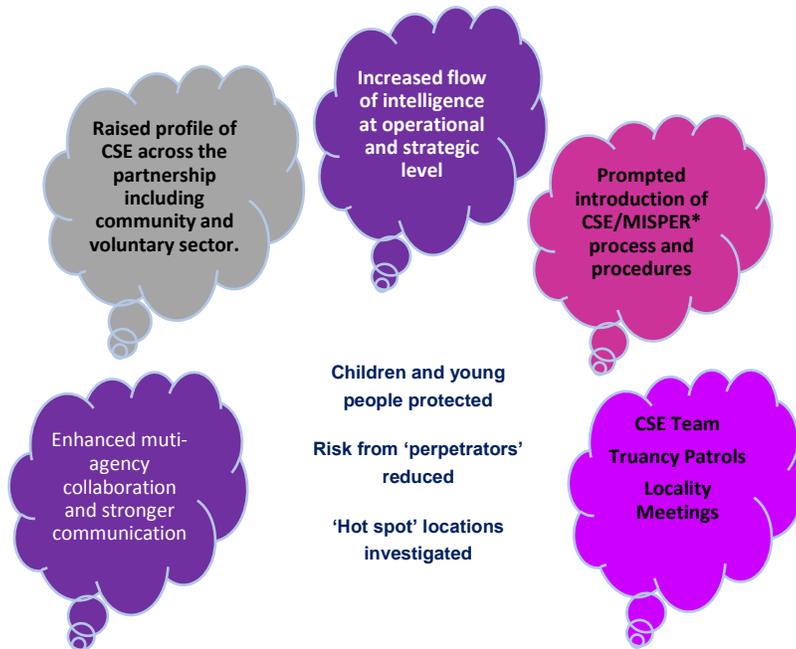


Learning Bulletin “Safeguarding is Everybody’s Business”

Welcome to the first MKSCB Learning Bulletin. We have developed this bulletin to ensure that Milton Keynes practitioners have access to information from Serious Case Reviews both nationally and locally; including learning and evidence of good practice.

Our first theme is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) ...The Local Context:

Information from our Multi Agency Risk Management Meeting (MARMM)¹:

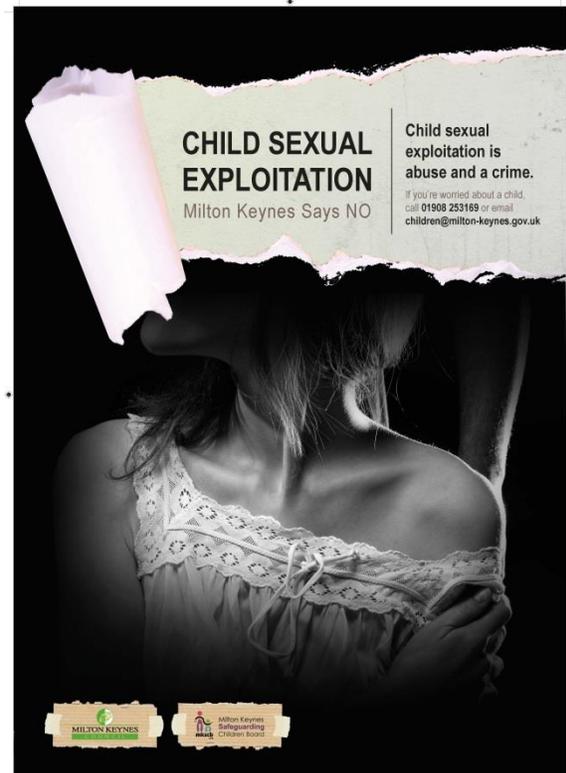


In MK we currently have less organised CSE than in some other areas. Typically, MK CSE concerns are due to the age difference between 'offenders' (17-25) and 'victims' (13-17).

Concerns have arisen about vulnerable children placed in MK from other areas. Girls continue to be at higher risk of CSE than boys in Milton Keynes. Of those with CSE as a concern the average age was 15 years for girls and 16 years for boys.

Victims of sexual exploitation often display challenging or offending behaviour, but risk-taking behaviour is a key indicator of abuse. Warning signs of potential exploitation include (but are not exclusive to):

-  Underage sexual activity; sexual health concerns; teenage pregnancy;
-  Getting involved in crime;
-  Concerning relationships, especially with unknown adults;
-  Alcohol and drug misuse; including legal high use;
-  Going missing from home or placement;
-  Truancy, exclusion and disengagement from school.



How you can use this information...

- Embed the learning into your single agency training
- Ensure your practitioners are aware of the learning

Worried about a child? Call MK Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

01908 253169

Questions?

MKSCB
Galley Hill, Milton Keynes
MKSCB@milton-keynes.gov.uk
www.mkscb.org

¹ Monthly meetings to discuss high level concerns e.g. children, perpetrators and locations
*Missing Person

NSPCC Key Points from National Learning:

Be aware of warning signs of potential sexual exploitation and grooming

The majority of victims in case reviews involving child sexual exploitation are girls. Groups particularly at risk include: children in local authority care, foster care or residential care; and young people who have had difficult early life experiences, including childhood abuse and domestic abuse.

Consider the child protection implications of underage sexual activity Professionals providing sexual health services (including contraception) should consider the child protection implications of possible abuse or exploitation whenever they become aware of underage sexual activity.

Carry out early and thorough assessments Without a thorough assessment, practice becomes task focused so that individual incidents are addressed, for example sexual health concerns, but the bigger picture of child sexual exploitation is missed.

Establish a complete picture through assessments from different agencies Assessment should draw on knowledge from different agencies so that a complete picture can be established in cases where sexual exploitation is suspected.

Assess the young person's capacity to consent The fact that young people are engaged in what they view as consensual sexual activity does not mean that they are not being exploited. Victims of sexual exploitation may be coerced into sexual activity with the perpetrators or they may feel unable to say no. Other young people may not recognise they are being sexually exploited, instead believing they are behaving as they wish. Sexual activity between young people of the same age is often perceived as being consensual, but exploitation may still be occurring. Any assessment of child sexual exploitation must also include issues of 'capacity to consent', taking into account the grooming process and issues of coercion which may be experienced by victims of child sexual exploitation.

Find more learning from Serious Case Reviews @ the [NSPCC Website](#)

What can MKSCB offer to support you in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation....

- ✓ [MKSCB Screening Tool](#)
- ✓ [MKSCB CSE Strategy and Action Plan](#)
- ✓ **Do you know you can refer to the Multi Agency Risk Management Meeting (MARMM)...** for more information please contact the office on 01908 254373 or MK MASH on 01908 253169
- ✓ **Thames Valley Police (TVP) Leaflets available for Young People, their friends and parents and carers – advice available [here](#).**
- ✓ **Our SCR toolkit and procedures are available [here](#)**
- ✓ **Stay up to date with the latest safeguarding legislation for CSE and follow us on Twitter**



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