



**Suffolk Safeguarding
Children Board**

Suffolk LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy

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Suffolk LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse which involves children and young people (male and female, of a range of ethnic origins and ages, in some cases as young as 10) receiving something in exchange for sexual activity. Perpetrators of child sexual exploitation are found in all parts of the country and are not restricted to particular ethnic groups. Child sexual exploitation can also occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition. Exploitative relationships are characterised in the main by the child or young person's availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability and can have serious long term impact on every aspect of their life, health and education.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for ensuring that appropriate local procedures are in place to tackle child sexual exploitation. All frontline practitioners need to be aware of those procedures (including ones for early help) and how they relate to their own areas of responsibility. LSCBs and frontline practitioners should ensure that actions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who are sexually exploited focus on the needs of the child.

The DfE recommends that LSCBs develop an effective local strategy ensuring there is a co-ordinated multi-agency response to child sexual exploitation, based on a robust, thorough risk assessment of the extent and nature of child sexual exploitation locally;

Multi agency working underpins the development and implementation of any effective response to child sexual exploitation and therefore the LSCB CSE Strategy builds on, and incorporates elements, of a range of successful strategic initiatives established in Suffolk. It also takes into consideration the recommendations made in a range of research publications as referenced at the end of this document.

Suffolk Key Documents:

Violence Against Women and Girls and Men Experiencing Domestic Violence. 2011-2014.

The Suffolk Sexual Exploitation and Prostitution Strategy (2007-12)

Suffolk Constabulary Prostitution Strategy Review October 2012

Suffolk LSCB Safeguarding Children Who may have Been Trafficked

Suffolk LSCB Safeguarding Children At Risk of Forced Marriage

Suffolk LSCB Working with Sexually Active Young People under the Age of 18

Suffolk LSCB Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation Policy, Guidance and Risk Assessment

The strategy encompasses four key action points:

Developing a strategic response

Suffolk LSCB will:

- Initiate the development of a Missing Children and Sexual Exploitation sub group. This will be a multi agency group that will report regularly back to the LSCB and will take a lead in the implementation of the LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy.
- Revise the LSCB Sexual Exploitation Guidance and Risk Assessment where appropriate, and further develop a risk assessment Framework
- Undertake a review of the local response to child sexual exploitation and assess the prevalence and models of child sexual exploitation in the area.
- Develop links with neighbouring authorities and meet them on a formal basis and as required where there are cross border concerns.
- Support the delivery, development and implementation of robust multi agency strategies and procedures

Raising Awareness, Early Identification and Intervention

Suffolk LSCB will:

- Inform young people and children, professionals, parents and carers on the signs and symptoms of child sexual exploitation and keep them updated as information emerges about the local forms and levels of child sexual exploitation.
- Encourage the identification of suitable methods for the provision of early prevention and awareness education to children and young people.
- Work closely with the *Make and Change Team to provide leaflets, guidance, protocols, information and training to the LSCB partnership.
- Promote effective communication channels between the LSCB and partner agencies, including specialist services which have an important role to play;

- Promote attendance at voluntary and community sector conferences to increase personal knowledge for professionals working with children and young people

Encouraging effective Inter agency action

Suffolk LSCB will:

- Work to ensure that there are appropriate pathways in place for children and young people to report any concerns to a range of professionals in the knowledge that they will be supported and their concerns acted upon swiftly and appropriately.
- Encourage a multi agency response to supporting children and young people according to agreed risk and need

Securing Prosecutions

- Encourage multi-agency information sharing so evidence can better guide police action
- Actively support the formation of multi agency communication, understanding and co-ordinated responses to safeguarding victims of abuse and exploitation

References:

*The Make a Change Team is a multi-agency team including policy liaison officers and support workers. The team is part of Suffolk County Council and work closely with children and young people's services to identify young people who are at risk of abuse through sexual exploitation. The team's purpose is to help people at risk of sexual exploitation or people who are or were involved in sex work.

<http://www.barnardos.org.uk/cutthemfree/spotthesigns> *This checklist, which is not intended to be comprehensive, is based on advice to parents and carers published by Barnardo's in August 2011*

Barnardo's (2011-12) *Puppet on a string: The urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation.*

Barnardo's (2012) *Tackling child sexual Exploitation. Helping local authorities to develop effective responses*

DfE 2012 *'What to do if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited'*
<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguardingchildren/a00200288/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation>

Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation statutory guidance
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00689-2009>

Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation – national action plan
www.education.gov.uk/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation

Jago and Pearce (2008) *Gathering evidence against those who sexually exploit children and young people*

University of Bedfordshire, (2011) *What's going on to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation. How local partnerships respond to child sexual exploitation.*

ACPO Child Protection Sexual Exploitation Action Plan V0.4 14/08/2012