

## Strategic Aim

The strategic aim of this strategy is for children and young people in County Durham to be free from the risk and harms of sexual exploitation.

## Strategic Objectives

The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board has prioritised work on Child Sexual Exploitation since 2011. Child Sexual Exploitation has now been identified as a strategic policing requirement from March 2015. CSE is also now part of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan and the County Durham Police and Crime Plan (Durham Police and Crime Commissioner).

The Missing and Exploited Group focusses on monitoring activity and improving services and responses to reported missing and absent children and those children and young people vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation. The group is responsible for the development and delivery of this Durham LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy.

Our Strategic Objectives are:

- To **prevent** CSE, making it more difficult to exploit children and young people
- To **protect** children and young people from CSE by identifying and safeguarding those at risk
- To **pursue** perpetrators of CSE by identifying, disrupting and where possible prosecuting offenders

The successful delivery of the strategic objectives will rely upon Durham LSCB effectively coordinating initiatives and mainstreaming activities to maximise partnership resources. Partners across the community, voluntary sector and statutory agencies are committed to working together to deliver services that bring the most impact and focus on prevent, protect and pursue.

## Local CSE Profile (2016)

The LSCB Missing and Exploited (MEG) Sub-Group carry out an annual analysis of Child Sexual Exploitation in County Durham. This year's (2016/17) third research and analysis paper on CSE provided by Durham Constabulary covers the period September 2015 and March 2016 to coincide with the launch of the ERASE Team. The analysis found that:

### Online CSE

- Online CSE continues as the most common model of sexual exploitation
- 87% of online related CSE incidents were reported by a third party such as parents / carers / school teachers
- Facebook was identified as the most common social media used (40%)
- Female victims accounted for 80% of reports

- Victims of online CSE are younger than contact CSE with the most common age being 12 years old
- 30% of CSE reports the perpetrator has either groomed the young person to meet offline or attempts to meet offline had been made

### **Contact CSE**

- The majority of victims and those at risk of CSE were female with an age range of 13 to 16 years and the most common age is 14
- Males represented 19% of CSE reports and common age was mid-teens to early 20's
- 19% of young people have had either multiple CSE referrals or crimes
- 40% of reports (where data was captured) victims had one or more vulnerability
- The data showed strong links between going missing and at risk of CSE

### **Offenders**

- Majority of offenders are males (97%) most acting as lone offenders
- The majority of male perpetrators are in their mid-teens to early 20's and their ethnicity was recorded as White European
- 24% had history of early sexual offending
- 20% of offenders have used multiple CSE models and have displayed a range of methods to carry out their sexual offending

### **Locations of CSE and cross border issues**

- 80% of reports there was no location identified this is noted as a key threat relating to recording data gaps
- 10% of CSE reports indicate cross border links; this includes links to victims either involved in other regional operations; going missing and associating with inappropriate persons

### **Other observations**

- Peer Exploitation – this accounted for less than 4% of contact CSE however the sexual activity linked to peer exploitation is significant
- Young people emerging as CSE perpetrators / facilitators
- Inappropriate relationships is one of the more common models seen. Late teens/early 20's targeting 13-14 year old and older perpetrators targeting those in mid-teens. 30% of the victims in this model were boys / young men
- Community intelligence gathered or submitted continues to be a challenge but has improved