



**Wiltshire Safeguarding
Children Board**

Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Handbook 2015

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Introduction

This Handbook provides guidance and information regarding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and it raises awareness of and describes CSE to inform professional practice.

1. **Role of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)**

1.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 sets out that all agencies have a role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and need to ensure staff are trained to identify abuse and refer appropriately. For the purpose of this document this means:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

1.2 Working Together March 2015 also sets out the statutory role of the Safeguarding Board:-

- a. to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- b. to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

1.3 WSCB has a role in setting out the expectations of all agencies in relation to identifying and responding to children who are vulnerable to, and at risk of, sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as responding when there are children being sexually exploited. All agencies have a role in identifying and safeguarding children at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and abuse.

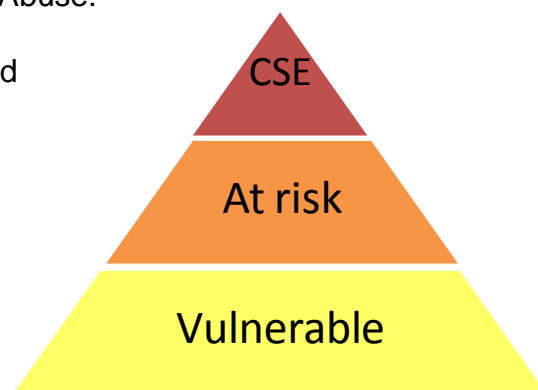
1.4 The WSCB has developed and approved a multi-agency strategy and action plan in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Abuse. All professionals who work, or come into contact, with children and young people should be able to identify and act upon the signs of vulnerability and risk to children and young people of CSE. For further information please see the WSCB Guidance, Policies and Protocols page:

www.wiltshirelscb.org/resources-guidance

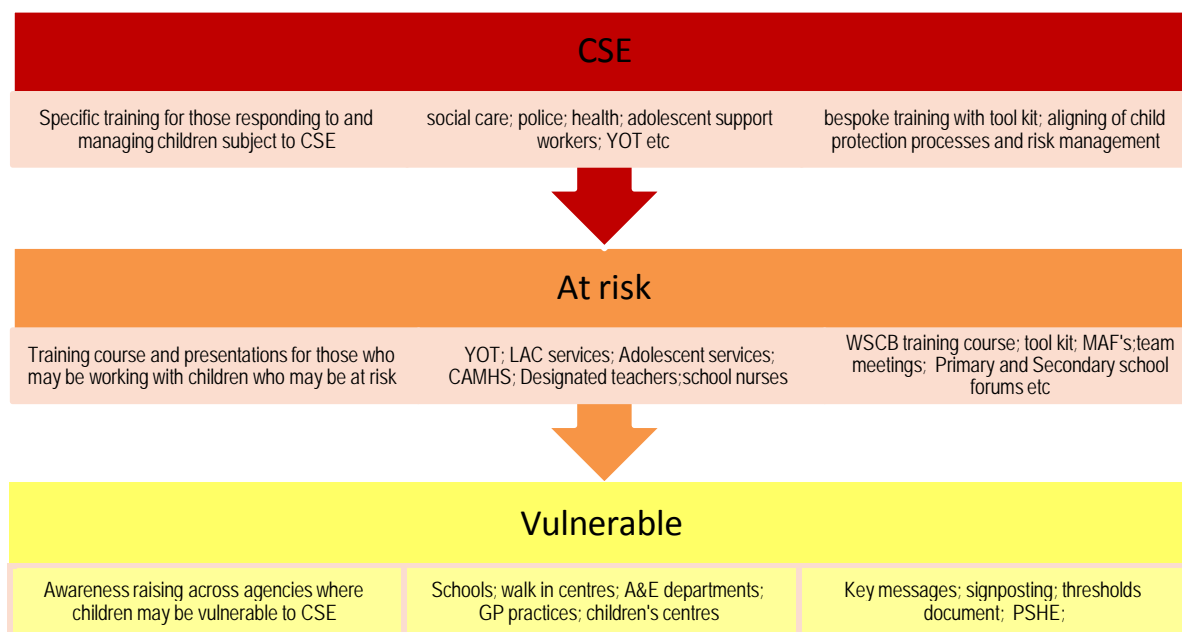
1.5 **Remember safeguarding is everybody's business: do not assume that someone else will ask, assess or refer** – it is your responsibility to do so. If you are not sure what to do then talk to your colleagues or named safeguarding lead in your organisation.

- 1.6 The WSCB has developed within its multi-agency training programme courses on CSE: an online course for staff who come into contact with children and young people during the course of their work and a one day multi-agency course for staff who have regular and specific roles with children and young people and who will be involved in referring and working with children at risk or in need. Both courses are available via Wiltshire Pathways website www.wiltshirepathways.org.
- 1.7 The WSCB website www.wiltshirelscb.org contains information regarding these and other courses available to those working with children and young people as well as further information regarding the work of the Board on CSE and other safeguarding issues.
- 1.8 All children are vulnerable to CSE to some extent. However this guidance reflects 3 levels of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:

- Those being sexually exploited and abused
- Those at risk of CSE
- Those who are vulnerable to CSE



- 1.9 For each level, the WSCB has set out how it will support the development of knowledge and skills of staff across agencies working with children and young people to identify refer and support young people at risk, or victims, of sexual exploitation and abuse.



- 1.10 The process for responding to children within each level is set out in this document. Children and young people may move at any stage between these 'levels' and so it is important to ensure that the young person's circumstances are regularly reviewed and prompt action taken where their risk of harm increases.
- 1.11 There is an Initial CSE risk screening tool to assist those working with children to determine whether a child or young person is the victim of, at risk of or vulnerable to sexual exploitation. The WSCB has been to ensure that the identification, response and management of CSE sits firmly within existing child protection and early intervention frameworks. Making use of and reinforcing universal processes and frameworks such as the Multi-Agency Thresholds Document, Common Assessment Framework, as well as existing child protection referral pathways/procedures will be the best way of ensuring those who come into contact and work with children and young people are able to identify, assess, refer and respond to CSE in a timely fashion.

2. **What is Child Sexual Exploitation and abuse?**

- 2.1 The sexual exploitation of children and young people has been identified throughout the UK, in both rural and urban areas, and in all parts of the world. It affects boys and young men as well as girls and young women. The abuser could be male or female. It is a form of sexual abuse and can have a serious impact on every aspect of the lives of children involved and their families.
- 2.2 The sexual exploitation of children is described in the government guidance document as;

'involving exploitative situations, 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 their performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. It can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; e.g. being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child 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's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.' (DoH 2008)

- 2.3 CSE can take many different forms including:

- Exploitation by family members, including being 'sold for sex'
- Sexually exploitative relationships with older adults
- Sexually exploitative relationships with peers
- Sexual exploitation through technology including grooming through social media and the taking and circulation of sexually explicit images of the child

- 2.4 Research undertaken by Barnardo's '*Puppet on a String: the Urgent Need to Cut Children Free from Child Sexual Exploitation*' has concluded that child sexual exploitation can be classified into three different models:
- 2.4.1 **Inappropriate relationships** including online – usually involves one perpetrator who has inappropriate power – physical, emotional or financial – or control over a young person. The young person may believe they have a genuine friendship or loving relationship with the abuser. The abuser may groom the victim by striking up a relationship with them on-line. The abuser may pose as a young person of a similar age or as an adult. This can be via chatrooms such as Face book. Sometimes the abuser persuades a victim to give them details of other children or young people. The abuser may ask the child to talk to them via web cam and progress to getting them to pose or send images of themselves in underwear which may progress to naked or semi-naked images. These images will be stored and are likely to be shared with other child abusers. They may start to pressure the child or young person to meet them and from this point the grooming may be similar to the boyfriend model. Equally the young person may be coerced into sexualised behaviours or exploitation over the internet via threats to reveal lower level risk taking behaviours to family or friends (i.e. having sent pictures of themselves over the internet they are then threatened with the circulation of these to parents or via social networking sites unless they perform further sexual acts/behaviours.
- 2.4.2 **Boyfriend** – an abuser grooms victim by striking a normal relationship with them, giving them gifts and meeting them in cafes or shopping centres. A seemingly consensual sexual relationship develops which later becomes abusive. Victims are required to attend parties and have sex with multiple men and are threatened with violence if they try to seek help.
- 2.4.3 **Organised exploitation and trafficking** – victims are trafficked through criminal networks – often between towns and cities – and forced or coerced into sex with multiple men. They may also be used to recruit new victims. This serious criminal activity can involve the buying and selling of young people.
- 2.5 Whatever their experience of child sexual exploitation it is important to be aware that **children and young people are not making a free and informed choice to participate in the sexual activity**. They often make constrained choices against a background of vulnerability and because of their age, unmet needs or vulnerability they are unable to give informed consent. Young people under the age of 16 cannot legally consent to sexual activity and sexual intercourse with children under the age of 13 is statutory Rape. A child under 18 cannot consent to their own abuse through exploitation.
- 2.6 What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power within the relationship and how the perpetrators use that power to groom and then abuse their victims, then prevent them from disclosing the abuse and help to extract themselves from the abuse. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim, increasing the dependence of the victim as the exploitative relationship develops. Often illegal drugs and alcohol are used as part of creating dependence and reducing the child's awareness of the abuse.

- 2.7 Technology can play a part in sexual abuse, for example, through its use to record abuse and share it with other like-minded individuals or as a medium to access children and young people in order to groom them. Increasingly this includes the use of social media sites such as Face book, X Box and Twitter. Victims may also be recorded being abused for example on mobile phones and those images shared or used as another means of threatening, humiliating or coercing the child.
- 2.8 Some forms of sexual exploitation have strong links with other forms of crime, for example, domestic abuse, online and offline grooming, the distribution of abusive images of children and child trafficking.
- 2.9 The perpetrators of sexual exploitation are often well organised and use sophisticated tactics. They are known to target areas where children and young people gather without much adult supervision, e.g. parks or shopping centres or sites on the Internet.

Below are the Disturbing Signs of behaviour that may indicate a young person is at risk of or is being sexual exploited.



3. **Push and Pull Factors**

There are a number of factors that may make a young person more vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse due to their individual family or personal circumstances that may either 'push' or 'pull' a child into situations where they are vulnerable to or at risk of being sexually exploited. Abusive adults will look out for signs of these push factors in selecting a child to target. These include:

3.1. **PUSH:**

- Children who have been the victim of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and emotional abuse.
- Children from households where domestic violence and abuse has been a feature.
- Children of parents with a high level of vulnerabilities (e.g. drug and/or alcohol abuse, mental illness, learning disability, their own history of an abusive childhood).
- Family breakdown / disrupted family life / problematic parenting.
- Insecure immigration status.
- Children who have physical or learning impairments.
- Children with emotional difficulties; low self esteem; estranged family relationships.
- Abusers will spend time getting to know their victims and look for indicators of vulnerability even via social networking sites, through chat lines etc

3.1.1 There are also indicators that a child or young person is at risk of or particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse:

- Going missing – the most immediate indicator of vulnerability to sexual exploitation
- Disengagement from education
- Drug and/or alcohol dependency
- Physical symptoms e.g. sexually transmitted infections, miscarriage, abortion, bruising or marks indicating physical or sexual assault
- Young people who have not received appropriate levels of attention from concerned adults
- Associating with older men or other 'risky' adults
- Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of the money to fund these activities
- New possessions, acquisition of money, expensive clothes, drugs or other possessions without plausible explanation about their source
- Being alienated from family or community
- Being in care and having placement breakdown
- Associating with other young people who are known to be victims of exploitation
- Some forms of offending behaviour
- Harmful sexual behaviour
- Gender identity confusion

3.2 **PULL**

3.2.1 The grooming techniques used to gain the child's attention, admiration and affection often taps into insecurities or a desire for acceptance and status by the young person. These are referred to as 'pull' factors and include:

- Being liked by someone older;
- Being liked/fancied enough that a (relative) stranger asks for their mobile number;
- Meeting someone who thinks they are special on the internet;
- Receiving alcohol, drugs, money, mobile/smartphones or gifts;
- Getting a buzz and the excitement of risk taking/forbidden behaviour;
- Being offered somewhere to stay where there are no rules/boundaries;
- Being taken along to adult entertainment venues, red light or gay cruising areas (public sex environments);
- Being given lifts, taken to new places, and having adventures with casual acquaintances.

4. **Sex Offences and Underage Sexual Activity**

4.1 **Definitions**

For the purpose of this guidance the key age groups identified are:

- Children under 13;
- Young people aged between 13 and 15;
- Young people over the age of consent (16) and up to the age of 18.

4.1.1 Young people over the age of consent and up to 18 years may still suffer sexual harm through exploitation by predatory adults or through a sexual partner who is abusing a Position of Trust.

4.1.2 Any young person between the age of 16 and 18 who is engaging in sexual activity with a person in a position of trust (i.e. teacher, foster carer or similar) is being sexually exploited and such cases must be referred to the Designated Officer (former LADO).

4.2 **Sexual Offences**

4.2.1 **Under 13's**

A child under 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sexual activity. Any offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 involving a child under 13 is very serious and should be taken to indicate that the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.

4.2.2 Cases involving children aged under 13 should always be discussed with a nominated child protection lead in the organisation. Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, penetrative sex with a child under 13 is classed as rape. Where the allegation concerns penetrative sex, or other intimate sexual activity occurs, there would always be reasonable cause to suspect that a child, whether a girl or boy, is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. There should be a presumption that the case will be reported to Children's Social Care, based in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). A strategy

discussion should be held that will involve Children's Social Care, Police and relevant agencies, to discuss appropriate next steps.

All cases involving children under 13 should be fully documented including detailed reasons where a decision is taken not to share information. These decisions are exceptional and only made with the documented approval of a senior manager.

4.3 Young people aged between 13 and 15

4.3.1 Sexual activity with a child under 16 is also an offence. Where it is consensual it may be less serious than if the child were under 13 years, but may nevertheless, have serious consequences for the welfare of the young person. Consideration should be given in every case of sexual activity involving a child aged 13-15 as to whether there should be a discussion with other agencies and whether a referral should be made to Children's Social Care MASH. This should always be the case where there is a considerable age difference (i.e. 13 + 17; 15 + 21).

4.3.2 The professional should make this assessment using the considerations below. Within this age range, the younger the child, the stronger the presumption must be that sexual activity will be a matter of concern. Cases of concern should be discussed with the nominated child protection lead and subsequently with other agencies if required. Where confidentiality needs to be preserved, a discussion can still take place with Children's Social Care as long as it does not identify the child (directly or indirectly).

4.3.3 Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that significant harm to a child has occurred or might occur, there should be a presumption that the case is reported to Children's Social Care (based within the MASH) and a Strategy Discussion should be held to discuss appropriate next steps. All cases should be carefully documented including where a decision is taken not to share information.

4.4 Assessment criteria

The considerations in the following list should be taken into account when assessing the extent to which a child (or other children) is suffering or is likely to suffer, significant harm and therefore whether a referral to Children's Social Care should be made.

- The age of the child. Sexual activity at a young age is a very strong indicator that there are risks to the welfare of the child (whether boy or girl) and, possibly, others
- Behaviour of the child i.e. withdrawn/anxious
- The level of maturity and understanding of the child i.e. whether the young person is competent to understand and consent to the sexual activity they are involved in
- What is known about the child's living circumstances or background
- Familial child sex offences
- Age imbalance, in particular where there is a significant age difference

- Overt aggression or power imbalance, in cases where there is abuse of a Position of Trust a referral will always be made
- Coercion or bribery including the use of sex for favours i.e. exchanging sex for clothes, CDs, trainers, alcohol, cigarettes etc. - This could also manifest itself in a young person having large amounts of money, jewellery or other valuables that cannot be accounted for
- The misuse or giving of substances as a disinhibitor
- Whether the child's own behaviour, because of the misuse of substances places him/her at risk of harm resulting in an inability to make an informed choice about any activity
- Whether any attempts to secure secrecy have been made by the sexual partner beyond what would be considered usual in a teenage relationship
- Whether the child denies, minimises or accepts concerns
- Whether the methods used are consistent with grooming and/or an accompanying adult gives professional cause for concern
- Whether the sexual partner/s is known by one of the agencies

4.5 **Disabled children and young people**

Disabled children and young people are more likely to be abused than non-disabled children and they are especially at risk when they are living away from home. They may be particularly vulnerable to coercion due to physical dependency and intimate care needs or because a learning disability or a communication difficulty means that it is not easy for them to communicate their wishes to another person. This increases the risk that a sexual relationship may be abusive. In assessing whether a relationship presents a risk of harm to a disabled child or young person, professionals need to consider the indicators described in this practice guidance.

4.6 **Referral Process**

4.6.1 **Children under 13 years of age**

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 states that a child under the age of 13 cannot consent in law to sexual activity. Therefore where it is known that a child under 13 is engaging in sexual activity, a criminal offence has been committed.

4.6.2 In all cases where the sexually active young person is under age of 13, a full assessment must be undertaken. Each case must be assessed individually and a referral to Children's Social Care (MASH) must be made. The young person will need to be identified, as will their sexual partner if details are known.

4.6.3 A decision not to refer can only be made following a case discussion with the designated lead for child protection within the professional's employing authority. When a referral is not made, the professional and agency concerned is fully accountable for the decision and a good standard of record keeping must be made, including the reasons for not making a referral.

4.6.4 When a girl under 13 is found to be pregnant, a referral to Children's Social Care must be made and they will hold a Strategy Discussion with the Police and other agencies.

4.6.5 **Children and young people aged 13 and up to 16 years of age**

If one or more of the factors identified in the checklist applies, then a referral to Children's Social Care should be made. A strategy discussion could then take place to decide on further action and enquiries.

4.6.6 **Young people aged between 13 and 15**

Where there is an allegation of an abusive relationship involving a young person in this age group the information should be assessed using the checklist. Where adults are in a position of trust or working directly with children this must be referred to the Designated Officer (former LADO) or Social Care in the first instance.

N.B. Where there are concerns that child/young person may be at risk of or is being sexually exploited a referral will always be made to Children's Social Care (MASH)

4.7 **Adults working directly with children and positions of trust**

In all cases where it appears that there is an abuse of position of trust or an adult is working directly with children, a referral must be made to the Designated Officer (former LADO) or Children's Social Care. Where there is concern that the child is at immediate risk then a referral to the MASH Police or Children's Social Care should be made.

NB where the alleged perpetrator of sexual abuse is a person who works with children or an approved foster carer for a Looked After Child, the case must always be subject to joint consultation with/or referral to the Designated Officer.

4.8 **Recording and decision-making**

All agencies must ensure that decisions are recorded, signed and dated and identify the accountable decision-makers.

4.8.1 If having analysed the information it is considered that one or more factors in the checklist apply and, in your professional judgement (and in consultation with your agency's designated lead for safeguarding) a decision has been taken not to refer to Children's Social Care or the Police, a clear record of the decision, the reasons for the decision, and the accountable decision-makers must be made, and the record signed and dated.

4.8.2 An example of when a decision not to share information may apply would be where the two young people concerned are both over 13 years old, are close in age, (for instance 15 and 16 years old) and are in a consensual relationship. It should never, however, be assumed that young people cannot be abused by other young people.

5. **Child centred practice**

- 5.1 Action to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who are sexually exploited should be child-centred and focus on the child's needs. Those working with children and young people should engage with them and their families throughout the process. The particular needs and sensitivities of girls and boys, children with a physical disability or learning disabilities, those from ethnic minority communities, or those where English is not their first language, should be reflected in the provision of services. The wishes and feelings of children and young people as well as the concerns of parents or carers should be sought and taken into account in reaching any decisions about the provision of services which affect them.
- 5.2 Professionals should be aware that children and young people do not always acknowledge what may be an exploitative and abusive situation and may have been groomed. This may mean that the approach – which should be sensitive and aimed at building resilience – needs to be sustained over a long period of time. It takes time to get alongside the young person and if intervention is too intrusive at an early stage it may alienate the young person and inhibit their chances of a successful exit from an exploitative situation. Young people will only exit when they are ready and they may be in denial about their involvement in sexually exploitative relationships.
- 5.3 The WSCB Consent and Information Sharing protocol should be referred to when considering whether to override the lack of consent from a young person to share information. Where there is a concern that a young person is at risk of or suffering significant harm due to their own risk taking behaviour or their circumstances, a referral should be made to Children's Social Care (MASH), whether consent is given by the young person or not.

6. **Missing Children**

- There is a Wiltshire and Swindon LSCB Missing Person protocol in place that sets out roles and responsibilities and response to children who go missing. This protocol is available on the WSCB website. For further information please see the WSCB Guidance, Policies and Protocols page: www.wiltshirelscb.org/resources-guidance
- 6.1 There is now a new national definition of 'missing' in which a number will now be classified as 'absent' where they meet specific criteria.
- 6.2 Children regularly absent and those who go missing will be reviewed as part of their care plan; child protection plan or child in need plan. They may also be considered by the Risk Management Group as part of the care/child protection planning process. Children may move from absent to 'missing' if on review they are felt to be at risk through their activities or behaviour when absent.

7. **Missing Return Interviews**

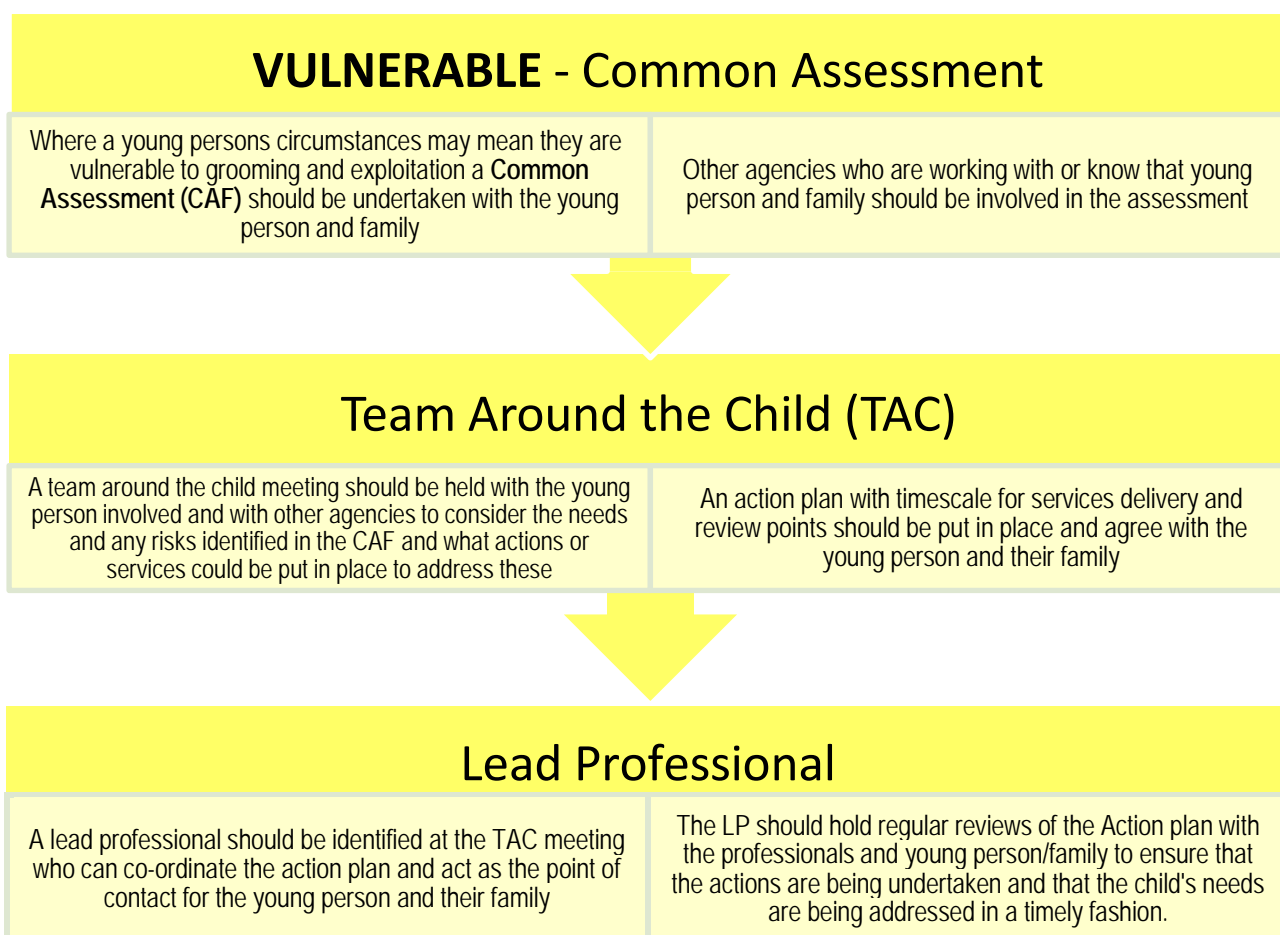
Young people who go missing will have a return interview. The Missing Children Coordinator (based in Children's Social Care in the MASH) coordinates and oversees the return interview process to ensure they are allocated to the most appropriate person to the young person and completed

in a timely way. It is vital that return interviews are completed to understand the individual needs of the child and also to collated information to identify patterns and then to inform wider prevention and disruption activities to protect all vulnerable children.

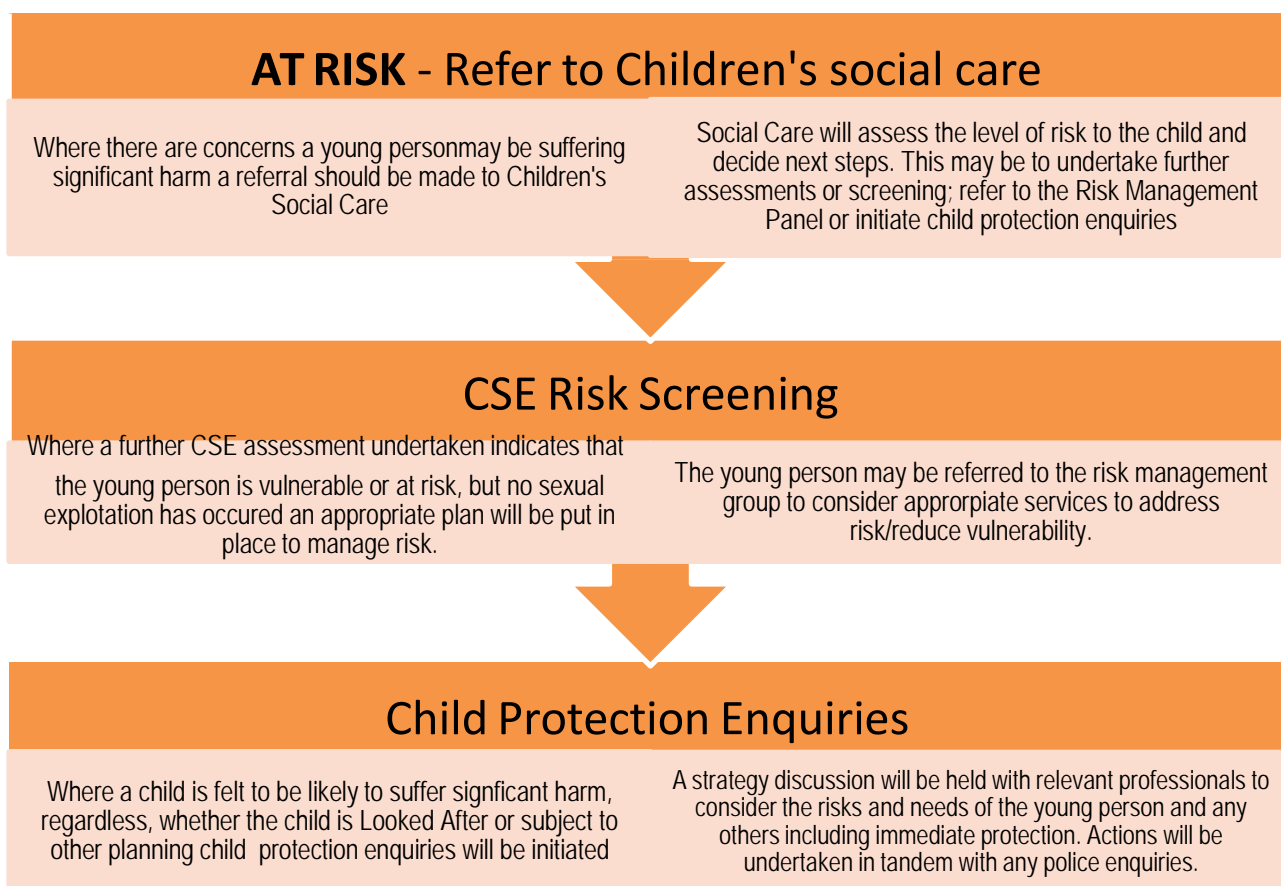
8. **Children and young people who are vulnerable**

8.1 Children may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation for a variety of reasons as outlined in the PUSH/PULL section (though not exclusive). Where children are vulnerable it is important to be able to identify and assess their needs and put in place appropriate support and services to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience. The Wiltshire Multi-Agency Thresholds Document sets out that vulnerable children and young people are best supported via early help; that is through undertaking a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and a Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting with the family and child to consider what support is required, by whom and within what timescales.

8.2 It is important to identify in the CAF Action Plan what outcomes are needed and actions necessary to achieve them. Action owners and timescales help make the Action Plan SMART as will regular reviews.



9. Children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse



Process for responding to young people at risk of sexual abuse and exploitation

- 9.1 Where a professional has assessed that a young person is at risk of or experiencing sexual abuse via exploitation they should consult with their safeguarding advisor within their agency and with them agree a referral to Children's Social Care, based in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- 9.2 Where the professional does not have a safeguarding advisor, they should make contact with Children's Social Care and seek advice regarding the next course of action. This may become a referral, where requested by Children's Social Care.
- 9.3 Any referral will be considered by the specialist Sexual Exploitation Team based in the MASH and where appropriate will undertake a Comprehensive CSE screen and Single Assessment to inform next steps. Where the assessment indicates the young person may be at risk of or suffering Significant Harm a Strategy Discussion will be held.
- 9.4 Where the professionals attending the Strategy Discussion conclude that the young person is at risk of or experiencing **Significant Harm** a S47 Enquiry will be undertaken to establish risk; the level and source of risk and identify any protective action required in relation to the young person and any others.

- 9.5 Where the S47 Enquiry identifies that the young person has suffered and is at ongoing risk of **Significant Harm** a Child Protection Conference will be held to consider and put in place a multi-agency plan to safeguard the young person. (Please see below for process where a child is Looked After).
- 9.6 Where the young person is not at ongoing risk of significant harm but risks and needs are identified the child will be assessed and supported as a Child in Need under s17 of the Children Act 1989.

10. Looked After Children and Young People (LAC)

- 10.1 Where a Looked After child or young person is assessed to be at risk of or suffering significant harm via sexual exploitation this will be referred directly to the CSE social care team for consideration of a strategy discussion and s47 enquiry. Any identified risks will be managed within the care planning process.
- 10.2 Where necessary an early review will be held and additional meetings convened with a core membership between reviews.
- 10.3 The Care Plan will be updated to reflect the risks identified and actions/ outcomes to address identified risks.
- 10.4 A single assessment will be completed or updated to reflect the assessed risks and interventions across agencies required to address and reduce risk.

11. Wiltshire Risk Management Group

- 11.1 Referrals to and consideration of children and young people at WRMG is not intended to replace individual agency procedures, the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, or other actions that workers must take to safeguard young people.
- 11.2 Wiltshire Risk Management Group has specific responsibilities with regard to Missing children and Child Sexual Exploitation. As a standing multi-agency Group with representatives from all key partner agencies; the WRMG has membership at an appropriate level to be able to respond to the operational Child Sexual Exploitation agenda.
- 11.3 The purpose of WRMG is to ensure that a coordinated approach is taken when considering and responding to the level of vulnerability of individual young people who are deemed to be at risk and a multi-agency plan that is in place requires additional oversight and interventions to help manage, mitigate and reduce the risk.

The circumstances where the WRMG will consider children at risk of sexual exploitation are set out below:

- Where a professional has undertaken a CSE screening and identifies risks of, but no actual sexual exploitation. The young person will be referred to the CSE Social Care Team in the MASH for further consideration. Where the child is considered to be a Child in Need a plan and single assessment will be completed and as appropriate the social worker will make a referral to the WRMG. The WRMG will agree an appropriate plan across agencies to safeguard the young person and review this at regular intervals.
- Where a professional presents a case to the WRMG and risk of or actual significant harm is identified due to sexual exploitation. In such circumstances the Chair will request the presenting professional to undertake the Initial CSE screen and make a referral to the CSE Social Care Team in the MASH without delay.
- Where a Strategy Discussion is held or S47 Enquiry is undertaken and the outcome is that the young person is not felt to be at ongoing risk of significant harm but there are risk indicators of sexual exploitation. In these cases a Child in Need plan and single assessment will be in place.
- Where a child or young person with a child protection plan is referred to the WRMG to assist in identifying and accessing services to safeguard the young person. Any plan developed and agreed by WRMG will be incorporated into the Child Protection Plan.
- A Looked after Child or young person is going missing regularly or is assessed to be at risk of sexual exploitation. Any plan developed and agreed by WRMG will be incorporated into the Care Plan.

Referral to the Risk Management Group

- The process of making a referral to the Wiltshire Risk Management Group (WRMG) where young people are felt to be at risk of sexual exploitation **but not suffering significant harm and where a professional is already working with the young person** is via a WRMG referral form. The referral will be considered at the monthly meeting with the referrer expected to attend.
- Where a child or young person is subject to any care planning, whether child in need, LAC or child protection, they may be referred to the risk management group following consultation by the allocated social worker with the CSE and Missing Children Service Manager.

Referral to the Police - Gangs or Rings and Child Sexual Exploitation

Where there is evidence or suspicion of any gangs or organised groups of adults grooming or exploiting children in Wiltshire the matter must be referred to the Police, who, with Children's Social Care will convene a strategy discussion to consider current information and plan future action as per the strategy discussion guidance.

12. **Initial CSE Risk Screening Tool (please see Appendix 1)**

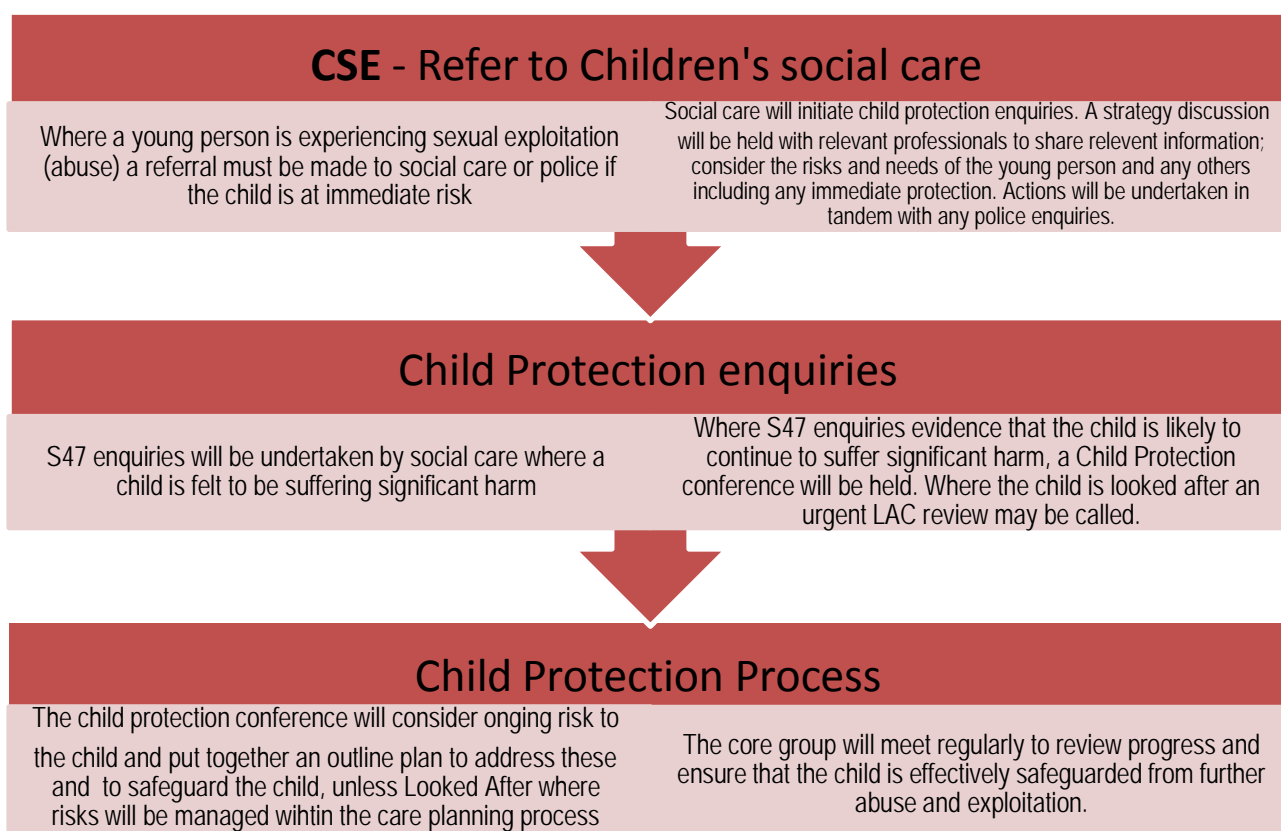
- 12.1 The Initial CSE risk screening tool is to aid practitioners in considering and to inform their assessment whether a child is vulnerable, at risk of or may be experiencing sexual exploitation and abuse. For the latter two categories the Initial CSE Screening tool can be used to support a referral to the MASH/CSE team.
- 12.2 The Initial CSE risk screening tool indicates when intervention, support and action are required for children and young people at any given time. The screening should be made on the basis of known risk indicators, as well as recognition of a history of disadvantage or background vulnerability factors.
- 12.3 The Initial CSE risk screening tool can be used to enable all professionals to be aware of the types of indicators of harm likely to be present when a child or young person is being or is likely to be sexually exploited. Identifying the presence of these risk factors can help professionals decide what level and types of interventions may be appropriate.
- 12.4 The needs of children and young people who are being or are likely to be sexually exploited will change over time. Service responses need to be flexible to respond to these changes. Early intervention is essential to prevent escalation of harm.
- 12.5 The Initial CSE risk screening tool is intended to assist professionals in deciding what types of intervention and supportive action will be required for children and young people at any given time. These decisions will follow an assessment of the needs of the young person and, in particular, the impact of the sexual exploitation they are experiencing on their welfare. The types of evidence based interventions offered should be appropriate to the child's needs, taking full account of the identified risk factors of sexual exploitation.
- 12.6 Where a professional has concerns about a child the possibility that the child is being groomed for or is subject to child sexual exploitation should always be a consideration. The Initial CSE risk screening tool should help them focus on the specific indicators and determine whether further investigations are needed. The tool could be used in supervision, in discussions with parents and carers, with other professionals and with the child. Like any other assessment, the Initial CSE screen should be used as a dynamic tool that is regularly reviewed and developed over time and in response to significant events/information, so that children receive the right response at the right time to safeguard and protect them from harm where CSE is a concern.
- 12.7 Many of the indicators of child sexual exploitation are also part of normal teenage behaviours and it is the presence of higher risk factors, or multiple other factors which may be indications of child sexual exploitation. **Where a child is aged 13 or younger the presence of any one high risk factor must be seen as a potential indicator and the child referred to Childrens' Social Care.**
- 12.8 Professionals need to exercise their own judgment when completing the tool. This includes capturing concerns about which they have some evidence **AND**

concerns based on 'their gut feeling'. Staff should differentiate between the two and explain this in the notes section.

12.9 The classification of indicators as high, medium or low level is an arbitrary process. Professionals need to use their judgment as factors such as the child's age, any additional vulnerabilities, their history etc. may mean that what for another child would be low level for that child is high level. Workers should feel free to amend the suggested level using that judgment.

12.10 The comprehensive risk screening tool will be completed by specialists within the CSE MASH team, based on the completed initial risk screening tool. On occasions this may be completed jointly with the appropriate professional.

13. Children and young people experiencing sexual exploitation and abuse.
It is important to recognise that children who are sexually exploited are not just those who are involved in gang activity or trafficked. Children and young people are groomed and exploited online, sometimes by adults they never meet or know. In ANY situation where a child has been sexually exploited or abused a referral to Children's Social Care or the police is required. This may be in some cases against the child's wishes and professionals will need to refer where it is felt the child is suffering significant harm, which may not be recognised by the young person themselves.



There is an agreed process for responding to children at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation. The Flow chart is attached in Appendix 2. For further information regarding the CSE and Child Protection process, particularly with children who are Looked After see the WSCB Guidance, Policies and Protocols page: www.wiltshirelscb.org/resources-guidance

In summary

- i. Work to agreed protocols and procedures
- ii. Attend relevant WSCB training so you are able to respond appropriately
- iii. Assess the situation using the Initial CSE risk screening tool and any agency specific assessments as relevant
- iv. Talk to the child or young person about their circumstances and your concerns
- v. Consult with the designated safeguarding lead in your agency and social care CSE team as appropriate
- vi. Refer to social care if the child is at risk of or suffering significant harm
- vii. If you are not sure, do not keep concerns to yourself – consult as appropriate

14. **Resources**

The information in this section lists a range of resources for professionals own learning and development and also resources for working directly with children and young people at risk of, or being abused through child sexual exploitation. The final section includes information on specialist organisations providing support for parents and carers. Professionals may find it helpful to consider information in all 3 sections.

As a starting point do look at the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board and the multi-agency training programme at www.wiltshirepathways.org as there may already be training or information available which meets your needs. For single agency training some of these resources may be worth following up.

14.1 **Resources for professionals (note most of the resources for working with children and young people would be good learning materials for professionals too).**

14.1.1 **CEOP:** Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre provides many useful resources including training programmes for professionals. There is a short video on what to look out for in relation to grooming. There are great resources for working with children and young people too. To access training materials you have to register to use the site. It is a simple process which takes 5 minutes and is free. www.CEOP.police.uk/

14.1.2 **Google Alerts:** sign up for Google Alerts and you will receive weekly or daily (you choose) emails on topics of interest which you select. Go to www.google.com/alerts to set yours up. Useful topics might be child sexual exploitation, child trafficking etc. You may need to refine your search as these generic titles will include international alerts.

14.1.3 **Stop It Now:** Resources and training materials. Also develop bespoke training packages including child sexual exploitation. Much of the material on the site is about sexual abuse rather than CSE. There are a couple of very useful downloadable leaflets including 'The Internet and Children – What's

The Problem'. This would be really useful for schools and young people's workers and for parents too. It covers the use of internet and technology for grooming. Access via the Lucy Faithful Foundation link below.

14.1.4 **The Lucy Faithfull Foundation** is the only UK-wide child protection charity dedicated solely to reducing the risk of children being sexually abused. They work with entire families that have been affected by abuse including: adult male and female sexual abusers; young people with inappropriate sexual behaviours; victims of abuse and other family members. The LFF provide bespoke training and also specialise in work with offenders. Their focus is on sexual abuse rather than child sexual exploitation but much of their material is transferable. www.lucyfaithfull.org

14.1.5 **NSPCC**: a national organisation with a wide range of information and advice on the web site. This includes 'Case notes' – reports on key issues including links relevant to CSE such as running away and sexual abuse. There is a professional advice section which includes some good resources linked to 'Young People with Harmful Sexual Behaviour'. www.nspcc.org.uk

14.1.6 **National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children & Young People:**

The National Working Group (NWG) is a charity and UK wide network of practitioners, policy makers and researchers working with children and young people who are at risk of, or who experience, sexual exploitation. Their primary aim is to offer support and advice to those working with children and young people affected by sexual exploitation. For more information about the National Working Group and child sexual exploitation, visit <http://www.nationalworkinggroup.org/> NWG has produced a new website aimed at young people www.stop-cse.org/saysomething

14.2 **Resources for working with children and young people (although they may also be useful for raising awareness in staff teams and with individual workers)**

14.2.1 **CEOP**: Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre provides many useful resources including training programmes for professionals. There are great resources for working with children and young people too. To access training materials you have to register to use the site. It is a simple process which takes 5 minutes and is free. www.CEOP.police.uk

14.2.2 **Chelsea's Choice**: a powerful theatre production which is designed to raise awareness of grooming and child sexual exploitation amongst young people. The drama is used in group settings and is a 30 minute drama with a 30 minute follow up discussion of the issues raised. Please see. www.alteregotheatre.co.uk/

14.2.3 **My Dangerous Loverboy**: a campaign to raise awareness of internal trafficking of children for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Includes a short video which can be used with young people in 1-1 or group settings to get

them thinking and talking about what is happening to them.
www.mydangerousloverboy.com/

14.2.4 The End Of My World – by Emma Jackson. This is a book written by a young woman who experienced abuse through child sexual exploitation. It is a powerful story of the authors' experiences and would be good for professionals to read to raise their awareness and understanding of one model of abuse. It is also suitable for young people to read albeit powerful and explicit in relation to Emma's abuse. It would be a good book for professionals to read alongside a young person or group and discuss the issues raised. Professionals would need to use their discretion about the suitability of the content for work with an individual child and are advised to read it themselves to enable them to make that judgement.

14.3 Resources for Families - these are mainly support services and information.

14.3.1 Thinkuknow – an online resource for families about internet safety and safe surfing. Interactive activities and information for all ages and parents –
<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

Childnet work in partnership with others around the world to help make the internet a great and safe place for children: <http://www.childnet.com/>.

Parents Protect is an information and resources website which aims to raise awareness about child sexual abuse, answer questions and give adults the information, advice, support and facts, they need to help protect children **CSE Leaflet**. <http://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/resources.htm>

14.3.2 Life centre: www.lifecentre.uk.com/index.html
Lifecentre is a UK based charity that supports survivors of rap and sexual abuse. It offers a national Helpline.

14.3.3 Mosac: MOSAC (Mothers of Sexually Abused Children) is a voluntary organisation supporting all non-abusing parents and carers whose children have been sexually abused. They provide advocacy, advice and information, befriending, counselling, play therapy and support groups following alleged child sexual abuse. Visit www.mosac.org.uk for more information or call their national helpline on 0800 980 1958.

14.3.4 NAPAC: is the National Association for People Abused in Childhood. It is a registered charity providing support and information for people abused in childhood. Visit www.napac.org.uk/.

14.3.5 SURVIVORS UK: provides information, support and counselling for men who have been raped or sexually abused. Thousands of men contact them each year. Visit www.survivorsuk.org/ or call their national helpline on 0845 1221201. Helpline hours: 7pm-9.30pm Mon/Tue/Thu.

14.3.6 **Parents Protect:** General information about protecting children from sexual abuse. Focus largely on intra familial sexual abuse but some useful information on signs of abuse and impact on the child. Parents of young children abused through child sexual exploitation may find some of this material useful. www.parentsprotect.co.uk.

Appendix 1: Initial CSE Screen

The initial CSE screen is used to provisionally determine what level of risk (see Annex 1.1) is posed to a child, and to assist with decision making and (if required), support a referral. Please refer to the guidance in Annex 1 below.

Professional completing: Date:

Child's name: Date of birth:

Child's address (if known):

1. Consider (please circle relevant areas)	Low/med/high	Consider (please circle relevant areas)	Low/med/high
Missing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information from return home interviews • Number of episodes • Unexplained absences including school • Found in locations/with persons of concern 		Safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable to online abuse • Sending/receiving/ sexual images • Child advertising sexual services • Accessing dating agencies • Secretive online activity 	
Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical injuries • Sexual health • Self-harming • Weight loss/gain • Substance misuse 		Child Looked After: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In residential care • Frequently reported missing • Multiple placements 	
Behaviour: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual harmful behaviour • Over reaction to expressions of concern • Change in presentation • Change in performance at school • Offending /ASB 		Other indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities • Age or power imbalances • Overt aggression or violence as part of relationship • Coercion or bribery • The misuse of substances as a disinhibitor • Child's own behaviour, because of the misuse of substances, places him/her at risk so that he/she is unable to make an informed choice about any activity • Attempts to secure secrecy have been made by the sexual partner, beyond what would be considered usual in a teenage relationship • The sexual partner known by one of the agencies (eg. police) • The child denies or minimises concerns • Methods used are consistent with grooming • Children Missing from Education 	
Grooming: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship with older person • Excessive use of mobile phones • Possesses items with no means to fund • Multiple phones/SIM cards • Internet/Online activity • Unknown adults loitering • Persistently missing 			
Family and Social: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family history CSE/abuse/Neglect/DA • Parental capacity/MH/LDD/substance misuse • Child has sexual identity issues • Lacking friends of own age • Missing from home 			

<p>2. Professional Judgement</p>	<p>5. Views of the child? Including: Does the child agree with your view?</p>
<p>3. Overall CSE level</p> <p>a) Vulnerable: Consult Safeguarding Lead/undertake a CAF b) At risk – Refer to MASH c) CSE – Refer to MASH</p> <p>When previously reviewed on this young person's CSE level was (circle):</p> <p>Vulnerable / At Risk / CSE</p> <p>Has the level changed from previously? Yes / No</p> <p>If yes: It shows that the risk to this young person has: increased / decreased/is static (circle as appropriate)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓ ← ↑</p> <p>4. What further enquires are required? Think about:</p> <p>a) "Don't knows" and information gaps b) Who do I need to talk to? c) Consulting/referring to Children's Social Care/MASH/CSE & Missing Children Team?</p>	<p>6. Views of parent/carer?</p>
	<p>7. Strengths and protective factors (see Annex 1.2)</p>
	<p>8. So what does this mean? What is needed to address the risks/vulnerabilities and to reinforce protective factors</p>

No.	9. Actions to be taken	Who	When
e.g.	Refer to MASH (MASH Professional Notification) sending Initial CSE screen to mash@wiltshire.gcsx.gov.uk	Blair Keltie	20 Jul 2015
1			
2			
3			

*If the child is at risk of significant harm do not delay. If you believe that a child or young person has suffered or is at risk of suffering significant harm, then you must follow Child Protection procedures. You should discuss any concerns with your safeguarding lead. You can consult with or refer your concerns to children's social care the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0300 456 0108 (Wiltshire) Out of hours Emergency Duty Team: 0845 6070 888.

Annex 1 - Guidance on the classification of risk indicators and note regarding protective factors

1.1 Risk can be defined as; the probability that an event or behaviour carrying the possibility of an adverse or negative outcome will occur. The classification of risk can be expressed in terms of the likelihood (imminence) of risk occurring and the impact (harm) if it did occur.

Impact	Likelihood of Occurrence			
	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely	Very Likely
Serious	Low	Med	High	High
Substantial	Low	Med	Med	High
Moderate	Low	Low	Med	Med
Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Likelihood of Occurrence (imminence)	
Very Likely	Has happened and will happen again imminently now/today/tomorrow
Likely	Has happened and may happen again
Unlikely	Has not happened but could happen
Very unlikely	Has not happened not expected to happen

Impact (how harmful)	
Serious	Serious harm means injury (either physical or psychological) which is life threatening and/or traumatic and from which recovery is expected to be difficult, incomplete or impossible.
Substantial	Risk of harm identified
Moderate	Some evidence of risk but the harm will not be serious
Low	No evidence at present to indicate harm will happen

1.2 Protective factors are conditions or attributes in individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that, when present, mitigate or eliminate risk in families and communities that, when present, increase the health and well-being of children and families. Protective factors help parents to find resources, supports, or coping strategies that allow them to parent effectively, even under stress. Children with comparable risk indicators may have differing levels of vulnerability individually due to the presence or absence of protective factors.

Protective factors are individual or environmental characteristics, conditions, or behaviours that reduce the effects of stressful life events; increase an individual's ability to avoid risks or hazards; and promote social and emotional competence to thrive in all aspects of life now and in the future¹.

¹ Kipke M, ed. *Risks and Opportunities: Synthesis of Studies on Adolescence*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press; 1999.

Need some help? Contact the CSE Team:

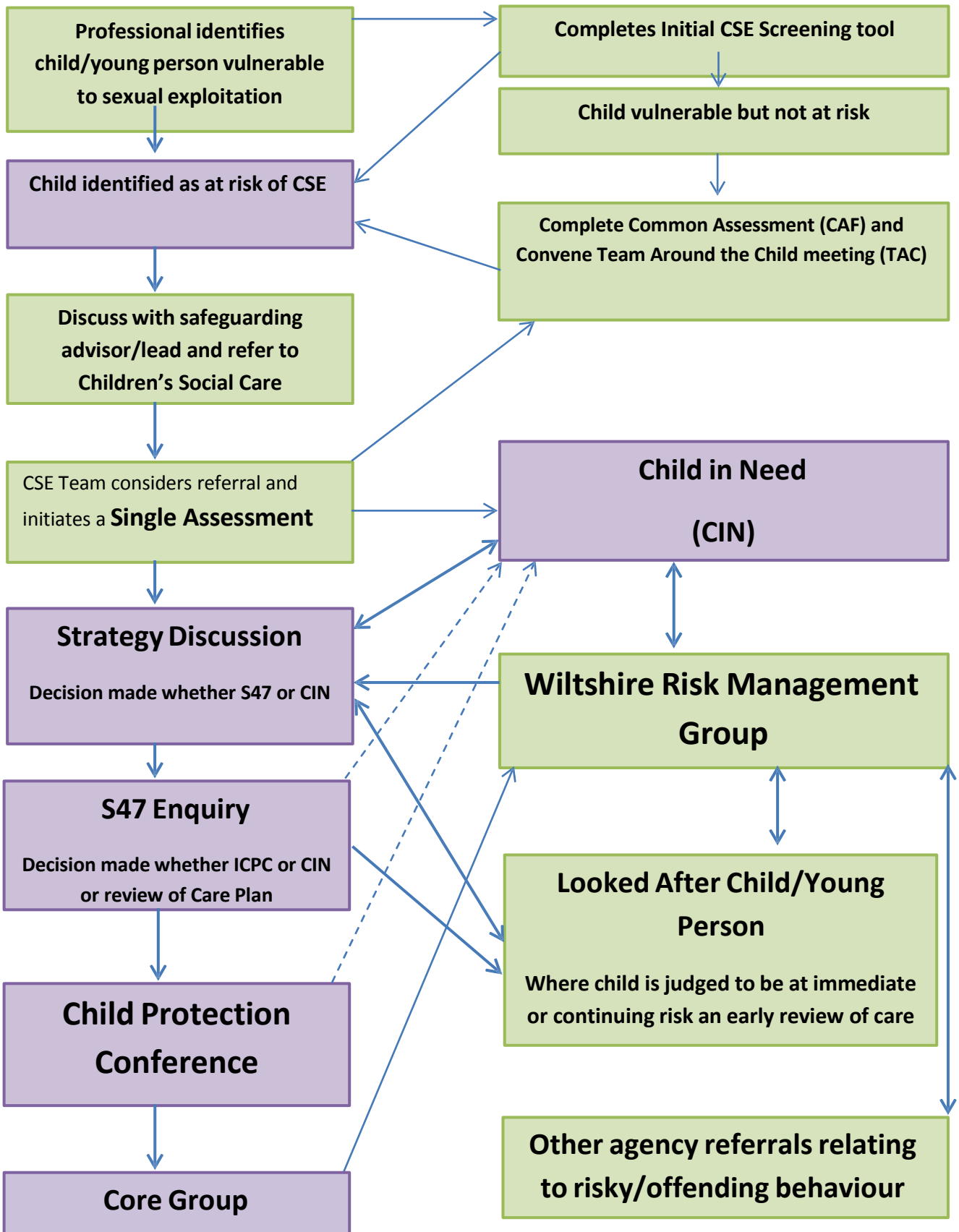
mpandrmg@wiltshire.gov.uk – internal/non-secure

Wiltshire.MCandRMG@wiltshire.gcsx.gov.uk – secure

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH):- 0300 456 0108

(Wiltshire) Out of hours Emergency Duty Team: 0845 6070 888.

Appendix 2 – Flow Chart for Managing Child Sexual Exploitation concerns



In cases of CIN, CP and LAC a Risk Management plan will be developed. Initial and subsequent meetings may be convened in the period between LAC reviews, CIN and Core groups. Frequency is determined by the level of risk and must be clearly evidenced in the plan. Actions identified in the Risk management plan are incorporated into the CIN, CP or Care Plan.

Where to find further information and detail about the work of the WSCB
Website: www.wiltshirelscb.org

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