

# Bury Phoenix Team

## Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in Bury

DS Victoria Shaw

PC Sarah Beale

Jacqui Kelly Assistant Team Manager



# Definition of CSE

‘ Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 years old involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive “something” (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person’s limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Some children or young people do not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and do not see themselves as victims of exploitation, as they consider they have acted voluntarily. The reality is their behaviour is not voluntary or consenting. It is important for professionals to remember that a child cannot consent to his or her own abuse’

# What do we know?

- Child sexual exploitation is a hidden issue, so we can only go on estimates from national levels of service provision, including our own. Last year Barnardos services worked with 1,940 children and young people who had been sexually exploited.
- Perpetrators of these crimes are becoming increasingly sophisticated, using the internet to protect their identity and trafficking children around the country to avoid detection.
- Male victims are massively under reported this could be due to:  
*The lack of awareness and lack of identification of indicators of sexual exploitation in relation to boys could help explain why boys are already victims, or at a high risk of victimisation, by the time they come to the attention of support services. (Nuffield report)*
- Young people are still too often being blamed for being a victim. We need to get across the key message that whatever young people wear and however sexualised they appear, they are still children and need our protection. Ann Coffey October 2014.
- In just over a third of cases, children affected by sexual exploitation were previously known to services because of child protection and neglect. Rotherham Report 2013.

# What's happening in Greater Manchester?

- All 10 authorities that come under GMP now have a CSE service, this includes Bury.
- They are all known as Phoenix. However, the way they work as a team does differ in each area.
- Each team deals with cases of young people being sexually exploited and offers a joined-up, multi-agency response to dealing with the problem.
- Phoenix provides advice, support and guidance to these teams to ensure that all professionals are working to the best standards and to improve services offered to victims and those at risk of child sexual exploitation.
- All the teams use the same tools to measure the risk that young people maybe at.

# Bury Phoenix Team

The multi-agency team at Bury Phoenix consists of:

- *MASH/CSE Team Manager*
- *Assistant Team Manager*
- *Detective Sergeant*
- *Bury Phoenix Social Worker*
- *Two Bury Phoenix Support Workers*
- *Detective Constable*
- *One Police Constables*
- Partnership links to Earlybreak, YOT, YPAS and Youth Services.

# What's Happening In Bury?

- Phoenix Team in place since July 2014
- Building an intelligence picture
- No evidence of any OCG activity at this time
- Majority of work results from internet grooming
- Currently 55 young people with CSE victim markers against their name – only 4 of these are male. Team currently working with 31 young people

# What is done by the CSE team?

- When a referral is received, carry out the measurement tool to identify level of risk.
- Carry out initial CSE planning meetings for where high level risk has been identified, and identify a plan of work.
- A CSE worker is allocated to the family.
- The worker meets with the family to discuss the plan.
- A programme of CSE work is carried out with the young person and family.
- This plan is regularly reviewed with all agencies involved with the young person.

# The Measurement tool

The Measurement tool looks at 10 vulnerability factors.

- *Episodes of missing from home/care*
- *School/college attendance*
- *Consumption of controlled substances*
- *Parent/Carer – child relationships*
- *Accommodation*
- *Ability to identify abusive/exploitative behaviour*
- *Engagement with appropriate services*
- *Awareness of sexual health services*
- *Association with risky peers/adults*
- *Use of social media*

The score from the measurement tool is balanced against the Continuum of Need and Response Framework.

# Initial professional response

- Professionals in all agencies should be alert to the possibility that a child or young person that they are in contact with may be being sexually exploited. The professional may already have concerns about the child, e.g. that he/she is missing from school, frequently missing from home, misusing substances, is depressed or self harming, has a significantly older girlfriend/boyfriend etc.
- All professionals receiving a disclosure from a child or young person must contact the police on 101 for them to initiate initial investigations.
- Should a child disclose it is a professional's role to:

## Recognise, Respond, Report, Record and Refer

# What happens next?

- The Interagency Referral form is screened by MASH (Multi agency Safeguarding Hub). If there is a CSE concern it is sent to the Bury Phoenix Team.
- The CSE team meet on a Monday morning to discuss all referrals. This meeting is multi-agency.
- During the CSE briefing meeting social workers ,family support workers and police discuss new referrals or significant incidents to ensure the CSE measurement tool and risk assessment is completed and decisions/tasks are shared.
- The Police Officers will share information and intelligence about the young person and/or alleged perpetrator which will also inform the measurement tool.

# Okay, so what is CSE?

- WHO?
- Anyone can be a victim of CSE, regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or geographical location.
- And a perpetrator could be anyone again regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or profession.
- Different Models:
  - The '**boyfriend model**' where an adult grooms the young person by treating them as their 'girlfriend/boyfriend'. young person may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol (the party model).
  - **Internet** grooming
  - Meeting and targeting young people in **social venues**
  - **Young people 'recruiting'** other young people
  - **Gang** activity 2 or more perpetrators always consider OCG
  - Some CSE is linked with **serious organised crime**
  - Some CSE involves the **trafficking** of young people within the UK.

# What increases the vulnerabilities?

- Alcohol and drugs
- Mental health issues
- Missing from home
- Low self esteem
- Learning disabilities
- Young people in care, or living independent.
- Poor school attendance
- Perpetrators are good at identifying that young people have these vulnerabilities then use power, control, coercion, threats and manipulation to abuse them.

# Rebuilding Lives

- Support offered to families through the criminal process
- Identification of therapeutic input
- Direct work with parents
- Direct work with Young People
- Peer support
- Persistent intervention



# Contact us

- [Buryphoenix.cse@gmp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Buryphoenix.cse@gmp.pnn.police.uk)
- [childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk](mailto:childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk)