

Salford  
**Safeguarding  
Children Board**

# **Salford Safeguarding Board**

**Child Sexual Exploitation  
and Sexual Abuse Strategy  
April 2017 – March 2020**

## **Introduction**

The sexual exploitation of children is child abuse and is completely unacceptable; the only effective way to tackle the sexual exploitation of children is via effective multi agency and partnership working. This is one of the most important challenges for Salford Safeguarding Children Board.

The aim of this strategy is to bring together agencies to share their knowledge and expertise around this area of work to prevent children and young people becoming victims of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Salford safeguarding children's board has identified 'the need to stop sexual exploitation of children and young people via effective multi-agency and partnership working' (priority 3). This strategy will use this priority as the strategic aim of the work.

The work of the strategy will be taken forward by the Child Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse strategic subgroup of the board. The group is led by partners from NHS Salford CCG, Greater Manchester Police, Salford Childrens Services, Salford Royal Foundation Trust, Youth Offending Service, CVS, Brooke sexual health service, Salford Phoenix , Integrated Youth Service, Next Steps, National Probation Service, Housing Services, Public Health, Community safety Partnership, Housing Providers and CAMHS.

The strategy links with the work being undertaken within the Salford Safeguarding Children's Board and the Missing From Home strategy, Police and the Phoenix strategy. It is important that the strategy is not seen as an individual piece of work and should be considered alongside other strategies.

## **What is Child Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse?**

### **[Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners](#)**

Ref: DFE- 00056- 2017

Child sexual exploitation is a crime with devastating and long lasting consequences for its victims and their families. Childhoods and family life can be ruined and this is compounded when victims, or those at risk of abuse, do not receive appropriate, immediate and on-going support. The first response to children, and support for them to access help, must be the best it can be from social workers, police, health practitioners and others who work with children and their families.

This advice replaces the 2009 guidance *Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation*. It should be read alongside *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (most recent updates available on gov.uk) which continues to provide statutory guidance covering the legislative requirements on services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including in relation to child sexual exploitation.

A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Throughout this advice the terms 'child' and 'children' are used to refer to all those under the age of 18.

## **What is child sexual exploitation?**

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

## **The definition of child sexual exploitation is as follows:**

*Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.*

Like all forms of child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex;
- can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity;
- can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (through others copying videos or images they have created and posting on social media, for example);
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

**Child sexual exploitation is never the victim's fault, even if there is some form of exchange:** all children and young people under the age of 18 have a right to be safe and should be protected from harm.

Sexual exploitation can have links to other types of crime. These include:

Child trafficking;

- Domestic abuse;
- Sexual violence in intimate relationships;
- Grooming (including online grooming);
- Abusive images of children and their distribution;
- Drugs-related offences;
- Gang-related activity;
- Immigration-related offences; and
- Domestic servitude.

Children who are subjected to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse can have serious long term issues affecting their physical, mental health and their overall well being. The impact of sexual abuse varies from child to child. For many, the damage is enormous, with the impact still being felt into adulthood, affecting all aspects of their life.

Although young people aged 16, 17 and 18 are able to consent to sexual activity, they can still be subjected to exploitation and abuse and the exploitation can continue through to adulthood. The Salford Safeguarding Children's Board will therefore work closely with the Safeguarding Adult's Board to ensure children and young people continue to receive support through the transition phase from childhood to adulthood. Child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse can also affect the lives of the child or young person's family and carers and can lead to relationship breakdown.

Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and young people under 18 will normally, but not exclusively, involve an adult developing a relationship with the child or young person, groom or utilise violence, coercion and intimidation to sexually exploit and abuse the child or young person.

All agencies have a responsibility to help identify those children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse; agencies also have responsibility both individually and collectively for ensuring that the child or young person is protected from any further risk of harm.

All agencies have a responsibility to do what they can to prevent children and young people becoming victims of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. There are a number of ways this can be achieved including ensuring that our communities are aware of and understand the issues and risks involved in child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

**The 2014-2016 Child Sexual Exploitation strategy** made significant progress in the identification, assessment and intervention of CSE in Salford. This is evidenced through the Child Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse sub group and outcome of the 2015 Ofsted Inspection:

*“Children in Salford who are at risk of child sexual exploitation benefit from a coordinated multi-agency response to assess risk and need, they receive good support” Ofsted, June 2015.*

The 2017-2020 Strategy aims to further develop the good work of the Child Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse sub group, ensuring that the children and young people of Salford receive an outstanding and consistent approach to CSE and all forms of Sexual Abuse. The strategy will ensure that updated research and policy is effectively implemented into practice, reflecting the changing population and demographics of Salford local authority.

## **Objectives of the Multi Agency Strategy**

**To take forward the multi agency strategy 5 objectives been identified.**

1. To identify and understand the scale of the problem of CSE and Sexual Abuse in Salford.
2. To prevent children and young people becoming victims of CSE and Sexual abuse.
3. To support children, young people and their families where CSE and Sexual Abuse has been identified or suspected.
4. To disrupt offenders in abusing children and young people.
5. To prosecute identified abusers.

These objectives reflect Priority 3 of SSCB ; *Sexual Abuse & Child Sexual Exploitation*.

**Sexual Abuse** Ref: [DFE- 00057- 2017 Sexual Exploitation; Annexes](#)

*Sexual abuse can include lots of things like [rape and sexual assault](#), sexual harassment, [online grooming](#) and [domestic abuse or violence](#).*

*It can also include sexual exploitation (being pressure into having sex with someone in return for getting something like money or drugs), [sexting](#) or [child pornography](#).*

- sexual abuse can happen to both girls and boys
- someone could be sexually abused by a stranger, somebody you love and trust or a boyfriend or girlfriend
- someone could be sexually abused by a person of the same sex
- sexual abuse isn't always 'full sex' – it can also include touching, kissing, oral sex or anything sexual
- sexual abuse can happen online as well as offline

Sexual abusers are more likely to be people we know, and could well be people we care about; after all more than 8 out of 10 children who are sexually abused know their abuser. They are family members or friends, neighbours or babysitters – many hold responsible positions in society. Some will seek out employment which brings them into contact with children; some will hold positions of trust which can help to

convince other adults that they are beyond reproach, making it hard for adults to raise their concerns.

When communicating via the internet, young people tend to become less wary and talk about things far more openly than they might when communicating face to face. Both male and female adults and some young people may use the internet to harm children. Some do this by looking at, taking and/or distributing photographs and video images on the internet of children naked, in sexual poses and/or being sexually abused.

## **Criminal Offences**

The main set of offences used in criminal prosecutions of child sexual exploitation is contained within the Sexual Offences Act (SOA) 2003. These offences are categorised according to the age of the victim (under 13s, under 16s and under 18s) as outlined below.

### **Under 13s**

Articles 5 to 8 of the SOA 2003 cover offences against children who are 12 years of age or younger. These include two offences of penetration, a wider offence of sexual assault and one of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity:

- rape of a child under 13 (intentional penetration of vagina, anus or mouth by a penis);
- (sexual) assault of a child under 13 by penetration (intentional penetration of vagina or anus by something other than a penis, such as a finger or an object);
- sexual assault of a child under 13 (intentional sexual touching); and
- causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity.

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Penalties for these offences are higher than those for offences against children aged 13 or above and defendants cannot utilise the defence of believing the child was of an older age (which they can for offences of children under 16 as explored below).

### **Under 16s**

Articles 9 to 12 of the SOA 2003 cover adults sexually offending against children under the age of 16 years within England or Wales. This includes:

- Sexual activity with a child under 16 (intentional sexual touching);
- Causing or inciting a child under 16 to engage in sexual activity;
- Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child (for the purposes of sexual gratification); and
- Causing a child to watch a sexual act (watching someone else/viewing images).

These activities are also an offence if perpetrated by another child or young person (under 18), but in these circumstances they would be prosecuted under Article 13, and as such attract lower penalties.

Articles 14 and 15 of the SOA cover the commission of sexual offences against a child under 16 years of age outside of England and Wales:

- Article 14 criminalises an individual (of any age) arranging or facilitating the commission of any of the four offences outlined in the bullet points above, anywhere in the world (Article 14); and

- Article 15 makes it an offence for an adult to meet (or travel with the intention of meeting) a child under 16, anywhere in the world, if they have met or communicated with that child on at least two occasions and intend to commit one of the sexual offences above.

In 2015 a new offence of sexual communication with a child was introduced, under the Serious Crime Act, to strengthen the powers of the authorities to prosecute cases of grooming (without having to wait until the point of travel, as per the requirements of Article 15 of the SOA outlined above). Like Article 15 of the SOA, this only applies to adult perpetrators, and victims under 16 years of age, but it does criminalise the act of sexual communication (defined as being sexual or encouraging a sexual response, and for the purposes of sexual gratification).

### **Under 18s**

Although the legal age of consent for sexual activity is 16, the SOA recognises the continued vulnerability of 16- and 17-year-olds in particular circumstances. These include: 14

- Abuse of a position of trust (e.g. sexual offences by an adult teacher or social worker – the offences covered are the same as those outlined in the bulleted list above (Articles 9 to 12), but extended to cover 16/17 year olds in these circumstances);
- Familial child sex offences (engaging in sexual activity with a child in the family or inciting them to engage in sexual activity);
- Indecent photographs of a child aged 16/17 (includes making, distributing, intent to distribute and possessing indecent photographs); and
- Sexual exploitation of children (see commentary below).

### **Key risks in adolescence**

From a global perspective, the UK can be seen as a relatively safe place for many children to grow up. However, a high proportion of adolescents still face one or more serious risks. Potential risks faced by adolescents, presented with illustrative examples, include:

- *Sexual abuse*: child sexual exploitation by individuals and by gangs or groups (peers or adults; online or offline); other forms of sexual abuse and duress/coercion to sexually abuse others;
- *Physical abuse*: family violence; gang related and community violence; violence within intimate relationships;
- *Neglect*: neglect from family members including rejection and abandonment, parental mental health or substance abuse that disrupt parenting capacity and/or impose inappropriate caring responsibilities on the part of the young person; overly restrictive parenting; neglect in custody;
- *Emotional abuse*: within the family; extensive bullying by peers (in person and/or online); living with domestic abuse between parents; emotional abuse within intimate relationships; and
- *Other potential risks*: homelessness and running away; mental health problems (including depression, anxiety, self-harm, suicide attempts and eating disorders); gang involvement; substance misuse (Hanson and Holmes, 2014).

To support the strategy the Salford Child Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse action plan will be split into these 7 areas.

## **Role of the sub-group**

1. To support constructive and effective Multi-Agency working.
2. To support the development of expertise, strategies and multi agency responses to the prevention, protection.
3. To support the development of appropriate materials and resources to support practitioners in working with sexually abused children and young people at risk or involved in child sexual exploitation.
4. To take the lead role in developing practice guidance.
5. To identify and work with the SSCB Strategic Training group in providing training information for partners.
6. To develop and maintain knowledge base on National policy and Government guidance relevant to commercial sexual guidance.
7. To develop a work plan to ensure that all work takes into account Equality and Diversity.

## **Governance**

The group will be a strategic sub group reporting to Salford's Safeguarding Children's Board, Co-ordination and Delivery Group and the Safeguarding Executive on a bi monthly basis. The group will produce an annual report to the Safeguarding Board in line with the Select Home affairs report 2013.

## **Appendix 1-Agency Sub Group Members**

### **The Bridge**

The Bridge is Salford City Councils multi agency hub Partnership. The Bridge screens all contacts concerning the welfare or safety of a child to children's services. Children's Early Help, the Outreach service Greater Manchester Police, Health Agencies including CAMHS, Achieve, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Victim Support, Adult services and the Environment and Community Safety service are partners within the bridge.

The Bridge Partnership can be contacted by telephone on 0161 603 4500.

All enquiries concerning the welfare or safety of a child must go through Bridge Partnership via the online referral form, available from:

<http://www.salford.gov.uk/children-and-families/safeguarding-children/worried-about-a-child/>



If any agency or individual has concerns regarding CSE or sexual abuse, they should contact the Bridge Partnership in the first instance, unless an emergency response is required, in which case 999 should be called.

**Phoenix Salford** is a multi- agency team that delivers a victim centred response to CSE by providing an initial duty and assessment service for CSE cases that meet their threshold. Phoenix Salford provide joint police and social worker visits to all relevant young people. The threshold for advice and/or ownership by the Phoenix team is outlined in the team's terms of reference.

Within the Phoenix team there are workers who will meet with parents and carers and separately, the young person to increase their understanding of CSE.

The Phoenix team receives daily information from the Police regarding missing from home and CSE concerns, this information is reviewed daily and communication takes place with **the Bridge** to ensure information is effectively shared and young people and their families are supported appropriately, at the correct threshold.

The Phoenix team works to a specific model to ensure all available options to address any CSE concern are undertaken - from education through to proactively tackling offenders. They work closely with Local Authority missing from home and LAC teams to raise awareness and understanding of CSE risk and prevention opportunities.

Any non-urgent enquiries can be made to the Phoenix team via the email address -

[SalfordCSH@gmp.police.uk](mailto:SalfordCSH@gmp.police.uk) - or by calling 101.

There are some clear correlations between CSE / sexualised offending and members of Organised Crime Groups (OCG). It is imperative as a division that every opportunity to disrupt and dismantle OCG's that are involved in criminality of this nature. Therefore, Phoenix and Project Gulf work closely to understand and address CSE / sexualised offending on the Salford division.

### **Salford's Missing from Home (MFH) Team**

This team has been operating since January 2015. It is a joint initiative between the Police and Children Services.

The MFH team provide independent, face-to-face support for children and young people up to the age of 18yrs who have been reported missing either from home, care or education. When a young person is reported missing the police will attempt to conduct a 'safe and well check'. This information is then passed on to the MFH team who will then contact the child/young person and their primary carer/s within 72hours to arrange a 'Return Interview'. The aim of the Return Interview is to provide a 'listening ear' to the child/young person to give them the space and opportunity to talk about the missing episode and risk assess the situation.

The MFH team engage with the child/young person to identify solutions to the drivers which led to the missing episode/s and in some cases this will be managed through a one off intervention.

The MFH team will refer to other agencies such as the Children Society / Youth Service or the Early Help, ensuring the appropriate assessment and intervention takes place.

The MFH team aims to effectively disrupt missing episodes and concerns of CSE. This is achieved through weekly MFH meetings, whereby all information regarding children and young people missing in Salford is shared and discussed. The Police, Phoenix, health, social workers and the Early help service attend this meeting to ensure effective information sharing and robust disruption plans are in place-ensuring concerns of CSE are identified

Monthly police MFH intelligence meeting take place to consider those young people who are frequently going missing and whereby additional vulnerabilities and complexities maybe present, such as association with criminal activity and gangs.

### **Young Persons Plan (YPP)**

The YPP can be applied to young people of the age of 14 and above. The YPP aims to provide a multi agency response to cases whereby CSE and sexual abuse is a concern. The YPP complements existing safeguarding pathways and has equivalence in threshold to the Child Protection Plan.

A multi agency meeting and Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy meeting can make a recommendation for a YPP. A request for a YPP can also be made by the social worker following the completion of a children and family assessment. Whichever route consultation should take place with a Child Protection Coordinator for all cases whereby the YPP is being considered.

**Telephone: 0161 603 04350**

### **VOCAL**

VOCAL is Salford's voluntary and community organisation. VOCAL are represented on the CSE steering group and promote CSE awareness within their regular VOCAL forums, promoting the engagement of organisations in CSE training, identification and awareness. Any voluntary/community organisation can contact Wendy Priscott

for more information regarding Salford's CSE strategy, equally professionals from any agency can contact Wendy to explore what community resources are available to support CSE assessment and interventions for children and young people in Salford.

**[Wendy.priscott@princes-trust.org.uk](mailto:Wendy.priscott@princes-trust.org.uk)**. Tel: 07930 968218

### **The Integrated Youth Support Service**

Referrals are taken at all thresholds and will liaise with the Bridge and Phoenix where CSE is a concern.

Youth workers have access to and training on a range of interventions around healthy relationships including programme's of work specifically addressing CSE and can deliver these as one to one interventions or to targeted groups.

The Respect programme is offered to Yrs 5 and 6, it promotes equality in relationships and protects against exploitation.

A range of preventative programme's around healthy relationships can be offered to secondary schools. These include the 'Real Love Rocks' resource which specifically addresses CSE. These can be delivered as PSHE sessions universally, or be targeted at young people at greater risk of CSE. Bespoke programmes can be developed and delivered to meet the specific needs of groups of young people in a range of settings.

The youth service facilitates a range of specialist groups such as a girls group working with young women specifically referred because of concerns about CSE. The LGBT group provides support for young people in same sex relationships and this is also a forum where we raise awareness about CSE and promote healthy relationships.

**The IYSS can be contacted on: Telephone: 0161 778 0700**

**Email: [youth.services@salford.gov.uk](mailto:youth.services@salford.gov.uk)**

**For activities and events, visit the [wuu2 website](#)**

### **Education**

Schools in Salford have CSE training within their Whole School Safeguarding training, which includes information on the warning signs, vulnerabilities, models, children at risk and impact of child sexual exploitation. This is also included in the

training for New Starters so new members of staff starting in the schools also receive this training. Designated safeguarding person in 80% of schools in Salford attended the Real Love Rocks Train the Trainer and received the resource to take back to their schools which can be used in PSHE sessions, on a one to one basis or with small groups.

### **Salford Royal Foundation Trust (SRFT)**

Staff who work predominately with children, young people and parents where there may be safeguarding concerns receive CSE training, enabling them to recognise and respond where there are concerns.

SRFT has a well-established safeguarding children and adult team who offer consultation support and advice to staff who work in the community and in the acute hospital setting. The team provide safeguarding training to staff in accordance with the SRFT training strategy. SRFT are also offer safeguarding supervision in accordance with the supervision policy.

SRFT has a Lead nurse for Looked after Children (LAC) who is also the identified lead for CSE for the organisation. There is a specialist nurse for LAC who attends all MFH meetings and provides interventions as appropriate as part of the multi-agency response to CSE.

### **NHS Salford Clinical Commissioning Group**

The NHS Salford Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for commissioning healthcare services for the people of Salford. The CCG commissions and ensures the delivery of high quality health services to enable our population to live longer healthier lives with the aims of;

- Prevent ill health
- Reduce health inequalities
- Improve healthcare quality (safety, experience, and effectiveness)
- Improve health and wellbeing outcomes

Salford CCG has a Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children who is responsible for ensuring that the CCG meets its statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children and looked after children. This includes clinical expertise and leadership across commissioned services and providers of health care to continually improve our work to protect vulnerable children in Salford.

There are two Specialist Nurses Safeguarding Children who work in collaboration with the Designated Professionals to provide support and specialist safeguarding advice to GPs and Primary Care Staff. They also assist in improving clinical standards, performance and outcomes for vulnerable children inclusive of Primary Care.

The NHS Salford CCG Salford Standard for Primary Care 2016/2017 defines expected safeguarding standards for Primary Care within Salford. The GP Safeguarding Lead within each GP practice will complete training in CSE whilst Level 2 Safeguarding children training is undertaken by all GP practice staff and Level 3 Safeguarding children training undertaken by all GPs. All training includes awareness raising on CSE.

**Salford's Safeguarding Children's Board** provides multi agency CSE training, all details of training available is accessible through the SSCB website: <http://www.partnersinsalford.org/sscb/>

### **National Probation Service**

As part of transforming rehabilitation reform (TR) 2015 the Probation Service underwent significant changes. The former Greater Manchester Probation Trust now forms part of the North West region which include Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside and Cumbria. Salford forms part of the Manchester, Salford and Trafford cluster which is the largest cluster in the region. The NPS are taking the lead to secure agreement to facilitate efficient, effective and secure sharing of good quality information to:

- Promote confidential sharing of information pertaining to individuals who pose a risk of CSE and sexual abuse
- Promote consistent action and response across the Greater Manchester division to working with known perpetrators, once identified, at all stages of any Criminal Justice Process- from warnings, pre-trial to post sentence
- Promoting joint risk assessment and management planning across agencies, even if known individuals are not charged;
- Promoting effective use of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) for complex case management.