

CYSCB

**Child Sexual Abuse,
Exploitation and
Missing from Home
Storyboard**

September 2018



Summary

York's approach in this area is genuinely holistic and multi-agency: a combination of shared strategic vision, robust operational procedures, and innovative working with the voluntary sector. Awareness of the issues is widespread; information is shared; and patterns are spotted. There is a commendable emphasis on preventative work.

What is Child Sexual Abuse?

According to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018¹ child sexual abuse 'Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.'

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

The 2017 Department for Education (DfE) definition of Child Sexual Exploitation states that: '*Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse.*' CYSCB concurs with this. The DfE goes on to state that: '*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 technology.*'² This also appears in Working Together 2018.

Exploitation may not only be sexual; it may include criminal exploitation such as 'County Lines' when children and young people are used to carry drugs from one area to another. Children missing from home and care may be particularly vulnerable to this kind of exploitation.

City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB)

CYSCB sees Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSA&E) and children missing from home, care and education as a priority. A CYSCB sub-group links CSA&E with missing children,

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners>



seeing the two as closely connected, along with the other issues which make children and young people vulnerable to all forms of exploitation. The **CSA&E/Missing from Home Sub-group** considers all aspects of these vulnerabilities and challenges agencies and projects to work together to achieve the best outcomes for these young people in preventing abuse and intervening when abuse has taken place. The Sub-group considers data and trends and when these indicate that there may be an issue ensures that questions are asked and that analysis and interpretation takes place. In addition the Sub-group discusses and disseminates messages from research into CSA, CSE and vulnerabilities.

As with all the work of CYSCB, the 'voice' of children and young people and the response to their wishes and feeling runs through all of these considerations.

The CSA&E/Missing from Home Sub-group reports on all of its work via a Highlight Report to the CYSCB Priority Delivery & Scrutiny Group (PDSG) – the Business Group of the Board – and to CYSCB itself.

The CYSCB has identified awareness and understanding of CSA&E and the issues in regard to children and young people missing from home in its Learning Needs Analysis (LNA). For the LNA the views of CYSCB members, sub-group chairs and members, managers and practitioners across the partnership were sought. Multi-agency training on all aspects of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation is commissioned and is open to all relevant practitioners.

York has a strong track record of inter-agency working in this area; there is work constantly ongoing to ensure that appreciation of the potential scale of the problem is understood by all staff and that it informs all operational procedures. In particular, the potential link between habitual episodes of missing from home and the possibility of sexual exploitation is now properly understood.

The CSA&E Sub-group is mindful of the vulnerability to abuse of children with disabilities. Data and information is sought to increase our understanding. CYSCB delivers training specifically on safeguarding disabled children which includes sexual abuse and exploitation.

At the end of 2017/18, 1.2% of York's Child Protection Plans were under the category of sexual abuse. CYSCB understands from recent research that this percentage echoes the figure nationwide and that often children who are victims of sexual abuse may also be subject to multiple adverse factors. In 2017/18 the number of children recorded as missing from home or care decreased from the previous year. None of these children has remained missing. In the same year, 250 children were reported as missing from education: the vast majority were found at other schools or to have moved elsewhere, often to other countries. None of these caused a high level of concern.

CYSCB's philosophy

York's Safeguarding Children Board has developed a philosophy that seeks to ensure that:

- All children, young people, parents, carers and professionals have appropriate levels of awareness of CSA&E and know what action to take (PREPARE)
- Vulnerable children are identified and supported to reduce their vulnerability and promote resilience (PREVENT)
- Agencies work together to identify and protect children who are at risk of being abused (PROTECT)
- Children and young people who have been abused receive appropriate support services (PREVENT & PROTECT)
- Children and young people who are displaying sexually harmful behaviour receive timely and appropriate support and intervention services (PREVENT & PROTECT)
- Perpetrators of CSA&E are identified and pursued (PURSUE)

The potential links with 'missing' episodes (whether from home, care or education) have been widely disseminated, so that interventions do not stop once the missing child is found; work then begins to identify the root causes. The latest DfE statutory guidance on schools' responsibilities in relation to pupils who leave the register has been communicated to all York's educational establishments, who understand the need to refer at once to social services or police if there are any concerns. CYSCB have seen, by the figures and quarterly reports with the figures from the Schools Attendance Advisor, that they are doing this.

Guidance and screening tools

CYSCB has published refreshed ***multi-agency guidance on Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation*** including a screening tool for use by all professionals endorsed by all of the partners on the Safeguarding Board. In addition there is a new ***procedure on children missing from home and care*** on the [CYSCB website](#).

Innovative work with the voluntary sector

A distinctive feature of York's work in recent years has been the involvement of the voluntary sector:

- The NSPCC programme '***Women As Protectors***' is a ten week group programme for the female partners or 'significant others' (e.g. mother or sister) of men who pose a risk of sexual harm to children, designed to assess and enhance their protective ability in terms of preventing sexual abuse.
- The NSPCC service '***Letting the Future in***' provides individual work with children, with safe carers, and joint work with children and parents together. The service is part of a randomised control trial being undertaken by Bristol and Durham universities.
- NSPCC are now providing 'Letting the Future in' for **children with mild/moderate learning disabilities** who have been sexually abused – and making referrals

- The NSPCC has worked in partnership with York Safeguarding Children Board to embed the NSPCC's **Underwear Rule** campaign with parents and professionals across the city. The campaign aims to encourage parents to have conversations with their children about how to stay safe from sexual abuse.
- **ChildLine's Speak Out, Stay Safe** programme delivers a service which contributes to all primary school children having an understanding of all forms abuse including sexual abuse, how to protect themselves and how to access help when they need it. In York 95% of Year 5 and Year 6 children have had these assemblies.
- CYSCB has worked with **Basis Yorkshire** and the commissioned service Time 2 which delivers support to young people at risk of CSE in York and North Yorkshire.
- Children in York receive support from services commissioned by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

'It's Not Okay'

The initial **It's Not Okay**³ campaign ran from May 2015 until July 2016 as a partnership between the City of York Safeguarding Children Board and NSPCC. The aim was to ensure that parents, carers, children and young people, professionals and the general public knew how to recognise the signs of child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, and where to get help and advice. A play and workshop of the same name was developed by the university's performing arts team as part of the original campaign and toured all secondary schools in York. The campaign has had national acclaim.

Following the success of phase I of the campaign, York St John University were commissioned to develop an online education resource for secondary schools and community groups to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and exploitation. This will be launched at an event in York in November 2018.

CYSCB Communications

CYSCB disseminates message in regard to CSA, CSE, Missing and other vulnerabilities.

- Board and Sub-group members disseminate information from the meetings to their own organisations.
- CYSCB Twitter account [@YorkLSCB](https://twitter.com/YorkLSCB)⁴ reaches up to 30,000 Twitter accounts every month with information on CSA, CSE, 'County Lines', online abuse, neglect, forced marriage, domestic abuse and harmful sexual behaviour.
- There are specific pages on the [CYSCB website](#)⁵ on CSA&E and on Harmful Sexual Behaviour with links to screening tools and the most recent research.

³ <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/young-people/Its%20not%20okay/its-not-ok.htm>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/YorkLSCB>

- A new webpage dedicated to CSA was uploaded in March 2018. Previously it had been part of a larger page dealing with a variety of child safeguarding issues. The page has had almost 900 hits (to date September 2018) since it was launched.
- There have been over 1700 downloads of CSA guidance from the website as well as the storybook over the past year.
- Missing from Home Guidance is also available on the website
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour resources have been on the website for over a year with more uploaded in May 2018. There have been 650 downloads of these materials.
- The CYSCB Newsletter, with information on initiatives and links to research, is sent out practitioners and schools across all partners and is available on the CYSCB website

CYSCB Learning & Development

CYSCB commissions a CSA&E training course which is informed by research and messages emerging. The course runs three times a year and is open to all practitioners working with children, young people and families either directly or indirectly. The course is evaluated by delegates both immediately and in a later impact survey. The course is also quality assured by observation from a subject matter expert.

Reference to CSA&E, Missing and other vulnerabilities are also included in the other safeguarding courses offered by CYSCB.

As stated above, links to the most recent research are provided on the CYSCB website, via Twitter and in newsletters.

The Schools Safeguarding Advisor delivers safeguarding training to Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools and colleges including training on CSA&E, Missing and vulnerabilities. This is also delivered to School Governors, as bespoke whole school training, and to taxi and bus drivers contracted by the Council to transport children.

City of York Children's Social Care

Children's Social Care (CSC) has an appointed and trained a Senior Practitioner (SP) who takes the lead on advising Social Workers about CSA, CSE and Missing issues including County Lines. The SP links and cross-references information from different sources and feeds back to all practice areas. They understand the distinct characteristics of different communities within the city. In particular, they monitor referrals to the Front Door so that any early signs or patterns can be picked up.

CSC has regular meetings with North Yorkshire Police and with health colleagues. (A police sergeant sits in the Children's Front Door in order to support with cases.) Between them,

⁵ <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/>

services have been able to identify *groups* of young people who might be jointly engaging in risky behaviour, and to bring together the professionals working with them as individuals.

CSC set up a Volunteer Mentor Scheme in 2017. Four volunteers have been recruited to date to work with young people who are at risk of exploitation.

Joint work with statutory partners in York

The past few years have seen a range of initiatives from York's statutory partners as part of the process of embedding a deep understanding of 'CSA&E and Missing' issues.

- Within **Primary Care**, CSA&E and Missing has been identified as a "hot topic" for training and learning, with all primary care staff, including GPs, receiving additional training.
- Within **Secondary Care**, York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been operating the North Yorkshire and York Child Sexual Abuse Assessment Centre (CSAAC) service since November 2015. This service, co-commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner and NHS England, aims to conduct a comprehensive child protection medical assessment when sexual assault/abuse is alleged, has been disclosed or is suspected. This includes historical abuse. Partnership working lies at the heart of the service.
- **North Yorkshire Police (NYP)** identifies, manages and responds to the threat and reports of CSA&E and Missing through structured training and briefing sessions to staff, complemented by the production of a 'CSE toolkit' for use by police officers and an information sharing form for use by anyone who has intelligence to share about abuse or exploitation. NYP is working with partners on the 'disruption' and prevention techniques in regard to addresses to which children and young people are known to go missing.
- The **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner** works with CYSCB via the Sub-group to understand service need and to look at future commissioning of services.
- The CYSCB works collaboratively with the other strategic Boards in York: Health & Wellbeing Board, YorOk Board (Children's Trust), Safer York Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board via the **Inter-Board Protocol** to ensure that all issues in regard to vulnerabilities are addressed.

Impact

These wide-ranging initiatives have greatly enhanced York's ability to respond to the challenges posed by CSA&E and Missing issues. Children are safer still as a result.

- A full evaluation of the It's Not Okay, and separate evaluation from the young people to whom the 'It's Not Okay' play was delivered, indicates that the campaign has had a powerful impact. Several disclosures resulting in action were made as a result of the campaign in schools.

- Some feedback from young people about the *It's Not Ok* play stated:

'It showed me what it's like in someone else's shoes. It made me know what to do if it happened to me'

'It helped me understand how people are affected, better than a talk in assembly'

'I learnt that lots of social media sites have report buttons'

'I learnt about grooming and what it is'

'I learnt that you can get abused by a member of family'

- Figures show that the number of missing young people has fallen and that the services to support these children are the subject of multi-agency planning.
- There is more understanding that children and young people affected by sexual abuse may also be affected by other adverse childhood factors.
- Feedback from practitioners attending multi-agency safeguarding courses indicates that:

'More positive outcomes were secured for children, by working closely with another organisation and sharing information.'

'Support was identified and offered to a child and better referrals made to services for support.'

'A Child Protection Plan was put in place.'

York's future ambitions

York's arrangements are the subject of continuous review and evaluation. There is always scope to improve further the links between those offering early intervention services, and those responsible for statutory interventions, so that the possible signs of CSA&E are spotted at the earliest opportunity. Work, therefore, continues with GPs, the Children's Front Door (referral to Children's Social Care), and with the Early Help Local Area Teams.

- The *It's Not Ok* digital resources including the '*It's Not Okay*' play will be launched in York in November alongside training materials for schools so this can be used very widely across the City as part of PSHE.
- In the context of the '*It's Not Ok*' materials a training day for Designated Safeguarding Leads will take place.
- In 2018 York and North Yorkshire were successful in a combined bid for DfE Trusted Relationships Funding. The funding will be used to enhance schemes such as the Volunteer Mentor Programme and other support work, including group work, for vulnerable young people at risk of exploitation or being exploited.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Working with young people who display harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) is complex and involves specialist work in order to engage young people and their families in assessment and intervention to prevent long lasting harmful behaviour to others – and ultimately to the long term prospects of the child themselves.

In place:

- A multi-agency forensic panel for children with harmful behaviour. This group was established four years ago but has recently been reviewed. The key functions of the panel is to identify the expertise within the City to assess and intervene in high risk cases and identify the need for any specialist forensic services.
- Pool of practitioners trained in delivering the Good Lives intervention model, across Children Social Care, including the YOT and CiN team.
- Children's Social Care Managers trained in supervising staff who are undertaking assessment and intervention with children and young people who display Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

In progress/planned:

CYSCB has specific plans in relation to addressing Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB). A task group was commissioned to look at the current services for children and young people as perpetrators and victims of HSB including young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. The report from this group has been shared with the Sub-group and CYSCB and an agreed plan for work during 2018/19:

- A new City of York HSB Strategy will be developed.
- The current HSB Guidance will be reviewed and updated.
- A national expert will advise Board members on pathways for intervention with HSB and will offer further learning and development opportunities for practitioner across the spectrum from early help to statutory intervention.
- Further training and workshops on HSB will be delivered.
- A further scoping exercise will take place to understand the prevalence of HSB
- An action plan as a result of the above work will look at how awareness and assessment of HSB can be enhanced and further interventions delivered.

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