

National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (Wales)

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is child abuse and a criminal act. CSE as defined in statutory guidance and the All Wales Protocol is:

“Child sexual exploitation is the coercion or manipulation of children and young people into taking part in sexual activities. It is a form of sexual abuse involving an exchange of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, ‘protection’ or affection. The vulnerability of the young person and grooming process employed by perpetrators renders them powerless to recognise the exploitative nature of relationships and unable to give informed consent”.

The Welsh Government is committed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), an international agreement which protects the human rights of children under the age of 18, enshrined in the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011.

Child abuse directly contravenes the UNCRC and its universal goals of provision, protection and participation. In compliance with the UNCRC and specifically article 34, all children and young people must be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

This national action plan sets out a framework and minimum standards that Safeguarding Children Boards (SCBs) and partner agencies should work collectively and individually towards and build on to:

- Prevent and protect children and young people from sexual exploitation;
- Provide responsive, appropriate and consistent support to those identified as being subject to or at risk of CSE;
- Contribute to the identification, disruption and prosecution of perpetrators.

The four overarching outcomes of this national action plan are:

PREPARE:	Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies assume CSE to be present and have specified objectives to support:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The identification of children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE- A range of appropriate responses and resources designed to improve well-being outcomes for children subject to or at risk of CSE
PREVENT:	Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies have a prevention programme and responsive services in place to help children and young people at risk of CSE and their families
PROTECT:	Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies actively protect children and young people from CSE, by working together to achieve the continuity and effectiveness of care plans for those children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE
PURSUE:	Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies have a clear and shared understanding about how they can contribute to the disruption and prosecution of perpetrators and to the support of victims through a consistent child centred approach

This plan is for use by all agencies, statutory and non-statutory, that have a responsibility for safeguarding specifically to prevent and protect children from abuse, neglect or other forms of harm.

Outcome	Actions needed	Timeline	Responsibility to take forward
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1. PREPARE - Overarching outcome:

Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies assume CSE to be present and have specified objectives to support:

- ***The identification of children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE***
- ***A range of appropriate responses and resources designed to improve well-being outcomes for children subject to or at risk of CSE***

1.1 SCBs and partner agencies have established a strategic response to tackle CSE that reflects statutory guidance and aims to prevent and protect children from abuse	1.1a Statutory safeguarding guidance including CSE guidance to be reviewed to ensure it reflects accurately new legislation including a clear definition of CSE that makes appropriate links with other associated risky behaviours	July 2016	WG
	1.1b SCBs and partner agencies contribute to and agree revisions to the All Wales CSE protocol and definitions within the All Wales Child Protection Procedures	September 2016	SCBs and partner agencies
	1.1c SCBs and partner agencies adopt and implement revisions to the All Wales CSE protocol and definitions within the All Wales Child Protection Procedures	December 2016	SCBs and partner agencies
1.2 SCBs and partner agencies have established operational arrangements and practitioner tools to support the identification of CSE and enable a timely	1.2a Effectiveness of SERAF assessment tool to be evaluated across agencies and improvement action taken as needed	July 2016	WG
	1.2b Service analysis of demand and need to include those	December 2016	SCBs and partner agencies

Outcome	Actions needed	Timeline	Responsibility to take forward
range of appropriate responses	<p>resulting from risk / impact of CSE</p> <p>1.2c The availability and usefulness of risk assessment processes /tools, to be reviewed and improvement action taken as needed</p>	December 2016	SCBs and partner agencies
1.3 SCBs and partner agencies assume CSE is present and have identified children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE as a shared priority	<p>1.3a SCBs have a CSE strategy and action plan in place which is incorporated into the SCBs work plan</p> <p>1.3b SCBs prioritise work plans according to local issues</p> <p>1.3c Development of national response to address CSE</p>	<p>March 2016</p> <p>March 2016</p> <p>January 2016</p>	<p>SCBs and partner agencies</p> <p>SCBs and partner agencies</p> <p>WG</p>
1.4 SCBs and partner agencies contribute to a national shared dataset informed through local evidence and intelligence to improve understanding, profiling, and response to CSE	<p>1.4a Development and agreement of a national data set to enable the collection of data that captures the profile, prevalence and response to CSE in Wales</p> <p>1.4b SCBs and partner agencies to capture and return data to WG to inform both local and national collation and analysis of data</p> <p>1.4c WG to publish a summary report on the CSE data submitted</p> <p>1.4d Development of CSE information sharing systems e.g. CSE WASPI to contribute to effective information sharing in known or suspected CSE cases</p>	<p>December 2015</p> <p>April 2016</p> <p>April 2016</p> <p>July 2016</p>	<p>WG and SCBs and partner agencies</p> <p>SCBs and partner agencies</p> <p>WG</p> <p>SCBs and partner agencies</p>

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	<p>1.4e As statutory partner agencies of SCBs, probation (Community Rehabilitation Companies and National Probation Services) will hold information about individuals linked to CSE. SCBs (and where appropriate partner agencies) should ensure effective information sharing amongst partners to support this</p> <p>1.4f Safeguarding quality assurance and reporting systems to include CSE</p>	<p>July 2016</p> <p>December 2016</p>	<p>SCBs and partner agencies</p> <p>SCBs and partner agencies</p>
<p>1.5 SCBs and partner agencies are active in informing all members of the community of the role that they can play to make the community safer from CSE</p>	<p>1.5a WG/SCBs and partner agencies to develop general awareness-raising strategies and activities in respect of CSE (aimed at children, young people, their families and the general public)</p>	<p>December 2016</p>	<p>WG/ SCBs and partner agencies</p>
<p>1.6 SCBs and partner agencies ensure that the risk and impact of CSE forms part of safeguarding training for all staff, this includes awareness raising (including about those at greater risk of CSE as a result of their vulnerabilities), warning signs and the responsibility to report and respond to concerns</p>	<p>1.6a SCBs and partner agencies undertake a review and analysis of their training needs in relation to CSE</p> <p>1.6b SCBs to develop a relevant multi-agency training programme that promotes the board's aims and objectives in relation to CSE (which seeks to complement not duplicate individual partner agencies training)</p> <p>1.6c SCBs training sub-groups to lead on and report progress to SCBs in relation to multi-agency training in relation to</p>	<p>July 2016</p> <p>July 2016</p> <p>December 2016</p>	<p>SCBs and partner agencies</p> <p>SCBs and partner agencies</p> <p>SCBs and partner agencies</p>

Outcome	Actions needed	Timeline	Responsibility to take forward
	CSE, and related risky behaviour (e.g. missing children)		
<p>1.7 SCBs and partner agencies improvement agenda are supported through inspection activity that evaluates the service effectiveness in promoting the safety and well-being of children and young people</p>	<p>1.7a All inspection frameworks to include safeguarding and well-being focus</p> <p>1.7b SCBs and partner agencies to share inspection reports and resulting action plans to inform shared SCB and partner objectives regarding CSE and safeguarding</p>	<p>December 2016</p> <p>Annually/ December 2016</p>	<p>Inspectorates</p> <p>SCBs and partner agencies</p>

Outcome	Actions needed	Timeline	Responsibility to take forward
<p>2. PREVENT - Overarching outcome:</p> <p><i>Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies have a prevention programme and responsive services in place to help children and young people at risk of CSE and their families</i></p>			
<p>2.1 Agencies preparedness for the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 includes a focus on the well-being outcomes of children subject to or at risk of CSE</p>	<p>2.1a SCBs and partner agencies to develop mechanisms to identify, map and assess risk and patterns of CSE within their areas</p> <p>2.1b SCBs and partner agencies to develop best practice approach to LAC placements of children and young people (at high risk of CSE) through effective communication and cooperation arrangements. (LAs should be aware of the requirement in the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Wales) Regulations 2015 to refer decisions about placements out of area to a panel, and to notify relevant partners about the placement)</p>	<p>December 2016</p> <p>April 2016</p>	<p>SCBs and partner agencies</p> <p>SCBs and partner agencies</p>
<p>2.2 SCBs and partner agencies have identified the range of preventative services to support those at risk of CSE in their locality</p>	<p>2.2a SCBs and partner agencies to undertake /update a needs assessment that enables them to understand: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service demand in relation to CSE prevention - The impact and effectiveness of the preventative activity and services available to help those at risk of CSE in their locality - The impact and effectiveness of activity aimed at changing perception, motivation and behaviour of those likely to offend - Identify any gaps in service and areas for development - The impact and effectiveness of targeted preventative activity and services available to 	<p>December 2016</p>	<p>SCBs and partner agencies</p>

Outcome	Actions needed	Timeline	Responsibility to take forward
3. PROTECT - Overarching outcome: <i>Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies actively protect children and young people from CSE by working together to achieve the continuity and effectiveness of care plans for those children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE</i>			
3.1 SCBs and partner agencies promote the well-being of children and young people who are subject to or at risk of CSE including those at greater risk of CSE as a result of their vulnerabilities	3.1a SCBs and partner agencies to review, evaluate and update their operational arrangements and training programmes to ensure that in relation to CSE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thresholds for intervention are understood and consistently applied - Staff get adequate supervision and support - Interface between risk assessment and risk management mechanisms are clear and understood - Partners work together at the earliest opportunity to coordinate assessments and action aimed at mitigating risk 	December 2016	SCBs and partner agencies
3.2 CSE is considered as part of any risk management process /mechanisms	3.2a Children, young people and their families are supported through a responsive child protection/care and support plan aimed at reducing risk based on individual need	July 2016	SCBs and partner agencies
3.3 SCBs and partner agencies have identified the range of services available /needed, to help those children and young people affected by CSE, in their locality	3.3a SCBs and partner agencies to undertake /update a needs assessment that enables them to understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service demand in relation to children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE - The impact and effectiveness of the activity and services available to help those affected by CSE in their locality - Identify any gaps in services and areas for development 	December 2016	SCBs and partner agencies

Outcome	Actions needed	Timeline	Responsibility to take forward
4. PURSUE - Overarching outcome: <i>Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies have a clear and shared understanding about how they can contribute to the disruption and prosecution of perpetrators and to the support of victims through a consistent child centred approach</i>			
4.1 Make Wales a hostile place for perpetrators of CSE through development of robust investigative strategies to disrupt perpetrator activity and better protect children and young people	4.1a Problem profiles on CSE to be developed and to incorporate multi-agency data to be shared with SCBs. 4.1b Profiles to be reviewed annually with appropriate intelligence to help ensure a multi-agency response. 4.1c Ensure perpetrators of CSE are prosecuted where there is sufficient evidence to do so and the victims of CSE receive appropriate protection in court 4.1d Information exchange mechanisms to be developed between police and probation to ensure coordinated criminal justice response 4.1e Training and awareness programmes to include disruption and protection strategies	July 2016 Annually/ December 2016 December 2016 July 2016 July 2016	Police Police Police Police and Probation SCBs and partner agencies
4.2 Crown Prosecution Service, Police and partners to work collaboratively to deliver quality and timely investigations that meets the needs of the victim and brings abusers to justice	4.2a Equip professionals to understand the CPS structure and to gather high quality evidence consistently and in accordance with Achieving Best Evidence 4.2b Develop working relationships between partner agencies and the CPS Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Unit	December 2016 July 2016	SCBs and partner agencies SCBs and partner agencies

Outcome	Actions needed	Timeline	Responsibility to take forward
4.3 Increased understanding of the needs of young victims and witnesses of CSE giving them a voice, ensuring they are treated fairly, sensitively and in an age appropriate way	4.3a Analysis of experiences to ensure that victims are treated sensitively and given adequate support	December 2016	SCBs and partner agencies
	4.3b Develop an approach in responding to victims of CSE where their needs are recognised consistently, where they are treated fairly, sensitively supported in an age appropriate way which avoids blame	December 2016	SCBs and partner agencies
4.4 Identifying and dismantling organised crime groups targeting and exploiting children and young people in our communities	4.4a Welsh Police Forces to be supported by partner agencies in conducting operations relating to CSE involving groups and gangs	December 2016	SCBs and partner agencies
	4.4b Welsh Police Forces to work collaboratively with the Regional Organised Crime Unit and the National Crime Agency to include CEOP	December 2016	Police
4.5 Welsh Police Forces to work with partner agencies to identify and disrupt perpetrators targeting young people in our communities	4.5a Training and awareness programmes across all agencies to include disruption and protection strategies	July 2016	SCBs and partner agencies
	4.5b SCBs and partner agencies to develop formal multiagency arrangements to effectively manage CSE risk and protect vulnerable young children within their locality	July 2016	SCBs and partner agencies
	4.5c SCBs and partner agencies to strengthen enforcement and adherence of licensing laws	July 2016	SCBs and partner agencies
	4.5d Utilise ancillary and civil orders to maximise effect to assist investigations and restrict and manage offenders thereby supporting and safeguarding victims	December 2016	Police