



LAMBETH LSCB

Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

LAMBETH Strategy 2014-17



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Foreword

This Strategy sets out the commitment of Lambeth's Children's Safeguarding Board to prevent CSE and tackling it in a multi-agency manner when it occurs. A victim centered supportive approach will be an overriding principle.

This strategy is aimed at anyone who engages with children and young people.

It builds on work already undertaken in the Borough since 2013 and is informed by lessons learnt. The overriding aim is to safeguard and protect children in Lambeth.

We recognise that only a proactive, coordinated, multi-agency approach will be effective in preventing and disrupting CSE and in pursuing, disrupting and prosecuting perpetrators.

The aim of this strategy is to:

- Mitigate the impact of CSE by improving outcomes and reducing harm to young people who are:
 - Vulnerable to or at risk of exploitation
 - Victims of exploitation
- Understand the scale of the problem in Lambeth and develop a coordinated multi agency response
- To develop a strong and sustainable infrastructure to support an effective response to CSE
- To identify and engage with children and young people who are experiencing, or who are at risk of, sexual exploitation by promoting activity that:
 - PREVENTS children and young people from becoming subject to CSE
 - PROTECTS children and young people from CSE
 - Offers activities and strategies that divert children and young people from risk of CSE
 - Disrupts activity that may present risk of CSE to children and young people by PURSUING individuals believed involved
 - Seeks PROSECUTION of perpetrators of CSE, and supports children and young people through the legal process and beyond.
- Set out an action plan to achieve these aims

Signatories of the Strategy

We the undersigned agree that each agency/ organisation that we represent will adopt and adhere to this Prevention of CSE Strategy.

Name	Role	Signature
Paul Curran	Independent Chair Lambeth Children's Safeguarding Board	
Maria Millwood	Director of Integrated Commissioning (Children, Young People & Maternity, Disabilities and Public Health) London Borough of Lambeth and NHS Lambeth	
Sue Foster	Director of Children's Services Lambeth Council	
Nick Collins	Chief Inspection Metropolitan Police – Lambeth	
Councillor Imogen Walker	Statutory Lead Member for Children and Families and Deputy Leader of Lambeth Council	

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse. Any child or young person may be at risk of sexual exploitation, regardless of their background or other circumstances. Sexual exploitation can take many forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for attention, affection, accommodation or gifts, to serious organised crime and child trafficking.

Exploitation can also occur in the 'virtual' world of the Internet with perpetrators not always seeking to commit a 'contact' offence but nevertheless serious psychological distress and emotional trauma can be caused to the victim.

What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power within the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim, increasing the dependence of the victim as the exploitative relationship develops.

The perpetrators of sexual exploitation can be well organised and use sophisticated tactics. They are known to target areas where children and young people might gather without much adult supervision, such as: shopping centres, cafes, takeaways, pubs, sports centres, cinemas, bus or train stations, local parks, playgrounds and taxi ranks or sites on the Internet used by children and young people. The process of grooming may also be visible in adult venues such as pubs and clubs. In some cases perpetrators are known to use younger men, women, boys or girls to build initial relationships and introduce children to others in the perpetrator networks.

Some offenders are organised into groups or gangs, even if they have no obvious definition to them. Other offenders operate in isolation – so called 'lone wolfs'.

National guidance recognises that early intervention is a 'sound investment' and is 'likely to be far more effective than intervention at a later stage when the impact on the child or young person's health or development is likely to have escalated.

Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation?

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' (for example 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 age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/ or economic or other resources. Abuse, 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.

Sourced from: Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation: Supplementary guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2009.

Child sexual exploitation involves the sexual exploitation through coercion or enticement of a vulnerable child or young person in sexual activity for cash or some other form of reward, such as drugs, alcohol, shelter or other material gifts. The exchange is exploitative because it happens in a relationship of unequal power with an adult. Children and young people under the age of 16 are legally unable to give informed consent to sexual activity. However, research undertaken by the University of Bedfordshire has also highlighted the dangers of assuming that once a young person has reached the age of 16 they can give 'informed' consent.

A growing number of children and young people are being targeted and groomed for sexual exploitation by adults and other young people that they meet on the Internet. This on-line grooming contributes to the difficulties in identifying the prevalence of child sexual exploitation and highlights the importance of developing robust e-safety strategies.

The Barnardo's 'Puppet on a String' report identified three broad categories of child sexual exploitation. These were described as follows:

- **Inappropriate relationships**

- This usually involves one perpetrator who has inappropriate power or control over a young person, whether this is physical, emotional or financial control. One indicator of an inappropriate relationship may be a significant age gap, even if the young person believes that they are in a loving relationship.

- **Boyfriend model of exploitation and peer exploitation**

- In this type of situation, the perpetrator befriends and grooms a young person into a 'relationship' and then coerces the young person to have sex with friends or associates.

- **Organised/ networked sexual exploitation or trafficking**

- Young people who are often connected to one another are passed through networks, possibly over geographical distances, between towns and cities where they may be forced or pressurised into sexual activity with numerous men.

The University of Bedfordshire research adds further categories:

- **Exploitation involving peers**

- Where a young person, who themselves may be a victim of child sexual exploitation introduces other children or young people to the abuser/s and;

- **Exploitation linked to poverty and exclusion**

- Where grooming is not necessarily involved but there is opportunistic abuse of a young person in need of help: for example; the offer of accommodation to a runaway in exchange for sex. The young person tends to view this arrangement, not as exploitation, but rather as a short-term survival mechanism.

Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation?

Key principles, when responding to child sexual exploitation are:

- **A child centered approach** which focuses on the child's needs and involves the young person in decision making, whilst recognising that they may not see themselves as being in an exploitative or abusive situation.
- **Support to parents and families** to make their own plans for the protection of their children, as long as this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare.
- **The rights of children and young people should be respected.** The UK Government is a signatory to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and strategies and actions relating to individuals should be consistent with this convention.
- **Key entitlements that victims of criminal conduct are entitled to.** The Ministry of Justice has produced a Code of practice for victims of crime: putting victims first, making the system more responsive and easier to navigate. Victims of crime should be treated in a respectful, sensitive and professional manner without discrimination of any kind.
- **The responsibility for criminal acts is with the perpetrator.** Sexual exploitation of children and young people should not be regarded as a criminal act by the child or young person, but as child sexual abuse, where the responsibility lies with the exploiter.
- **The response to child sexual exploitation is a shared responsibility** among agencies and organisations, including education providers, health services including sexual health services, youth services, children's services, criminal justice agencies, housing providers, licensing teams and voluntary sector services supporting children and families.
- **An integrated approach** is required at an individual and strategic level. Individual plans for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children so that plans are based on a wide-ranging assessment of the needs of each child, the parents' capacity to care for them in the context of family and wider community circumstances. Committed leadership, shared understanding, and the effective co-ordination of work by Lambeth's Children's Safeguarding Board should underpin the strategic work.
- **Prevention and early intervention** should be regarded as a key part of agencies' approaches to sexual exploitation

What do we know about Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Lambeth?

Child Sexual Exploitation does occur and is occurring in Lambeth.

Lambeth Children's Services, Education, Health and the Police have recorded cases of children who have been subject to abuse at the hands of individuals who should be seen as exploiters according to the definition.

These cases have been responded to correctly and prosecutions have/ or occurring

What has not previously happened is widespread recognition of the indicators of CSE and a coordinated approach to tackle it – to prevent, pursue and divert or to prosecute and support.

This strategy will address this and in so doing fully understand the extent of the issue for all children and young people living in Lambeth, both from recorded victimisation and from belief and intelligence led standpoints.

A key action under the development plan is to fully understand the picture of CSE in the Borough, from all information sources not only Police or Social Care. We need to make use of missing children data to inform case activity.



PREVENT - An integrated approach

Although any child might become the victim of sexual exploitation, national research indicates that some groups of children and young people may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation than others.

Groups who are particularly at risk include:

- Children who are regularly absent from education, home or care
- Children with mental health issues
- Children who are abusing drugs or alcohol
- Children with disabilities
- Children looked after (in care).

In addition, the impact of child sexual exploitation can result in young people going missing from home or care; truanting from school; becoming pregnant; concealing pregnancy; or, becoming involved in anti-social or other 'challenging' behaviour. Any work relating to child sexual exploitation must be aligned with other relevant strategies to ensure that all agencies adopt a coherent approach which recognises the impact of child sexual exploitation on victims and does not penalise them rather than their abusers.

We need to:

1. To ensure that integrated services are provided for children and young people who are experiencing, or who are at risk of, sexual exploitation
2. To decrease incidence of child sexual exploitation
3. Maintain community cohesion.



How will we be effective?

The aim of this strategy is to raise the profile of CSE and develop a shared approach across all partner agencies.

The aspiration is to develop a strategic overview of the issue supporting a proactive approach to identifying those at risk and disrupting and prosecuting offenders.

We will achieve these aims through:

- The formation of a strategic multi agency CSE group. The purpose is to take a strategic overview through:
 - Reviewing the progress of investigations across the Borough
 - Overseeing prevention work (awareness raising, training and identification linked to the Lambeth Early Help Strategy)
 - Reviewing the profile of CSE, monitoring multi agency management of child sexual exploitation and ensure effective arrangements are in place to tackle issues within the Borough.
 - Overseeing a strategy for disruptions and prosecutions
 - Reviewing the effectiveness of Early Help and Specialist Support (CSC/ MASH & MASE Panels)
- Take lead responsibility for writing and implementing a multi-agency action plan to minimise sexual exploitation and to take a strategic lead for this work across the Borough.
- To identify and overcome barriers in effectively tackling the issue of child sexual exploitation, supporting victims and prosecuting and disrupting perpetrators
- We will ensure that there is a strong health services involvement both in the prevention and protect sections. Awareness raising/ training and identification should include GPs, health visitors, school nursing services as well as children and adult mental health services, and young people's drug and alcohol services, A&E departments, midwifery, termination of pregnancy services as well as sexual health services. In addition any supported housing/ temporary housing provision for young people.
- Public Health to continue their work with young people on the prevention of under 18 conceptions. This includes the support offered to all primary and secondary and special schools in the borough around the delivery of Personal and Social Health Education. This will be led by Education and Health Partnership: the Healthy Schools Strategic Group. This group has commissioned an integrated Health and Wellbeing Programme for the last 4 years to support school deliver PSHE and in particular to undertake work on Sex and Relationships Education and healthy non-violent relationships which are the bedrock to enabling children and young people to have the skills and knowledge to understand consent and what is a healthy relationship.

- Work to continue to be delivered by Health Education Links (HELs) in primary schools (includes parents sessions) and by Brook in Secondary schools. This work is closely aligned with the violence against women and girls work with the commissioned provider GAIA. The CSE work in school needs to align with the wider PSHE curriculum and needs to be on going rather than just a one off event. Lambeth Learning and Skills Team is a key organisation to work with/ and to understand school needs/ and engage them with the work required.
- Work to be done to ensure there is a link up with key working groups across the borough including violence against women, safer community partnership, gang related activity, missing from home/ care, online/ internet abuse and London Safeguarding Children's Board review.
- Creating lead roles and/ or champions for CSE within key agencies (Health, Police, Probation, Youth Offending, Children's Services, Schools, Colleges, Adult's services, Voluntary (including Charity and Faith Sector) and Family Support/ Targeted Family services. Leads will attend CSE MASE on a regular basis and be responsible for implementing actions in their host agency.
- Using the First Response and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as a single point of contact. The First Response and MASH will support information sharing and screen referrals based on indicators of vulnerability and risk (see Appendix 1.5). This includes the use of Multi Agency Referral Form and CSE Risk Assessment Tool/ Matrix as attached (see Appendix 2 and 3).
- Working with our Local Authority in relation to Housing and Licensing to disrupt activity around CSE. For example by using housing legislation to close down premises used for the purposes of CSE, targeting taxi drivers who knowingly transport vulnerable children for the purposes of CSE and revoking license's of premises that sell alcohol to young people. Benefit teams can help identify examples of where young people are moving in with/ in a relationship with a much older person.
- To make appropriate recommendations to Lambeth's Children's Safeguarding Board to reassure that effective services are being delivered to address child sexual exploitation in the Borough.
- To ensure effective multi agency training, support is provided to all partners and agencies within the Borough
- To agree and implement a consistent toolkit that supports practitioner's in the identification of young people at risk of CSE (see framework for professionals working with children and families experiencing and/ or at risk of child sexual exploitation/ December 2014)
- To manage and oversee the work of the MASE panels including developing and agreeing performance reporting and profile data within Lambeth as part of the Prevent, Disrupt and Prosecute Strategy.



How will we raise awareness of CSE?

The national research highlights that both boys and girls are at risk of being targeted for exploitation at a younger age than previously known. We know through experience and research that once young people are involved in patterns of exploitation it is very hard to support them to successfully break free.

The aim of this strategy is to raise awareness amongst children and young people through the curriculum delivered in schools. This will help young people to understand the potential dangers of exploitation, make safe choices and to build resilience. We will promote learning about healthy relationships including respect, what is acceptable and unacceptable and how to access support.

We will provide information to teachers, parents and communities, helping them to understand these risks, recognise the signs that a child may be vulnerable or subject to this abuse, and take appropriate action.

We will interrogate police data and learn from 'return home' interviews.

We will focus on early identification and providing early help. This will be aligned to Lambeth's Early Help Strategy, which outlines a common approach across the partnership to support families and ensure Lambeth children achieve to their full potential.

We will provide training to key professionals who may be in contact with young people who display heightened vulnerability to exploitation. This will help identify those at risk, and prevent exploitation through building resilience and providing support.

We will develop our approach through:

- Delivering an education programme to raise awareness amongst young people through universal services, including schools and youth arenas, and targeting the younger age range. This will link to the online safety strategy. We will support innovative approaches to engage with groups who are seen as hard to reach.
- Raising awareness amongst parents, professionals and communities to help adults identify signs of vulnerability and know what they should do and where to

get help.

- Systemically implementing a shared screening tool to identify vulnerable young people. Providing targeted training to key professionals – particularly those linked to ‘hot-spots’, helping them identify these signs early. Lambeth has introduced a Risk Assessment Tool/ Matrix, which is attached (see Appendix 3)
- Developing links to services for young adults (up to 25 years) to ensure they are aware of the issue and understand their duty to support vulnerable adults.
- Linking vulnerable young people to early help support services through the MASH.
- Ensure that professionals providing support have access to relevant training to understand CSE and build resilience in young people to protect them from exploitation
- Ensuring all professionals working at all levels of need
- Have access to expert advice and consultation, and understand their duty to identify vulnerability and risk, and ensure young people are provided with appropriate support.

PROTECT and PURSUE - How will we help victims break free from exploitation?

Young people who are victims of sexual exploitation are often distrustful of adults and may have had negative experiences of statutory services.

Whilst there may be situations, which require emergency interventions to protect young people, often the best approach is to work collaboratively with the young person and their family. The aim is to support and empower young people and their families to find solutions themselves where possible.

Taking the right approach to engaging these vulnerable young people is crucial if we are to stand any chance of supporting them to break free from exploitation. We want to improve victim's experiences of being supported, ensuring that they are listened to, respected and given choices about how they are helped.

Effective help is child or person-centered, and based on building a consistent relationship of trust with the young person over time. We must understand their journey and work at a pace that is accessible to the young person. Young people must be supported to build resilience and empowered to make choices to regain control over their lives.

We are committed to involve parents and key family members in the assessment and planning process, and ensure that young people are central to any decision-making.

Professionals working with these young people must be supported to manage this work sensitively, and specialist advice and training available.

Companies such as PACE (Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation) work alongside parents and carers of children who are – or are at risk of being sexually exploited by perpetrators external to the family. They offer guidance and training to professionals on how CSE affects the whole family.

We recognise that young people often respond best to support offered from the voluntary sector, which can have a more innovative and flexible approach to offering help. Traditional approaches to therapy and support may not be accessible to these young people.

Research suggests that effective strategies have a common approach to sharing information, assessing risk, and planning support. A new set of CSE guidance will be developed to support this shared approach.

In Lambeth we will develop:

- A shared operating protocol outlining the multi-agency response to CSE once recognised and how we will all support a victim or prevent them becoming one. This will outline the effective means by which to share information, assess the risk and build an intelligent picture of the best means to operate together.

- New CSE Guidance setting out a shared risk assessment model and an integrated planning process. This will set out expectations of officers across agencies to proactively respond to risk and vulnerability
- A model of best practice to support young people who are being exploited. We will develop this model alongside voluntary sector agencies, drawing on innovative practice. The model will draw on themes of engaging young people, their family and the community, ensuring support plans are child or person – centred, offering consistent support and based on a relationship of trust
- Support plans, which are evaluated, based on feedback from young people and their families. Progress will be measured against co-produced goals and other outcome measures.
- A network of support professionals linked to hot spots to take a proactive approach to identification, risk assessment and evidence gathering.



PROSECUTE and SUPPORT – The Offenders and How we will support the victims

Investigation and prosecution is a complex area of legislation. Great strides have been made in terms of hearing the voice of the victim and recognition within the judiciary of the presentation a victim of CSE can provide. Consequently, there is greater understanding now of the exploitative abuse factors that have occurred that often prevented a prosecution due to work undertaken with victims.

Prosecutions of any number of offenders be it, “group, gang or lone wolf”, will be conducted by the Crown Prosecution Service on the basis of evidence provided by The Metropolitan Police. It is essential that all agencies support such prosecutions, which will be conducted in the best interests of the child/ young person, by providing prosecutors with information to assist in their endeavor to seek justice for and on behalf of the victims.

We are therefore committed to ensuring that we will do all we can to disrupt perpetrators who are sexually exploiting young people and where possible prosecute. We will build on the work of committed and skilled professionals and take a strategic and relentless approach to bring offenders to justice and to bring release and support to their victims.

The Metropolitan Police will lead on the pursuit of offenders and seek to bring them to swift justice in hand with the Crown Prosecution Service. In doing so they will work with all agencies to support the victims and assist them in their recovery.

National significant prosecutions have shown the importance of support to the victims of CSE, throughout the investigative, prosecution and beyond stages. Often this support is most appropriately provided in partnership. In Lambeth access to such support will be coordinated through the MASH and MASE panel and will include both statutory and voluntary support agencies such as Barnardo’s and PACE.

Whilst the aspiration is to bring prosecutions against perpetrators wherever possible, we recognise that this is not always achievable, nor is it always in the interests of victims to pursue lengthy investigations.

Developing systems to enhance information sharing and providing clear guidance to support effective collection and recording of evidence are crucial to improve performance in this area.

All agencies will report any suspicions or intelligence for consideration through Lambeth’s First Response/ MASH. This includes the use of the Multi Agency Referral Form and the Risk Assessment Matrix attached to this strategy (see Appendix 2 and 3).

Investigative activity will be recorded and reported in a multi-agency manner under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and the Child Protection/ Safeguarding procedures and through the MASE panels.

Learning from national and local experience is vital to ensure continuous improvement. We will build in regular reviews, analysis and feedback to learn from successes and failures, and disseminate this learning across all partners.

A common theme across research is the difficulty in supporting victims and witnesses through the investigative and court process. We will ensure clear plans of support are in place for young people who are victims and/ or are witnesses to CSE. Through these processes we will ensure there is effective liaison with the Crown Prosecution Service and the Courts to develop good practice in this area.

To achieve greater effectiveness in disruption and prosecution within Lambeth we will:

- Develop an Operating Protocol to support all agencies in their information exchange and response to incidents of CSE.
- Understand our Intelligence Picture to allow for investigative opportunities to be taken to disrupt activity and prevent abuse.
- Implement national best practice and learning from CSE cases to assist in our pursuit and prevention activity.
- Develop the MASE panel process to include an offender management focus as well as a victim one.
- Use any means or organisation appropriately to deter those who think of or are about to commit an offence.
- Provide guidance and training to key professionals (particularly those linked to 'hot spots') to raise awareness within the community and improve the quality of evidence gathering and recording.
- Ensure there is accessible, consistent and long-term support for victims and their families throughout the investigation, prosecution and post-court phase.
- Develop a strategic overview of the progress of investigations, support a multi-agency approach to developing such plans
- Convene a multi-agency Gold Group to coordinate the response to any CSE investigation when any agency feels it is necessary according to their understanding of the scale of the incident.
- Work in a coordinated manner in relation to media messages and community reassurance following an incident, with full recognition of the need for care over messages due to legislative restrictions.
- Approach Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE UK) to develop working protocols.
- Audit what support and after care is available in the Borough currently.



Governance

A multi-agency partnership approach enables the most effective interventions and achieves positive outcomes for the victims. Our partnership will encompass Local Authority's Children's and Adult Services, Education, Police, Specialist Youth Workers, Health specialists (particularly Sexual Health) and the Voluntary, Faith and Charity sectors.

Governance of the response to CSE in Lambeth will be provided by a Lambeth CSE Strategic Group, which will report to the Lambeth's Children's Safeguarding Board.

The Strategic group will develop and deliver multi-agency strategy alongside the CSE development plan for the Borough.

Development sub groups on PREVENT, PROTECT AND PURSUE, and PROSECUTE AND SUPPORT will support the Strategic Group in its activities. The Lambeth MASH and MASE panels are the Operational delivery mechanisms for Safeguarding and tactical aspects of our response.

The CSE Strategic Group will meet a minimum of 4 times a year, although the Group through the chair can request an increased frequency.

The Chair of the CSE Strategic Group will provide a written update to the Lambeth Children's Safeguarding Board on a quarterly basis.

Glossary

Grooming	Child grooming comprises actions deliberately undertaken with the aim of befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child, to lower the child's inhibitions in order to sexually abuse the child.
Group	Organised groups with an element of status, membership and criminality of 2 or more young people involved in delinquent peer groups.
PACE	'Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation' - An organisation set up to support parents
Perpetrator	Any person who poses a risk of commits crimes against a young person
'Return home' interview	Councils have to offer children an Independent Return Interview upon their return to home, in a bid to find out why they ran away and how to prevent it happening again.
Lambeth Safer Community Partnership	Agencies in Lambeth are working together as a single Community Safety Partnership to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour, and to reduce re-offending.
Section 47	Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 places a duty on Local Authorities to investigate and make inquiries into the circumstances of children considered to be at risk of 'significant harm' and, where these inquiries indicate the need, to decide what action, if any, it may need to take to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

References

Code of Practice for Victims of Crime	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/254459/code-of-practice-victims-of-crime.pdf
Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation: Supplementary guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2009	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-from-sexual-exploitation-supplementary-guidance
Barnardos 'Puppet on a string' report	http://www.barnardos.org.uk/ctf_puppetonastring_report_final.pdf
University of Bedfordshire research	http://www.beds.ac.uk/research/iasr/centres/intcent
Council of Europe Convention on the protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?CL=ENG&NT=201
Lambeth Early Help Strategy	

Acknowledgements

Elements of this strategy have been sourced from the London Borough of Camden, Rochdale and Torbay Councils.

Lambeth LSCB CSE Strategic Group Terms of Reference – December 2014 (V1.0)

1. **Purpose/Role/Function of the Group**

- 1.1 The purpose of the group is to oversee a coordinated seamless response to the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The group will have the overview of the different strands of the strategy and the associated action plan.
- 1.2 The CSE Strategic Group will have the following key functions:
- a. Meet the aims and objectives of Lambeth's CSE Strategy.
 - b. Share responsibility for the co-ordination of the CSE action plan, including monitoring the delivery of the CSE Action plan.
 - c. Scope the scale of the CSE problem within Lambeth by collecting and monitoring local data.
 - d. Report to the LSCB on progress highlighting any specific barriers or areas of risk implementing the action plan.
 - e. Raise awareness of CSE within agencies and communities.
 - f. Encourage the reporting of concerns about CSE.
 - g. Support the identification of training and awareness needs.
 - h. Disseminate guidance and examples of good practice across all professions and sectors.

2. **Membership**

2.1 The CSE Strategic Group will be chaired by Chief Inspector Nick Collins of the Metropolitan Police; The Vice Chair will be Catherine Knowles, Interim Director of Children's Social Care

2.2 Membership list

- Assistant Director Children's Social Care
- Head of Public Protection Unit (also representing local district uniform operation response)
- Head of Safeguarding, NHS (representing Health Visitors, school nurses)
- Contraceptive and Sexual Health, CAMHS Lead,
- CSE Coordinator – Lambeth Children's Services(acting as advisor to the group)
- Representative from Voluntary sector (representing community, faith and charity groups)
- Safeguarding and MASH Lead, Children's Social Care
- Public Health Lead Commissioner (GP's/CCG)

- Manager of Youth Offending Team
-
- Safeguarding Business Manager – LSCB
- Assistant Director – Housing and Community Development,
- Chair of Education Safeguarding and On-line Protection
- Communications Officer Lambeth Council
- Director, Education, Learning & Skills
- Representative from Licensing
- Representative from SARC, Forensic Nursing
- Local Authority Designated Officer, (LADO) SCC
- Officer of National Probation Service
- Chair of Community Safer Partnership

The Group will co-opt additional members as and when required.

- 2.3 There is an expectation that all nominated members will attend, if not, a nominated deputy will attend on their behalf.

3. **Responsibilities**

- a. Understand their agency's role in the working group.
- b. Make every effort to attend and participate fully at all meetings.
- c. Participate and support the work of the group.
- d. Scrutinise and challenge information received.
- e. Be prepared to chair task and finish groups as part of the work streams flowing from the group.
- f. Take responsibility for ensuring that any actions agreed by the group are effectively carried out within their organisation, including recommendations of Serious Case Reviews around CSE.
- g. Accept all partners are equal.
- h. Negotiate with their organisations to ensure that they have sufficient time and support to fulfill their responsibilities.

4. **Chair's Responsibilities**

- a. To chair Strategic Group meetings and any additional meetings scheduled for the group.
- b. To work with all members of the group to ensure effective progression of the Strategic Group priorities both inside and outside meetings.
- c. To ensure that the Strategic Group's progress is documented, and that such progress is reported to the Learning and Improvement Sub Group when required.
- d. To identify areas of concerns regarding progression of priorities, agency attendance and commitment, safeguarding issues, and to take action to address these as required through:
 - i. Discussion with the LSCB Board Manager
 - ii. Reporting to the Learning and Improvement Sub Group
 - iii. Discussion with specific agency

iv. Discussion with the independent chair of the LSCB

5. Governance / Accountability

- 5.1 The Group will operate under delegated authority from the LSCB to act within the scope of the agreed terms of reference.
- 5.2 Changes in membership shall be arranged through the Chair in consultation with the LSCB Business Manager who is a member of the group.
- 5.3 Issues are discussed and resolved between partners as they arise. However, should there be any unresolved issues, these may be referred to the LSCB Business Manager initially and if unresolved to the LSCB.
- 5.4 Each representative of the Group is obliged to advise the Chair immediately should they believe they have a conflict of interest over a particular issue.
- 5.5 In the event of neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair being able to attend any meeting, the Chair or Vice Chair may decide that the meeting will proceed in their absence. In such circumstances a substitute Chair may, with the agreement of the majority of voting members, be appointed to chair that meeting.
- 5.6 The Group will be accountable and report to the LSCB and the Learning and Improvement Sub Group.
- 5.7 The Chair will be accountable to the LSCB for the effectiveness of their work as Chair of the Group and will provide regular reports to the LSCB. This mechanism will also facilitate any requests for specific reports relating to the purpose and duties of the group.
- 5.8 Decisions reached by the Group will be reported to the LSCB, and where judged appropriate, to seek approval by the Board.

6. Review

- 6.1 The Group will review the relevance and value of its work and terms of reference annually.

7. Working methods / Ways of working

- 7.1 In terms of working methods the group will adopt a shared learning approach.

8. Meetings

- 8.1 The Group will meet on a quarterly basis. Additional meetings may be called on request and with the agreement of the Chair.
- 8.2 Meetings will be quorate if at least three agencies are represented.
- 8.3 Minutes of the meeting will be taken by support from the Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Unit.
- 8.4 Agenda papers will be circulated at least five working days in advance of the meeting, the Chair must agree any delay. Any member of the group may propose the inclusion of an item on the agenda. The Chair will confirm and agree the final agenda.

9. Sharing of Information and Resources (Including Confidential Materials)

- 9.1 The work of this Group deals with information which contains personal and sensitive information which can only be processed, held or shared in compliance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. In addition, Single and Inter-Agency Protocols also apply. If there is any doubt about whether information can lawfully be shared please consult with the Chair in the first instance.

Appendix 2 – Lambeth Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF)

	<p>Lambeth Children's Services First Response Team</p> <p><u>Multi-Agency Referral Form</u></p> <p><u>CONFIDENTIAL</u></p>	
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Notes for use: Please complete this form **electronically**; the text boxes will expand to fit your text.

The completed form contains personal data to be protected and processed in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.

AGENCY COMPLETING:

Name of Worker:

Agency:

Date of Referral:

Role of person completing referral:

FAMILY DETAILS:

Child

Forename(s):		Ethnicity	
Surname(s):		Date of Birth / EDD:	
Home address:		NHS No.	
		School Unique Pupil Number:	

FAMILY INFORMATION:

Name:		DOB:		Relationship to the child:	

Overview of Agency Involvement with child/family including information of attendance/engagement with your service:

Has a CAF been completed

Yes		No	
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If yes, please attach to this referral form

What are you worried about?

please state the name of the child if you have any specific concerns about one particular child.

Past Harm to children

Action/behaviour-who what where when; severity; incidence and impact

Future Danger for Children

What are you worried is going to happen to the child if the current situation does not change? - related to past and future harm

Complicating Factors

Factors which make the situation more difficult to resolve

What is working well?

Existing Strengths

Existing Safety /Protection: The strengths sustained over time, directly related to the danger.

What needs to happen?

Future safety/protection/safety goals (When will things be safe enough, what do you want to see parents/carers doing to make the child safe)

Parent and child's views

Next Steps

What can you /your agency contribute to a plan to keep the child safe? What are the next steps to be taken to achieve the safety goals?

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Signature of person completing referral:

If applicable - Signature of designated CP person/manager for Agency authorising the report:

Every effort should be made to share this referral with those with Parental Responsibility if this is appropriate to do so. In circumstances where this is not possible, please state reason & make attempts to inform of content verbally:

Have those with Parental Responsibility viewed/had verbal feedback of this referral?

If possible, please obtain signatures of those with legal Parental Responsibility who have viewed/had verbal feedback of the report:

<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes How? Date:

It is the responsibility of all agencies who are making enquiries and/ or making referrals about child/ren to inform the parents/ carers or those with parental responsibility that they are making a referral to Children Social Care.

The referral must be sent to First Response Team (FRT) via secure email to the following address: duty.manager@lambeth.cjsm.net or with password protection to Outlook Email: dutymanager@lambeth.gov.uk

Appendix 3 – Lambeth CSE Risk Assessment Tool/ Matrix

Risk Matrix Checklist for Child Sexual Exploitation Referral to be included with CAF referral form

- Please indicate all levels of risk (Green=Low, Amber=Medium, Red=High) and note if there are on-going patterns or recurring incidences which should be reviewed.
- This assessment tool should be complete by professionals and not with children and young people.
- The risk assessment should be revised regularly, monthly for medium and high risk cases and every time there is a change in circumstances or new information. Risk indicators change regularly and the risk needs to be monitored. All completed risk assessments should be saved in the child/young persons file.
- All medium and high risk cases should be referred to Lambeth Children Services for further consideration.
- All high risk cases will be referred for a CSE Strategy Meeting and be considered for a referral to MASE (Multi Agency Sexual exploitation Meeting).
- Scoring: professionals should be aware it is a combination of identified risk factors that can indicate sexual exploitation.
- **Any sexual activity with a child under the age of 13 years is a statutory crime and should be the subject of a section 47 strategy meeting.**

Levels of Risk	Comments
Low Risk	No evidence that child is being sexually exploited. May be some vulnerabilities or behaviours that require intervention e.g. via CAF
Medium Risk	Young person could be vulnerable to exploitation but is not at immediate risk. Support via CAF or Child in Need Plan. A combination of Low risk indicators and at least 2/3 indicators from the Medium risk factors
High Risk	Evidence suggests that child is at immediate risk of, or being sexually exploited. Referral to children's social care and S47 Enquiries. A combination of any of the factors from Low and Medium and any of the High Risk factors.

Name:

Date of birth:

Gender:

Date of Risk Assessment:

Completed by:

Agency:

Health	Yes	Suspicion
1. Chronic Fatigue		
2. Known to have a learning difficulty/ behavioural problems		
3. Symptoms of psychological or emotional trauma such as self harm or eating disorder		
4. Evidence of drug or alcohol abuse		
5. Physical symptoms of exploitative abuse (bruising etc)		
6. Multiple Pregnancies or seeking a termination		
7. Recurring or multiple sexually transmitted infections		
8. Disclosed incidents of rape/sexual assault which were then retracted.		
Education	Yes	Suspicion
9. Truancy or disengagement with education or a noted change in performance		
10. Rumours that child is sexually active with multiple pupils in school		
11. Displaying sexualised behaviours with peers		
Emotional & Behavioural development	Yes	Suspicion
12. Volatile behaviour exhibiting extreme array of mood swings or use of abusive language		
13. Attachment to mobile phone or laptop		
14. Secretive behaviours		
15. Unknown 'friends' on social networking sites such as Facebook		
16. Indications of cyber-bullying		
17. Evidence of visits to adult websites (pornographic) or adult social networking sites		
18. Persistent texting or checking mobile phone for text messages, emails, messages on social networking sites		
19. Getting involved in criminal activities or are associating with known gangs		
20. Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults (obtain car details where possible and details of occupants, description of vehicle etc)		

21. Known to associate with other young people thought to be at risk of sexual exploitation		
22. Known to be frequenting hotels with unknown others/attending sex parties		
23. Evidence of indecent images on phone or laptop		
24. Involved in escorting or web sex adult sites		
25. Abduction or forced imprisonment		
26. Trafficked into country or disappearing from system		
27. Being moved around the country for sexual activity		
28. Child receiving money or material goods for sex		
Identity	Yes	Suspicion
29. Low self image, low self esteem, self harming, promiscuity		
Family & Social Relationships	Yes	Suspicion
30. Child is Looked after by local Authority		
31. Hostility in relationship with parents / carers / care home staff and other family members		
32. Detachment from normal age appropriate activities		
33. Placement breakdown if looked after		
34. Adults or older peers loitering outside the usual place of residence		
35. Associating with other young people suspected of being gang members		
36. Physical aggression towards parents, siblings, extended family, pets, teachers or peers		
37. Young person known to be sexually active (seeking contraception, evidence of condoms, disclosures from the young person)		
38. Unexplained relationships with older adults		
39. Unexplained attachment to a new neighbourhood or area, possibly in an area known to be used for sexual exploitation or prostitution (or for young men, seen at parks or public toilets known for sexual activity between males or in or outside gay bars, clubs or saunas)		
40. Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation		
41. Returning after being missing looking well cared for in spite of not knowing where the young person was		
42. Young person under the age of 13 years is known to be sexually active.		
43. Sexual relationship with an older person – judgement needed on age difference		
44. Reports from reliable sources suggesting the likelihood of the young person being sexually exploited (parents / carers, friends, teachers or other professionals with regular contact with the young person), perhaps with other young people who may themselves have been victims		
45. Missing and being found in an area unknown to the young person		

(including hotels / guest houses)		
Social Presentation	Yes	Suspicion
46. Sudden change in appearance including change of hairstyle, wearing more make up, wearing revealing clothing, wearing clothing that covers them up, wearing gang colours etc		
47. Making efforts to look older or younger		
Family History	Yes	Suspicion
48. Parental substance or alcohol abuse		
49. Parental learning difficulties		
50. History of physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect		
51. Known to services such as social care, police, health etc		
52. Dysfunctional family background		
53. Domestic violence / anti social behaviour		
Housing	Yes	Suspicion
54. Patterns of homelessness or unsuitable accommodation		
55. Having keys to premises other than those where normally resident		
56. Staying with an adult thought to be sexually exploiting them		
Income	Yes	Suspicion
57. Possession of large amounts of money with no plausible income		
58. Acquisition of new clothes, trainers, jewellery or gifts without any plausible explanation		
59. Acquisition of new mobile phone or laptop without any plausible explanation		
60. Young person is known to have access to 'free takeaway food' from takeaways		
61. Young person has unlimited access to free cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, phone credit		
62. Young person has access to social activities without any plausible explanation how these are being funded (i.e. visiting nightclubs and bars)		
63. Known to be accepting money for sexual activity.		

Summary of concerns:

What is the parent and child's view of the concerns and what do they think will help?

Complicating Factors - factors which make the situation more difficult to resolve e.g. substance misuse, difficulties mental health, new diagnosis of illness

What is working well? (existing strengths, existing safety protection)

What are we worried about? (past harm to children/young people)

Analysis of risk and future danger:

Scaling of Strengths in the family to keep child/young person safe:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10