



Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board

Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy & Policy

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1. Introduction

The Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), is the key statutory body which has lead strategic responsibility for improving the way in which children and young people are safeguarded in Lambeth and also for quality assuring the effectiveness of all its partner agencies.

This strategy document is the Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board's multi agency response to the action plan launched by the Department for Education (DfE) in 2011 in order to challenge and tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE) within the borough of Lambeth and as a framework to protect our looked after children accommodated outside of the borough.

The LSCB and its partner agencies **must** assume that children and young people are being sexually exploited with Lambeth in many different ways, within many different communities and within various different pockets of the borough and understand that a consistent approach which recognises early or potential signs and symptoms of children being sexually exploited or abused will help with earlier intervention. This should help minimise the risks to children and their families and help avoid them becoming victims in the first place and put an effective safeguarding plan in place if they do become victims.

Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (a form of child abuse)

*“The sexual exploitation of children and young people **under 18** involves exploitative contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young persons limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability ”*

(Source: Department for Education 2012)

The Barnados ‘Puppet on a String’ report (January 2011) identified three broad categories of child sexual exploitation described as:

- Inappropriate relationships (e.g. a 14 year old in a sexual relationship with a 20 year old partner)
- ‘Boyfriend’ model of exploitation and peer exploitation (e.g. an older boyfriend introducing a younger partner to his peers (often fellow gang members) in return for sexual favours in return for money, drugs, alcohol or ‘gifts’)
- Organised / networked sexual exploitation or trafficking (e.g. established groups of older males targeting and grooming vulnerable children from troubled backgrounds, often by digital communication in order to exploit them sexually, often using the victims to recruit other young people in return for money, drugs, alcohol or ‘gifts’)

Recent Cases of CSE

Rochdale Trial 2012

The conviction in 2012 of 9 men for organized rape, trafficking for sex and conspiracy to engage in sexual activity with children, centered around Rochdale in Greater Manchester, finally brought this form of child abuse into the national spotlight. The 11 week trial at Liverpool Crown Court heard that the perpetrators plied the teenage girls with alcohol and drugs in order to pass them round for sex.

The jury heard:

- Some of the girls were beaten and raped by several men in a day, several times a week
- One teenager was raped by 20 men in one night
- One teenager was raped by two men while she was drunk and vomiting over the side of the bed

Police concluded the victims were vulnerable, mainly from "chaotic" backgrounds, had mostly been known to social care at some point and were targeted in "honey pot locations" such as fast food takeaway shops.

Oxford Trial 2013

In May 2013, seven members of a sex grooming ring were also convicted of abusing children from Oxford.

The court heard how the men identified vulnerable girls for abuse then groomed each one of them until they were under the control of the gang. Again, all the girls were identified as vulnerable and had been known to social care.

The trial at The Old Bailey in London heard six girls were drugged and suffered sadistic abuse while aged between 11 and 15 including being plied with alcohol and drugs and were tied up, burnt, suffocated, bitten, scratched and urinated upon before being forced to perform sex acts

Jurors were told most of the victims agreed to consume vast quantities of hard drugs to deaden their senses, particularly when they knew they were being hired out to a large group of men for gang abuse sessions that could go on for days.

One 13 year old victim described being plied with hard drugs and forced to have sex with strangers while being filmed and that on one occasion, she was given so much crack cocaine she could not breathe and had to be rushed to hospital.

Another victim who had been groomed at the age of 11, said she fell in love with one of the men convicted who raped her, beat her with a baseball bat and forced her to have an illegal back-room abortion when she was 12-years-old.

In both trials, most of the victims were known to services including police and social care and it was criticized that services failed to protect the girls from harm. It was also acknowledged that the perpetrators were groups (or gangs) of asian males who specifically targeted young vulnerable white girls who they may have seen as easier targets however the LSCB stresses that neither victims nor perpetrators should be stereotyped and automatic assumptions should not be made about specific groups of males and vulnerable young people.

The LSCB appreciates that lessons have been learnt from both these horrific trials and we will endeavour to ensure a tailored, joined up victim centered approach and response to any young person coming to the attention of services (i.e. social care, police, health, education etc) who displays or discloses symptoms of 'potential' sexual exploitation (see attached risk indicators on Appendix 4)) is believed, treated with respect and dignity and dealt with in line with sympathetic child protection procedures tailored to meet the needs of the victim regardless or not if the police proceed with the incident as a criminal investigation (i.e if this does not proceed via the courts or leads to a successful prosecution).

However, the LSCB believes that structured mapping of existing resources, systematic planning, the raising of awareness, earlier detection and intervention will not only help reduce the risk of children becoming sexually exploited but will also help secure robust prosecutions when children are identified as victims.

Lambeth's immense cultural and racial diversity must be taken into consideration as well as the significant amount of children who are looked after, are frequently missing from care / home, are vulnerable, from broken / dysfunctional or disadvantaged families or are entrenched in gang activities in order to recognise the challenges all agencies face.

All agencies providing services to children have a statutory duty under Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004 to understand the risks and ways in which children can be exploited sexually and the ways in which their agencies can safeguard them against this.

The LSCB however acknowledges that its role is strategic rather than operational as partner agencies should develop and embed their own localised operational policies, using this model strategy & policy as a framework.

For this purpose, the board agreed an interim working group under the remit of the Policy sub-group to steer the project.

The work group included representatives from the LSCB, Safeguarding Team, Lambeth Children & Young People's Services, Kings College Hospital, Guys & St Thomas's Hospital, the Met Police, Brook, Refuge, Young & Safe, NHS Lambeth and St Michael's Fellowship.

LSCB Vision

Our vision is that all parents/carers and foster carers and professionals working with children and young people become aware of the signs and symptoms of potential sexual exploitation of children for whom they are responsible for or working with and are able to refer and intervene at an early stage, via an agreed child centred multi agency approach to hopefully mitigate further risk, safeguard children and disrupt and successfully prosecute offenders.

2. Scope

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 outlines the relationship the LSCB has with wider arrangements to improve the overall wellbeing (Section 10, Children Act

2004) of every child in the borough and every looked after child accommodated out of borough. This is in line with the general duty for **everyone** who comes into contact with children and families has to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children by:

- protecting children from maltreatment,
- preventing the impairment of their health or development,
- ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- undertaking that role so as to enable children to have the best outcomes.

(Source: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013)

Under Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004, all professionals have a duty to safeguard and promote the well being of children and young people which also included sharing information with relevant agencies on a need to know basis. It is therefore universally recognised and accepted that this duty becomes everyone's responsibility. Children & young people can only be safeguarded properly if everyone involved with them works effectively together and accepts responsibility for promoting their welfare. This includes adults who are their parents / carers or foster carers as, unfortunately, children and young people can be abused in their homes, public places such as parks, cafes & takeaways, homes of strangers, hotels, community and educational settings etc by adults, other children or strangers.

The Rochdale trial identified that young girls were groomed and exploited by adult strangers at a very public takeaway shop therefore no assumptions should be made that children and young people are free from risk in public spaces or that this only occurs behind closed doors.

Due to the high levels of disadvantaged families and young people within the borough including socio economic factors and the higher than average number of referrals made to social care, Lambeth agencies must understand and challenge the varied and increased potential for its many vulnerable children and young people to be sexually exploited in different ways.

Lambeth already has an embedded strategy into violence against women and girls (VAWG) which challenges gender based violence and this strategy should be cross referenced with the existing protocols and support already in place.

Consideration must also be given to young perpetrators of sexual exploitation who may themselves have been sexually exploited or exposed to sexual activity at a young age. Often, victims of abuse can become perpetrators themselves and young perpetrators must be referred to the 'Aim 2' programme.

3. University of Bedfordshire research into CSE

The University of Bedfordshire (Beds) was commissioned by the Government to review the implementation of its 2009 guidance on 'Safeguarding Children & Young People from Sexual Exploitation'.

The research carried out between 2009 and 2011 published in the 'What's Going On' (to safeguard children & young people from sexual exploitation) October 2011 identified that:

1. Child sexual exploitation is child abuse

A shift is therefore needed in order to protect older children outside of the home environment in order to recognise child sexual exploitation as an equal priority to the sexual abuse of younger children within the home environment. Specialist staff are required within all LSCB partner agencies to recognise early signs of potential CSE and manage this form of child abuse, following the framework for referrals to social care and / or the police. Lambeth Social Care have identified a Senior Child Protection 'champion' for CSE who can advise on the threshold and referral process (Add Name – Child Protection Officer).

Consideration must be given when alleged exploitation may be perceived to be consensual by either the young person and/or the abuser(s), when young people begin to explore their sexuality however this should not impede any investigation, particularly when there is an imbalance of age, power, influence or control or where violence (or threats of) is used. Incidences when both perceived victims and perceived perpetrator(s) are of the same sex must be dealt with sensitively to minimise shame, fear or embarrassment to the young person.

2. LSCB's are failing to safeguard young people from sexual exploitation

Approximately three quarters of LSCB's have not yet implemented the guidance issued in 2009. Although Lambeth introduced an appropriate protocol to challenge and manage CSE in 2007, we will aim to improve our existing practices and implement an up to date, higher quality and well researched strategy and policy to all its partner agencies by summer 2013 taking into account the latest research and reports undertaken by the University of Beds, the Office of the Children's Commissioner and CEOP.

3. Isolated pockets of good practice have been developed usually in response to a child death or the commitment of a local champion.

Lambeth's aim is to prevent any young resident in the borough and any young looked after person placed out of borough from dying, being seriously injured or physically, sexually or emotionally abused as a result of sexual exploitation and will be pro-active in developing 'excellent' practice to minimise the risk of this occurring. Multi agency targeted early intervention will aim to work with young people and their families perceived to be 'at risk' and will be tailored to meet the individual and families needs.

All incidences of perceived or actual CSE meeting (potential) S47 child protection thresholds will be dealt with in line with Lambeth child protection procedures after a strategy meeting with appropriate risk and vulnerability plans agreed to safeguard the young person after the referral is made to social care / police. Ideally, referrals should be made via the multi agency Common Assessment Framework referral form however any other methods of referral will be assessed by social care (then MASH) and escalated accordingly via child in need / child protection procedures.

The LSCB may consider in time establishing its own CSE sub-group but initially, it has been agreed that CSE can be managed within child protection protocols. CSE will however be monitored by the LSCB.

Consideration will also have to be given to non Lambeth looked after children placed in the borough and Lambeth children looked after out of borough therefore a cross borough approach must be considered for these panel meetings with professionals from other boroughs being included in any risk management or safeguarding plan.

Stronger relationships with voluntary sector and faith organisations also need to be established in particular through the development of Lambeth as a co-operative council. As a non statutory service, the voluntary sector has proven to be a key partner in developing good practice with strong engagement from young people in particular, Barnardo's, The Children's Society and the NSPCC.

4. Awareness raising and training is piecemeal & inadequate

There is a clear need for awareness to be raised with young people, their families / carers, all agencies that come into contact with young people (i.e. schools, youth settings etc) and the local community overall as indeed with social care and youth offending service professionals and partners. Multi agency CSE training to be incorporated into the LSCB's training programme and specialist training developed for the LSCB Chair, all CYPS Directors and Assistant Directors, Child Protection Officers/Managers, the Referral & Assessment screening team, MASH, social workers and partner leads (in particular police, health and voluntary sector).

Specialist training and support should also be developed for foster carers caring for children who may have been identified as (potential) victims of sexual exploitation and awareness raising about this will be developed for secondary schools.

5. Child sexual exploitation occurs in many ways

Common myths about child sexual exploitation must be recognised and challenged by all agencies. The sexual exploitation of young people is more common than most people imagine and occurs all over the UK and not just in cities or areas of poverty or to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Young men are victims too and all victims can be over the age of consent (16). Data from the research indicates that digital technology plays a large part in the grooming process of young people, particularly from their own peer groups, often in neighbourhoods with known gang presence. Lambeth will therefore continue to promote and roll out e-safety training to its young people, schools, parents / carers and professionals in line with its e-safety strategy and policy.

Lambeth will also identify and promote the many agencies already providing interventions and support for all forms of sexual exploitation to ensure that young victims receive the most appropriate package of tailored holistic support and aftercare which may be required long term due to the post trauma effects of CSE. Consideration must also be given to supporting

victim's families as well (i.e. which could be via organisations like the Coalition for the Removal of Pimping (CROP – www.cropuk.org.uk)).

6. A high proportion of young people regularly go 'missing'

This occurs particularly from the care system as well as those trafficked, abducted and forcibly moved within the UK which can make them more vulnerable to CSE. A generic protocol for reporting 'missing children' including persistent absconders from the care system needs to be agreed with all our partner agencies and care providers to ensure a consistent reporting and referral process across the borough. Follow up support services must also be introduced. The board should consider reviewing Lambeth's 'Missing from Care' procedures to ensure that young people missing from care (for whatever reason) are considered as *potential* victims of CSE.

Consideration will also have to be given to non Lambeth looked after children placed in the borough and Lambeth children looked after out of borough therefore a cross borough approach must be considered, in particular for notifications to the host authority and the authority with corporate parenting responsibility.

7. More research is required to identify the needs of sexually exploited boys and young men and of young people from BME communities.

The research (based on 1065 cases) identified 8.6% boys being the victims. It would be realistic to presume that boys and young men are possibly less likely to make disclosures of being sexually exploited for fear of being labeled 'gay'. The thematic assessment '*Out of sight, out of mind*' published by CEOP in 2011 also suggests that the extent of sexual exploitation of boys is not fully reported or recognised.

Boys and young men identified as perpetrators may also be victims as well as they may be coerced into sexually exploiting other young people through peer pressure or as a form of initiation into a gang or if they are threatened with violence towards them and their families from fellow gang members as a form of punishment or blackmail (which is usually filmed).

There will also need to be a clearer understanding about the nature of all forms of CSE within Lambeth's many diverse communities and the accessibility to local support networks. Young people being trafficked into and around London and the UK, forced marriage, honour based violence, spirit possession and possibly even witchcraft may be viewed as culturally acceptable by a small number of members of some communities however these opinions and beliefs must be challenged as the law in the UK overrides certain cultural beliefs.

Lambeth will not be impeded by cultural beliefs when challenging suspicions of CSE or harm to a child or young person within any community and will manage the process through its clear child protection framework and the UK law.

8. Existing thresholds for intervention through child protection procedures may be too high.

Thresholds for intervention within the Common Assessment Framework for child protection may be too high, particularly if the young person has engaged in sexual activity with 'perceived' consent, or if they are over 16 years old. Experimental sexual activity between boys and young men may also conceal abuse and exploitation if there is an imbalance in age or power.

The more relevant information provided at the point of referral supports the concerns and helps identify the most appropriate form of support required. Clearer identification 'triggers' and referral information must therefore be in place to identify early signs of potential CSE and practitioners must share information on a need to know basis and not be dissuaded from taking action when concerns arise regardless of the perceived outcome of the referral.

Lambeth will treat all referrals as potential child protection concerns.

9. A disproportionate number of looked after children are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

Appreciating that looked after children can be more vulnerable than other children indicates that more support is required to foster carers and care providers to enable them to recognise potential signs and symptoms of sexual exploitation and escalate concerns to social care immediately. Approximately 10,000 children and young people go missing from care each year and national statistics suggest that children and young people accommodated in residential care are 4.5 times more likely to be sexually exploited.

Clear and structured referral pathways must therefore be developed to minimise risk and ensure intervention is sought at the earliest stage to prevent our looked after children becoming victims of sexual exploitation. This protocol must also be adopted for providers of care to non Lambeth children who are residing in care within the borough. The follow up 'Missing from Care' procedures **must** be undertaken after every 'missing from care' episode in order to identify why the child has 'gone missing' and what interventions and support can be put in place to minimise the risk of this occurring again.

A cross borough approach therefore needs to be agreed and developed with neighbouring authorities to ensure consistency and should be shared with all providers of care and supported accommodation (which must also consider temporary bed & breakfast accommodation....(RL to work on this).

The coalition government is apparently soon to publish a strategy for missing children and adults will influence existing statutory guidance and provide agencies with a clearer understanding of their responsibilities towards children missing from care.

See appendix 5 on attached DfE guidance for further advice
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00184-2010>

10. Sexually exploited children including those living with their families had a number of associated problems.

These problems may have increased the vulnerability to being abused or may have occurred as part of the abuse. Associated problems include (but are not restricted to):

- Already known to social care for child in need or child protection concerns
- Are looked after
- Problems with substance misuse
- Sexual health concerns
- Mental health problems
- Have been involved with youth offending
- Have witnessed or experienced domestic violence
- Are not attending mainstream education or are on roll at a pupil referral unit or are NEET
- Have physical or learning difficulties or have special educational needs

Whilst recognising the range of support that may already be in place for these young people, it is fair to say that professionals already involved must also receive training to recognise potential signs and symptoms of sexual exploitation and escalate accordingly and encourage both the young person and their family to engage in the most appropriate form of support at the earliest stage.

11. Criminality and associations with local gangs can increase the risks of young people being sexually exploited.

Qualitative data collated by the University of Beds indicates that many young people who have been sexually exploited have been involved in offending. This is more prominent in neighbourhoods with gang presence, often by peer on peer exploitation or the knock on effect that gang presence has on young people and the communities they reside in.

As Lambeth has many established gangs present in areas where there are high concentrations of social housing, all agencies in particular Housing, Police, Community Safety, Youth Offending Services and Social Care must ensure a joined up strategic approach to recognising and responding to potential incidences of sexual exploitation. (Cross reference this with the LCPP specific guidance on this).

12. LSCBs are not always proactive in disrupting and prosecuting offenders.

Reviews of prosecutions have noted that when abuse has been identified, the need for supporting intelligence should not override the need to intervene in order to prevent further exploitation. More joined up inter agency work therefore has to occur to ensure that child protection procedures are instigated and maintained in order to ensure more successful prosecutions.

13. Few cases come to court and victim's experiences of the court process are negative.

Research statistics inform us that out of 158 identified cases of CSE which went to court between 2009 and 2011, only 34 (21.5%) resulted in successful prosecution. This must be challenged by all agencies in order to assure victims that 'they are actual victims' and 'this was not their fault', and that they receive an effective and positive response to ensure they are not re-victimised as part of the criminal justice system. Professionals and police do actually recognise that perpetrators of sexual abuse against children and young people **must** be tried by a court of law, held accountable for their actions and punished accordingly.

Professionals trained in supporting victims of sexual abuse must be available to support the young person confidently through the court process and minimise the risk of the young person reliving the experience. Specialist training should therefore be developed for all agencies ideally after consultation with young victims who have experienced the process, taking on board their opinion on what went wrong and how we can make this better.

Consideration must also be given to consulting with Court User Groups within the South London Local Justice Area (contact Nina on 0207 805 9802) about the possibility of providing specialist training around CSE to those involved in the court process (i.e. magistrates and judges) in order to ensure the court process is as trauma free as it can be for the young person. Courts can also consider implementing other special measures such as:

- Minimising the requirement for cross examination if there are multiple defendants
- Permitting live video links for the witness to provide evidence outside of the court
- Permitting the use of intermediaries for the witness
- Permitting frequent breaks when the witness is giving evidence

Further guidance on special measures was issued by the Ministry of Justice in March 2011 'Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceeding: Guidance on interviewing victims and witnesses and guidance on using special measures'

14. Collecting and managing data can be problematic.

The University of Beds has produced a data collection model which will assist the LSCB in obtaining information on the nature and prevalence of exploitation in Lambeth which the board will adopt for reporting purposes (see Appendix 5).

A review of all the many potential indicators of sexual exploitation relevant to Lambeth was undertaken and a generic 'toolkit' was developed for all agencies to identify potential and actual incidences of CSE with a clear and identifiable pathway for referrals to Lambeth Social Care (see Appendix 4). The Referral & Assessment process must therefore be able to record potential and actual incidences on the social care case management system (Framework) with possible adjustments made to the reporting system in order to produce accurate reports for the LSCB. These reports will enable social

care to establish the most common incidences of CSE (perceived and actual) and the pockets or communities within the borough in which these occur. This will enable better responses and interventions which will assist with challenging CSE within Lambeth.

An annual report should subsequently be submitted to CEOP detailing the nature and prevalence of CSE within the borough using appendix 5 as the framework for this report.

The University of Beds also recently published its interim first year report 'Research into gang associated sexual exploitation and sexual violence' in November 2012 which is the result of fieldwork undertaken in six different areas of England with historical gang histories.

This interim research (to be concluded Autumn 2013) considered sexual exploitation and sexual violence occurring in or related to gangs which varies significantly across the country.

Further information will be included in the dedicated appendix for young women and (and young men) associated with local gang activity (**see Appendix 2 in the policy**)

4. Strategic Direction

The LSCB policy sub-committee agreed priorities prominent in the borough and will implement this strategy and policy within the council and its member agencies. It will encourage all partner agencies to adopt this approach to identify challenge child sexual exploitation (including perceived and where consent may initially appear to have been given) within Lambeth and its neighbouring boroughs and also other local authorities where Lambeth children are looked after. The agreed strategy & policy will be published and will be accessible on the LSCB's website www.lambethscb.org.uk.

The Lambeth temporary working group for CSE convened to assist in developing the strategy has identified and agreed the following issues and risk indicators as being areas of focus for the strategy which are relevant to the borough.

- Sexual Exploitation of young people living in foster care or in local care homes (including those from other local authorities) who are repeatedly 'missing from care'
- Children reported missing from home or school
- Young women (and young men) on the fringes of local gang activity
- Young offenders
- Teenage pregnancy
- Young people engaging in sexual activity for financial gain
- Teenage substance and alcohol misuse
- Disability and learning difficulties
- Culture and belief
- Homeless or living in unsuitable accommodation
- Young people who are known to be sexually active
- Young people presenting to health services with STD's
- Young people presenting to health services or counselling services
- Links between sexual exploitation and e-safety issues

- Young LGBT people exploring their sexuality and sexual identity
- Informed choices / if consent is actually consent
- Mapping of and highlighting local community preventative services
- Mapping of existing support services available

Because of the associated concerns social care and the police have identified in relation to CSE within the borough, the working group has agreed that the three **key** areas of principle concern that require a particular focus on should be:

1. Children missing from care
2. Young people with links to local gangs
3. Young people effected by e-safety concerns

Please note this strategy and policy will be reviewed in line with Government, Police and Local operating protocols as and when published with the first review due in March 2014.

5. Strategic Priorities for the Borough of Lambeth

The temporary working group with agreement from the LSCB policy sub committee agreed the following key strategic priorities in order to achieve this aim. Each priority is supported with a variety of objectives to be met.

5.1 Raise awareness amongst partner agencies, professionals, young people and their parents and carers around child sexual exploitation by:

- Embedding an agreed strategy and policy with all professional agencies underpinned by shared responsibility with an integrated, proactive child centered approach which recognises the criminal aspect of CSE as child abuse.
- Developing specialist multi agency training around CSE for our partners (including teachers in schools)
- Develop tailored specialist training for CYPS management & specialist staff (including MASH, R&A, LAC, CWD, FSCP) and foster carers
- Enhance existing relationships with the voluntary sector as a key partner in identifying and responding to CSE
- Encourage schools to include CSE into lesson planning, incorporating the message 'it is wrong' via PSHE education and commissioned resources such as TENDER etc
- Identify to young people that all forms of CSE are actually child abuse and encourage them to speak out against it, in their own time, in their own language
- Informed choices / what consent actually is
- Identify to young people that some electronic forms of peer to peer communication can be viewed by the law as child abuse (i.e. sexting)
- Embed ongoing government initiatives, campaigns and strategies aligned with CSE into partner work streams

5.2 Map out existing resources and services for responding to suspected or actual CSE by:

- Identifying which agency or organisation provides what service (in particular the voluntary sector)
- Who works with who

- Implementing a clear multi agency referral 'toolkit'
- Implement a monitoring and reporting framework for the LSCB (use the Uni Beds model Data Monitoring Tool)
- Identifying links into other existing strategies
- Risk managing via social care multi agency risk management panel which includes a cross borough approach
- Ensuring the follow up holistic aftercare services are child centered, are holistic, can be tailored for each individual victim and are appropriate in repairing damage. Aftercare should also be made available for parents of victims when necessary

5.3 Map out the needs within the local community where young people are at risk:

- In specific communities
- In specific areas of Lambeth (i.e. certain neighbourhoods, hotspots, postcodes or housing estates)
- Within specific groups of young people (i.e. gangs)
- In specific settings (i.e. in care / foster homes, hostels, youth organisations, chicken shops/take aways etc)
- Are already known to targeted and / or specialist services (i.e. YOS, Social Care, Police, PRU, Health, INVITE, Brook etc)

5.4 Develop a multi agency child centered toolkit for early identification of potential or actual CSE and implement a referral framework to ensure no potential victims are 'slipping through the net' considering

- The child or young persons emotional & behavioural development
- Parental / carer capacity
- Home and family environment (including socio economics and location)
- Cultural background
- Access to and usage of electronic technology
- Access to universal services (i.e. education, health and housing etc)
- Access or are known to targeted or specialist services

5.5 Provide better tailored support to victims to help disrupt offender rings and ensure justice for victims and their families

- Ensuring earlier identification of potential victims
- A joined up inter agency approach to the referral process
- Referrals are processed and escalated to management and risk management panel when CSE is potentially identified
- Multi agency diversion planning
- Improved holistic and tailored victim support and aftercare including therapeutic support
- Improved evidence gathering and offender disruption techniques
- Ensure perpetrators face a swift, robust and coordinated response to stop their abusive behaviour, brings them to justice and helps prevent further re-offending

5.6 Continue to work with the University of Bedfordshire's research programme and take a pro-active response to research by

- Continuing to work with the national workgroup and share models of best practice
- Recommending changes to practice, policy and local protocols

6. Identifying and Response

Where there is evidence of or suspicion of a child or young person under age 18 being sexually exploited in any way, agencies must adhere to the following procedure in order to ensure the young person is kept 'safe' and to enable Police to gather evidence about the abusers or perpetrators.

Practitioners from all agencies (including Police & Health), should complete the 'Toolkit and CAF Referral Form' (Appendix 4) for all young people identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation and return to Lambeth Specialist Services Referral & Assessment Team who will process the referral in line with standard assessment procedures including screening by the MASH and complete the risk indicator checklist when this has not already been completed by the referrer.

Practitioners should share and request information from other agencies or authorities on a need to know basis in order to ensure a joined up inter agency approach to the referral. This also includes convening a professionals strategy meeting (which should include police) even when young people are already known to services to ensure the referral is as robust as it can be and can be requested by any professional working with the young person identifying potential risk.

Although any combination of one or more Low (GREEN) or Medium (AMBER) risk indicators may not necessarily mean that a young person is at risk of 'significant harm', practitioners must be able to support the referral and provide as much evidence as to why the young person may be at risk of sexual exploitation. The young person (and their family), may meet thresholds for family support or S17 child in need services from social care or may escalate to S47 child protection procedures.

Any young person meeting any High Risk indicators (RED) should determine that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the young person is suffering or is likely to suffer 'significant harm' and should immediately instigate S47 child protection procedures. The designated 'lead' for CSE within Lambeth Cathy Henchion should convene the professionals strategy meeting and if necessary, chair the child protection conference for an effective risk management and (if decided), child protection plan to be developed. In the case of non Lambeth children placed in Lambeth by other authorities where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a young person is at risk of harm is brought to the attention of Lambeth the referral and assessment team would make a referral to the young persons home local authority as per current child protection procedures.

The risk management plan in conjunction with the child protection plan should include interventions which:

- Physically protect the young person and keep them safe
- Empower the young person and build their self-esteem
- Raise awareness with the young person about the dangers they could encounter and the criminal features of the exploitation
- Empower the parent/carers or foster carer and promote positive family and friend relationships and a stable home or care environment

- Make every effort to disrupt the young persons relationship with their abuser(s) or the person/group of people who introduced them to the abuse (this could include minimising or removing electronic contact between victim and perpetrator)
- Provide victim follow up support services for violence, sexual health, alcohol or substance related problems
- Encourage the young person to engage in diversionary activities (i.e. return to education)
- Set agreed 'achievable' boundaries which encourage and motivate positive behaviour and lifestyle
- Consider accommodating under S20 or initiate care proceedings under S38/S31
- Gather evidence to prosecute the offenders

Looked after children at risk of CSE

Children who are already looked after and are identified as being at risk of significant harm as a result of sexual exploitation must immediately be brought to the attention of their allocated social worker and team manager who should consider the following to reduce the risk of harm to the young person as well as attempting to disrupt the young persons relationship with their exploiter:

- Changing the child's foster placement to a different area
- Changing a foster placement to intensive fostering
- Changing the residential placement to a different area
- Changing to a therapeutic residential placement
- Changing to a secure care placement

7. Collecting, Recording and Managing Data

The University of Beds 'What's Going On' report (October 2011) highlighted the problem LSCB's had in collecting and managing data about CSE in their areas.

Without informative data, we are unable to obtain a clear picture of the scale, nature and extent of the problem in Lambeth and are therefore unable to spread local awareness effectively and spot trends and areas / communities where this may be a problem.

59 out of 100 LSCB's surveyed in this report (59%), confirmed that they were not recording data on CSE however on one day during the research into this report, 1065 young people in England were known to services with significant concerns in respect of them being victims of sexual exploitation.

The interim report 'I thought I was the only one in the world – Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs & Groups' published by the Office of the Children's Commissioner in November 2012 indicates at least 16,500 children were identified as being at risk of being sexually exploited during one year with 2,409 children confirmed as victims of sexual exploitation within gangs and groups during the 14 month period August 2010 to October 2011.

This data clearly indicates the potential for many young people in Lambeth to become victims of CSE therefore all CSE referrals to social care which lead to an initial assessment by the Referral and Assessment Team must be recorded on the

University of Beds Child Sexual Exploitation Data Monitoring Tool (Appendix 5) and the data subsequently collated by the LSCB and reported annually to Child Exploitation Online Protection centre (CEOP).

Lambeth Social Care must consider how this data can be centrally recorded (perhaps a field on Framework) and how this can be reported.

Police hold records on young people 'missing from home', Social care hold records on 'missing from care' via framework.

8. Existing protocols and interventions

National Guidance

- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan (2012)
- Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation: Supplementary Guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children (2009)
- Safeguarding Trafficked Children (2011)
- Statutory Guidance on Children Who Run Away and Go Missing From Home or Care (2009)
- Barnados 'Spot the Signs' guidance
- A qualitative study of children, young people and 'sexting' - a report prepared for the NSPCC

London Child Protection Procedures 2010: relevant procedures

- Forced marriage of a child
- Gangs , serious youth violence and violent extremism
- Harming others
- Honour based violence
- Missing from care and home
- Not attending school
- Sexually active children
- Sexually exploited children
- Trafficked and exploited children

Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Strategies and Protocols

- LSCB Safeguarding Children Abused Through Sexual Exploitation Protocol 2007
- LSCB Safeguarding Children from Street Gangs Protocol
- Lambeth E-Safety Strategy and Policy
- Lambeth Missing from Care Protocol
- Lambeth Joint Working Protocol between Children & Young People's Services and Housing Regeneration & Environment

Lambeth Specialist Services online procedures manual: relevant procedures

- Missing from home
- Missing from care

- Safeguarding children abused through sexual exploitation
- Working with sexually active young people
- Trafficked and exploited children

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (VAWG)

- Lambeth Violence Against Women and Girls strategy.

Young and Safe (now known as INVITE)

- Lambeth Young and Safe strategy

Aim2

- Lambeth Aim2

9. The Legal and Local Framework

This protocol is written within the framework of the following key documents:

LEGISLATION

The Children Act 1989

An Act to reform the law relating to children; to provide for local authority services for children in need and others; to amend the law with respect to children's homes, community homes, voluntary homes and voluntary organisations; to make provision with respect to fostering, child minding and day care for young children and adoption; and for connected purposes.

The Children Act 2004

An Act that provides for the establishment and role of a Children's Commissioner. The Act also places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements through which key agencies co-operate to improve the well-being of children and young people and widen services' powers to pool budgets in support of this. To ensure that, within this partnership working, safeguarding children continues to be given priority the Act places a responsibility for key agencies to have regard to the need to safeguard children and promote their welfare in exercising their normal functions. It also establishes statutory Local Safeguarding Children Boards

STATUTORY GUIDANCE

Working Together to Safeguard Children – A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – March 2013

This guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.

This guidance replaces Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010); The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (2000); *and* statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (2007). Links to relevant supplementary guidance that professionals should consider alongside this guidance can be found at Appendix C of this guidance.

London Child Protection Procedures

The *London Child Protection Procedures* are underpinned by the [Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance](#) (March 2013) which sets out what should happen in any local area when a Child or Young Person is believed to be in need of support. Effective safeguarding arrangements should aim to meet the following two key principles:

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each individual and organisation should play their full part; and
- A child centred approach: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.
-

LOCAL AND REGIONAL POLICIES

London Borough of Lambeth Children's Social Care Thresholds – August 2010

A document, which establishes the Lambeth “threshold” [the point at which] LA children's social care are likely to accept a referral for a child, young person or their family.



Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board

Child Sexual Exploitation Policy

Document Control

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1. Introduction

The Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), is the key statutory body which has lead strategic responsibility for improving the way in which children and young people are safeguarded in Lambeth and for quality assuring the effectiveness of all its partner agencies.

This policy is the Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board's multi agency response to the action plan launched by the Department for Education (DfE) in 2011 in order to challenge and tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE) within the borough of Lambeth and as a framework for our looked after children accommodated outside of the borough.

The LSCB and its partner agencies **must** assume that children and young people are potentially being sexually exploited with Lambeth in many different ways, within many different communities and within various different pockets of the borough and appreciate that a consistent approach which recognises early or potential signs and symptoms of children being sexually exploited or abused will help with earlier intervention which should help minimise the risks to children and their families and help avoid them becoming victims in the first place and put an effective safeguarding plan in place if they do become victims.

Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (a form of child abuse)

*"The sexual exploitation of children and young people **under 18** involves exploitative contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterized in the main by the child or young persons limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability"*

(Source: Department of Education 2012)

The Barnados 'Puppet on a String' report identified three broad categories of child sexual exploitation described as:

- Inappropriate relationships (e.g. a 14 year old in a sexual relationship with a 20 year old partner)
- 'Boyfriend' model of exploitation and peer exploitation (e.g. an older boyfriend introducing a younger partner to his peers (often fellow gang members) in return for sexual favours in return for money, drugs, alcohol or 'gifts')
- Organised / networked sexual exploitation or trafficking (e.g. established groups of older males targeting and grooming vulnerable children from troubled backgrounds, often by digital communication in order to exploit them sexually, often using the victims to recruit other young people in return for money, drugs, alcohol or 'gifts')

The convictions in 2012 and 2013 of two groups of men for organised rape, trafficking for sex and conspiracy to engage in sexual activity with children brought to public attention that vulnerable (white) teenage girls from different cultures and troubled backgrounds had been plied with alcohol and drugs in order to be trafficked and passed around for sex. The victims were perceived to be 'easier targets with less morals' which **may** have added a racial element to the crime. Agencies must therefore not feel impeded or afraid to challenge cultural, religious or racial differences if this is identified between victim and perpetrator

As all agencies providing services to children have a statutory duty under Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004 to understand the risks and ways in which children can be exploited sexually and how these can be minimised, the LSCB strongly recommends that partner agencies should use this model policy as a framework for developing their own localised operational policies.

LSCB Vision

Our vision is that all parents/carers and foster carers and professionals working with children and young people become aware of the signs and symptoms of potential sexual exploitation of children for whom they are responsible for or working with and are able to refer and intervene at an early stage, via an agreed child centred multi agency approach to hopefully mitigate further risk, safeguard children and disrupt and successfully prosecute offenders.

2. Scope

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 outlines the relationship the LSCB has with wider arrangements to improve the overall wellbeing (Section 10, Children Act 2004) of every child in the borough and every looked after child accommodated out of borough. This is in line with the general duty for everyone who comes into contact with children and families has to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children by:

- protecting children from maltreatment,
- preventing the impairment of their health or development,
- ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- undertaking that role so as to enable children to have the best outcomes.

(Source: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013)

Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004 reiterates that all professionals have a duty to safeguard and promote the well being of children and young people and it is therefore universally recognised and accepted that this duty becomes everyone's responsibility. Children & young people can only be safeguarded properly if everyone involved with them works effectively together and accepts responsibility for promoting their welfare. This includes adults who are their parents / carers or foster carers as, unfortunately, children and young people can be abused in their homes, public places such as parks, cafes & takeaways, homes of strangers, hotels, community and educational settings etc by adults, other children or strangers.

No assumptions should ever be made that children and young people are free from risk in public spaces or that this only occurs behind closed doors.

All agencies and partners must therefore appreciate and challenge the varied and increased potential for its many vulnerable children and young people to be sexually exploited in many different ways.

Also, as victims of abuse can become perpetrators themselves, young perpetrators must always be referred to the 'Aim 2' programme to minimise further offending (refer to Sharon Elliott).

3. University of Bedfordshire research into CSE

The University of Bedfordshire (Beds) was commissioned by the Government to review the implementation of its 2009 guidance on 'Safeguarding Children & Young People from Sexual Exploitation'

The initial research carried out between 2009 and 2011 identified that:

- Child sexual exploitation is child abuse
- LSCB's are failing to safeguard young people from sexual exploitation
- Isolated pockets of good practice have been developed usually in response to a child death or the commitment of a local champion.
- Awareness raising and training is piecemeal & inadequate
- Child sexual exploitation occurs in many ways
- A high proportion of young people regularly go 'missing'
- More research is required to identify the needs of sexually exploited boys and young men and of young people from BME communities. (Please Note; Lambeth will not be impeded by cultural beliefs when challenging suspicions of CSE within any community and will manage the process through its clear child protection framework **and the UK law**).
- Existing thresholds for intervention through child protection procedures may be too high.
- A disproportionate number of looked after children are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation.
- Sexually exploited children including those living with their families had a number of associated problems.
- Criminality and associations with local gangs can increase the risks of young people being sexually exploited.
- LSCBs are not always proactive in disrupting and prosecuting offenders.
- Few cases come to court and victim's experiences of the court process are negative.
- Collecting and managing data can be problematic.

4. Identifying and responding to young people at risk of or experiencing CSE

All incidences of perceived or actual CSE meeting (potential) S47 child protection thresholds will be dealt with in line with Lambeth child protection procedures after a strategy meeting with appropriate risk and vulnerability plans agreed to safeguard the

young person after the referral is made to social care / police. Ideally, referrals should be made via the multi agency Common Assessment Framework referral form however any other methods of referral will be assessed by social care (then MASH) and escalated accordingly via child in need / child protection procedures.

In line with child in need and child protection protocols, individual cases may be 'stepped down' to Multi Agency Teams when risk of harm is reduced for the young person and targeted support is more appropriate for the young person and their family. However, if at any point further risk is identified, this should be re-referred to social care as a child protection concern.

The LSCB may consider in time establishing its own CSE sub-group but initially, it has been agreed that CSE can be managed within child protection protocols. CSE will however be monitored by the LSCB.

Consideration will also have to be given to non Lambeth looked after children placed in the borough and Lambeth children looked after out of borough therefore a cross borough approach must be considered for these panel meetings with professionals from other boroughs being included in any risk management or safeguarding plan.

Identifying Risk

Because of the associated concerns social care, Lambeth YOS and the police have identified in relation to (potential) CSE within the borough, the LSCB identified and agreed that the three **key** areas of principle concern that require a particular focus on should be:

- 1 Sexual Exploitation of young people living in foster care or in local care homes (including those from other local authorities) who are repeatedly 'missing from care'**
- 2 Young women (and young men) on the fringes of local gang activity**
- 3 Links between sexual exploitation and e-safety issues**

and additional appendices are included in this policy but also see the following guidance on all areas where there is the potential for young people to be sexually exploited:

- 4.1 Looked after children repeatedly missing from care (see Appendix 1) (we still need to include section on non Lambeth LAC placed in Lambeth and the protocol we should follow in notifying corporate parent – RL to work on this August 2013)**
- 4.2 Young women (and young men) associated with local gang activity (see Appendix 2)**
- 4.3 Sexual exploitation and e-safety (see Appendix 3)**
- 4.4 Children reported missing from home or school**
 - 4.4.1 Children and young people missing from home / runaways**

The Pan London Child Protection Procedures define a child as 'missing' if their whereabouts are unknown, whatever the circumstances. Young people will test parental boundaries and stay out longer as agreed which is normal teenage behaviour however if there are regular patterns of periods of

'missing' or it is out of character for the young person not to report their whereabouts, they could be at high risk of abuse or sexual exploitation.

There is an expectation that parents will report their child to the Police (as the lead agency for missing children) who in turn will refer this to social care. Parental failure to report their child as missing may instigate child protection procedures.

Risk Indicators

Going missing is the most immediate indicator of vulnerability to sexual exploitation. In the lives of many of the young people ... it indicated a crucial transition period during which they moved back and forth 'between worlds' (Scott & Skidmore, 2006)

Sexually exploited children frequently go missing from home or run away for varying periods of time (CEOP, 2011)

The snapshot data showed that well over half the young people currently being worked with were known to have gone missing and, half had gone missing more than 10 (What's Going On, 2011)

Professional Responsibility

Professionals working with young people who they know as 'missing from home' for a substantial period of time (i.e. more than 24 hours and not just overstepping a curfew) should firstly encourage the young person to talk to a professional agency such as Child-line (0800-1111) and advise the young person that they have a statutory duty under S11 of the Children's Act 2004 to notify social care and/or the local police if they are known to be already reported as a 'missing person'.

4.4.2 Children and young people who are not at school

Young people miss school for a variety of reasons including illness, temporary exclusion, bullying, parental failure to ensure their child goes to school and truancy, amongst other things. The National Enquiry into CSE in groups and gangs found that periods of unauthorised absence (including short periods during school hours such as lunch breaks) was a risk indicator for child sexual exploitation and increased the vulnerability to abuse or sexual exploitation for young people.

Schools have a key role to play in identifying child sexual exploitation, particularly when a young person is not attending school or is missing school (including patterns of short absences during school hours).

The appropriate response to a child not being at school is for the school to firstly contact the parent or carer on the first day (or period) of absence if they have not received notification of the absence from the parent already. This is to ensure that the school can establish the reason for the absence and get reassurance from the parent that the young person is safe. It should also provide the school with an estimated date of return to school for the young person if they are ill.

If the schools contact with the parent identifies that the parent does not know where the young person is the parent should be encouraged to contact all family and known social contacts. If the parent cannot ascertain the young person's whereabouts and if it is out of character for the young person not to

be in contact with the parent, then the parent should report the young person to the police as missing. If the parent can ascertain the child's whereabouts and it is out of character for the young person not to be in school then the parent should be supported to find out why the young person is not at school. Depending on the issues identified, the parent may need support in addressing the issues for non attendance, keeping in mind the risk indicators for child sexual exploitation.

In the case of a young person who has an unauthorised absence from school during school hours, the schools should talk to the young person on their return to school and find out where they went and if they were in contact with anyone during their absence. The school should also inform the parent of the unauthorised absence in order for them to be able to talk to the young person about it.

Poor / Irregular Attendance

Persistent or frequent absence from school increases vulnerability to the young person to child sexual exploitation as they may also be missing from home or care. Schools should comply with Lambeth's Attendance Intervention Model (AIM) in cases of persistent absence from school as well as making a referral to social care if the school has concerns that there are other indicators of child sexual exploitation present.

Further guidance can be found at '*Safeguarding Children Missing from School-London SCB 2006*'.

4.5 Young offenders

Any young person identified as Medium to High risk by the allocated Youth Offending Service (YOS) Officer should be escalated to the weekly YOS Risk Management Panel and any indicators of potential sexual exploitation (either as a victim or perpetrator) must be referred to social care with a clear explanation of the perceived risk to the young person and considered for Risky Behaviour Panel. The YOS Officer may wish to convene a professionals meeting to gather information prior to the referral as the young person may already be known to social care and/or INVITE. Tailored specialist support from other agencies (i.e. Brook, Barnardos, CAHMS etc) should be considered and offered to the young person.

4.6 Teenage pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy may be an indication of sexual exploitation, particularly if there is a notable difference in age with the mother and the father of the unborn child or an imbalance of power or if the mother has learning difficulties or is disabled.

Professionals should attempt (as sensitively as possible) to establish with the mother to be, who the father is, if she has been sexually active with a variety of partners and if there was any imbalance of age, power, coercion or control between herself and the father.

Mothers under the age of 16 must be referred to social care to establish the needs of the mother and the unborn baby as well as the relationship between the mother and the father of the unborn baby.

Mothers over age 16 must be risk assessed to assess any potential risk of harm to either mother or (unborn) baby including risk of harm from the father

or current partner. Any professional with concerns about any risk should refer to social care.

Further guidance is available from *Safeguarding Sexually Active Children – London SCB 2006*.

4.7 Young People Engaging in Sexual Activity for Financial Gain

Some young people may appear to willingly engage in activities tantamount to prostitution, in that they are exchanging sexual activity for financial gain.

Unfortunately, through circumstances such as addictions to drugs and alcohol, young people may feel they have no alternative but to exchange sex for financial gain in order to feed their addictions. They may not necessarily be seen to have been coerced into this by other individual / group of male(s) however they must be considered as being victims of sexual exploitation in that they are having sex with strangers in return for cash with the 'customers / punters' being the perpetrators, particularly if they under age 16.

Firstly, it is important to be aware that any adult who 'pays' for sex with someone under the age of 18 is committing a criminal offence and action must be taken to protect the young person from further sexual exploitation.

Young people may also be coerced to engage in sexual activity for financial gain or 'respect/status' within certain groups including 'older boyfriend', peer groups, gangs and groups of older males looking to purposely exploit young people in exchange for 'pull factors' such as their safety, gifts, mobile phones (and phone credit), food, drugs, alcohol and money. This may initially appear to be consensual.

However, where there is a wider involvement of adults or peers with some form of power over the young person and the young person has limited availability of choice, resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability, then this situation is also sexual exploitation. Even if a young person appears to be 'willingly' exchanging sexual acts for something, investigation should take place to establish who is benefitting, who is in the background and the nature of the context and relationships involved

Typically, a young person being coerced into exchanging sexual activity for gain may have a strong attachment to their mobile phone and may also be physically and emotionally dependent on their abuser(s). They may also come from a troubled background, have low self-esteem, be a frequent absconder from home or care, show symptoms of sexual activity including STD's, pregnancy scares / terminations and have limited freedom in their own movement.

Professionals should make referrals to social care whilst using a high level of sensitivity as the young person may be subject to threats, bribes or conflicted loyalty to their abuser(s) however this should not impede the referral, particularly if the young person is under age 16.

Consideration must also be given in providing tailored support to the young person as well as their family which could be via organisations like the Coalition for the Removal of Pimping (CROP – www.cropuk.org.uk).

4.8 Teenage substance and alcohol misuse

Unsurprisingly, there are very few social issues which impact society so comprehensively as alcohol and substance misuse and alarmingly, young people are increasingly abusing alcohol and illegal drugs. However, it must be noted that of those who do, very few do actually become dependent and are more likely to be already vulnerable and experiencing other problems. Consequences of dependency range from non-attendance / poor attainment at school, poor health, committing crime, and sex working to support 'habits' and also an increased risk of being a victim of violent crime and sexual exploitation.

In addition, young people who live with substance/alcohol misusing parents and carers are often neglected, suffer from domestic violence and are at an increased risk of misusing alcohol and illegal drugs themselves.

Drugs and alcohol can also be supplied by perpetrators as a method of encouraging, controlling or rewarding young people to engage in sexual activity against their will or by victims themselves wishing to 'deaden' the experience of the exploitation.

Due to the higher than normal risks faced to young people who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol or the risks attached to funding their habits through either crime or prostitution, any young person suspected of (regularly) misusing drugs or alcohol must be referred to social care as there are more than likely further underlying vulnerabilities.

Further guidance can be found at the below DfE link:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/healthandwellbeing/substancemisuse/a0070053/drugs>

4.9 Disability and Learning Difficulties

Statistically, children and young people with disabilities or learning needs are more than 3 times more likely to be sexually abused than those without. Disabled children are also over represented in the population of looked after children.

Disabled children and those with learning difficulties may:

- Receive regular intimate personal care, possibly from a number of carers, which they may be dependent on for survival
- Have communication difficulties which may make it difficult to tell others what is happening
- Be more socially isolated, not have someone to turn to, lack privacy or the person they are reliant on is unreceptive to their needs or the issues being communicated
- Be inhibited about complaining because of a fear of losing services
- Be especially vulnerable to bullying and intimidation
- Be more vulnerable than other children to abuse by their peers.

therefore professionals (including carers) must be able to recognise and respond to any form of abuse which may involve some form of sexual exploitation, whether or not the child or young person is aware that they are being abused. Further guidance on Safeguarding disabled children can be found on the DFE link:

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/ContentImages/ProductThumbnails/DCSF-00374-2009.gif>

4.10 Culture and belief

Considering the diversity of Lambeth, the increase in growth of migrant communities and the higher than average statistics for violence against the person and sexual offences, we must appreciate that elements of culture and belief *may* be an important risk factor in young people being sexually exploited, possibly by family members.

Children and young people who are victims of any form of abuse related to their faith or cultural belief (i.e. spirit possession, honour based violence or forced marriage) may be particularly more vulnerable to sexual abuse as they will already feel powerless and worthless and possibly not believed if they inform anyone of the abuse.

Further guidance can be found at the:

http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/2010/culture_and_faith/london_cf_training_toolkit_5_dec.pdf

4.11 Homeless or living in unsuitable accommodation

Under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 and Part 3 of the Children's Act 1989 which was reiterated in the Southwark ruling 2009, local authorities have a statutory duty to accommodate young people aged 16 and 17 who appear to be homeless and present to services seeking accommodation.

Accommodation may be provided for the young person under either S17 or S20 of the Children's Act 1989.

However, young people coming to the attention of services as either homeless or living in unsuitable accommodation will be far more at risk of being exploited sexually due to their increased levels of vulnerability.

Young people (under age 18) suspected of or at risk of being homeless or who are 'sofa surfing' should be referred to Social Care Referral & Assessment in line with the *'Joint Working Protocol between Lambeth Children & Young Peoples Services and Housing Regeneration and Environment'*

4.12 Young people who are known to be sexually active

Young people aged 13 to 15 engaging in consensual sexual activity with other young people of a similar age should be considered for at least an initial assessment with social care however this is dependent on the circumstances of the relationship which include their level of age and understanding, disability, vulnerability etc. Where there are no concerns for either of the children's welfare, sexual health advice (via organisations such as Brook or local GP practices) should be offered at a local level after discussion with the local safeguarding advisor.

However, any child who is under the age of 13 is not seen as legally capable to consenting to sexual activity, whether or not they have agreed to this and should be referred to social care Referral & Assessment with respect and sensitivity.

Please note that sexual activity with a child under the age of 13 is a serious offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, regardless if this is consensual by either party.

If there is any imbalance of age, size, cognitive functioning, control, power or violence in a relationship between young people, agencies must consider if there is any risk of harm to either young person and if one of the young people has been coerced into the relationship (particularly if either of the young people have learning difficulties).

4.13 Young people presenting to health services (including Pharmacies, Reproductive and Sexual Health Services, GUM Services, GP's, Health Clinics, Specialist Services and Voluntary Providers) seeking sexual health screening, sexual infection treatment, contraception (including 'morning after pill') and terminations

Whilst it is important that confidentiality is maintained so that young people are encouraged to access health services voluntarily, **this confidentiality may need to be breached** when a young person aged 13 or over presents at a service and is deemed to be at risk of sexual exploitation.

Even if a young person is assumed 'Fraser Competent' the practitioner must undertake a thorough assessment to identify they are not a (potential) victim of sexual exploitation and this assessment should be repeated every time the practitioner has contact with the same young person as the circumstances around their sexual activity may have changed.

The assessment should include as a minimum:

- The young person's sexual health history (to include historical unprotected sex, sexually transmitted infections or inappropriate sexual behaviours)
- Any disengagement from education or training
- Alcohol or substance misuse
- An imbalance of age, power, control or coercion within the relationship
- If there have been multiple partners
- The circumstances around the sexual activity
- Where they met their partner(s) (i.e. on the internet or within any group or gang setting)
- Where the sexual activity has been occurring
- If the relationship was consensual and is the young person happy for it to continue
- Does the young person want to become a parent

Whilst the young person must be assessed with a high level of sensitivity in order to gain the young persons trust, if concerns about their sexual activity are raised, consent should be requested to share relevant information with other appropriate agencies in order to keep them safe, remove them from further risk of harm or to improve their wellbeing and confidence.

However, if the young person refuses to give their consent, practitioners must advise the young person that they have a statutory duty under UK law to make a referral to Lambeth Social Care and if a crime has been committed, the local police CAIT team.

Practitioners should therefore explain to every young person at the outset of any contact or meeting that in order to protect them from risk of harm, in certain circumstances, they **may** have to refer to other agencies for consideration for child protection procedures, **with or without the young persons consent.**

Please note that any child under the age of 13 under UK law is not legally capable of being able to consent to sexual activity regardless if they have agreed to this and must be automatically referred to Lambeth social care whilst they continue to receive appropriate advice, support and treatment, regardless of their consent.

Practitioners must keep clear, accurate and legible records highlighting their concerns, clinical findings, decisions made and information provided to the young person, their family and other professionals and their subsequent course of action including outcomes.

If no concerns about the potential for sexual exploitation are raised during the assessment, then the service should continue with providing confidential advice, support and treatment.

4.14 Young people presenting to police, social care, health services (including pharmacies) or counselling services making disclosures

Young people presenting to the above professionals making a disclosure of any form of sexual abuse including sexual exploitation must be seen as soon as is practical, believed by the recipient of the disclosure and referred on to Lambeth social care and the police immediately where they will instigate S47 child protection procedures.

Practitioners must encourage the young person to make the disclosure and provide as much information as possible whilst prompting and asking open ended questions without 'putting words in the young person's mouth', or making automatic assumptions.

Practitioners must keep clear, accurate and legible records highlighting their concerns, clinical findings, decisions made and information provided to the young person, their family and other professionals and their subsequent course of action including outcomes.

4.15 Young LGBTQ people exploring their sexuality and sexual identity

It can be very difficult for young people acknowledging their sexuality if they suspect they might be gay, are gay, or who are perceived to be gay by their peers. There are very few mechanisms in place to support young people who may experience homophobic bullying and there is also a distinct lack of positive role models to help shape a young person's experience and understanding of their sexuality.

Differing cultural beliefs can also impact on a young persons experience and understanding of their sexuality and unfortunately, most LGBT young people from BME communities experiences of coming to terms with their sexuality are fairly negative due to the hostility and non acceptance from their families, friends and peers from their own communities.

This obviously impacts on the young persons emotional wellbeing and increases their vulnerability and the danger being that they will be drawn into groups or communities of people who may seem at first to accept them with the intent of grooming them into a lifestyle which may be inappropriate or exploitative.

Many LGBT young people are seemingly 'accepted' within adult setting such as bars and clubs etc due to lack of LGBT 'friendly' youth provisions or where it is unsafe for them to access mainstream youth provisions. They may encounter situations or circumstances which are inappropriate or unsuitable for their age (i.e. access to alcohol or drugs, witnessing promiscuity, increased sexual activity) which could influence their ability to make 'safe' decisions.

Statistically, there are also a higher percentage of LGBT young people who will become homeless due to their sexuality which increases their vulnerability and how this impacts the co-relation between homelessness and sexual exploitation.

Young LGBT people within 'gang' settings can also be coerced into exploitative situations in order to minimise the risk of bullying or rumours about their sexuality. Young men are often forced into performing sex acts with other young men as a form of punishment or humiliation which is often filmed and used against them as a form of blackmail.

There are several London based youth organisations which can support and help create a positive identity for LGBT young people and professionals should seek specialist advice if they have concerns about a young person who may be struggling with their sexuality which in turn increases their vulnerability:

- www.paceyouth.net support for young lgbt people in London
- www.karmanirvana.org.uk support for victims of honour based violence
- www.llgs.org.uk London Lesbian & Gay switchboard helpline
- www.safraproject.org support for gay/lesbian muslims

4.16 Informed choices / if consent is actually consent / power imbalances

Sexual abuse and exploitation of a young person normally involves some imbalance of power and control between the perpetrator(s) and victim (including relationships between them). Assessments must 'thoroughly' seek to identify possible power imbalances within a relationship including differences in size, age, material wealth, psychological, cognitive, social and physical development. In addition, violence (or threats of), group settings (i.e. 'line ups in gang settings), gender, sexuality, race and levels of sexual knowledge can be used to exert power.

Whilst an obvious difference in age could indicate exploitation (i.e. a 15 year old girl with a 20 year old male), practitioners must be aware that a 14 or 15 year old boy, supported by a group of his peers, is able to exert extreme pressure over a girl or group of girls similar in age. There may also be instances where the sexual perpetrator(s) is/are female and when boys are forced (with threats of harm to themselves or their families) into performing sex acts with each other in gang settings by other gang members.

Where a power imbalance results in coercion, manipulation and/or bribery and seduction, these pressures can be applied to a young person by one or more individuals, or through peer pressure (i.e. group bullying). Professionals assessing the nature of a young person's relationship need to be aware of the possibility that either or both of these situations can exist for the young person and conduct a thorough holistic assessment of the young person's risk and need.

There is also an imbalance of power and the young person will not be deemed able to give consent if the sexual partner is in a position of trust or is a family member as defined by the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

4.17 Historical Sexual Exploitation

It is important that any adult disclosing historical sexual abuse or exploitation they experienced as a child to a professional is assured that this will be dealt with sensitively by the recipient of the disclosure and encouraged to progress a criminal investigation via the police.

If the adult disclosing the abuse / exploitation is known to other agencies such as adults social care, mental health or disability services (including learning disability), appropriate therapeutic support should be offered by the appropriate service.

The professional receiving the disclosure must consider that the alleged abuser may continue to pose a risk to children and should (where possible) establish their previous and current whereabouts and their possible current contact with children and must notify Lambeth social care for them to establish a chronology of the abuse and minimise any further risk by removing the alleged abuser from their current workplace via Lambeth's 'Allegations Against Staff' protocol and procedure. (add link).

If the abuse / exploitation occurred in a different local authority, then their police and social care should be notified and take responsibility for managing the case (in line with the above procedure) however support should be offered to the victim in the local authority in which they currently reside.

Further information can be accessed via the current Pan London Child Protection Procedures.

4.18 Trafficked Children

The trafficking of children in the UK no longer solely includes those children brought into the country by an adult with the promise of a better life, education, job or opportunity to make money for themselves and their families, sometimes with the family being aware of the perpetrators intention to exploit the child in some way (including cheap labour, domestic servitude, pickpocketing and harvesting cannabis farms).

Children can also be trafficked within the UK where they are moved around the country from area to area for the purpose of sexual exploitation by organised groups or gangs. Professionals must be aware that children may be forcefully removed from the borough by their exploiters to be sexually exploited by other individuals or groups in different areas of the country as well as brought into the borough for the same purpose and therefore may not be known to local services where the abuse is occurring.

For further information, please refer to Section 4.45 of the London Child Protection Procedures V4.

4.19 Familial Abuse

The sexual exploitation of children can occur in family settings often by multiple older family members and may be unspoken about and accepted by the wider family as 'the normal'.

Regardless of what the family perceives as 'acceptable and normal', this must be challenged by services and all children within the wider family investigated under child protection procedures (not just the actual victims).

5. Mapping of and highlighting local community preventative and support services

As part of the implementation of the CSE strategy and policy a resource will be developed that expands on these services below in more detail.

- Growing Against Gangs and Violence training in schools
- Tender
- My Dangerous Loverboy (Eyes Open)
- INVITE
- Brook
- Barnardos
- St Michaels Fellowship (soon to produce a video on CSE)
- The Haven
- The Gaia Centre
- NSPCC
- CAMHS
- CLAMHS
- Childline
- Just Whistle (training for professionals) and Chelsea's Choice – an interactive play which can be commissioned to raise awareness with schools
- Missing People – Living In Limbo DVD. An awareness DVD about missing people in the UK and the response that missing people can provide with public appeals

6. Partnership with Police & Health

6.1 Police

The Metropolitan Police (MPS) are currently developing and implementing a 'pan London' child sexual exploitation protocol which is aiming to:

- Identify children at risk of exploitation
- Establish local Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panels
- Work collaboratively to ensure the safeguarding and welfare who are or at risk of being sexually exploited
- To provide timely interventions with children and families to safeguard those vulnerable to sexual exploitation
- To apply pro-active problem solving which addresses risk associated with victims, perpetrators and locations and to safeguard young people at risk
- To take action against abusers by disrupting and prosecuting offenders
- To raise awareness and provide preventative education to young people around the risk of sexual exploitation

The MPS Child Abuse Investigation Command will have overall responsibility within the police service for all CSE investigations within London and is aiming to have 4 regional teams within London as well as local teams within each borough.

Lambeth police will establish a local Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel which will meet monthly and review and risk manage children identified of being at risk of exploitation and will convene the meetings which may be co-chaired by another panel member. Panel members to include CSE leads from Police, Health, Education, Social Care, MASH, Youth Offending Service, Care Home Providers and any voluntary agency that is working with the young victim.

Police will refer potential incidences of CSE to the MASH team within social care and aim to risk assess and where necessary, meet with the young person along with a social worker at the earliest stage.

6.2 Health

There are many providers of 'Health Services' within the borough including:

- Hospital A&E's
- Hospital inpatient / outpatient services or teams including doctors, nurses, general staff, specialist youthwork teams (Oasis & Redthread), chaplains, hospital schools staff etc
- GP's & Health Centres
- Sexual Health Clinics
- Pharmacies
- School Nurses
- Under 18 Teenage Pregnancy Team and Midwives
- Hospital & Community Safeguarding Teams or Leads

who may have contact with young people presenting to their services as a:

- Victim of crime
- Are drunk or have overdosed
- Have self harmed
- Are seeking emergency contraception / morning after pill or are pregnant
- Are seeking sexual health advice, contraception or a termination
- Are seeking emergency medication or advice
- Have a sexually transmitted infection
- Are from out of borough requesting a health service

who may suspect or receive disclosures of perceived or actual sexual exploitation and who should in the first instance consider the potential for this having occurred by referring to the referral toolkit (Appendix 5) after initial consultation with their designated safeguarding team or representative.

A consensual decision should then be made by all parties if agreement is reached that a young person may have potentially or has been the victim of sexual exploitation looking at 'the bigger picture' of the circumstances around the young persons presentation to the service. Young people should be encouraged to confirm if the relationship is consensual, if there is any imbalance in age, if there have been multiple partners or if there was any imbalance of power or control or force used as sensitively as possible.

7. Existing Protocols

National Guidance

- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan (2012)
- Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation: Supplementary Guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children (2009)
- Safeguarding Trafficked Children (2011)
- Multi Agency Practice Guidelines – Female Genital Mutilation (2011)
- Statutory Guidance on Children Who Run Away and Go Missing From Home or Care (2009)
- Barnados 'Spot the Signs' guidance
- A qualitative study of children, young people and 'sexting' - a report prepared for the NSPCC

London Child Protection Procedures 2010: relevant procedures

- Forced marriage of a child
- Gangs , serious youth violence and violent extremism
- Harming others
- Honour based violence
- Missing from care and home
- Not attending school
- Sexually active children
- Sexually exploited children
- Trafficked and exploited children

Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board Strategies and Protocols

- LSCB Safeguarding Children Abused Through Sexual Exploitation Protocol 2007
- Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board Safeguarding Children from Street Gangs Protocol
- Lambeth E-Safety Strategy and Policy
- Lambeth Missing from Care Protocol

Lambeth Specialist Services online procedures manual: relevant procedures

- Missing from home

- Missing from care
- Safeguarding children abused through sexual exploitation
- Working with sexually active young people
- Trafficked and exploited children

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (VAWG)

- Lambeth Violence Against Women and Girls strategy.

Young and Safe

- Lambeth Young and Safe strategy

Aim2

- Lambeth Aim2

8. The Legal Framework

LEGISLATION

The Children Act 1989

An Act to reform the law relating to children; to provide for local authority services for children in need and others; to amend the law with respect to children's homes, community homes, voluntary homes and voluntary organisations; to make provision with respect to fostering, child minding and day care for young children and adoption; and for connected purposes.

The Children Act 2004

An Act that provides for the establishment and role of a Children's Commissioner. The Act also places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements through which key agencies co-operate to improve the well-being of children and young people and widen services' powers to pool budgets in support of this. To ensure that, within this partnership working, safeguarding children continues to be given priority the Act places a responsibility for key agencies to have regard to the need to safeguard children and promote their welfare in exercising their normal functions. It also establishes statutory Local Safeguarding Children Boards

STATUTORY GUIDANCE

Working Together to Safeguard Children – A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – March 2013

This guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.

This guidance replaces Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010); The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (2000); *and* statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (2007). Links to relevant supplementary guidance that professionals should consider alongside this guidance can be found at Appendix C of this guidance.

London Child Protection Procedures

The *London Child Protection Procedures* are underpinned by the [Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance](#) (March 2013) which sets out what should happen in any local area when a Child or Young Person is believed to be in need of support. Effective safeguarding arrangements should aim to meet the following two key principles:

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each individual and organisation should play their full part; and
- A child centred approach: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL POLICIES

London Borough of Lambeth Children's Social Care Thresholds – August 2010

A document, which establishes the Lambeth “threshold” [the point at which] LA children's social care are likely to accept a referral for a child, young person or their family.

Appendix 1

Children Missing from Care

The Government APPG (All party parliament group) report published in June 2012 highlighted that approximately 10,000 children and young people go missing from care every year.

For a child or young person, becoming looked after can be an extremely emotional and stressful time for them which increases their vulnerability and can distort their trust in professionals and older people trying to help them. Missing from care is a key indicator that a young person is extremely vulnerable, sometimes with fairly complex needs and therefore more at risk from being sexually exploited which can defeat the purpose of removing the child from their own home environment in order to keep them safe from harm. Looked after children are 3 times more likely to run away than other children and 4.5 times more likely to be sexually exploited.

The Rochdale and Oxford trials identified that most of the victims had had been in care and had come from fairly troubled backgrounds. LB Lambeth therefore as the corporate parent for its many looked after children has a responsibility to keep them safe from harm including finding the most suitable placements for children, preventing them from going missing from care (as much as we can) and disrupting circumstances when looked after children are identified as regularly going missing from care. This responsibility is applicable to Lambeth children placed in foster care and residential care settings both in and outside of the borough and non Lambeth children placed in care settings in Lambeth by other local authorities and our approach must be shared cross borough however where possible, Lambeth social care will endeavour to place children in or as near to the borough as possible as being placed a long distance from home is a major factor for children going missing from care and will share this guidance with all its providers of care to ensure young people missing from care who are identified as potentially at risk from sexual exploitation are reported to the police in the first instance and that protocols are complied to when they return to care.

Definition of 'runaways' and 'missing'

The Department for Education describes a young runaway or a missing child as: *'Children and young people up to the age of 18 who have run away from their home or care setting, have been forced to leave or whose whereabouts is unknown.'*

Lambeth social care criteria for runaways and missing children is if the child or young person is away from their placement **without permission** and there is a concern for their safety (or a risk to the public).

Young people will test boundaries and will often stay away from their placements or be late in returning (after a return time had been agreed) however they should not automatically be considered as missing if the carer is aware of where they are or has phone contact with them. (Looked after children often return to their family home and will have unauthorised stay over's with their parents).

However, any child missing **for more than 48 hours** will also be considered as missing and the Lambeth 'Missing from Care' procedures must be followed.

Non Lambeth children placed in foster care or care home settings within Lambeth who are reported to the police as 'missing' must be brought to the attention of their home authorities (the authorities who have corporate parenting responsibility for them) and the protocol which is currently being re-developed and likely to be finalised by the end of 2013 must be followed.

Why children run away or go missing from care

'When young people start to go missing, that is one of their ways, when they are putting their hands up and saying "outside world, things aren't great for me just now."' (Quoted by the Children's Society).

This quotation obviously makes sense. If a care placement is appropriate to meet the needs of the young person and they are settled and happy, they are far less likely to leave it without permission.

Common reasons for children missing care are:

- They are unhappy at the placement
- They miss their home environment, family and friends and feel isolated
- Foster carers and care home staff have set boundaries which the young person does not want to comply to
- They have low self esteem and 'run for fun' and enjoy the attention
- They are receiving attention from a boyfriend/girlfriend
- They are receiving attention from someone who is potentially going to abuse/exploit them who they have come dependent on
- They are earning money or receiving gifts (including drugs, alcohol, food etc)

Unfortunately, many potential abusers particularly target young people in care as they recognise the added vulnerabilities these young people have. They may have had particularly troubled lives and have felt 'unloved' and that 'nobody cares about them' therefore they are more susceptible to being exploited by men (or groups of males) who tell them they love them, give them gifts such as mobile phones (or credit), laptops, free food or drugs and alcohol. They may then convince the young person of their love for them then encourage (often by threats of violence) the young person to be 'shared with their friends.'

Recognising risk factors of children starting to go missing

Becoming 'looked after can be a frightening and anxious time for a child or young person. Often the home circumstances which they are familiar with might be seen as chaotic, dangerous or risky to the social workers and other professionals working with the family however all professionals must accept and respect that these day to day living experiences are 'normal' for the child. Most children (and their families) will perceive the decision to place the child into care as a negative factor disregarding the current situation at home as risky or dangerous for the child and may challenge this, often resulting in the child running away from their care placement.

- Foster carers and care homes must therefore recognise signs and patterns of behaviour which looked after children may display such as:
- Repeated missing episodes without knowing where the young person is
- The young person not making contact with their carer when they do not return and not answering telephone calls
- Refusal to comply with rules and boundaries within the placement
- A strong attachment to their mobile phone
- Leaving the placement during the night

- Returning to the placement tired and unkempt, possibly under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Being collected or dropped off by older strangers
- Becoming withdrawn from their peers and displaying aggressive behaviour or self harming
- Disengagement with education or training. (Schools and other providers of education or training **must** notify carers if a looked after child starts disengaging with education)

This list is indicative but not exhaustive and foster carers and carers should be aware of the potential risk indicators in appendix 4 of this document which could indicate that the child is being exploited sexually.

Care should therefore be given in planning placements to ensure (where possible) that the most suitable and appropriate care is identified for the young person likely to cause the least disruption in their day to day life (including access to education, training and family contact (where permitted)) which the young person is most likely to 'settle' in without absconding from with the appropriate care plan in place. Ideally, the young person should also (where possible) be included in the decision as this will immediately reduce the likelihood of the young person going missing if they have had some input into where they will be living rather than the decision being solely made by social care and they feel powerless.

Part of the placement risk assessment should also include minimising the opportunity for young people to be placed with other young people who are persistent absconders from care.

Lambeth social care (where possible) will not be impeded by economic factors when placing a child or young person but will (as much as it can) look out for their best interests in placements which will keep them safe from harm and help them to reach and achieve their potential.

Responding to missing episodes

As much as we can minimise the likelihood of a young person going missing from care, there will always be circumstances in which young people will go missing (which includes non Lambeth children placed in care in the borough).

Professionals involved, foster carers and care homes need to appreciate that missing from care increases the possibility of a young person becoming 'groomed' for sexual exploitation (along with other risks) and must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to respond to missing children when they do return to their care.

Although encouraging the young person that it is in their own best interests to fully utilise and co-operate with their care plan which includes not running away from care or staying out without permission, young people will often think with their feet and become missing.

If contact is made with the young person, they should be encouraged to return to care or be collected from where they are and welcomed back to the placement without fuss in line with Lambeth's 'Missing from Care' protocol. The missing from care protocol is currently under review and is likely to be finalised in late 2013.

Other young people at the placement should also be included in the 'welcome' and local activities and interventions planned in attempts to keep the young person occupied and settled in their placement (i.e. education, hobbies, trips to cinema etc).

Any subsequent disclosures from the young person or suspicions or indications that the young person may have experienced sexual exploitation must be reported to their allocated social worker prior to the young person being interviewed (safe and well check) and must be dealt with sensitively, without any form of blame placed on the young person.

In incidences when there are regular and repeated patterns of a young person going missing, social care may have to consider sourcing a new placement for the young person in an attempt to disrupt the opportunities for the young person to abscond however this *may* simply just move to problem to another area as the young person will take their history with them. Perspective new carers should always be informed of a child's previous missing incidents in order to include this in any risk management plan.

Recording and monitoring missing episodes

Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board will record and monitor all incidences of 'missing from care' (including non Lambeth children placed in the borough) and identify with social care's monthly agency 'Risky Behaviour' panel young people at or potentially at risk of sexual exploitation and take steps to prevent or minimise this for the young person.

Such steps may include:

- Reviewing the care plan for the placement and encourage carers to report all unauthorised absence as missing (particularly short overnight absences between midnight and 6am)
- Provide carers with specialist 'missing from care' training and support via designated Lambeth officer
- Restricting access to the young persons mobile phone (particularly overnight, where possible)
- Referrals to other agencies for support (i.e. Barnardos, Brook, CLAMHS, drug and alcohol counselling support, The Haven, GAIA etc)
- Empowering the young person to build their confidence and self esteem with specialist holistic support via one to one mentoring
- Encouraging the young person to engage in positive diversionary activities (including education or training)
- Carers to demonstrate more empathy, support and CARE and agree 'achievable' boundaries with the young person
- A safe and well check to be undertaken with the young person by a professional known and trusted to them after every missing episode
- Changing the placement (different area, intensive fostering, therapeutic)
- Consider secure accommodation (in cases of extreme risk)

Cross borough / boundary notification

Non Lambeth looked after children placed in the borough who are identified as regularly missing from care must be brought to the attention of their home authority social care 'looked after children' team.

Lambeth social care will hold basic information about the young person on Framework (including name, date of birth, gender, disability, name and address of carer or placement and name and address of the parent (including those with

parental responsibility, the placing authority, the child's legal status, any child protection plan date of commencement of the placement) and notify their home authority when they receive police notification of a missing episode and ensure the home authority is aware of the risk their young person may be placing themselves in.

Likewise, Lambeth will ensure that other local authorities departments of children's services will be provided with the same information for its children placed out of borough with the expectation that we will be notified when the children we have corporate parenting responsibility for go missing. This must be incorporated into commissioning agreements with services which provide accommodation for children outside of Lambeth. Further information will be added to this policy once these arrangements are finalised in Lambeth.

Authorities must also follow through missing notifications (including Lambeth) and if concerns are raised at any time by the host authority that 'home' authorities are not providing an appropriate response to the notifications, these concerns should be raised with the appropriate Director for social care and requests made for the follow through to be escalated with their equivalent in the home authority.

Appendix 2

Young Women (& Young Men) Associated with Local Gang Activity

Recent research by the University of Bedfordshire commissioned by the Office of the Children's Commissioner was undertaken to identify:

'What's going on to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and young people'
February 2012 &

'Research into gang-associated sexual exploitation and sexual violence' Interim Report November 2012

and has been exploring children and young people's experiences of sexual exploitation, in particular those associated with gangs, in neighbourhoods with high levels of gang presence.

The final outcome of this research is due to be published in November 2013 however Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board (the LSCB) understood that its diverse neighbourhoods (many with high levels of known gang presence) required a fairly unique strategic approach in challenging and minimising the risks that young people living in these neighbourhoods faced in order to prevent them from becoming victims of sexual exploitation.

What is a gang in Lambeth?

'A relatively durable, predominantly street based group of young people who:

- *see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernable group*
- *engage in a range of criminal activity and violence*
- *identify with or lay claim over territory*
- *have some sort of identifying structural feature*
- *are in conflict with other, similar gangs'*

(Professor John Pitts 2008; Centre for Social Justice 2009)

Historically, Lambeth's gangs are 'postcode or estate based street gangs predominantly made up of groups of teenage males and young adults with a common identity, territory, or ethnicity whose activity is centred on criminal activity and violence which ranges from drug dealing on local estates to retaliation involving guns and knives when territorial boundaries are overstepped or threats of (or actual) serious violence are made against them by rival gang members.

The recent Rochdale and Oxford trials identified that young vulnerable girls were targeted by groups of males intent on exploiting them for sexual gratification for themselves and other groups of males within the UK. Broadly speaking, these groups of males fell within the above definition, albeit for different forms of criminal activity and violence. (grooming, plying with drugs and alcohol, rape, sexual abuse, prostitution and trafficking within the UK).

University of Bedfordshire research findings:

A large part of the research undertaken with nearly 150 young people in six different areas of England with known gang presence and differing histories established that:

Sexual violence and exploitation between young people in gang affected neighbourhoods largely reflects what we already know about sexual exploitation and violence:

- Perpetrators are predominantly male, victims predominantly female
- Invariably perpetrator and victim are known to each other
- It is used as a means of young males exerting power and control over young women
- There are certain features of gang associated sexual violence and exploitation that are unique to or exacerbated by the gang environment including
- Sex being used to initiate young people into a gang
- Sexual activity in return for (perceived) status and protection
- Young women feigning a sexual interest and 'setting up' other people in gangs as a form of entrapment for retaliation
- Sexual assault being used as a weapon in conflict

There are some incidents of sexual violence against young men but this information is less forthcoming than that related to incidences against young women and is viewed differently.

Not all young women are viewed as having equal rights to assent to or decline sexual activity. Young women seen as engaging in sexual activity are viewed by some as having already lost their right to withhold consent. Experiences of sexual violence also increase vulnerability to further incidents of the same.

Incidents of gang associated sexual violence and exploitation are rarely reported for a variety of reasons including:

- Resignation to, or normalisation of such experiences
- Fear of retribution or retaliation
- Low levels of reporting sexual violence amongst young people
- A lack of confidence in the ability of the police and other statutory services to offer adequate protection following a disclosure

Unsurprisingly, none of these five key findings did not come as any surprise to the LSCB.

Local police intelligence and existing work already undertaken by Lambeth Youth Offending Service, INVITE (previously Young & Safe) and Community Safety about gang presence in Lambeth, victim safety issues and young offenders as well as information shared by other agencies including health (whilst not breaching confidentiality) indicated to the LSCB that the potential levels of risk of sexual exploitation within the borough to young people were exacerbated by the proximity of high levels of local gang presence.

Although there are existing interventions for young people involved in gang activity in Lambeth, the sexual exploitation of young people within these settings is an area of 'gang lifestyle' which needs to be challenged by a multi agency approach by all partner agencies and responded to and dealt with in line with Lambeth child protection protocols.

The nature of gang associated sexual exploitation and violence in Lambeth

Prominent factors which young people can get drawn into or coerced into sexual exploitation within the borough include:

- **An increased pressure on young people to engage in sexual activity with their peer groups.** Due to the abundance of pornography freely available on the internet (accessible now on most mobile phones), young people can feel pressured into performing sexual acts 'because it is seen as normal'. Extreme hardcore pornography is shared with young people via their mobile phones and social networks and has unfortunately desensitised them to what is 'normal, age appropriate and acceptable'. Young people are informed by their peers that '*everybody does this...its normal...celebrities do it...if you really like me, you'll do it with my friends too*'.
- **Engagement in sexual activity due to fear of force, violence and intimidation.** Young people are frightened of the repercussions of refusal to take part in sex if threats are made against themselves and their families (in particular their younger siblings). Sex is used as a 'weapon' and as a form of power and control over their victims as well as forcing younger male gang members into becoming perpetrators against their will through fear of non acceptance into the gang. Young perpetrators then become victims as well.
- **The recording and distribution of images of sexual activity on mobile phones.** Scenes of sexual activity are often filmed by other gang members and used to blackmail their victims with the threat...'*if you don't do this, we will make this image public or forward it to your family*'. Young people do not understand that this is a criminal offence however they do understand that this is a very easy way to control victims. In spite of the best efforts of the LSCB promoting e-safety within the borough to schools and young people and the dangers and long term implications of exchanging images and 'sexting', there is still a lot of work to be undertaken around this which needs to continue with the support of the LSCB.
- **Sex is used as an initiation into the gang.** For young women who are attracted to the gang lifestyle, being forced to perform sexual acts with senior gang members is all too common. Often these young women are then 'shared' amongst the gang and are known as 'links' or 'groupies'. They had no formal status or relationship with the members but accepted this as 'normal' in order to benefit from the perceived lifestyle which they may have originally seen as a gain (access to money, drugs and 'bad boys' and 'protection' for themselves and their families etc).
- **Sex in return for (perceived) status or protection.** As above, young women may have perceived that by giving the males what they wanted, this in turn kept them safe outside of the gang as the gang would protect them. However, these young women were solely viewed as sexual objects and 'slags' by the male members who would not rush to protect them or consider a relationship with them as they tended to prefer 'nice' and 'clean' girls.
- **Sex as a means of achieving material gain.** Whilst some young women viewed belonging to a gang and accepting they would be used for sex as a way of achieving material gain including access to drugs, alcohol, money, protection, friendship and relationships, the common realisation after

experiencing the lifestyle was that it was simply not worth the physical and emotional pain and distress they had to endure. The short term benefits did not compensate for the long term impact this had on their wellbeing.

- **Young women ‘setting up’ people in other gangs.** Young women can be used as ‘tools’ to form relationships with or to attract rival gang members to settings in which their own gang members can retaliate as a result of conflict between the two gangs. Gang conflict and tension in Lambeth can be rife at times after incidences in which members have been seriously harmed or disrespected and young women need to feel more empowered to ‘say no’ if they are being asked to act as a ‘honey trap’ for their gang which in turn could lead to a lengthy custodial sentence.
- **Cases of rape and other sexual assaults as a punishment or weapon in conflict.** Obviously, threats of rape or sexual assault can seriously impair and distort a young person’s judgement to make proper decisions and young women may make incorrect choices if they assume they will be punished for speaking out or being unwilling to participate in any gang related activity.

Other factors which add to a young person’s vulnerability and have the potential for attracting young people into a gang can include:

- Existing familial or friendship links and the normalisation of the gang environment to the young person
- A desire for a sense of belonging, status, power and respect from their peers
- A need for protection from rival gangs
- Disaffection or disengagement with education and training
- A lack of access to training or employment opportunities and subsequent lack of income
- Inadequate local youth provision
- An unsettled or turbulent home life or living in care
- An attraction to a seemingly readily available supply of drugs, alcohol and sexual partners

Existing Interventions in Lambeth

- The Growing against Gangs and Violence programme run by the Metropolitan Police and delivered in most Lambeth secondary schools has been very well received by young people of both sexes.
- Lambeth protocol – ‘Safeguarding Children from Street Gangs provides advice and thresholds about referral to the INVITE service.
- INVITE
- LSCB Gang awareness training for professionals
- Lambeth Multi Agency Teams specialist targeted youth support
- Brook – Confidential information and support for young people about contraception, sexual health, relationships and harmful behaviours
- Barnardos – Is the largest provider of support services for young victims of sexual exploitation in the UK and provides therapeutic interventions which include counselling, group work sessions and drop in support.
- The Haven
- The GAIA Centre
- Lambeth VAWG strategy
- TENDER

As part of the implementation of the CSE Strategy and Policy a resource will be developed that expands of the services that these agencies provide in more detail.

Responding to disclosures (or suspicions of) of sexual assault or violence within a gang setting

Professionals with suspicions that a young person may be being sexually exploited (in any setting, not just gang settings) should refer to the toolkit on Appendix 4 which should be completed and referred to Lambeth Social Care Referral and Assessment providing as much information as they can remembering that this meets child protection thresholds and will be managed in line with child protection protocols.

Appendix 3

e-safety links to Child Sexual Exploitation

What is e-safety?

The term 'e-safety' is defined by LB Lambeth as:

'limiting the risks to children and young people when using Internet, Digital and Mobile Technologies (IDMTs) through a combined approach to policies and procedures, infrastructures, education and training'

Most adults can differentiate between the 'real world' and the 'digital world' as they grew up without digital technology and appreciate that whilst technology has made a major impact on society and made life easier in many ways, it was possible to have a childhood without mobile phones and video games etc.

For children and young people though, the digital world and the real world are one and the same. They have grown up with it, are not scared or bewildered by it, are happy to share their knowledge about it but can not imagine a life without it. Adults have to accept this but be aware of the areas of risk and challenges young people now face in their 'world'.

Unfortunately, people seeking to sexually abuse children and young people now have unlimited access to them through the advancement of digital technology which includes mobile phones, laptops, chat rooms, social networking sites and gaming platforms etc.

The recent Rochdale and Oxford trials identified that the victims were provided with mobile phones by the perpetrators as a way of contacting them. Had the victims not had access to a mobile phone, the likelihood is the abuse would not have continued for so long or have been so extreme as contact would have been far more limited.

Reports of online grooming have also increased internationally. Predators can easily contact a young person electronically then with repeated contact, can build up an online relationship with them and encourage or blackmail the young person into forwarding images of themselves or meeting up with them.

Young people have been filmed via mobile phones, engaging in sexual activity with their peers and strangers (often against their will and in gang settings). Threats of violence and rape are then made against them unless they accept some form of control from the perpetrators.

Young people will also befriend strangers online in an effort to appear more popular with their peers. However, they do not often understand the risks attached to this or that people are not always who they say they are online or that people can be anyone they want to be online simply by copying another persons personal pictures and pretending to be that person.

Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

CEOP (www.ceop.police.uk) is a police agency affiliated to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and is dedicated to eradication the sexual abuse of children and young people.

CEOP has a holistic approach to keeping young people safe online, educating young people, parents/carers and professionals about how to encourage young people to stay safe online via its 'Thinkuknow' educational resources (available at www.thinkuknow.co.uk) and enforce the law and prosecute offenders when a crime has been committed against a young person.

It provides an online reporting tool for young people which can be downloaded onto (add details here) and currently receives approximately 1600 referrals per month about online abuse towards young people from young people themselves, parents, friends and professionals which led to the arrest of 192 suspects in the 12 month period April 2012 to March 2013.

CEOP Training on e-safety

Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board have two qualified CEOP 'Ambassadors, who can deliver specialist training to schools, professionals and youth settings on internet safety and to date, have delivered this training to approximately 4000 young people in Lambeth and approximately 350 parents by way of school assemblies and parents awareness sessions. For further information, please contact Roddy Leith on 0207 926 9193 / rleith@lambeth.gov.uk or Sarwan Jandu on 07976 490051 / sjandu@lambeth.gov.uk

Risks young people face online

Through local police intelligence, reports from Lambeth Youth Offending Service, Schools, parents/carers, professionals and young people themselves, common risks of sexual exploitation young people face online include:

Sexting

Sexting is the exchange of images between young people, people pretending to be young people and strangers which may be inappropriate.

It is a common trend for young people nowadays to exchange 'private' images of themselves by digital communication (normally mobile phones). However, although this is not a crime in itself to forward an image of yourself to someone you know (normally a boyfriend/girlfriend), it is a criminal offence for the recipient of these images to forward on to another person or a group of people.

Young people can forget that once the message is sent, they have no control over what happens to it or who this can then be forwarded on to. The result in what can then happen to this image can be devastating and have long term effects on the sender.

- Websites can be created by any recipient where these images can be made public with the sender named.
- These images are forwarded to the young persons peer group via BBM and MSN messaging services. One photo can be shared with hundreds of other people in a matter of minutes.

- These images can fall into the hands of sexual predators who can exchange these with other predators and even blackmail the young person into revealing personal information or further images of themselves or meeting up with them.
- Perspective employers or universities can 'google' applicants and come across these images online which can ruin a young persons chance of further education or employment in some professions.

The key message the LSCB wishes to educate young people about is *'Think before you click...once you press send, you have no control over what happens to your pictures'*.

Social Networking

Most young people now have access to social networking websites such as Facebook and Twitter as a way of keeping up with their peers and sharing information about themselves and what is happening in their lives.

However, whilst this can be enjoyable and a way of keeping in contact with friends and family that don't live near you, a common problem young people face is becoming friends with or following or being followed by people they do not know who may or may not be friends with someone they know. Young people report being sent friend requests from strangers and in an attempt to be seen as popular with their peers, they accept these requests. The new 'friend' may not be who they say they are and may attempt to make regular online contact with them with sole purpose of 'grooming' them.

The LSCB recommends that young people only develop 'friendships' with people they know in the real world and that all social networking profile settings are restricted to private. We also recommend that the CEOP 'Report Abuse' button is downloaded onto any social networking profiles as this also deters predators from targeting young people for the purpose of grooming if they identify this button on a young persons profile.

Chatrooms

Chatrooms can be fun for young people and a way of communication with their friends however as with any form of social networking, they can be approached by strangers claiming to be other young people and strike up online relationships with them. However, young people can sometimes let their guard down online and become carried away with the moment and possibly reveal information about themselves they would not consider doing in the offline world. They may also be asked to chat 'privately' on their webcams and asked to remove clothing then become blackmailed by the other person.

Again, the LSCB recommends the above advice

Gaming

Most young people enjoy online gaming but what parents do not often realise is that often their children are playing games with strangers all over the world, particularly if young people are playing games designed for adults. Again, young people can be befriended by strangers and asked to enter private chatrooms so the same advice should be followed.

Pornography

Regardless of what efforts parents and schools put in place, young people will encounter pornography online usually be accident or by being the recipient of images

and video clips which young people can readily access and share with their peers, particularly on their mobile phones.

One of the key risks attached to this apart from being upsetting for the recipient is that due to the abundance of extreme hardcore free pornography available, young people can become desensitised to completely unsuitable acts they witness online and can view this or be encouraged to perceive this as 'normal'. This in turn can give young males a very unhealthy perception of what is sexually acceptable and what constitutes a positive, safe and healthy relationship thus putting a distorted view on their own relationships, often involving force, violence and degradation viewing their sexual partners as 'cheap' or 'easy'.

Mobile phones with camera and video functions

Most modern mobile phones now have built in camera and video access as well as internet access.

Whilst photographs and videos can be taken almost anywhere and by anyone and be uploaded onto the internet in a matter of minutes, this accessibility can be abused in circumstances such as:

- Images & videos can be uploaded and shared instantly. Images can be taken of young people (without consent) which they are then threatened with.
- Sexual exploitation within gang settings can be filmed and used against the victim to retain their silence.
- Young people can be blackmailed into performing sex acts online if an abuser has an inappropriate image of them. This can be recorded by the blackmailer and used against the young person.
- Young people are sent inappropriate videos which can be illegal and extremely distressing
- Young people can themselves forward (often with encouragement from others) inappropriate images of themselves or other young people without understanding this is a criminal offence to distribute indecent images of children

Generally, the advice and recommendations that the LSCB provides to young people online is that:

- Think before you click
- Think how your actions online could impact you in the future
- Not everyone is who they say they are online
- Do not befriend a stranger online in the same way you would not befriend a stranger walking up to you in the street and asking to be your friend
- Remember the CEOP 'Report Abuse' button

Regardless of the continued support the LSCB is providing partners in the borough with on e-safety, the board needs to recognise that continued advancements in technology have made the online world more and more challenging for young people with more risk attached therefore the board should continue to monitor latest developments and review its e-safety strategy and policy on an annual basis.

Appendix 4

Lambeth multi agency CAF referral toolkit for potential victims of child sexual exploitation

(Please note this CAF referral form is currently under review and will be replaced by a new form when the review is completed)

Evidence to support reasons for referral

Professionals with concerns about young people potentially being victims of sexual exploitation must complete this CAF form **and** indicator checklist in as much detail and forward to Lambeth Social Care Referral & Assessment team (add contact details). Parental consent is not required for this referral as this is a child protection referral.

Lambeth children's social care the primary lead service provider for safeguarding and responding to potential sexual abuse working with local police and other partner agencies who may be involved with the young person.

Please provide as much detail as possible as the more information supplied, will assist with the assessment and investigation.

Please Note:

The indicators on the matrix are merely indicators and are not definitive as there are many other risk factors which can raise concerns. The age and vulnerability of the child / young person also must be taken into account. Professionals should mark whether the indicator is known by ticking the column yes or suspected and provide as much supporting evidence for each box ticked.

Please:

1. Expand on the circumstances/details of the encounter or contact
2. Provide supporting evidence for the indicators that you have identified in the risk matrix. Please indicate the number you are referring to
3. Provide any other relevant information that you consider may be important and wish to include e.g. details of behaviour or (potential) abuse
4. Was the relationship consensual
5. Name of any exploiter(s) (if known)
6. Car details of exploiter (if known – model, colour, registration number, description (markings etc) and details of occupants)
7. Suspected place of exploitation (if known)
8. Any action you have taken including referral to other agencies e.g. Police, other local authorities, YOS, Health, Education etc
9. Continue with referral regardless if parental consent has been given.
Remember this is a child protection referral.

continue on a separate sheet if necessary

CAF form

Notes for use: If you are completing form electronically, text boxes will expand to fit your text Where check boxes appear, insert an 'X' in those that apply.

Identifying details

Record details of unborn baby, infant, child or young person being assessed. If unborn, state name as 'unborn baby' and mother's name, e.g. unborn baby of Ann Smith.

Name	<input type="text"/>	AKA ¹ /previous names	<input type="text"/>
Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>		
Postcode	<input type="text"/>	Date of birth or EDD ²	<input type="text"/>
		Contact tel. no.	<input type="text"/>
		Unique ref. no.	<input type="text"/>
		Version no.	<input type="text"/>
		Religion	<input type="text"/>

Ethnicity

White British	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	White & Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	White & Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other ethnic group*	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other White background*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other Black background*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	White & Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not given	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsy/Roma	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traveller of Irish Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other Asian background*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other mixed background*	<input type="checkbox"/>		

*If other, please specify Immigration status

Child's first language Parent's first language

Does the child have a disability? Yes No

If 'yes' give details

Is an interpreter or signer required? Yes No

Has this been arranged? Yes No

Details of any special requirements
(for child and/or their parent)

1 'Also known as'

2 Expected date of delivery

Assessment information

People present
at assessment

What has led to this unborn baby, infant, child or young person being assessed?

Details of parents/carers

Name

Contact tel. no.

Relationship to unborn baby, infant, child or young person

Address

Parental responsibility?

Yes

No

Name

Contact tel. no.

Relationship to unborn baby, infant, child or young person

Address

Parental responsibility?

Yes

No

Current family and home situation

(e.g. family structure including siblings, other significant adults etc; who lives with the child and who does not live with the child)

Details of person(s) undertaking assessment

Name	<input type="text"/>	Contact tel. no.	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>	Role	<input type="text"/>
		Organisation	<input type="text"/>

Name of lead professional (where applicable)

Lead professional's contact number

Services working with this infant, child or young person

Universal	GP	x	Details	<input type="text"/>	Tel.	<input type="text"/>
	Early years or education/training provision	x	Details	<input type="text"/>	Tel.	<input type="text"/>
	Service	<input type="text"/>	Details	<input type="text"/>	Tel.	<input type="text"/>
Other services	Service	<input type="text"/>	Details	<input type="text"/>	Tel.	<input type="text"/>
	Service	Housing	Details	<input type="text"/>	Tel.	<input type="text"/>
	Service	<input type="text"/>	Details	<input type="text"/>	Tel.	<input type="text"/>
	Service	<input type="text"/>	Details	<input type="text"/>	Tel.	<input type="text"/>
	Service	<input type="text"/>	Details	<input type="text"/>	Tel.	<input type="text"/>

CAF assessment summary: strengths and needs

Consider each of the elements to the extent they are appropriate in the circumstances. You do not need to comment on every element. Wherever possible, base comments on evidence, not just opinion, and indicate what your evidence is. However, if there are any major differences of view, these should be recorded too.

1. Development of unborn baby, infant, child or young person

Health

General health

Conditions and impairments; access to and use of dentist, GP, optician; immunisations, developmental checks, hospital admissions, accidents, health advice and information

Physical development

Nourishment; activity; relaxation; vision and hearing; fine motor skills (drawing etc.); gross motor skills (mobility, playing games and sport etc.)

Speech, language and communication

Preferred communication, language, conversation, expression, questioning; games; stories and songs; listening; responding; understanding

Emotional and social development

Feeling special; early attachments; risking/actual self-harm; phobias; psychological difficulties; coping with stress; motivation, positive attitudes; confidence; relationships with peers; feeling isolated and solitary; fears; often unhappy

Behavioural development

Lifestyle, self-control, reckless or impulsive activity; behaviour with peers; substance misuse; anti-social behaviour; sexual behaviour; offending; violence and aggression; restless and overactive; easily distracted, attention span/concentration

1. Development of unborn baby, infant, child or young person (continued)

Identity, self-esteem, self-image and social presentation

Perceptions of self; knowledge of personal/family history; sense of belonging; experiences of discrimination due to race, religion, age, gender, sexuality and disability

Family and social relationships

Building stable relationships with family, peers and wider community; helping others; friendships; levels of association for negative relationships

Self-care skills and independence

Becoming independent; boundaries, rules, asking for help, decision-making; changes to body; washing, dressing, feeding; positive separation from family

Learning

Understanding, reasoning and problem solving

Organising, making connections; being creative, exploring, experimenting; imaginative play and interaction

Participation in learning, education and employment

Access and engagement; attendance, participation; adult support; access to appropriate resources

Progress and achievement in learning

Progress in basic and key skills; available opportunities; support with disruption to education; level of adult interest

Aspirations

Ambition; pupil's confidence and view of progress; motivation, perseverance

2. Parents and carers

Basic care, ensuring safety and protection

Provision of food, drink, warmth, shelter, appropriate clothing; personal, dental hygiene; engagement with services; safe and healthy environment

Emotional warmth and stability

Stable, affectionate, stimulating family environment; praise and encouragement; secure attachments; frequency of house, school, employment moves

Guidance, boundaries and stimulation

Encouraging self-control; modeling positive behaviour; effective and appropriate discipline; avoiding over-protection; support for positive activities

3. Family and environmental

Family history, functioning and well-being

Illness, bereavement, violence, parental substance misuse, criminality, anti-social behaviour; culture, size and composition of household; absent parents, relationship breakdown; physical disability and mental health; abusive behaviour

Wider family

Formal and informal support networks from extended family and others; wider caring and employment roles and responsibilities

Housing, employment and financial considerations

Water/heating/sanitation facilities, sleeping arrangements; reason for homelessness; work and shifts; employment; income/benefits; effects of hardship

Social and community elements and resources, including education

Day care; places of worship; transport; shops; leisure facilities; crime, unemployment, anti-social behaviour in area; peer groups, social networks and relationships

Conclusions, solutions and actions

Now the assessment is completed you need to record conclusions, solutions and actions. Work with the baby, child or young person and/or parent or carer, and take account of their ideas, solutions and goals.

What are your conclusions? (For example strengths, no additional needs, additional needs, complex needs, risk of harm to self or others)

What needs to change? (For example what outcomes, solutions and goals do the child/young person, parent/carer and you want to achieve)

Desired Outcomes:

Action plan (in order of priority)

Who will do this?

By when?

Agreed review date

How will you know when things have improved?

Child or young person's comment on the assessment and actions identified

Parent or carer's comment on the assessment and actions identified

Consent for information storage and information sharing

I understand the information that is recorded on this form and that it will be stored and used for the purpose of providing services to:

- Me
- This infant, child or young person for whom I am a parent
- This infant, child or young person for whom I am a carer

I have had the reasons for information sharing explained to me and I understand those reasons

I agree to the sharing of information, as agreed, between the services listed below

Yes

No

(Practitioner to detail what information may be seen by which agencies)

--

Signed

Name

Date

Assessor's signature

Signed

Name

Date

Exceptional circumstances: significant harm to infant, child or young person

If at any time during the course of this assessment you feel that an infant, child or young person has been harmed or abused or is at risk of harm or abuse, you must follow your local safeguarding children board (LSCB) procedures as set out in the booklet

What To Do If You Are Worried A Child Is Being Abused (Department of Health, 2003).

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www.ecm.gov.uk/caf

IW13/1007

Risk Matrix Checklist for Referral to be included with CAF referral.
Please indicate all levels of risk (Green=Low, Amber=Medium, Red=High) and note if there are ongoing patterns or recurring incidences which should be reviewed.

Health	Yes	Suspicion
1. Chronic Fatigue		
2. Physical symptoms of exploitative abuse (bruising etc)		
3. Evidence of drug or alcohol <u>abuse</u>		
4. Multiple Pregnancies or seeking a termination		
5. Recurring or multiple sexually transmitted infections		
6. Sexually risky behaviour		
7. Symptoms of psychological or emotional trauma such as self harm or eating disorder		
Education	Yes	Suspicion
8. Truancy or disengagement with education or a noted change in performance		
9. Displaying sexualised behaviours with peers		
Emotional & Behavioural development	Yes	Suspicion
10. Volatile behaviour exhibiting extreme array of mood swings or use of abusive language		
11. Attachment to mobile phone or laptop		
12. Secretive behaviours		
13. Unknown 'friends' on social networking sites such as Facebook		
14. Evidence of visits to adult websites (pornographic) or adult social networking sites		
15. Persistent texting or checking mobile phone for text messages, emails, messages on social networking sites		
16. Getting involved in criminal activities or are associating with known gangs		
17. Indications of cyber-bullying		
18. Evidence of indecent images on phone or laptop		
19. Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults (obtain car details where possible and details of occupants, description of vehicle etc)		
Identity	Yes	Suspicion
20. Low self image, low self esteem, self harming, promiscuity		
Family & Social Relationships	Yes	Suspicion
21. Hostility in relationship with parents / carers / care home staff and other family members		
22. Detachment from normal age appropriate activities		
23. Placement breakdown if looked after		
24. Adults or older peers loitering outside the usual place of residence		
25. Associating with other young people suspected of being gang members		
26. Physical aggression towards parents, siblings, extended family, pets, teachers or peers		
27. Young person known to be sexually active (seeking contraception, evidence of condoms, disclosures from the young person)		
28. Sexual relationship with an older person		

29. Unexplained relationships with older adults		
30. Reports from reliable sources suggesting the likelihood of the young person being sexually exploited (parents / carers, friends, teachers or other professionals with regular contact with the young person), perhaps with other young people who may themselves have been victims		
31. Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation		
32. Returning after being missing looking well cared for in spite of not knowing where the young person was		
33. Missing for long periods not knowing where the young person was		
34. Missing and being found in an area unknown to the young person (including hotels / guest houses)		
35. Unexplained attachment to a new neighbourhood or area, possibly in an area known to be used for sexual exploitation or prostitution (or for young men, seen at parks or public toilets known for sexual activity between males or in or outside gay bars, clubs or saunas)		
Social Presentation	Yes	Suspicion
36. Sudden change in appearance including change of hairstyle, wearing more make up, wearing revealing clothing, wearing clothing that covers them up, wearing gang colours etc		
37. Making efforts to look older or younger		
38. Borrowing or stealing clothing from other young people		
Family History	Yes	Suspicion
39. History of physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect		
40. Known to services such as social care, police, health etc		
41. Dysfunctional family background		
42. Domestic violence / anti social behaviour		
43. Parental substance or alcohol abuse		
44. Parental learning difficulties		
Family Culture & Religious Beliefs	Yes	Suspicion
45. Potential for young women to be forced into marriage due to cultural belief		
46. Potential for young people to be victims of witchcraft or suspected of being possessed by spirits		
Housing	Yes	Suspicion
47. Patterns or homelessness or unsuitable accommodation		
48. Having keys to premises other than those where normally resident		
Income	Yes	Suspicion
49. Possession of large amounts of money with no plausible income		
50. Acquisition of new clothes, trainers, jewellery or gifts without any plausible explanation		
51. Acquisition of new mobile phone or laptop without any plausible explanation		
52. Young person is known to have access to 'free takeaway food' from takeaways		
53. Young person has unlimited access to free cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, phone credit		
54. Young person has access to social activities without any plausible explanation how these are being funded (i.e. visiting nightclubs and bars)		

Appendix 5

University of Bedfordshire Data Monitoring Tool

Need to add this link in or copy the PDF provided by University of Beds however this will not open for me just now. This toolkit is to be used for the LSCB's annual report to CEOP.