

People Directorate  
May 2015

## Sexual Exploitation

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### Position statement

#### Context

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) has a refreshed strategy that underpins all child sexual exploitation (CSE) practice. Multi-agency work in this area is driven by a multi-agency sub group, this group is chaired by a Detective Inspector from Northumbria police, and its work is outlined in the strategy and action plan. The sub group looks at activity in relation to Missing, Sexually Exploited and trafficked children (MSET).

The overall strategic force lead for CSE sits with a Detective Superintendent who is also a member of the SSCB. Governance of this activity is through the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board and child sexual exploitation is a priority area within its business plan. CSE is also included as a priority within Sunderland's joint strategic needs assessment and the safer partnership.

Sunderland City Council has adopted the Barnardos 'Cut them free' campaign on CSE and also the Children's Society Missing Charter, as well as being sighted on the activity of the National Working Group.

When it has been identified that a young person may be at risk of or a victim of child sexual exploitation in Sunderland, children's social care has a discussion with the CSE lead social worker. This is a senior social worker experienced in this field who also facilitates the MSET process. A vulnerability checklist and subsequent risk assessment tool is completed and reviewed by the CSE coordinator and missing/CSE police officer. If considered appropriate the child is tabled and discussed at the next multi agency meeting.

Specialist support to young people is being partially met via Children's Society project (SCARPA - Safeguarding Children At Risk Prevention and Action), a full time worker sees Sunderland children. The partnership recognises that additional capacity is needed.

Four cross-authority & multi-agency training sessions were delivered by our voluntary sector partner SCARPA during 2013/14 with approximately 70 staff from a

range of agencies attending the courses. This multi-agency training will continue during 2015 alongside a core e-learning programme that has already been accessed by nearly 350 staff. Additionally a multi-agency regional conference will be held in October. A training strategy is being developed to look at how we further support the development of additional key training in this area.

A theatre project targeted at young people named 'Chelsea's Choice' has given performances in all Sunderland schools to date. This has been a hugely successful program of activity and we are proud of the level of engagement in this area. Further funding has been agreed for this to be rolled out again during 2015.

Data monitoring and scoping activity is currently being addressed by the partnership. An electronic data solution to support child sexual exploitation work is being explored within the local authority and within the Police.

The local authority and the SSCB recently commissioned a review of CSE and are now proactively taking forward the findings of the review- this will see the implementation of a robust action plan in place and additional capacity to deliver it on behalf of the partnership. We will see significant developments in this area that will be positively supported by strategic leads across the partnership.