



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

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to create a better borough

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE Care & Support Pathway)

Date for Review: April 2024

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to explain our pathway to safeguard and protect the welfare of children who are or are vulnerable to being sexually exploited. It should be read in conjunction with TWCSF child protection procedures, CATE Practitioner Guidance and the Explore More document.

Exploitation of children is a serious and significant form of child abuse it is also a form of modern day slavery. Many victims of exploitation are also victims of human trafficking. In Telford and Wrekin, we are committed to preventing the exploitation of children, to being able to identify and safeguard those who are at risk and to doing all that we can to ensure that those people who exploit children are held accountable for their actions and are prevented from doing so.

It has been recognised nationally for some time that child protection legislation such as Children Act 1989 and associated government guidance supports child protection systems that have been designed to deal with abuse with the focus being upon abuse taking place in families. In regard to the sexual exploitation of children, it is recognised some children will be exploited by their family or carers, however, most will not be. The primary risk being located outside of the home environment requires a shift away from managing risk within the family home to managing risk within the wider community and/or virtual world. Unless there is evidence to suggest otherwise it requires working with parents and carers as partners in the safeguarding process as opposed to a source of risk in and of themselves. In recognition of this in Telford & Wrekin we have developed a multiagency Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Care & Support Pathway, underpinned by a contextual safeguarding approach, which runs in parallel and interacts with statutory child protection pathways. This has been developed to be able to ensure that we are providing an effective safeguarding response for all children who are sexually exploited.

Following the publication of the Independent Inquiry into Telford Child Sexual Exploitation report in July 2022 the CSE Care and Support pathway has been thoroughly reviewed and revised during 2022/23. This revised pathway has been co-produced between practitioners from Children Social Care, CATE, Police, Education, and Health and we have been supported and assisted by some individuals with lived experience of child sexual exploitation and who now work in the field of CSE, both in the provision of support and in policy and advice.

The Council has a dedicated specialist Child at risk through Exploitation Team (CATE Team), who alongside West Mercia Police Child Exploitation Team, take a central position within the CSE Care and Support Pathway which is a multi-agency pathway endorsed by Telford & Wrekin Children's Safeguarding Partnership (TWCSF).

Children who are supported by statutory child protection planning and where there are concerns that they may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation will also be supported by the CATE Team. The CSE Care and Support Pathway will run parallel to and in partnership with their child protection planning involving close liaison and joint working between Social Workers, CATE Practitioners and their managers.

Definitions

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

We recognise that it has been some time since this statutory guidance has been reviewed and updated in relation to child sexual exploitation. Following the Independent Inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Telford & Wrekin and working with some individuals with lived experience of child sexual exploitation and who now work in the field of CSE, both in the provision of support and in policy and advice Telford & Wrekin Council have adopted the following definition of child sexual exploitation:

Child sexual exploitation is a type of modern slavery when a male or female under 18 is sexually exploited for the benefit or gain of someone else. The benefit or gain can come in many forms such as increased social status or financial gain. Some victims are also trafficked for the purpose of exploitation.

Principles

The principles underpinning this CSE Care and Support Pathway include:

- Child sexual exploitation is child abuse;
- Child sexual exploitation includes sexual, physical, emotional abuse and, in some cases, neglect;
- Identification and risk assessment of young people should be indicator based and not be reliant on evidence;
- Children involved in any form of exploitation are victims of abuse and they should be seen as such and their needs carefully assessed. The aim should be to protect them from further harm and they should not be treated as criminals. The primary law enforcement response should be directed at anyone who intends to inflict harm.
- Parents and carers are an important part in recognising exploitation and keeping their children safe, so every effort will be made to offer support and advice and to refer on to appropriate services if/as necessary;
- The need for effective joint working between different agencies and professionals, underpinned by a strong commitment from managers at all levels, a shared understanding of the problem of child sexual exploitation and effective coordination by the TWCSF.

Response to Child Sexual Exploitation

Any suspicion or concern that a child may be being sexually exploited must **always** trigger contact/referral to either the police or Family Connect (01952 385385).

Emergency Action

Where it is apparent that a child is being immediately abused and exploited or subjected to violence, urgent contact should be made with the Police (999 call).

Children located by the police at immediate risk of sexual exploitation will be found a safe place. If the child is reluctant or prevented to accept the safe place, the police should consider using their police powers of protection. The police will contact Family Connect or, if out of office hours, the Emergency Social Work Duty Team.

Child Sexual Exploitation Care & Support Pathway Explanation & Detail

As stated previously, in the event of anyone having concerns that a child is at risk of sexual exploitation, contact must be made with Family Connect (also see emergency action). This also applies to children who for other reasons are already being supported by a child protection plan, child in need plan or where a child is cared for by the/a Local Authority.

Family Connect Safeguarding Social Workers (FCSW) will guide and assist professionals/parents/carers/members of the public to share the relevant information.

The FCSW will assess the information utilising FC multi agency information sharing processes, having discussions with parents/carers and young people as appropriate. Whilst at the same time being guided by the Explore More document.

Following this, the FCSW will discuss and assess the information contained within the referral and a decision will be made. This will subsequently be overseen and authorised by the Family Connect Safeguarding Manager/Senior Social Worker as to the appropriate action. This will be one or a combination of the following:

- Continuation of Child Sexual Exploitation Care & Support Pathway.
- Not appropriate for CSE Care & Support Pathway as Child Protection Procedures need to be instigated (the threshold for initiating Children Act 1989 section 47 enquiries is met).
- Following initial screening and information sharing processes, the threshold decision has concluded that the issues raised for the child are not considered to be child sexual exploitation. However, advice, guidance and signposting will be offered as part of the conclusion process. It may be that it is appropriate for a referral to be made for a Strengthening Families practitioner (Early Help) if there are other unmet needs identified for the child.

Parents will be provided with details of an Independent Parental Service who would be able to advise and support them.

The Team Manager for Family Connect Safeguarding Team will ensure that feedback is provided to the referrer as to what the outcome of the referral is at this stage.

Should the Strengthening Families practitioner identify more information that is suggestive of child exploitation they should contact a CATE Team Manger to consider allocation to a CATE practitioner. If this is agreed the CATE manager will allocate accordingly.

In all cases, where it has been decided that the appropriate response to the referral is the continuation of the CSE Care & Support Pathway, the Family Connect Team Manager will liaise with the CATE Team Manager with a view to a CATE Practitioner being allocated to the child.

A key aspect of the CSE Care & Support Pathway is the involvement of a CATE practitioner. Many of the children at risk from sexual exploitation have difficulty in trusting the support offered from police officers or social workers initially however, will positively engage with a CATE practitioner who will take as much time as the child needs to build a trusting, non-judgemental relationship who can at the same time work in partnership with the child's parents (if appropriate).

The CATE practitioner will commence an initial risk assessment process. A CATE Senior Social Worker will be available to support the CATE Practitioner as and when necessary in completing this initial risk assessment. The risk assessment should be completed within 30 working days and will be presented to the weekly Multi Agency CE Risk Assessment Panel.

If at any point during the assessment period, there is any indication of a high level of risk to the child then following discussion with the CATE Team Manager, a CSE Contextual Safeguarding Meeting should be convened to ensure that the child's immediate safeguarding needs are considered and responded to without delay through a planned multi agency approach.

During the process of assessment, services commence and are available immediately for the child.

The CATE practitioner's assessment will highlight the level of risk that has been determined for each child. This will then be considered through discussion at the multi-agency risk panel.

Possible assessed levels of Risk:

Vulnerable: There are some indicators that may suggest a child is vulnerable to becoming groomed leading to exploitation.

Complex: There is increased concern and indicators that the young person is at risk of becoming groomed and exploited. There may be multiple vulnerabilities known impacting upon the child.

Acute: Child is experiencing significant harm or at risk from significant harm through known or suspected exploitation.

CSE Multi Agency Risk Panel

The Risk Assessment Panel is convened weekly. The core membership consists of:

- Social Care – Team Manager, CATE
- Senior CATE Practitioner
- Police – CE Detective Sergeant
- Police – CE Coordinator/Analyst

- Health Representative – Safeguarding Advisor, Sexual Health Services, A&E Safeguarding
- Education Representative and virtual school representative
- Youth Offending Representative
- Climb Representative – Children Society
- Safer Stronger Communities representative
- Any key professionals working with the young person i.e. Social Worker.
- Other professionals by invitation as appropriate to the needs of the child.

The Purpose of the CSE Multi Agency Risk Panel is to consider:

- The risk assessment information presented by the CATE Practitioner.
- To consider any police intelligence
- To consider any other agency information.
- As a panel to complete a multi-agency assessment of risk – identifying and agreeing the level of risk and completing the plan to reduce risk to the child.
- To consider any immediate action that is required to be taken.
- To consider the wider needs of the child and to instigate access to appropriate resources for the child.

For all children where the level of risk is assessed as being acute, consideration is given once again as to whether the CSE Care & Support Pathway remains appropriate to remain the primary pathway. If it is considered not appropriate to continue with the CSE Care & Support Pathway, Child Protection Procedures will commence.

If it is appropriate to continue with the CSE Care & Support Pathway, a Multi-Agency CSE Contextual Safeguarding Meeting will be convened for all children where the level of assessed risk is acute.

CSE Contextual Safeguarding Meeting

This meeting provides us with an opportunity to share information, discuss the level of risk and explore the reasons for this level of concern for the child. The purpose of the meeting is to develop a CE support plan to reduce risk for the child, to support parents/carers and to take action in response to offenders.

The child and his/her parents/carers will be encouraged to attend this meeting as they are considered central to the success of the discussion and development of the support plan. It is important that the child is involved as fully as possible in all decisions that are made in respect of them.

Attendees should include:

- Chairperson – Social Worker Team Manager, CATE

- Child
- Parent/Carer
- Police – CE Designated Detective Sergeant (or police representative appointed by the DS)
- CATE Practitioner
- Health Representative
- Education Representative
- Youth Offending Representative
- Child's ICTG
- Other professionals as considered appropriate

Following the CSE Contextual Safeguarding Meeting, the support plan is implemented as agreed at the meeting. The support plan will be reviewed at Review Meetings alongside the current risk assessment for the young person. The frequency of these Reviews will be decided at the CSE Contextual Safeguarding Meeting and subsequent Reviews and will be dependent on the individual need of the child. Review meetings will continue until the level of assessed risk to the child has been reduced to low complex/vulnerable. A Resolution Meeting will agree the step down plan of support for the child. Families of children who may be victims of exploitation will be offered support from Early Help services, Social Care teams or other support services dependant on the level of assessed need within the family.

Complex Strategy Meetings

Using a contextual safeguarding framework, places of concern within the community and/or groups of young people/ adults may be identified. These can be identified using information gained at CSE Risk Panel or through the Police CE Analyst, CSE Leads in Schools and colleges or others such as the Council Public Protection Services and Community services.

In these circumstances, multi agency complex strategy/mapping/tactical meetings will be convened and actions identified to address and reduce community risk.

Children whose primary pathway is the Statutory Child Protection and/or have a child protection plan in place to support them.

Within this document there has been reference to whether the CSE Care & Support Pathway is appropriate to be the primary pathway to respond to the child protection concern for the child. In circumstances where the following exist, the primary pathway should be a statutory child protection response:

- The child is aged 13 or younger;
- Concern that abuse through exploitation is being actively encouraged by a parent/carers;
- Concern that abuse through exploitation is facilitated by the parent/carers intentionally failing to protect the child;

- Concern that a related or unrelated adult, in a position of trust or responsibility to the child, is organising or encouraging abuse through exploitation;
- Concern of child exploitation other than sexual or criminal exploitation is taking place.

In all these circumstances there should be a statutory child protection response and enquires undertaken as set out in Children Act 1989.

Following the completion of the statutory enquiry and assessment it may be that the CSE Care Support Pathway is considered to be the primary pathway best placed to meet the needs of the child. However, for some children and young people they will require their primary support to be via a statutory child protection plan.

There will also be children who have the support of a child protection for reasons unconnected to exploitation due to being at risk of significant harm within their family such as physical, sexual, emotional harm or neglect.

In all of these circumstances:

- The CSE Care & Support Pathway will still be followed alongside the statutory child protection processes, including the completion of a CSE risk assessment by a CATE Practitioner and discussion at multiagency risk panel.
- The CATE practitioner will work alongside the allocated social worker who remains the lead professional with responsibility for the statutory child protection plan.
- The Actions agreed within the CSE support plan will feed into the Child Protection plan.
- The CATE practitioner will attend the Initial Child Protection Conference, Core Groups and Review Child Protection Conference. The CATE practitioner's role at these meetings will be to provide any information known as well as to assist the discussion in relation to the complexities of exploitation and the formulation/review of the Child Protection Plan.
- Due to the nature of the exploitation risk factors for the child, the police need to be inputting directly with the child's family and identifying within the plan the police action that can be offered using their skills, expertise and powers to prevent, disrupt, protect and prosecute.
- The Risk Assessment and Child Protection Plan will guide the response to CSE. There should be specific time allowance made to address this within the meetings.

All children and young people who are allocated a CATE practitioner will be referred to the National Referral Mechanism along with a referral for the child or young person to be considered for allocation to an Independent Child Trafficking Guardian (ICTG).

The impact and trauma of child exploitation for a young person is long lasting and far reaching into adulthood. The CSE Care & Support pathway acknowledges this and commences planning for children age post 17 with the aim of providing the right support from a variety of services depending on individual need as they commence their journey into adulthood and beyond.

Governance

Telford & Wrekin Council's strategic child exploitation lead is responsible for the ongoing coordination of annual review of this pathway, reporting to the TWSP Child Exploitation Sub Group, the TWSP Executive Group and Community Safety Partnership quarterly.

The Service Delivery Manager Child Protection & Family Support and the Public Protection Police Inspector are responsible for the implementation of the pathway assisted by the Service Delivery Manager, Family Connect, Team Manager, CATE and Team Manager, Family Connect.

Child exploitation data and performance is reviewed 6 weekly at Telford & Wrekin Council's Children's Safeguarding Performance Meetings and at each TWSP Child Exploitation sub group meeting which currently is bimonthly.

CATE
Explore More for potential CSE concerns

A. Introduction

This document is intended to support any practitioner working with children and young people to understand what sort of matters **may** indicate that a child or young person is being sexually exploited.

Whilst it is important to recognise that the presence of such factors may be observed in young people who are not being exploited and might be explained as “typical teenage behaviour”, it is important that this does not prevent practitioners from exercising professional curiosity to explore these matters further to ascertain whether a young person is at risk of exploitation.

This document can also be used by those who may make referrals to Family Connect, such as school nurses or Safeguarding Leads, to support them in presenting any matters of concern.

B. Factors/Indicators to explore more

1. Possessing unexplained items

Notes:-

This can be both items which have a value or non-valuable items.

It can encompass any items that are not provided by a parent or carer.

Explore More:-

Food, travel, drugs (including but not limited to cannabis, nitrous oxide, glue, other inhalants), alcohol, vapes, jewellery, clothes and shoes (some of which could be counterfeit), phones, phone top-up, religious items, weapons.

2. Change in routine/attendance at school, college or work.

Notes:-

This can be changes that are seen as either positive or negative.

It should not be assumed that an improvement in attendance, exam results, behaviour in class indicates that exploitation is not occurring.

Explore More:-

Reluctance to leave school/college/work, reluctance to leave home to attend school/college/work, change to school day routine either a positive change such as arriving early or a negative change such as leaving school during the day, change in behaviour at school, being tired/hungry/distracted, change in relationship with school staff including building a strong relationship with a particular staff member, change of route to school, a sudden desire to get to school earlier or later than usual, increased desire to perform well at school.

3. Bullying others.

Notes:-

Bullying can occur for a number of reasons but it is important to delve into the types of bullying and the circumstances in which it occurs to fully understand whether it might indicate a link to exploitation.

Explore More:-

Is the child/young person a victim of bullying, is the child/young person bullying others or displaying controlling behaviour towards others.

Take particular note of any bullying/controlling behaviour where there are concerns that either the 'bully' or the person who is being bullied is at risk of, or is being, exploited.

4. Increased conflict and erratic behaviour.

Notes:-

This is an area where there is a high risk that such behaviours are explained as "typical teenage experiences". Please ensure that probing questions are used so that the full circumstances are understood and any links to other factors contained in this document are known.

Explore more:-

Changes to usual behaviour, being in a rush, being anxious and/or irrational, having an extreme reaction to questions, being more destructive, acting in a way which suggests the child/young person is trying to take back control or power, being more argumentative/destructive in situations where there does not appear to be a trigger.

5. Irrational emotions and manic behaviour, ranging from extreme anger to extreme sadness.

Notes:-

Again, this is often an area which is seen as synonymous with the children growing into teenage years; practitioners need to ensure that they are sufficiently professionally curious so as to understand the reasons for any concerns, including any other factors that can be observed.

Explore more:-

Any changes to mental health, any highs and lows particularly where they might be unexplained, any extreme fluctuations in emotions.

6. Becoming emotional or moody.

Notes:-

This does not necessarily mean that a child/young person becomes very emotional. It could include circumstances where the child/young person hides their emotions.

Explore more:-

Any circumstances in which the young person becomes particularly emotional, has the young person become withdrawn, does the emotion match the situation, may be described as young person seeming 'glazed over' or numb, may not engage in activities/events that young person used to enjoy even if present e.g family gatherings, hobbies.

7. Going missing or returning home late

Notes:-

This could also include going out unexpectedly or leaving school during the school day, even if they later return or being located in an area that is unexplained/unexpected/not permitted.

Explore More:- leaving home/care without explanation, persistently going missing or returning late, being found out of area, travelling to locations that the young person has no connection with, being found with people who are not known to parent/carer, found in areas of concern or areas that intelligence suggests may be linked with exploitation, leaving during the school day, subtle changes in routine, are parents/carers able to confirm whereabouts?

8. Being picked up by unknown adults in unknown vehicles, including taxis and delivery vehicles.

Notes:-

As well as unknown adults, young person may be picked up by unknown friends of a similar age.

Explore More:-

Locations that young person has been seen at, any patterns to when young person is picked up (at home, school, in the community), any identifying details of the person/people, any identifying details of the vehicle, does intelligence suggest that the vehicle(s) may be linked to exploitation, have police been informed.

9. Returning home with injuries or markings.

Notes:-

This may not necessarily be traditional injuries or marks and practitioners should be alert to this. It may also be the case that the young person provides an explanation for any injuries or marks.

Explore More:-

Any bruising particularly in locations that are not easily visible, any burns including those which look like they may be cigarette burns, any cuts and/or scars, tattoos, piercings or any other unexplained marks (these may be marks to indicate 'ownership' or 'belonging' to a particular gang or group).

10. Concerning online and phone usage

Notes:-

If concerns are raised around phone or online use, provide advice on how to impose parental controls where possible. Also, note that there are now many different online apps and platforms which can be used to exploit young people, these include Instagram, TikTok, Whatsapp, Snapchat, Twitter/X, Facebook, Gettr, LinkedIn, YouTube, We Chat, Reddit, Quora, dating sites.

Explore More:-

Excessive amounts of notifications and/or messages. Any use of webcam sites, dating sites and apps, blocking parents/carers/family, presence of images on phones, concerning internet history, escalation of incoming contact (eg unanswered messages leading to phone calls leading to video calls), panic if devices are taken off the young person or passwords are changed, leaving quickly after receiving messages/calls, multiple calls from unknown numbers, preparing appearance to go online e.g make up, eyelashes etc. Multiple sims or multiple phones or multiple social media accounts, being secretive about phones or other devices.

11. Signs of drug use or drug taking equipment

Notes:-

Possession of drugs and paraphernalia does not necessarily indicate that that young person is using drugs. It is important that practitioners and parents/carers maintain an open mind in this respect to ensure that parental/professional trust is maintained.

Explore More:-

Presence of drugs or drug paraphernalia such as gas canisters, rolled up notes, tissues, small polythene bags, broken pens, plastic bottles with holes, crushed/flattened drinks cans, small (around an inch large) pieces of card, rizlas, roaches, small pieces of tin foil, vapes, inhalers; missing cutlery, marks on fingers, feet, ankles, behind the knees; does the young person protect or hide school bags and/or clothing with pockets; strange odours' over reliance on perfumes/deodorant; items of value going missing, increased use of ATMs and cash rather than card/phone transactions; changes in behaviour/health/appearance such as clammy skin, dirty fingernails, looking dirty, persistent coughs and runny nose, stomach upsets, freeze burns around mouth, dental problems; loss of interest in appearance, personal hygiene and age-related fashion, burn marks or holes in clothes; slurred speech and/or twitchy movements; increased lethargy or increased energy; sleeping at unusual times; changes to eating patterns.

12. Sexual health concerns

Notes:-

Explore More:- unplanned pregnancy, terminations, use of emergency contraceptives, visits to multiple sexual health clinics/pharmacies/medical practitioners, repeat urinary tract infections, concerns about sexual health.

13. Significant changes in presentation.

Notes:-

It is important to note that young people will sometimes change their appearance due to wanting to fit in with their friendship group but it is important to explore the circumstances around any changes in presentation to establish if there may be other reasons.

Explore More:-

Wearing large, bulky clothing, wearing gang-related clothing or clothes relating to different cultures, concerns about the type of clothing, wearing more sexualised clothing, lots of make-up and different clothing.

14. Changes in personal hygiene

Notes:-

This could be either a lack of, or an increase in, personal hygiene.

Explore More:-

This could include looking presentable but not taking care of personal hygiene and cleanliness such as not cleaning teeth, not brushing or washing hair, applying make up on top of make up, caked eyelashes. It could also include a greater focus on personal hygiene such as having very frequent hot baths or showers, having sore skin from excessive washing/scrubbing, washing immediately after coming in, not speaking to parents/carers/family until the young person has washed/cleaned.

15. Becoming distant from family and friends or withdrawn from usual social networks

Notes:- Practitioners should be alert to the possibility that a child/young person may become withdrawn from family and friends as a result of the deliberate attempts on the part of a perpetrator to isolate them from their support network and, if there are reports of the child/young person becoming isolated as a result of family tension, should explore how these tensions have occurred and the source of them.

Explore More:-

Avoiding large family events or attending but not participating, ignoring calls/texts from people that the young person has previously been happy to speak to, disinterest in after school clubs/activities that they have previously been involved with, avoiding conversation at home (e.g. hiding in bedroom), pretending to friends that they are not home, not wanting to go to school discos/social events/trips, pretending to be unwell to avoid social activity or events, eating separately or at different times, existing friends disapproving of new friends, absenteeism from events – present in person but not there in spirit, disconnecting or creating distance from family and friends, new and unexplained friends or all friends being online, a change in engagement with social networks compared to baseline; lack of empathy, interest in or feeling for others. Another person (young person or adult) may also attempt to build relationships with other friends or family members before deliberately creating tension in the family dynamics to increase isolation on the part of the child/young person.

16. Concerns and changes in peer relationships.

Notes:-

Explore More:-

Friends may seem older and/or more streetwise; family and friends may not know the parents or family of new friends, young person may be vague about the new friends, where they live, what they are like, what they are interested in etc; new friends may not attend the same school or be from a different locality/area to the young person; new friends may be the subject of concerns.

17. Self-harm, threatening suicide or suicide attempts

Notes:-

There are many forms of self-harm some of which are not well-known. Practitioners should ensure that they consider all circumstances and whether or not the matters observed could be a form of self-harm or, alternatively, a method of maintaining control. It should also be noted that most suicide attempts are planned rather than impulsive.

Explore More:-

Cuts, scratches on arms, thighs, face or neck; signs of anorexia or excessive eating; signs of excessive substance abuse; medicines going missing, keeping their own supply of paracetamol or similar over counter medicines in their bedroom or hidden in drawers; hiding signs of self-harm, cutting, pulling/plucking out hair, pulling out eyelashes, picking fingers scabs or scars, swallowing sharp objects, household items such as bleach, razors or knives going missing, concerning notes/messages being sent to family/friends or being found, indications of young person taking steps to 'finalise' their life.

18. Concerns raised by friends, neighbours or the local community

Notes:-

It is important to bear in mind that it can be very challenging to report concerns and some people reporting concerns may be putting themselves (or their families) at risk particularly if a perpetrator seeks revenge or the young person becomes hostile towards family/friends.

Explore More:-

Have concerns been raised before by this person or by somebody else. Compare what has been reported in this referral with what has been reported by others to ensure as full a picture as possible; does any known intelligence have any bearing on the concerns raised

19. Possessing weapons

Notes:-

What may be used as a weapon is incredibly diverse and so an open mind needs to be maintained when exploring the concerns raised. The use of weapons may, initially, lead to concerns around CCE but CSE should not be ruled out. The presence/use of weapons around those involved with a young person should also be considered (perpetrators may use weapons to assert control).

Explore More:-

Things such as pen knives, kitchen knives, baton/cosh, CS spray, knuckle duster, liquids such as acids, makeshift weapons such as snooker balls in socks, plastic items sharpened into a blade/point, gloves, dogs, baseball bats. Although things such as shotguns hidden (such as under the bed) or screwdrivers are more associated with CCE but there are overlaps between CCE and CSE so must still be taken into account

20. Getting arrested

Notes:-

Whilst being arrested is more associated with CCE than CSE, it may still indicate that CSE is a concern. It may be possible that the young person is intentionally attempting to get arrested as a means to stay safe or of getting attention. The arrest could be for any type of offence from minor offences such as shoplifting or serious offences such as GBH or murder

Explore More:-

Frequency of arrests, circumstances of arrest, is there a pattern to the timing of arrests

21. Expressions around invincibility or not caring about what happens

Notes:-

This may be expressed as the young person seeming to feel that others have their back

Explore More:-

Young person acting as if they are saying "there is nothing you can do can hurt me now/the worst has already happened" or that the young person is giving a "f..k you" to the world, appearing not to care about consequences typically associated with things that others would consider risky. Young person may give the impression that they have some sort of protection from the people that they are with

22. A sudden and over-use of street language

Notes:-

A young person may adopt different languages as a way of trying to fit in with a new friendship group or others that are known to them.

It should also be noted that young people sometimes adopt “street” words but, when it becomes embedded or they do not revert to usual style of speaking with family, then it may indicate concerns

Explore More:-

Has the young person changed their accent, is there a change in dialect, the young person may even use a different language, the changes are embedded and become a ‘way of being’, use of gang language

Appendix 2

Roles and Responsibilities of key CE Care & Support Pathway Professionals

The CE & Support Pathway involves the continuous, active and direct involvement of:

- Children's Safeguarding - CATE
- Police – Public Protection Unit
- Family Connect, Safeguarding Team
- Health – Safeguarding Advisor
- Education staff
- Youth Offending Service

The purpose of this document is to clarify the individual roles and responsibilities of the above service areas/partners to assist in the ongoing smooth running of the CE Care & Support Pathway.

CATE Practitioner

- To undertake CE risk assessments and present these to the Risk Assessment Panel.
- To undertake Return Home Interviews for young people who return from having been missing from home.
- To plan and deliver interventions to reduce risk enabling positive outcomes for young people affected by CE.
- To ensure young people receive appropriate services to enable them to recover from CE.
- To pass information between agencies including the police to support the protection of young people and the disruption and prosecution of perpetrators.
- To deliver multi-agency CE training.
- To seek safeguarding advice from the CATE Team Manager as appropriate
- To draw to the attention of the Child Protection & Family Support (CPFS) Service Delivery Manager any difficulties or barriers identified with the CE Care & Support Pathway.
- To offer CE advice and guidance to parents and other professionals.
- To attend a variety of meetings as is considered necessary and appropriate to role.
- To assist the young person to engage with other professionals.

CATE Senior Social Worker

- Support the CATE Team Manager in the day to day delivery of CATE services ensuring that staff within CATE Team are skilled in CE and that they fully understand their roles and responsibilities.
- To ensure Risk Panel and Contextual Safeguarding Meetings are coordinated and delivered.
- To chair the Multi agency Risk Panel in the absence of the CATE Team Manager
- To ensure that young people are supported through the correct pathways
- To supervise, train and mentor professionals in the CE aspect of their work.
- To undertake risk assessments and deliver interventions to young people at risk from CE.
- To attend and take a key role in the Multi agency Missing Children Group Meetings working closely with the police Missing Coordinator.

CATE Team Manager

- Responsible for designing and implementing operationally the strategic developments as identified by the CPFS Service Delivery Manager.
- Responsible for ensuring the delivery of a quality service in respect of the Council's role within the CE Care & Support Pathway.
- Responsible for the line management of the CATE Practitioners including the provision of case and personal supervision.
- To attend and participate in meetings associated with the CE Pathway when requested to do so.
- To progress actions as identified within the CE Action Plan.
- To chair CE Contextual Safeguarding Meetings.

Child Protection & Family Support (CPFS) Service Delivery Manager

- Responsible for the strategic overview and development of the CE Service with the autonomy to be flexible in tailoring services to meet the support needs of individual young people and their families.
- To attend TWCSP CE Subgroup meetings and to progress actions as identified in the CE Action Plan. To encourage and support others in progressing their CE Action Plan tasks within Council's Children's Safeguarding Services.
- To supervise the CATE Team Managers
- Offer specialist safeguarding CE advice and consultation to operational staff and strategic managers relating to CE practice, procedure, policy and process etc.
- To ensure that the CE Care & Support Pathway is maintained and remains fit for purpose.
- Chair complex CE strategy meetings i.e. organised abuse.
- Attend/convene meetings as appropriate relating to developments in CE matters within the Council.

- Provide CE related information to the Dfe as appropriate.
- Undertake quality assurance activity

Police

CE Coordinator

- Research and prepare police information for presentation at the CE Risk Panel
- To attend the CE Risk Panel
- To liaise with CATE and Safeguarding Teams
- Develop intelligence, patterns and themes of CE

Detective Sergeant

- Police operational lead within the police CE Team supervising a team of police detectives who would respond to complaints of CE.
- The day to day identification of CE victims and ensuring that other police officers are doing the same.
- Assist in the development of CE training programmes.
- To be the primary operational police officer liaising with the CATE Team Manager and Safeguarding Team Manager on matters relating to the CATE Care & Support Pathway and CE.
- To attend and participate in CE Care & Support Pathway Risk Assessment Panel and Strategy Meetings.
- To provide / share information at the Risk Assessment Panel

Detective Inspector

- To provide a strategic police lead for CE including the development and implementation of CE policy and procedures within the police force.
- To support the work of the CE Care & Support Pathway
- To offer Senior Investigating Officer oversight to CE Investigations
- To delegate responsibility for managing investigations, whilst identifying and managing resources to ensure that risks are managed and crime is investigated effectively and efficiently.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of existing processes and practices within own area of work in order to identify and implement opportunities for change and innovation and enable continuous improvement.
- To line manage the Detective Sergeants.
- To attend CE Care & Support Pathway Multiagency Risk Panel, Contextual Safeguarding and Child Protection Strategy Meetings when appropriate.

- To deliver and chair the Telford & Wrekin CE Partnership Tactical Context Oversight Group. A multi-agency panel to assess patterns of offending and perpetrator focused disruption to those seeking to exploit children.

Family Connect

Safeguarding Team – Senior Social Worker

- To identify CE referrals received by the Safeguarding Team making recommendations to the Safeguarding Team Manager as to the appropriate pathway to be followed i.e. CE Care & Support Pathway or statutory Child Protection pathway.
- To provide safeguarding advice and consultation when requested by professionals who are providing a direct service to young people affected by CE.
- To receive and provide information (in line with data protection and Human Rights legislation) relating to young people affected by CE.

Safeguarding Team – Team Leader

- To oversee and provide the operational safeguarding element of the CE Care & Support Pathway within Family Connect.
- To ensure that young people involved in the CE Care & Support Pathway are supported by a multi-agency support plan that is focused on reducing the risk of continued CE for the young person.
- To raise any difficulties in the running of the CE Care & Support Pathway with the CPFS Service Delivery Manager.
- Responsible for identifying those young people where it is not appropriate for the CE Care & Support Pathway to be used and where the appropriate level of response is a statutory child protection service (S47). Ensuring that young people receive this service.
- To attend any meetings as requested relating to the actual or the maintenance of the CE Pathway.

Director & Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding

- To support as necessary the activities of the CE Care & Support Pathway and associated CE issues within the Council.

Health

Safeguarding Advisor

- To provide information relating to health or anything relevant to CE when agenda received for each individual young person to be discussed at the Multiagency Risk Panel
- To attend Multiagency Risk Panel
- To complete tasks identified and agreed at Multi agency Risk Panel
- To liaise with health colleagues to assist in young people gaining services.

- To support School Nurse colleagues with any concerns they come across with young person and the risk of CE.
- To promote CE advice and guidance amongst health professionals

Education

Young Person's educational representative and Virtual School Head Teacher/Advisor

- Educational or college representative in respect of the individual young person to attend Multi agency Risk Panel sharing information and taking active part in discussions and support planning.
- VSHT/Educational Advisor for children with a social worker to provide advice, support and oversight relating to educational matter for wider VSHT extended duties Children with a Social Worker, Children in Care & Previously looked after children.
- Ensuring positive educational outcomes, improving attendance and the use of modified timetables are minimal to prevent further risk of exploitation.
- Attend weekly Multiagency Risk Panel

Community Services

Safer Stronger Communities Group Manager

- To research and present information at multi-agency risk panel with specific focus on places, spaces and communities.
- To complete tasks identified and agreed at the Multi agency Risk Panel
- Identify area trends, improvements, risks to improve areas for our young people.
- To highlight area risks and work with police SNT colleagues to manage and reduce these risks.
- Identify gaps within youth provision and work with education/children's services/community services to facilitate new and needed programmes.

Youth Offending Service

YOS Officer

- Attends Multi agency Risk Panel bringing and sharing information in relation to individual children effected by CE.
- To take an active role in agreeing tasks required in support of a young person

Other Professionals

- Attend CE Risk Panel, Strategy Meetings and other CE related meetings as invited by the CATE Team Manager.
- Research and present to the CE Risk Panel/Contextual Safeguarding meeting up-to-date information in relation to the specific young person, group, family or associated adults.
- To progress actions as identified within the CE Plans.

To invite CATE/Practitioner/Manager to key meetings ie Child in Need/CIC Reviews/Child Protection Meetings

