

Recommendations

1. The Department for Education should review and where necessary, revise the *Working Together guidance on CSE* (DCSF, 2009). This should include a review of the definition of CSE.
2. Every Local Safeguarding Children Board should take all necessary steps to ensure they are fully compliant with the *Working Together guidance on CSE* (DCSF, 2009).
3. Every Local Safeguarding Children Board should review their strategic and operational plans and procedures against the seven principles, nine foundations and the **See Me, Hear Me Framework** in this report, ensuring they are meeting their obligations to children and young people and the professionals who work with them. Gaps should be identified and plans developed for delivering effective practice in accordance with the evidence. The effectiveness of plans, procedures and practice should be subject to an on-going evaluation and review cycle.
4. There need to be nationally and locally agreed information-sharing protocols that specify every agencies' and professional's responsibilities and duties for sharing information about children who are or may be in need of protection. At the national level, this should be lead and coordinated by the Home Office through the Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People National Group. At the local level, this must be led by LSCBs. All member agencies at both levels must be signatories and compliance rigorously monitored.
5. Problem-profiling of victims, offenders, gangs, gang-associated girls, high risk businesses and neighbourhoods and other relevant factors must take place at both national and local levels. The Home Office, through the Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People National Group, should lead and coordinate the development of a national profile. Local Safeguarding Children Boards should do the equivalent at the local level.
6. Every local authority must ensure that its Joint Strategic Needs Assessment includes evidence about the prevalence of CSE, identification and needs of high risk groups, local gangs, their membership and associated females. This should determine commissioning decisions and priorities.
7. Relationships and sex education must be provided by trained practitioners in every educational setting for all children and young people. This must be part of a holistic/whole-school approach to child protection that includes internet safety and all forms of bullying and harassment and the getting and giving of consent.
8. Through the Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People National Group, the Government should undertake a review of the various initiatives being funded by the Home Office, Department for Education, Department of Health and any others as relevant, in order to ensure services are not duplicated and that programmes are complementary, coordinated and adequately funded. All initiatives should be cross-checked to ensure that they are effectively linked into child protection procedures and local safeguarding arrangements.