

GSC Marking:	OFFICIAL	Publication (Y/N):	N
Title:	Central East Area BCU – CSE Overview		
Summary:	An overview of key findings and trends in CSE related CRIS reports over a twelve-month period from 01/04/2018 - 31/03/2019		
Lead Branch / OCU:	MO2 – Met Intelligence		
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Introduction

This report will provide an overview on CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) for the Central East Area BCU - this geographically encompasses the boroughs of Hackney (GD) and Tower Hamlets (HT).

Data for this report has been extracted via the MPS CRIS crime reporting system within the date parameters of 01/04/2018 to 31/03/2019 which contain one of the following criteria:

- Classified as S587/00 Non-Crime CSE
- Flagged 'ES' denoting CSE
- Flagged 'EU' to denote 'Online' CSE
- Housed in the boroughs of GD and HT. This report does not include any investigations by SET (Sexual Exploitation Team).

Each report has been manually read and will provide an overview on the following:

- Reporting mechanisms into the BCU
- Referral streams
- The level of CSE experienced (i.e. Level 1, 2 or 3)
- Age range and gender of children at risk or victim to CSE
- Offender overview
- Disruptions served
- Locations and schools of note
- Gang links

Definition of CSE

As set out by the Department for education

'Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology¹'.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CSE_Guidance_Core_Document_13.02.2017.pdf

Information Gaps

- **Suspect Details:** The suspect information contained within the CRIS reports is often incomplete. This could be due to the victim being unaware of who the offender is, unaware they are at risk of CSE so unwilling to provide suspect information or because whilst there are general concerns a victim could be at risk of CSE, no offences or events have actually occurred.
- **Level Categories:** Each report should be assigned a Level Category to indicate what kind of risk a child might be experiencing. 36% of the reports analysed did not show a Level Category or was unclear as to which it should be.
- **Flags:** The EU flag, which is used to denote Online CSE, was only used in 8 out of 29 reports that concerned online offences.
- **CRIS Dets Page:** Whilst the details page of some CRIS reports are extensive and contain lots of detail, many are unclear as to what type of CSE a child may be facing, if any, and what their current vulnerabilities are.
- **Evidence:** As many apps let users share content that is time sensitive, evidence of indecent images and videos is often lost or unable to be viewed subsequently, making it difficult to prove what was shared and who shared it.

Recommendations

- As certain schools and education providers were mentioned in relation to multiple reports, visiting these schools to raise awareness of CSE would be beneficial in helping prevent children becoming exposed to potential CSE situations. Many pupils were shown in interviews to have a poor understanding of what CSE is and were unaware that they were currently at risk. Ensuring children know where and how they can access support is vital in encouraging children to bring forward any concerns they might have.
- Snapchat and Instagram were mentioned many times within these reports as the primary methods of communication between young people and their peers/offenders. Helping to educate both them and their guardians on the risks of using these platforms will help both recognise the signs of potential exploitation and how to use Social Media safely.
- Encouraging victims to save or not delete any images/videos which could assist in the investigation as evidence or Intelligence.
- Identifying and visiting locations that are mentioned repeatedly to address why these locations attract young people. DPA Hotel, DPA has been noted to be open to the public 24hrs a day and offers free WIFI, which attracts young people to hang out there. Operation MAKESAFE can help educate staff on how to recognise and approach potential CSE situations which will help prevent these locations becoming hotspots. Tower Hamlets also runs Op CAREWATCH which targets hotels and venues in the borough that could be used for possible CSE. Visits are carried out to test how venues acknowledge and deal with potential CSE situations, with training issued for venues that fail.