



Local Partnership Approach, to Criminal Exploitation

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Definitions



The partnership is committed to the following definitions:

‘We recognise that concerns exist with regard to children and young people who are used, through whatever means, to engage in criminal activity by other young people or adults who are able to coerce them to do so. The young people involved may not identify themselves as being ‘exploited’ as such, but it is clearly to their detriment that they are involved in this type of activity’ – (Knowsley Safeguarding Board, 2017)

‘County Lines is a national issue involving the use of mobile phone and train ‘lines’ by groups to extend their drug dealing business into new locations outside of their home areas. This issue affects the majority of forces. A ‘county lines’ enterprise almost always involves exploitation of vulnerable persons; this can involve both children and adults who require safeguarding’ – (National Crime Agency, 2015)

The situation in Cambridgeshire



Criminal Exploitation Cohort as identified by our Exploitation Tracker

Cambridgeshire, Criminal exploitation: 39

- Emerging risk -12
- Moderate risk – 24
- Significant risk – 3

Peterborough, Criminal exploitation: 19 (tracker on recently adopted)

- Emerging risk: 0
- Moderate risk: 10
- Significant risk: 9

New process so number will increase...

Response

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authority raised growing concerns in respect of Criminal Exploitation/County Lines with both our Safeguarding Board and Countywide Community Safety Board.

Identified need to have a consistent Countywide partnership response as a result of:

"Children who are exploited and groomed for criminal purposes are equally as deserving of support. The language of 'criminal exploitation' is rarely understood and therefore those affected are not offered the same response. All forms of exploitation should be considered in the same way, with an understanding of grooming and vulnerability. The learning and best practice in place around CSE should be extended to include victims of all forms of exploitation – (Missing People, 2017)

Acknowledgement and ownership of the need for a Safeguarding and Community Safety Response!



Strategic Group and Objectives

Our strategic group includes the Safeguarding Board, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Education, Health, YOT, Adult and Children's Social Care across both LA areas

Our Strategic Objectives:

- Prevent young people becoming at risk and raise awareness of Criminal Exploitation
- Identify and safeguard victims of CCE
- Identify and monitor vulnerable locations across the area
- Empower those affected by criminal exploitation by supporting them to identify strategies to exit and withdraw safely
- Disrupt perpetrators and bring them to justice using modern day slavery and trafficking legislation
- Maximise operational solutions with local, regional and national partners to disrupt county lines and reduce associated criminal exploitation and youth violence
- Aligning process across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough



Local Activity

- Use of Safeguarding Board task and finish group to develop our strategy
- Data informed approach – Exploitation Tracker
- Rating cases for risk assessment and management (Exploitation Risk Assessment and Management Tool)
- Use of Missing and Child Exploitation Meetings (MACE)
- Operation Make Safe – police led
- Strategic Exploitation Group (Missing/CSE/Child Criminal Exploitation)
- Maintain a multi agency Exploitation Action Plan
- Promoting appropriate use of NRM
- Interventions analysis
- Exploitation Multi-agency Safeguarding Training



Rating System and Tracker

- Exploitation Screening Tool developed that can be used by any professional from Universal through to Targeted and Specialist Services
- Young people screened using Tool that covers 11 categories around mental and physical health, relationships, behaviour and social factors
- Tool sent through to Met Hub (part of MASH) and added to Tracker
- Assessed and recorded on Tracker as being:
 - Emerging – some contact with individuals/issues
 - Moderate – regular issues/extensive contact
 - Severe – extensive known contact/issues
- Guidance and recommendations for each category – i.e. referral for YOS Prevention/Child in Need/Child Protection
- Cases Identified through Tracker reviewed by Early Help/CSC/YOS/TYSS Teams and managers monthly for category updates or removal
- All Tracker information coordinated through the Met Hub



Operation Make Safe

- Fortnightly meeting which reviews Police intelligence relating to children at risk of exploitation, locations where exploitation occurs and those who are perpetrating exploitation.
- Meeting consists of representatives from both local policing areas, the police Missing, Exploited, Trafficked (MET) hub, the Intelligence and Specialist Crime Department, social care from both local authorities and the Local Safeguarding Children Board.
- The meeting targets specific activity to engage with identified children or target locations / perpetrators based on the intelligence picture.
- Partner agencies are provided with a sanitised intelligence picture to support wider understanding and knowledge.

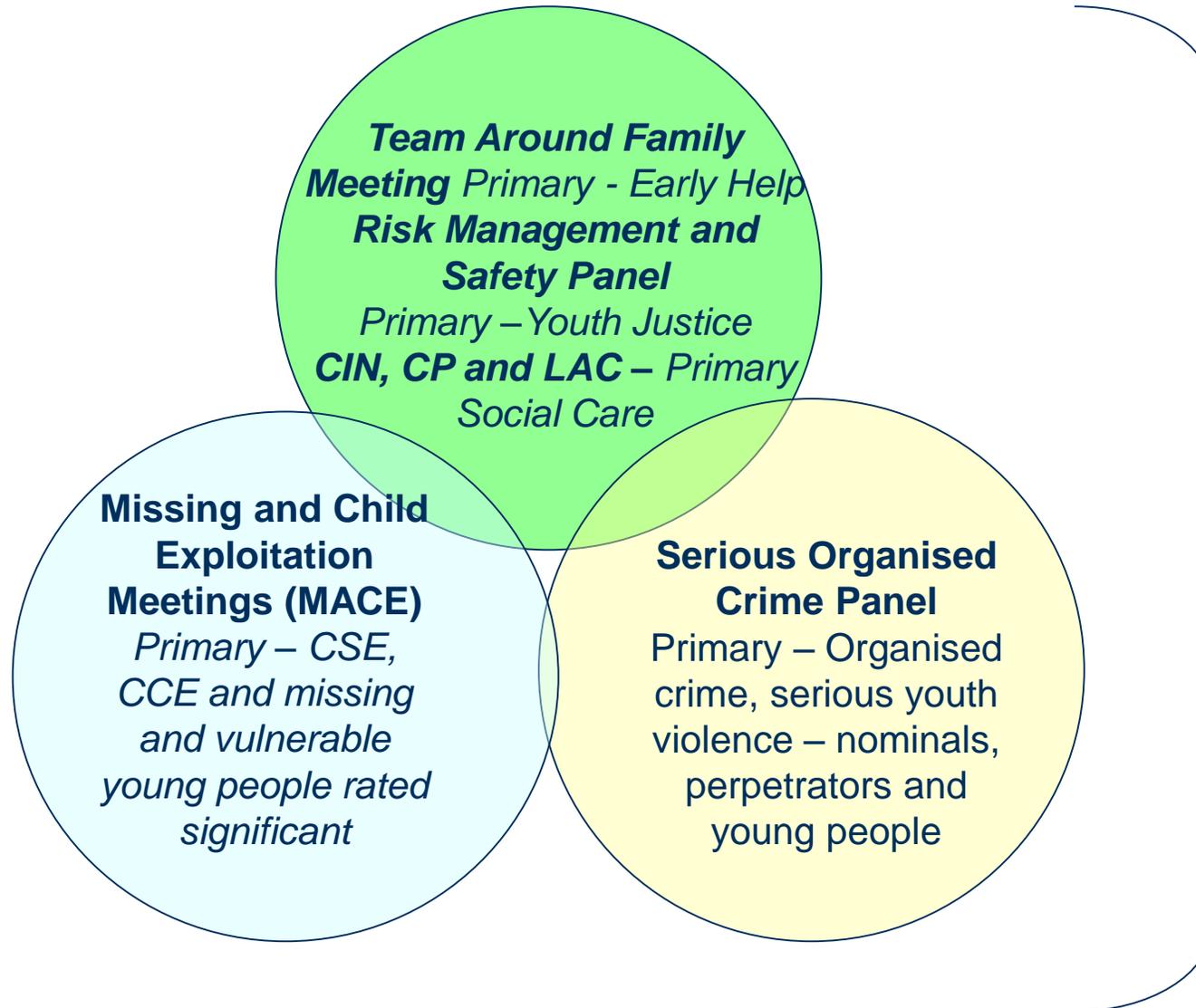


Missing and Child Exploitation Meeting (MACE)

- Multi-Agency Forum where all young people who are identified as Significant Risk are discussed (CSE/CCE/Missing)
- Meetings include managers from Police, Early Help, CSC, Health, Voluntary Sector
- Chaired by Head of Service for Partnerships and Quality, Childrens Safeguarding
- Updates provided on Missing episode patterns and from Missing Exploited Team (MET HUB)
- Multi-agency actions and tasks agreed to manage risk and safety
- Cases by case Safeguarding/Risk Management meetings run alongside



Joint Operational Group for CCE



RMSP/ TAF / CIN, CP, LAC / MACE/ SOCP

Victims and those at risk identified will be recorded on the Exploitation Tracker and where appropriate will receive support and input from the MET Hub.

Cases will be jointly managed to safeguard and protect young people and disrupt and prosecute perpetrators.

The MET Hub will support partners to work with young people to identify opportunities and ways to withdraw from/exit Criminal Exploitation and find ways to empower and protect themselves.

Exploitation Training



Two tier approach to multi agency training based on evaluation and feedback from previous year

- **Introduction to Child Exploitation (half day)**

Training is open to any individual and goes through in depth the definition of exploitation, signs and indicators and what to do with safeguarding concerns

- **Working with Child Exploitation (full day)**

Training is specifically designed for front line practitioners involved in safeguarding children to walk those participants through referral process and completion of risk management tool using case study, training involves YOS and MASH representatives who are able to talk through decision making processes and offer support and advice.

Exploring Intervention



Challenge identifying effective evidenced based programmes/interventions as Criminal Exploitation and it's impact for young people is relatively new agenda.

Aim to upskill workforce/lead professionals with a range of interventions to deliver to young people.

Currently Exploring:

- Resilience based Health Schools Programme as part of PSHE. Whole school approach to community safety with single points of contact for support
- Early Help group work programme – Impact (Daisy Chain)
- Positive Steps, Which Way – Video resource that explores spotting signs, decision making and identifying alternatives/diversion
- Mentoring Based Models – St Giles Trust SOS Interventions Model
- Exploring Trauma Based Interventions - Functional Family Therapy/Enhanced Case Management Model

Our Action Plan



Our plan is structured around the National Vulnerability Action Plan (NVAP) It has been developed by including recommendations from our internal gap analysis, thematic inspections and peer review. The action plan is multi agency and is “owned “ by the Strategic Group

It will:

- Detail partner/individual agency actions and responsibilities
- Holistic focus on young people and circumstances
- Will prioritise prevention and resilience building
- Will promote cultural change for better outcomes
- Better use of multi-agency local and regional data
- Development of perpetrator response and management
- Consistency across both LA areas
- Incorporating voice of the child
- Identification of effective resources

Where we do well

- Identifying our cohort, their level of need and mapping work
- Management response at a multi-agency level - relationships
- Raising the profile across the workforce
- Multi-agency Exploitation Training
- Strategic ownership across Safeguarding and Community Safety Boards
- Strategic planning and identifying gaps



Where we do well (2)



We have adopted the OSARA model as our method of mapping

- **O**bjective we are seeking to achieve with the mapping
- **S**canning all available records from all partners.
- **A**nalysing what we have, what we need.
- **R**esponding to Victim ,Location and Offender.
- **A**ssessing the outcome (next steps)

Areas for improvement

- Launching Serious Organised Crime Groups county wide
- Bridging the gap between Peterborough and Cambridgeshire
- Less knowledge on how effective interventions are due to lack of historical data/reviews – ‘What Works’
- Ensuring the voice and journey of the child is more widely expressed at all levels and in all agencies
- Regional coordination and use of data
- Further development, use and tracking of NRM
- Engaging the community to develop ownership to report and protect
- Prosecution of perpetrators through modern day slavery legislation

