Named Person service for these children. As Named Person, education staff should be involved in IRDs and other multi agency planning meetings. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the Named Person is represented during school holidays, through attendance of SCSS, who will feedback to school staff.
- **Post Referral:** Education should remain a priority for children and young people involved in sexual exploitation and education staff should be closely involved with any Child Protection Plan/Assessment.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION includes:

Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Sections 25, 57, 61, 66, 67, 68(10), 70, 82, 83 and 86

Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 s67 sets out the grounds of referral to the Reporter , **s 85 and 151** deals with authorisation to place in secure accommodation , **s199** defines a child , in terms of who can be referred for compulsory measures (under 16, unless already on a CSO).

Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003, Sec 22 prohibits trafficking for the purpose of prostitution or making or producing obscene material involving a child under the age of 18.

Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009

Part 4 of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 provides for offences criminalising sexual activity with a child under the age of 16, the 'age of consent'.

Part 5 of that Act provides for offences concerning sexual abuse of trust. Specifically, the Act provides that it shall be an offence for a person in a position of trust over a child under the age of 18 or a person with a mental disorder to engage in sexual activity with that child or person.

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

The Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) approach is a Scotland-wide programme of action to improve the wellbeing of all children and young people. Its primary components include: a common approach to gaining consent and sharing information where appropriate; an integral role for children, young people and families in assessment, planning and intervention; a co-ordinated and unified approach to identifying concerns, assessing needs, agreeing actions and outcomes, based on the Wellbeing Indicators; a Named Person in universal services; a Lead Professional to co-ordinate and monitor multi-agency activity where necessary; and a skilled workforce within universal services that can address needs and risks at the earliest possible point. Key elements of the GIRFEC approach are given a statutory basis through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 expected to be commenced in 2016.

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (as amended by The Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005) prohibits the sale, publication and possession of indecent images of children under 18. (Sec 52/52a)

The **Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005** provides for an offence of 'grooming' which makes it an offence for a person to meet or travel to meet children for the purposes of committing a sexual offence following earlier communications and for specific offences concerning the sexual exploitation of children under the age of 18 through prostitution or pornography.

It also introduces:

Risk of Sexual Harm Orders (RSHOs) are a civil order aimed at protecting children under the age of 16 from those who display inappropriate sexual behaviour towards them, including grooming behaviour online.

Sexual Offence Prevention Orders (SOPOs) which are also a civil order which permits restrictions to be applied on sentencing.

Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 includes a section (99) which allows for premises to be closed if associated with sexual exploitation.

RELEVANT REPORTS

Safeguarding Scotland's vulnerable children from child abuse - A review of the Scottish system Children in Scotland 2014

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0046/00463125.pdf>

National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, 2014

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/05/3052>

Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation – Welsh Government 2010

<http://gov.wales/topics/health/publications/socialcare/guidance1/exploitation/?lang=en>

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Board (2012) 'Review of Multi-agency Responses to the Sexual Exploitation of Children

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s78816/Annex%20A.pdf>

Real voices: child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester

<http://anncoffeyp.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Real-Voices-Final.pdf>

Independent inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham: 1997 – 2013

<https://library.nspcc.org.uk/HeritageScripts/Hapi.dll/search2?searchterm=Alexis%20Jay&Fields=%40&Media=%23&Bool=AND>

Barnardo's Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation February 2014

<http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/childProtectionCommittee/documents/guidance%20on%20child%20sexual%20exploitation.pdf>