

CYP SELECT COMMITTEE		
Report Title	Child Sexual Exploitation Update	
Key Decision	No	Item No. 6
Ward	All	
Contributors	Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People Director Children's Social Care	
Class	Part 1	Date: 11 th January 2017

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report is an update on the local partnership's current understanding, work and issues in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation within the borough.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note and comment on this report.

3 Policy Context

- 3.1 The proposals within this report support the delivery of Lewisham's Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP), which sets out the Council's vision for improving outcomes for all children and young people, and in so doing ensuring children stay safe by

- a) identifying and protect children and young people at risk of harm and ensure they feel safe, especially from:

- Domestic violence and abuse
- Child sexual exploitation
- Serious youth violence
- Child abuse and neglect
- Deliberate and accidental injury

- b) Reducing anti-social behaviour and youth offending.
c) Ensuring that our Looked After Children are safe.

- 3.2 Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is one of the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board's (LSCB) and the Lewisham Children and Young People's Plan key priorities. It is one of the 3 priorities of the Lewisham Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy. The 16/17 Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan identifies Peer on Peer abuse (under 25 year old) and Violence Against Women and Girls as 2 of its 4 priorities.

4 Details

4.1 Further to the last update report to Select Committee 13th July 2016 the Missing Exploited and Trafficked (MET) Strategy and associated action plan has been developed and endorsed by the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) on 12th December 2016.

4.2 The key elements of the strategy are:

- Setting out the Operating Framework
- Providing Scrutiny and oversight
- Understand and identify
- Intervene and support
- Disrupt and bring to justice
- Oversight and implementation of the MET action plan

4.3 The strategy is attached in Appendix A and contains associated guidance for practitioners. An action plan has been developed and this represents the working document and delivery plan for the strategic MET group that reports to the LSCB. The action plan will be used to frame further progress reports to Select Committee.

4.4 Current highlights from delivery of the strategy are outlined below.

5 Governance

5.1 Governance arrangements remain in place via the weekly operational group, monthly tactical group and quarterly strategic group which reports to the LSCB. Terms of reference for each of the groups are contained within the MET strategy (Appendix A).

6 Understand and Identify

6.1 Good quality data is key to the delivery of the strategy in understanding identified need, tracking and reviewing outcomes for young people as well as perpetrators where there are Missing Exploited or Trafficking issues. In line with this a Dataset has been developed and endorsed by the LSCB which will be used to track the progress of the strategy.

7 Prevention

7.1 The Safer London Foundation, which is commissioned by the Home Office and MOPAC continues to deliver training to professionals and young people at schools. This work will continue for a further year.

7.2 Ten week preventative group work programmes are offered for young women in year 8 and year 9. This covers self-esteem, healthy relationships, consent, girls and gangs, safety plans and aspirations. Awareness-raising workshops are also delivered; 2 full-day of workshops on Online Safety / healthy relationships/ consent

for Year 8 in 5 schools have been delivered starting in September and completing December 2016.

- 7.3 Workshops continue in schools focussing on CSE and Trauma, including CSE, Technology and the Internet, Minority Identity and CSE and CSE Skills and Resources.
- 7.4 The LSCB continues to deliver and offer a range of training and briefing sessions to professionals:
- Empower Project
 - Harmful Sexual Behaviour Service
 - Safeguarding & Gangs
 - Supporting Young People Affected by CSE
 - Harmful Sexual Behaviour
 - Missing Children & Young People Affected by CSE
 - Safeguarding Young People using the Internet and Social Media
- 7.5 In August 2016, Dr Carlene Firmin, University of Bedfordshire, held a practitioner workshop with multi-agency representatives from Lewisham to identify training needs in relation to peer-on-peer abuse. As a result of this session a workshop was held with strategic leads in September 2016 to share the results of that workshop and agree the structure and content of a peer-on-peer abuse training programme in Lewisham.
- 7.6 The following initial findings were noted:
- There is a gap in the collection/sharing of contextual data. The work on peer-on-peer abuse and a contextual approach to this issue is in-line with Lewisham's Early Help Strategy which recognises the need for workforce development and the early identification of issues.
 - Peer-on-peer abuse is a strategic priority for the Safer Lewisham Partnership.
 - The Missing Exploited Trafficked (MET) approach provides a good foundation for developing this work/approach further.
 - The role of the MASH in this also requires consideration; how do we share/collect contextual data at that level.
 - Some of what is requested is the 'nuts and bolts' of a local response to peer-on-peer abuse (which could be addressed through targeted training sessions) and others are big picture requests better accommodated through a larger event.
 - The contextual model also sits more broadly within a risk and vulnerability approach to policing which is in development in the Metropolitan Police Service and moving away from silo responses to specific issues. (see Appendix B)
 - Lewisham's analytical capacity needs to be increased in order to build the contextual model in a dynamic fashion.
 - A more dynamic local assessment profile is required.

- The review of school nursing is also relevant to this agenda and there is an opportunity for the Young Person's Health and Well-being Service to focus support for at risk young people. There can also be consideration of the role health professionals play in wider profiling and assessment.
 - The establishment of Hubs in schools via the new YOS/CAMHS model also lends itself to a contextual model.
- 7.7 Three Local Assessment profiles are being drawn together for Serious Youth Violence (being refreshed from Nov 15), CSE, and Domestic abuse for under 25 year olds. This will be completed in Feb 17 and will be reported to a number of Boards with a set of recommendations for agreement.
- 7.8 A multi-agency programme of training is in place for the early part of 2017 to take into account the findings.
- 7.9 Targeted work is being delivered in a number of schools where the largest numbers of Police reports (MERLINS), CSE flags, perpetrators and victims of crime appear. This data may be skewed by good recording by some police officers on their systems of schools that young people attend, which is now a requirement by the police. In addition a series of questions have been posed to understand this better:
- What are we doing with the issues in relation to these schools?
 - What is the strategic view?
 - What is the actual delivery within these schools? And, does it have an impact?
 - What work do partners need to do with these schools to avoid the increase in numbers?
 - What do the schools have in place to address these issues? What is missing?
- 7.10 It is also recognised that online activity is a fast paced and high impact issue and needs a more focused approach. A specific plan on this is therefore being drafted for consideration across the partnership.

8 Intervention and Support

- 8.1 In line with Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) being a priority for the LSCB, as evidenced within the MET action plan, a Multi-agency audit to test the quality of planning and intervention in cases of child sexual exploitation has been initiated. The focus of the audit is to test:
- The quality and timeliness of the response to the identification of CSE
 - The quality and timeliness of the original referral to CSC / Police / MASH
 - The timeliness and appropriateness of the response to the referral
 - The quality and timeliness of immediate protection
 - The quality and appropriateness of the assessment completed by CSC
 - The effective progression of the work from this point forward including the quality and effectiveness of intervention and support

- The focus on and involvement of the child / young person
 - The support provided to parents/carers and other family members
 - The quality and impact of any multi-agency planning meetings
 - The quality of reporting and recording in general
 - The identification, investigation, disruption and prosecution of perpetrators
- 8.2 The outcomes of the audit will be reviewed against the MET action plan, which will be updated accordingly to reinforce or refine focus.
- 8.3 Lewisham has also agreed to be a partner for a small scale qualitative research audit with three other London authorities focussing on the effectiveness of support and intervention for young people who have been exposed to CSE. The research will be informed by 1:1 interviews with young people and should be available in February next year. The research will be used to inform local service provision and development.
- 8.4 Multi agency meetings continue regarding the 'Child House model'. This is a multiagency service model for children and young people following sexual abuse or exploitation (CSA/CSE). The model was recommended in 2015 by the "Review of child sexual abuse services in London" and by the Children's Commissioner for England.
Evidence shows that the Child House model reduces re-traumatisation of children through establishing a child-friendly justice process and enabling early therapy and support. In recent years there has been a focus on services to prevent child sexual exploitation (CSE). However there has been less focus on supporting children's emotional health and wellbeing following CSE. Funding streams are being further explored for delivery options within South East London.

9 Next Steps

- 9.1 Officers will update the committee at the next meeting where this regular item is scheduled, on progress against the MET (Missing, Exploited and Trafficked) Action Plan.

10 Financial Implications

- 10.1 The work described in this paper is intended to be within existing budget envelopes.

11 Legal & Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on the local authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to the combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 11.2 These statutory duties amongst others feed into the Council's Children and Young People Agenda.

12 Equalities Implications

- 12.1 Developing safe and secure communities is central to the work of the Council as a whole. The CSE agenda focuses on all young people at risk of exploitation with a significant number being female and under 16.

13 Crime and Disorder Implications

- 13.1 Section 17 places a duty on partners to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in their area. The level of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken in the day-to-day of local bodies and organisations. The responsible authorities are required to provide a range of services in their community from policing, fire protection, planning, consumer and environmental protection, transport and highways. They each have a key statutory role in providing these services and, in carrying out their core activities, can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area.

14 Environmental Implications

- 14.1 Key decisions made which may have environmental implications will be consulted about all agreed activity before proceeding.

15 Background Documents and Originator

- 15.1 For further information on this report please contact Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney Head of Crime Reduction & Supporting People, Directorate for Community Services on 020 8 314 9569 and Stephen Kitchman, Director Children's Social Care on 0208 314 8678

Appendix A-MET Strategy & Action Plan

Appendix B-Met Briefing-A New Safeguarding Service for London



**Missing, Exploited & Trafficked (MET)
Strategy**

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Introduction

1.1 Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is one of the Lewisham Safeguarding Children

Board's (LSCB) and the Lewisham Children and Young People's Plan key priorities. It is one of the 3 priorities of the Lewisham Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy. The 16/17 Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan identifies Peer on Peer abuse (under 25 year old) and Violence Against Women and Girls as 2 of its 4 priorities.

1.2 This strategy builds on the previous strategy of March 2015. The Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Pan London CSE Operating Protocol and the detailed London Child Protection Procedures. The definitions of missing, child sexual exploitation and trafficked children; the national and local context for this work and emerging best practice have been attached as Appendix 1 of this document.

1. Ambition

1.1 In Lewisham we will endeavour to prevent children and young people being sexually exploited by understanding the issues associated with this activity and raising community awareness so to equip our neighbourhoods, schools and workforce with the knowledge and tools to tackle this and associated need. We will continue to identify those children and young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation and will intervene robustly to minimise the potential for harm, disrupt the problematic behaviours and use criminal procedures as appropriate.

1.2 For those children who go missing from home, from care or from school we will ensure there are follow up conversations with appropriately trained professionals to understand why they are going missing and effect adequate safeguarding arrangements to deliver positive change. We will create robust pathways that ensure we know who these children are, whether this is a pattern of behaviour and how effectively our systems are working to effect change. We understand that there is a significant correlation between children who are going missing from home and risks of sexual exploitation, child exploitation and serious youth violence therefore we recognise that to prevent the risk of children and young people being exploited we need to understand and address the reasons underpinning any missing episode. In Lewisham we also know that issues of CSE include 'Peer on Peer Abuse' and are interlinked with issues of 'Serious Youth Violence' (SYV.)

1.3 Our vision is simple: to safeguard children and young people from harm as a result of going missing; child sexual exploitation; or trafficking (or exploitation arising as a consequence of being the victim of trafficking including County Line drug dealing). A multi-agency focus on risk, harm and vulnerability is critical. To achieve this 4 key areas for activity have been identified:

- Understanding & Identification
- Prevention
- Intervention & Support
- Disruption & Justice

1.4 A focus on on-line grooming is recognised and a multi-agency plan is being developed, building on the work of "Navigate" – see Appendix E

1.5 These activities will be monitored through a working action plan that is monitored and scrutinised on a regular basis to determine progress.

2. Principles Underpinning the Work

- We will have the safety and wellbeing of the child at the centre of everything we do.
- We will engage children and their families in the development and review of services.
- We will focus our work on prevention, early identification and intervention as well as disruption and bringing perpetrators to justice.
- We will take account of family circumstances when deciding how best to safeguard and protect the welfare of children.
- We will continue to enhance our partnership model for MET arrangements in Lewisham and keep a working action plan (see section 4).
- We will continue to develop our use of data, shared intelligence and associated analysis to drive improvement in our responsiveness and capacity to protect the welfare of children.
- We will scrutinise, challenge, monitor and review our work to ensure that it is making a positive difference in the lives of children and families.
- We will report to the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board on a bi-annual basis, as well as through forums such as Select Committee, Safer Lewisham Partnership, to ensure transparency in our work to deliver this strategy and promote ongoing challenge.
- We will continue to work with other London authorities to share good practice and to ensure that we are strengthening safeguarding arrangements across borders.

3. Operating Framework

- The Lewisham Safeguarding Children's Board has overall responsibility for ensuring there is a coordinated, multi-agency response to children at risk of sexual exploitation, going missing or being exploited and/ or trafficked
- A subgroup of the LSCB, the MET Board, has been established to provide strategic oversight of missing, exploited and trafficked children. This group has multi-agency representation and is responsible for the policy and performance of the work to address these issues and improve practice. This includes the strategic aims and the working action plan to achieve them. The working action plan is outlined in Section 4.

- The strategic MET Board will provide regular scrutiny and oversight to ensure the working action plan is achieved. Four areas of activity have been identified for actions within this plan:
 - Understand & Identify
 - Prevent
 - Intervention and Support
 - Disruption and Justice

- The monthly tactical MET meeting is in place to share information to aid delivery of our 4 key strategic aims by:
 - Gathering intelligence
 - Mapping links between both victims and perpetrators
 - Establishing problem profiles for Lewisham Borough
 - Auditing our work to ensure standards are met

- The operational MET group has been established to monitor individual cases and develop the front-line practice across Lewisham in relation to the five key areas above. The chair of this group is a member of the tactical and strategic group to ensure there is a clear join up of the strategic direction and operational delivery. CSE and Missing advisors also attend both the operational and tactical meetings and are available to the operational Met Board as required.

- Terms of reference for all 3 groups are outlined in Appendix F

4. Scrutiny and Oversight

- **We want to** ensure that this strategy and the working action plan is making a positive difference to the safety of children in Lewisham
- **We will achieve this by:**
 - Having coherent data across the partnership that forms a robust performance framework.
 - Scrutinising and challenging the strategy and the working action plan regularly through the MET subgroup and through the LSCB
 - Holding partners to account for progress.
 - Learning lessons through multi-agency reviews and reflective practice meetings.

- Ensuring that robust whistle-blowing and escalation policies are in place.

5. Understand and Identify

- **We want to** ensure that we have effective and well established information sharing and risk assessment mechanisms in place to understand and identify those at risk of, or experiencing, and issues of MET.
- **We will achieve this by:**

- Ensuring our risk assessment tool for identifying and assessing CSE and Peer on Peer abuse concerns across the multi-agency workforce is well understood and embedded
- Ensuring our systems to record missing episodes is robust and reportable
- Ensuring that information and intelligence relating to victims, perpetrators and locations is shared effectively
- Ensuring that there is join up with strategies to address peer on peer abuse and links with serious youth violence within the Borough.
- Ensuring that there are effective arrangements between a child at risk of being MET and adult safeguarding services when they turn 18.

6. Intervene and Support

- **We want to** intervene at the right time and provide appropriate support for children and their families
- **We will achieve this by:**
 - Ensuring that preventative, early help services have a good awareness of MET issues/ plans and are supporting those children who might be identified as at risk of MET.
 - Ensuring that services are mobilised to reduce the risk of MET and to empower children and young people to improve their safety, which include social care, Youth Offending, Serious Youth violence, police, key health agencies.
 - Ensuring that we complete health and wellbeing checks for all children and young people reported as missing from home or from care.
 - Ensuring that return interviews are used to collate information about the push and pull factors locally and that services are provided that address the issues identified.

- Providing accessible services for children who have been sexually exploited.

8. Disrupt and Bring to Justice

- **We want to** identify, disrupt and prosecute those who are intent on exploiting children
- **We will do this by:**
 - Developing a problem profile of perpetrators and victims that can be shared with multi-agency partners.
 - Ensuring that information and intelligence relating to victims is shared.
 - Ensuring that disruption activity is undertaken to break the patterns/ cycle of offending.
 - Using Civil Orders to assist investigations, restrict and manage perpetrators, and safeguard victims/ potential victims.

9. Working Action Plan

9.1 The Missing, Exploited and Trafficked action plan is divided into 5 key priority sections:

- Governance
- Understand & Identify
- Prevention
- Intervention and Support
- Disrupt and bringing to justice

9.2 The action plan is owned by the Lewisham strategic MET Board, a subgroup of the LSCB. It is a working document and therefore RAG rated in accordance with actions being:

- completed (GREEN)
- on track (AMBER)
- Not Started/ Delayed (RED)

APPENDICES:

Appendix A –

National/ Local context

1. *Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)*

The sexual exploitation of children and young people - commonly referred to as child sexual exploitation or CSE - is a distinct form of child sexual abuse. Statutory guidance uses the following definition:

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.¹

In its report - *Puppet on a String*² - Barnardo's identifies three broad categories of child sexual exploitation: inappropriate relationships; 'boyfriend' model of exploitation and peer exploitation; and organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking. However, these models of activity identified by Barnardo's are not exhaustive and there is some crossover, particularly between the first two categories.

Barnardo's identifies a number of tell-tale signs that a child or young person is being groomed for sexual exploitation. In addition to going missing for periods of time, these include:

- Disengagement from education;
- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Association with other young people involved in exploitation and older boyfriends/girlfriends;
- Sexual health issues;
- Changes in temperament/depression;
- Drug and alcohol misuse;
- Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviours;
- Involvement in exploitative relationships or association with risky adults.

In its report - *Puppet on a String*³ - Barnardo's identifies three broad categories of child sexual exploitation

1	Inappropriate relationships	Usually involving one perpetrator who has inappropriate power or control over a young person (physical, emotional or financial). One indicator may be a significant age gap. The young person may believe they
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¹ This is the definition used in the 2009 statutory guidance *Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation*

(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190252/00689-2009BKT-EN.pdf), which came from the National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People

² http://www.barnardos.org.uk/ctf_puppetonastring_report_final.pdf

³ http://www.barnardos.org.uk/ctf_puppetonastring_report_final.pdf

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		are in a loving relationship.
2	'Boyfriend' model of exploitation and peer exploitation	The perpetrator befriends and grooms a young person into a 'relationship' and then coerces or forces them to have sex with friends or associates. Barnardo's services have reported a rise in peer exploitation where young people are forced or coerced into sexual activity by peers and associates. Sometimes this can be associated with gang activity but not always.
3	Organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking	Young people (often connected) are passed through networks, possibly over geographical distances, between towns and cities where they may be forced/coerced into sexual activity with multiple men. Often this occurs at 'sex parties', and young people who are involved may be used as agents to recruit others into the network. Some of this activity is described as serious organised crime and can involve the organised 'buying and selling' of young people by perpetrators.

A useful summary of the patterns of abuse in relation to CSE (based on the findings of Phase 1 of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into CSE, 'If only someone had listened') is available here:

<http://www.reconstruct.co.uk/docs/dl/215CSEchildrenbygangspart1Feb2014.pdf>

Who is at risk?

Any child or young person, whatever their gender, social background or ethnicity, can be exploited. However, there are a number of factors that can increase a young person's vulnerability to sexual exploitation, including:

- Disrupted family life and domestic violence;
- History of physical or sexual abuse;
- Disadvantage;
- Poor mental health;
- Problematic parenting;
- Parental drug or alcohol misuse;
- Parental mental health problems.

There are also certain groups of young people who are more vulnerable to being targeted by perpetrators of sexual exploitation, including children who:

- Are living in care (particularly residential care);
- Have been excluded from mainstream school;
- Misuse drugs and/or alcohol.

Local intelligence indicates that children and young people with learning disabilities are also more vulnerable to exploitation, but won't necessarily exhibit the common indicators of being at high risk or victims of CSE (such as going missing or disengaging from education). Work to look at how we can effectively identify young people with learning disabilities at risk of CSE is included in the action plan.

Myths and misconceptions

There are a number of myths and misconceptions about child sexual exploitation that need to be dispelled, in particular:

Myth	Fact
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Child sexual exploitation is something that is done to girls and young women.	There are male victims too. Although research indicates that they are fewer in number, it also suggests that the sexual exploitation of boys is not fully reported or recognised.
Child sexual exploitation only happens to children who are in care, who come from a 'bad' family, or are a particular race or religion.	Any child, from anywhere, can potentially be a victim. However, it is true that certain factors can make a young person more vulnerable to exploitation (see above).
Child sexual exploitation is very rare and only happens in a few places.	It is much more prevalent than most people imagine, but it may often be hidden and can only be uncovered by people knowing what to look for, being vigilant and reporting their concerns.
A lot of these children are over 16 and have consented to sex. Social workers need to concentrate on real child abuse.	The sexual exploitation of young people is just as much child abuse as is sexual abuse experienced by younger children in the home. Young people may initially agree to sex, but they cannot consent to exploitation.

Practitioners in Lewisham who suspect that a child or young person is at risk or the victim of child sexual exploitation should refer to the CSE Risk Assessment Toolkit for guidance on how to safeguard the child appropriately.

The growing body of literature relating to CSE is unanimous in identifying the importance of a robust evidence base to inform local strategies to tackle CSE.

Updated in November 2013, the national Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan summarises several key pieces of research that touch on the issue of understanding the scale and nature of CSE in a locality:

Both the Barnardo's *Puppet on a String* report and the CEOP [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre] thematic assessment emphasised the need for a stronger evidence base in relation to child sexual exploitation...University of Bedfordshire research indicated that data collection was often piecemeal and inadequate⁴.

The final report of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry into CSE, 'If only someone had listened'⁵ includes helpful guidance on putting together a problem-profile on CSE, which 'should seek to draw together all the known intelligence/relevant data held across different agencies to inform strategic decision making and local practice development.' Emphasising the need for 'collective ownership across all partners' and an 'effective analyst to review and identify key findings and intelligence gaps', it outlines six steps for undertaking a local problem-profile:

1. Establish a terms of reference;
2. Outline a data collection plan;
3. Provide each agency with a specific information requirement (the importance of which is re-iterated by Ofsted in its report on the thematic inspection on CSE⁶);
4. Collate data/intelligence and monitor progress against data collection plan;
5. Analyse data;
6. Write up problem-profile and disseminate across all partner agencies.

⁴ Department for Education (2011; updated 2013) *Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan*, London: HMSO

⁵ http://www.lscbchairs.org.uk/sitedata/files/OCC_inquiry_final.pdf

⁶ Ofsted (November 2014) 'The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?'

In addition to dissemination across partner agencies, a useful summary of recommendations arising from various reports, inquiries, research and reviews into CSE produced by Greater Manchester's Project Phoenix⁷, also advocates the inclusion of the problem-profile in a local area's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

2. Missing

Statutory guidance⁸ published by the Department for Education (DfE) defines a missing child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday reported as missing to the police by their family or carers.

Since April 2013 police forces have adopted new definitions of 'missing' and 'absent' and use an ongoing risk assessment to establish whether a child is missing, defined as:

Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where circumstances are out of character, or the context suggests the person may be the subject of crime, or they may be a risk to themselves or others.⁹

A number of factors (including the age of the child, whether they are subject to safeguarding arrangements, their state of dress, health issues, any history of going missing and specific information from other agencies/sources) are taken into account by the police when making their assessment.

Children and young people go missing for a number of reasons and a range of 'push' and 'pull' factors may be present:

- 'Push' factors:
 - Conflict with parents/carers
 - Feeling powerless
 - Being bullied/abused
 - Being unhappy/not being listened to
- 'Pull' factors
 - Wanting to be with family/friends
 - Peer pressure
 - For children who have been trafficked into the UK as unaccompanied asylum seeking children, there will be pressure to make contact with their trafficker(s).

There is a strong link between children and young people being sexually exploited and children and young people going missing. Running away places children and young people at greater risk of exposure to sexual exploitation, while going missing for periods of time can be a symptom of the same.

2.1 Runaway and missing from home protocol

As required by the Department for Education's 2014 'Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care', Lewisham has a protocol that sets out local arrangements for dealing with children who run away or go missing in the city: 'Joint Protocol 2014 Children who Run Away or go Missing from Home or Care.' Appendix D.

Safe & Well Checks and Independent Return Interviews

Safe and well checks are carried out by the police as soon as possible after a missing child has been found and are intended to check for any indications that the child has suffered harm, establish where they have been and with whom and provide the child with an opportunity to disclose any offending by or against them.

Subsequently - and within 72 hours of the child returning to their home or care setting - the child is offered an independent return interview, which provides an opportunity to uncover

⁷ Project Phoenix 'Guidance Document: Summary of recommendations from various reports, inquiries, research and reviews into Child Sexual Exploitation'

⁸ DfE (2014) *Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care.*

information that can help to protect the child from: the risk of going missing again; risks they may have been exposed to while they were missing; and/or risk factors in their home or care setting. Lewisham has commissioned an independent agency to undertake these interviews, effective commencement September 2016.

Following completion of these, the responsible agencies should work together to build up a comprehensive picture of: why the child went missing; what happened to them while they were missing; who they were with and where they were; and what support they will need following their return.

The outcomes of both the check and the interview should be recorded on the child's case file to ensure that the information can be shared with professionals to assist in case planning and wider strategic planning and that the child's views are taken into account.

3. Trafficking

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ratified by the UK Government in December 2008 and effective from 1 April 2009) defines trafficking in human beings as:

...the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

As guidance on the National Referral Mechanism published by the Home Office¹⁰ makes clear:

Any child who is recruited, transported or transferred for the purposes of exploitation is considered to be a trafficking victim, whether or not they have been forced or deceived. Even when a child appears to have submitted willingly to what they believe to be the will of their parents or accompanying adults, it is not considered possible for a child to give informed consent.

Further, UK legislation 'makes it clear that an intention to traffic and exploit, even if the exploitation has not occurred, is also a criminal offence.'

Finally, a child may have been brought to the UK from abroad or may have been moved around within the UK - either way, the child is a victim of trafficking.

Children are unlikely to disclose that they have been trafficked because most will not know what trafficking is. Many will have been coached by their traffickers and warned that any disclosure to the authorities beyond what they have been coached to say will lead to their deportation. Apparent collusion with their trafficker can add to the confusion when identifying a trafficked child, who may be reluctant to disclose their circumstances for a number of reasons:

- A lack of trust in authority arising from their experiences in their country of origin;
- The identification and referral process may mimic aspects of their experience of being trafficked e.g. being told that everything will be fine and they will be taken care of; being moved to an unknown location with the promise that they will be safe there etc.;
- Their circumstances - even being exploited - may compare favourably to those they experienced at home.

The indicators of trafficking will vary depending on the point at which a child is identified as a potential victim (at the port of entry into or whilst living in the UK), while the indicators of

¹⁰ National Referral Mechanism: guidance for child first responders (Home Office)

internal trafficking are different again. A complete list of trafficking indicators is at Appendix C.

When a child or young person is thought to have been trafficked swift and appropriate intervention is critical to avoid the child going missing (and returning to their trafficker) and becoming the victim of exploitation (or further exploitation, in many cases).

Agencies specialising in this area - including Barnardo's and Love 146 - emphasise the importance of deploying the correct safeguarding measures and in particular, that the child is considered to be at risk of significant harm (and therefore subject to the provisions of Section 47 of the Children Act 1989) and not provided for under Section 20 of the Act as a child in need. Ensuring that a child is placed with foster carers or in a placement that can cater to their particular needs and understand the importance of denying the child access to a mobile phone or the internet (even when doing so causes the child considerable distress) are key to ensuring that their trafficker cannot trace the child and he or she does not go missing. A trafficked child who goes missing is unlikely to be found and will certainly be exploited (if they haven't already in the course of their journey to the UK). The 2014 review of the National Referral Mechanism also highlighted the importance of ensuring a trafficked child is identified and provided with the appropriate support and safeguarding to reduce the risk that they will go missing from care (see 5.3).

Both Barnardo's and Love 146 offer services specialising in supporting trafficked children and young people, including completion of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) or supporting the child's social worker to do the same.

Barnardo's Initial Enquiry/Referral Form for its Trafficked Children Service is at Appendix C.

4. National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

As part of its implementation of the Council of Europe Convention, the UK Government created a National Referral Mechanism (NRM):

The NRM is a victim identification and support process which is designed to make it easier for all the different agencies that could be involved in a trafficking case – e.g. police, Home Office UK Visas and Immigration Directorate, local authorities, Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust in Northern Ireland, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – to co-operate; to share information about potential victims and facilitate their access to advice, accommodation and support.

For children, a formal referral into the NRM is made by a first responder. In England, these include local authority children's services, the UK Border Force, Home Office Immigration & Visas, the Police, and certain NGOs including Barnardo's.

Completion of the NRM is intended to help children's services put a focused and appropriate response in place for the child by ensuring that all of the available information is gathered and shared quickly between partners. It is also an important tool in the fight against those who commit the crime of trafficking; evidence collected from referrals helps to build a national picture and informs the decisions of policy makers and operational staff.

A referral into the NRM and the subsequent decisions do not replace or supersede established child protection processes, which should continue

In 2013, 450 children were referred to the UK's National Referral Mechanism (NRM) as potential victims of trafficking. Of these referrals, 144 claimed trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and a total of 168 claimed trafficking for the purposes of domestic servitude or labour exploitation. The remaining 138 claimed trafficking for unknown exploitative purposes. For children, the five most common countries of origin were Vietnam (76 children), UK (63 children - of which 53 claimed trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation), Albania (56 children), Nigeria (32 children) and Romania (28 children).

Although the number of referrals in 2013 were around 21% higher than the previous year (suggesting that identification of potential trafficking victims is improving), the National Crime Agency points out that the number of referrals is not a measure of trafficking in the UK.

Agencies working with trafficked young people share this view, emphasising that the number of NRM referrals is not an accurate reflection of the extent of child trafficking as many victims are hidden and remain undetected.

In April 2014 the Home Secretary commissioned a review of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to establish whether it provides an effective and efficient means of supporting and identifying potential victims of human trafficking. The final report of the NRM review¹¹ was published on 12 November 2014 and makes recommendations specifically aimed at protecting child victims of trafficking, in particular:

Awareness raising

The review found that 'only a small proportion of the real number of trafficked children are being identified' due to low awareness of the indicators of child trafficking and the NRM within local authorities and the police. To address this, the report recommends that:

Chairs of Local Safeguarding Children Boards should ensure that trafficking is regularly considered at their meetings, and direct Board members towards any packages which they could make available to persons who work with children affected by trafficking and/or slavery.

To improve the recognition of all human trafficking, the report also recommends that the Home Office develops a comprehensive awareness strategy to include targeted awareness-raising campaigns and a checklist of trafficking indicators (see Appendix A for a complete list of child trafficking indicators produced by Barnardo's).

Appropriate support and safeguarding

The review also found that a failure to recognise the indicators of child trafficking can result in a child being taken into care without the appropriate safeguarding measures being put in place - in particular, to prevent the child going missing from care (the risk of which is high, particularly in the first 48 hours). The report therefore recommends that local authorities 'be aware of the appropriate support and safeguarding measures necessary for trafficked children as a result of their additional vulnerabilities' (a view shared by local providers of support for trafficked children operating in and around the Lewisham area, Barnardo's and Love 146).

The report identifies Hillingdon Social Services as a local authority with particular expertise in identifying trafficked children (due to the location of Heathrow Airport within the local authority boundary).

5. Serious Youth Violence (SYV)

Compared to national figures, Lewisham has the 8th highest serious youth violence rate in London per capita and ninth highest in volume. Rates of re-offending and the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system are also high and rising compared to elsewhere.

The trend of serious youth violence in Lewisham is significantly lower now than at its height in 2010/11. There has been an ongoing Borough wide increase in Violence with Injury type offences (non-domestic) of 3.2 per cent. As of April 2016 Lewisham was showing an increase of 8.4 per cent in the same offence. The impact of this, has been significant and resulted in the deaths of young people, perpetrated by other young people. For 16/17 the Borough partners and residents have identified the following as being essential for our collective approach:

- reduction in harm and vulnerability being critical as part of an overall prevention, intervention and enforcement strategy
- clear focus on reducing violence in all its forms
- focusing on redesigning and delivering services that supports and provides a victim centric approach.

¹¹ Review of the National Referral Mechanism for victims of human trafficking (Home Office), November 2014

- seeking to ensure that all contact and outcomes by all agencies puts victims at the forefront.
- reducing fear, harm and 'Re-victimisation' is critical.
- Considering contextual analysis and location risks.
- Improving confidence and satisfaction in police, local authorities and public services

The most serious problem facing the Borough in the last twelve months has been the rise in knife crime with injury amongst under 25s. Whilst some of this increase is undoubtedly attributable to the Borough's advanced reporting systems through A&E and the Youth MARAC some of it reflects a real rise which is reflected in Accident and Emergency figures. Much of this crime is connected to drugs markets both within the borough and dealing on the "county lines". Drug dealing and violence as a serious crime is of significant concern. The Borough's approach of treatment and support for those who use and abuse illegal substance is important.

The issue has been one of the biggest safeguarding issues facing the Borough and it is probable that most of the knife crime with injury offences committed by children occurring in Lewisham, is connected with these enterprises. The 'county lines' phenomenon is also linked to the drug trade as well as missing, exploitation and trafficking of children.

It is recognised by the Home Office that changes in offender behaviour have made this postcode gang definition increasingly obsolete in many parts of the country. In Lewisham this trend is particularly pronounced, and has been accompanied by lower overall levels of violence. Much of this, perhaps counter-intuitively, is a feature of the increasing prominence of the drugs trade. To make this point is not to minimise the very real problem of violence amongst young people, it is merely to register the *changing sources/origins of the violence*.

At the height of Lewisham's problem with Serious Youth Violence in 2010/11 few of the nominals were associated with drug dealing and postcode gang identification was high; in the current climate gang identification is muted and involvement in drugs markets is high. To the drug dealers controlling the trade, the overt conflicts are an undesirable distraction and there is an unwritten rule on the county lines that postcode gang conflicts are put on hold. Many of the traditional tools for dealing with postcode gangs do not easily fit with the new modes of offending which is based more around drug supply. Similarly the effectiveness of any interventions with young people implicated in the supply of drugs is likely to be muted without proactive policing of older males supervising the trade. Proactive operational policing in Lewisham and following groups out to County areas has been a significant approach to tackling this issue, and has led to greater use of Criminal Justice outcomes to manage the problem.

Lewisham's current local assessment profile and outlines 3 key areas which the Partnership will focus on in the coming 12 -24 months. These include:

Intent - actions taken by the partnership to demonstrate that we are listening to residents' concerns and to show seriousness of intent.

Early Help / Intervention / Enforcement - Family support and resilience building will young people overcome or avoid difficulties. Activity designed to control and bring to justice and to enhance sanctions levied on ALL involved in group/gang criminality

Community building - the wider community are part of the solution, share responsibility, and actively make our streets and outside spaces places where people can confidently go about their daily life. The "desired end state" is for unified communities to have capacity and resilience to challenge serious youth violence.

6. Performance management

Guidelines on best practice in relation to tackling CSE are unanimous on the importance of rigorous performance management. Commissioned to undertake a study of current practice across London boroughs¹², the University of Bedfordshire concluded that:

In order to know whether policies and protocols are working effectively it is important that they are implemented within a framework that will be monitored and evaluated. While the report recognises that 'outcome monitoring can be challenging', it emphasises that without it, 'strategic leaders will be unclear as to the extent to which their strategic approach is being implemented or the impact that it is having.'

In relation to performance management, what is true for CSE is equally true for work around missing and trafficked children and young people. Consequently, the performance management of Lewisham's response to MET will be outcome-focussed, but include measures of outputs and inputs.

A key component of the performance management of the MET Strategy will be annual self-assessment against current best practice and relevant inspection frameworks. The assessment tool based on Police and Ofsted guidance was used in the development of this strategy, although future assessments may use different tools as appropriate.

Performance management of the MET Strategy will be the responsibility of the Lewisham Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Board.

Outcome(s):

- Children and young people are safe from the harm associated with going missing, CSE and trafficking, because:

- Trained frontline practitioners are identifying the indicators of CSE and trafficking and intervening quickly and effectively;
- Partners are effectively sharing the information and intelligence that result in identification of perpetrators, disruption, prosecution and conviction;
- Greater awareness of CSE and trafficking prevents children and young people from becoming at risk of harm.

Primary indicators:

- Proportion of children and young people identified as being at risk of CSE who move from 'high' risk to 'low risk'.
- Proportion of children and young people thought to have been trafficked who are effectively safeguarded.
- Proportion of suspected perpetrators successfully disrupted, prosecuted and convicted.
- Proportion of children and young people who have an independent return interview having gone missing.
- Proportion of frontline staff that have been effectively trained in identifying the signs of CSE, peer on peer abuse and trafficking.
- Impact evaluation of training and awareness-raising activity.

Data requirements:

- Number of children and young people identified as being at risk or the victim of CSE;
- Number of risk assessments completed*;
- Number of children and young people identified as trafficked (or thought to be trafficked);

¹² Beckett, H., Firmin, C., Hynes, P. & Pearce, J. (2014) *Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation: A study of current practice in London*, Luton: University of Bedfordshire

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- Number of independent return interviews undertaken;
- Use of disruption techniques e.g. number of Child Abduction Warning Notices issued;
- Number of frontline staff trained*;
- Number of awareness-raising activities delivered*;
- Number of FIB1 forms completed and passed to Police Intelligence Team*.
- Number of prosecutions brought;
- Number of convictions secured.

Data collected for the outputs marked with * will be triangulated to help identify where focussed work may be required with a particular agency.

Appendix B

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

What is harmful sexual behaviour?

Harmful sexual behaviour includes:

- Using sexually explicit words and phrases
- Inappropriate touching
- Using sexual violence or threats
- Full penetrative sex with other children or adults

Children and young people who develop harmful sexual behaviour harm themselves or others.

Age differences and harmful sexual behaviour

Sexual behaviour between children is also considered harmful if one of the children is much older – particularly if there is more than 2 years' difference in age or if one of the children is pre-pubescent and the other isn't (*Davies, 2012*).

However, a young child can abuse an older child, particularly if they have power over them – for example, if the older child is disabled (*Rich, 2011*).

If you are not sure whether a sexual behaviour is harmful, find out about the signs, symptoms and effects of harmful sexual behaviour at the following link:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/harmful-sexual-behaviour/signs-symptoms-effects/>

Why children develop harmful sexual behaviour

Children and young people who develop harmful sexual behaviour have usually experienced abuse and neglect themselves (*Hackett et al, 2013, Hawkes 2009, McCartan et al 2011*)

As study by Hackett et al 2013 of children and young people with harmful sexual behaviour suggests that two thirds had experienced some kind of abuse or trauma such as

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Severe neglect
- Parental rejection
- Family breakdown
- Domestic violence
- Parental drug and alcohol abuse

Around half of them had experienced sexual abuse. Family histories and backgrounds can also have an impact on the sexual behaviour of children.

Children who have been sexually abused may not know that what has happened to them is wrong. This can lead to normalisation of harmful sexual behaviours towards others (*Ringrose et al, 2012*).

In the vast majority of cases, children abuse someone they know (*Hackett et al, 2013*).

Children and young people who abuse their brothers or sisters may be motivated by jealousy or anger (*Yates et al, 2012*).

Links between criminal and harmful sexual behaviour

Teenagers who sexually abuse others may also be involved in other crimes.

They may have some similarities with non-sexual young offenders such as behavioural problems or developmental experiences but they are also likely to have a history of sexual abuse or exposure to pornography at a young age (*Seto and Lalumiere, 2012*).

The role of gender and sexuality

Society and culture have a big impact on what children think about sex and sexuality. What they see and read on television, the internet and other media can reinforce these ideas.

Children using mobile phones and social networking sites may also come across sexually explicit or pornographic images and videos.

Case studies of boys with harmful sexual behaviours have found common concerns around masculinity, gender roles and sexual identity (*Durham, 2006*).

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework

An evidence-informed framework for children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviours

What is the harmful sexual behaviour framework?

The framework aims to support local work with children and young people who have displayed HSB, and their families, by delivering and developing clear policies and procedures, and by refreshing local practice guidelines and assessment tools. It seeks to provide a more coherent and evidence-informed approach for work with these children and young people, and to better understand how to improve outcomes.

Who is the framework for?

The framework is a systematic tool to help develop a local area response to HSB. To get the most out of the framework, the NSPCC advise a joint local approach involving:

- Staff with a strategic role in coordinating child protection and local HSB responses
- Commissioners of local child protection and HSB services
- Those with a wider safeguarding remit and audit responsibility, such as chairs and members of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)

What does the framework do?

The framework seeks to:

- Support and integrated understanding of, and responses to HSB
- Identify a continuum of responses to children and young people dependent on levels of risk and need. Responses will range from early community-based identification and support to assessment, intervention and intensive work
- Promote effective assessment as key to preventing unnecessary use of specialist time and, where appropriate, to support earlier interventions.
- Ensure children and families are offered the right level of support by suitably trained and skilled workers
- Promote the advantage of involving frontline agencies and workers, especially education services, in earlier recognition, assessment and intervention
- Encourage inter-agency work designed to reduce feelings of professional isolation and anxiety when making decisions, which may currently lead under and over estimation of risk
- Promote the use of a shared language, skills and training exchange, and development of appropriate local peer support systems
- Promote the importance of evaluation and monitoring of outcomes for children and young people

Link for HSB Framework:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/publications/harmful-sexual-behaviour-framework.pdf>

Link for HSB Audit tool:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/publications/harmful-sexual-behaviour-framework-audit-tool.pdf>

National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) HSB guidelines

The HSB Framework should be used alongside the NICE guidelines on harmful sexual behaviour among young people (*NICE 2016*).

The guidelines make recommendations about:

- Roles of universal services
- Early help assessment and risk assessment
- Linking with families pre and post intervention
- Key principles and approaches for intervention

The guidelines aim to ensure that children and young people who display HSB are assessed as soon as possible.

Link to NICE HSB guidelines:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng55>

APPENDIX C

Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Toolkit

Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board: Child Sexual Exploitation Risk assessment guidance

Step 1: Identify the Risk Indicators

Low Level Risk Indicators

- Regularly coming home late or going missing
- Overt sexualised dress
- Sexualised risk taking, including on the internet
- Unaccounted for monies or goods
- Associating with unknown adults
- Association with other young people at risk of sexual exploitation or who are being sexually exploited
- Reduced contact with family and friends and other support networks
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Experimenting with drugs and/or alcohol
- Poor self-image
- Eating disorders
- Superficial self-harm.

Medium Level Indicators- any of the above and ONE or more of these indicators

- Getting into cars with unknown adults
- Associating with known CSE adults or Sexual Offenders
- Being groomed on the internet
- Clipping i.e. offering to have sex for money or other payment and then running before sex takes place
- Disclosure of a physical/sexual assault with no substantiating evidence to warrant a S47 enquiry, then refusing to make a statement or withdrawing a complaint
- Being involved in CSE through being seen in hotspots i.e. known houses or recruiting grounds
- Having an older boyfriend/girlfriend
- Non school attendance or excluded
- Staying out overnight with no explanation
- Breakdown of residential placements due to behaviour
- Unaccounted for money or goods including mobile phones, drugs and alcohol
- Multiple sexually transmitted infections
- Self-harming that requires medical treatment
- Repeat offending
- Gang member or association with gangs.

High Level Indicators- any of the above and ONE or more of these indicators

- Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity
- Pattern of street homelessness and staying with an adult believed to be sexually exploiting them
- Child under 16 meeting different adults and exchanging or selling sexual activity
- Being taken to clubs and hotels by adults and engaging in sexual activity
- Disclosure of serious sexual assault and then withdrawal of statement
- Abduction and forced imprisonment
- Being moved around for sexual activity
- Disappearing from the 'system' with no contact or support
- Being bought/sold/trafficked
- Multiple miscarriages or terminations

- Indicators of CSE in conjunction with chronic alcohol and drug use
- Indicators of CSE alongside serious self-harming
- Receiving rewards of money or goods for recruiting peers into CSE.

Step 2: Identify Additional Vulnerability Factors

Underlying Vulnerability Factors	Comment
Witnessing/experiencing domestic violence	
Children and young people 'Looked After'	
Patterns of abuse and/or neglect in family	
Homelessness/sofa surfing	
Substance misuse by parents/carers/child	
Learning disabilities, special needs or mental health issues	
Homophobia	
Breaks in adult relationships	
Death, loss or illness of a significant person in the child's life	
Financially unsupported	
Some form of family conflict	
Lack of love and security	
Adult soliciting (prostitution)	
Migrant/refugee/asylum seeker	
Other, please specify	

Step 3: Complete the Risk Factors Matrix

RISK LEVEL	NUMBER OF INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURS	✓	REQUIRED ACTION (BRIEF POINTS) CONSIDERATIONS
<p>Low Risk</p> <p>Low risk cases do not usually meet the threshold for Social Care intervention but should have individual or multi agency intervention through the CAF.</p>	<p>ONE OR MORE INDICATORS IDENTIFIED</p>	Regularly coming home late or going missing		If needs cannot be met by individual agency, then refer to TAC/TAF and consideration for CAF.
		Overt sexualised dress		Notify MISPER Police if the child or young person is going missing.
		Sexualised risk taking, including on the internet		Keep detailed records of incidents/risks.
		Unaccounted for monies or goods		<p>No child under 13 can be categorised as LOW.</p> <p>No child with a learning disability can be categorised as LOW.</p>
		Associating with unknown adults		
		Associating with other young people who are at risk of CSE or who are being sexually exploited		Contact CSE Champion/CSE Council Lead or CSC duty (R&A) for advice and resources if risk escalates.
		Reduced contact with family/friends		<p>Ensure information is recorded.</p>
		Sexually transmitted infections		
		Experimenting with drugs/alcohol		
		Poor self-image		
		Eating disorder		
		Superficial self-harm		

RISK LEVEL	NUMBER OF INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURS	✓	REQUIRED ACTION (BRIEF POINTS) CONSIDERATIONS
<p>Medium Risk</p> <p>As indicated above, the indicators are a guide to assisting the exercise of professional judgement. In relation to the medium level indicators, should professional judgement determine that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm requiring investigation under S47 of the Children Act, then the procedures detailed under the higher level of risk should be followed.</p>	<p>Any of the above AND ONE OR MORE INDICATORS IDENTIFIED</p>	Getting into cars with unknown		Contact CSE Lead or CSC Duty to discuss.
		Associating with known CSE adults		If not S47 or case open to CSC, CAF to be completed.
		Being groomed on internet		Identify and refer to appropriate support services in the community
		Clipping i.e. offering to have sex for money or other payment and then running before sex takes place		Police discussion regarding investigation needs/MISPER.
		Disclosure of physical assault with no substantiating evidence to warrant a S47 enquiry, then refusing to make or withdrawing a complaint		Employ immediate disruption tactics (police).
		Being involved in CSE through being seen in hot spots i.e. known houses or recruiting grounds		Consider if the offending is symptomatic, coerced or criminal.
		Older boy/girlfriend		Report to Gangs Team/invite to strategy/MAP meetings and include in risk assessment.
		Non school attendance or excluded		Ensure information is recorded.
		Staying out overnight with no explanation		
		Breakdown of placements due to behaviour		
Unaccounted money or goods i.e. mobiles, drugs, alcohol, clothing				

RISK LEVEL	NUMBER OF INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURS	✓	REQUIRED ACTION (BRIEF POINTS) CONSIDERATIONS
		Multiple sexually transmitted infections		
		Self-harming requiring medical assistance		
		Repeat offending		
		Gang association or membership		

RISK LEVEL	NUMBER OF INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURS	✓	REQUIRED ACTION (BRIEF POINTS) CONSIDERATIONS
High Risk	Any of the	Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity		A referral directly to CSC Duty to carry out a S47 enquiry.
		Pattern of street homelessness and staying with an adult believed to be sexually exploiting them		Joint investigation with the Police and CSC.

RISK LEVEL	NUMBER OF INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURS	✓	REQUIRED ACTION (BRIEF POINTS) CONSIDERATIONS
<p>Where the child/young person is assessed as High Risk a consultation needs to take place with a CP coordinator to consider whether an ICPC needs to be convened. The same threshold is to be applied to all children when considering harm and the need for a safety plan.</p>	<p>above and ONE OR MORE OF THESE INDICATORS</p>	Child under 16 meeting different adults and exchanging or selling sexual activity		Update assessment and use the risk assessment toolkit to guide or update assessments.
		Being taken to clubs/hotels for sexual activity with adults		Use key disruption tactics (police)
		Disclosure of sexual assault and then withdrawal of statement		Abduction Order (police).
		Abduction and forced imprisonment		Alerts/liaison with Health, Education, Police and CSC.
		Being moved around for sexual activity		.
		Disappearing from the 'system' with no contact with support		Cross reference with Teenage Pregnancy and Domestic Violence strategies.
		Being bought/sold/ trafficked		Harm reduction/detox programmes.
		Under 16 with multiple miscarriages or terminations		Psychiatric assessment/intensive support.
		Indicators of CSE in conjunction with chronic alcohol and drug use		Reinforce criminality of offender; gather information for Police and Social Care.
		Indicators of CSE alongside serious self-harming		Ensure information is recorded.
Receiving rewards of money or goods for recruiting o peers into CSE				

Thresholds and Appropriate Intervention

Low Risk

Child or Young Person presenting with 1 to 4 indicators

This child or young person requires intervention by any professional, parent or carer who has a good relationship with them to carry out healthy relationships and personal rights work. Depending on the indicators they present with, they will also likely benefit from some basic awareness raising work on CSE, sexual health, risk taking behaviours and consequences. If there is a person/s posing a risk to them, ensure they are disrupted and information about them recorded and passed to the appropriate persons (including police where appropriate).

Procedure

- Ensure that this child or young person is listed on file as 'At risk of CSE'.
- Carry out basic intervention work as noted above, over a 4-6 week period.
- Consider TAF and CAF.
- The child or young person is to be assessed for changes to risk status every 4-6 weeks using the risk matrix until the child or young person is safe or the risk is removed.
- If risk is escalating follow procedures below for Medium or High Risk cases.

Medium Risk

Child or young person presenting with more than 5 low indicators or low and some medium indicators

This child or young person requires more intensive assessment and 1-1 support. If they present immediately with Medium Risk indicators the interventions outlined above for Low Risk should be completed, along with more intensive work on CSE, grooming, positive choices, safety and contingency planning. Work is also required on any additional vulnerability factors and with the family, siblings and peers. Involve all professionals linked to the young person via TAF and CAF. Refer to CSC Duty for advice if it is felt that further services are required on a non-urgent basis. Should there be a need for a referral about more serious concerns, refer direct to CSC Duty. If the child or young person is already open to Social Care, assessments are to be updated and if required, a S47 enquiry undertaken.

Procedure

Take whatever steps are required to protect the child or young person, i.e. Emergency Protection Order, Police Protection Order or staying with an appropriate family member

- Refer to CSC Duty for S47 enquiries.
- Police discussion regarding investigation needs/MISPER
- Strategy meetings under Safeguarding Procedures where appropriate.
- Seek guidance/advice and refer to CSE Specialist Voluntary Sector Services,
- Collate and share information on any perpetrators, hotspots and associations involved with the young person.
- Regular network or core group meetings until child/young person is protected or desists from risk taking behaviours.

High Risk

Child or young person presenting with several indicators from all categories and 1 or more high risk indicator.

Initiate CP Procedures

Procedure

As above and;

- Referral to CSC Duty immediately.
- SW will be allocated to undertake Sec 47 investigation
- Referral to police CAIT/Sapphire for initial strategy discussion and agreement around joint investigation.
- Further strategy meeting to be convened with all relevant professionals
- Initial Child Protection Conference or LAC procedures could be initiated depending on factors surrounding the child or young person.
- Regular review under Child Protection or Children in Need (CSE) until child is protected from abuse and/or there are no ongoing concerns or further risk of CSE.
- Police to liaise with Crown Prosecution Service for evidential thresholds for prosecution.

NOTE:

Ensure that any disclosures are recorded and dated. Professionals who do not have Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) training should not discuss disclosures but call in Social Care and the Police to interview. This is to ensure that any future prosecutions are not hampered or prejudiced by questioning.

When young people have suffered abuse they often want to focus on practical things rather than the abuse. This is long term work, with no quick fixes and the intensive work should be carried out alongside positive activities to build self-esteem. The engagement of the young person is crucial to achieving the best outcome.

The effectiveness of current interventions should be assessed to determine whether they are sufficient to;

- Prevent the young person from going missing
- Protect the young person from being exposed to any further risk
- Prevent the sexual exploitation
- Change risk taking behaviour.

Good Practice Principles for Working with CSE

- Intensive support around the young person, their family and peers.
- Equal focus on the three pronged governmental approach to CSE; Prevention, Protection and Prosecution.
- Awareness raising with any professional, family or community.

- Note and disrupt hot spots, houses, hotels, shopping centres being used and report to licensing bodies where appropriate.

If interventions are failing to change the behaviours or risks to the child or young person, it is not acceptable to carry on trying the same things. More radical interventions should be considered. However;

- If child is under 13 years and there is evidence to indicate that the child is sexually active (penetrative sex or involved in grooming for sexual exploitation) this is NEVER to be assessed as Low Risk. Follow London Sexual Exploitation protocol and CP Procedures and discuss with line management. Also see Sexual Offences Act (2003) which defines any kind of sexual activity in all under 13 year olds as a statutory offence.
- If the child or young person is between 13 and 16 years and is sexually active and assessed as at risk of or involved in sexual exploitation there should always be a consideration that a Section 47 enquiry is required.
- There should ALWAYS be a referral to SEMAP if the assessment identifies risk of continuing harm from CSE.

• If the child or young person is sexually active and assessed as not at risk of, or involved in sexual exploitation of any kind then follow working with Sexually Active Children and Young People Guidelines.

- If the young person is between 16 and 18 years and is sexually active and assessed as at risk of or involved in sexual exploitation, follow the Safeguarding from Sexual Exploitation Procedure.

If the young person is between 16 and 18 years and is sexually active but assessed as not at risk of or involved in sexual exploitation, follow working with Sexually Active Children and Young People Guidelines

- Never prove capacity where it does not exist. Ensure there is assessment of consent – coercion – capacity to consent.

Professionals need to read this guidance in conjunction with;

- London Child Protection Procedures
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DFE, 2015)
- Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation (DCSF 2009)
- Tackling child sexual exploitation action plan (DFE, 2011) and Tackling child sexual exploitation action plan; progress report (DFE, 2012)
- Statutory Guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care (DSCF, 2009)
- Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked; practice guidance (DFE & HO, 2011)
- Victims of Human Trafficking – guidance for frontline staff (UKBA & HO, 2013)

- Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board CSE strategy and procedure (revised 2015)
- Pan London CSE Protocol (revised 2015)

APPENDIX D

Emerging best practice and learning from serious case reviews/studies of current practice

Emerging best practice: See Me, Hear Me Framework

The seven principles underpinning the See Me, Hear Me framework are:

1. **The child's best interests must be the top priority** - The best interests of children and young people and their rights to protection must drive all decision making. The paramountcy principle (Children Act 1989) must be adhered to where applicable and children's rights under UNCRC Article 3 fully honoured.
2. **Participation of children and young people** - Services need to involve children and young people when decisions are being made about their care, protection and on-going support and be kept informed on any issues that affect them throughout. Professionals must be mindful of children and young people's needs and equalities. Their UNCRC Article 12 rights must be honoured.
3. **Enduring relationships and support** - Support must be tailored to meet the needs of the child, according to their age, identity, ethnicity, belief, sexual orientation, disability, language, and stage of development. Children and young people have told us that a consistent person who sticks with them throughout the whole period of their protection and on-going care is crucial to their recovery.
4. **Comprehensive problem-profiling** - It is critical that agencies regularly problem-profile their local area to analyse and understand all the patterns of exploitation to which children and young people are subjected to. A comprehensive problem-profile needs to be compiled with the oversight of the LSCB and should be shared across all key partners to inform the development of a multi-agency strategy and action plans, the commissioning of services and the delivery of training and awareness-raising activity to support local professionals.
5. **Effective information-sharing within and between agencies** - Every area should have a cross sector information-sharing protocol which is predicated on the best interests and safeguarding of children and young people. All relevant agencies and services should be signatories and it should clearly state what information should be shared, by whom and the process for doing this.
6. **Supervision, support and training of staff** - Services should invest in the development and support of staff including providing regular supervision and the opportunities for them to reflect on practice. Those professionals who offer direct support to sexually exploited children and young people might require further intensive training and must have regular opportunities to reflect on their practice with a skilled consultant or supervisor.
7. **Evaluation and review** - Evaluations and regular reviews of the effectiveness of the CSE strategy is necessary to ensure services and interventions are achieving their intended outcomes and meeting the child and young person's needs. Children and young people must be directly involved in this process in compliance with Article 12 of the UNCRC. This will ensure that performance is driven continuously by a cycle that leads to improvement.

The See Me, Hear Me Framework also includes three sets of questions under the headings 'Voice of the Child', 'Voice of the Professional' and 'Protecting the Child'. These have been developed to guide planning and decision making regarding the rights, welfare and protection of children and young people who have been victims of CSE.

Finally, the Framework outlines the functions and processes required for a holistic response to CSE at a local level, framed within a suggested structure for

implementation of the Framework ranging from accountability and strategic coordination to an end-to-end approach to intervention and service delivery at the frontline.

Learning from serious case reviews/studies of current practice

In reviewing this body of literature we have attempted to identify specific issues that may be relevant to tackling CSE in Lewisham over and above those issues that have already shaped the best practice that underpins the strategy and action plan. These issues fall into the following broad categories:

- Sexual activity amongst young people
- Out of area placements
- Early identification of young people at risk of perpetrating
- Identity
- Provision of support as victims of CSE reach adulthood
- Support for victims during the prosecution process
- Role of health services

Sexual activity amongst young people

The perception that sexual activity by young people aged 13 - 16 is by mutual consent needs to be reconsidered in light of peer-to-peer CSE. The identification of sexual activity by a young person may provide a point of intervention to either reduce the risk of CSE or identify that the young person is a victim of CSE.

- Issues of identity and how they might affect young people are poorly understood by staff in all agencies. All staff would benefit from training and development opportunities to better understand how to work with identity formation and positive self-image development;
- Poor self-image is a significant vulnerability factor in young people at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Provision of support as victims of CSE reach adulthood

Role of health services

The recent *“Shine a light”* report, a survey of Health Professionals prepared on behalf of the National Working Group commented that lack of recognition of CSE was felt to be a common problem nationally rather than something unique to a particular group of staff, *“One Named Nurse for a Hospital Trust felt that A&E is the riskiest place in the hospital but there was a lack of awareness around CSE in that department. An experienced A&E Charge Nurse had said “when it comes to sexual exploitation, we do not know what we are doing”. A&E staff feel that they are just too busy to look fully into cases and “opportunities are missed when teenagers want to talk.”*

Trafficking indicators

At port of entry

The child:

- Has entered the country illegally
- Has no passport or other means of identification
- Has false documentation
- Possesses money and goods not accounted for
- Is unable to confirm the name and address of the person meeting them on arrival

- Has had their journey or visa arranged by someone other than themselves or their family
- Is accompanied by an adult who insists on remaining with the child at all times
- Is withdrawn and refuses to talk or appears afraid to talk to a person in authority
- Exhibits self-assurance, maturity and self-confidence not expected to be seen in a child of such age
- Does not appear to have money but does have a mobile phone
- Is unable or reluctant to give details of accommodation or other personal details

The sponsor could:

- Be a community member, family member, or any other intermediary
- Have previously made multiple visa applications for other children and/or has acted as the guarantor for other children's visa applications
- Be known to have acted as the guarantor on the visa applications for other visitors who have not returned to their countries of origin on the expiry of those visas

Whilst resident in the UK (in addition to those listed above)

The child:

- Receives unexplained/unidentified phone calls whilst in placement / temporary accommodation
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, and/or has contracted a sexually transmitted infection or has an unwanted pregnancy
- Has a history with missing links and unexplained moves
- Is required to earn a minimum amount of money every day
- Works in various locations
- Has limited freedom of movement
- Appears to be missing for periods
- Is known to beg for money
- Performs excessive housework chores and rarely leaves the residence
- Is being cared for by adult/s who are not their parents and the quality of the relationship between the child and their adult carers is not good
- Is one among a number of unrelated children found at one address
- Has not been registered with or attended a GP practice
- Has not been enrolled in school
- Is excessively afraid of being deported

Children internally trafficked within the UK

Indicators include:

- Physical symptoms (bruising indicating either physical or sexual assault)
- Prevalence of a sexually transmitted infection or unwanted pregnancy
- Reports from reliable sources suggesting the likelihood of involvement in sexual exploitation / the child has been seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation
- Evidence of drug, alcohol or substance misuse
- Leaving home / care setting in clothing unusual for the individual child (inappropriate for age, borrowing clothing from older people)
- Phone calls or letters from adults outside the usual range of social contacts
- Adults loitering outside the child's usual place of residence
- Significantly older boyfriend

- Accounts of social activities, expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding
- Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation
- Returning after having been missing, looking well cared for despite having no known base
- Having keys to premises other than those known about
- Low self-image, low self-esteem, self-harming behaviour including cutting, overdosing, eating disorder, promiscuity
- Truancy/disengagement with education
- Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults
- Going missing and being found in areas where the child or young person has no known links
- Possible inappropriate use of the internet and forming on-line relationships, particularly with adults.

Best practice

Publishing its final report in November 2013, the Office of the Children's Commissioner's (OCC) Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation, "If only someone had listened" concluded that:

Despite increased awareness and a heightened state of alert regarding child sexual exploitation children are still slipping through the net and falling prey to sexual predators. Serious gaps remain in the knowledge, practice and services required to tackle this problem. There are pockets of good practice, but much still needs to be done to prevent thousands more children falling victim.

While the focus of the OCC's inquiry was on CSE in gangs and groups (i.e. CSE perpetrated on children and young people by other young people - a particular type of CSE about which more intelligence is needed locally), a review of the report makes it apparent that the inquiry's findings are equally applicable to CSE more generally.

Based on the evidence gathered (to which all LSCBs - including Lewisham's - contributed), the inquiry identified nine significant failings in the current response to CSE:

- Many agencies are **forgetting the child** or young person, who is often ignored or discounted;
- Services are **failing to engage with children** and young people;
- There is a **lack of leadership** amongst some of the most senior decision makers at local level;
- Some LSCBs have limited or **no strategic planning** in relation to CSE;
- Too many people who should be protecting children are **in denial** about the realities of CSE and therefore do not believe what children may tell them;
- Professionals are **failing to recognise victims** due to pervasive and damaging myths about both victims and perpetrators;
- Too many areas are still **working in isolation** to tackle CSE with a lack of co-ordination between responsible agencies;
- A **delayed response** to CSE continues to hamper the development and improvement of practice to tackle CSE;
- **Results are not being monitored** to ensure effectiveness.

a. See Me, Hear Me Framework

In response to the findings of its inquiry, the OCC has developed the See Me, Hear Me Framework that focusses on:

- Preventing the sexual exploitation of children;
- Identifying, protecting and supporting the victims;
- Disrupting and stopping perpetrators, securing justice for victims and obtaining convictions.

Drawing extensively on the evidence gathered in the course of the inquiry, the Framework has been developed with the assistance of a group of young people who have been victims of CSE to ensure a child-centred approach to protecting children. The Framework sets out the agencies, networks and stage-by-stage coordination necessary for effective practice and joined-up working from the top strategic level down to frontline handling of cases with victims and perpetrators. The Framework is underpinned by seven firm principles of effective practice:

1. The child's best interests must be the top priority;
2. Participation of children and young people;

3. Enduring relationships and support;
4. Comprehensive problem-profiling;
5. Effective information-sharing within and between agencies;
6. Supervision, support and training of staff;
7. Evaluation and review.

APPENDIX E

Joint Protocol 2014

Children who run away or go missing from Home or Care





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Context

1.1 This is a joint protocol between London Borough of Lewisham Children Social Care, Lewisham Metropolitan Police and other agencies working in Lewisham with families and missing children. The protocol should be read as guidance, which cannot anticipate every situation. Parents, Police, Children’s Services, Foster Carers & placements and any other agency should use their professional judgement to take any action that is deemed necessary to protect and safeguard the child/young person based on an assessment of risk for each individual child/young person.

2. Lead Responsibility and monitoring of Missing Children

2.1 The Local Authority, Children Social Care (CSC) lead for monitoring policies and performance relating to children and young people who go missing from home rests with Service Manager Referral & Assessment .The lead for children who go missing from care is the Service Manager for Looked After Children

2.2 The responsible police lead is Detective Chief Inspector for Public Protection.

2.3 The LSCB must be satisfied that arrangements are in place to ensure missing children are safeguarded by the partnership as set out in chapter 2 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013).

2.4 Lewisham Childrens Social Care provides data on all incidents of missing or unauthorised absences to the Department for Education as part of the annual SSDA903 data collection.

2.5 Lewisham Childrens Social Care should analyse data on children reported missing from care and unauthorised absences to map problems, patterns and hot spots giving particular attention to repeat ‘missing ‘and ‘absent’ episodes.

2.6 Lewisham Childrens Social Care will provide an annual reports to the Lead Member for Children’s Social Care and the LSCB.

3. Introduction

3.1 The statutory guidance on Children Who Run Away and Go Missing from Home and Care was published on January on 2014.

3.2 The statutory guidance (2014) states that Local Authorities should have an agreed protocol for children and young people who run away or go missing in their area. The protocols should be agreed and reviewed regularly with all agencies and be scrutinised by the LSCB.

4. Definitions

4.1 *Child /Young person:* The statutory guidance defines a child or young person is someone under the age of 18. Care leavers cover young people aged 16-24.

4.2 *Young runaway:* A child or young person under the age of 18 who has run away from their home or placement, or feels they have been forced or lured to leave, or whose whereabouts is unknown.

4.3 *Missing child/Young person:* A young runaway reported as missing to the police by his/her family or carers.

4.4 *Missing from Care:* a looked after child who is not at their placement or the place they are expected to be (e.g. school) and their whereabouts is not known.

4.5 *Away from placement without authorisation:* a looked after child whose whereabouts is known but who is not at their placement or place they are expected to be and the carer has concerns or the incident has been notified to the local authority or the police.

4.6 *Care leaver:* an eligible, relevant or former relevant child as defined by the Children Act 1989.

4.7 *Responsible local authority:* The authority that is responsible for the young person’s care and care planning.

4.8 *Host local authority:* The authority in which the young person is placed when placed out of the responsible authority’s area.

4.9 Police Definition

4.9.1 Missing: anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character, or the context suggests the person may be subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another; and

4.9.2 absent: a person not at a place where they are expected or required to be

4.9.3 The police classification of a person as ‘missing’ or ‘absent’ will be based on on-going risk assessment. Note that ‘absent’ within this definition would not include those defined as “away from placement without authorisation” above: a child whose whereabouts are known would not be treated as either ‘missing’ or ‘absent’ under the police definitions. More information can be found in the ACPO guidance: <http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2013/201303-cba-int-guid-missing-persons.pdf> *Police are the lead agency for the investigation of missing children.* The Police should be provided with information to assist their assessment of risk and their investigation. Appropriate application of the risk assessment process by other agencies should allow the Police to be confident that any child/young person reported to them as missing fits the agreed criteria.

5. Missing from Home

5.1 Police are the lead for children missing from home. Where a professional has concerns that a child / young person may go missing they should use the Pre-incident Risk Assessment, as a basis for establishing the level of concern. There is an expectation that parents/carers will report child/young person missing to Police, failure to do so may prompt further enquiries under child protection procedures.

5.2 Before contacting Police, parents and carers are expected to undertake the following basic measures to try and locate their child/young person if considered safe to do so:-

- Search bedroom / house / outbuildings / vehicles
- Contact known friends and relatives where the child or young person might be
- Visit locations that the child or young person is known to frequent, if it is safe to do so

5.3 When contacting Police parents/carers should provide the following as a minimum:-

- Child/young person 's name & DOB
- Where, when and who they went missing with
- Description of child/young person and clothing
- Recent photograph
- Medical history
- Any concerns of them likely to be victim of abuse?
- Any concerns of at risk of Sexual Exploitation
- Any other previously identified risks or additional vulnerabilities
- Time and location last seen
- Details of efforts to locate the child/young person

- If child is placed in Lewisham (Host Borough) from another LA information and contact details of SW of the responsible borough.

5.4 Anyone who has the child / young person without their parental knowledge or agreement should inform the Police, Children Social Care and the parents of their whereabouts and safety. If this is not complied with, the Police should consider advice or warning under the Child Abduction Act 1984, if it is appropriate.

Professionals who become aware that a child/young person is missing should report it to the Police and complete a **CAF** form incorporating all known risk elements.

6. Role of the Police

6.1 Upon receiving a report of a child being missing from home, the Police will carry out a risk assessment and make enquiries (which are proportionate to the perceived risk) to locate the child as soon as possible. Based on their assessment they will prioritise all incidents of missing children as *medium or high risk*. A risk assessment will be carried out for each individual on every separate occasion they are reported missing to the Police. Where a child is categorised as ‘absent’, the details will be recorded by the police, who will also agree review times and any on-going actions with child’s family.

6.2 *High Risk* is a risk that is immediate and there are substantial grounds for believing that the child / young person is in danger through their own vulnerability; or may have been the victim of a serious crime; or the risk posed is immediate and there are substantial grounds for believing that the public is in danger. This category requires the immediate deployment of police resources.

**More information can be found in the ACPO guidance
<http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2013/201303-cba-int-guid-missing-persons.pdf>**

6.3 *Medium Risk* categorises the child / young person in danger or they are a threat to themselves or others. This category requires a multi-agency response by the police and other agencies in order to trace the missing person and support the person reporting. This will involve a proactive investigation and search in accordance with the circumstances to locate the missing child / young person as soon as possible).

7. Recording Process by Children Social Care

7.1 Police send notifications of all reports of missing children to Children’s Social Care. If the missing child or young person does not have an allocated social worker, a Business Support Officer in Referral and Assessment records the notification as a contact in ICS. The Contact appears in the work tray of the Missing Children Liaison Officer in the Referral & Assessment Service, who creates a Missing Child Record in ICS.

7.2 The Team Manager on duty in the Referral and Assessment Team considers the contact and previous history. The Team Manager decides whether a Children’s Social Care assessment is necessary.

7.3 The Team Manger also decides if the child and the family could benefit from input of the Early Intervention Service. The Early Intervention Service can assist professionals involved with the child to coordinate a Team Around the Child/Family (TAC/F) meeting. The TAC/F meeting should try to identify ‘push factors’ at home which may contribute to the child running away and ‘pull factors’ which cause children to go missing. The TAC/F should formulate a plan to address these factors. The plan should be shared with the child/young person

if appropriate and arrangements should be made by the agencies involved to ensure the plan is kept on the agency records.

7.4 In all cases of Early Intervention, the lead agency coordinating the TAC/F meeting, must obtain parental consent. TAC/F can collectively formulate a written plan to address underlying issues

7.5 If the TAC/F remains concerned and the plan is not working the lead agency coordinating the TAC/F should contact the Early Intervention Helpdesk on 020 8314 6070 to strengthen or change the TAC/F plan. The Helpdesk can also assist in taking the case to the Early Intervention Service Access Panel to address underlying issues that lead to missing episodes. If the risk of significant harm as a result of going missing remains high, then the case should be brought to the attention of the Referral and Assessment Team for consideration.

8. Role of Lewisham Children Social Care

Missing Children who have an allocated Social Worker:

8.1 The Contact saying the child is missing will appear in the social worker's work tray in ICS.

**8.2 If a child or young person goes missing from home and they are the subject of a Child Protection Plan or a Section 47 investigation the social worker should follow the London Child Protection Procedures, Sections 3 – 5.
http://www.londoncp.co.uk/consultation/A_contents.html**

8.3. In addition the social worker should:

- Inform the Team Manager immediately where risks are assessed to be high. If the child or YP remains **missing for 48 hours** the Team manager will inform the responsible Service Manager and keep her/him updated.
- Ensure a Missing Persons Meeting is arranged to take place **within 7 working** days of the child going missing if the child remains missing which includes representations from Police Sexual Exploitation and Missing Persons Unit Investigation Team as well as other professionals involved with the child.
- If the missing child (with or without their parent) is subject to a child protection plan the social worker must contact the QA BSO and issue alerts to all authorities across the UK as per the London Notification of Missing Children/Persons Procedure. See appendices 7 and 8 on the link below:

http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures/supplementary_procedures/

8.4 The social worker should also discuss with the team manager if the case should be referred to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

- **Prevention** – by finding out information about the child's network. The police may be able to warn potential adults who harbour missing children.
- **Protection** – by finding out information about the child's network and target potential harbourers for early location of the missing child.

Missing Children who do not have an allocated Social Worker:

8.5 The Missing Children Liaison Officer receives information in her in-tray from CIN manager following police notification when a child or young person missing (form F78) and also when child or young person is returned (PAC). The

missing episode is recorded within ICS under the missing section, filling in all relevant information. The Missing Children Liaison Officer must record conversations, relevant information, concerns etc within information & advice task (I&A).

8.6 The Missing Children Liaison Officer may do one or more of the following depending on the police report and history:-

- Request for TAC/F with Early Intervention. Follow it through to ensure TAC/F takes place.
- Request for case to be allocated
- Letter to both young person & family, inviting them in for an interview
- Put support in place for young person/family if need be via community resources.

9. Children who are missing from home for more than 28 days but who do not have an allocated social worker .

9.1 The Missing Children Liaison Officer will inform the Duty Team Manager in Referral and Assessment that the child/young person has been missing from home for 28 days. The Team Manager will allocate the case to a social worker to arrange a Strategy Meeting. The Police from Sexual Exploitation and Missing Person Unit and other relevant agencies such as the school, youth offending service must be invited.

9.2 All agencies who attend/are invited to this meeting are responsible for ensuring that the person responsible for carrying out actions are recorded and timescales are set against each action.

10. 16 and 17 Year olds who go missing from home.

10.1 16 and 17 year olds who run away or go missing are no less vulnerable than younger children and are equally at risk, particularly of sexual exploitation or involvement with gangs. These children may present themselves as homeless.

After the Southwark ruling (2009) the government has issued a statutory guidance (2010) placing a responsibility on Local Authorities to provide accommodation under part 3 of the Children Act 1989 and under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 to provide accommodation for homeless 16 and 17 year olds (see 16 & 17 year old homelessness Procedure).

10.2 If a 16 or 17 year old who has run away present themselves as homeless, Children's Social Care must assess their needs. Where the assessment indicates that the young person is child in need and requires accommodation under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, they will become looked after. The young person's views about becoming looked after should be discussed and the pros and cons discussed. See 16 and 17 Year Old Homelessness Protocol for guidance.

The young person's decisions about how and where to live must be taken into account but balanced with their vulnerability and support needs. Bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation is not considered suitable for any young person under the age of 18 even on an emergency accommodation basis.

11. The Return

11.1 When a child/young person is found by the Police, the police must notify the parent and provide information and advice. Parents or Carers must inform the Police if they find the child/young person or they return of their own accord.

11.2 The police will always endeavour to conduct a Safe and Well Check as soon as possible after the child/young person has returned. The check is to establish the child / young person's well-being, where and with whom they have been and to give them an opportunity to disclose any offending by or against them. If there

are concerns about the child/young person 's health or drug use consideration should be given to a medical assessment which should include emergency contraception if required. Further guidance is available in the ACPO guidance on Missing People

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2011/201103CRIIMP02.pdf>

11.3 Where a child goes missing frequently, it may not be practicable for the police to see them every time they return. In these cases an agreement should be made between the police and the child's parent or their social worker, with regard to the frequency of such checks bearing in mind the established link between frequent missing episodes and serious harm, which could include gang involvement, forced marriage, bullying or sexual exploitation. The reason for a decision not to conduct a safe and well check should be recorded on both the police and Children Social Care case file.

11.3 If it is felt the child/young person is not able to safely return home, the police should explore temporary alternatives within the extended family or social network with parental consent. If no such temporary alternatives can be identified, the police will refer the case to Childrens Social Care where parents may be asked to consent to accommodation under Sec 20 Children Act 1989.

11.4 If parents do not consent and there is no alternative arrangement and the child/young person is thought to be at risk of significant harm, the police may consider taking the child into Police Protection. A child/young person should *not* be left in Police custody for a protracted period of time.

11.5 The police will notify Childrens Social Care when a missing child or young person has been found. The Missing Children Liaison Officer will update ICS.

The "Missing Child Record" should be updated with the details of the child/young person's return if the child/young is returned. In cases of repeated numbers of missing episodes the Missing Children Liaison Officer will set up a TAC/F to support the child and the family.

12. Independent Return Interviews

12.1 The purpose of a return interview is to:

- Identify and deal with any harm the child/young person has suffered, including harm that may have not been disclosed in the Safe and Well interview, to include the child/young person 's health and any need for medical attention.
- Understand and try to address the reasons why the child/young person ran away
- Try to develop strategies with the child / young person to prevent it from happening again

12.2 The police should refer cases to Children's Social Care and to the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation(MASE) meeting where they are concerned about a child being sexually exploited or at risk of significant harm following the Safe and Well interview.

12.3 Additionally, the Safe and Well Check Officer must notify Childrens Social Care if the young person wants to talk to the Missing Children Liaison Officer.

12.4 The *Return Interview Form* should be completed by the Missing Children Liaison Officer where there is no allocated social worker.

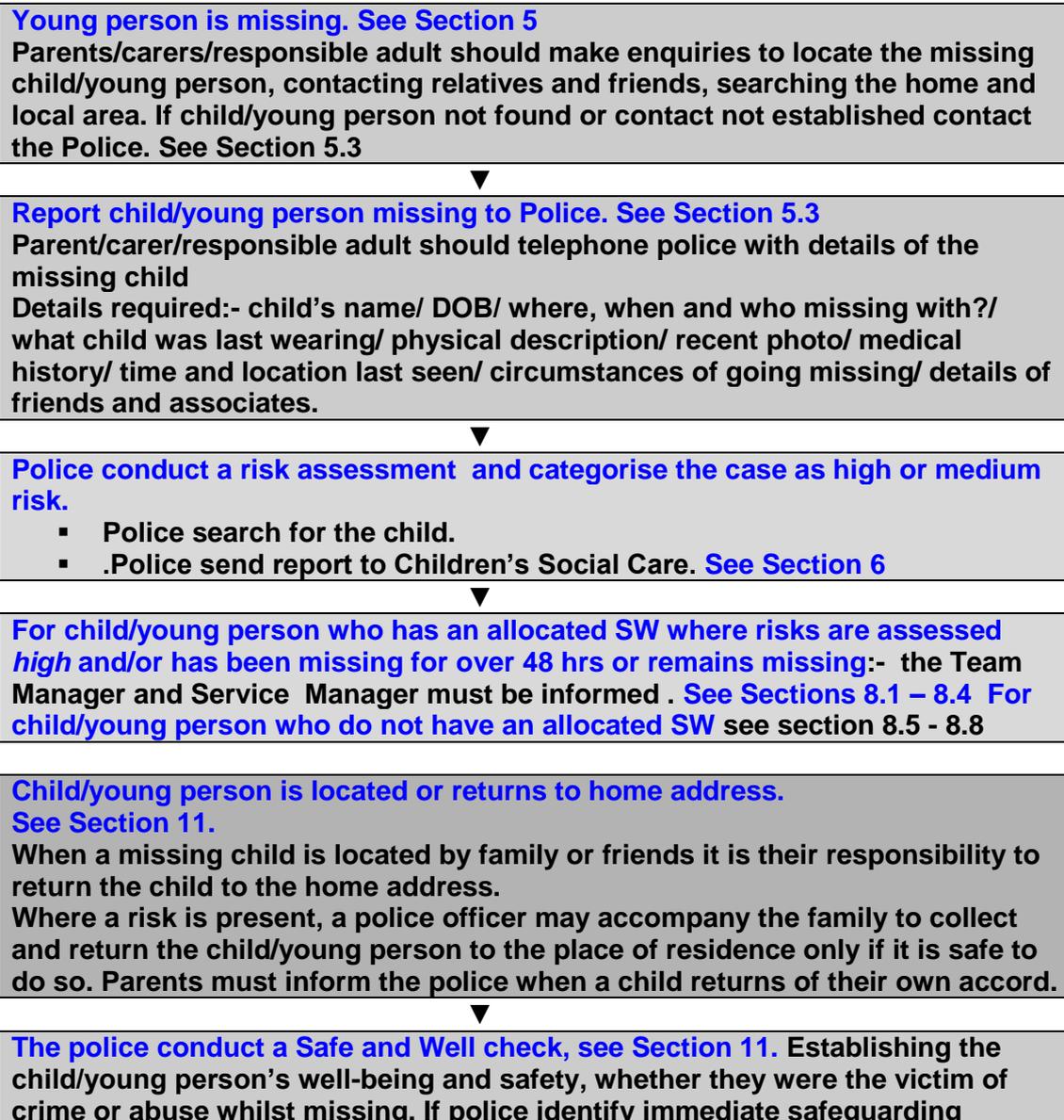
12.5 If the child/young person has an allocated social worker, consideration should be given as to whether the familiar Social Worker is best placed to undertake the Return Interview. This interview should take place within 2 working days of the child/young person located or returned and the Return

Interview Form completed in ICS within one working day of the interview. If the young person does not wish to talk to the allocated Social Worker, the Return Interview should be undertaken by either another Social Worker, Mentor, the Missing Children Liaison Officer or by voluntary sector worker. The Return Interview should be incorporated into a Social Work assessment if one is required. The completed Return Interview Form should be printed from ICS and forwarded to the Police.

12.6 If the return interview identifies the possibility of significant harm this must be discussed with a Team Manager immediately who will decide if enquiries under Sec47 Children Act 1989 are required.

12.7 In addition if a child/young person refuses a Return Interview, parents and carers should be offered the opportunity to provide any relevant information and intelligence of which they may be aware. The risk of significant harm should also be considered in consultation with a Team Manager. The discussion and the decision to be recorded in the ICS case note.

MISSING FROM HOME PROCESS FLOW CHART



concerns they will refer child/young person to Children's Social Care or EDT. On receipt of an updating report from police confirming Safe and Well check update ICS immediately.



CSC to conduct or arrange for an Independent Return Interview. See Section 12. Return Interview with the child/YP should take place within two working days of their return. If a child or young person refuses Return Interview, parents and carers should be offered the opportunity to provide any relevant information and intelligence



Child/young person offered relevant support by either statutory or voluntary agencies. In some cases enquiries under Sec47 Children Act 1989 may be required should it appear that the child/young person has complex or safeguarding needs. **See Section 12.6**

13. Missing from Care

13.1 Children who are Looked After by the Local Authority are one of the most vulnerable young people in the community. Each incident where a child/young person is missing therefore requires immediate attention from all professionals involved, including foster carers and residential care staff. The professionals must work together to ensure a consistent and coherent action plan is drawn up to secure the return of the child/young person and to address underlying reasons for absences.

14. Planning and Prevention

14.1 Prior to any placement for a child the Social Worker must consider the risk of a Looked After Child (LAC) going missing. Any missing episodes prior to being placed need to be taken into account. The Social Worker must complete a Pre-incident Risk Assessment form. The likelihood of running away and associated risks must be discussed with the carer at the placement agreement meeting. The carer should be given a copy of the completed Pre-incident Risk Assessment form.

14.2 Every carer for a LAC who is at risk of going missing must have a partially completed. Missing from Care – Information Sharing Form. (The first half of the form can be completed well before a missing episode. Having the information already recorded will save time. There are section on the form which can only be filled in after a missing episode).The allocated social worker of the child should make sure that the Missing from Care – Information Sharing Form is completed by the carer within 2 weeks of receipt of the Pre-Incident Risk Assessment Form. The form requires a recent photograph of the child.

14.3 Social Workers must make sure that there is a recent photograph (no older than 12 months) stored in ICS under Home – Demographic. If the Local Authority does not share parental responsibility by way of a Care Order parents permission have to be obtained to use the photograph by the Police to trace a child or in very serious cases for publicity.

15. Away From Placement Without Authorisation (Unauthorised Absence)

15.1 *Away from placement without authorisation:* refers to looked after children and young people whose whereabouts is known but who is not at their placement or place they are expected to be. While they are not missing, they may still be placing themselves at risk because of where they are. For example, they may

choose to stay at the house of friends where the carer has concerns about risks of sexual exploitation. The police will not consider this child as missing or absent.

15.2 Foster Carers and residential workers must do all that a reasonable parent would do to communicate with a child/young person whose absence is unauthorised. This will include telephoning the child/young person, their friends or collecting the child/young person or negotiating some alternative arrangements. If it is thought that specific safety or public order difficulties may be encountered in returning the child/young person then action should be agreed between the Police, Carers, the Social Worker / Emergency Duty Team.

15.3 The person with parental responsibility should be kept informed by the allocated social worker or carer unless there are good reasons connected to the child/young person's welfare not to do so.

15.4 All unauthorised absences must be reported by Carers within one working day of the child/young person being away from placement to the allocated social worker. The carer must also inform the social worker when the child/young person has returned. The social worker should take account of the age of the child, time of day, the length of time away and any other vulnerability factor before recording this as an unauthorised absence.

15.5 Carers must keep written detailed records of unauthorised absences.

15.6 Social worker must record the unauthorised absence on ICS in the "Missing Child Record". The social worker must select the *Unauthorised Absence* status in ICS. When the young person has returned the social worker must update the Missing Child Record and complete the return section of the form.

15.7 If a child or young person has too many unauthorised absences the social worker should try to establish with carer the potential significance of multiple periods of being absent without permission. Children and young people who repeatedly absent themselves are often enticed away by activities that they see as exciting or by predatory influences, short absences may be as risky as lengthy ones. A further risk assessment arising out of frequent unauthorised absences should be completed by the social worker.

15.8 If a child or young person remain absent, and the Carer feels he/she may be at risk of harm then a report should be made to the police.

15.9 Where it is thought that the child or young person is at significant risk at a known or suspected location, the social worker should discuss the case with the Team and Service Manager, inform the Independent Review Officer (IRO) and enlist the help of the police and parents (For Section 20) to bring the child back to the placement.

15.10 If the carer know where the child or young person is they may opt to pick up the young person and bring them home provided it is safe to do so. The Carer may seek the assistance of the police in exceptional circumstances after consulting the social worker or Emergency Duty Team.

16. Reporting a child missing from care

16.1 Prior to reporting a child/young person missing from care it is expected that foster carers / residential workers will make every reasonable effort to locate the child/young person prior to them being reported to the Police.

16.2 Carers are expected to undertake the following basic measures to try to locate the child/young person if considered safe to do so:-

- Search bedroom / house / outbuildings / vehicles
- Contact known friends and relatives where the child/young person might be

- Visit locations that the child or young person is known to frequent, if it is safe to do so
- Checking with the allocated SW/Duty SW or EDT for any recent contact with the child/young person

16.3 When confident that the child/young person whereabouts is not known, reporting a child/young person missing to Police should not be delayed beyond 4 hours. If the child is considered to be at significant risk as a result of age or identified vulnerabilities the Carer should contact the Police immediately.

16.4 Carers must also inform the allocated social worker, duty social worker or Emergency Duty Team and the IRO that the child/young person is missing.

16.5 When contacting the Police initially by telephone Carers should provide the following information as a minimum:-

- Child/young person's name & DOB
- Where, when and who they went missing with
- Description of child/young person
- Confirming they hold a recent photograph of the child/young person
- Medical history
- Any concerns of them likely to be victim of abuse?
- Any concerns of at risk of Sexual Exploitation
- Any other previously identified risks or additional vulnerabilities
- Time and location last seen
- Details of efforts to locate the child/young person

16.6 The Allocated SW will create a "Missing Child Record" on ICS. Parents or those with parental responsibility should be informed by the allocated SW unless there are clear reasons why this should not be done. Reason for not informing the parents must be recorded on the ICS.

16.7 In addition to completing and/or updating the Missing Child Risk Assessment, Carers should also complete the Missing from Care Information Sharing form. The Carer must provide the Police with a copy of the Missing Child Risk Assessment & Information Sharing forms. This should include a recent photograph. Please check section 14.3 for permissions.

16.8 For children/young people missing where the assessed risks are high or those who have been missing for 48 hrs the Service Manager must be informed.

The Service Manager must inform the Director of Children Social Care.

16.9 Foster/Residential Carers should inform other children/young people of the foster home/ Care Home. In this way, distressing rumours may be avoided and additional information might be obtained. Any such information should be passed immediately to the Police. The child/young person school should always be informed and they may have valuable information that could assist in locating the child/young person's whereabouts. Any such information should be passed immediately to the police.

16.10 Children Placed in LBL by another LA

16.10.1 If child or young person is a looked after child placed in LBL by another LA the Missing Children Liaison Officer must also:-

- Establish which LA has placed the child or young person and log details in involvement, email Placement & Procurement team to log CLA from another LA on LCS.

- Forward all police notifications and information on the child or young person to the named SW in the responsible local authority. Also send request for all relevant missing forms to be completed. Once received up load them on Meridio and put a link in LCS in case notes. Log the missing episode within LCS.

16.10.2 The Missing Children Liaison Officer will continue to monitor the case. If risk increases and concerns grow the Missing Children Liaison Officer should request a strategy meeting be convened by the responsible authority.

17. Role of the Police

17.1 Upon receiving a report of a child being missing from care, the Police will carry out a risk assessment and enquiries (which are proportionate to the perceived risk) aimed at locating the child as soon as possible. Based on the assessment they will prioritise all incidents of missing children as *medium or high risk*. A risk assessment must be carried out for each individual on every separate occasion they are reported missing to the Police.

18. Missing from Care Review Meeting

18.1 If the child/young person remains missing the allocated social worker should alert Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) who must convene a Missing from Care Review Meeting *within 5 working days* of the initial absence. If a child is known to have been trafficked the Missing from Care Review Meeting must take place *within one working day* as there is a real risk that the trafficked child may be taken abroad for exploitation.

18.2 The meeting will be chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer. The purpose of the meeting is to agree an action plan to find the child/ young person. The meeting should include the child's Social Worker/ Team Manager, carer, parent (if appropriate), the Police and key relevant agencies.

18.3 The Review Meeting should consider the following:

- Making further attempts to contact the child/young person's known relatives, friends, regular places of visit etc.
- Contacting the Missing Person's Helplines Missing from Care Team. The team provides a specialist service to Children's Social Care when any of their Looked After children go missing, including asylum seeking children. This working arrangement with local authorities forms the basis of an information sharing agreement with Social Care/Services. The Missing from Care Team can be contacted on **020 8392 4527**, 24 hours a day.
- Seeking a Recovery Order and deciding how the order should be exercised e.g. should there be a joint visit with Police and Social Care staff.
- Appropriate legal interventions if there is any suspicion that the child may have been removed from UK jurisdiction.
- Contingency plans should be made for when the child/young person is found.
- Consideration of further legal action, for example, an application for a Secure Accommodation Order.
- The decisions of the Review Meeting and the timescales must be clearly recorded on the child/young person's ICS record.

18.4 Further missing from care reviews should take place at least every five days thereafter or earlier, if deemed necessary.

18.5 The responsible Team/Service Manager in Children Social Care must inform the Director if a child is missing for 48 hours and again if still missing for 5 days.

18.6 The Director of Children’s Social Care is responsible for deciding when to inform the Executive Director and the Lead Member for Children and Young People’s Services

19. Where a Child/Young Person is Missing for more than 28 Days

19.1 The child/young person's social worker, should arrange a further Missing from Care Review Meeting chaired by the Service Manager and include relevant agencies such as the Police, Council's Press Office, Legal. Consideration should also be given to invite a representative from the National Missing Person's Helpline. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that all appropriate action is being taken to locate the child and to consider what further action needs to be taken.

19.2 The Service Manager will review the frequency for the subsequent Missing from Care Reviews according to the assessed risk and needs. A record of the meeting should be added by the Service Manager to the child/young person’s ICS record. Copies should also be kept by every attending agency on the child's case record.

19.3 The responsible Service Manager should provide a written briefing for the Director of Children Social Care immediately after the meeting, outlining the current situation and the action plan. The Director of Children Social Care will brief the Executive Director and the Lead Member for Children and Young People.

19.4 The Service Manager must be regularly updated and informed of the progress of the action plan and he/she will update the Director as appropriate.

20. If a child/young person is missing for more than 3 months

20.1 If the child/young person continues to be missing after three months, the Director of Children Social Care will chair the meetings to review all the actions taken so far and consider what further action should be taken until the child/young person is recovered.

21. If a child/young person is missing more than 6 months

21.1 Director of Children Social Care /the Executive Director for Children & Young People Services together with other senior managers in partner agencies should formally review all cases where children have been missing for six months or more to satisfy themselves on the actions taken to recover these children//young people.

All Police missing person’s files will remain ‘live’ until the child is located and returned to their home/care.

22. Care Planning

22.1 During the period when the child/young person is missing, Looked After Reviews may be combined with a Missing from Care Review. The Care Plan may need to be amended in the light of the missing episode. Police must be invited, along with Parents or those with parental responsibility if this is appropriate. A judgement will need to be made by the team manager or the service manager as to whether Legal Services should also be invited.

23. Informing the Media

- The Police have responsibility for publicising missing children in the media .
- For a Looked After Child or young person the Police and Children Social Care will make a joint decision. This will require appropriate agreement with the Director of Children Social Care on a case by case basis.
- The Council's Press Office must be informed.

- The allocated SW must inform child/young person's parents prior to a press release being made and consent must be received from them and/or those with parental responsibility if the child is **not** under a Care Order (e.g. S31). Please seek legal advice if you are uncertain about issues of consent .
- **Caution** - It is an offence to publish material which is intended or likely, to identify a child as being involved in court proceedings under the Children Act 1989. However, the court can give leave for this restriction to be waived if the child/young person's welfare requires it.

24. The Return

24.1 When a child/young person is found by the Police they must notify the Carers and allocated Social Worker or Emergency Duty Team.

24.2 Carers must inform the Police and the allocated social worker or Emergency Duty Team and the Independent Reviewing Officer if they find the child/young person or they return of their own accord.

24.3 The child or young person's social worker should inform the parents or those with parental responsibility and other agencies.

24.4 The police will always endeavour to conduct a *Safe and Well Check* as soon as possible after the child or young person has returned. See section 11.2 and 11.3. Further guidance is available in the ACPO guidance on Missing People <http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2011/201103CRIIMP02.pdf>

24.5 If the child/young person identifies significant concerns about their safety in the “Safe and Well” interview Police must contact the allocated social worker or Emergency Duty Team. If it is felt the child/young person is not able to safely return to their placement, alternative arrangements must be made by social worker or Emergency Duty Team. A child or young person should not be left in Police custody for a protracted period of time.

24.6 On completion of the “Safe and Well” interview Police should update the missing person report and pass it to CSC.

24.7 The “Missing Child Record” on ICS must be updated by the allocated social worker with the details of the child or young person’s return.

25. Independent Return Interviews

25.1 An *Independent Return Interview* by Children Social Care must be offered to the child or young person. Wherever possible the child or young person should be given the opportunity to talk before they return to their placement. Otherwise allocated social worker must make arrangement for Return Interview with the child or young person to take place within two working days of them being located or returning.

An *Independent Return Interview* by Children Social Care must be offered to the child or young person. Wherever possible the child or young person should be given the opportunity to talk before they return to their placement. Otherwise allocated social worker must make arrangement for Return Interview with the child or young person to take place within two working days of them being located or returning.

25.2 The interview needs to take place in a neutral place where the child or young person feel safe. This gives them the opportunity to talk to a person who is independent of their placement about the reasons they went missing.

Consideration should be given as to whether the familiar social worker, another social worker or Mentor is best placed, to undertake the Return Interview.

25.3 The interview and actions that may follow from it should:

- Identify and deal with any harm the child/young person has suffered, including harm that may have not been disclosed in the Safe and Well interview, to include the child/young person's health and any need for medical attention.
- Understand and try to address the reasons why the child/young person ran away
- Try to develop strategies to prevent it happening again
- Updating the Missing Child Risk Assessment.

25.4 If the Return interview identifies a risk of significant harm this must be discussed with a Team Manager immediately who will decide if enquiries under Sec47 Children Act 1989 are required.

25.5 If a child or young person refuses Return Interview, parents and carers should be offered the opportunity to provide any relevant information and intelligence of which they may be aware. The risk of significant harm should also be considered in consultation with a Team Manager.

25.6 The Return Interview Form should be completed in ICS. This will enable Missing Children Liaison Officer to collates data on Return Interviews straight from ICS.

26. Repeated Runaway and Missing

26.1 The potential significance of repeated running away should not be overlooked. Often such children are immediately labelled as a 'problem child' and insufficient consideration is given to why they persistently absent themselves. Persistent running away needs to be explored.

26.2 Where a child/young person repeatedly go missing, 3 times within a period of a month for short length of time e.g. for less than 7 days and / or place themselves at serious risk of harm, a multi-agency risk management meeting or Missing from Care Meeting (for looked after child), should be called by the allocated social worker. The meeting should include all relevant agencies including the Police and carer, to manage the risk, and agree a strategy with clear plan of action that are being taken to stop the child or young person from going missing. There should be a regular review of the action plan to ensure its effectiveness in deterring the child or young person from going missing. If a child/young person continues to go missing the effectiveness of previous Action Plan should be reviewed and alternative strategies considered.

26.3 This is particularly important where groups of young people run away from their placement together and are involved in substance misuse and are being sexually exploited, or are committing offences.

26.4 The Strategy and action plan must be recorded in their care plan.

27. Additional Responsibility of Looked After Children Who May Have Been Trafficked

27.1 Some of the children that local authorities look after are unaccompanied asylum seeking children or other migrant children, and some of these children or young people may have been trafficked into the UK and may remain under the influence of their traffickers even while they are looked after. Where it is suspected that a child/young person has been trafficked, Children Social Care should refer them to the UK's victim identification framework, the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

27.2 How to make a referral to NRM

- Social Worker will decide if the case meets the indicators of being trafficked. These are set out in the a referral form.
- Social Worker must provide the necessary information about citizenship and immigration issues so that the NRM can decide on the relevant competent authority.
- Social Worker will complete a Merton Age assessment where there is a age dispute before making a referral to NRM unless it is obvious that the subject is a child, in which case a referral should not be delayed.
- Potential child victims do not need to consent to their referral but they should be told that a referral is being made.
- Social Worker can either send completed referral forms by fax to 0870 496 5534 or by e-mail to UKHTC@soca.x.gsi.gov.uk.

27.3 The social worker must also complete a Pre-incident and Missing Risk Assessment and share it with the carer and other relevant agencies if the child or young person is thought to be at risk of going missing. The roles and responsibilities of carer must be fully explained and understood and recorded in the placement plan.

27.4 The Pre-incident and Missing Risk Assessment should include

- relevant details about the child’s background before they came to the UK;
- an understanding of the reasons why the child came to the UK; and
- an analysis of the child’s vulnerability to remaining under the influence of traffickers.

27.5 The location of the child/young person should not be divulged to any enquirers until their identity and relationship with the child has been established.

27.6 Priority should be given to child/young person’s safety thus ensuring that they are in a safe placement before starting the assessment process. Be aware that the child/young person may not disclose full information about their circumstances immediately.

27.7 For more information about indentifying, assessing and protecting trafficked children see The Trafficked Children Toolkit, developed by the London Safeguarding Children Board

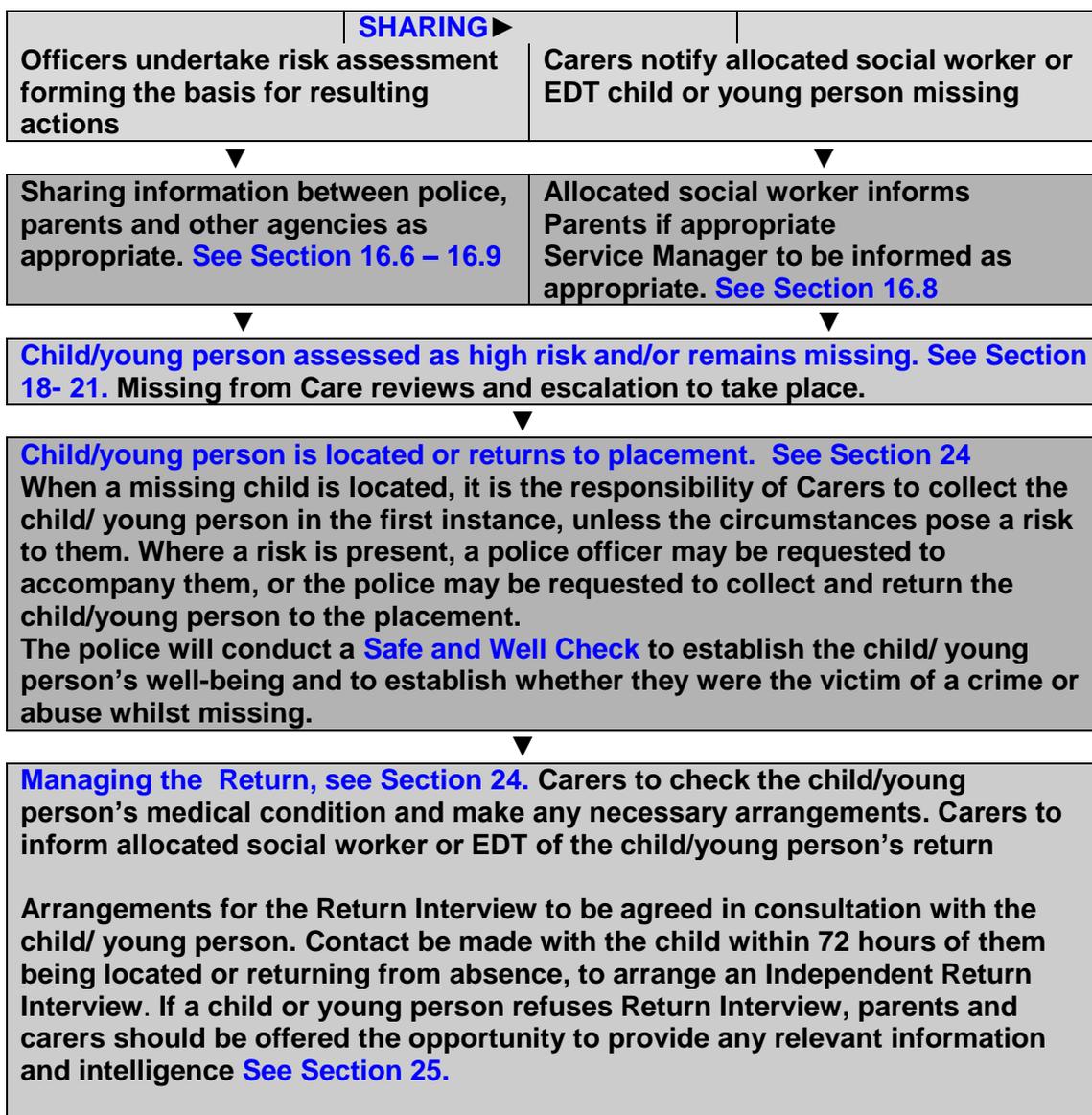
MISSING FROM CARE PROCESS FLOW CHART

Residential staff/ carers should establish whether a child/ young person is missing or the absence is unauthorised. See Section 15. Advice could be sought from the allocated social worker / team manager or EDT. Review of the existing Pre-incident & Missing Child Risk Assessments should inform this decision making process.

Carers should make enquiries to locate the child/young person with relatives or friends, this should include searches of the accommodation and the local area. All efforts to locate the child/young person must be recorded. Carers update the Missing Child Risk Assessment & complete the Missing from Care Information Sharing form, copies given to Police.



POLICE	◀ INFORMATION	RISK ASSESSMENTS
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28. Missing From Education

28.1 Children missing from education are defined as children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll or in receipt of elective home education or alternative provision. Permanently excluded children fall in this category. Whilst these children may not be ‘missing’ from home, they may be at increased risk.

28.2 The Policy and Protocols for Pupils Out of School provides guidance on how to identify children who are not in receipt of a suitable education and what to do to ensure they are re-engaged with an educational provision. The Local Authority has a duty under the Education Act 2002, to exercise their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are missing from education.

Appendix 1

Social Care Pre-incident Risk Assessment

The Social Care Pre-incident Risk Assessment should be recorded on the child's file in all agencies working with the child.

Wherever possible staff should enhance their ability to make a Social Care Pre-incident Risk Assessment by acquainting themselves with the current body of knowledge about children who go missing (*See Appendix 1: Current Research Findings in Relation to Children Going Missing from Care and Home*).

Factor impacting on the likelihood of a child going missing	Details and Explanation
Child's view on current placement/ stability of their relationships at home	
Level of supervision/support that care staff propose to provide for the child	
The degree of risk to the child if they do go missing – using the Social Care Risk Assessment Record at <i>Appendix 3</i>	
The views of parents/carers on their child's needs and the action that needs to be taken if their child is missing	
Consideration of any external influences which may result in a child's removal without consent (<i>See also Safeguarding Trafficked and Exploited Children, LCPC 2006</i>)	

Appendix 2

Missing Child Risk Assessment Record

Date _____

Name of Child Missing _____

Address from which missing

Factor	Details and Explanation
10 years old or under	
11 to 14 years of age	
15 up to 18 years of age	
Has a Child Protection Plan	
Needs essential medication or treatment not readily available to them e.g. asthma inhaler, insulin	
May not have the physical ability to interact safely with others or in an unknown environment, e.g. visually impaired, history of abuse or inappropriate adult/stranger relationships, Downs Syndrome etc.	
Lacks reasonable awareness of the risks associated with running away, incl. learning disabled	
Known to associate with adults or children who present a risk of harm e.g. Sexual Offenders, Offenders against children	
Mental illness or psychological disorder that may increase risk of harm to themselves or others	

Appendix 2 cont

Drugs and/or alcohol dependency	
Suspicion of abduction	
Suspected suicide or self harm	
Involved in violent and/or racial incident or confrontation immediately prior to disappearance	
Concerns about state of mind e.g. unusual behaviour prior to disappearance or disappeared with no prior indication, or seemed troubled etc.	
Inclement weather conditions where exposure would seriously increase risk to health	
Family/relationship problems or recent history of family conflict/abuse	
Employment problems	
Financial problems	
School or college problems	
Ongoing victim of bullying, harassment, or exploitation e.g. racial, sexual etc.	
Previously disappeared and suffered or was exposed to harm whilst missing	

Appendix 2 cont

Victim or potential victim, of forced marriage, fgm or trafficking, incl. for sexual exploitation	
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Summary of Risk

(Summarise the risks in a couple of sentences)

Summary of Actions Taken

Include attempts to talk to child on mobile phone and attempts to contact friends & family

Review Date for Actions Decided

Completed by, full name	Signature
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This Risk Assessment is an aid to action and for information sharing and recording.

Aid to action: As an action tool the purpose of the Risk Assessment is to inform single and multi-agency agency decision-making and planning to locate a '**missing**' child. The Risk Assessment provides an indication of:

- The urgency of inquiries
- Areas of inquiry e.g. where drugs are available or that certain adults frequent, country of origin or country children are trafficked on to etc
- Type of specialist knowledge that might be needed
- The supervision that may be required
- Agencies who may be first alerted e.g. local Accident & Emergency services

Aid for information sharing and recording: At the time that a child goes '**missing**' the completed Risk Assessment should be shared with all agencies working with the

child and kept on the child's file in each agency. In cases where new information becomes available and/or the child remains absent for a protracted period, the risks should be re-assessed, shared with the agencies and kept on the child's file in each agency.. The most recently completed Risk Assessment should remain on the child's file in all agencies working with the child.

Appendix 3

**Looked After Child Information Sharing Form
Police Missing Persons Unit:**

Please use this form to update information on children in your care, or for whom you are responsible

Contact Details for the Child			
Address where child currently resides (family home, Residential Unit, Foster Carer):			
Residential Unit/Foster Carer contact tel. nos:		Contact name:	
Child's full name:		Next of Kin relationship, name & address:	
Placing Authority: (if appropriate)		Social Worker & contact number:	

Doctor:	Child's mobile no:	
Dentist:	Child's N.I.Number:	
Occupation /School/ College:	Occupation /School/ College contact no:	

Appendix 3 cont

Description of the Child		
Ethnic Origin & Ethnic Appearance:	Dob:	
	Age:	
Height & build:	Gender:	
Physical/psychological disabilities:	Recent behaviour:	
Medical conditions & medication required e.g. asthma inhaler, insulin:		
Appearance incl. clothing, eye colour, hair, glasses, tattoos, piercings, facial hair:		
Family history (brief details):		

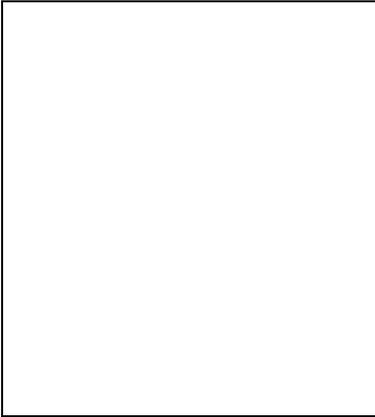
Appendix 3 cont

Information about friends and relatives etc, visited:			
Date	Time	Name / Phone number & address	Result of enquiries

Details of going Missing	
Time child was last seen:	
With whom:	

The basis for the Risk Assessment classification:

A recent photograph:



Appendix 4

Children Missing from Care And Home: Return Questionnaire

Introduction

Children who go missing may sometimes be running from something which places them at risk and may run into or to, situations which also place them at risk.

Children may be to talk about these issues, however professionals need to find out why the child goes missing in order to safeguard them.

Who Interviews the Child

Professionals must liaise to ensure that children are not interviewed more than is absolutely necessary about the same thing. The Police will interview all children when they return. In addition all children should be offered the opportunity to talk to an independent person whom they trust.

According to the *Young Runaways Report (SEU, 2002)* the professionals most closely involved with the child are often frustrated by the child's behaviour which means that children are likely to receive a negative response when they return. This response can stop the child talking about their experience and exacerbate the situation rather than resolve it for the child.

The independent person could be a social worker other than the child's social worker, if they have one, or a teacher, school nurse, Connexions, Youth or Youth Offending Team Worker, a voluntary sector practitioner or a police officer whom the child knows and trusts. The child should be asked who they wish to speak to.

Areas to be Covered

The fullness of the interview will depend on the circumstances and the degree of risk to the child.

1. Is the child happy where they are living, or are they worried/upset about anything?
2. Where was the child and who were they with?
3. What did the child do whilst they were missing?
4. Did the child feel safe and looked after?

<p>5. What happened when the child got home?</p>
<p>6. What does the child want to have happen now – short term/long term?</p>
<p>7. Parents/carers view of the incident?</p>
<p>8. The interviewer should provide the child with information about how they can access further or ongoing support services. Record the information here:</p>

Interviewer Name	Designation	Date

NB: The interviewer must ensure that other professionals who are involved with the child/ young person are copied into this information.

Appendix 5

The Police Risk considerations for Mispers

Circumstances to be considered.

Age

This is a significant risk factor. If the missing person is very young or very elderly and therefore unable to deal safely with their environment.

In the case of children there may be a risk of their being exploited for a criminal purpose.

On the child protection register

Has the child been subject to further abuse resulting in injury and is the perpetrator concealing the evidence?

Has the child run away because of continuing abuse.

On the return of the child the local child protection team will have to intervene, subject to a Child protection plan.

Needs essential medicine/treatment

Consider: How urgent is the need? What impact will this have on the subject's ability to survive or make proper decisions? How easily if at all can it be obtained elsewhere? Is the subject in possession of the medication?

Belief that the person may not have the physical ability to interact with others.

Suspected suicide or self harm.

Behaviour is out of character.

Do not just consider whether this is the first time the person has gone missing. Consider the length of time that the person is missing compared with other occasions on which the same person has gone missing. Why is this incident out of character for the person.

Inclement weather conditions.

Family/relationship problems or recent history of family conflict/abuse.

Employment problems.

Financial problems.

School or college problems.

Continuing victim of bullying or harassment.

Previously disappeared and suffered or was exposed to harm while missing.

The person is normally resident in the United Kingdom (UK) and is believed to have travelled abroad.

The person is normally resident abroad and is believed to have gone missing while in the UK.

The validity of the information being provided by the person reporting.

Why is this person being reported missing? Is there a hidden motive? How well does the reporting person know the missing person? How reliable is their information?

The person reporting or the family believes there are other special factors to be considered.

Community concerns/critical incident

Are there community concerns surrounding the disappearance of the subject?

Is the subject's disappearance one that should be treated as a Critical Incident? (Any incident where the effectiveness of the Police response is likely to have a significant impact on the confidence of, the victim, their family, and/or the community)

Appendix 6

Missing Child / Young Person (Also see CCP procedures & Missing Children Guidance)

1. Marking file – Child recorded as missing

Information received from any source, including EDT, which suggests a child (any child, not just CLA) has been missing from home or placement for *any period where it was deemed necessary to report the child as missing to the police*¹³, **must** be recorded on ICS using the 'Missing link' on the personal tab in child's demographics.

Child: Candy Sweet 12 years 23-Aug-2000 (Ref: 535623) **REF**
Basic Demographics

An **Open Referral** exists for this child which started on Apr-2017

My View	Personal	Additional	Identity	Risks	Parental Factors	Relationships	Involvements	CIN	CP	CLA	Costs	History	Chronology	Forms	Case Notes
Child	Personal Details	Address	Main Carer(s)/Cares For												
	Case Number: 535623 Title: MISS Surname: Sweet Forename: Candy Gender: FEMALE Actual DOB: 23-Aug-2000 Age: 12 years Type: Child Aliases: ▶ Update Details ▶ Upload Photograph ▶ View/Update Aliases ▶ Printable View	Primary Address: 15 Ermine Road, Ladywell, London, SE13 7JT from 23-Aug-2000 ▶ Address History / Update Addresses	No Main Carer(s) or cared children defined												
		Telephones	Important Information												
		▶ Add Contact Number... ▶ Show Relevant Contact Numbers	⚙ This child does not have a valid M03 Ethnicity code ⚙ No Case Status Information defined												
		E-Mail	Contact & Referral												
		E-Mail	▶ Add Missing Child Record ▶ Create a new Contact												

2. Staff should fill out the fields in the screen below:

E.g.

- **Date child went missing (Started). NO end date until child has been found**
- **Time gone missing – pick list**
- **Location missing from – last known location of child**
- **Missing status -**
- **Responsible Authority – including Lewisham**
- **Description (of child and/or circumstances)**
- **Instructions (what to do immediately and once child is located)**
- **NB: Risk Factors & Risk Assessment information to be completed**
- **And then click on Create**

¹³ Definitions - Unauthorised absence: **Absence for short period of time (under 6 hours), often their whereabouts are known or may be quickly established through contact with family or friends or are unknown but the child/young person are not considered to be at risk.** Missing: refers to children and young people up to the age of 18 who have run away from their home or care placement, have been forced to leave, or whose whereabouts are unknown.
See Lewisham Missing Protocols on Tri-Ex

Child: **Candy Sweet** 12 years 23-Aug-2000 (Ref: 535623) 

New Address

Create Cancel - Create a new Missing Person

New Missing Person: Missing from 22-Apr-2013

Missing Person Dates

Started: 01/04/2013
 Time gone missing: 06:30
 Ended:
 Time found:

Missing Person Location

Location missing from: From Home
 Location when gone missing:
 Location found:

Missing Person Details

Missing Status: Missing
 Responsible Authority: Lewisham
 Description: Shoulder length hair with red tips, slim build approx 5.4ft, small tattoo of a flower to right hand.

What to do and who to contact

Instructions: Contact police and named social worker - EDT if out of hours

Risks

Risk Factor (contact with person/s posing risk): Self harm(er)
 Engaged in criminal activities: Yes No
 Been hurt or harmed: Yes No
 Mental Health Issues: Yes No
 Risk of Sexual Exploitation: Yes No
 Risk Assessment Completed:

Done Local intranet 100%

3. Then, go into FORMS tab and do the following 3 forms:
1. Pre-Risk Assessment (Appendix 2)
 2. Risk Assessment (Appendix 3)
 3. Police Information Sharing (Appendix 4) – for ALL children.

These forms should be done:

- Always - the first time child went missing
- Updated - whenever the circumstances and/or risks have changed.

My View Personal Additional Identity Risks Parental Factors Relationships Involvements CIN CP CLA Costs History Chronology **Forms**

Forms

Free Text Filter Go Reset

Draft Forms

Form Date	Form Type	User
1 22-Apr-2013 15:25	Referral Record	Jenny Cantell

Completed Forms

Form Date	Form Type	User
1 22-Apr-2013	Contact Record	Jenny Cantell

Cancelled Forms

None

Start New Form

Start

- Age Assessment Proforma
- Appendix 2 Social Care Pre-incident Risk Assessment
- Appendix 3 Missing Child Risk Assessment Record
- Appendix 4 LAC Info Sharing Form Police MPU
- Appendix 5 Children Missing from C. & H: Rtn Questionnaire
- Destitution Assessment
- Finance Request Form
- Human Rights Assessment
- Lone Working Checklist
- MASH Enquiry Form
- Permanency Planning Meeting Form

Attached Documents

Create Document
 There are no documents.

Actions

Create Document

4. Updating Missing Person Record

It is also possible to update the information previously recorded. Click on the 'The child is recorded as missing link' in the Personal Tab in Demographics.

Child: Candy Sweet 12 years 23-Aug-2000 (Ref: 535623) **REF**
Basic Demographics

An **Open Referral** exists for this child
Apr-2013

My View	Personal	Additional	Identity	Risks	Parental Factors	Relationships	Involvements	CIN	CP	CLA	Costs	History	Chronology	Forms
Child	Personal Details	Address		Main Carer(s)/Cares For		Important Information								
	Case Number: 535623 Title: MISS Surname: Sweet Forename: Candy Gender: FEMALE Actual DOB: 23-Aug-2000 Age: 12 years Type: Child Aliases: Update Details Upload Photograph View/Update Aliases Printable View	Primary Address: 15 Ermine Road, Ladywell, London, SE13 7JT from 23-Aug-2000 Address History / Update Addresses		No Main Carer(s) or cared children defined		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This child does not have a valid 903 Ethnicity code No Case Status Information defined This child is recorded Missing 								
		Telephones		Contact & Referral										
		Add Contact Number... Show Relevant Contact Numbers		Create a new Contact										
		E-Mail												
		E-Mail												

Click the Update Missing Person Record link on the next screen.

Child: Candy Sweet 12 years 23-Aug-2000 (Ref: 535623) **REF**
Missing Person Record

Missing Person: Missing from 01-Apr-2013

Missing Person Dates	Risks	Creation Details
Started: 01-Apr-2013 Time gone missing: 06:30	Risk Factor (contact with person/s posing risk): Self harmer	Date Created: 22-Apr-2013 Created By: Jenny Cantell Created Dept: Assessment Serv
Missing Person Location	Engaged in criminal activities Been hurt or harmed: Yes Mental Health Issues Risk of Sexual Exploitation: Yes Risk Assessment Completed Return Interview Completed	Last Modification Modified By: Jenny Cantell - Assessment Serv Modified Date: 22-Apr-2013 15:
Location missing from: Home Location when gone missing:		
Missing Person Details		
Missing Status: Missing Responsible Authority: Lewisham Description: Shoulder length hair with red tips, slim build 5.4ft tall with small tattoo of a flower purple to right hand.		
What to do and who to contact		
Instructions: Contact police, named Social Worker or EDT if out of hours		
Actions		
Update Missing Person Record Child Found Change Missing Status Printable View		

Missing Person: Missing from 01-Apr-2013	
Missing Person Dates	
Started	01-Apr-2013
Time gone missing	06:30
Missing Person Location	
Location missing from	Home
Location when gone missing	
Missing Person Details	
Missing Status	Missing
Responsible Authority	Lewisham
Description	Shoulder length hair with red tips, slim build 5.4ft tall with small tattoo of a flower purple to right hand.
What to do and who to contact	
Instructions	Contact police, named Socail Worker or EDT if out of hours
Outcomes	
Outcomes	Update 2/4 @ 07:00hrs has been seen outside of McDonalds in Catford, but ran off when approached
Actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Update Missing Person Record ▶ Child Found ▶ Change Missing Status ▶ Printable View 	

Update the relevant fields.

5. Removing the child is recorded as missing alert

Once the child has been located the record **must** be updated It is essential that accurate records are maintained. Click on the 'The child is recorded as missing link' in the Personal Tab in Demographics.

Child: Candy Sweet 12 years 23-Aug-2000 (Ref: 535623) REF

Basic Demographics

⚠ An **Open Referral** exists for this child which start Apr-2013

My View	Personal	Additional	Identity	Risks	Parental Factors	Relationships	Involvements	CIN	CP	CLA	Costs	History	Chronology	Forms	Case Notes
Child	Personal Details	Address	Main Carer(s)/Cares For												
	Case Number 535623 Title MISS Surname Sweet Forename Candy Gender FEMALE Actual DOB 23-Aug-2000 Age 12 years Type Child Aliases ▶ Update Details ▶ Upload Photograph ▶ View/Update Aliases ▶ Printable View	Primary Address 15 Ermine Road Ladywell London SE13 7JT from 23-Aug-2000 ▶ Address History / Update Addresses Telephones ▶ Add Contact Number... ▶ Show Relevant Contact Numbers E-Mail E-Mail	No Main Carer(s) or cared children defined Important Information * This child does not have a valid 903 Ethnicity code * No Care Status Information defined * This child is recorded Missing Contact & Referral ▶ Create a new Contact												

Click the Child found link on the next screen and complete the sections.


Child: Candy Sweet 12 years 23-Aug-2000 (Ref: 535623) REF


Missing Person: Missing from 01-Apr-2013	
Missing Person Dates	
Started	01-Apr-2013
Time gone missing	06:30
Missing Person Location	
Location missing from	Home
Location when gone missing	
Missing Person Details	
Missing Status	Missing
Responsible Authority	Lewisham
Description	Shoulder length hair with red tips, slim build 5.4ft tall with small tattoo of a flower purple to right hand.
What to do and who to contact	
Instructions	Contact police, named Social Worker or EDT if out of hours
Outcomes	
Outcomes	Update 2/4 @ 07:00hrs has been seen outside of McDonalds in Catford, but ran off when approached
Actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Update Missing Person Record ▶ Child Found ▶ Change Missing Status ▶ Printable View 	

The following fields on the next screen must be completed to end the missing child status:

- **Ended**
- **Time Found**
- **Location Found**
- **Outcomes**
- **Risk Assessment Completed box** – indicate whether they have been done.
- **Return Interview Completed box** – indicate whether Return Interview Form have been completed, if not, give reasons and indicate when/if (date) it will be done.
- **Click Update** - This will end the 'missing' status.


Child: Candy Sweet 12 years 23-Aug-2000 (Ref: 535623) REF


Update Cancel - Complete the details of the child's return

Update Missing Person: Missing from 01-Apr-2013	
Missing Person Dates	
Started	01-Apr-2013
Time gone missing	06:30
Ended	03/04/2013
Time found	05:00
Missing Person Location	
Location found	At friends house in Sydenham, hiding under the bed
Missing Person Details	
Missing Status	Missing
Description	Shoulder length hair with red tips, slim build 5.4ft tall with small tattoo of a flower purple to right hand.
Outcomes	
Outcomes	Update 2/4 @ 07:00hrs has been seen outside of McDonalds in Catford, but ran off when approached Found 03/4 @ 05:10hrs located at 333 Bell Green, under the bed of Penny L 432156.
Risks	
Risk Factor (contact with person/s posing risk)	Self harmer
Engaged in criminal activities	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Been hurt or harmed	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Mental Health Issues	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Risk of Sexual Exploitation	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Risk Assessment Completed	To be completed by nar
Return Interview Completed	To be completed by nar

6. Complete Return Interview Questionnaire

Find it in the Forms tab, Appendix 5

The screenshot shows a software interface with a navigation bar at the top containing tabs: My View, Personal, Additional, Identity, Risks, Parental Factors, Relationships, Involvements, CIN, CP, CLA, Costs, History, Chronology, Forms, and Case Notes. The 'Forms' tab is selected. Below the navigation bar, there is a 'Forms' section with a 'Free Text Filter' and 'Go'/'Reset' buttons. To the right, there are sections for 'Attached Documents' and 'Actions'. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'Draft Forms', 'Completed Forms', and 'Cancelled Forms'. Each section has a table with columns for 'Form Date', 'Form Type', and 'User'. Below these sections is a 'Start New Form' button, which is highlighted with a pink box. A dropdown menu is open below the button, showing a list of form types. The form type 'Appendix 5 Children Missing from C & H: Rtn Questionnaire' is highlighted in the dropdown menu.

Form Date	Form Type	User
22-Apr-2013 15:25	Referral Record	Jenny Cantell

Form Date	Form Type	User
22-Apr-2013	Contact Record	Jenny Cantell

Cancelled Forms
None

Start New Form

- Age Assessment Proforma
- Appendix 2 Social Care Pre-incident Risk Assessment
- Appendix 3 Missing Child Risk Assessment Record
- Appendix 4 LAC Info Sharing Form Police MPU
- Appendix 5 Children Missing from C & H: Rtn Questionnaire
- Destitution Assessment
- Finance Request Form
- Human Rights Assessment
- Lone Working Checklist
- MASH Enquiry Form
- Permanency Planning Meeting Form

7. Have you completed all the other Missing Forms??

- **Appendix 2 – Pre-Incident Risk Assessment Form**
- **Appendix 3 – Missing Child Risk Assessment Record**
- **Appendix 4 – Information Sharing Form**

AND, have you entered the end date on the Missing Record on the Personal Tab?

8. Viewing all episodes

You can now view all the missing/unauthorised episodes in one go and can access that individual episode by clicking on it from here as well.

To access this summary of all missing/unauthorised episodes for a specific child click on the Additional Tab in Demographics.

My View | Personal | **Additional** | Identity | Risks | Parental

Disability

Is Disabled?

Is on a Disability Register?

Disabilities

No Disabilities Recorded

▶ Add a Disability

Categories of Need

No Categories of Need Recorded

Legal Statuses

No Legal Statuses Recorded

▶ Add Legal Status

Missing Person records

	Started	Ended	Missing Status
1	05-Oct-2012	08-Oct-2012	Unauthorised Absence
2	29-Sep-2012	30-Sep-2012	Found
3	17-Sep-2012	18-Sep-2012	Unauthorised Absence
4	09-Aug-2012	10-Aug-2012	Unauthorised Absence
5	27-Jul-2012	28-Jul-2012	Found
6	18-May-2012	19-May-2012	Unauthorised Absence
7	15-May-2012	16-May-2012	Unauthorised Absence
8	21-Apr-2012	22-Apr-2012	Unauthorised Absence
9	15-Apr-2012	16-Apr-2012	Unauthorised Absence
10	13-Apr-2012	14-Apr-2012	Unauthorised Absence
11	24-Mar-2012	25-Mar-2012	Unauthorised Absence
12	21-Feb-2012	22-Feb-2012	Unauthorised Absence
13	10-Feb-2012	11-Feb-2012	Found

▶ Add Missing Child Record

Appendix 7

Information Fact Leaflet

Missing Children



Referral and Assessment Service
1st Floor, Laurence House
1 Catford Road
London SE6 4RU
Direct line 020 8314 3852/6294
Fax 0208 314 3447



Runaway Helpline
is here for you day and night

- 📞 freephone 0808 800 70 70
- ✉️ text 80234
- @ runaway@missingpeople.org.uk
- 🌐 www.missingpeople.org.uk

missing people



ChildLine
0800 1111



NSPCC
HELPLINE
0808 800 5000
help@nspcc.org.uk



centre point give homeless young people a future

Help for young people -Phone: 0845 466 3400



Confidential Help & Advice is available from:
Sexwise
0800 28 29 30

Sexwise is a free confidential advice line on sex, relationships and contraception for young people aged 18 or under.

Or visit www.nhs.uk/livewell/sexandyoungpeople

REFUGE - Freephone 24-Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline
For women and children against domestic violence **0808 2000 247**



FRANK
Friendly, confidential drugs advice

☎️ 082111 📠 0800 77 66 00 or email frank@talktofrank.com

DRINKLINE – 0800 917 8282

Information and advice to anyone concerned about drinking.



VICTIM SUPPORT

find the strength Supportline: 0845 3030900



There4me is a confidential website for those aged between 12-16 years who are worried about something and need some help. They can help with issues such as abuse, bullying, exams, drugs, self harm and relationship issues for example. Message boards are available where you can talk to an agony aunt or talk confidentially with one of their advisors.

**Metropolitan Police is there for you 24/7
Control room 0300 123 1212 or call 101**

Only in an emergency call 999

**Missing Persons Unit – Catford Police Station
0208 284 5000
Staffed from 07:00hrs – 18:00hrs**

**Lewisham Police Station
0300 123 1212**

**Missing Children Liaison Officer
Lewisham Children Social Care
Laurence House
0208 314 9416**

_CSCCYPRunaways@lewisham.gov.uk

APPENDIX F

Navigate Project – Online Safety

1. Project Outline

The Navigate Project was designed to engage 14-18 year olds in a conversation about some of the risks which that age demographic might encounter online, particularly when using social media. In an initial consultation meeting with a range of community partners, many expressed and identified a knowledge and confidence gap between many of those whose aim is to safeguard and educate young people, and the young people themselves when it comes to the use of the internet and social media. It is imperative that this gap is narrowed as much as possible given the extent to which our lives are influenced by social media and the amount of time people spend on social media on average.

Social media has shortened the distance between people, even on opposite sides of the world, and has ended the near-monopoly on information which traditional media once held. While the benefits of such communication and proliferation of information are immeasurable, there are also risks which must be navigated. Just like in the real world, individuals with malicious or criminal intentions may seek to harness the power of social media, such as in instances of harassment or grooming. While the proliferation of information sources has given way to a wealth of misinformation online, also allowing foreign states and terrorist groups to produce and spread propaganda. Giving young people the critical thinking skills and support to navigate the internet and social media should be a constant and evolving priority.

1.1 The objectives of the project were as follows:

- **Raise awareness among children and young people of the need to navigate the internet and social media safely and critically.**
- **Build a more informed picture of the typical activities of young people online, as well as the dangers they may have been exposed to.**
- **Share findings and learning – with a view to rerunning the project in future, potentially with international partners.**

2. Project Format

The project itself came in the form of two large meetings which welcomed groups from various schools and other establishments around the borough. These took place in November 2015 on two separate dates. Attendees were encouraged to complete a survey exploring their experiences on social media (results of which will be discussed in this report).

Each meeting comprised of three presentation from individuals with a focus on a particular area. These presentations aimed to foster dialogue within the school groups on the chosen topics. The areas covered were:

- **Gangs and Criminal Activity Online – delivered by Gwenton Sloley, Serious Violence Officer**
- **Terrorist Group Propaganda Recruitment Online – Liam Duffy, Prevent Officer**
- **Personal Information Security & “Sexting” – Geeta Subramaniam (Meeting 1); Anna Reilly & Sarah Goodwin Safer London Officer (Meeting 2)**

2.1 Gangs session exercise

Gwenton Sloley encouraged each group of 8-10 students to create their ‘own gang’ on their table. The gang needed a name, and all of the members needed street names. The groups were then encouraged to discuss the difficulty for an individual to resist joining the group if they were

targeted for recruitment and then to discuss the difficulty of leaving the gang if they wished to after having joined. This section of the session involved the groups roleplaying as their roles within the gang.

a. Terrorist Propaganda exercise

A short talk was given by Liam Duffy on the evolution of the way terrorists communicate to wider audiences, both before social media and to the present day use of social media by a range of organisations. Broadly, terrorist propaganda online serves two purposes:

- 1) *To instil fear and anxiety in target population by spreading imagery of extreme violence using the internet and social media.*
- 2) *To garner support and sympathy from prospective recruits by the use of violence, spreading the group's message & ideology, as well as presenting a more 'palatable' side to the organisation (such as providing services to local populous).*

Each group was given an envelope containing examples of English-language Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) propaganda which had been disseminated using social media. All of the material was gathered using open source methods, as the issue has been extensively covered by many major media outlets. The groups were encouraged to dissect the propaganda for key messages and themes which were being used to attract recruits.

The young people picked up on the extent to which the group's activities were glamourised, as well as drawing parallels to Hollywood movies and video games. (More themes of conversation can be found on the diagrams overleaf).

b. Personal Information session

The sessions, first led by Geeta Subramaniam, then led by Sarah Goodwin & Anna Reilly in the second session, both focused on how many young people may feel pressured to send sexually explicit images or texts which might then go beyond the intended audience.

- The groups were encouraged to create their own "memes" (humourous images which are spread rapidly by internet users), which could be used in response to another person requesting explicit photos.
- Groups were then tasked to empty a tube of toothpaste onto their table with the objective of getting all of the paste back into the tube. This was to emphasise the permanence of any information which is transmitted over the internet, once information is online, the trace of it can never fully be removed or deleted.

Digital Leadership: To conclude, groups were asked to discuss how they could become 'digital leaders' in their own school, educating peers on safer use of the internet. To further the impact of the Navigate project, we would aim for the students in attendance to continue the conversation in their own schools, educating and raising awareness among their peers and younger students.

Some of the themes of conversation were captured in the diagrams below.



Event 1: 4th November 2015



Event 2: 20th November 2015

3. Discussion of Survey Findings

3.1 Top Lines

- **Content Feeds & Instant Messaging Services**

Young People are using instantly recognisable Social Media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook in combination with messaging apps, in particular Whatsapp and Snapchat. Instagram and Facebook are based around a “news feed” which displays information and updates from other users; whereas Whatsapp and Snapchat are used for one to one (or group using Whatsapp) private messaging. Very few young people are using Twitter, according to survey results.

Personal information on the four most popular apps (Snapchat, Whatsapp, Facebook and Instagram) can be secured with relative ease. Educators must emphasise the necessity of “locking” accounts and being restrictive with sharing even if an account is locked.

- **Anti-Social Media?**

While many people criticise the use of social media as the death of conversation and real-world relationships, giving rise to the term “anti-social media”, young people are primarily using social media to keep in touch with friends, to see what friends are posting online or to keep in touch with partners.

- **Credibility**

When seeking to talk to Young People about social media and the internet it is vital that the educator or facilitator has appropriate levels of knowledge. Without up to date knowledge of social media and the way people are using it, facilitators or educators seeking to run sessions with young people lack the credibility needed to engage young people on the issue.

3.2 Summarised findings

- Respondents claimed to use private messaging apps more than Facebook.
- Vast majority of respondents cited real world friendships as the main reason they used social media, this corresponds with the popularity of private messaging apps.
- 45% of respondents had either met up in person with someone they had met on the internet or had considered doing so.
- Receiving unwanted sexually explicit messages was the most common negative experience which respondents had experienced, closely followed by bullying and harassment.
- Large numbers of respondents had seen gang activity on social media
- 17% of respondents claimed to have encountered terrorist material or content online. The real figure may be higher, as people viewing terrorist material can often be unaware that what they are accessing or viewing is terrorist content. While 17% is a low figure in comparison with other experiences online, before the internet & social media it is unlikely as many typical young people would have been exposed to terrorist content (this may vary by area). The proliferation online of terrorist propaganda must therefore be considered as a serious and potentially worsening issue.
- 10% claimed to have had sexually explicit images of themselves shared without permission, while 27% claimed to know someone who this had happened to. It is possible that this figure is higher, as many people would be uncomfortable discussing, even on an anonymous survey.
- 11% claimed to have experienced grooming online, while 27% knew someone who had experienced grooming. While these figures are lower than other experiences listed, the effects of grooming can have devastating consequences for victims.
- 22% had been threatened with harm online.
- According to responses, it is not always clear for young people where to get help or support regarding harmful experiences online. Messages need to be more clearly communicated to young people.
- While 65% said they would wish to talk to peers about negative experiences online, only 18% would want to talk to teachers. Peer to peer education may therefore be an effective strategy for raising awareness of certain issues. However, teachers in schools may also be the best placed to secure real support for individuals.
- 20% would not feel comfortable discussing harmful experiences online with anyone.

4. Conclusion

Full survey findings can be found below. It is apparent that young people can be exposed to a wide range of negative or harmful experiences when using the internet or social media, therefore attention should be paid to internet safety in general as well as targeting specific areas of concern.

Despite this, young people are relatively relaxed about the risks which can be encountered when operating online. They often see them as no different to dangers or risks which a person might encounter in the real world. While there is truth to this, the degree to which personal information can be jeopardised and the permanence of information posted online is an issue which needs ongoing awareness-raising efforts.

To encourage young people to be more trusting in discussing the issues, particularly if they have experienced harmful behaviour online, it is important for professionals to close the knowledge and confidence gap between young people and adults on the use of social media. One of the

reservations which young people expressed was that adults & professionals often do not have a full understanding of what they may be experiencing.

4.1 Recommendations

- **Peer to Peer education:** Foster peer to peer education among children and young people. Young people rarely feel that adults have the technical expertise or knowledge to discuss social media with credibility. Digital Leadership groups in schools, delivering workshops or assemblies to younger students and peers may be an effective means to raise awareness of safer internet use.
 - **Most respondents said they would feel most comfortable discussing negative online experiences with friends rather than parents or teachers.**
- Based on these survey findings, awareness needs to be raised among young people need to know where they can find support, help and advice when dealing with harmful experiences online.
 - **A minority of respondents knew where to find support on all of the issues covered except bullying/harassment (57% knew where to seek support).**
- The proliferation of terrorist material must be seen as a serious issue, both for the psychological impact of depictions of extreme violence on children but also the potential for the messaging to be effective. There is a risk that in the coming years, a much higher proportion of young people will be exposed to terrorist propaganda.
- Receiving unwanted sexually explicit messages was the concern which most respondents had experienced. Focus on the importance of consent and appropriateness is key.
- Bullying and Harassment were also a key concern for the respondents, like in the real world, the effects can be devastating, protecting those who might be at risk should be an important area of focus.
- Many young people are using the internet for news and current affairs, due to the plurality of information on the internet, educators must encourage and foster the development of effective critical thinking skills from an early age.

Appendix A - Full Survey Findings

1) Survey Respondents: 45% Male; 55% Female

2) Age Range: 14-18

3) In a typical day, which social media app or platform do you use the most?¹⁴

- Snapchat	26%
- Whatsapp	26%
- Instagram	13%
- YouTube	10%
- Facebook	10%
- Steam	9%
- Messenger (Facebook Messenger)	3%
- Skype	3%
- TeamSpeak 3	1%

¹⁴ Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

4) Which of the following best describes why you use social media? (select all that apply)

- Keep in touch with friends 73%
- Play or download media (video games, music, videos, podcasts)
70%
- Send or receive photos and videos
60%
- Uploading photos, videos and other media
58%
- To keep up with other people's updates and posts
52%
- Shopping 40%
- Read other people's comments (on blogs, news stories, etc.)
39%
- Research/knowledge 38%
- For current affairs/the news
27%
- Keep in touch with boyfriend/girlfriend 26%
- Education or learning new skills 24%
- Chat forums 20%
- Finding new friends and meet new people
17%
- Online blogs 9%
- Dating & finding relationships 5%

Other responses:

- "Steam"
- "Watching Videos of people playing games"
- "Browsing"
- "Watching videos"
- "Dank Memes"
- "Online Administration (Memes)"

5) Have you ever met up in person with anyone you have only previously met online?

- Yes
32%
- No 55%
- I have considered meeting up with someone I met online, but have not done it 12%

6) Have you ever experienced any of the following online? (Select all that apply)

- Received unwanted sexually explicit messages 37%
- Bullying/Harassment 35%
- Received unwanted sexually explicit images or video
33%
- Posts or messages related to gang activity on social media
24%
- Threatened with harm 22%
- Terrorist material or content 17%
- Grooming (an older person building a connection with a child or young person for the purposes of sexual abuse or exploitation) 11%
- Sexually explicit images of me shared without permission
10%
- Been pressured into sending sexually explicit messages or images
10%

- Mutually exchanged sexually explicit messages with another person _____
5%
- None of the above _____ 35%

Other Responses:

- "Threatening, some sort of it"
- "Blackmail"
- "Necrophilia"

7) To your knowledge, have any of your friends ever experienced any of the following online? (Select all that apply)

- Bullying/Harassment _____ 58%
- Received unwanted sexually explicit messages _____ 42%
- Received unwanted sexually explicit images or video _____
36%
- Gangs or gang members posting on social media _____
34%
- Threatened with harm _____ 34%
- Grooming _____ 27%
- Sexually explicit images shared without permission _____
27%
- Been pressured into sending sexually explicit messages or images _____
27%
- Mutually exchanged sexually explicit messages with another person _____
22%
- Terrorist material or content _____ 11%
- None of the above _____ 25%

8) If you ever experienced any of the following, would you know where to report it or seek help? (Please select all that apply)

- Bullying/Harassment _____ 57%
- Gangs or gang members posting or messaging on social media _____
40%
- Receiving unwanted sexually explicit messages, images or video _____
40%
- Being pressured into sending sexually explicit messages or images _____
33%
- Grooming _____ 29%
- Sexually explicit images of me being shared without permission _____
29%
- Terrorist material or content _____ 29%
- Being threatened with harm _____ 27%
- None of the above _____ 30%

9) If you were ever made to feel uncomfortable or at risk by your experiences online would you feel comfortable discussing with:

- Friends _____ 65%
- Parents _____ 43%
- Brother/Sister _____ 39%
- Teachers _____ 18%
- Other relative _____ 30%
- I wouldn't want to discuss with anyone _____ 20%

Other responses:

- "Best friend"
- "Police if necessary"

- "The Police"
- "Mentors"
- "Mentor"

10) Do you have any further comments on online safety for young people or advice/guidance young people should be given on dangers; or do you feel that there are any risks which are not addressed?

- "Because of the latest terrorism, young children should be warned of what to do if we see any terrorism online"
- "The internet isn't as scary as you think, just don't meet up with adults, teenagers are fine if you have built a friendship with them."
- "Block!"
- "To (sic) much information on facebook"
- "It's generally your fault"
- "Mute everyone when play online games. Report things that is inappropriate."
- "Be careful, you cannot trust anyone even if you think you can"
- "Be careful mate! Tough world out 'ere"
- "False Advertisement"
- "Tell Someone"

APPENDIX G

Lewisham LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing Subgroup **Missing, Exploitation and Trafficking (MET) Board** **Terms of Reference**

Definitions

Missing:

For the purpose of this terms of reference, a child (i.e. a young person under the age of 18 years) is to be considered '**missing**' if their whereabouts are unknown, whatever the circumstances of their disappearance. They will be considered missing until they are located and their well-being or otherwise is established (*LSCB Guidance Safeguarding Children's Missing from Home or Care*).

This group will consider those missing from:

- Education
- Home
- Care

Child Sexual Exploitation:

The government aims to provide clarity so all professionals are using the same definition of child sexual exploitation in their work to prevent abuse and investigate offending.

The definition adopted is:

'Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status. Consent is irrelevant, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and may occur online.' (*Working Together to Safeguard Children*).

Aims of Subgroup/Key objectives:

The Lewisham Local Safeguarding MET Board is a strategic subgroup that aims:

- To develop across the partnership a coherent approach to identifying, reporting, tackling and the joint analysis of CSE and its data/information to further inform the partnership approach.
- To develop the performance information and data to support and underpin the ongoing development and delivery of the CSE Strategy and aligned action plans.
- For all Members to be accountable for their agencies delivery and response to CSE and Missing, assisting with unblocking barriers and championing this issue.
- The sub-group to be responsible for implementing the CSE and Missing Strategy and associated action plans and any improvement plans aligned to this agenda.
- The CSE sub-group to continue to respond to and learn from local and national issues and initiatives.
- The sub-group to be pro-active in listening to and involving children, parents and carers.

Membership:

Criteria for membership:

Having strategic responsibility within their organisation or agency for CSE and/or missing children and able to commit resources to address identified areas in line with the needs of the strategy.

Responsibility of members:

- To attend each Missing and CSE sub group meeting or provide a suitable agreed substitute when unable to attend.
- Commit to their agency addressing the key objectives of this group as above and delivery of the CSE Strategy and associated action plan.
- Complete actions as required within agreed timeframes.
- Contribute to developing a local problem profile.
- To disseminate learning within each agency.
- To provide data sets as specified and assist with associated analysis and planning and service response.

Membership:

Director Children's Social Care, Lewisham Council (Joint Chair)
Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People, Lewisham Council (Joint Chair)
Head of Joint Commissioning, Lewisham Council
Quality Assurance Service Manager,
Detective Chief Inspector, Metropolitan Police (Chair of MET Tactical Group/Operational group)
Safer London Foundation,
Strategic Service Manager Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Lewisham Council
Designated Nurse Safeguarding and LAC, Lewisham CCG
Headteacher; Principal, Knights Academy
Service Manager, Youth Offending Service
Fair Access Panel Primary and Secondary
Head of Nursing Women's and Sexual Health
CAMHS
London Probation Trust
Detective Chief Inspector, Lewisham Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT),

Advisors to the Board:
Missing Children Liaison Officer
CSE Senior Social Worker
LSCB Business Manager

Minutes

LSCB Administrator

Structure:

- The CSE and Missing Subgroup will report to the Executive sub-group and to the LSCB Quarterly
- The CSE and Missing Subgroup will contribute to the LSCB Annual Report.
- The MET Board will report data and activity interchangeably between the Tactical and Operational groups
- Board meetings will occur bi-monthly.
- Board meetings will last approximately 2 hours.

- Papers, previous minutes and Agenda will be circulated at least 1 week prior to the Board.

Frequency of meetings:

The MET Board will take place quarterly, with a minimum of four meetings per year. More meetings can be requested by the chair as and when is needed.

Review:

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the sub group and Board in June 2017.

MET Tactical Group Terms of reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Lewisham MET Tactical Monthly Group is to:

- a) Share information and intelligence between partner agencies about young people at risk of sexual exploitation, at risk of being victims of trafficking or modern slavery and those that are missing.
- b) To bring scrutiny to the work and activity of the Operational MET Group weekly meetings when seeking to safeguard and protect children and young people through weekly monitoring (e.g., levels of risk, frequency of missing episodes, locality information of missing episodes and CSE activities, intelligence of gang or drug activities amongst adults and peers)
- d) To identify local responses to disrupt places/groups exploiting children and young people
- e) To work collectively to map 'hotspots' and analyse trend information borough wide
- f) To identify gaps in borough wide service provision and address these collectively
- g) To quality assure responses to MET issues by:
 - i. Monitoring data to establish patterns of activity and risk
 - ii. Undertaking practice audits and addressing any resulting need for change in procedures and practice.
 - iii. Ensuring lessons learnt are disseminated and acted upon

2. Membership

- a) Members from all organisations should be at manager and senior manager level and have sufficient knowledge to be able to provide an update on information held by their organisation on the strategies and responses discussed affecting CSE and those trafficked or missing from their care placement or home.
- b) Members should be willing to take on both tactical and strategic actions tasked by the chair of the meeting and ensure that these actions are completed in a timely manner.
- c) The group will include representatives from:
 - Met Police
 - Children's Social Care – Quality Assurance, CSE, LSCB
 - Youth Offending Service
 - Education – Safeguarding and Education Welfare
 - NHS Trust – Safeguarding Lead
 - Sexual Health Lead
 - Serious Youth Violence Lead (London Borough of Lewisham)
 - Safer London
 - Refuge
- d) Representatives from other agencies may be asked to join the group as needed if additional needs are identified or specialist advice is required.
- e) Membership will be reviewed annually by the MET Strategic Group

3. Reporting and Accountability

- a) The meeting will be co-chaired by representatives from Police (Borough) and Children's Social Care Services (Quality Assurance).

- b) Themes and trends identified will be reported to the MET Strategic Board which meets on a quarterly basis.
- c) Service gaps will be highlighted with the expectation that a strategic response will be provided by senior managers and service leads

4. Frequency of Meetings, Attendance and Review

- a) The group will meet once monthly
- b) Administration and minutes for the group will be shared by all agencies and the duty of providing accurate action points from the meeting will be shared amongst attendees.
- c) Terms of Reference to be reviewed annually by the MET Strategic Group.

5. Responsibilities

- a) To provide clarity on how safeguarding is addressed within the specific priority areas of child sexual exploitation (CSE), the trafficking of children and young people and agency responses to managing missing young people.
- b) To ensure there is a local tactical response to guide and co-ordinate the work of the Operational Group to reduce the exploitation of children including those at risk of trafficking and those who go missing from home or care.
- c) To consider multiple intelligence sources to develop tactical responses; e.g., mapping intelligence, oversight of case and assessment work, audit work and analyses and provide a high level statistical analyses to the MET Strategic Board.
- d) To ensure that all local practice, guidance and procedure are managed in line with statutory requirements.
- e) To develop and implement processes for the sharing of multi-agency intelligence information so that children at risk can be identified and action taken to manage risks that they experience and to work to minimise these.
- f) To review the terms of reference of the Operational Group and to ensure that criteria for referral to weekly meetings is robust and appropriate.
- g) To respond to service provision deficiencies identified through suggesting commissioned responses to the Strategic MET Board.
- h) To provide the Strategic MET Board with higher level dashboard analyses resulting from the work of the Operational MET Group.

MET Operational Group Terms of reference

The multi-agency MET Operational Group meets weekly to look at all children identified as being missing, trafficked or victims/at risk of CSE. A better understanding of the indicators of trafficking and/or CSE by frontline practitioners has resulted in a steady increase in the number of children being identified and monitored by the group. Children are categorised as being at one of three levels of risk:

- High - the child will be open to children's social care;
- Medium - the child will have a lead professional;
- Low - the child will be known to and checked on by professionals.

When the group meets, it reviews the information they have about each child to ensure that the response is appropriate to the level of risk (it is often the case that children will move up and down between levels of risk) and will also share intelligence on hotspots of activity, parties, activity of perpetrators/subjects etc.

Updated weekly, the MET Operational Group maintains a list of all children and young people who have been identified as missing, trafficked or at risk of CSE that includes:

- The number of high, medium and low risk flags;
- Gender split;
- Age profile;
- Ethnicity;
- Accommodation (whether the child/young person is with family or in foster/residential care);
- Missing person hotspots;
- Information on victims, perpetrators, locations and intelligence gaps.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Lewisham MET Operational group is to:

- a) Share information between partner agencies about young people at risk of Sexual Exploitation, at risk of being victims of trafficking or modern slavery and those that are missing, including Peer on Peer abuse, Serious Youth violence and Harmful Sexual Behaviour.
- b) To ensure appropriate safeguarding has been put in place to protect the young person.
- c) To identify a lead agency / individual to ensure that the risk identified is appropriately managed.

2. Membership

- f) Members from all organisations should be at practitioner level and have sufficient knowledge to be able to provide an update on information held by their organisation on the children discussed.
- g) Members should be willing to take on actions tasked by the chair of the meeting and ensure that these actions are completed in a timely manner.

- h) The group will include representatives from:
 - Met Police
 - MASH Children's Social Care
 - Youth Offending Service
 - Youth Service
 - Education
 - Health
 - Sexual Health
 - Serious Youth Violence
 - Safer London
 - Refuge
 - Specialist Practitioners CSE, Missing; Serious Youth Violence
- i) Representatives from other agencies may be asked to join the group as needed if additional needs are identified or specialist advice is required.
- j) Membership will be reviewed annually by the MET Board.

3. Reporting and Accountability

- d) The meeting will be co-chaired by management representatives from Police and Children's Social Care.
- e) Themes and trends identified will be reported to the MET Tactical group which meets on a monthly basis.

4. Frequency of Meetings, Attendance and Review

- d) The group will meet every week.
- e) Administration and minutes for the group will be provided by Police with the duty of providing accurate action points from the meeting will be shared amongst attendees.
- f) Terms of Reference to be reviewed annually by the MET Board.

5. Responsibilities

- i) To provide clarity on how safeguarding is addressed within the specific priority areas of child sexual exploitation (CSE), the trafficking of children and young people and agency responses to managing missing young people.
- j) To ensure there is a local practice and procedure to provide an operational response to co-ordinate the work to reduce the exploitation of children including those at risk of trafficking and going missing.
- k) To have a clear understanding of the prevalence of MET children.
- l) To ensure that all local practice and procedure are managed in line with statutory requirements.
- m) To develop and implement processes for the sharing of multi-agency intelligence information so that children at risk can be identified and action taken to manage risk.

6. Referral Criteria

- a) All children under the age of 18, living in Lewisham/Looked After by, who are reported missing to the police during the last 7 days will be discussed at the meeting.

- b) Any child, under the age of 18, who has been identified as being at risk of CSE during the past 7 days
- c) Any child, under the age of 18, who has been trafficked or has been identified as being at risk of trafficking or modern Slavery.
- d) Any child where there is exploitation linked to peer on peer abuse or serious youth violence
- e) Harmful Sexual Behaviour



Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board

Business Plan 2016-2018

Welcome to the Lewisham LSCB Business Plan.

This plan has been developed through consultation with partners and stakeholders, and our local children and young people. The plan describes our priorities over the next two years and will be subject to regular review to ensure it remains relevant to the needs of our community.

There are five key priorities and these will all be underpinned by a focus on embedding learning and improvement and developing our understanding of the child's journey through services in Lewisham.

Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is responsible for;

- Coordinating what is done by each person or body represented on the board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established.
- Ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose
- Promoting greater understanding of the need to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

LSCB Priorities for 2016 – 2018

1.	Neglect	Improve the effectiveness of agencies and the community in identifying and addressing neglect
2.	Governance and Performance	Increasing the effectiveness of the LSCB as a truly effective agent in securing positive outcomes for children, in protecting them from abuse and exploitation
3.	Communication	The LSCB raises the profile of safeguarding across the Borough, amongst practitioners, stakeholders and the community with a particular focus on the most vulnerable or at risk.
4.	Consultation and Engagement	Ensuring that the voices of children and young people influence learning, best practice and the work of the LSCB
5.	Child Sexual Exploitation	Increasing the effectiveness of agencies and the community in identifying and addressing Child Sexual Exploitation

1. NEGLECT

Improve the effectiveness of agencies and the community in identifying and addressing neglect

No	Aims / Objectives	Action	Outcome	Target date	Lead	RAG
1.1	Identification and support of children suffering abuse from neglect . Ensuring the workforce is equipped to identify neglect early and working together to ensure children are receiving the right support at the right time.	LSCB Training offer includes a focus on core skills needed to engage in direct work with children and families, good assessment skills, recognition and management of neglect.	Training audit and evidence from evaluation process demonstrate that practice is being positively influenced by LSCB training and that all core agencies take up	Annual training feedback to LSCB – March 2017	PPT task group	3 stage training evaluations ongoing – PPT annual training report to March 2017 LSCB

		Workforce should be encouraged to use the LSCB Neglect resource document.	training.			
1.2	The LSCB needs to be assured that interventions are effective in improving the outcomes for children experiencing neglect.	LSCB Performance framework to capture data relating to neglect across child protection, child in need and early help interventions	The LSCB is able to monitor and challenge practice through robust performance data	December 2016	LSCB Business Manager & Independent chair	MB and NP to meet in relation to performance framework
		A multi-agency neglect strategy is developed & implemented, which establishes the most appropriate working model for Lewisham, ensuring all procedures are standardised	Procedures for neglect across Lewisham is standardised and services are aware of the processes to follow	March 2017	PPT Task Group	Neglect strategy to be drafted
		Thematic audit of neglect, including lessons learnt from local serious case review in respect of neglect concerns (audit to consider 'voice of the child' and safeguarding supervision arrangements)	The LSCB is assured that the partnership is working appropriately to safeguard children from neglect	March 2017	MESI task group	Neglect audit to be initiated as part of MESI audit plan 17/18

2. PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE
Increasing the effectiveness of the LSCB as a truly effective agent in securing positive outcomes for children, in protecting them from abuse and exploitation

No	Aims/Objective	Action	Outcome	Target date	Lead	RAG
2.1	The LSCB needs to ensure it has a comprehensive system of scrutiny, assessment and analysis in place that enables identification of risk to children across all services	LSCB Performance Framework to be updated to ensure qualitative and quantitative data is captured across all key services. Template to be created, to include appropriate analysis of data provided and comparative data	A comprehensive multi-agency performance framework informs the work of the LSCB and enables the LSCB to challenge and hold agencies to account	December 2016	MESI task group & Independent Chair	Performance framework to be updated
2.2	To ensure that partner agencies are working together effectively to promote safety and better outcomes for children, which is evidenced by good quality multi-disciplinary casework.	The LSCB multi-agency auditing process should continually be developed by drawing up a robust annual auditing plan with key, relevant themes which may arise from SCR, Multi-agency reviews, Internal Management Reviews, Performance Indicators and inspections	The LSCB is assured that the audit plan is solution-focussed and an opportunity for further improvement of outcomes for children across the partnership. The LSCB will be confident that effective inter-agency working is taking place to	Annual Audit Plan to be signed off by March	MESI task group	Audit plan for 2016/17 in place

			ensure children are safe from harm.			
2.3	All forums and boards are clear on their remit and accountability. Communicating and reporting processes should be clear and the LSCB should be able to evidence scrutiny and challenge across the partnership forums.	LSCB governance and reporting arrangements to be reviewed.	All forums and boards are clear on their remit and accountability and good safeguarding arrangements and practice is evident across these bodies	January 2017	LSCB Business Unit	LSCB governance doc to be updated. TOR for all task groups to be updated. Protocol between boards to be updated and implemented.

2.4	The LSCB needs to hold agencies to account for their safeguarding arrangements and evaluate how well they work individually and together to ensure the safety and welfare of children.	<p>All statutory agencies should comply with and complete section 11 audits, as specified in the <i>Working Together 2015</i> document.</p> <p>Any gaps / areas for improvement in agencies safeguarding arrangements should be identified, challenged and addressed.</p>	<p>The LSCB is confident that there are effective safeguarding systems and processes in place in all agencies and schools across Lewisham (safeguarding leadership, policies, procedures, staff development and safe recruitment) to ensure children's safety. The target for statutory agencies completing section 11 audits is 100%.</p>	<p>New section 11 process to be implemented by April 2017</p>	<p>MESI task group</p>	<p>Independent chair to present section 11 proposal to LSCB in December 2016</p>
		<p>All Lewisham schools (including private and special schools) to complete s11 audit.</p>				
2.5	The LSCB will be satisfied that the workforce across all agencies is trained to the required safeguarding standard and evaluation outcomes indicates a	<p>Annual LSCB training programme to be in place.</p> <p>All LSCB training to be evaluated through</p>	<p>Professionals across the CYP partnership are equipped with the knowledge and skills to respond</p>	<p>Annual training programme signed off by LSCB – March 2017</p>	<p>PPT Task group</p>	<p>Annual training programme 2017/18 drafted.</p> <p>New evaluation process being</p>

	positive impact on practice.	the 3 tier process. Annual training report to be presented to the LSCB for scrutiny and challenge where needed.	appropriately to safeguarding issues and therefore assure children are safe. The LSCB can demonstrate that training has a direct impact on practice which results in better outcomes for children.	March 2017		considered by PPT. To include in annual report to LSCB
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3. COMMUNICATION

The LSCB raises the profile of safeguarding across the Borough, amongst practitioners, stakeholders and the community with a particular focus on the most vulnerable or at risk children.

No	Objective	Action	Outcome	Target date	Lead	RAG
3.1	Practitioners, parents, carers and children and young people need to understand what is required to keep children safe. Key messages identified through the work of the LSCB should be communicated in an appropriate, user friendly manner.	Develop the LSCB Website to improve communication and raise the profile of the LSCB amongst professionals, parents and CYP	There is a clear understanding across the workforce, as well as parents and children, around key safeguarding issues and useful information is readily available to them to ensure the safety of children.	September 2016	LSCB Business Unit	A new LSCB Website is in place and will be kept updated on an ongoing basis by the LSCB Business unit.
		Develop a strategy for communicating with children and parents through a variety of mediums		March 2017	C&P Task group	Draft LSCB Communication strategy in place
		Provide professionals with regular newsletters / briefings on the latest safeguarding updates and		Quarterly newsletters / monthly briefings	LSCB Development Officer	Monthly briefings and quarterly newsletters are disseminated across the partnership and

		opportunities for workforce development events.				available on the LSCB website
4. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT						
Ensuring that the voices of the children and young people influence learning, best practice and the work of the LSCB						
No	Objective	Action	Outcome	Target date	Lead	RAG
4.1	The LSCB needs to ensure that its work and decision making is influenced by the voices of children and young people	Establish a consultation process with a diverse range of children through existing forums and / or events	The LSCB actively captures the voices of children and young people via established forums and apply these messages to its daily work and activities.	April 2017 (existing forums) Other events throughout 2017	C&P task group	Some measures already in place for communicating with CYP, such as CiCC, Young Mayor etc. to form part of comms strategy
	Key themes and safeguarding matters arising as a result of the work of the LSCB should be communicated to CYP in an age appropriate manner	Develop age appropriate materials for CYP regarding key themes and include information on how/where to seek help and support.	CYP is in receipt of age appropriate information regarding key themes and safeguarding matters to ensure they are kept informed on how to keep themselves safe or where to seek support	Ongoing	C&P task group	
5. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION						
Improve the effectiveness of agencies and the community in identifying and addressing Child Sexual Exploitation						

No	Objective	Action	Outcome	Date	Lead	RAG
5.1	To gain a greater understanding of MET children through a comprehensive dataset to ensure all strategic partners can be informed and the borough response monitored	MET dataset to be established, to include qualitative and quantitative data	The LSCB has a good understanding of MET children in the borough and are able to monitor, scrutinise and challenge the responses to and outcomes for these children.	Quarterly	LSCB MET task group	MET dataset agreed. Data to be presented to LSCB met group for consideration.
5.2	The LSCB needs to ensure a qualitative review of its work to address the needs of young people who are MET to inform service delivery and commissioning.	Commissioning of MisUnderstood for comprehensive Peer-on-peer review.	The LSCB will have a clear understanding of the needs of children who are MET to ensure appropriate services are in place	January 2017	Dr Cathleen Firmin	This review has started.
		LSCB multi-agency audit of casework response to CSE	The LSCB is assured that the partnership is appropriately addressing cases of CSE to ensure these children are safeguarded.	December 2016	LSCB MET group & MESI task group	Audit in progress

		Scoping exercise to gauge the extend of CSE arrangements in place across the partnership.	The LSCB will be informed regarding the CSE arrangement in place across the partnership	October 2016	LSCB Business Manager	Scoping exercise done
		Scope and promote existing services available to address MET within VCS.	A list of existing MET services is readily available for practitioners to refer to to ensure CYP receives the appropriate support	January 2017	LSCB MET group	Process started, info to be added on website and appendix to strategy
5.3	The LSCB needs to be assured that the local MET strategy is effective and that the action plan is progressing in line with timescales	The progress of the MET action plan to be scrutinised on a regular basis by the LSCB MET sub group and annually by the LSCB.	<p>There is an increase in the number of referrals in relation to MET.</p> <p>There is a reduction in risk levels of children identified as at risk of becoming MET.</p> <p>The workforce is confident and competent when dealing with MET children.</p> <p>Increase in successful investigations and</p>	At quarterly MET meetings. March 2017 by LSCB	LSCB MET group	Ongoing

			prosecutions. Board members are cited on the issues and address these within their own agencies.			
5.4	Robust whistle-blowing and escalation policies should be in place across all agencies	Agencies to demonstrate they have appropriate escalation policies in place via their section 11 audits.	Professionals are escalating matters appropriately and therefore ensuring matters are dealt with in a timely manner	As per section 11 rota	All partner agencies	New section 11 process to be put in place – to add specific question regarding escalation policies
		LSCB escalation policy to be put in place		December 2016	PPT task group	In draft – to be signed off by LSCB in December 2016
5.5	A robust, well understood and embedded risk assessment tool for identifying and assessing MET/CSE risks/peer-on-peer abuse/serious youth violence concerns across the multi-agency workforce needs to be in place	Risk assessment tool to be updated to include all aspects of MET/peer-on-peer abuse/serious youth violence	The risk assessment tool is used appropriately by professionals and enabling them to put support or safeguarding measures in place for children	March 2017	LSCB MET group	Draft tool in place – needs updating. Small working group to be set up
		Audit of cases utilising MET risk assessment tool		September 2017	MESI task group	As part of MESI audit plan 2017/18
		Refreshed dissemination of updated risk assessment tool.		March 2017	LSCB MET group	

5.6	Information and intelligence relating to victims, offenders and locations should be shared effectively, both internally and across district/regional boundaries	Implement an information sharing protocol by linking with already existing protocols – (7 golden rules)	Appropriate information sharing ensures effective management and mitigation of risk to victims.	March 2017	LSCB MET group	AMBER Link with existing protocols
		Measure intelligence provided to the police. Ensure ongoing alignment of SAAVY Matrix in identifying MET issues across vulnerable young people's groups sharing intel across County police forces	Intelligence and information gathered is raising awareness of a problem profile of MET issues to focussed on	Ongoing	Police	Remains Amber- There is a CSE Problem Profile for the MPS but nothing specific to Lewisham. MET meeting has identified persons involved in different types of exploitation and criminality.
5.7	LSCB should be assured that there are suitable transitional arrangements between a child at risk of MET and adult services when they turn 18, or leave Children's Social Care responsibility	Protocol to be developed and disseminated in line with Adult Safeguarding procedures	Appropriate transition arrangements are in place which ensures young people are safeguarded from MET risks when they turn 18.	April 2017	LSCB and LSAB Business Managers to take forward.	Discussions took place already between business managers in light of how to take this forward
5.8	Awareness needs to be raised across both the public and the workforce ensuring all frontline and strategic staff recognise the warning signs of MET and peer on peer abuse,	MET messages to be incorporated in the LSCB communications work	Improved awareness and understanding of MET issues ensure better responses to children in need	April 2017	LSCB C&P task group	LSCB Comms strategy / plan to be updated
		Ongoing awareness raising events and		Ongoing	LSCB PPT and C&P task groups	Already incorporated in

	understanding and acting on them in an appropriate and timely manner.	learning and development for professionals and community forums	of support and protection			forward LSCB planning
5.9	Work to be undertaken with education establishments to embed MET learning within the curriculum to ensure the provision of universal, consistent and high quality PSHE and sex education	Promote and encourage Governors to hold schools to account for this objective	Children and young people are well informed of MET risks and are able to better protect themselves and / or seek appropriate support.	April 2017	Education representatives	
		Appropriate resources / flyers / information to be provided to schools		Ongoing	LSCB MET and C&P group	
		MET leads in place within schools via designated safeguarding leads	Schools are recognising the signs/concerns and are intervening, supporting and referring as appropriate.	MET presentations at designated leads meetings	LSCB MET group leads	Some MET presentations already done at these meetings
5.10	Community groups, including faith groups and local businesses, need to be engaged and educated in relation to MET matters	These groups to be targeted as part of MET training offer.	Community groups and local businesses are aware of the risks and warning signs to look out for and are therefore taking appropriate action to protect CYP from MET	As per training events	PPT task group	Target groups to be identified to invite to training events
		MET strategy to be disseminated to these community groups and businesses		January 2017	Community safety links	
5.11	The LSCB needs to ensure	Engage with children	The LSCB is clear	Throughout 2017	LSCB	Focus groups /

	that the voice of children and their parents/carers informs service design and delivery	via focus groups / events to capture what the issues are for them in their local area.	about the wishes, feelings and concerns of CYP and these are addressed within the LSCBs workstreams			events with CYP to be set up
5.12	Partners meet their statutory duties in relation to missing episodes and children returning from missing episodes.	Missing policies and procedures to be in place.	Local policies and procedures are in place and are being followed.	January 2017	Missing children liaison officer and police	GREEN Policies and procedures are in place and regular training taking place
		Report to the operational group weekly, the tactical group monthly and the strategic group quarterly. To be added as standing agenda items.		At weekly, monthly and quarterly MET meetings.		Green: All missing children discussed at MET meeting. Including any info obtained from debriefs / safe and well checks
5.13	To provide accessible and 'fit for purpose' therapeutic services for children victims of CSE base on National best practice and local identification of need	Engagement with development of SE Child house Model to ensure gaps in provision are addressed.	Children who suffered harm as a result of CSE are receiving appropriate support in a timely manner	January 2017	MET group and LSCB Independent Chair	Independent LSCB Chair to provide Board with info in December Audit being completed now will review the support provided to those at risk of CSE.
		CCG review of response to children		April 2017		CCG / CAMHS leads

		who are at risk of MET and in need of CAMHS support / other therapeutic interventions to ensure their needs are assessed and services are provided appropriately.				the MET Strategic group confirmed that any young person identified with a mental health need should be referred to CAMHS. She has also taken the considerations for the needs of CSE children to the SE Steering Group implementing the CSA Review, Recommendations in relation to the Child House An audit of CSE children access to CAMHS who had identified mental health needs would be required to evidence whether services are responsive.
5.14	Ensure effective use of data and intelligence from Serious Youth Violence Panel to inform assessment of local need and response, increase effectiveness of early identification of MET and focussed response on	Operational group to monitor data analysis to identify trends for MET tactical group to address.	Trends emerging are identified and addressed appropriately	Weekly	MET operational group	Data being analysed at weekly MET meetings

	repeat occurrences					
5.15	Specific service / specialist staff for children at risk of MET should be put in place	Commission independent provider for return interviews from missing and follow up work. Ongoing review role of specialist posts to ensure impact	CYP are receiving appropriate support to ensure they do not go missing again / reduce missing episodes		Children's Social Care	AMBER St Christopher's commissioned
5.16	Problem profile to be produced for the LSCB MET group and be shared with partners	Quarterly updated multi-agency child sexual exploitation problem profile to be produced and distributed to partners via the MET group	Partners are kept informed about the MET problem profile in Lewisham in order to put measures in place to safeguard CYP from these risks	Quarterly	MET tactical group	AMBER
5.17	Information and intelligence relating to victims and perpetrators should be effectively shared and tasked.	Regular meetings which include statutory and non-statutory partners to share appropriate information	Partners are working together proactively to share information in order to ensure the safety of children against MET	Weekly	Operational MET group	GREEN Weekly MET meetings taking place
5.18	Develop a mechanism for perpetrator profiling and intervention to attempt to break the cycle of offending	Develop a perpetrator toolkit	Potential offenders are identified in order to intervene early and offer support to prevent offences taking place.	December 2016	Police	Green MET Policy Pages contains lots of information on investigating CSE. All substantive offences are investigated by

						specialist investigators from SCD 17.
5.19	To utilise ancillary and civil orders to maximum effect to assist investigations, restrict and manage offenders and support and safeguard victims / potential victims	Review of powers, guidance and dissemination	Victims / potential victims of MET is safeguarded by means of using ancillary and civil orders to its maximum effect and therefore restricting and managing offenders	March 2017	Police	Amber: Police are starting to make good use of Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO) to proactively manage sex offenders, Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) to restrict the activities of those involved in criminality and Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs) for those believed to be harbouring young people. However numbers are still small and this is being promoted amongst all teams.

Appendix B

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Met Briefing

A new Safeguarding Service for London

As an Assistant Commissioner in the Met I'm responsible for local policing in London. I've also worked for some years in the area of sexual offending. Last week, in a speech at the Royal Society of Arts, I spoke about our plans to bring together teams that investigate domestic abuse, sexual offences and child abuse to ensure there's a more integrated approach to investigations.



The safety of children and the vulnerable has always been important to us. But we can do better. And in order to do this we need to look at the broader issues we face; changing and new crime threats, terrorism, the reality of tighter budgets and the pressures of the digital age. With such a complex landscape, we can't just change our safeguarding service in one area; we have to understand and explain how that affects all of the work we do - and how we can more effectively join our specialist service with our front line neighbourhood officers.

Scale of the challenge

The risk and threat is complex, but there are some figures which illustrate the scale of the challenge of protecting children in London. At any one time, more than 8,000 children are on a protection plan in London, and at risk of violence or abuse. Over the past year 25,000 children went missing, over 63,000 children were victims of crime and more than 72,000 were suspected of a crime. 1,500 are defined as being at risk of sexual exploitation, and we investigated over 17,000 child sexual abuse cases last year. And that's not all - many of these children are vulnerable to gangs and gang violence and radicalisation. The complexity is the same for threats to other vulnerable people - with reporting of rape increased by 60% and significant escalation in reporting of domestic abuse and hate crime - and it demands a systemic response from police.

Safeguarding service embedded in local policing

There are similarities across these crimes in they require specialist expertise to understand and investigate. At the same time, every single officer needs to be able to spot the signs of individuals who are vulnerable. That is a huge responsibility for officers to carry. Despite all the training for officers and new recruits, and the specialisms we've already developed, we've reached the conclusion that we need a new safeguarding service embedded in local policing. Bringing together the best of our specialist expertise - in rape, child protection, domestic violence, FGM and hate crime - with our local policing service, officers in neighbourhoods, response teams and CID detectives.

We think there are four main areas for improvement:

1 - a joined up approach for dealing with these risks will give a single point of contact for families, for local authorities, and a single point of view for the Met of a child or adult at risk that takes everything we know into account - violence, abuse, exploitation and radicalisation.

2 - the safeguarding service will work hand in hand with neighbourhood officers and PCSOs. These are the officers who best understand local communities and are the frontline for protecting vulnerable people.

3 - increased numbers of officers working in schools and with young people. They have a vital role to play in identifying those most at risk, raising awareness, and preventing harm.

4 - strengthening leadership. It's an important signal to all our local officers that this is their responsibility. It's not a specialist job for a few.

[A shared mission, working in partnership](#)

Our thinking has evolved over time with input from numerous partners; sometimes sceptical, sometimes critical but always constructive. We've been listening and your input has shaped our thinking. We welcome the Mayor's commitment to tackling violence against women and girls, keeping young children safe whilst strengthening neighbourhood policing. With his support, and that of the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, we have the opportunity to work even more successfully with our range of partners.

This is a shared mission, between police and partners. The Met needs to work more closely with you and focus harder on ensuring we have a collective impact on these complex social problems.

This won't happen overnight. We need to test our thinking and look forward to engaging with you further as we develop a safeguarding package to strengthen our capability in this critical area. If you need any further information in the meantime please contact the MPS External Relations Team at ExternalRelations@met.police.uk

Martin Hewitt
Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service

[You can read the full speech here.](#)