



Southend, Essex & Thurrock Historic CSE Review Key Areas for Learning & Practice Development

Following national concerns raised about Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) LSCB partner agencies, agreed to conduct internal reviews to investigate whether opportunities to identify CSE, and to assist safeguarding victims, had been appropriately managed. Cases from 2009 to Sept 2014 were reviewed to:

- establish whether where crimes were identified that those crimes were properly investigated and safeguarding was put in place.
- consider whether the opportunities to deal with Child Sexual Exploitation were dealt with in an appropriate and reasonable manner
- inform other partners about any unknown offending
- identify learning and best practice to improve safeguarding and investigation in relation to Child sexual exploitation.

This document provides an overview of the key learning points from those reviews, to assist the Southend, Essex, and Thurrock LSCBs and their partner agencies to consider what developments and progress have been made, and what further action may be required. Each of the LSCBs has developed and is monitoring the implementation of a local CSE action plan which includes the learning from this review.

Learning Point 1: *All LSCB partner agencies should ensure that recording of CSE across information systems is clear and information-sharing protocols are understood and implemented by staff.*

Agencies must consider how they store and share information relating to CSE to allow for clear and consistent recording of identified CSE risks. Mechanisms should be in place locally and across SET LSCBs to ensure that information can be shared efficiently to allow for the early identification of CSE threats and vulnerable populations.

Learning Point 2: *The provision of training on CSE is crucial for all front-line staff in contact with children and young people.*

Our front-line workers must be trained to fully recognise the indicators of risk relating to CSE and vulnerability factors, ensuring that language such as 'street wise' and

children being 'promiscuous' or engaging in 'prostitution' is not used. Front line workers should understand the process of exploitation and grooming, and the way this impacts on the behaviours of children and young people. Agencies' learning and development strategies should ensure that there is access for all staff to a range of methods of learning and support, such as basic CSE awareness training, more specialist CSE training and 'expertise'.

Learning Point 3: *Awareness-raising campaigns should be available to promote understanding of CSE to the general public, wider community, parents, and children and young people themselves. This should include how to spot the signs of CSE and what to do if you are worried.*

Consideration should be given to ensuring wider community members such as our taxi drivers, shop keepers, church groups, youth clubs, and hotels are provided with knowledge about what CSE is, how to spot the signs, and what to do if they have a concern.

Learning Point 4: *Commissioning arrangements should consider 'what works' and what specialist resources are available to support victims when CSE is identified.*

Commissioning organisations should consider the range of services available and accessible to victims of CSE. Gaps in service provision should be identified and considered. Front line workers who are supporting victims need to know what specialist support services are available locally.