



Swindon LSCB
Child Exploitation & Missing
Children Strategy
2018 - 2020

November 2018

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Children and young people are more effectively protected from child sexual exploitation when there is an effective multi-agency strategy and action plan that supports professionals to work together and share information well

Ofsted Thematic Review of CSE
November 2014

Swindon Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) seeks to create an environment where child exploitation (CE) is prevented, identified and challenged across the Borough. The partnership aims to ensure that children, young people and families whose lives are affected by child exploitation will receive a high level of support as well as protection, and that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions, and where possible brought to justice.

In January 2017 The LSCB determined that its subgroup that had previously overseen the multi-agency response to Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing Children would extend its remit to cover all forms of child exploitation and be known as the Child Exploitation & Missing Children (CE&MC) Sub-group.

This change was made in recognition of the fact that there are a number of emerging threats which the LSCB needs to understand and respond to, all which can be categorised as child exploitation outside of familial settings. Because of the intrinsic links between missing children, exploitation and child protection the subgroup retained and heightened its focus on missing children and now oversees the multi-agency response to:

- Missing Children
- Exploited Children, to include:
 - Criminal Exploitation
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Cyber Exploitation
 - Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
 - Radicalisation

Child exploitation is a form of child abuse. Child abuse includes all forms of child sexual abuse, neglect, emotional and physical abuse: Exploitation is abuse characterised by a perpetrators use of coercion, control, persuasion and duress, which often means that the children involved do not recognise themselves as victims.

Whilst not exclusively the case, adolescent children are most likely to be at risk of exploitation. Working Together 2018 includes reference to contextual safeguarding in recognition of the extra-familial nature of much child abuse through exploitation.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the LSCB Child Exploitation & Missing Children Strategy is to GUARD against the risks that exploitation pose to children through:



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GOVERNANCE

The Child Exploitation & Missing Children Sub-group will oversee the strategy and report to the LSCB on the effectiveness of the multi-agency response to child exploitation. This group will also oversee the Multi-agency Risk Panel (MARP) and work closely with the Community Safety Partnership on issues such as Dangerous Drugs Networks and the exploitation of other vulnerable groups.

Membership & Terms of Reference for these groups are at **appendix C**

The Child Exploitation & Missing Children Action Plan for 2018/2020 is at **appendix D**

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UNDERSTANDING

We will use performance information to better understand the nature of child exploitation in Swindon and to ensure that our resources are focused on the activities that will make the most difference to children who are at risk of exploitation or going missing.

We will listen to children and families about what they need us to do to better protect them.

The data set and latest information on the nature of child exploitation in Swindon is at **appendix E**

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AWARENESS & PREVENTION

We want everyone to be able to identify children who are at risk from exploitation and to know what they can do to prevent further harm. The LSCB currently offers awareness courses on all the strands of exploitation covered by the strategy and is looking to arrange additional learning events aimed at developing practitioner's knowledge and skills. We will also seek to raise awareness amongst the local community.

Details of the current LSCB training offer are at **appendix F**

RESPONSE

We will build on the guidance to practitioners on tackling exploitation in our development of the 'pathways' and assessment tools that will help you to support children who are at risk at the earliest opportunity.

We will provide specialist support to those children most at risk/being harmed through the OPAL team and other specialist interventions. We will recognise and support parents as safeguarding partners.

Current guidance and assessment tools are on the LSCB website at:

<https://www.swindonlscb.org.uk/wav/Pages/CSE.aspx>

DISRUPTION

We will use information from a variety of sources including community intelligence, practitioner and service user feedback and national and local tools such as the National Referral Mechanism and the Disruption Toolkit to better identify, deter and engage with those who seek to exploit children making effective use of enforcement measures when appropriate.

PRINCIPLES

Children who are exploited and groomed for criminal purposes are equally as deserving of support as those who are sexually exploited. The language of 'criminal exploitation' is rarely understood and therefore those affected are not offered the same response. All forms of exploitation should be considered in the same way, with an understanding of grooming and vulnerability. The learning and best practice in place around CSE should be extended to include victims of all forms of exploitation.

APPG on Runaway and Missing Children and Adults
March 2017

In delivering against this strategy and associated action plans the LSCB will promote the following principles which have been drawn from the Office of Children's Commissioner 2013 report 'If only Someone had Listened':

- Children's needs must be at the centre of what we do and their participation in the development of effective services is vital.
- Understanding the prevalence and impact of child exploitation is crucial if we are to respond effectively.
- Child exploitation is a complex area of work and therefore the response cannot be simple or linear.
- No agency can address child exploitation in isolation; collaboration and effective information sharing is essential.

- Parents and Carers are equal partners in our response to child exploitation and we will work with children and their families to build trusted and enduring relationships.
- The identification and disruption of perpetrators is an essential part of our work to protect children from exploitation and we will use information and ‘intelligence’ in targeting deterrent and enforcement activity.
- Communities and families are valuable assets, and may also need support
- Effective services require resilient practitioners and high quality management support and oversight.

DEFINITIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people’s experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people’s experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships. The LSCB will therefore need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.

[Contextual Safeguarding \(University of Bedford 2017\)](#)

[Contextual Safeguarding Network \(Website\)](#)

MISSING CHILDREN

Children and young people who go missing from home or care are at serious risk of being targeted for involvement in gangs, trafficking, criminalisation, sexual exploitation and violence. Recognising the risk at the time child is reported as missing and offering a child appropriate support on return may prevent the situation escalating and further exploitation of vulnerable children and young people.

APPG on Runaway and Missing Children and Adults
March 2017

When children go missing from home or care, this is a clear signal that something is wrong in their lives. Going missing has serious implications for a child’s welfare as it puts them at risk of harm in the short term and will affect longer term outcomes.

Current research finds that children and young people, who go missing are at risk of significant harm with specific concerns about the links between children running away and the risks of sexual exploitation. Many looked after children (LAC) missing from their placements are vulnerable to sexual and other exploitation, especially children in residential care.

An estimated 252,000 people go missing in the UK each year, two-thirds of whom are children. 11% of missing people are 'Missing children who are in local authority care' with repeat episodes suggesting that children in care are more likely to go missing and with increased frequency.

In Swindon, the Borough Council (SBC) and Wiltshire Police work together closely to ensure a joined up response to missing children. The Police and SBC Missing Coordinators are co-located at Clarence House and track the Swindon children who are reported missing with a view to reduce missing episodes. The SBC coordinator has, since commencing the role in May 2108, worked alongside professionals from partner agencies to ensure that Return Home Interviews (RHI) are completed and that appropriate actions are put in place for those children who regularly go missing.

The information from the RHI is shared with the police in order that alongside other intelligence they are able to highlight any people, locations or themes that may need a targeted response.

Data for the quarter July –September 2018 shows that there were 288 missing episodes. This relates to 97 individual children, 19 of whom were missing on 3 or more occasions (14 of these are Looked after Children. 21 of the missing episodes relate to 11 Looked after Children who have been placed out of Borough.

[Children who run away or go missing from home or care \(DfE 2014\)](#)

[Children Missing from Home and Care \(Swindon LSCB\)](#)

[Police Authorised Professional Practice 2017](#)

[Children Missing Education: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities \(September 2016\)](#)

[Children Missing Education Police \(Swindon Borough Council\)](#)

CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION (CCE)

There is currently no nationally agreed definition of CCE and subsequently little guidance. The criminal exploitation of children is often not fully understood by services working with children which can impact on the response that a child receives. The definition used by Wiltshire Police is:

When a child is forced, coerced, compelled or exploited to commit a criminal offence by a third party who stands to gain.

Of particular concern is the exploitation of children (and vulnerable adults) to move drugs and money for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns in what is referred to as County Lines activity because it extends across county boundaries and is coordinated by the use of dedicated mobile phone lines. It is a tactic used by groups or gangs to facilitate the use of vulnerable people or children to sell drugs in an area outside of the area in which they live, which reduces their risk of detection. White British children are often targeted because gangs perceive they are more likely to evade police detection and some children may be as young as 12 although 15 to 16 years old is the most common age range. The young people involved may not recognise themselves as victims of any abuse, and can be used to recruit other young people. Young people who are criminally exploited are at a high risk of experiencing violence and intimidation and threats to family members may also be made.

Current Issues

Within Swindon, Child Criminal Exploitation, and particularly that linked to the dealing of illegal controlled drugs is an issue that has been present for some time and robust multi-agency responses have been developed in response to the threat. Between November 2017 and September 2018, 87 children in Swindon have been brought to Police attention and reviewed and assessed at being at some form of risk of Criminal Exploitation.

The local threat of Child Criminal Exploitation is largely driven by the supply of heroin and crack cocaine by local / domicile dealers as well as through County Lines. Currently between around 80 – 85% of the heroin and crack cocaine market across Swindon and Wiltshire is supplied through County Lines, most of which are established in London and Bristol. Following significant monitoring of county lines trends throughout 2017/18 it is known that there has been an increase in the criminal exploitation of local children as well as an increase in the use of children from outside of the Swindon area to deal drugs locally.

Local / domicile dealers oversee a small fraction of the local drugs market, however as they are based in the local area, they represent a greater risk to local underage and vulnerable children and are known to use weapons, violence and intimidation. They have the access, local knowledge and reputation enhanced by violence to recruit further vulnerable children and exploit them to deal their drugs for them.

Historically children exploited by local or county lines dealers, were frequently arrested and treated as



offenders. Significant work has gone in across Swindon to promote awareness, recognise and respond to the fact that these children are often being criminally exploited, yet through the delivery of this strategy, there is more work still to do to respond to the ongoing threat.

[Children who go missing and are criminally exploited by gangs \(APPG 2017\)](#)

[Criminal Exploitation of Children and Vulnerable Adults: County Lines \(Home Office 2017\)](#)

[Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation \(Home Office 2016\)](#)

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

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 activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Child Sexual Exploitation is a growing but still largely hidden form of abuse. The internet and digital devices give perpetrators easier access to young people and enables viewing and sharing of indecent images.

Changes in the use of technology such as the use of cloud storage have transformed the nature of CSE and enabled global contact between offenders and victims. Furthermore, social media is used in a variety of ways by offenders to entice victims, and with the growing use and constantly changing nature of social media the tactics used by perpetrators to groom children online will adapt accordingly.

In Swindon, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), has been a concern over many years and there has been a multi-agency response in place which is monitored by the LSCB Child Exploitation and Missing Group. In the last three months 55 children have been assessed as being a victim of, or at risk of, sexual exploitation: The majority of these children are female.

A significant amount of work has taken place within the multi-agency network to identify children who are being sexually exploited and to raise awareness that boys are at risk of sexual exploitation and that children who have learning difficulties are particularly vulnerable. Swindon has a multi-agency team called Opal who both work directly with children and their families to reduce the risk of CSE and provide support to other practitioners who may be working with children at risk..

Over the last two years there has been a move both nationally and locally to focus on perpetrator disruption activity to safeguard children. Over the last 12 months there has been a significant increase in the use of civil powers to disrupt offenders. Examples of these include Child Abduction Warning Notices, Sexual Risk Orders, and Sexual Harm Prevention Orders. A disruption tool kit has been produced to support practitioners in this area of work.

[Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and Guide for Practitioners \(DfE 2017\)](#)

[Child Sexual Exploitation: Annexes \(DfE 2017\)](#)

[Swindon LSCB Website - CSE](#)

[Swindon LSCB - Professionals Handbook for Tackling CSE](#)

CYBER EXPLOITATION

1) Children are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse through online platforms. Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones. Children and young people may experience cyberbullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or emotional abuse.

2) Children may be groomed and recruited into online criminal activity (cyber-crime) where their computer skills are exploited by a third party who stands to gain.

More and more young people are getting involved in cyber-crime. Many do it for fun without realising the consequences of their actions – but the penalties can be severe.

Cyber-crime can be split into two broad categories:

- Cyber-enabled crimes (such as fraud, the purchasing of illegal drugs and child sexual exploitation) can be conducted on or offline, but online may take place at unprecedented scale and speed.
- Cyber-dependent crimes (or 'pure' cyber-crimes) are offences that can only be committed using a computer, computer networks or other forms of information communications technology (ICT). An example of a cyber-dependent crime is gaining unauthorised access into someone's computer network, this can also be called 'hacking'.

Cyber Enabled crimes largely affect younger people, whereas Cyber Dependent crimes affect older people. Suspects for cyber-crime in general are young males.

Cyber-crime is a fast-growing area of crime. The speed, convenience and anonymity of the Internet are increasingly used in a diverse range of criminal activities that cross borders, both physical and virtual, cause serious harm and pose very real threats to victims worldwide.

Although awareness of cybercrime is increasing, there remains significant under-reporting and recording.

Current Issues

In Swindon the trend within the last few years has seen a significant increase in number of children under the age of 10 years old joining social networks. This is reflected across the UK but does result in risky behaviours occurring at a younger age.

Such behaviours include the use of dating apps as well as exposure to porn and with younger children inadvertently being sexual provocative in singing or dancing apps.

In addition to the increasing numbers of sextortion cases, where the perpetrators are often international criminal gangs, Sexting was limited to secondary school aged children but is now occurring with children under the age of 10.

Therefore in equipping children to be self-resilient but also recognising when to reach out for help when being exploited, Swindon has under taken anonymous surveys that have shown since 2016:

- 19% of 14 year olds, are not confident in telling someone when they are being groomed
- 56% of children stated they were aware of one or more sexting incidents in the last year
- 47% of 14 year olds, state their parents know little or nothing about what they do online
- 30% reported their households are filtered with a third of these children stating they know how to get around this protection, showing technology is not the answer to a technically enabled problem.

[Preventing Young People from Getting Involved \(NCA Website\)](#)

[A guide to the Computer Misuse Act 1990 \(National Crime Agency\)](#)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY (HT&MS)

Children are trafficked for:

- child sexual exploitation
- benefit fraud
- forced marriage
- domestic servitude such as cleaning, childcare, cooking
- forced labour in factories or agriculture
- criminal activity such as pickpocketing, begging, transporting drugs, working on cannabis farms, selling pirated DVDs and bag theft

Many children are trafficked into the UK from abroad, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another. The United Kingdom is the most prominent country of origin for trafficked children – a total of 255 reported cases – followed by Albania (227), Vietnam (227), Afghanistan (74), Eritrea (48), Nigeria (43) and Iran (42).

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 defines a child as anyone under the age of 18. As a child is not able to give informed consent, any child who is recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received for the purposes of exploitation is considered to be a trafficking victim, whether or not they have been forced or deceived.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a victim identification and support process which is designed to make it easier for all the different agencies that could be involved in a trafficking and now modern slavery case to co-operate, to share information about potential victims and facilitate their access to advice, accommodation and support. Anyone who identifies a child as a potential victim of modern slavery, should ensure a referral is immediately made to their Local Authority Children's Services or the police who have a statutory duty to notify the Home Office. Further guidance and the necessary forms can be downloaded from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

Current Issues

Labour exploitation within car washes is the largest threat. Amongst many factors, the emergence of this form of exploitation is economically driven. Many foreign nationals who work within car washes in Wiltshire and Swindon originate from impoverished countries, predominately Romania and Albania. Desperate for work and accustomed to working for less, workers within car washes are often left in the vulnerable situation whereby a life of exploitation in the UK is better than a life of unemployment and poverty back home. The exploitation of workers is believed to be organised and many workers will be trafficked into Wiltshire and Swindon specifically to work at car washes. Car washes can provide the perfect cover for different types of crime and can be linked to organised crime groups. Many of those associated to these businesses have little interaction with the Police and other agencies, however those that do generally come to notice as perpetrators, often for offences of violence. Acceptance into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) process is low, workers either distrust authorities, have bad experiences with law enforcement (especially if investigated as offender/suspect) or are scared their controllers will enact retribution against them or their families back home. It is highly unlikely that potential victims will engage in the NRM or accept help if their controller shares the same nationality. Potential victims will often not respond positively when visited randomly by Police and do not believe that the Police can safeguard them. This perception may be fuelled by those victims who initially engage with the NRM to be removed from this process at a later date. In these cases, those deemed not to be a victim may return to their communities and speak negatively about our safeguarding processes and Police, especially if that person cannot understand why they were deemed not to be a victim.

Labour exploitation within traveller sites is our second largest threat. The drivers of this form of slavery are in many cases identical to those associated with car washes. The desire to secure employment means victims will often accept lower levels of pay and substandard living conditions with the emergence of Romanian victims further reinforcing the troubling concept that many see a life of exploitation in the UK as their only option to secure a better life. What is less hidden with this type of slavery is the recruitment process. Many of the perpetrators of this form of slavery do not have connections to countries such as Romania and rely on

approaching vulnerable (often homeless, unemployed or substance/alcohol dependent) victims in this country, promising employment, fair pay and accommodation. With the absence of these international connections, the threat of 'hurting family back home' or fear of not being able to return home due to retribution is diminished. This could very well explain why over the last two years a significant number of potential victims of traveller related slavery (often of Romanian origin) agreed to a referral into the NRM, whilst many fewer car wash workers agreed to this process.

Labour exploitation within nail bars is an emerging, increasing threat. The orchestration of this type of slavery is very much unknown, however the exploitation is often visible with young, predominately Vietnamese females forced (through debt bondage, violence and controlled by poor living conditions) to work long hours for little pay within nail bars. Both the victims and offenders are predominately Vietnamese and in many cases the victims have almost always been both trafficked (into and around the UK) and held in slavery. Nationally there is a suggestion that Vietnamese children are being enrolled in schools in the UK from which they subsequently go missing; a number of these children are then found in nail bars across the country. It is inferred that this activity and movement is facilitated by Vietnamese Organised Crime Groups who use complex networks to move the children from one end of the country to the other. It has also been suggested that social media is often used to recruit the vulnerable children.

Transient Exploitation. Wiltshire and Swindon frequently experience cases of 'transient exploitation' whereby foreign nationals living outside our county are being forced to travel to Wiltshire and Swindon in order to commit crime. Many potential incidents of forced theft/fraud are recorded and there has been an increase in five of our towns (Swindon, Trowbridge, Melksham, Chippenham and Bradford-on-Avon). The people associated to these types of crime are almost always treated as offenders, there is no evidence to suggest that slavery or trafficking is considered when engaging with the foreign nationals involved. This is an area that all agencies need to improve, so that we are able to identify the people exploited in this way.

Exploitation within the regulated sector is unknown. Slavery within food processing businesses, specifically chicken farms has been highlighted as a possible threat. Wiltshire and Swindon is ranked 6th nationally in relation to the number of chicken farms operating, this increases the probability that exploitation of this type is occurring within our county. There is a suggestion that Polish nationals have been trafficked to the UK to install solar farms and are working seven days a week for below minimum wage. Potential victims of this type of exploitation are often vulnerable (homeless and unemployed) and tend to be recruited by traffickers directly rather than via social media. Within Wiltshire and Swindon numerous solar farms have emerged over recent years. The construction of solar farms has not escaped the press or local campaigning groups, sites can span over acres of land and require a sizeable labour force to assist with initial installation. This labour force is often transient and only stay in an area for the initial installation phase.

[Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked: practice guidance \(DfE 2011\)](#)

[Care of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Child Victims of Modern Slavery \(DfE 2017\)](#)

RADICALISATION

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. During that process it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, including extremism calls for the death of members of the armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Children and young people can be radicalised in different ways:

- They can be groomed either online or in person by people seeking to draw them into extremist activity. Older children or young people might be radicalised over the internet or through the influence of their peer network – in this instance their parents might not know about this or feel powerless to stop their child's radicalisation;
- They can be groomed by family members who hold harmful, extreme beliefs, including parents/carers and siblings who live with the child and/or person(s) who live outside the family home but have an influence over the child's life;
- They can be exposed to violent, anti-social, extremist imagery, rhetoric and writings which can lead to the development of a distorted world view in which extremist ideology seems reasonable. In this way they are not being individually targeted but are the victims of propaganda which seeks to radicalise.

A common feature of radicalisation is that the child or young person does not recognise the exploitative nature of what is happening and does not see themselves as a victim of grooming or exploitation.

The harm children and young people can experience ranges from a child adopting or complying with extreme views which limits their social interaction and full engagement with their education, to young children being taken to war zones and older children being groomed for involvement in violence.

The Community Safety Partnership leads on the strategic response to radicalisation and oversees the Prevent strand of the Government's counter terrorism strategy CONTEST.

Children identified as at risk of radicalisation or extremism they should be treated as for any other safeguarding issue and where appropriate referred to Childrens Services. If it is determined that there are concerns around radicalisation and violent extremism in relation to the referred individual, they can be supported through either Channel or Prevent Case Management processes.

Channel is an early intervention multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremism and/or terrorism. It is a pre-criminal process designed to support vulnerable people at the earliest possible opportunity, before they become involved in illegal activity.

Current Issues

The current UK threat level from International Terrorism is 'SEVERE', indicating a terrorist attack is highly likely. The threat from Northern Ireland related terrorism in the UK is 'MODERATE' meaning an attack is possible, but not likely. We respond to these threat levels by following Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST).

CONTEST aims to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK and its interests overseas, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. CONTEST deals with all forms of terrorism and remains focused on four strands:

Pursue – the investigation and disruption of terrorist attacks

Prevent – work to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

Protect – improving our protective security to stop a terrorist attack

Prepare – working to minimize the impact of an attack and to recover as quickly as possible

Much of our response is focused on Prevent and work is done to improve engagement with harder to reach communities to help improve integration, build relationships and prevent the risk of radicalisation that may occur from isolation. Underpinning Prevent, we have Channel Panels that provide intensive partnership support to people that are at risk of radicalisation.

So far in 2018, we have not had any new Channel Panel cases in Swindon. It is worth noting that most of the Channel cases that are now closed involved children and many referrals came from Swindon schools and colleges.

In 2017-18 there were 25 referrals to Prevent in Swindon, around half of which came from education and one from social services. Sixteen of the 25 were under eighteen. Though the ideology of those referred is not always known, there is an increased prevalence of extreme right wing ideology nationally and in Swindon. It is worth noting that official statistics show that during 2016, 2017 and 2018 racial and religious hate crime accounts for a high proportion of Swindon and Wiltshire's total recorded hate crime (84%).

Further Information

[Revised Prevent Duty Guidance \(DfE 2016\)](#)

[The Prevent Duty: for Schools and Childcare Providers \(DfE 2015\)](#)

[How Social Media is used to Encourage Travel to Syria & Iraq \(DfE 2015\)](#)

[Swindon LSCB - Prevent](#)

CHILD EXPLOITATION & MISSING CHILDREN STRATEGY 2018 - 2021

The Safeguarding Children Board seeks to create an environment where child exploitation is prevented, identified and challenged across the Borough. The partnership aims to ensure that children and families whose lives are affected by child exploitation will receive a high level of support and protection, and that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions, and where possible brought to justice.

The strategy address the following different but interlinked types of exploitation which are all characterised by a perpetrators use of coercion, control, persuasion and duress. This grooming process can often mean that the children involved do not recognise themselves as victims.

- Criminal Exploitation
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Cyber Exploitation
- Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Radicalisation

Because of the increased risk of exploitation for children who go missing this is also covered by this strategy.



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GOVERNANCE

The Child Exploitation & Missing Children Sub-group will oversee the strategy and report to the LSCB on the effectiveness of the multi-agency response to child exploitation. This group will also oversee the Multi-agency Risk Panel (MARP) and work closely with the Community Safety Partnership on issues such as Dangerous Drugs Networks and the exploitation of other vulnerable groups.

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We will use information to better understand the nature of child exploitation in Swindon and to ensure that our resources are focused on the activities that will make the most difference to children who are at risk of exploitation or going missing. We will listen to children and families about what they need us to do to better protect them.

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We want everyone to be able to identify children who are at risk from exploitation and to know what they can do to prevent further harm. The LSCB currently offers awareness courses on all the strands of exploitation covered by the strategy and will additional learning events aimed at developing practitioner's knowledge and skills. We will also seek to raise awareness amongst the local community.

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We will build on the guidance to practitioners on tackling exploitation in our development of the 'pathways' and assessment tools that will help support children who are at risk at the earliest opportunity. We will provide specialist support to those children most at risk/being harmed through the OPAL team and other specialist interventions. We will recognise and support parents as safeguarding partners

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DISRUPTION

We will use information from a variety of sources and national and local tools such as the National Referral Mechanism and the Disruption Toolkit to better identify, deter and engage with those who seek to exploit children. To support this, we will raise awareness of the pathway to share intelligence with the Police and be more analytical in how we use local intelligence to inform our response

We will know how effective our joint approach to tackling exploitation is by analysing performance data, quality assuring cases and listening to children, their families and the practitioners who work with them. If you have any comments or suggestions we would be glad to hear from you at LSCB@swindon.gov.uk

The full strategy and accompanying action plan is on the LSCB website at www.swindonlscb.org.uk

CHILD EXPLOITATION and MISSING CHILDREN SUB GROUP - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Membership	
Designated Nurse (CCG)	Robert Mills
Named GP (CCG)	Michelle Sharma
Designated Nurse for Looked After Children (CCG)	Anne Gray
Strategic Manager	Simon Ratcliff
Named Safeguarding Professional (OH CAMHS)	Lisa Williams
National Probation Service	Amanda Murray
National Probation Service	Louise Hall
Licensing Manager (SBC)	Kathryn Ashton
Community Safety Lead (SBC)	Steve Kensington
Children's Services ICT Manager(SBC)	Huw Ford
(SBC)	Cherry Jones
Public Health – Healthy Schools Manager(SBC)	Surbdeep Rai
Service Manager, Restorative Youth Services(SBC)	Matt Bywater
Operational Manager, Restorative Youth Services(SBC)	Dale Colsell
Service Manager QA & Review(SBC)	Fiona Francis
CSE Operational Manager (Vice Chair) (SBC)	Jeannette Chipping
Ops Manager, C/YP & Families Service Delivery(SBC)	Steve Smith
Service Manager, Children Looked After(SBC)	Trevor Moores
Service Manager, Children's Social Work Teams(SBC)	Ceri Woszczyk
MASH/FCP Manager (SBC)	Sue Staley
Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children(SBC)	Michelle Cole
Additional Provision & Reintegration Manager(SBC)	Nigel Pickering
Safeguarding Lead(SBC)	Bernice Weiss
Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator - Community Safety(SBC)	Lin Williams
Asst Head & DSL, The Commonweal School	Louise Forrester
Superintendent, Head of PPD (Chair) Wiltshire Police	Deb Smith
DI, PPD Swindon, Missing & CSE Wiltshire Police	Ben Mant
Detective Inspector, Dedicated Crime Team Wiltshire Police	Paul Franklin
Crime Prevention Manager Wiltshire Police	Pippa McVeigh
Wiltshire Police	Andrew Bridge
Wiltshire Police	David Hobman
Principle Analyst, Wiltshire Police	Elicia Boon
Wiltshire Police	Mark Kent

Background and context:

There is a recognition that there are a number of new threats which the LSCB needs to understand, all which can be categorised as child exploitation outside of familial settings.

It is the exploitation (whether sexual or from other motivations), particularly of adolescent children where it is felt there needs to be additional scrutiny/assurance for the LSCB.

CSE provided a focus on the sexual exploitation of adolescent children, which is now being expanded to consider the exploitation of children, irrespective of perpetrator motivation.

In addition to this there needs to be a continuing focus on Missing Children. This is because of the overlaps with all areas of child exploitation and the intrinsic links between missing children and the child protection system.

Child exploitation is a form of child abuse. Child abuse includes all forms of child sexual abuse, neglect, emotional and physical abuse: Exploitation is abuse characterised by a perpetrator's use of coercion, control, persuasion and duress, which often means that the children involved do not recognise themselves as victims.

Whilst not exclusively the case, adolescent children are most likely to be at risk of exploitation. Working Together 2018 includes reference to contextual safeguarding in recognition of the extra-familial nature of much child abuse through exploitation.

The Child Exploitation and Missing Children Sub Group will provide the strategic governance across the partnership in the following areas:

1. Missing Children
2. Exploited Children
 - Child Sexual Exploitation (as per the nationally agreed definition).
 - Criminally Exploited children – ***When a child is forced, coerced, compelled or exploited to commit a criminal offence by a third party who stands to gain.***
 - Cyber exploited children (Including Youth Produced Sexual Images (Sexting), Sextortion and Hacking)
 - Child victims of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
 - Radicalisation of Children - ***the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.***

Role of the Sub-Group

The Sub-group will lead on the delivery of the LSCB Child Exploitation & Missing Children Strategy and promote a partnership response that will GUARD against the risks that exploitation pose to children.

GOVERNANCE

The Child Exploitation & Missing Children Sub-group will oversee the strategy and report to the LSCB on the effectiveness of the multi-agency response to child exploitation. This group will also oversee the Multi-agency Risk Panel (MARP) and work closely with the Community Safety Partnership on issues such as Dangerous Drugs Networks and the exploitation of other vulnerable groups.

UNDERSTANDING

We will use performance information to better understand the nature of child exploitation in Swindon and to ensure that our resources are focused on the activities that will make the most difference to children who are at risk of exploitation or going missing.

We will listen to children and families about what they need us to do to better protect them.

AWARENESS & PREVENTION

We want everyone to be able to identify children who are at risk from exploitation and to know what they can do to prevent further harm. The LSCB currently offers awareness courses on all the strands of exploitation covered by the strategy and is looking to arrange additional learning events aimed at developing practitioner's knowledge and skills. We will also seek to raise awareness amongst the local community.

RESPONSE

We will build on the guidance to practitioners on tackling exploitation in our development of the 'pathways' and assessment tools that will help you to support children who are at risk at the earliest opportunity.

We will provide specialist support to those children most at risk/being harmed through the OPAL team and other specialist interventions. We will recognise and support parents as safeguarding partners.

DISRUPTION

We will use information from a variety of sources including community intelligence, practitioner and service user feedback and national and local tools such as the National Referral Mechanism and the Disruption Toolkit to better identify, deter and engage with those who seek to exploit children making effective use of enforcement measures when appropriate.

Meetings

The Group will meet 4 times per year, with additional meetings scheduled as necessary. The named leads for the Development & Delivery Plan will meet between sub-group meetings to identify progress and barriers in implementing the strategy.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings will be circulated to all members of the group for consideration at the next Chairs Group meeting (whether core members or occasional members).

Reporting Arrangements

The Chair will provide a report to the LSCB Board meeting on an annual basis, highlighting any significant issues that arise from the work of the group

Child Exploitation & Missing Children Subgroup Development & Delivery Plan 2018/20

1	Strategic Governance for Child Exploitation and Missing
1.1	Review and revise partnership governance arrangements for child exploitation/ missing
1.2	Update LSCB Child Exploitation/ Missing strategy
1.3	Devise a child exploitation and missing performance dashboard
1.4	Explore how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Model can inform our response to child exploitation and missing
1.5	Increase the impact of the Multi Agency Risk Panel (MARP) in reducing risk to children and young people
2	Understand the Nature of Child Exploitation and Missing
2.1	Gather and use data from individual cases to identify themes and patterns in child exploitation
2.2	Use local data intelligence to understand the nature and extent of child exploitation and missing
2.3	Understand the push and pull factors as to why children go missing
2.4	Seek feedback from children and young people about what would have helped/has helped and their experiences of services to inform the local response
2.5	Understand the needs of children who are exploited and go missing and the capacity of specialist services to address their needs
3	Awareness and Prevention
3.1	Embed a response to children at risk of child exploitation and missing in our early help system
3.2	Raise awareness of child exploitation and missing amongst children and young people
3.3	Raise awareness of child exploitation and missing amongst the multi-agency workforce and equip them to practice in a trauma informed way
3.4	Engage with local communities to raise awareness of child exploitation and missing
4	Response
4.1	Staff in all agencies are able to identify a child who may be vulnerable to exploitation
4.2	Devise and embed a pathway that promotes the engagement of children and their parents and carers
4.3	Agree a system wide approach to contextual safeguarding
4.4	Consider how YOS and OPAL can work together to respond to contextual safeguarding issues
4.5	Provide support to children who are being exploited when they enter adulthood
4.6	Support the workforce to reflect on how they work together and their collective impact in managing risk of harm
5	Disruption
5.1	Collect information that will assist agencies to identify those who seek to exploit children
5.2	Take informed action to disrupt exploitation of children
5.3	Take action to disrupt individual perpetrators
5.4	Identify and safeguard children who are trafficked
5.5	Identify how else information intelligence can be gathered/ shared

LSCB CHILD EXPLOITATION/MISSING CHILDREN SCORECARD

The LSCB will use a range of performance indicators to monitor and evaluate the impact of its CE/MC strategy. This will include qualitative as well as quantitative data and as appropriate feedback from children, families and practitioners.

Performance monitoring

The performance measures below will be used to monitor the impact of the strategy and will be reviewed on a quarterly basis i.e. at each sub group

- Number of children where CE is identified as a risk (Broken down nature of CE and by agency completing risk assessment tool and risk level)
- Number of referrals to Children's Social Care with presenting need of CE (Broken down by referring agency)
- Number of social work assessments completed in relation to referrals with presenting need of CE
- Total number of children for whom CE is identified as a risk (Cumulative) (Broken down by age, gender, case status and risk level)
- Number and percentage of children assessed as at risk of or being exploited not in full time education (25 hours)
- Number and percentage of children assessed as at risk of or being exploited with missing from home or care episodes
- Percentage of Return Home Interviews completed within 72 hours
- Number of children assessed as at risk of or being exploited receiving a mental health service
- Number of children attending sexual health clinics and percentage were child was identified as at risk of or being sexually exploited (Broken down by under/over 16's and gender)
- Number of civil orders i.e. SHPO, SRO and CAWN used to disrupt CE
- Number of referrals to NRM and percentage that were accepted as trafficked

The LSCB already collects the following information as part of its quarterly Performance Dataset

No. of children missing (although this doesn't currently include out of authority children)
No. of missing episodes(although this doesn't currently include out of authority children)
No. of children missing (high risk)
% of children missing offered an independent return interview
% of children missing who engaged in an independent return interview within 72 hours of return
No. of children identified as victims of CSE (average of the 3 months) Swindon
No. of children identified as NEW victims of CSE (In Swindon)
No. of CSE perpetrators/suspects (In Swindon)

Impact evaluation

The quantitative and outcome measures set out below will be used to evaluate the impact of the strategy and the timing and frequency of reporting will be determined by the CE/MC sub group

- % of children who are being exploited who are receiving enduring support from specialist services.
- % of children whose risk level has reduced in quarter
- Rate of repeat STIs - under 18s
- Rate of Sexual Offences against Children aged 0-17 per 10,000 CYP population
- *Rate of solved and resolved rape and serious sexual offences against children and young people*
- % of cases audited on a multi-agency basis judged as 'good' or 'outstanding'
- Evaluation of the impact of single and/or multi-agency CE training
- Evaluation of SRE curriculum
- Feedback from children and families who receive services
- Inspection/review findings



Swindon LSCB Training 2018/19 – Child Exploitation Training

NEW COURSE: Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Children may be used in a number of ways to **engage in criminal activity** by other young people or adults who are able to **coerce them** to do so. Children who are exploited or coerced into committing criminal acts should be seen as **victims in need of safeguarding and support**.

“County lines” is one way children are criminally exploited. It is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines”. It involves **child criminal exploitation as gangs may use children to move drugs and money**.

To view the course outline [click here](#)

Book a space via the [booking form](#)

NEW COURSE: Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery

Child trafficking is the **movement of a child or children for the purpose of exploitation**. Children may be trafficked into and out of the UK, and within the UK itself. They may be trafficked by family members, known adults from a child’s community or by strangers.

Child trafficking is child abuse. It requires a multi-agency response, irrespective of a child’s immigration status or whether the child has engaged in criminal activity.

Child trafficking and modern slavery are criminal offences; children should be seen as victims in need of safeguarding support.

To view the course outline [click here](#)

Book a space via the [booking form](#)

Keeping Safe Online & Cyber Exploitation

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens via the internet. An abuser may groom the victim by striking up a relationship online, the abuser may pose as a child or adult. Children may experience cyberbullying, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or emotional abuse online.

Over 40 million people in the UK regularly use the internet; children are skilled in using the internet and need to understand the dangers and know how to keep themselves safe. All practitioners, parents and carers will have a **key part to play in helping children to stay safe on line**.

To view the course outline [click here](#)

Book a space via the [booking form](#)



For more information visit the [LSCB website](#)

To book a space on a course complete the [online booking form](#)

NEW COURSE: Radicalisation

It can be hard to know when extreme views become something dangerous. Radicalisation can be very **difficult to identify** and the signs of radicalisation aren't always obvious, it can be difficult for practitioners to know how to respond when concerns arise.

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of bullying or discrimination. **Extremists might target children and tell them they can be part of something special**, later brainwashing them into cutting themselves off from their friends, family and practitioners working with them.

To view the course outline [click here](#)

Book a space via the [booking form](#)

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Children under the age of 16 cannot **legally consent** to sexual activity. Sexual intercourse with children under the age of 13 is **statutory rape**. Whilst a child aged 16-17 can consent to “healthy & safe” sexual activity, a child of this age cannot consent to being sexual exploited.

CSE is a **form of child abuse** involving children receiving something, such as accommodation, drugs, gifts or affection, as a result of them performing sexual activities, or having others perform sexual activities on them. **CSE is a hidden crime**; children often trust their abuser and don't understand they are being abused.

To view the course outline [click here](#)

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NEW COURSE: Missing Children

A child goes missing or runs away from home or care every five minutes in the UK. Too often these **children become invisible**, and struggle completely alone.

The link between children being exploited and children going missing is very strong. **100,000 children go missing from home or care in the UK each year**; it has been estimated that running away places around a quarter at risk of serious harm.

Children and young people who run away may be ‘pushed away’ following abuse or other factors or ‘pulled away’ wanting to be near friends or because they are being exploited by adults or other young people.

To view the course outline [click here](#)

Book a space via the [booking form](#)