

Overview and Scrutiny Report

Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in North Tyneside



November 2015



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1. Background to the study

- 1.1. In response to the number of national high profile cases and reviews in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE) in recent years, the sub-committee had agreed at its November 2014 meeting to examine the authority's role and practice on issues relating to child sexual exploitation in North Tyneside as its next in-depth study. Due to another in-depth study being undertaken by the sub-committee an initial scoping document for the establishment of a sub group to examine what arrangements were in place to protect young people in the borough from CSE was not agreed until its meeting on 15 June 2015.
- 1.2. The protection of children from sexual exploitation is not just a job for the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning or the Director of Children's Services; all elected members have a role to play in keeping children safe and the authority cannot stamp out CSE without the help of the wider community. Councillors have a key role to play in this and should not be afraid to raise issues with officers or with the communities they represent.
- 1.3. The objective of the sub group would be to satisfy Members that there was a proactive approach to tackling CSE in North Tyneside and increase awareness of Members, officers and the public in general of the issues and the warning signs in relation to CSE.
- 1.4. Councillors P Brooks, M Madden and M Thirlaway and a church representative co-opted member, Mr G O'Hanlon, volunteered to be members of the sub group and a work programme was agreed.

2. Methodology

- 2.1. The study examined what arrangements were in place to protect young people in the borough from Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 2.2. Key questions to be answered included:
 - Have the targets identified in the Local Safeguarding Children's Board CSE Action Plan 2014 been met?
 - If not, why not?
 - What internal partnership working/monitoring is there? e.g. with Taxi Licensing/Youth Council
 - Is there an awareness of the warning signs for other staff members outside of Children, Young People and Learning?
 - Is there an awareness of the warning signs for children and families? Is it reaching the right people?
 - What support is available to current, potential and historic victims of CSE?
- 2.3. The Sub Group met on a number of occasions to receive information and discuss their findings and also:
 - a) Met with the Chair of the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board and observed a meeting of the Board.
 - b) Interviewed various Heads of Service regarding their service areas awareness of the issues and role in prevention.

- c) Met with staff from Barnado's, Changing Lives and Bright Futures; organisations from the community and voluntary sector working with young people affected by CSE.

3. What is child sexual exploitation?

- 3.1. Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is an increasingly high profile issue that affects children and young people of all backgrounds and from all communities, right across the UK. Children are most vulnerable to sexual exploitation between the ages of 13 and 15, but younger victims are being targeted all the time. In one month alone, Barnardo's services worked with 126 children aged 10–13 who had been affected¹.
- 3.2. CSE is a type of child abuse. It happens when a young person is encouraged, or forced, to take part in sexual activity in exchange for something; the reward might be presents, money, alcohol, or simply emotional attention. It might seem like a normal friendship or relationship to begin with and it can happen online or offline, and without the young person being aware of it.
- 3.3. Any young person can be a victim of child sexual exploitation.
- 3.4. It can happen to both boys and girls.
- 3.5. It can happen to all young people regardless of race, sexuality, social and/or economic background.
- 3.6. Young people experiencing problems at home that go missing or are in care can be vulnerable and particularly at risk, but child sexual exploitation can also happen to those from a loving, supportive home.
- 3.7. Victims of child sexual exploitation are never at fault, even if they agree to sexual activity. A child may agree to sexual activity, however, they may be unable to legally consent due to their age or being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Children and young people may not understand consent and the law surrounding sexual activity.

4. Who does it?

- 4.1. People who commit this crime can be male or female and they normally have an 'edge' over the young people they target. They might be older, wealthier, or physically stronger than them. They may have status and/or resources that makes them seem 'cool' to others, and might give support and attention that no one else provides. They might listen, offer advice, or give compliments.
- 4.2. They are also becoming increasingly sophisticated, using the internet to protect their identity, target children online and trafficking children around the country to avoid detection.
- 4.3. There 's no standard profile of an exploiter, and child sexual exploitation can also happen between young people – peer to peer and especially within gangs or social

¹ Barnados *Intro to CSE* available at http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation/about-cse.htm (accessed 10 September 2015)

groups.

- 4.4. Because there's no standard profile of an offender, child sexual exploitation is hard to spot, even for the young person affected. They may be groomed over time and so not be aware that they are a victim, and even if they are, they may think that it's their fault.

5. How does it happen?

- 5.1. At first, a young person may like, respect, or even think they are falling in love with the person exploiting them. This is because they are 'groomed' over time. This process involves making them feel 'special', so they become attached and unaware that they are being exploited. But later, the behaviour of the abuser starts to change, often slowly. By this point, the young person is likely to feel trapped, isolated and scared, and they may find it difficult to acknowledge that they are no longer comfortable in the relationship.
- 5.2. People who commit child sexual exploitation can be very manipulative. They might buy presents or give emotional attention that makes a young person feel on top of the world, or as if they are falling in love. They may single out their victims and target them face-to-face, or approach them online.
- 5.3. Sometimes the abuser will strengthen their control over the young person by driving them away from those who would usually look after them, whether that's family, friends or carers. This then makes it more difficult for the young person to seek help and support when they become uncomfortable in the relationship.
- 5.4. Over the last few years there has been a series of high profile cases and reviews that have been the focus of media attention. These have revealed the exploitation of girls in towns and cities including Rotherham, Rochdale and Oxford². The Sub Group wanted to test that work was underway in North Tyneside to understand the situation in relation to CSE in the borough and that appropriate policies and strategies were in place to prevent its increase and to protect and help those affected. The key questions (see paragraph 2.2) were identified to structure their investigation.

6. Findings/Evidence

6.1. Have the targets identified in the Local Safeguarding Children Board's CSE Action Plan 2014 been met?

- 6.1.1. The North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board (NTSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004 which requires all children's services authorities to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board for their area. The Board consists of senior representatives of all the principal agencies and organisations

² In May 2011, Thames Valley Police and Oxfordshire County Council launched Operation Bullfinch, a joint investigation into suspected serious sexual offences against children in Oxfordshire, seven men were convicted of 59 counts of offences including rape, trafficking and arranging or facilitating prostitution. They were sentenced to a total of 95 years' imprisonment for offences against six girls between 2004 and 2011. In June 2012, 12 men were convicted or running a child sexual exploitation ring in Rochdale and an [Independent Reviewing Officer report](#) in relation to child sexual exploitation issues in Rochdale Borough Council during the period 2006-2013 was published in May 2013. In August 2014 Baroness Jay published the [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham 1997-2014](#). Given the serious failings highlighted by this report, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government instigated an inspection of Rotherham council by Louise Casey CB. [The Casey report](#) was published on 4 February 2015 and found widespread failings across the council's culture and services.

working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in North Tyneside.

The Board's statutory objectives are to:

- Co-ordinate local work undertaken by all agencies and individuals to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people; and
- Ensure the effectiveness of that work.

6.1.2. The Board has various sub groups which focus on particular aspects of its work. These are:

- a) The Senior Management Group
Responsible for monitoring the progress of the LSCB Business Plan and the work of the sub groups.
- b) Case Review sub group
Responsible for conducting Case reviews including Serious Case Reviews and ensuring subsequent action plans are implemented and the learning is shared.
- c) Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)
- d) Training sub group
- e) Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement sub group (QILP)
- f) Vulnerable Adolescents sub group
Chaired by Northumbria Police and carries out work to improve joint working arrangements for young people who are identified as vulnerable; the main focus was on child sexual exploitation and children missing from home.

6.1.3. The NTSCB produced a Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy in September 2014 to develop a strategic overview of the issue of CSE, supporting a proactive partnership where those at risk were identified and safeguarded and offenders were disrupted and prosecuted.

6.1.4. To facilitate the work, a CSE Action Plan was developed (see Appendix A) which focussed on five key areas of development (Identification, Engagement, Response, Prevention, and Prosecution) and assigned a lead sub group for the nine specific actions with a desired outcome and a completion date. The longest completion date in the original Action Plan was for March 2015.

6.1.5. The Action Plan was submitted as part of a report on CSE to the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee in March 2015 and the progress against each of the actions was reported at the first meeting of the Sub Group on 26 June 2015 and the issues discussed with the Independent Chair of the NTSCB on 17 July 2015.

6.1.6. Of the nine actions, very few appeared to the Sub Group to have been completed in full by the agreed completion date. It was clear that work had begun and that the issue was being taken seriously by all those involved in the VA Sub Group, however, possibly due to the heightened sensitivity of the topic of CSE at the time there seems to have been a lack of judgement as to what work was required, the resources available to support the work and how long it would take to complete that work.

- 6.1.7. One Action Point which had gone well was the one “to review the current training for practitioners, to include the risk assessment tool and ensure links with e-safety, missing children and trafficking. To include single agency training”.
- 6.1.8. At the NTSCB meeting on 28 September 2015 the Board received the annual training report. In 2014-15 the Board had identified as one of their priorities for training ‘vulnerable adolescents, including child sexual exploitation’ and this was integrated into the multi-agency training programme across a range of courses and events. The sexual exploitation briefing had been delivered to 202 people in 2014-15 which included: 78 for the Children, Young People and Learning Service of the authority; 51 from schools; 64 from ‘NT other’; 1 from the health sector, 5 from the voluntary sector and 3 ‘private’ organisations. In addition to this training, targeted training had been undertaken with senior managers from partner agencies to raise their awareness of the CSE agenda. Further to the training detailed above, safeguarding training was also delivered to 277 practitioners from a variety of internal and external agencies, including the private and voluntary sector.
- 6.1.9. The Sub Group did not receive sufficient reassurance that, particularly for schools, where individuals or organisations had not attended training there was a robust system in place to ensure they attended a rearranged session. However, the creation of the CSE Training Strategy and Implementation Plan (see paragraph 6.3.6) should begin to address these concerns and the development of the Strategy and Plan was welcomed.
- 6.1.10. It had been acknowledged by the Board that previously the information regarding the impact and evaluation of this training had been lacking and the annual report detailed what had been done to monitor the quality and effectiveness of the training. This development was welcomed by the Sub Group. As was the evidence of self-knowledge and the self-improvement actions initiated by the NTSCB which assured the Sub Group that the Board was well led on the issue of training and raising awareness of CSE.

6.2. If not, why not?

- 6.2.1. It was clear to the Sub Group that a lot of work had been begun and that, in light of the preparation work required prior to a number of the actions being able to begin, the completion dates had been overly optimistic. For example, in September 2014 it was the stated aim to “collect and analyse local CSE and missing data sets including monitoring progress on updating the problem profile” and to have this completed by November 2014, two months later. This would be a significant piece of work for the Vulnerable Adolescents (VA) Sub Group to have concentrated solely on, particularly within the set timeframe, never mind as part of a nine point action plan.
- 6.2.2. The VA Sub Group had been assigned as the lead for all nine key actions with only one partner organisation (the police) being included on one of the actions. In addition to this workload, the VA sub group had been through a period of uncertainty with several changes of Chair due to competing demands on resources which had compounded the difficulties with the ambitions of the Action Plan and meant there was slow progress on the key actions. The VA sub group had also struggled to obtain data in relation to the number of concerns/referrals to assist them in understanding the extent of the issues and any emerging themes.

- 6.2.3. The importance of setting credible, attainable targets was acknowledged by both the Chair of the NTSCB and the Senior Manager: Safeguarding and Placement Services. The Sub Group agreed as if too many targets are missed all impetus fades away which makes meeting them at any point more challenging.
- 6.2.4. During the writing of this report, the NTSCB's Annual Report was published and the Independent Chair acknowledged in his Executive Summary that "the level of local strategic focus and accountability... fell short of what had been hoped for" and that for the current year there would be "improved information sharing and reporting, alongside a risk assessed assessment of progress against the action plan"³. This renewed emphasis was welcomed and the acknowledgement that the lessons learned from their response to CSE had "direct lessons for the wider approach to safeguarding" assured the Sub Group that the Board was able to self-challenge, develop and function effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people at risk of CSE.
- 6.2.5. One of the Action Points was to ask for a CSE Champion from relevant organisations as part of the Section 11 Audit 2014/15. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions – and any services that they contract out to others – are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The check that this is taking place is called the Section 11 audit and the NTSCB had a three year strategy to ensure all organisations engaged in the self assessment.
- 6.2.6. The Section 11 Audit questionnaire for the Local Authority is sent to the Chief Executive and they consult with the relevant service areas to inform the return. The Chair of the NTSCB indicated that the Board was considering asking that the Section 11 return be circulated more widely so that all service areas positively state they had regard of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Sub Group considered that this was a positive step towards ensuring all service areas were aware of their responsibilities and reduced the risk of service areas working in silos.
- 6.2.7. The Sub Group was pleased to note positive steps towards a greater number of Key Actions being completed at the NTSCB's meeting on 28 September 2015 where the new, permanent, Chair of the VA Sub Group updated the Board on the progress against the Action Plan (see Appendix B for updated Action Plan). Although a more comprehensive review of the whole action plan with revised target dates for completion was required, the renewed focus was welcome.
- 6.2.8. The working relationships between the NTSCB and the local authority appeared to be positive and productive and the Sub Group was concerned that this relationship be maintained in the challenging time ahead by ensuring that officers are able to attend and engage with the NTSCB and have the time to implement any actions agreed at the meeting.

Recommendation 1 – That the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report be added to the annual work programme of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee, with the Independent Chair of the Board invited to attend the meeting where it would be discussed. Once submitted to the Sub-committee the report, and the minute of the discussion, be circulated to all Members of the Council for their information.

³ North Tyneside Local Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2014/15, p6.

Recommendation 2 - Cabinet requests that the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding ensures that local authority officers are enabled to attend the meetings of the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Sub Groups to ensure a consistent membership and clear reporting lines.

Recommendation 3 - Cabinet requests that the Chief Executive requires all service areas to appoint a Safeguarding Champion who will participate in the completion of the Section 11 Audit from the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that all services have recognised that they must have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Recommendation 4 - Cabinet requests that the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board invites the Chair of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee or a designated member of the Sub-committee to attend its meetings as an observer.

- 6.3. What internal partnership working/monitoring is there? e.g. with Taxi Licensing/Youth Council? Is there an awareness of the warning signs for other staff members outside of Children, Young People and Learning?**
- 6.3.1. The Sub Group met with the Heads of Service for Environment, Housing and Leisure; Law and Governance; Human Resources and Corporate Development; Children, Young People and Learning; and Corporate Strategy to discuss what awareness there was in each service area of the issues relating to CSE.
- 6.3.2. The Sub Group was reassured by the level of knowledge demonstrated by the Heads of Service and the proactive approach taken by them in relation to reviewing their own practice and ensuring messages and training was being targeted at the right teams. The performance team had undertaken a detailed analysis of the Jay and Casey reports (relating to CSE in Rotherham and the local authority's response to the issues⁴) to ensure lessons were learnt and that the authority had the right measures in the right place and across all service areas.
- 6.3.3. Of particular note was the response from taxi licensing services who detailed their multiagency working and their response to the Casey report. Officers in the course of their licensing activities were in regular contact with partner agencies, including representatives of the NTSCB to investigate complaints during the term of a licence and information received following the receipt of a licence application. In response to the criticism of the taxi licensing regime in Rotherham, the service undertook a full review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, including the practices within the licensing service, with an aim to highlight any areas for improvement. The initial findings had been positive and there was confidence in the approach of all staff to the issues. An initial action had been to form a structured group to discuss safeguarding and other contentious issues which would meet on a monthly basis rather than hold ad hoc discussions as incidents occurred; this would build relationships between the teams and aid the flow of information and advice. This group had been formed in June 2015, named the Checkpoint Group, had met three times since and attendance had been good. The group included representatives from

⁴ Jay, A., (2014) [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham 1997-2014](#)
Casey, L.,(2015) [Report of Inspection of Rotherham Borough Council](#)

teams across the authority, including housing, education, public health, procurement and licensing. The group had an ongoing responsibility to provide assurance that issues of awareness and practice across the Council were of the highest standard.

- 6.3.4. Officers in Law and Governance had a good awareness of the issues due to their work in safeguarding and the Head of Service or her deputy attended the meetings of the NTSCB. CSE was always on the radar at strategy meetings for the safeguarding legal team and they had just completed a joint review with Environment, Housing and Leisure to review cases where complaints had been made about drivers to ensure that safeguarding and the risk of CSE had been fully taken into account in the decision making on whether to allow the driver to continue to hold a North Tyneside licence.
- 6.3.5. In the Environment, Housing and Leisure Service training had been undertaken by staff in leisure centres, the housing service and refuse collectors and each part of the service had an identified CSE champion. 516 hackney carriage and private hire licence holders had been trained by the beginning of November 2015 and the training sessions would continue to be offered into 2016 on a quarterly basis.
- 6.3.6. Human Resources and Organisational Development had, in consultation with the NTSCB, developed a CSE training strategy and implementation plan which aimed to provide CSE training for those who worked directly or indirectly with children and families, including the voluntary and community sector, to enable them to contribute to safeguarding children who were experiencing and/or at risk of CSE. The objective was to develop the understanding, knowledge and skills in relation to CSE by supporting the workforce to:
- Understand what is meant by CSE
 - Recognise 'models' of sexual exploitation
 - Identify signs of CSE, vulnerabilities and risk indicators
 - Identify what CSE looks like in North Tyneside
 - Recognise professional roles and the role of other agencies in identifying and responding to child sexual exploitation.
 - Identifying models of 'good practice' in working with children and young people at risk.

The groups of learners had been categorised according to their role; for example Group A were 'indirect contact with children and families' and included officers within Adult Social Care and licensed taxi drivers and Group D were 'regulation, monitoring responsibilities' and included Elected Members, the licensing authority and the probation service; each group had different key learning objectives and training delivery methods and an identified lead and partner to be involved.

- 6.3.7. The Sub Group considered the CSE Training Strategy and Action Plan to be very comprehensive and an essential development in providing relevant information to key groups. The suggested groups of learners was very comprehensive, for example including bed and breakfast proprietors and Connexions, and the number of key learning objectives, which clearly showed the complexity of the issue, was reassuring, particularly including a specific one for CSE risk for boys and including the voice of the child. An extract from the Training Strategy showing the groups of learning and key learning objectives is at Appendix C.
- 6.3.8. The Sub Group noted that in the 2014-2015 Annual Report for the multi-agency training programme submitted to the NTSCB meeting on 28 September 2015: 202

people had attended the child sexual exploitation briefing; 78 of which were from the CYPL service area; 51 from schools; and 64 from 'North Tyneside Other', an increase in this category of 8% on the previous year⁵. The CSE training strategy could only increase the number of officers undertaking awareness training and also increase general awareness of the issue.

- 6.3.9. The Sub Group was pleased to note that senior managers had received a briefing on CSE in October 2014 and that at the Leadership Forum in September 2015, attended by a wider group of managers, a significant proportion of the agenda was dedicated to CSE. The next step was ensuring that the messages and information was filtered down from the managers to all officers.
- 6.3.10. Safeguarding in recruitment was important to the authority and people working with children and vulnerable adults underwent an enhanced check from the disclosure and barring service; however this check only identifies those with convictions. A key measure to ensuring people don't take advantage of their position to abuse the young and vulnerable was ensuring the right people were appointed to the right positions from the beginning and having a stable workforce so people know each other and notice changes in behaviour and can spot potential issues as they arose. Ensuring all staff knew about the authority's whistle-blowing policy and used the opportunities presented by one-to-ones with their manager to raise concerns also helped protect the vulnerable. Heads of Service must encourage their managers to disseminate these messages and conduct regular one-to-ones with their teams.
- 6.3.11. Officers from the safeguarding service attended the Missing, Sexual Exploited and Trafficking (MSET) panel which was established in June 2015 in response to one of the Action Points in the NTSCB Action Plan and chaired by the Police Service. The panel also had representation from never2late, the youth offending service, welfare officers and the school improvement service. The panel monitored high risk cases and offered support and challenge to social workers in their CSE work. It specifically considered the most prolific children in terms of missing episodes as there was a proven elevated risk of CSE and being a missing child. A framework of what actions to take on day 1, 3, 5 and 10 of the absence had been developed. The panel was an important forum for talking through issues surrounding the young people who were most high risk and helped address the issue of a lack of data on children missing from education that had existed previously.
- 6.3.12. The Sub Group was pleased to note that the Youth Council and the Children in Care Council were involved in consultations and that all the participation and advocacy team and the engagement team had undergone awareness training and knew what to do if they had concerns regarding a child. The raising of awareness of the warning signs for the young people themselves as well as adults was a crucial step in helping to combat CSE; as was ensuring the delivery of the message suited the audience, for example a video shown to adults may not have the same resonance for a young person.
- 6.3.13. The Members of the Sub Group themselves commented that Elected Members' awareness of the issues and information on the subject of CSE was not as comprehensive as it should be. The Safeguarding and Education Panel led by the Mayor provided safeguarding intelligence, including CSE, for some Elected Members but the information needed to be more widely shared. The Panel had initiated the CSE

⁵ North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board Multi-Agency Training Annual Report, 13 April 2015, p7.

and adult sexual exploitation briefing event for members in June; and whilst this briefing was welcomed it didn't provide the Members with the knowledge of what to look for in their community or where to go with suspicions or where to direct or how to help anyone who might disclose information to them.

- 6.3.14. In addition, whilst it was acknowledged that corporate parenting and safeguarding training was a mandatory part of their role as councillors, it was once a term of office i.e. every four years. Members considered that specific CSE training should be made mandatory for all councillors and be the same as that received by officers. In addition regular updates regarding the situation in North Tyneside should be reported to all Members, not just those appointed to the Children, Education and Skills Subcommittee.
- 6.3.15. The Sub Group were satisfied that the Heads of Service had a good awareness of the issues and were taking steps to ensure they had the correct policies and procedures in place but can not express enough how important getting the message out about what CSE is and what the warning signs are to Members and all staff, particularly those who are out and about on a daily basis on the frontline, as they need to know what they are seeing, to understand that children are children and how to act.

Recommendation 5 - Cabinet requests that the Head of Law and Governance undertakes the necessary steps to propose to Full Council an amendment to the Constitution to ensure that child sexual exploitation training is provided to all Members at the same frequency as to officers and that attendance is mandatory and includes information on:

- what the situation in the borough is
- what the warning signs are
- what to do if you suspect something
- what to do if someone comes to you with a disclosure or a suspicion.

Recommendation 6 - Cabinet requests that the Standards Committee reviews the current Members and Co-opted Members Code of Conduct and considers including a provision that Members must report any suspicion of sexual exploitation or intelligence received on any safeguarding issues to the authority's Front Door Service and that failure to do so would be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Recommendation 7 - Cabinet requests that the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding provides a quarterly update in the Members Newsletter, including any information from the police service, on the situation in North Tyneside regarding child sexual exploitation.

Recommendation 8 - Cabinet requests that the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development and the Head of Corporate Strategy develop a communication strategy for the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Child Sexual Exploitation Training Strategy to ensure all Members, officers and other interested groups both inside and outside the authority are aware of the training opportunities available and what is expected of them with regard to attendance and keeping up to date.

Recommendation 9 - Cabinet considers amending the process of applying for a private hire or a hackney carriage licence and a personal licence

issued under the Licensing Act 2003 to require the applicant to have undergone child sexual exploitation training prior to issue.

6.4. Is there an awareness of the warning signs for children and families? Is it reaching the right people?

- 6.4.1. The Sub Group met with representatives from Barnardo's, Bright Futures and Changing Lives, all organisations from the community and voluntary sector working with young people to understand what other support was available and whether the local authority could be doing more to assist these organisations in their work.
- 6.4.2. Changing Lives was a national, registered charity which provided specialist support services throughout England to thousands of vulnerable people and their families. Changing Lives supported people to make positive, lasting changes in their lives and worked with people who are or have been experiencing homelessness, are recovering from addiction or are moving on from offending. These services were delivered in many different ways, including being delivered in their own projects, by working in partnership with others and through specialist outreach teams in communities. Changing Lives also delivered specialist women's and family services and provided employment opportunities.
- 6.4.3. Changing Lives had delivered the GAP (Girls and Proud) project for those aged 16+ and the MAP (Male Action Project) for those aged 18+ in Newcastle and Gateshead from 2011. These projects focussed on young people in sex work and used a one-to-one assertive outreach approach and included health checks, therapy, sports activities and peer support for young people. Clients were allocated a specific worker and they stayed with the client, there was no time limit on the support offered to clients; it took as long as it took. The hidden nature of sex work, especially for boys and young men, made it very difficult to get an accurate picture of the situation and find a way to speak to the young people so as to be able to offer support. It took months in Newcastle to gain trust and find a way in.
- 6.4.4. A similar programme of development work for 18+ year olds in North Tyneside and Northumberland had been funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner up to March 2016; at the time of writing there had been 20 referrals from partner agencies and a small number of self-referrals. Young people were particularly vulnerable at ages 16-19 as they could slip through the net of services at this transition stage as they disengaged from traditional structures (for example school) and want nothing to do with the police or the Council. In addition their relationship with the police changed as they could be seen as an offender rather than being exploited at 18.
- 6.4.5. It was their experience in North Tyneside that the homeless and outreach teams were proactive in the borough and they were grateful to be able to use the office facilities in the Customer First Centre in Whitley Bay. They wanted to work closely with the Council and a key aim of their work within North Tyneside was to establish a drop in centre in Whitley Bay as research had shown that key areas where exploitation took place were close to taxi ranks, bed and breakfasts and takeaways.
- 6.4.6. A key part of establishing contact with young people was to create a 'drop in centre', a place that wasn't formal, but where young people would know that at a certain time on a certain day there would be someone there to offer support and where regular meetings could be arranged with young people who they were working with. This had been very successful in Newcastle where they used the café at Brunswick Methodist

Church every Friday at 1pm, every week. It was a good place to begin to engage with the young people and could also be used to meet clients to give consistent support and be their advocate for what was going on in their lives.

- 6.4.7. Bright Futures was a young women's project (ages 11-25) based in South Tyneside. Its focus was on education and prevention and focussed on healthy relationships; control; online safety; and grooming and exploitation. Bright Futures had developed a 10 week accredited programme for girls aged from 14 and had received positive feedback from schools in the three years of the project; it was about to be offered to Newcastle schools. The accredited programme began at aged 14 which was too late for prevention, as demonstrated by twelve disclosures in one session, and a different programme, which gained the participants a certificate, had been developed for girls from aged 12. The sessions were girls only and whilst they had been asked to deliver sessions to boys, they were unable to do so as their funding related to the fact they were a project for girls and young women.
- 6.4.8. Bright Futures had joined Project Sanctuary's prevent strategy and the work the group would do in North Tyneside would be directed by the discoveries made by Project Sanctuary.
- 6.4.9. Barnardo's was the largest provider of child sexual exploitation support in the UK and had worked with sexually exploited children and young people for more than 20 years, and would also be part of Project Sanctuary. Barnardo's actively identified and reached out to young people at risk in the community, offering them the long-term support they need, one-to-one counselling, group work and drop-in sessions to help those affected by child sexual exploitation to escape and recover from their abuse.
- 6.4.10. The representative from Barnardo's explained that when relationships within the family broke down it made it harder for the victim to seek support and they found that the young people did not want to talk to the police. Barnardo's delivered family therapy to help build relationships within the family which enabled the vulnerable to increase their self-esteem and be able to get the support they needed at home now and in the future. There was a lack of early education to all young people to enable them to keep themselves safe. The power of an older 'partner' for teenaged girls was very strong and also the flattery and attention given online can make the girls and women feel in control and they do not recognise it as grooming; getting the messages as to what was appropriate and 'normal' behaviour was a key part of awareness raising.
- 6.4.11. It was commented by the organisations that the issues they dealt with affected different services of a local authority and that each local authority didn't allocate the responsibility as lead to the same department so it made the strategic overview of the activities across council boundaries quite difficult for them and for all those involved to ensure that the information was passed onto the right people. A lead for each Council who could take decision and empower those who attend meetings on their behalf to take decisions was necessary as it caused unnecessary delay when people had to go back to the office and check before actions could be agreed.
- 6.4.12. There was no quick fix to the sexual exploitation of the vulnerable; it existed, it was not going away and it took the victims a long time to recover. It was important that projects initiated now were not neglected or forgotten in future years; the abusers would find different ways to target their victims and all agencies and communities needed to be vigilant and try and be one step ahead. It was also important not to

forget boys and young men, in Middlesbrough Barnardo's reported that 10-15% of the young people who have been sexually exploited were male.

- 6.4.13. During discussions in all the meetings the Sub Group had held was the acknowledgement that an accurate picture of the current situation within North Tyneside was unavailable due to a lack of comprehensive and reliable data. This lack of evidence was acknowledged by all organisations spoken to and systems had been developed and implemented to improve the information available but there was still a lot of work to do to completely understand what the prevalence of CSE in North Tyneside was; it would be naive to suggest (and no-one did) that there wasn't a problem in North Tyneside because we aren't aware of any significant problems.
- 6.4.14. The Sub Group cannot emphasis enough that the work to complete the picture on CSE must be the focus of attention for all organisations as it was vital to get an accurate picture of the situation in the borough to enable resources and strategies to be directed at the right people at the right time and to use as evidence that the strategies are necessary.
- 6.4.15. The sub group was time limited and had to conclude its work before a full picture of the situation could be established and before it could answer in any way the question it had posed itself at the start regarding young people and their families' awareness of the issues. The work of all organisations would continue to be monitored through regular reports to the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee.

Recommendation 10 - Cabinet requests that the Head of Corporate Strategy develop a communications strategy on child sexual exploitation (CSE) through the authority's own publications (Our North Tyneside and Teamwork) to dispel some of the myths surrounding CSE and to make clear to residents and employees that people who are suffering CSE or who may suspect CSE is taking place can access appropriate support and information. The strategy should include the production of posters to inform people of the warning signs and what to do if they are concerned. These posters should be available for display in all Council buildings and offered to bed and breakfasts, hotels, takeaways and taxi offices.

Recommendation 11- Cabinet requests the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding and the Head of Commissioning and Investment work with Changing Lives to consider whether there is a suitable venue in Whitley Bay to be made available for use by Changing Lives and their associated partners/programmes as a drop-in centre for young people who may be experiencing exploitation and/or abuse.

6.5. What support is available to current, potential and historic victims of CSE?

- 6.5.1. Project Sanctuary, a Northumbria Police Innovation Fund project had developed from Operation Sanctuary which was a continuing investigation into allegations of a series of sexual offences, predominantly in Newcastle but also in other local authority areas, involving a number of men and vulnerable female victims, including teenagers and young adults. No North Tyneside victims were identified as part of the first tranche of the operation, but there had been enquiries followed up where CSE may have been a possible cause for concern.

- 6.5.2. Project Sanctuary intended to build on key learning from Operation Sanctuary by establishing two multi-agency operational teams, one covering the north of the force and the other the south, to tackle child sexual exploitation, vulnerability and modern day slavery. The co-location, hub arrangement was designed to bring together children and adult social care services, the police and a broad range of third sector organisations and partners to build on 'what works' within Operation Sanctuary. Both voluntary and statutory partners are represented. There was a new role of CSE Social Work Co-ordinator to oversee social work activity and other coordinators exist in the hub such as a missing from home co-ordinator to look at the joint investigation into missing children and vulnerable adults and a family support worker to manage support plans for vulnerable families working alongside social services. North Tyneside has seconded one full-time equivalent social worker (two employees for one year each) over the two years of the project and this would be a key lever for continuing improvement of local practice.
- 6.5.3. As with Operation Sanctuary, the project would take a victim-focused approach to ensure their needs were addressed and that they felt confident and comfortable to talk to officers about the issues they had faced, allowing the project workers to find those responsible for it. The welfare of victims was the priority and the police would work closely with partner agencies within the hub system to ensure they were given all the support they needed to cope and recover from their experience.
- 6.5.4. The Sub Group acknowledged that the borough was in the early stages of developing support for historic victims and welcomed the initiative and its approach.
- 6.5.5. The social worker seconded to Project Sanctuary was unable to attend a meeting of the Sub Group but did submit a statement. She explained that there was a number of strategies being put in place to strengthen her link between Operation Sanctuary and North Tyneside Children's Services to be sure the learning and development was ongoing throughout the secondment, which included joining the MSET (Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked) panel to enable her to disseminate any intelligence or learning from Operation Sanctuary into the local authority, but also to be able to gather the same to take back to Project Sanctuary to ensure the authority was responding to any North Tyneside CSE in the best way possible and ensuring any links across the authority were identified.
- 6.5.6. The social worker was also in the process of trying to develop a set format for information sharing to ensure consistent reporting and maintain a close link to the authority's SCARPA⁶ worker who was working with children at risk of missing episodes and CSE. It was also acknowledged that it was important to maintain a close link with the social worker who would follow on for the second year to ensure transition was straight forward.
- 6.5.7. Operation Sanctuary had a significant amount of information in relation to behaviour trends and signs for frontline staff to be aware of and predominant issues relating to CSE, however this might look different in North Tyneside and work on ensuring that we know how it looks in North Tyneside was a key part of the work.

⁶ The SCARPA project in Newcastle is a collaboration between The Children's Society, Barnardo's and Save The Children and is aimed at helping young people who are experiencing, or at risk of, running away from home, sexual exploitation or trafficking.

- 6.5.8. The Sub Group acknowledged that it was early days for Project Sanctuary but considered the principles behind it sound and looked forward to monitoring its progress through their regular CSE update reports which would be submitted to the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee.
- 6.5.9. The Sub Group received details of a case study which detailed how a victim was identified, what was done and what support had been offered. The processes in the case had worked well and the Sub Group would continue to monitor the developments in policy and procedures as the real picture of the situation with regard to CSE in the borough began to emerge.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. The Sub Group was conscious throughout its work that most of the initiatives and procedures discussed had been reactive rather than proactive and whilst it was acknowledged that the reassurance checks undertaken have not suggested that CSE was not taken seriously within the borough or that there were individual or pockets of cases that had not been investigated, it was a chastening reminder of the need to be constantly vigilant in all areas of safeguarding.
- 7.2. The Sub Group welcomed the discussions taking place on the possibility of establishing a joint sub committee of the Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards to look at sexual exploitation as a whole (because children become adults) and co-ordinate the response to issues as they are raised because, as the Sub Group discovered, there were a lot of groups actively working on the topic and it was important to ensure there was no duplication of effort or that concerns or actions fell through the cracks; it would also allow the other groups, for example the Vulnerable Adults Sub Group, the time and space to look at the other parts of their remit which may have been subsumed by the focus on CSE.
- 7.3. The importance of accurate, reliable and up to date data was the most fundamental issue the authority and all its partner agencies needed to address. The Sub Group was reassured that this was acknowledged by all involved and appropriate actions had been and were being undertaken to ensure an accurate picture of the situation in North Tyneside would be available in the near future. The vital next stage was using that data to target resources and plan activities which would strengthen the authority's approach to the protection of young people and the vulnerable in our borough from sexual exploitation and provide good and reliable support to those that have been exploited.
- 7.4. The Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee will continue to monitor the work undertaken within the borough on sexual exploitation to ensure that plans and strategies are reviewed and developed as new intelligence becomes available to remain effective in prevention and supportive for any victims as they become identified as the knowledge increases.
- 7.5. After the first meeting of the Sub Group it was clear that the subject of sexual exploitation was a very wide reaching and complicated area of investigation. The Sub Group have restricted their formal recommendations to the questions posed in their original remit but do want to request that further consideration be given to ensuring that other vulnerable groups, for example refugees and asylum seekers, are included when thinking about CSE, and that the more under represented victims of CSE, for example boys and young men, are not forgotten.

8. Background Information

The background papers and research reports listed in Appendix D have been used in the compilation of this report and copies of these documents are available from the contact officer.

9. Acknowledgements

The Sub Group would like to place on record its thanks and appreciation to the following individuals for their assistance to the Sub Group and providing the evidence on which this report is based.

North Tyneside Council

Helen Coombs, Manager Legal Services Safeguarding Team

Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance

Jean Griffiths, recently retired Head of Children, Young People and Learning

Elizabeth Kerr, Democratic Services Officer

Jacqueline Laughton, Head of Corporate Strategy

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Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure

External Contributors:

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Laura Seebohn, Changing Lives

Nicola Whalen, Bright Futures

CSE Action Plan (September 2014)

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Progress check</u>
<p>To ensure messages about CSE are included in the PSHE curriculum within schools</p> <p>To ensure CSE is part of the Designated Person training</p> <p>To conduct a young people's relationships survey to investigate knowledge, awareness and experience of CSE in order to help identify issues, risks and prevalence in North Tyneside</p>	<p>Vulnerable Adolescent subgroup /School Improvement rep</p> <p>L Wardingham, Schools Trainer</p> <p>VA subgroup</p>	<p>Increase in knowledge and understanding of CSE by children and young people who know where to go for support and advice.</p> <p>Survey data to shape and inform current CSE action plan.</p>	<p>October 2014</p> <p>March 2015</p>	<p>Four CSE briefing sessions have been held for school staff and all but 2 schools sent a representative. Resource materials were shared to be used within schools. PSHE leads have attended separate briefings and several schools are reviewing their PHSE programmes as a result. Criteria to meet the 'Healthy Schools' standard now includes evidence of how CSE is included in the PSHE agenda</p> <p>A Child Sexual Exploitation Training-School survey has been sent out to all schools to establish how they are disseminating key messages to all staff, what improvements have been made and any training needs.</p>

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Progress check</u>
				CSE is included in all school safeguarding training A survey of young peoples awareness is being developed and will be piloted with specific groups
Promote a CSE specific page for parents and children on the NTSCB website to raise awareness among parents and children including links to CEOP internet safety web content Consider utilizing Northumbria Police information leaflets for parents/carers or source an alternative	VA subgroup VA subgroup	a) Increase in knowledge and understanding of CSE as a form of sexual abuse b) Parents and children know where to go for support and advice	October 2014 April 2015	CSE is a specific topic on the web site for both children, parents and professionals. This includes information and advice and signposting to specialist support services Northumbria Police leaflets are available and a regional group is looking to update them in light of new learning and additional on line resources
Develop a local awareness campaign using the Children's Society national 'Say Something if you See Something' campaign targeting licensed premises, hotels and licensed taxi companies to raise awareness of CSE	VA subgroup Police	a) Increase in knowledge and understanding of CSE as a form of sexual abuse in the wider community b) Improved awareness and capacity to identify sexual exploitation in the community.	October 2015	This action is in the early stages of being addressed following preliminary discussion with licensing leads and Northumbria Police

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Progress check</u>
Collect and analyse local CSE and missing data sets including monitoring progress on updating the problem profile completed by Northumbria Police	VA subgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Each relevant member to identify data that can be collected and reported to the VA subgroup b) Improved local evidence and understanding to determine any gaps and areas for improving responses to CSE 	November 2014	Difficulties in extricating data in relation to CSE have been resolved and from April 2015 information in relation to the number of concerns in relation to CSE and/or missing children episodes will be available to inform our understanding of prevalence.
Review, update and promote the CSE guidance for professionals ensuring that the Office of the children's Commissioner's See Me Hear Me Framework is integrated.	VA subgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Professionals will feel more confident by having a clear understanding of their role in identifying, assessing and responding to CSE b) Professionals will work closely across agencies to develop a coordinated response to any concerns about children and young people who are being or at risk of being sexually exploited. c) Children and young people at risk receive timely and effective interventions 	September 2014	<p>Guidance for professionals has been revised in line with the See Me, Hear Me framework.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to revise the Risk assessment tool used by practitioners utilizing learning from the Jay Report.</p>

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Progress check</u>
Review the current training for practitioners, to include use of the risk assessment tool and ensure links with e safety, missing children, trafficking. To include single agency training.	Training sub group	a) All practitioners working with, or in contact with, children and young people have a clear understanding of CSE	October 2014 June 2015	CSE training is offered as part of the LSCB multi agency training programme and includes learning from national reviews. Specific training has been undertaken with senior managers from partner agencies to raise their awareness of the CSE agenda.
Review the membership for the LSCB Vulnerable Adolescent sub group who lead on CSE and look to appoint CSE 'champions within relevant organizations- -Section 11 audit 2015 to ask the question.	VA sub group	a) Continued support and attendance from relevant and key partner agencies leading to effective consultation, collaboration and coordination of CSE work in North Tyneside. b) Sub group members and/or CSE champions update their colleagues in their respective agencies regarding local and national developments related to CSE activity. c) Sub group chair to provide quarterly reports to the LSCB reporting on progress in	March 2015	The sub group includes representation from key agencies. It is chaired by Northumbria Police and after several change in Chair's, there is now some consistency following a reorganization within the police The Section 11 annual audit which asks agencies to self assess against a number of safeguarding standards, includes a question on how the agency is raising awareness and addressing CSE

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Progress check</u>
		delivering the CSE action plan.		
Agencies to consider appropriate interventions for children and young people at risk of becoming, or who are being sexually exploited.	VA sub group	a) Timely and effective interventions that lead to improved outcomes for children and young people vulnerable to CSE	March 2015	The appointment of a specialist worker by Children's Services (June 2015) will provide advice and guidance to staff in relation to CSE. The worker will also undertake work with specific young people
VA sub group to maintain links with regional LSCB's to use the opportunity for cross border collaboration	VA sub group	Sub group to receive and share local developments to improve responses to CSE across the area.	Ongoing	Northumbria Police have established a regional CSE Group involving LSCB Business Manager's which is intended as a forum for collaboration/ joint working across the region.
Joint Protocol between Northumbria Police and Children's Services to be agreed in relation to Missing Children and referenced in NTSCB Missing Children Procedure	Northumbria Police/Children's Services/VA subgroup		April 2015	The Joint Protocol is in place and provides consistency of practice across Children's Services and Northumbria Police

CSE Action Plan (September 2015)

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Progress check</u>
<p>To ensure messages about CSE are included in the PSHE curriculum within schools</p> <p>To ensure CSE is part of the Designated Person training</p> <p>To conduct a young people's relationships survey to investigate knowledge, awareness and experience of CSE in order to help identify issues, risks and prevalence in North Tyneside</p>	<p>Vulnerable Adolescent subgroup /School Improvement rep</p> <p>L Wardingham, Schools Trainer</p> <p>VA subgroup</p>	<p>Increase in knowledge and understanding of CSE by children and young people who know where to go for support and advice.</p> <p>Survey data to shape and inform current CSE action plan.</p>	<p>October 2014</p> <p>March 2015</p>	<p>Four CSE briefing sessions have been held for school staff and all but 2 schools sent a representative. Resource materials were shared to be used within schools. PSHE leads have attended separate briefings and several schools are reviewing their PHSE programmes as a result. Criteria to meet the 'Healthy Schools' standard now includes evidence of how CSE is included in the PSHE agenda</p> <p>A Child Sexual Exploitation Training-School survey has been sent out to all schools to establish how they are disseminating key messages to all staff, what improvements have been made and any training needs.</p>

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Progress check</u>
				<p>CSE is included in all school safeguarding training</p> <p>A survey of young peoples awareness is being developed and has been piloted with the Health & Wellbeing group of the Youth Council.</p> <p>Although a small sample, it indicates the need for continued raising awareness in relation to CSE and young people.</p>
<p>Promote a CSE specific page for parents and children on the NTSCB website to raise awareness among parents and children including links to CEOP internet safety web content</p> <p>Consider utilizing Northumbria Police information leaflets for parents/carers or source an alternative</p>	<p>VA subgroup</p> <p>VA subgroup</p>	<p>a) Increase in knowledge and understanding of CSE as a form of sexual abuse</p> <p>b) Parents and children know where to go for support and advice</p>	<p>October 2014</p> <p>April 2015</p>	<p>CSE is a specific topic on the web site for both children, parents and professionals. This includes information and advice and signposting to specialist support services</p> <p>Northumbria Police leaflets are available and a regional group is looking to update them in light of new learning and additional on line resources.</p>

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Progress check</u>
Develop a local awareness campaign using the Children's Society national 'Say Something if you See Something' campaign targeting licensed premises, hotels and licensed taxi companies to raise awareness of CSE	VA subgroup Police	Increase in knowledge and understanding of CSE as a form of sexual abuse in the wider community b) Improved awareness and capacity to identify sexual exploitation in the community.	October 2015	This action is in the early stages of being addressed following preliminary discussion with licensing leads and Northumbria Police
Collect and analyse local CSE and missing data sets including monitoring progress on updating the problem profile completed by Northumbria Police	VA subgroup	a) Each relevant member to identify data that can be collected and reported to the VA sub group b) Improved local evidence and understanding to determine any gaps and areas for improving responses to CSE	November 2014	Difficulties in extricating data in relation to CSE have been resolved and from April 2015 information in relation to the number of concerns in relation to CSE and/or missing children episodes will be available to inform our understanding of prevalence. Data from 1 April 2015 will be included in the LSCB data set.
Review, update and promote the CSE guidance for professionals ensuring that the Office of the children's Commissioner's See Me Hear Me Framework is integrated.	VA subgroup	a) Professionals will feel more confident by having a clear understanding of their role in identifying, assessing and responding to CSE b) Professionals will work closely across agencies	September 2014	Guidance for professionals has been revised in line with the See Me, Hear Me framework. Work is ongoing to revise the Risk assessment tool used by practitioners utilizing learning from the

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Progress check</u>
		<p>to develop a coordinated response to any concerns about children and young people who are being or at risk of being sexually exploited.</p> <p>c) Children and young people at risk receive timely and effective interventions</p>		Jay Report.
<p>Review the current training for practitioners, to include use of the risk assessment tool and ensure links with e safety, missing children, trafficking.</p> <p>To include single agency training.</p>	Training sub group	a) All practitioners working with, or in contact with, children and young people have a clear understanding of CSE	<p>October 2014</p> <p>June 2015</p>	<p>CSE training is offered as part of the LSCB multi agency training programme and includes learning from national reviews.</p> <p>The training sub group are developing a CSE training needs strategy for consideration at its meeting in September 2015</p> <p>Specific training has been undertaken with senior managers from partner agencies to raise their awareness of the CSE agenda.</p>

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Progress check</u>
Review the membership for the LSCB Vulnerable Adolescent sub group who lead on CSE and look to appoint CSE 'champions within relevant organizations- -Section 11 audit 2015 to ask the question.	VA sub group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continued support and attendance from relevant and key partner agencies leading to effective consultation, collaboration and coordination of CSE work in North Tyneside. b) Sub group members and/or CSE champions update their colleagues in their respective agencies regarding local and national developments related to CSE activity. c) Sub group chair to provide quarterly reports to the LSCB reporting on progress in delivering the CSE action plan. 	March 2015	<p>The sub group includes representation from key agencies. It is chaired by Northumbria Police and after several change in Chair's, there is now some consistency following a reorganization within the police</p> <p>The Section 11 annual audit which asks agencies to self assess against a number of safeguarding standards, includes a question on how the agency is raising awareness and addressing CSE</p>
Agencies to consider appropriate interventions for children and young people at risk of becoming, or who are being sexually exploited.	VA sub group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Timely and effective interventions that lead to improved outcomes for children and young people vulnerable to CSE 	March 2015	<p>The appointment of a specialist worker by Children's Services (June 2015) will provide advice and guidance to staff in relation to CSE. The worker will also undertake work with specific young people.</p>

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Progress check</u>
				A regional mapping exercise in relation to available interventions will be completed by September 2015.
VA sub group to maintain links with regional LSCB's to use the opportunity for cross border collaboration	VA sub group	Sub group to receive and share local developments to improve responses to CSE across the area.	Ongoing	Northumbria Police have established a regional CSE Group involving LSCB Business Manager's which is intended as a forum for collaboration/joint working across the region
Joint Protocol between Northumbria Police and Children's Services to be agreed in relation to Missing Children and referenced in NTSCB Missing Children Procedure	Northumbria Police/Children's Services/VA subgroup		April 2015	The Joint Protocol is in place and provides consistency of practice across Children's Services and Northumbria Police

Extract from NTSCB Training Strategy and Implementation Plan v2 July 2015 (submitted to the Sub Group 25.08.15)

Suggested groups of learners

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Indirect contact with children, and families	Direct contact with children and families	involved in the assessment of and working with children at risk	Regulation, monitoring responsibilities
Adult Social Care	School Staff	Early Life (Children's Centres)	Elected Members NTC
Community facilities	Youth Services	Early Help/Family Partners	Heads of Service NTC
Voluntary Sector (Adults)	Participation and Engagement	Children's Social Care (social workers)	Legal Teams NTC
Adult Learning Alliance	Voluntary Sector orgs for Children	Looked After Children & Leaving Care Teams	Procurement and commissioning NTC
Licensed Premises (pubs and clubs)	Domestic Abuse Services	Residential Childcare	Human Resources NTC
Door supervisors	Housing	Foster Carers	Licensing Authority NTC
Licensed Taxi Drivers	Primary Care Trust (GPs)	Disability Teams	Quality Improvement (schools)
Faith Groups	Connexions	Youth Offending	Community Safety Partnerships
Bed and Breakfast (vulnerable people)	Volunteer Mentors	Child Mental Health Services	Police
Early Years (Private and voluntary)	Drug and Alcohol services young People (N2L)	NTW (Mental Health Services)	Probation
Catering Services	PROPS	NHS Community Services (PHSN/HVs)	LSCB/SAB
School Transport Staff	North Tyneside Recovery Partnership	North Tyneside Carers Centre	
Environment and Leisure Service	NHS Acute Services (Hospitals)	Designated Persons in school	

Key learning objectives by group

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
definitions signs and indicators of CSE	early help and prevention - Thresholds	using return interviews and engaging with children	CSE training needs to be properly evaluated for impact
Making referrals - how/to whom	guidance protocol - risk assessment and screening	language used - child not adult and assessed as such	dealing with complaints - against licensed vehicle drivers
Indicators of grooming/perpetrator behaviours	reasons for disengagement and challenging behaviour		embedding values in principle not just in training
increased vulnerabilities - social/emotional/developmental/environmental factors	using professional curiosity, respect and challenge	resources and tools for working with victims or potential victims	Section 11 Audits - include awareness of CSE screen tool
Adults at risk of CSE	curriculum activities for young people ie. health relationships	possible disruption techniques and faster protection and opportunities to secure evidence	employment/contract checks DBS/references
	disruption techniques and informing the police	how neglect - self harm, suicide prevention, emotional and physical neglect the impact on vulnerability	fit and proper persons test for landlords placing vulnerable persons
	true capacity to make decisions and give genuine consent	to avoid being over optimistic professionals	investigations - from victim disclosure led to evidence based approach (Police)
	'push' and 'pull' factors = pushing children away from families/carers or pulling children into risks, significance of missing/absent children	how parental mental health, drug use, domestic violence impact on keeping children safe from CSE	IT systems for tracking and mapping victims
	links to FGM, Forced Marriage, domestic violence	recognising perpetrator behaviour/profiles	legal implications
	links to mental health, self-harm, suicide	handling transitions - when vulnerable child becomes adult	licensing - removing licences for those suspected of serious crime
	how to build resilience in children	Using S20 voluntary accommodation therapeutic services - who/what/how/when is this available	sexism, bullying in authority
			Sexual offences Act 2003

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
	helping victims to recognising themselves as victims	recognising Working Together focuses on inter-familiar abuse and CSE doesn't comfortably fit with this	responsibilities and accountability of senior officers and members
	how to include the voice of the child	evidence based models of intervention	sentencing and punishment of offenders Act 2012
	Trafficking definition and law	how CSE can push child into crime	role of LSCB and SAB
	Whistle blowing - importance and process		regional approach and joint protocols
	Transgender issues and CSE		employment/contract checks DBS/references
	E-safety and online grooming		GP READ codes/flags on system to flag risk of CSE
	missing and absent children		
	CSE risks for boys		

Group A = complete group A learning objectives

Group B = complete group A and group B learning objectives

Group C = complete group A, B and C learning objectives

Group D = complete group A and D learning objectives plus any other identified by individual or manage

List of Background Papers

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and copies of these documents are available from Elizabeth Kerr, Democratic Services, e-mail elizabeth.kerr@northtyneside.gov.uk Tel: (0191) 643 5322

- Barnados *Intro to CSE* available at [http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what we do/our work/sexual exploitation/about-cse.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation/about-cse.htm) (accessed 10 September 2015)
- [North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2014/15](#)
- [North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy.](#)
- North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Multi-Agency Training Annual Report, 13 April 2015.
- North Tyneside Council's Licensing Section Review in response to 'Did Rotherham take and continue to take sufficient steps to ensure only fit and proper persons are permitted to hold a taxi licence?'
- Report on Child Sexual Exploitation from North Tyneside Council's Safeguarding and Placement Services to [Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee on 16 March 2015.](#)
- Report on Child Sexual Exploitation from North Tyneside Council's Safeguarding and Placement Services to [Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee on 20 July 2015](#)
- [Jay, Alexis Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham \(1997-2013\) August 2014](#)
- [Inspection into the governance of Rotherham Council \(Casey Report\)](#)
- [Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board's Serious Case Review report in CSE in Oxfordshire](#)

Summary of recommendations

1. That the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report be added to the annual work programme of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee, with the Independent Chair of the Board invited to attend the meeting where it would be discussed. Once submitted to the Sub-committee the report, and the minute of the discussion, be circulated to all Members of the Council for their information.
2. Cabinet requests that the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding ensures that local authority officers are enabled to attend the meetings of the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Sub Groups to ensure a consistent membership and clear reporting lines.
3. Cabinet requests that the Chief Executive require all service areas to appoint a Safeguarding Champion who will participate in the completion of the Section 11 Audit from the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that all services have recognised that they must have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
4. Cabinet requests that the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board invites the Chair of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee or a designated member of the Sub-committee to attend its meetings as an observer.
5. Cabinet requests that the Head of Law and Governance undertakes the necessary steps to propose to Full Council an amendment to the Constitution to ensure that child sexual exploitation training is provided to all Members at the same frequency as to officers and that attendance is mandatory and includes information on:
 - what the situation in the borough is
 - what the warning signs are
 - what to do if you suspect something
 - what to do if someone comes to you with a disclosure or a suspicion.
6. Cabinet requests that the Standards Committee reviews the current Members' and Co-opted Members' Code of Conduct and considers including a provision that Members must report any suspicion of sexual exploitation or intelligence received on any safeguarding issues to the authority's Front Door Service and that failure to do so would be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct.
7. Cabinet requests the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding provides a quarterly update in the Members' Newsletter, including any information from the police service, on the situation in North Tyneside regarding child sexual exploitation.
8. Cabinet requests that the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development and the Head of Corporate Strategy develop a communication

strategy for the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's CSE Training Strategy to ensure all Members, officers and other interested groups both inside and outside the authority are aware of the training opportunities available and what is expected of them with regard to attendance and keeping up to date.

9. Cabinet considers amending the process of applying for a private hire or a hackney carriage license and a personal licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 to require the applicant to have undergone child sexual exploitation training prior to issue.
10. Cabinet requests that the Head of Corporate Strategy develop a communications strategy on child sexual exploitation (CSE) through the authority's own publications (Our North Tyneside and Teamwork) to dispel some of the myths surrounding CSE and to make clear to residents and employees that people who are suffering CSE or who may suspect CSE is taking place can access appropriate support and information. The strategy should include the production of posters to inform people of the warning signs and what to do if they are concerned. These posters should be available for display in all Council buildings and offered to bed and breakfasts, hotels, takeaways and taxi offices.
11. Cabinet requests the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding and the Head of Commissioning and Investment work with Changing Lives to consider whether there is a suitable venue in Whitley Bay to be made available for use by Changing Lives and their associated partners/programmes as a drop-in centre for young people who may be experiencing exploitation and/or abuse.

Websites and contact information

- [North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board](#)
- [Report concerns about a child | North Tyneside Council](#)
- [Front Door Service - North Tyneside Council](#)
Tel: 0345 2000 109
Out of hours: (0191) 200 6800
- [Thinkuknow - CEOP](#)
- [Barnardo's | Child Sexual Exploitation](#)
- [Operation Sanctuary](#)
- [Changing Lives](#)