

29. The Police and Children's Services comply with statutory processes around the safeguarding of children and information sharing within statutory meetings. Police and Children's Services utilise the support of multi-agency partners, such as licensing trading standards, housing etc in order to disrupt potential perpetrators of CSE.
30. Previously there were concerns that vulnerable older children were being viewed and discussed as 'perpetrators' of CSE and not considered as victims or at risk of exploitation in their own right. This having been raised as an issue, improvement in victim blaming has been noted.
31. Swansea Council has received funding to further its understanding of exploitation and harm in relation to peer abuse and exploitation in line with contextual approaches to safeguarding. The service manager at Better Futures sits on the strategic board to inform this and a Child Advocate sits on the operational board.

Theme 2 - Ensuring child victims are treated with empathy, concern and respect, addressing victim-blaming language and ensuring specific provision for BME and/or LGBTQ complainants or victims of child sexual exploitation

32. The Advocate's role is to advocate on behalf of the child and support them to have their voice heard. If we feel a young person is not being treated fairly, we will raise this within the concerns/recommendation section of the RHI and escalate as appropriate. We work from a rights based perspective and make children and young people aware of the UNCRC. We have adapted our RHI form to include gender identity. We hold discussions with young people around relationships and gender identity. The Advocate has shared details of relevant services in Swansea with Police and Children's Services in order to signpost young people. We work using a child centred, trauma informed approach and recognise the victim status of those who have been abused or who are at risk within this context. We challenge any terminology used about young people that could be deemed victim blaming or minimise their experiences as victims. This role is accepted and acknowledged by the responsible statutory agencies.
33. The Advocate deployed to the Divisional area has been asked to speak at several training days where the use of language to describe victims of CSE has been on the agenda. Her input has been well received and she has been asked to return for further discussions. At the outset of Service, there were concerns expressed around the use of language used to describe exploited children within South Wales Police. However, we have noted a significant positive change in the culture around this, post it being raised as