Introduction

The Children at Risk of Exploitation (CRE) strategy aims to ensure that CRE is understood across Derbyshire and Derby City local authorities and is intrinsic in the safeguarding responsibility of all partners. The Safeguarding Children Board will seek to create an environment where the exploitation of children is identified, challenged and prevented across the whole County and City areas. The traction and success of the strategy will be driven by the Action Plan developed on behalf of the Derby City and Derbyshire County Safeguarding Children Board.

There will be increased awareness raising with all children and their families to inform them of the types of child exploitation and how support and protection can be delivered.

Our vision is to ensure that children, young people and their families whose lives are affected by exploitation will receive a high level of support, protection, and that offenders are held accountable for their actions, and brought to justice.

This Children at Risk of Exploitation strategy will focus on the following priorities:

1. Strong Leadership and Partnership approach
2. That a young person may continue to require support until the age of 25.
3. Participation of children and young people in their meetings
4. Identification
5. Prevention and Early Intervention
6. Cross Cutting Approach
7. Disruption, protection and prosecution
8. Recovery

Definition of Exploitation

It is recognised that children may now be affected by ‘modern day risks’ and that exploitation does not recognise race, ability, disability, sexual orientation, gender or class and all children are vulnerable to exploitation. While exploitation is child abuse, this strategy will no longer identify Child Sexual Exploitation as a single risk as research informs that children are at risk of a myriad of exploitative behaviours in modern day society and may move between these dependent on their level of need. Exploitation may be evident through a range of behaviours including:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Forced Marriage and Honour Base Violence
• Trafficking and County Lines¹(1)
• Modern Day Slavery
• Extremism and Radicalisation
• Poor mental health
• Missing and homelessness
• Cyber and off and online abuse
• Gang related activity

National context
CRE is a growing concern across the country and both government and local authorities have all seen the impact that exploitation has had on children. Through research, lessons learnt activity along with local and national intelligence, local authorities have a better understanding of how sexual exploitation links to other behaviours which put children at risk of exploitative harm.

Responses in Derby and Derbyshire
The CRE Young People’s sub group will be responsible for developing and implementing an action plan to deliver the above aims with objectives to identify, prevent, protect, prosecute and recovery on behalf of the Safeguarding Children Boards. Each agency will include relevant aspects of the strategy and action plan in their own service or business plans.

The Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) will maintain and review CRE procedures and deliver the necessary multi-agency training to develop managers and practitioners and improve practice.

The Priority 1: Strong Leadership
The focus of this strategic priority is recognition of the importance of ongoing strong leadership to successfully tackle CRE. This is especially so from Political leaders, Chief Executives and senior managers in all organisations, together with leaders within partner agencies.

Participation of young people, the two LSCBs and partner agencies seek to work together to reduce the level of risk and harm from exploitation equally through:

• Promoting attendance at Strategy Meetings
• Guidance leaflets
• Seeking feedback
• Publicity campaigns

¹ County lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines”. It involves child criminal exploitation (CCE) as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money. Gangs establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force or coercion in a practice referred to as ‘cuckooing’.
Priority 2: Participation of children and young people in meetings

The focus of this priority is to ensure that all children who are subject to or at risk of exploitation have a clear voice which is heard by those working with them. This will be especially the case for children who attend child sexual exploitation meetings. The response to exploitation will be shaped by research and what children tell us about their experiences. For those meetings where children do not attend there will be an expectation that their views and opinions are recorded.

Our work will be evaluated by children and young people and their families to ensure services are effective in meeting the identified needs.

Priority 3: Identification

To identify those at risk of experiencing exploitation and those who exploit we will ensure robust partnership arrangements continue to be developed. There will be multi-agency meetings where data and intelligence is shared to identify exploitation and create an accurate and comprehensive mapping of local issues. This will include the connection with children who go missing from home or care.

Priority 4: Prevention and Early Intervention

The focus of this priority is to ensure that professionals and residents in the two local authorities live and work in an environment that promotes healthy relationships and friendships, gender equality, and safeguarding, preventing the sexual exploitation of children as a result, and building the resilience of those who are more vulnerable.

The awareness raising of CRE within the wider community, including parents and carers through education, campaigns, within schools and private services including the night time economy to build resilience and strengthen protective factors. We will continue to develop the work undertaken with taxi and PSV drivers as well as with hoteliers and door staff along with other licensees under the National Working Group (NWG) banner of Say Something If You See Something campaign.

The aim of the campaign is to engage and empower partners, businesses and the public to recognise and report CRE, the campaign will also highlight the risk of children becoming victims of modern day slavery. Further work will be undertaken with staff and partners to raise awareness of, and encourage referrals into the Police Operation Liberty. Such awareness promotes the ability to help drive down tolerance and prevents opportunities for exploitation.
**Priority 5: Cross Cutting Approach**

This priority will seek to ensure that robust multi-agency responses will continue to be developed at a strategic and operational level underpinned by an effective strategy and action plan with an objective to:

- Engage children, young people and their parents and carers to ensure services are effective in meeting identified needs.
- Develop and strengthen our partnership arrangements to ensure that children and young people vulnerable to CRE are the focus of all key children strategies. To ensure that partnership arrangements have a consistent and integrated approach to issues affecting children and young people in relation to other identified risks.

**Priority 6: Disruption, Protection and Prosecution**

The focus of this priority is to ensure that children who are at risk of, or are being, exploited are provided with sufficient information to raise awareness of modern day risks through enhancing their knowledge in line with their age and understanding. We will put protective measures in place to safeguard children from harm and to ensure that offenders are brought to justice. The strategy will seek to Disrupt, Protect and Prosecute.

**Disruption:**

- Enhance children’s awareness of exploitation including online abuse.
- Support children who may be more vulnerable of exploitation.
- Improve the staff awareness across all agencies.
- Promote corporate and community understanding and responsibility.
- Prevent opportunities for offenders, using shared intelligence and focus on identified hot spots.
- Agencies utilising all legal measures available to them to disrupt predatory behaviours with better use of Child Warning Abduction Notices (CAWN) to support prosecution and conviction.

**Protection:**

- Early interventions to identify CRE are implemented as quickly as possible.
- Intervention to be targeted, assertive and persistent through risk assessment and analysis.
- Ensure that children have their needs assessed and the level of risk established, though approved tool kits, risk assessment and solution focussed intervention.
- Are protected through a multi-agency plan at an appropriate level.
- Are supported to work with others to reduce or remove risk.
- Targeted training and supervision within the workforce to develop skills and knowledge.

Prosecution:

- Maximising the detection and prosecution of offenders through identification of perpetrator behaviours and areas of risk.
- Effective evidence gathering.
- Effective prosecutions of offenders.
- Support to victims and witnesses in prosecutions.
- Disrupting perpetrator behaviour, including use of ancillary orders, with identified individuals and working with our partner agencies to promote this.

Priority 7: Recovery

This priority will seek to ensure that CRE are provided with the care and intervention to enable them to develop into young people and adults who are able to engage in healthy trusting relationships. Where additional support is identified we will make provision available through multi-agency partnerships for personal and/or therapeutic support for children and young people.

Some young people may also have needs which extend beyond their 18th birthday; this strategy will link to adult safeguarding processes. This cross-cutting approach will be co-ordinated and overseen by the LSCBs sub group to which the CSE operational group reports. Agencies also need to work across Local Authority and national borders as young people can be very mobile, or can be subject to trafficking.

Monitoring, reporting, evaluation and success

The LSCBs have a responsibility to monitor the incidence of specific vulnerabilities affecting children and young people. Agencies will need to supply performance and monitoring information as required to the CRE sub-groups, for analysis and submission to the Board to promote our ability to reflect on learning and to develop our Action Plan. In order to comply with national guidance the CRE co-ordinators will compile a CRE annual report for the Boards and partner agencies, this will include specific information on CSE in addition to information on other vulnerabilities children have been exposed. The report will be published on the LSCB websites.
# References and Key reports

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2013</td>
<td>If only someone had listened: Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups Final Report</td>
<td><a href="https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/if-only-someone-had-listened/">https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/if-only-someone-had-listened/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2014</td>
<td>Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care Roles and responsibilities when a child goes missing from care and organisational flowchart (Department of Education)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-who-run-away-or-go-missing-from-home-or-care">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-who-run-away-or-go-missing-from-home-or-care</a></td>
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<td>Oct 2015</td>
<td>“If it’s not better, it’s not the end” – Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups: One year on</td>
<td><a href="https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/if-its-not-better-its-not-the-end/">https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/if-its-not-better-its-not-the-end/</a></td>
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<td>Derbyshire Integrated Sexual Health Service – Your Sexual Health Matters <a href="https://www.yoursexualhealthmatters.org.uk/">https://www.yoursexualhealthmatters.org.uk/</a></td>
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<td>CGL drug and alcohol outreach service for young people up to the age of 19 in Derbyshire <a href="https://www.changegrowlive.org/young-people/derbyshire-cgl-young-peoples-service">https://www.changegrowlive.org/young-people/derbyshire-cgl-young-peoples-service</a></td>
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