

AGREED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

If you need any advice support regarding a child who you believe to be at risk of CSE please contact the CSE Hub on 01274 435049 or email the CSE hub.

New referrals

- When a contact is received by Children's Initial Contact Point (CICP), a child sexual exploitation risk assessment should be attached.
- Within one working day referral is emailed to the CSE Hub. The CSE Hub Manager will make a decision about the type of response which is required and acknowledge receipt to the referrer.

Referral Outcomes

- 1. No further action** – if there are clearly no risks of CSE evident
- 2. No further action for children's social care** if CSE indicators present, Hub to refer to universal and targeted services such as Education, Hand in Hand, Barnardo's or Blast who will be the lead professional, and hold the case as a Common Assessment (CAF) or a Team Around the Child plan. Should the risk increase, it is the responsibility of the lead professional to refer the case to CICP.
- 3. Assessment required.** Assessments are intended to gather important information about a child and their risk to child sexual exploitation, including the indicators and vulnerability factors and to analyse the child's needs, determining whether the child is in need under Section 17 or Section 47 of the Children Act 1989. The assessment must be supported by an up to date CSE risk assessment. The assessment must be carried out in line with the revised Working Together (2013) guidance and the re-issued expected standards of practice guidance 9th December 2013.
 - 3.1 Assessment required under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989**
 - i. CSE Hub Manager requests case to be open and assessment carried out by area social worker or CSE social worker
 - 3.2 Assessment required under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989**
 - ii. CSE Hub Manager requests case to be open and assessment carried out by area team.
 - 3.3 Assessment must be led and managed by a qualified social worker with input and oversight of the Team Manager.**
 - 3.4 Agreed actions and recommendations at the end of the assessment must be recorded as a plan, with all relevant professionals, family members and young people and the CSE Hub informed of the outcome.**

Outcome of Assessment

1. No role for children's social care.

CSE risk assessment updated and sent to CSE Hub which includes consideration for preventative work (TAC). Author of assessment to feedback to referrer.

2. Child in Need

- iii. There should be no differential in the assessment, planning, intervention and reviewing activities for children in need. The timescales for assessing and the frequency of visiting and reviewing children in need is the same as the children who are subject to formal child protection plans. The frequency of contact will be stipulated in the Child in Need Plan but must never exceed intervals of more than **4 weeks**. This must include the allocated worker seeing the child alone every **4 weeks** between each Child In Need Meeting. Child in Need meeting will be conducted by the child's social worker every **6 weeks**. The allocated worker will seek the views of the child, parents and any service providers and members of the Hub, and they will be invited to the meeting. These meeting may be referred to as CSE meetings.
- ii. At the point where a SW wishes to close a case which has CSE concerns, the CSE manager must be notified. The CSE manager will inform the Hub managers meeting and a multi agency discussion will make a decision regarding the current CSE risk level. If the Hub is in agreement with the case closure recommendation the CSE manager will place a case note on file, copying in the SW manager recommending this action. If the CSE manager is not in agreement with the recommendation for closure a discussion between both managers will take place.

3. Child Protection

- i. When the outcome of the assessment is a recommendation for an ICPC a child protection pre-meeting report must be submitted prior to the meeting. The pre-meeting report must indicate the level of CSE risk, indicators and vulnerability factors. The pre meeting report will be shared with parents and children with their views represented, before the day of the meeting
- ii. A CSE risk assessment must be completed and sent to the Hub. Hub members must be invited to all meetings.
- iii. The procedures must be followed in line with the revised Working Together (2013) guidance and the re-issued expected standards of practice guidance 9th December 2013.

4. Looked After Children

- i. A child who is a Looked After Child and at risk of CSE will follow the same procedures as any other Looked After Child.

- ii. A risk assessment needs to be completed and sent to the Hub

All children at risk of CSE who are also Looked After and also go missing must be reported to the police as missing, this information is then referred into the CSE Hub and recorded on Liquid Logic. *Research shows vulnerability for children who are Looked After Children in residential units and are more at risk to go missing where there are CSE concerns (NSPCC)*

Consideration needs to be given when a child is looked after and at risk of CSE as to who is the child's associates where possible, if they are identified this information must be clarified with the CSE Hub. It is possible that the associates maybe contributing to the increased risk of CSE. This can be done by contacting the Hub.

When young person has been subject to a discussion at the Hub and a decision has been that an action needs to be undertaken by an area team:

i.e. strategy meeting/assessment section 47 or section 17 the case must be opened/ transferred:

1) A management decision is recorded on the case file by the CSE Manager setting out the required action that is needed, by whom and the timescale. An alerting email is also sent to the TM and SW.

2) If a response to the action is not received by the CSE manager within one working day the CSE manager will send an email to TM and copy their SM into the email.

3) If the Hub do not get a response within 3 working days, or sooner depending upon the needs and risks to the child, the CSE manager will raise this with the Service Manager responsible for the Hub in order for a discussion to take place between the relevant SM or GSM if needed.

4) If CSE risks increase and the case is currently allocated to a less experienced social worker, or a CRW the case will be reallocated to a more experienced social worker. Where this cannot be possible the case will be allocated to a less experienced social worker who will receive guidance and support from a more senior social worker. High risk cases cannot be allocated to a CRW.

5) If the CSE Hub manager identifies that a case has not been allocated to a relevant experienced worker then the matter will be discussed directly with the Service Manager.

Issued: September 2014 to all staff