**Practice Learning Event - Multi-agency response to Child Sexual Exploitation.**

**Purpose.**

The purpose of a Multi-Agency Practice learning event focusing on Child Sexual Exploitation is to establish

* How each partner identifies and respond to signs of CSE.
* How information is shared across relevant partners
* How a collaboration of partners responds to CSE concerns.
* What areas of learning are required.

Kirklees together with many towns and cities has experienced examples of Children Being Sexual Exploited and those Non-Recent occurrences have informed current practice and learning.

The Practice Learning Event will also provide an opportunity consider the learning of the past and enable an understanding of changes to current practice and offer direction in future practice.

The practice learning event will carry out a series of extensive analysis of current cases. Each case reviewed will be completed alongside practitioners and representatives from the partnership.

The objective will be to ensure a clear understanding of the Young Persons journey, through the many perspectives of the partnership and the young person themselves.

The membership of the group participating in the event includes.

* BASE
* Children Services.
* Education Safeguarding / Inclusion.
* Locala
* Police (CVET)
* Police (Non-Recent CSE investigations).
* Representative from Specific Schools (relating to Young Person).
* Virtual Head Teacher.
* Youth Engagement Service.
* Youth Justice Service.

The above list of participants is not exclusive, and each event will consider whether other specific professionals should be included.

Following consultation with partners five cases involving young people at risk of Sexual Exploitation has been identified for the Purpose of the Practice Learning Event.

Consideration was given to multiple factors when identifying the young people in the cases for the practice Learning event. An overview of the selected cases is below.

All partners contributed to the framework the event and participated to the development of the key lines of enquiry as detailed.

**Key Lines of Enquiry**

Six key areas have been agreed, with specific questions grouped following on from this.

* **Risk Assessment**
* Do we have professional curiosity and proactively look for exploitation (instead of looking the other way/not following up indicators of exploitation/not mapping networks and links)?
* **Planning and Intervention**
* Do we pursue suspects regardless of who they are (e.g. previous reluctance due to race/status in the community etc)?
* Are plans created and reviewed in a timely manner, responding to changes in circumstances and new information?
* Assessments and plans are dynamic; they have been reviewed and updated when new and emerging issues and risks have been identified. Consistent and ongoing evidence of multi-agency contribution and approach.
* **Multi-agency working**
* There is evidence that professionals involved with the child and their family work together to ensure persistent efforts are made to ensure engagement with the child and their family.
* Assessments, planning and decision-making undertaken evidence contributions from all partner agencies involved with the child and their family.
* The child and their family have had access to a sufficient range of effective services; these have been well coordinated and have included therapeutic intervention.
* **Relationship Strengths based working**
* Do we believe victims when they come forward (or dismiss them due to their background and believe that they are attention seeking, or unwilling to believe that the suspects could be responsible for such behaviour)
* When we do believe a crime has occurred, do we victim blame (eg previous attitudes of seeing victims as being a willing participant and therefore taking crimes less seriously, rather than a victim of grooming/abuse)?
* There is evidence that professional relationships with the child/their family are based on consistency, stability, and respectful communication.
* There is evidence that practice is based on a good understanding of the child’s experiences; their background and identity, including any barriers to them accessing help and support; and their needs and strengths.
* Evidence young people and their families understand the role and responsibilities of all involved professionals.
* How does the language used by professionals’ impact on assessment and planning (use of non-blaming language) for example does language enable young people to be viewed as victims, and does it place responsibility for engagement with professionals.
* **Information Sharing**
* Do we share information effectively and with all relevant parties (parents/guardians, other professional organisations, and partners instead of holding onto information and being protective of the idea of being the lead agency?)
* Missing return interviews are of a good quality and there is evidence that the information shared appropriately and that this informed planning and intervention.
* **Agency specific questions**
* Please refer to the additional questions have been sent in by health.
* Is the child or young person on roll at an education provision? – is this a provision for additional needs or mainstream?
* Do they attend full time, what is their current attendance?
* What is the child’s experience of school (do they experience bullying for example)
* How many fixed term exclusions have there been, is there evidence that alternatives sanctions have been considered?
* Is there evidence of additional learning needs – and has this been assessed with either a EHCP or SEND in place.

**Timeline.**

It was agreed that cases will be discussed every week on a Friday – starting on October 14th. There will be a break for half term which will mean that the last live event/audit will take place on November 18th.

**Overview of selected cases.**

**Child A (15) Female.**

Professionals involved.

Health Visitor (Sadie Shaw – team leader)

YES worker

Social worker

Broadwood High School and Manorcroft Academy.

YJS worker

Independent reviewing officer

Police.

Child A is subject to a child protection plan under the category of emotional harm. Risks are identified as her younger brother’s behaviour in the home (following an incident where he hit her with a hammer), Child A uses of cannabis within the home and lack of boundaries in the home, including unreported incidents of missing and home conditions.

Child A is currently flagged at high risk CSE. There has been information that a 38-year-old male has been supplying her and her two friends with drugs and alcohol in exchange for sexual favours. The suspect works in a takeaway in Wakefield and it is reported that she would meet him every day after work and that she has taken cocaine off him. Initially Child A reported that this was not true but has recently started to talk to professionals. There has been several reported missing episodes and since the initial information Child A has been linked with other older males.

**Child B (17) Female.**

Professionals involved.

Youth Engagement Service.

Kirklees college.

BASE

Police.

Child B is not currently open to social care and is not subject to any multi agency plan. Was flagged at high risk in 2018, flag was then removed following a change in friendship groups and had engaged well with the intervention. She had also moved to her father’s care and there was identified protective factors in the home which had reduced the risk.

Child B has been flagged at medium risk of CSE in May 2022. This was following her communicating with a male, and she was sending him indecent images of herself which he was paying her for. She was using this money to buy ketamine – which she is dependent on and previously used daily.

**Child C (15) Male**

Professionals involved;

Independent Reviewing Officer

Social worker

Placement support team

YES worker

Springwell Academy

Placement.

Police.

Child C is a looked after child and currently resides in local residential home. He was removed from the care of his parents at age 3. Concerns were relating to substance misuse, domestic violence, domestic abuse and parents’ chaotic lifestyle. Child C resided in a long-term foster placement from 2014 until 2021 when this broke down.

Child C is currently high risk of CSE, following an incident in May 2022 when he went missing for four nights. He was found on the 2nd of June with an adult who is on the sex offender register. There continued to be concerns that child C continued contact with the adult through the internet and there were further concerns about online exploitation. He currently does not have any unsupervised access to the internet.

**Child D (16) Female.**

Professionals involved;

YES worker

Social worker

Honley High School

Police.

MST

Child D and her family are currently being supported under a child in need plan. She has previously been supported under child protection processes following concerns regarding domestic abuse and her mother’s use of alcohol. The family have received support from MST and the risks were assessed to have reduced.

Child D is currently high risk of CSE. Concerns were initially raised following her spending more time out of the home, and not always being reported missing. It was reported that she was coming home intoxicated at times as late as 6am from the night before. There were further reports about her being in cars with older males and a member of staff reported that she saw her handing something over to an older male. There have been recent reports that she is in a relationship with a 29-year-old male – she denied this and said that she was in a relationship but that the male is age appropriate.

**Child E (16) Male.**

Professionals involved.

YES worker

Salendine Nook High school

Child E lives with his grandma under a Special Guardianship Order. He has resided there since he was aged 4. Grandma is a practising Jehovah Witness. Child E does not follow this religion. Risks in relation to mother’s care centred around physical chastisement. There is a history of concerns in relation to sexualised behaviour. At age 5 Grandma found Child E accessing pornography on her phone with his cousin. Child E reported that when he used to sleep in bed with his cousin, he would invade his personal space by rubbing up against him. At age 6, another boy aged 4 reported that Child E pulled his trousers down – there was also a suggestion about a further sexual act but this was very unclear.

A contact was received in May 2022. This was following him attending a young person clinic and reporting that when he was 12, he had sex with another 12-year-old boy. He also reported that he has been meeting older men through grinder who are in their late 20’s and he has done this since he was 15.