Havering Safeguarding Children Board Multi-Agency

Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy

2016 to 2019



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# Introduction

The purpose of this three year strategy (2016 to 2019) and action plan is to create a climate and culture that encourages all partner agencies to identify all children and young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, in order to prevent them from becoming victims and to protect and safeguard all children and young people who are experiencing exploitation from further harm. This strategy recognises that the child or young person’s voice must be listened to and taken into account; that young people have the right to experience healthy relationships free of coercion, discrimination and violence; and that a child’s welfare is paramount.

There are three key areas that need to be strategically addressed in this three year period. To build on current momentum, our initial priority will be to **PROTECT** children and young people who are at risk of, victims or survivors of CSE. However this strategy and action plan identifies our plans to increase our effectiveness in how we **PREVENT** CSE and **PROSECUTE** those responsible.

Partner agencies should focus on a child’s needs and recognise the fact that children are not always aware, recognise or acknowledge that they may be in an exploitative or abusive situation. Whilst incorporating a child and family centred approach, a focused approach towards prevention, early identification and intervention and proactively targeting, disrupting and prosecuting individuals or groups who seek to exploit children will be adopted.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a criminal act that has a devastating impact upon children and young people. Prominent national case reviews of the prevalence of CSE have concluded that there will be children and young people at risk and being sexually abused and exploited in most local authority areas. Central Government has given CSE the status of one of the five current national threats in the Strategic Policing Requirement so that this is prioritised by every police force. Children should always be treated as unwilling participants in CSE and it is with this in mind that a strategic approach to preventing such abuse and supporting those who have been victims of such abuse is contained within this document.

Significant joined-up working and information sharing already takes place between local authority children’s services, the police, health services and other agencies to identify and address CSE in Havering. This is evident from the representation of partner agencies in the Virtual Team and the MASE and the work which they have completed to date

# Havering Safeguarding Children’s Board Vision

**The vision and purpose of this strategy is to ensure that:**

* All relevant professionals have a good understanding of the prevalence, risk factors and indicators of CSE in their area and have a good understanding of the referral pathways to use when they are concerned about a child.
* Children and young people, parents and carers and members of the wider community have increased awareness of CSE.
* Children and young people at risk of CSE and other related risks are identified and effectively supported to prevent them from becoming victims of exploitation.
* Victims of exploitation are supported towards positive outcomes.
* The activities of perpetrators are either effectively disrupted or result in successful prosecutions.
* There are three key areas that need to be strategically addressed. To build on current momentum, our initial priority will be to **PROTECT** children and young people who are at risk of, victims or survivors of CSE. However this strategy identifies our plans to increase our effectiveness in how we **PREVENT** CSE and **PROSECUTE** those responsible.
* The LSCB’s responsibilities include ensuring there is a multi-agency CSE Strategy and action plan with standard procedures and protocols. To ensure consistent best practice, we will adopt the Pan London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol March 2015.

# Child Sexual Exploitation - Definition and Models of Exploitation

Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The sexual exploitation of children and young people is a form of child sexual abuse. Working Together to Safeguard Children1 (2006) describes sexual abuse as follows:

‘Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual online images, watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.’

This guidance uses the following description 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 them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person’s limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.*

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.

Types of Child Sexual Exploitation

The act of CSE is generally a hidden activity and is much more likely to occur in private dwellings than in public venues. However, the act or method of coercion by the perpetrator(s) can take place on the streets. The following examples describe the different types of exploitation offender’s use and how children can be coerced:

Institutional Exploitation

Sexual exploitation is both a cause and consequence of children going missing. Looked-after children are clearly a particularly vulnerable group and the source of a disproportionately large amount of missing reports. Children enter the care system for a variety of reasons and as a result they commonly enter with their own sets of problems and issues. Indeed, such children may already have a history of going missing. The specific system of institutional care, particularly outside of a family setting, has its own push factors. For example, looked-after children may seek affection and love elsewhere. This vulnerability can be specifically targeted by groomers for exploitation.

Peer on Peer Exploitation

Young people can be sexually exploited by people of a similar age as well as adults. Young people can be exploited by their peers in a number of ways. In some cases both young women and young men, who have been exploited themselves by adults or peers, will recruit other young people to be abused. In other instances, sexual bullying in schools and other social settings can result in the sexual exploitation of young people by their peers. Sexual exploitation also occurs within and between street gangs, where sex is used in exchange for safety, protection, drugs and simply belonging. For 16 and 17 year olds who are in abusive relationships, what may appear to be a case of domestic violence may also involve sexual exploitation. In all cases of peer-on-peer exploitation, a power imbalance will still inform the relationship, but this inequality will not necessarily be the result of an age gap between the abuser and the abused.

Familial

Young people can be individually exploited, or it may also involve other family members. The motivation is often financial and can involve substance use. Parents or family members control and facilitate the exploitation.

Opportunistic

This may occur quickly and without any form of grooming. Typically older males identify vulnerable young people who may already have a history of being groomed or sexually abused. The perpetrator will offer a young person a ‘reward’ or payment in exchange for sexual acts. The perpetrator is often linked with a network of abusive adults.

On-Line CSE

New technologies and social networking tools and platforms, chat rooms, dating sites or online gaming, present further opportunities for social interaction. They also bring new risks and increase the opportunity for offenders to target vulnerable young people. Offenders access social media platforms, for example, Facebook, Blackberry messaging (BBM); Snapchat; Kik and Twitter to identify young people whom they can groom.

Technology can facilitate sexual exploitation of children. Where abusive images have been posted on, or shared via, the internet, there is little control over who can access them. This can lead to repeat victimisation. The NWG Network 2013study, [If you Shine a Light you will probably find it](http://www.nwgnetwork.org/media/pdfs/Shine-a-Light.pdf),also identified that GPS technology available for mobile devices can be used to identify the location where a photograph was taken, which may increase the risk to the victim. The software can be downloaded freely and provides the coordinates of where the digital image was taken, to within a matter of yards.

CSE can occur through the use of technology without the child realising it. For example, a child or young person is persuaded to post images of themselves on the internet and/or mobile phones. In some cases, the images are subsequently used as a bargaining tool by the perpetrators and threats of violence and intimidation are used as methods of coercion.

Offenders may use technology to exploit children and young people in the following ways:

* Harassment and bullying through text messaging.
* Purchasing mobile phones for victims and sharing their numbers among group or gang members.
* Randomly contacting children via social networking sites.
* Using ‘friends’ lists on networking sites of known victims to target children and young people.
* Viewing extreme or violent pornography and discussing it during sexual assaults.
* Posting images of victims with rival gang members to invite a sexual assault as punishment.
* Filming and distributing incidents of rape and sexual violence.
* Distributing lists of children for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The Child Exploitation On-line Protection (CEOP)[Thinkuknow](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/)website provides information for children and young people on how they can protect themselves online. Parents, carers and teachers can also use the website to understand how they can help to protect children in their care while they are using the internet.

Boyfriend Model

* Here the offender befriends and grooms a young person into a ‘relationship’ and then coerces or forces them to have sex with friends or associates. The boyfriend may be significantly older than the victim, but not always.

Organised/Networked sexual exploitation or trafficking

* Trafficking where young people are moved away from their locality, home town or from abroad to other locations, for the purpose of sexual exploitation

Gangs and Groups

The Office of the Children’s Commissioner has defined CSE in gangs and groups in its [2013 report](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/force_download.php?fp=%2Fclient_assets%2Fcp%2Fpublication%2F743%2FIf_only_someone_had_listened_Office_of_the_Childrens_Commissioners_Inquiry_into_Child_Sexual_Exploitation_in_Gangs_and_Groups.pdf). This includes:

* **Gangs** – mainly comprising men and boys aged 13-25 years old, who take part in many forms of criminal activity (e.g. knife crime or robbery) who can engage in violence against other gangs, and who have identifiable markers, for example a territory, a name, or sometimes clothing.
* **Groups** – involves peoplewho come together in person or online for the purpose of setting up, co-ordinating and/or taking part in the sexual exploitation of children in either an organised or opportunistic way.
* **Gang Associate -** An individual can be gang associated for one or more of the following reasons. They:
* Offend with or for gang members, either willingly or through coercion or exploitation but do not identify themselves as a gang member and there is no other corroborative information that they are a gang member.
* Associate with gang members. This is known by police, partner agencies and/or community intelligence.
* Have shown, through their conduct or behaviour, a specific desire or intent to become a member of a gang.
* They are a family member, friend or are otherwise connected to a gang member, but are not a gang member themselves.

Young people associated with a gang are at risk of being sexually exploited by that gang. Sexual violence may result because rape and sexual assault is carried out as part of a conflict between rival gangs, for example the sister of a gang member may be raped as a way of attacking her brother by proxy. Sexual violence may be used as a form of punishment to fellow gang members and/or a means of gaining status within the hierarchy of the gang.

# Who is at Risk

How do children and young people become involved?

The reasons can be due to numerous factors. Often vulnerable children and young people are targeted by perpetrators; however, this is not exclusive to those who are vulnerable. Perpetrators frequently target children and young people at venues such as; hostels, food outlets, taxi ranks and outside schools.

Some children or young people do not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and do not see themselves as victims of exploitation, as they consider they have acted voluntarily. The reality is their behaviour is not voluntary or consenting. It is important to remember that a child cannot consent to his or her own abuse.

There is a link between trafficked children and CSE. Children are known to be trafficked for sexual exploitation and this can occur anywhere within the UK, across local authority boundaries and across international borders.

How do we know who is at risk?

There are a number of indicators that may evidence a child or young person is being groomed for sexual exploitation:

* Who going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late: unhappy and lonely young people can be flattered and seduced by the attention of streetwise adults who appear to sympathise with them.
* Who are disengaging from education: young people who are not in school during the day may be more at risk of sexual exploitation. Children who are becoming involved in this activity may begin to skip school or become disruptive.
* Often appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions: children who appear to have new clothes, jewellery, mobile phones or money that cannot plausibly be accounted for.
* Have peers and friends who are also involved in exploitation and with older boyfriends/girlfriends.
* Have sexual health issues: a history of unprotected sex leading to sexually transmitted infections or inappropriate sexual behaviour.
* May exhibit changes in temperament/depression: mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing can be related to being involved in sexual exploitation.
* Misuse drug and alcohol: this may leave children more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, and abusers may use drugs and alcohol to help control children.
* Display inappropriate sexualised behaviours, such as being over familiar with strangers or sending sexualised images via the internet or mobile phones.
* Have involvement in exploitative relationships or association with risky adults.

There are additional signs that might indicate that a child or young person is a victim of complex or organised sexual exploitation. A young person may describe being taken to different towns or districts, or they may be found in areas with reference to risky adults who appear to be connected to each other.

**'Push'** factors include not feeling accepted in the environment where children should be safe. Family breakdown and arguments can generate 'pushing away', as can abuse, drug and alcohol misuse by family members, and new stepfamilies moving in.

**'Pull'** factors can include being drawn into an activity outside of the home. It can vary from staying out with peers, boyfriends or girlfriends, becoming involved in drugs and alcohol, being groomed and sexually exploited or wanting freedom and independence.

**'Push' and 'Pull'** factors can overlap, they may begin running away because of a 'push' factor, which may lead them to be drawn onto sexual exploitation.

However, it is important to be aware that Child Sexual Exploitation can happen to any child/young person or family.

Missing Children and Young People

There are clear links between children and young people who go missing from home or care settings and CSE.

Assessing situations such as missing children goes beyond the simplicity of the actual event and needs a much more sophisticated approach. Agencies need to be mindful of the fact that the focus on the number of occasions where a child goes missing is not as important as why they go missing and the increased risks they face when they do. Any kind of assessment must take this view, and must look at any factors which may ‘push’ or ‘pull’ a child or young person into sexual exploitation. 'Push' factors are exactly what you'd expect - they're things that push a child away from home. They include not feeling accepted in the environment where children should be safe and happy. Family breakdown and arguments can generate 'pushing away', as can abuse, drug and alcohol misuse by family members, and new stepfamilies moving in.

The factors that 'pull' young people from home can include being pulled into an activity outside of their home. It can vary from staying out with peers, boyfriends or girlfriends, becoming involved in drugs and alcohol, being groomed and sexually exploited or wanting freedom and independence.

For some young people, they may begin running away because of a 'push' factor, such as abuse within their home. However, once they regularly run away they may become involved in sexual exploitation. Therefore 'push' and 'pull' factors can overlap.

Children Missing School/Education and link to Children at Risk of Sexual Exploitation

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. Children missing education (CME) are at significant risk of CSE, underachieving, being victims of abuse, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later on in life.

The Local Authority employs a Children Missing Education Officer (CME) who maintains a database in relation to CME cases. The data in the CME database is currently being transferred to the CCM system.  A termly report is presented to the Children’s Services Improvement Board by the Education Inclusion and Support Manager in relation to new cases, cases resolved and remaining open. The children missing from Education protocol explains the reason why children may be recorded, at times, as missing from education. It also sets out the protocols within Havering that exist to ensure any children reported as potentially ‘Missing from Education’ are quickly identified and appropriate actions are taken.

Havering’s Education Inclusion and Support Team has a dedicated Children Missing from Education (CME) Officer who logs all reports of children reported as missing education and investigates all such reports. The CME Officer works closely with the Elective Home Education Officer, who maintains a database of children whose parents have opted to educate outside the state funded education sector.

Children and young people’s school attendance is monitored via the Attendance and Behaviour Team, which includes a dedicated Gypsy/Traveller adviser, CME Officer and Child Employment/Entertainment Licencing Officer. Data show that fixed term exclusions are below national averages and permanent exclusions are falling this year. Attendance data all show improving trends over the past three years. EIS team officers work closely with Children’s Services officers, including the Early Help team and Social Workers. The team have also recently been given access to CCM so that information about common children/families being supported can be shared more effectively.

The Virtual School has support from a specialist Looked After Children Attendance and Behaviour Officer who tracks any instances of exclusion of LAC pupils. Designated teachers are contacted and support is offered where needed by the AP co-ordinator and vulnerable children’s co-ordinator to avoid disengagement from education. Children who go missing from education are referred to the Local Authority and partner agencies Virtual Team. The children and young people will be discussed at the Virtual Team Meeting to determine their level of risk and vulnerability particularly in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation. Meeting minutes and actions will be completed at the conclusion of the Virtual Team meeting and provided to the lead professional for the child.

Havering’s missing from home and care protocol can be accessed via the following link:

<http://haveringchild.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html?zoom_highlight=miscellaneous>

CSE Categories of Risk:

The Association of Chief Police Officers and London Safeguarding Children Board have agreed an operating protocol which includes three levels of risk based on a range of indicators. This framework will be used when assessing the required response towards young people thought to be at risk of CSE:

**Police Category 1**

A vulnerable child or young person, where there are concerns they are being targeted and groomed and where any vulnerability factors have been identified. However, at this stage there is no evidence of any offences.

**Police Category 2**

Evidence a child or young person is being targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for drugs, perceived affection, sense of belonging, accommodation (overnight stays), money and goods etc. The likelihood of coercion and control is significant.

**Police Category 3**

A child or young person whose sexual exploitation is habitual, often self-denied and where coercion or control is implicit.

Young people assessed as being in Categories 1-3 will be provided with a range of services from relevant agencies informed by the specific needs of each cases. Specialist police interventions from the Child Sexual Exploitation teams will be provided for cases assessed as being in Categories 2-3.

CSE Warning Signs

**Sexual health and behaviour**

**Absent from school or repeatedly running away**

**Familial abuse and/or problems at home**

**Emotional and physical condition**

**Gangs, older age groups and involvement in crime**

**Use of technology and sexual bullying**

**Alcohol and drug misuse**

**Receipt of unexplained gifts or money**

**Distrust of authority figures**

# London Borough of Havering Strategy and Approach

The Local CSE Strategy

The local CSE strategy involves a multi-agency approach to addressing CSE in London Borough of Havering and consists of five key strategic objectives:

* Collect data to analyse prevalence and identify hot spots
* Prevention: Protection and Prosecution
* Prevent; Public Confidence and Awareness
* Protect; Supporting, Safeguarding Victims and Managing Risk
* Prosecution; Pursue: Effective Investigations and Bringing offenders to Justice

Collect data to analyse prevalence and identify hot spots

Gathering information is vital as it helps to capture themes and patterns which can be used to develop practice and improve the lives of children and young people. The London Borough of Havering is fortunate to have a CSE problem profile as not every Local Authority in the UK has one and it is a key strategic document for agencies who are signed up to Havering’s information sharing protocols. The CSE problem profile has been completed by an analyst employed by Havering’s Community Safety Partnership.

The purpose of Havering’s Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Problem Profile is to understand the nature and extent of CSE in the borough of Havering using all available information. Using the available information, the profile summarises the key findings, makes recommendations relevant to these key findings, and identifies gaps in local information and/or how that information is recorded. This profile aims to establish opportunities for improved data sharing and collection between partners.

Prevention, Protection and Prosecution

The need to target, prosecute and disrupt those sexual predators that are responsible for the grooming and exploitation of children and young people is paramount. Given the under reported nature of child sexual exploitation, it is crucial that young people, families and carers, professionals and the community share intelligence on perpetrators, no matter how insignificant the information may seem, to the authorities.

Prevent; Public Confidence and Awareness

Child Sexual exploitation takes place within our communities, it is important that we engage and raise awareness of those at risk of CSE to prevent children from becoming victims. It is critical to victim and public confidence that the multi-agency partnership is reflected accurately through the media and other public facing communication methods.

Protect; Supporting, Safeguarding Victims and Managing Risk

The absolute priority for the multi-agency partnership is to identify and protect children and young people at risk of or subject of sexual exploitation and to safeguard, support and prevent them from further harm.

Prosecution; Pursue: Effective Investigations and Bringing offenders to Justice

Tackling offending behaviour is critical to the effective prevention of CSE and protection of victims; this will be delivered through professional investigation, effective identification and targeting of perpetrators (including potential perpetrators) and robust offender management. If there is evidence that the person does present an immediate risk (i.e. has a risk to children status) other legal actions would be considered; for example Emergency Protection Order or Police Protection to ensure the young person is removed. Where the young person is subject to a Care Order, then again different legal actions can be applied, in terms of Recovery Orders (Sections 49-50 Children Act, 2004).

# CSE prevalence and response within Havering:

A CSE problem profile has been developed, which provides the HSCB with a foundation to develop a service response to need. The problem profile is updated twice a year by the Havering Community Safety Partnership (HCSP).

Havering’s CSE Problem profile shows that the ‘Boyfriend Model’ and ‘Online CSE’ are the two most prevalent models used by perpetrators in Havering and that in 80% of these cases, the victims were females between the ages of 12-16. The perpetrator models do vary over time as a result of disruption and displacement activity, so it is important for each agency to be aware of the most up to date version of the Havering CSE profile so that our interventions are correctly tailored for children and young people across the Borough.

The Pan London Protocol sets out the guidance which Local Authorities and partner agencies need to adhere to when responding to children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation. The Pan London Protocol can be accessed via the following link: [*Pan-London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol*](http://content.met.police.uk/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadername1=Content-Type&blobheadername2=Content-Disposition&blobheadervalue1=application%2Fpdf&blobheadervalue2=inline%3B+filename%3D%22377%2F10%2FThe+London+Revised+CSE+Operating+Protocol+2nd+Edition.pdf%22&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1283910116288&ssbinary=true)

Prevention, Protection and Raising Awareness

To enable prevention of CSE it is important that we raise awareness of CSE to all staff working with and alongside children and young people.

Early Help

Havering’s Early Help Service plays a critical role in preventing CSE by raising awareness and teaching others to spot the early signs, means we will effectively identify the child is in need of support rather than reacting to it later. Effective Early help relies on all agencies within the HSCB to work together to identify children and families in need of early intervention to improve the outcomes for the child. Children and families who need support from a wide range of services/agencies will be directed to the CSE Virtual team within the council to discuss which services are required.

Early Help staff have undertaken CSE training provided by Social Care and the LSCB, providing knowledge and skills to those staff to be able to ask relevant questions whilst carrying out an Early Help assessment to gather information. Early Help is a member of the virtual CSE team and plays a part in sharing information and discussing cases.

Resilience work is being delivered to ensure that all young people keep themselves safe and are able to spot the dangers of grooming or exploitation. Early Help staff are aware of and adhere to the escalation process within Early Help which would see them step up cases to the MASH service if there were clear signs of significant CSE. Senior Early Help managers support and assist with oversight of cases and identifying cases which may have elements of CSE.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The establishment of the Local Authority’s MASH is an opportunity to develop a single point of coordination of all referrals in relation to CSE and develop a better understanding of the level of need in Havering. MASH enables key agencies to come together to share information and intelligence, and to respond consistently to individual cases. This will ensure that the aforementioned common thresholds and categorisation for interventions in response to CSE will be consistently adhered to.

As information has previously been gathered in a range of locations by different agencies, the role of MASH as the key hub where information is coordinated and processed needs to be emphasised. This will also ensure that children who are referred for reasons other than suspected involvement in CSE might also be highlighted if information from other agencies suggests that CSE may indeed be a risk. In addition, another key function of MASH will be to coordinate and present information in relation to networks of, and relationships between young people involved in CSE and their abusers.

#

Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Group

The LB Havering MASE is a monthly meeting co-chaired by the Romford Police Detective Inspector and the Local Authority Head of the Intervention and Support Service in Havering. Its main purpose is to develop and maintain a detailed overview of the profile of CSE in the borough. This is to ensure that any risk to the child has been managed in a timely and appropriate manner as well as enabling the MASE meeting to maintain a strategic overview of CSE. Cases discussed at MASE should reflect concerns about CSE rather than other needs or behaviours.

MASE meetings provide an opportunity to share information and intelligence in relation to CSE as well as to:

* Provide a multi-agency response to operational issues.
* Review progress on individual cases
* Oversee prevention activity
* Review the profile of CSE
* Identify any trends or “hotspots” where CSE appears to be a particular issue
* Ensuring the disruption and prosecution activity is implemented and effective
* Ensure coordinated approaches with other boroughs where required, including where looked after children are placed out of authority and at risk of CSE.

The Multi-Agency Virtual Team

The multi-agency Virtual Team offers a key role in reviewing victim and perpetrator information; agreeing thresholds for intervening and devising a multi-agency safeguarding and intervention plan for the child or young person. To facilitate a full understanding and discussion of the level of risk to children and young people who are referred to the Virtual Team, practitioners should complete the Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool.

Strategy/Multi-Agency Professionals Meetings (MAP)

These meetings will be convened by the lead agency, often Children’s Services, as specified by the London Child Protection Procedures. The meeting will also include those professionals who are working with the individual victims to coordinate and deliver a child in need or child protection plan. The meeting will manage identified cases of CSE, share all relevant information and agree a plan to safeguard the individual child to achieve a positive outcome. For those children that are placed out of borough, Cross borough strategy/MAP meetings should be established where required. The CSE & Missing Person’s Co-Ordinator in Children’s Services should have an overview of these cases and feed trends into the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation meeting.

Missing Children and CSE Working Group

The Missing Children and CSE Working Group is the core location for raising awareness of CSE to all professionals, whilst identifying and responding to children and young people who have been vulnerable to CSE, including those children missing. The HSCB offers training to ensure all professionals are fully conversant in identifying and helping those children and risk or who are already involved in CSE.

Operation MakeSafe

Operation Makesafe is active across the Borough targeting licensed premises, hotels, licensed taxi companies, public transport (buses) and B&B’s to raise awareness of CSE. The purpose of Operation Makesafe is to maintain awareness of CSE in the forefront of community members who work in areas where children come to notice as being exploited. Police have visited a number of schools in the borough to raise awareness of the dangers of CSE. Over the last year, ARC Theatre group have run four FGM awareness sessions for school staff, which has been attended by Heads and senior staff from all phases, which has resulted in referrals being raised. At the start of November 2015 a specific whole school safeguarding policy for FGM was issued to all schools in the borough, and has since been put on the Havering Education Service Portal. Staff and parents at the schools are aware of Child Sexual Exploitation and how to report it. As for deliveries to pupils, this has been taken on by the school as part of the PHSE (personal, social, health and economic) plan, which also includes a police input on sexting/social media.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy

The Violence against Women and Girls Strategy has been produced by the Community Safety Team on behalf of the Havering Community Safety Partnership. It sets out the plans and actions that the partnership aspires to as a result of this year’s Violence against Women and Girls problem profile and related Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapters for domestic violence and sexual violence. These documents are an analysis of the risk, prevalence and harm of violence against women and girls in Havering. VAWG accounts for the greatest socio-economic cost to community safety partnership services in Havering. Domestic violence also accounts for a third of all physical violence reported to agencies, even despite high levels of underreporting. Calls to police alone occur at a rate of 1 every 87 minutes in Havering. The last Crime Survey for England and Wales found that 31% of all women (and 18% of all men) had reported experiencing domestic abuse which means there are potentially 30,000 survivors of domestic abuse currently residing in Havering.

The VAWG strategy can be accessed by the following link:

CSE training

CSE multi-agency training is provided through the Havering Safeguarding Children’s Board multi-agency training programme. The courses on offer are available to all multi-agency practitioners who work with children and families across

The CSE training enables officers to identify potential victims of CSE, recognise issues relating to perpetrators and gangs, understand the grooming process and consider the attitudes and perspectives that shape our understanding of CSE and the potential adverse effects of these on working with CSE issues.

Add hyperlink from HSCB

## Approaches to Looked After Children

National investigations (Rotherham / Rochdale / Derby) have indicated that children in care, especially those placed out of the local authority area, are particularly vulnerable to CSE. Although CSE doesn’t affect all Looked after Children (LAC), Foster carers and potential adopters should be aware of the indicators and risks relating to CSE and be able to provide support and guidance for children they care for.

The initial responsibility to respond to any concerns about CSE is held by the Local Authority in which the child resides, as per the London Child Protection Procedures. Good practice supports a discussion between “home” and “host” Local Authority where a child or young person is placed out of borough.

The arrangements for a Child Protection investigation need to be clearly set out between Local Authorities, in writing, in relation to safeguarding and care planning arrangements where a child has been identified as at immediate risk of harm or where they have suffered actual significant harm.

The child’s allocated social worker has a significant role in maintaining regular, effective contact with young people regardless of where they are placed. Along with Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) they also have a major role in relation to engaging and monitoring the views and behaviour of the young people concerned, as well as ensuring effective communication with their carers. Children’s social workers would be expected to attend any relevant local planning meetings in other authorities that take place in relation to CSE.

To reinforce robust oversight of these children and their placements, the following procedures are followed:

* The local authority must ensure that formal notifications to the “host” authority take place when Looked After Children are placed out of borough.
* The local authority placements team maintain a record of LAC placed with independent private and voluntary providers out of borough.
* The local authority placements team carry out specific checks before placing young people in such placements including the number of missing episodes recorded and any safeguarding issues. The views of other placing authorities are always sought before using a new resource.
* A risk assessment is carried out in relation to each young person before they are placed in a particular resource. This will include consideration of risks posed by or to other young people already placed as well as known risks in the vicinity of the placement.

## Young people involved in gangs or serious youth violence

A notable change in the CSE models is the increase in the proportion identified as organised networks and exploitative groups such as gangs, another link can therefore be seen between gang activity and the increase in CSE nationally. CSE remains a focus of the Serious Youth Violence Panel held monthly which considers female and male victims of CSE that may be affected by gang culture and serious youth violence.

The main priorities of street gangs usually include protecting territory, selling drugs or involvement in a range of other crimes. However, recent research has identified the prevalence of sexual violence within or between such gangs. Gang-associated sexual exploitation has many similarities to wider CSE but has specific characteristics including the use of rape as a weapon in gang conflict or as a punishment.

Young girls may be expected to offer sex to achieve status, to gain protection or as part of the initiation into the gang. There is also a risk that boys could be exploited through being coerced into initiation rituals which include sexual activity.

To ensure that this aspect of CSE has a high profile, a representative from the Community Safety Team attends the MASE meeting to raise the profile of young people affected. Intelligence about known gang activity and perpetrators will be provided from the MASH gang’s researcher, the Youth Offending Group Manager and local authority Sexual Exploitation Virtual Team. Effective information sharing arrangements with strategic groups addressing gang-related issues in their respective boroughs will be developed.

In response to the Home Office Gang and Youth Violence Report on Havering (November 2015), Havering is looking to raise the general awareness of the county lines issue within Children’s Services and with partners. Havering is building intelligence on the county lines they are part of and cross boundary intelligence. Havering hopes to build on the soft intelligence gained from MISPERs in return home interviews to inform our understanding of county lines, CSE and Gangs.

There appears to be linkages between cohorts involved in gangs, CSE, drugs and county lines exploitation but more intelligence needs to be gathered. The creation and distribution of problem profiles, to summarise emerging issues, is helping to inform practice and highlight the importance of improved multi agency working, information sharing, joint planning and practical support for practitioners and families.

Collaborative working is being encouraged between Youth Offending Service (YOS), Early Help, Children Social Care and Education so that appropriate support and interventions can be better targeted. Building intelligence by sharing data within the organisation and the Police is a key priority in ensuring practice is driven by informed decision making and effective partnership working.

# Support for Children and Young people

Schools, parents and voluntary sector agencies play a significant role in preventing vulnerable children and young people from becoming involved in activities which could result in CSE. All agencies will clearly highlight the services they offer for those children at risk of CSE, and make them easily accessible for anyone wanting to access them. By providing training on CSE to school teachers, parents, external agencies, children and young people will highlight clear messages about the quality of relationships that young people should expect, as well as raising awareness and understanding of technology safety and age appropriate online behaviour.

# Measures of Success

Members of the HSCB have a strategic role within their agencies in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Children. They must have the authority and experience within their agency to enable them to speak for their agency with authority to commit their agency on matters of policy and practice and hold their agency to account.

The HSCB agencies work closely together to improve the identification of and support for victims of CSE. They are able to do this by ensuring:

* There is a consistent response to CSE across the partnership
* There is a clear multi-agency understanding of categories of CSE, which will be identified through referral data
* A robust multi-agency dataset is in place
* Evidence of effective multi-agency partnership working is established
* Children and young people are protected and feel safe
* The workforce are trained

The HSCB will develop a CSE Action plan, which will be monitored at the Missing Children and CSE working group. Outcomes from this action plan will be reported up the Governance structure as outlined below.

# Governance

The Havering CSE working group is chaired by the Director of Children’s Services and the group’s role is to work collaboratively to ensure that operational processes and working arrangements are effective to ensure that children and young people at risk of being sexually exploited are safeguarded. The CSE working group has responsibility for and oversight of the CSE action plan to ensure that the plan is up to date and reflects level of need and risk and that agency actions and priorities are being progressed.

The HSCB has a role and responsibility to have an oversight of safeguarding within the London Borough of Havering. The action plan sets out their role and responsibility in terms of providing an annual report for scrutiny by elected members. All agencies have a responsibility to fulfil their obligations in providing information to inform the annual report.

# Conclusion

This strategy outlines the process that HSCB will work with to understand the prevalence of CSE with Havering and the multi-agency service response to need. It has been developed to establish a platform by which HSCB can clearly see what needs to be achieved, the processes and techniques which should be used and a method by which success can be measured.

Havering Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy

September 2016

**Glossary of Terms**

1. **CSE** – Child Sexual Exploitation
2. **MASE** – multi-agency sexual exploitation
3. **LSCB** – Local Safeguarding Children’s Board
4. **CRIS** – police database to record crime
5. **CCM** – Social Care data base to record service users
6. **SAFEGUARD** – CSE warning signs acronym
7. **CBO –** Criminal Behavioural Order
8. **LAC –** looked after children
9. **RHI –** return home interviews
10. **HSCB –** Havering Safeguarding Children’s Board
11. **MASH** – Multi-Agency safeguarding Hub
12. **S47 Enquiry** – Child Protection Enquiry
13. **YP** – Young person
14. **VT**- Virtual Team
15. **SW**- Social worker
16. **TM** – Team Manager
17. **LPM** – Legal planning meeting