Supporting and Safeguarding 16 to 18 Year Olds and Beyond

Following on from the recent work across the country regarding supporting and safeguarding 16 to 18-year olds and beyond the findings have been collated and condensed into key learning.

NWG has been requested by network members and other professionals to develop a benchmarking/self-assessment tool to support areas to consider their local response in light of national issues that have been raised regarding 16 to 18 year olds. The NWG document incorporates all the issues that have been raised regarding supporting and safeguarding 16 to 18-year olds and beyond, however it is not an exhaustive list and the tool should be seen as a ‘living document’ which may be amended or added to as emerging issues and practice come to light.

The benchmarking tool takes a multi-agency approach to the issues of safeguarding 16-18 year olds and transition. Whilst individual agencies may benefit from using the tool, it is designed for completion by a multi-agency partnership and should be completed as an exercise by Child Sexual Exploitation strategic sub groups or the appropriate local group. As a number of areas for work span both child and adult services it would be useful to involve adult safeguarding boards, adult services and ensure links are made with the work of other strategic groups such as Health and Wellbeing Boards. Findings should then be shared across the multi-agency partnership as appropriate, to ensure that change is driven forwards and that good practice is shared.

There is no prescription around the evidence required to meet the outcomes and we encourage professional judgement to be exercised by those completing the tool along with an innovative and solution focused approach.

Some of the issues raised in the benchmarking exercise do not solely impact on the 16 to 18 age group but may also impact on younger and older people. If this is the case relevant safeguarding procedures must be followed.

Progress Measures
A= in place fully achieved
B=under developed partially achieved
C= yet to be addressed, or at a very early stage of development.

The document also provides a column to record evidence.
The document also provides a column to record smart actions that are identified.
At the end of each section if you identify any actions that you need to make their will be the contact details of an NWG staff who can offer advice, support and guidance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
<th>Smart Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Language and Behaviour**

All Practitioners working children recognise that those at risk of/or experiencing sexual exploitation suffer harm and should not be criminalised.

Negative and inappropriate language regarding 16 to 18-year olds is not accepted and always challenged i.e. making lifestyle choices, street wise or drug running – when coerced/exploited into this activity.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-R3FVCEN8I

Alternative language is considered and used. Practitioners will look beyond presenting individual behaviours to examine causes.

**Addendum 1: Milton Keynes Alternative Terminology**

Contact: BINA RADCLIFFE, Bina@nwgnetwork.org  01332 585371

**Adolescent Development and Impact of Trauma**

Practitioners will undertake training to ensure they understand the impact of adolescent development and emotional maturity. This would include understanding Neuro developmental trauma.
Practitioners are trained in trauma bonding.

Practitioners are trained in (C)SE relevant attachment theory

Practitioners are trained in their role in therapeutic input along with the role of specialist therapy.

Practitioners are trained in sexual health referral processes.

**SEND Issues**

All practitioners should have an understanding of children who have learning disabilities and/or development disorders i.e. ADHD, ADD ASD etc.

All practitioners should understand the communications and learning styles of every individual they work with who has a learning disability and/or a developmental disorder.

All practitioners will be aware of how to identify sensory needs and their sensory requirements in order to be able to respond appropriately.

All practitioners will establish whether the child has or requires an Education Health Care Plan.

All practitioners to have an awareness of the necessary assessment tools when working with children who have LDD.

**Contact:** RAY McMORROW, ray@nwgnetwork.org and KEVIN MURPHY, kev@nwgnetwork.org 01332 58371
## Consent

Practitioners are aware of and use the Crown Prosecution Service definition of consent.

### Addendum 2: CPS Consent

Although young people can legally consent to sexual activity at 16 there is an acceptance that over 16’s cannot consent to being exploited.

Practitioners are aware of the need to explore the true nature of alleged or assumed consent especially in relation to coercive control and the acquiesce to consent.

Staff are aware and consider use of the Social Model of abused consent, Pearce 2013.

http://www.nwgnetwork.org/agency-structure-abused-consent-relation-young-peoples-decision-making/


There is monitoring for the rate of charging outcomes for CSE related offences for over 16’s to develop good practice and challenge where there is no consideration of prosecution.

http://cdn.basw.co.uk/upload/basw_24725-8.pdf

**Contact:** MICK HUDSON, mick@nwgnetwork.org 01332 585371
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Disruption / Legislation</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The area has a CSE Disruption Toolkit that is well promoted and staff are trained on/cognisant of the range of disruption options to safeguard and protect individuals and disrupt perpetrators.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The use of the CSE Disruption Toolkit has been reviewed with a focus on impact.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Abductions Warning Notices (CAWN’s) are used effectively and that there are procedures in place to record the number of CAWN’s issued in the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are procedures in place to record the number of Sexual Risk Orders (SRO’s) and Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO’s) issued in the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Modern Slavery Act 2015 and trafficking legislation is being used effectively and there are measures in place to record the use of this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All relevant cases are referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to ensure that their victim status is considered in relation to criminal activity. There are procedures in place to record the area numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community orders are being promoted and used as a disruption tool.</td>
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**Contact:** MICK HUDSON, mick@nwnetwork.org 01332 585371
**Raising Participation Age**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrangements are in place to support children to make a successful transition when they leave school in year 11.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robust data sharing agreements are in place to support appropriate information being shared between schools and post 16 providers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention work in post 16 provision is a strategic priority and there is a co-ordinated and evaluated approach to delivery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 16 providers are represented on the LCSB Board and appropriate sub groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrangements are in place so that Post 16 Providers inform the LA when a young person leaves 16 provisions before completing their course and these are followed up and offered support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The LCSB are aware of how many children aged 16/17 are recorded as unknown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a recognition that children aged 16/17 in the Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) group are vulnerable especially those not living in the family home.</td>
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</table>
Services are commissioned/arrangements are in place to support this group. This should be informed by a scoping exercise.

There are measures in place to ensure that no unknowns are actually hidden missing.


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## Parents Carers and Family

Public awareness raising is a strategic priority and there is a coordinated and evaluated approach to alerting members of the community, parents and carers of the risks and dangers of CSE, what signs to look for and what to do?

This is an inclusive activity that accounts for issues of equality and diversity and targets hidden or hard to reach communities.

There is awareness raising taking place to alert parents and carers of the risks and dangers of CSE and what signs to look for?

Where safe and appropriate parents and carers are involved as equal partners with professionals in the development and implementation of the protection/safety plan and the decision-making process for their child.
Parents and carers are invited and encouraged and supported to attend MASE and any other meetings for their child.

There is support offered to parents by specific CSE parent/family support workers.

If there is no specific support in place for parents, referrals are made to PACE.

Measures are in place to ensure that the parents/carers voice is always heard.

Parents and carers are made aware of the importance of passing information on to the lead worker and the police.

Parents and carers are made aware of the importance of gathering and passing on potential evidence to the police.

Contact: MARIA CASSIDY, Maria@nwgnetwork.org  01332 585371

Children’s Voice

The rights and feelings of young people are continually considered during the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Strategies and policies ensure young people are supported to make informed choices and decisions.

Young people are invited to meetings regarding their welfare and are supported to fully
participate in the meetings and decision-making process.

Practitioners are supported to listen to young people and ensure support is bespoke to the needs and wishes of individuals.

Specific provision is provided to ensure the participation and involvement of young people from marginalised groups including LGBTQ+ and BAME young people.

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**Lead Practitioner Role in CSE**

The CSE assessment tool is focused on professional judgement and analysis.

The CSE Assessment tool has been reviewed in the past 12-months.

Tools inform a solution focused safety plan which has clearly defined outcomes and timescales.

The CSE Assessment and plan are holistic and informed by multi-agency practice and a person-centred approach.

The CSE Assessment is a process and should not be time constrained.

Assessments (including pathway plans and transition assessments) are person centred, analytical and reference current research to look beyond individual behaviours to explain causes.
Transition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult services attend appropriate local (C)SE/Exploitation sub-groups.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult services are trained in the identification, response to and impact of (C)SE. They are also trained in Trafficking, Modern Slavery and National Referral Mechanism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case audits have been undertaken on children who have been a victim of/or at risk of ©SE with focus on the transition to adult services after 18.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


Local multi-agency arrangements, policies and procedures are in place to enable (C)SE victims to make the transition to make the transition from children's services into the relevant services to meet their needs.


Practitioners are aware and use the Care Act to support the transition from children to adult services.

Transition of SE victims and those at risk is a strategic priority for LCSB and LASB.
| How many children who have been at risk or have been sexually exploited have made the transition to adult services in the past 12 months. |   |   |   |

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