

Chapter 2: CSE and the Local Response

Research into local data on CSE has shown the following:

KEY FINDINGS

- *Northamptonshire's proportion of Under 18's is 6% higher than the national average.*
- *Nationally 40% of parents say they are not confident in recognising CSE indicators. 25% of police officers and 50% of teachers say they are also not confident in recognising CSE indicators.*
- *Over the last two years (to Oct 2014) there were 172 recorded offences of CSE in Northamptonshire. 78 in year 1 and 94 in year 2. An increase of 21%.*
- *CSE represents 0.2% of all crime and 12% of all sexual offences.*
- *Of the 94 CSE offences in the year to Oct 2014, 23 were rapes, a 44% increase on the previous year.*
- *41 of the 94 CSE offences in the year to Oct 2014 had an online element, 17 of these led to physical contact and in a further 5 there was an attempt to meet the victim.*
- *All of the offenders in the last two years have been male.*
- *In 22 of the 94 offences in the year to Oct 2014 the offender was in a position of authority.*
- *In the last year there has been a 44% increase in intelligence logs submitted that are linked to CSE.*

In March 2015 the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner's office launched its survey into children's on-line activity the key findings were as follows:

- *One in four primary school-age children have seen something online that has upset them. This is much higher for five year olds (42 per cent) falling to one in five children aged eight to eleven*
- *Online gaming is the most popular activity (84 per cent) for primary school age children while YouTube (87%) is the main reason why young people of secondary school age are accessing the internet*
- *Thirty per cent of children and young people – 1782 - are viewing material online for which they are under age, most commonly accessing games, music and television programmes*
- *A quarter of 11-15 year olds and nearly half of 16-18 year olds have talked to people they have never met in person online*
- *One in ten 11-15-year-olds have been asked to send explicit images. The figure rises to one in four 16-18-year-olds*
- *One in four 11-15-year-olds and four in ten 16-18 year olds have sent inappropriate images or videos of themselves to people they know*
- *Nine out of 10 children do not want any more advice on online security. Yet a third of parents would like to know more about online safety and want their children to receive more education in the area.*

It is clear from the data above that CSE is in Northamptonshire and therefore it is imperative that all workers have an understanding of the risk factors and what to do when they suspect a child is at risk of CSE.

WHAT DO I DO IF I SUSPECT CSE?

Firstly you need to engage with the young person. We have produced, in Chapter Nine, information that you can use with young people. This was developed by the Kingfisher team in Oxford who have led the work on developing the CSE response in Oxfordshire.

An opening line would be:

“We are worried about you, we think people may be using you and exploiting you”

Then, taking the information in Chapter Nine, you can go through with the young person what sexual exploitation is and then explain you need to do an assessment to see if they are at risk

You then complete the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board’s Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Assessment see below:

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD'S CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) ASSESSMENT

The Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board's Child Sexual Exploitation Assessment has been designed to be used by professionals working with children and young people for whom there are concerns that they may be vulnerable to, being targeted for or involved in child sexual exploitation. This includes concerns that the young person's internet use is putting them at risk of CSE.

Professionals should discuss any concerns with their designated child protection / safeguarding officers before using this assessment.

Professionals should use their knowledge of the young person and answer the questions within the assessment to reflect the child or young person's situation and presentation and any evidence that grooming or exploitation is taking place.

All the questions in the tool should be considered in order to get as wide a picture as possible as to the young person's level of involvement in sexual exploitation, this assessment must be used to **assist** decision making. Each statement chosen will generate a score; and the final score will give an indication of the level of involvement and therefore risk to the young person – N.B. Scoring should inform not determine decision making.

Some of the indicators mirror normal teenage behaviour but professionals should consider each statement in the context of other concerns about the young person's behaviour or presentation.

The CSE Indicator Checklist is for NHS Staff in settings like Accident and Emergency – where they will have limited knowledge of the young person and spend limited time with them – the checklist will allow them to make the decision if the full CSE Assessment needs to be completed by one of their colleagues.

CSE INDICATOR CHECKLIST FOR USE BY MEDICAL STAFF:

NAME OF CHILD.....

PERSON ACCOMPANYING THE CHILD/YP:.....

LOW LEVEL INDICATORS:	
Low self-esteem/confidence	
Associating with unknown adults	
Self harming behaviours	
Experimenting with drugs/alcohol	
MEDIUM LEVEL INDICATORS:	
Getting into cars with unknown adults	
Associating with other YP who are known to be at risk of CSE	
Disclosure of physical assault, withdrawing complaint	
Having an older boyfriend / girlfriend	
Multiple STIs	
HIGHER LEVEL INDICATORS:	
Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity	
Disclosure of serious sexual assault followed by withdrawing statement	
Multiple terminations/miscarriages	
Indicators of CSE alongside chronic substance use or serious self harming	

If two or more low risk or any medium/higher risks are ticked, please complete full CSE Toolkit.

Child Sexual Exploitation Assessment

Young Person's Information:	
Name:	DOB: Contact No:
Address:	Sexuality: Ethnicity:
	Any issues with homophobia:
Date of assessment:	Is the YP aware of this referral Y/N
Name of Parents:	Parents contact no's:
Learning Difficulties/Disability Y/N	Please explain:
Emotional/Mental Health concerns Y/N	Please explain:
Is the child or young person subject to a CP Plan or Looked after?	Further info:
Any issues with DV:	Please explain:
Any significant loss/bereavement:	Please explain:
Is the YP open to any other services Y/N	Please explain:

Referrers Details:	
Name of referrer:	Service / Team:
Phone no:	
Email address:	

Vulnerability descriptors – grading guidance – CSE Indicators

NB. These are the 10 core vulnerabilities that should be used with all young people at risk of CSE.

In order to measure the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation to a young person/ child:

- each vulnerability section scores 1 to 5 (with 5 being HIGH RISK and 1 being LOW RISK),
- with a final professional judgement score of 1-10 (with 10 being HIGH RISK and 1 being LOW RISK) to determine the final Child Sexual Exploitation Assessment score for the young person/ child

Indicator	Score	Score
Episodes of missing from home/care		Ability to identify abusive/exploitive behaviour
School/college attendance		Engagement with appropriate service
Consumption of controlled substances		Awareness of sexual health services
Parent/Carer/- Child relationships		Association with risky peers/adults
Accommodation		Current known level of abuse/exploitation
Total		Total
Total Assessment Score		

RAG Rating			
Red (38 and above)		Amber (18-42)	Green (10-22)

Overall Score

1. Episodes of missing from home/care		Mandatory Field; please complete as fully as possible
1	No missing episodes	
2	Stays out late, no missing	
3	Occasionally goes missing , prolonged episodes or occasionally goes missing short episodes	
4	Frequent and short missing episodes	
5	Frequent and prolonged missing episodes	
2. School/College attendance PLEASE STATE SCHOOL OR COLLEGE ATTENDING:		Mandatory Field; please complete as fully as possible
1	Engaged/re-engaged in full time education or training or in work	
2	Registered in fulltime education/irregular attendance or *attending PRU /receiving private tuition (FTE) *linked with ESW/Connexions *attending college (PT or irregular attendance) *is employed on a PT basis	
3	Young person excluded from school, no provision being made or undertaking some education/training (P/T). Poor attendance. Or Young person is attending PRU/receiving private tuition (not full time)	
4	Not engaged in full time education, training or employment BUT shows an interest in accessing opportunities	
5	Not engaged in any time education, training or employment. Shows no interest in accessing educational or training opportunities	

3. Substance use		Mandatory Field; please complete as fully as possible
1	No substance use/concerns	
2	Some concerns about drug/alcohol use	
3	Moderate drug or alcohol use - increasing concerns	
4	Problematic drug/alcohol use known or suspected	
5	Young person is dependent on alcohol/ drugs. Known /disclosure. Appears dependant on alcohol/drugs	
4. Parent/Carer - Child Relationships		Mandatory Field; please complete as fully as possible
1	Significant understanding and good communication between parent/YP	
2	Some mutual understanding and positive communication between parent/YP	
3	Inconsistent understanding and communication	
4	Poor and negative communication, little warmth	
5	Breakdown in relationship between parent/YP or suspected abuse/neglect	

5. Accommodation		Mandatory Field; please complete as fully as possible
1	Young person is satisfied with accommodation. Meets the young person's needs	
2	Young person is generally satisfied with accommodation, or accommodation meets most of the needs of young person, or some concerns about longer term stability	
3	Unstable or unsuitable accommodation. Young person is not satisfied where they are living	
4	In temporary accommodation	
5	Homeless	
6. Ability to identify abusive/exploitive behaviour		Mandatory Field; please complete as fully as possible
1	Good understanding of exploitative/abusive behaviour	
2	Reasonable understanding of abusive/exploitative behaviour	
3	Some understanding of abusive/exploitative behaviour	
4	Limited recognition of abusive/exploitative behaviour	
5	No recognition of abusive/exploitative behaviour	

7. Engagement with appropriate services		Mandatory Field; please complete as fully as possible
1	Good engagement	
2	Reasonable engagement, regular contact	
3	Some engagement with service, occasional contact	
4	Brief engagement with service; early stages or sporadic contact	
5	No engaging with service/ no contact	
8. Awareness of sexual health services		Mandatory Field; please complete as fully as possible
1	Good engagement with sexual health issues / no longer at risk	
2	Engaging with sexual health issues / reduced risks to health	
3	Young person is beginning to engage with sexual health issues / decreasing risk to health	
4	Minimal engagement with sexual health issues / health is at risk	
5	No engagement with sexual health issues / health is at high risk	

9. Association with risky peers/adults		Mandatory Field; please complete as fully as possible
1	Young person is no longer at risk through contact with risky adults and peers	Please list all known peer/adult associates of the YP:
2	Young person's contact with risky adults /peers is reducing and s(he) is developing new and more positive networks	
3	Young person recognised adults/peers that pose a risk and is beginning to withdraw from these relationships	
4	Young person is developing an awareness or risks/exploitation but contact has not significantly reduced	
5	Young person is known to be habitually associating with risky adults and/or peers and does not acknowledge risks	
10. Current known level of sexual abuse/exploitation		Mandatory Field; please complete as fully as possible
1	Exited, no longer at risk OR No/minimal risk	
2	Low risk/ preventative work: or Reduction in risk	
3	Medium risk	
4	High Risk (previous history) OR High risk (no previous history)	
5	Experiencing current exploitation: known OR suspected	

NB. In this context 'risky' means that they either present a direct risk to the young person (i.e. in terms of physical violence or sexual abuse / exploitation) or they are likely to draw the young person towards other adults / peers who presented this risk.

Professional Judgement:

Professional Judgement Other Comments - * Please score this section 1-10 and carry the score forward to your overall score; remember Scoring should inform not determine decision making.

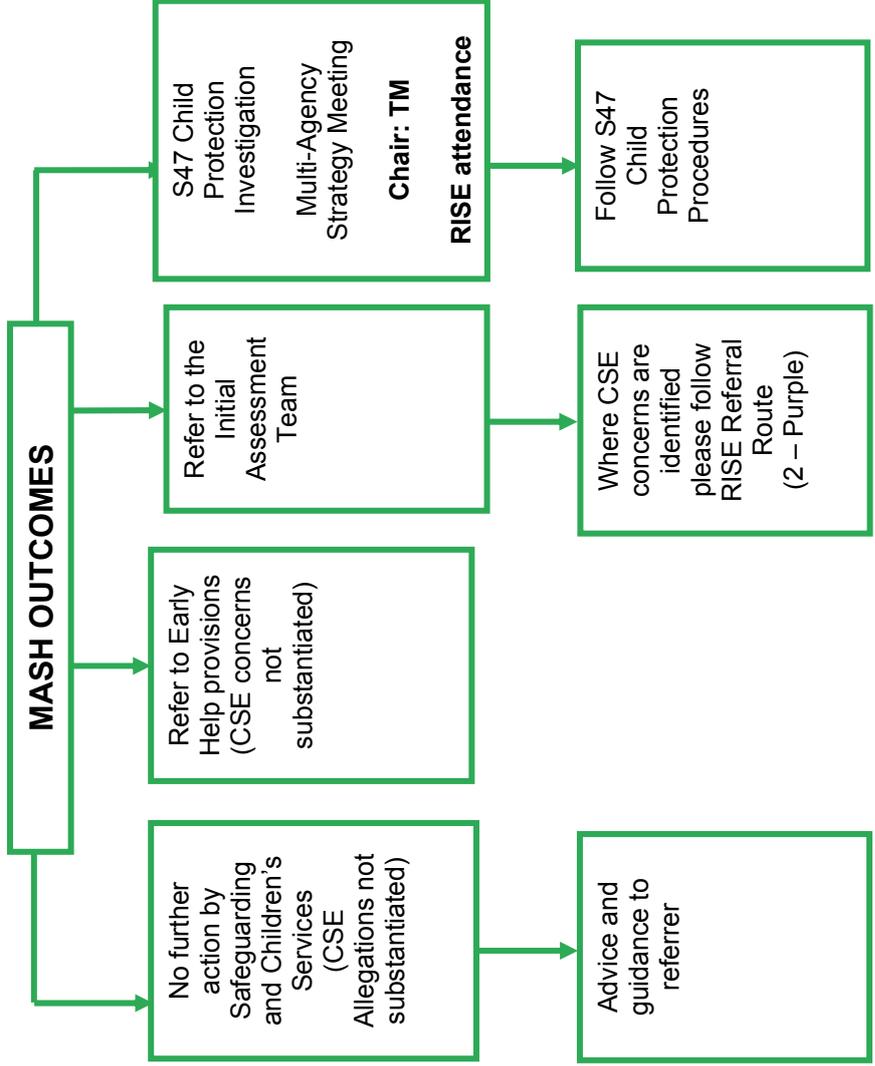
Score

Once completed and you have identified there is risk, then complete a referral to the multi-agency safeguarding hub and send in your CSE assessment along with your referral. The CSE assessment can be downloaded from the NSCB website <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/>

Referral Route 1 – Green

(A) NEW REFERRALS ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In the event of a concern being identified regarding sexual exploitation, practitioners must complete the NSCB CSE Assessment and send the completed document with a Multi-Agency Referral Form to mash@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk



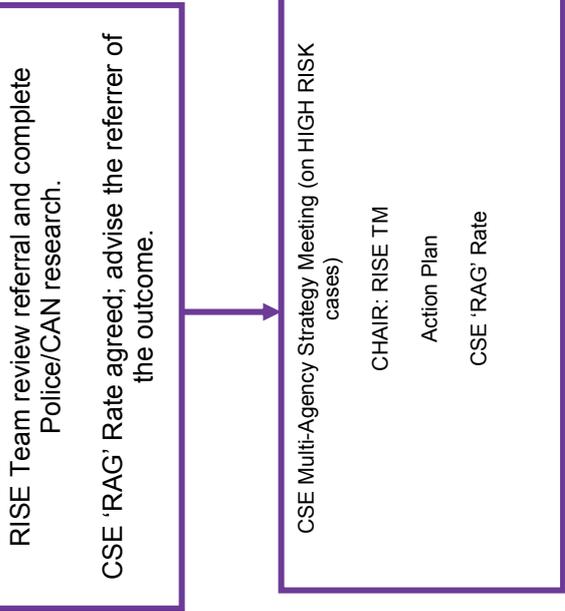
Referral Route 2 – Purple

(B) REFERRALS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE AN ALLOCATED NCC SOCIAL WORKER

Where a concern is identified regarding sexual exploitation, the allocated social worker in consultation with their Team Manager must complete a NSCB CSE assessment.

REQUEST FOR CSE STRATEGY MEETING to be sent to

rise@northants.pnn.police.uk



Locally all CSE concerns are received by RISE which stands for

RISE: Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation

'RISE is a new multi-agency team comprising of Child Protection Police Officers, Children's social care support workers, CSE support Workers from CAN YP Team and a specialist CSE nurse'

The team collocated with the Missing Person's Team and work collaboratively.

The aim is to:

Support & Protect vulnerable young people at risk of, or currently being, sexually exploited and to **Prosecute** and disrupt perpetrators.

By:

- Raising awareness & reducing tolerance of exploitative behaviour by providing professionals training
- Providing 1:1 support to educate, improve resilience & reduce vulnerability of targeted Young Person
- Information sharing to ensure a multi-agency approach is adopted to safeguard the Young Person
- Disrupting, preventing & prosecuting abusers

Contact: 01604 888345

rise@northants.pnn.police.uk

CSE AND THE ROLE OF THE POLICE.

Northamptonshire Police actively investigates all suspected child sexual exploitation cases, whether reported directly to the Police or via a third party. The Force has written a specific guidance document, accessible by its officers and staff titled 'Investigating Child Sexual Exploitation'. This sets out how to deal with key areas of CSE - including statutory obligations, working with partner agencies, information sharing, risk factors and warning signs, investigations and legislation.

Given the high priority that Northamptonshire Police gives to CSE, the Force has a team of officers and support staff who play a key role working within the multi-agency RISE team, dedicated to tackling CSE. The Police team focus on safeguarding victims as well as investigating criminal allegations. They prosecute offenders, actively gather and develop intelligence on suspected perpetrators of CSE and where prosecution is not possible will seek to disrupt their activity, thereby minimising the harm they cause. The team also help deliver training to all Police staff.

CSE takes many forms and the law seeks to recognise and address this through a number of criminal offences. The bulk of offences pertaining to CSE are contained within the Sexual Offences Act 2003. These have been documented in Chapter 1.

PROSECUTIONS

Northamptonshire Police will always consider whether there is sufficient evidence and it is the public interest to prosecute where CSE offences have been disclosed. They will work alongside the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in reaching this decision, with the CPS having to authorise most prosecutions. In reaching this decision a number of investigative strategies will be considered the aim being to maximise evidence gathering.

This will include:

- speaking to victims,
- seeking witnesses,
- reviewing forensic opportunities,
- CCTV and exploring covert Policing methods.

Whilst each investigation is treated individually Northamptonshire Police has as expectation that positive action will be taken so that where reasonable suspicion exists that a person has committed a CSE offence they will ordinarily be arrested. This presents further opportunities to seek evidence by the interviewing of suspects, conducting searches of their properties, vehicles, and examination of their computers and mobile phones. As well as gathering evidence an arrest also supports the safeguarding of victims – which is the priority for Northamptonshire Police. An arrest enables the imposition of strict bail conditions, for example prohibiting a suspect from contacting a victim or visiting a particular location or where evidence and the circumstances justify it the charge and remand in prison of perpetrators. This helps minimise the risk of future harm to identified (and sometimes unidentified) victims.

CSE investigations are reviewed by a Detective Sergeant and all serious cases are managed by a Detective Inspector in line with the Forces established Serious Crime Policy.

INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

A key role of the Police is gathering relevant information useful for policing purposes. As the lead agency for the enforcement and prosecution of CSE Northamptonshire Police will actively seek intelligence in order to identify, disrupt and bring to justice perpetrators of CSE as well to safeguard victims and prevent further offences being committed.

There are strict guidelines on how information is collected, recorded, evaluated, shared and retained. These guidelines are contained within the Data Protection Act and the Management of Police Information. Northamptonshire Police will utilise a number of methods to gather intelligence that includes, but is not limited to:

- Checking national Police systems. This includes The National Firearms Licensing Database and Police National Computer. The latter contains arrest and conviction history, DNA and descriptive details of persons as well as information on registered motor vehicles and their keepers.
- Seeking and sharing locally held intelligence from other Police Forces
- Seeking and sharing information from other agencies involved in the tackling of crime. This includes the National Crime Agency, the UK Border Agency, the Prison Service, National Probation Service and Trading Standards.
- Seeking information from other Government agencies including the Department for Work and Pensions and Her Majesties Revenue and Customs.
- Gathering information from financial institutions.
- Sharing information with local organisations such as the local authority, housing companies, hotels, and licensed premises.
- Seeking information directly from individuals and organisations on a case by case basis.
- Utilising internet research.
- Using local Police officers and staff to gather information about persons.
- Encouraging the community to report incidents and information - ideally directly to the Police but otherwise anonymously, via Crimestoppers.
- Utilising covert Policing methods to gather information on persons where this is proportionate and justified – for example to target a person suspected of committing serious crimes against young persons.

In summary the 'golden thread' of information sharing is key to the success of the RISE (CSE) multi agency team. In the interests of safeguarding children the Police work closely with Social Care, Health, Education and providers of support services such as drug and alcohol services.

DISRUPTION

A key aim of nearly all investigations is to bring offenders to justice. It is accepted that for a number of reasons a prosecution will not always be possible. This can be due to a lack of independent or corroborative evidence or key victims and witnesses declining to support a prosecution. Even where a prosecution is possible, it may take many months to achieve, particularly with vulnerable and intimidated CSE victims. Northamptonshire Police will therefore seek to disrupt offenders in order to minimise the risk of ongoing harm they pose to others. Disruption tactics may include the following.

- Targeting and arresting offenders for other criminal offences (for example the possession or supply of illegal drugs).
- Serving Child Abduction Notices on suspects of CSE.
- Ensuring offenders are subjected to a high degree of overt Police activity including regular visits and monitoring.
- Ensuring enforcement of bail conditions or court orders
- Conducting stop searches of suspects
- Conducting search warrants (where justifiable lawful grounds exist) at suspect's home addresses or other locations where evidence may be recovered or persons are at risk.
- Seizing motor vehicle's being illegally used.
- Sharing information with other agencies to support other prosecution action for example tax, housing and benefit fraud.
- Flagging CSE suspects to other law enforcement and statutory organisations.
- Using the media to raise awareness and seek information on a suspect / premise.

Intelligence gathering, disruption and Prosecution of offenders are recognised as proportionate and justifiable tactics utilised by Northamptonshire Police to tackle the serious harm caused by CSE and to help safeguard victims.

We thought it would be useful to share a real Northamptonshire case with you:

INITIAL CONCERN:

A school in Northamptonshire raised concerns that one of their 14 year old female pupils may be having an inappropriate relationship with a male in his mid-twenties.

He was continually contacting her, buying her alcohol and had taken her to an unknown house where he had tried to engage her in sexual activity, albeit the girl stated she had managed to get away.

RISE BECAME INVOLVED:

The RISE team took on the case. An exploitation worker was allocated and during support sessions the girl disclosed that she was being forced into drug dealing and arrangements were being made for men to have sexual intercourse with her.

SAFEGUARDING INITIATED:

Immediate safeguarding was put in place, led by Children's Social Care. This ensured that the child was protected from further harm and package of support was put in around her.

POLICE ACTION:

The suspect was arrested and a search of his home address took place, leading to his later eviction. He was bailed to reside in London and prohibited from contacting the victim or entering Northamptonshire. Whilst the investigation continued, support for the victim and her family was put in place to keep them safe and for them to understand how she had been exploited. The victim was ultimately settled in a new school with support from her family.

Whilst there was insufficient evidence to bring charges against the male, he was flagged as a CSE suspect and Intelligence was shared with the Metropolitan Police, to help influence future Police activity against him. This helps mitigate the risk the male poses to other potential victims in the London area where he now resides.

IN CONCLUSION:

We hope this chapter has given you a through overview of how we are tackling CSE in Northamptonshire and the role you can play. The following chapters are agency specific. They concentrate on how to be aware of risk factors that young people may present to you in your setting and what action you can take.