**West Sussex Safeguarding Children’s Board Exploitation Strategy**

***Working together to safeguard children & young people from Exploitation in West Sussex to ensure that every child and young person in West Sussex is protected from being at risk, or experiencing exploitation.***

**Introduction**

The West Sussex Safeguarding Children’s Board recognises that children are vulnerable to exploitation in a number of ways and in order to work effectively together we need to ensure that we coordinate the multiagency activity focused on the various ways that vulnerable children may be being exploited in West Sussex.

The focus for this strategy is to draw together and outline our shared partnership objectives and priorities to address the following forms of exploitation;

* Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
* Missing and Absent children
* Children in or at risk of Harmful Practices (including female genital mutilation, Forced Marriage and Honour based abuse)
* Modern Slavery (including domestic servitude and labour exploitation)
* Trafficked Children
* Radicalisation (both in terms of general religious, political or ideological extremism and those at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

**Principles Underpinning the Work**

* We will have the safety and wellbeing of the child at the centre of everything we do
* We will engage children and their families in the development and review of services
* We will focus our work on prevention, early identification and intervention as well as disruption and bringing perpetrators to justice
* We will take account of family circumstances when deciding how best to safeguard and protect the welfare of children
* We will scrutinise, challenge, monitor and review our work to ensure that it is making a positive difference in the lives of children and families.
* We will report to the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board on a bi-annual basis
* We will continue to liaise with neighbouring authorities to share good practices and that we are strengthening safeguarding arrangements across borders.

**Governance**

The West Sussex Safeguarding children’s board has the overall responsibility

• To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and

• To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

In this respect it has a monitoring function on children at risk of exploitation.

The WSSCB Child exploitation subgroup provides strategic oversight of exploited children. This group has multi-agency representation at a senior manager level and is responsible for policy and measuring impact of the work to address these issues and improve practice.

This group will be responsible for action plans to address the issues that it is taking specific responsibility to take forward through its sub groups and will request quarterly performance reports from other relevant boards that are addressing the specific areas of exploitation either as a Pan Sussex or West Sussex group. This group will ensure adequate attendance from West Sussex at Pan Sussex groups and set expectations for sharing information and developments. See Appendix 1 for Terms of reference for the WSSCB Exploitation subgroup.

For CSE and missing the governance below this group is as follows;

The tactical MACSE group will report to the WSSCB subgroup on; performance, analysis of trends from intelligence, outcomes of audits and evidence of good practice. It will also report on barriers, gaps in interventions and any concerns about performance to be addressed. It will also provide information as appropriate to the Channel Panel , TTCG and IOM.

The Multi agency Missing and exploitation operational group will provide reports of activity, stuck cases, good practice, performance and themes/trends for the MACE group to review. This report will be provided by the CSE coordinator and Police inspector Missing/cse team.

**OBJECTIVE:**

We want to prevent children experiencing any issues of exploitation in the first place and we want to identify those that are at risk of or are experiencing exploitation.

**We are going to achieve this by;**

* Raising the awareness of issues associated with child sexual exploitation, missing from home or school, trafficking, radicalisation and harmful practices.
* Training frontline practitioners to identify the indicators of CSE and other forms of exploitation and intervening quickly and effectively.
* Engaging and empowering our diverse communities to play a key role in raising awareness of CSE and other forms of exploitation.
* Sharing information and intelligence that result in identification of perpetrators, disruption, prosecution and conviction
* Effective use of independent return interviews is key so that additional interventions are in place to prevent persistent missing episodes.
* Ensuring our risk assessment tool for identifying and assessing CSE concerns across the multi-agency workforce is well understood and embedded
* Ensuring that information and intelligence relating to victims, perpetrators and locations is shared effectively
* Ensuring that there are effective arrangements between a child at risk of being exploited and adult safeguarding services when they turn 18.

**OBJECTIVE:**

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| We want to successfully disrupt and prosecute those who perpetrate or facilitate the exploitation of children & young people. We want to support and protect those children who have been exploited.  **We are going to achieve this by;**   * Ensuring high quality assessments are undertaken for those children identified at risk of or experiencing exploitation. * Ensuring that there are appropriate interventions to support and protect children and young people who are at risk, have experienced and survived exploitation and support their families, carers and wide networks. * Development of the multi- agency approach to improve strategic and operational service delivery. * Ensure that services are mobilised to reduce the risk of exploitation and to empower children and young people to improve their safety. * Make best use of civil orders and disruption activity to restrict and manage perpetrators. * Ensuring all agencies are supporting the prosecution of perpetrators of exploitation. * Ensure that all children and young people (and their families and carers) who have experienced exploitation are fully prepared for court and supported through the Criminal Justice System * Using intelligence data to develop problem profiles of individuals or groups to support disruption and prosecution. |

**OBJECTIVE:**

We want to increase the knowledge, skills, confidence and competence of our multi agency workforce so that we can recognise and intervene to prevent and reduce the risk of exploitation. We want to learn from and celebrate best practice across the workforce and increase the confidence of Practitioners to challenge each other and escalate when they feel others are not achieving the outcomes for children and young people.

**We are going to achieve this by;**

* Ensuring various levels of awareness raising and information is available to practitioners through online material and coordinated planning of relevant training
* Ensuring National developments, information and advice resources are cascaded appropriately across the multi- agency network
* Ensure the WSSCB training plan addresses the relevant issues identified through the intelligence sharing and audit activity to focus development of practice
* Ensure multi agency thematic audits are conducted and feedback, reviewing impact by repeat audits to identify improvements and further areas of learning.
* Sharing learning from relevant SCRs, thematic inspections and neighbouring authorities.
* Ensuring the voice of children and young people is captured in the feedback of their experience of services and support provided and that their views are sought when seeking improvements to practice/service delivery.
* Identifying gaps/duplication in services and opportunities for multi- agency working to improve
* Ensuring robust scrutiny of the resolution of Professional Disagreements procedures

**OBJECTIVE:**

We want to ensure that the multi-agency partnership is working effectively to meet the ambitions in this strategy and is improving outcomes for children and young people at risk of exploitation.

**We are going to achieve this by;**

* Ensure that there is coherent data across the partnership that informs our understanding of the impact of the multi-agency practice
* Requesting quarterly performance reports from related boards to ensure that the issues of children are being addressed
* Understanding the issues and trends in West Sussex, what is our information telling us that we need to keep doing, do less or more of?
* Ensuring that audits are being conducted and information being shared at both operational and strategic level to inform practice and development
* Hold partners to account for progress and challenge pace, purpose and proportionality as required.
* Scrutinise action plans and review relevant strategies to ensure being delivered.