

coordinate the safeguarding through the Practice Lead for the Disruption of Exploitation.

There are strong links with our local youth offending service who attend every initial strategy meeting regardless of whether they are open or not to them where there are concerns that a young person is at risk of CSE.

There are direct links between children services and the safer Swansea partnership over exploitation and a representative from the partnership attends CSE strategy meetings.

To support our safeguarding work we have accessed the St Giles Trust who offer support around diversion away from gang culture and the preventative CSE. In addition we also link closely with other third sector organisations and their specific support, such as, Roots foundation, NSPCC and Barnardos. Each of these organisations regularly attend CSE meetings.

We are also working with the University of Bedfordshire, following a success bid for them to work with us, in creating a contextual safeguarding approach in Swansea.

Contextual safeguarding sets out the relationships between the environments that children spend their lives and the decisions they make in their life are central to how they influence their decision-making. That is because environments impact on decisions that young people make as they try to obtain status within their environments within that environments set of social rules. Then the understanding of these field rules influence their behaviours.

We are currently in the first year of developing a contextual safeguarding approach to CSE and County Lines.

- Focus of the work is for 11 to 17year olds (as the most at risk group).
- Three Year Approach (2019-21)
- First Year (2019-20) to complete a systems review and develop multi agency framework/ tools and practice to support Contextual Safeguarding. To identify pilot area (site) for second year. Benchmark data to support reviewing impact when approach is implemented.
- Second Year (2020-21) Implement a contextual safeguarding approach in a pilot area and review the systems to develop practice and the systems to support this approach. Review the impact of the approach against bench marked data
- Third Year (2021) Implement a Contextual Safeguarding Approach across Swansea and review impact of approach, leading to embedding approach in “business as usual”

- To prevent, protect and support Children and Young People at risk of Child Exploitation (as defined in the West Glamorgan Exploitation Policy).
- Robust coordinated early intervention and identified of young people at risk of exploitation and reduce need for statutory service intervention.
- To oversee and ensure that all young people identified as at risk of exploitation have access to specific targeted support at the right time.
- To ensure there is an effective multi-agency strategic and operational response to the identification, disruption and safeguarding of vulnerable children and young people, and that the cases and children identified are deemed a priority are able to access the right support.
- The sharing of relevant and proportionate information, both within the Council and between the Council and other agencies to safeguarding children and young people from exploitation.
- To create a peer/ location mapping approach to consider contextual circumstances for young people/ groups of young people. Which will include, places, peer networks, adult networks and any other relevant factors in order to ensure effective safeguarding of young people at risk of Child Exploitation (CE).
- Create electronic recording of information about a young person's peer relationships and networks to promote effective safeguarding from exploitation.
- To review the impact and effectiveness of operational interventions and develop and review strategic solutions where required.

In January 2020, the University Of Bedfordshire completed a systems review of how we identify, respond and protect children and young people who are at risk of CSE and County Lines.

This identified that we are identifying extra familial harm within current practice better than the other sites that they looked at across the UK, and responding to this in a coordinated manner.

To conclude, there is considerable work ongoing and being developed in regards to CSE and safeguarding young people. Swansea is an area that has been identified as having a large number of County Lines gangs within it, and therefore the risks to young people and the impact of these criminal operatives is significant locally.