



## What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 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, and 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.

All children and young people are at risk of being sexually exploited, regardless of age, gender or where they live.



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# 1. Introduction

This Strategy sets out Bournemouth Borough Council's key priorities and intentions for tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in Bournemouth. It represents a shared commitment for a developing, collaborative approach with integrated delivery of services to children and families in Bournemouth.

- We will focus on the needs and rights of children and young people. Children and young people are entitled to be safeguarded from sexual exploitation.
- All agencies have duties in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and this includes safeguarding them from child sexual exploitation;
- Sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse and includes sexual, physical and emotional abuse, and, in some cases, neglect.
- We will adopt a child-centred approach. Action will be focused on the child's individual needs and circumstances

Bournemouth Borough Council wants to intervene early and improve outcomes for all vulnerable children, young people and their families and create savings in high cost specialist services when the risk of CSE is first identified. We will continue to support children and young people involved in CSE at every level. Through this strategy Bournemouth will ensure children, young people and families are safe, develop resilience and reach their full potential in line with objectives of the Bournemouth's Plan for Children, Young People and their families 2014-2017.

This strategy will be updated and refreshed over the coming years as goals are achieved and situations change.

Over the next four years our objectives for tackling CSE are that:

- All children of primary and secondary age will be educated about the risks of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and made aware of the danger of CSE in its many forms, so that they can become more resilient against victimisation.
- Whole communities will increase awareness and continue to learn about CSE and the availability of help and support to help families and children develop resilience against becoming victims or perpetrators.
- Child victims (regardless of their level of awareness) and their families will be listened to and supported in trying to keep safe and will not be blamed for abuse.
- National learning will be embedded into practice and will continuously shape the delivery of Bournemouth Borough Council's response to CSE.

It is important that 'we' as Bournemouth Borough Council all identify the role we have to play in the wider Bournemouth partnership arrangements to ensure that we all work together to reduce the risk of CSE for the children, young people and families in Bournemouth. We believe this pro-active, informative and supportive approach for Bournemouth's children, young people and families will protect our children from the risk and consequences of CSE.





### 3. Principles

In order to be fully effective this strategy relies on all internal and external partners being fully informed and committed to a collaborative approach.

In order to deliver a response to CSE, Bournemouth Borough Council and its partners will agree to the following principles:

- CSE is the responsibility of everybody and there is shared ownership amongst all partners at all levels
- All partners will work collaboratively and effectively in order to develop best practice and implement the best possible CSE response from prevention through to prosecution
- Services provided will be based upon the current and projected needs of the local population where partners agree priorities
- Services will be positioned where they are needed the most in order to prevent risk through to the prosecution of offenders

All children and young people will achieve the best possible outcomes from the services provided;

- Children, young people and families will be encouraged and empowered to recognise themselves as equal partners in identifying risk and assessing their own needs, designing and accessing relevant support
- All children, young people and families have the right to receive high quality services and support and have equal access irrespective of victim or perpetrator status, ethnicity, religion,

disability, sexuality, gender or socio-economic status

- Services will safeguard and promote the health and well being of children, young people and families
- Services will be delivered within available resources and deliver best value against this strategy and other related strategies

Bournemouth will deliver the principles by:

- Ensuring National Learning informs and is embedded into local practice
- Aligning the CSE strategy with the work of the whole Local Authority, the LSCB, Dorset Police and wider community partners
- Identifying methods of alerting all partners to the risk and management of CSE
- Raising CSE awareness within universal service provision (e.g. schools and GPs), communities (e.g. faith groups) and corporate organisations (e.g. hoteliers), to engage in prevention, detection and prosecution of CSE
- Identify support available and associated pathways for those affected by CSE
- Review information sharing protocols around CSE and Missing children ensuring information is collated, analysed and used to inform practice and service provision.
- Review data collection to ensure that all levels of CSE risk are appropriately managed
- Train managers, staff and elected members in order that they are confident and competent in recognising and responding to the indicators of CSE.



## 4. Background

CSE is currently high on the national agenda following a series of high profile criminal cases attracting high level scrutiny of the Local Authorities in which the criminals were convicted.

Most recently collective failure of political and officer leadership was identified in Rotherham in addressing the risk of CSE. Early reporting regarding the issue of CSE was disbelieved and suppressed.

Ofsted have undertaken a short programme of thematic inspections with a focus on Local Authorities' response, arrangements and practice in relation to CSE. The key findings from the publication of their report 'The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?' are

- Strategic Leadership  
LA's are not meeting key responsibilities, are slow to meet statutory duties, and local issues are not informing local arrangements.
- Performance Management  
LA's are not forming an accurate picture from their data and therefore cannot determine if they are making a positive difference. CSE cases are not evaluated.
- Raising Awareness  
There are a range of innovative approaches to awareness raising used nationally.
- Practice Findings  
Tools and processes are not consistently used or reviewed.
- Disrupting and prosecuting perpetrators  
There are low numbers of prosecutions in comparison to allegations and not all police powers are being utilised.
- Missing Children  
Too few return interviews are completed, intelligence is not cross referenced e.g. with absence from school. Too many children go missing.



## 5. The Mechanisms for Delivery

To improve our understanding of CSE and ensure effective delivery of services to children and families affected by CSE, progress will be monitored against the Ofsted Improvement Plan through the Service Improvement Board. The delivery of this strategy will also be overseen by the Children's Trust through Programme Group. In addition the pan Dorset LSCB CSE Strategy group will ensure that the work of Bournemouth is aligned to a pan Dorset approach to CSE.

The headline themes forming the focus of the Ofsted action plan are:

- Ensure national learning is embedded into Bournemouth practice.
- Align Bournemouth CSE developments with the LSCB.
- Identify ways of alerting non attendees in education, employment and training to the risks of CSE.
- Create a CSE awareness raising plan for children and young people within Bournemouth, in conjunction with schools.
- Identify support available and pathways for those affected by CSE.
- Align key strategies within the Local Authority to ensure CSE is covered.
- Review information sharing protocols around CSE and missing children. All missing young people will receive a return interview and the information collated, analysed and understood will inform practice and management.
- Review data collected to ensure that all levels of CSE risk are appropriately managed.
- Raise awareness of CSE with language schools.
- Train Managers and staff in order that they are confident and competent in recognising and responding to the indicators of child sexual exploitation.
- Members' training to include scrutiny and understanding of CSE.

- Raise awareness of CSE with the wider business community.
- Develop and implement multi agency CSE Strategy which links with Dorset Police strategy.

The full Ofsted improvement plan can be viewed at: [www.bournemouth.gov.uk/SocialCareHealth/ChildrensServices/Ofsted-2014-docs/OFSTED-Action-Plan-6-October-2014.pdf](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/SocialCareHealth/ChildrensServices/Ofsted-2014-docs/OFSTED-Action-Plan-6-October-2014.pdf)

### Collaborative Workforce Approach

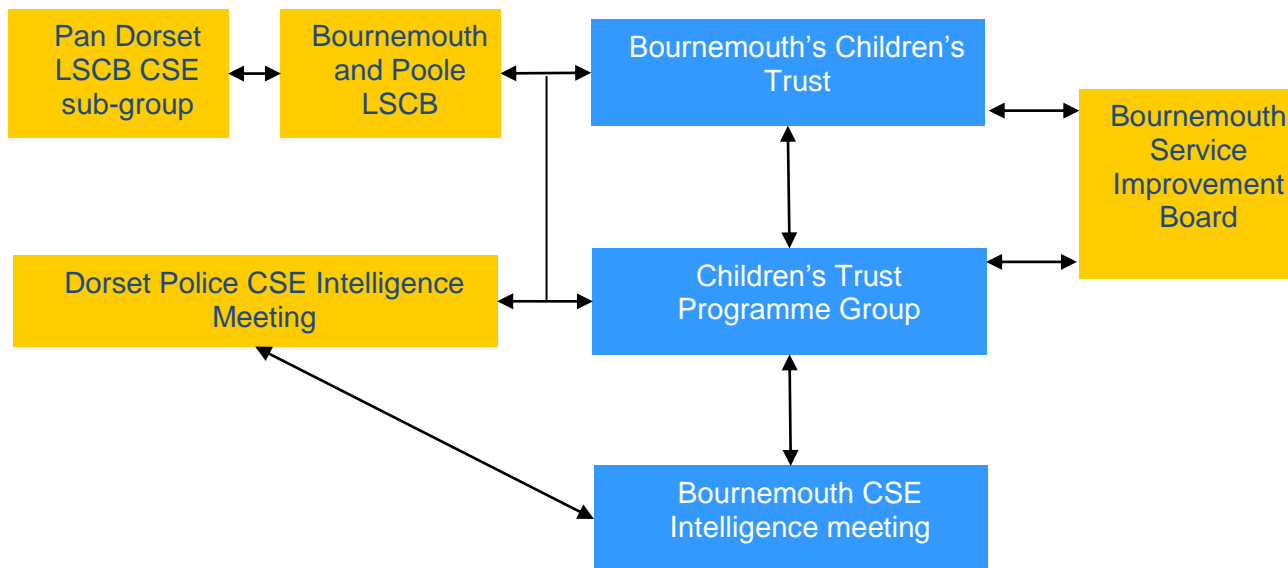
To deliver our Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy we are adopting a whole system approach to provide support to children, young people and their families. This approach will enable practitioners working with children, young people and families to build on existing skills and knowledge and develop a collaborative approach and understanding for future sustainability and risk management. Integrated training, support and development will ensure an increased understanding and embedding of CSE. It is recognised that the entire children's workforce and the wider partnership across Bournemouth's public and private sector will need to be supported and developed to empower them to take ownership and an assertive role in ensuring the safety of children, young people and families.

Through this approach the workforce will have;

- ✓ Common knowledge of CSE risk factors
- ✓ Common core knowledge and skills in supporting victims
- ✓ Common core knowledge in identifying 'risky behaviours' and potential 'risky situations'
- ✓ Confidence to be appropriately patient and supportive of victims despite their acceptance of their status.
- ✓ Clear understanding of when and how to identify risk and to whom
- ✓ Clear understanding of processes and support available to access services



## 6. Governance structure



## 7. How will we know our Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy is a success?

We will know that this strategy is a success when the following outcomes are achieved:

- Children and Young People are at reduced risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of CSE.
- Children and young people have effective plans in place to reduce the risk of, or actual, harm to them.

In order to achieve these outcomes the following objectives will be addressed:

- Relevant managers and workers are confident and competent in recognising and responding to the indicators of CSE.
- Information is shared between professionals to prevent children and

young people becoming victims or perpetrators of CSE.

- Children and young people at risk of CSE are re-channelled towards active citizenship, social inclusion, positive social networks and pro-social behaviours.
- The improvements that Bournemouth Borough Council make in this area are aligned to LSCB plans.
- National learning is embedded into Bournemouth practice.

We will measure our progress through:

- CSE Risk Screening Tools – completed in all suspected risk of CSE cases
- CSE data – increase in rates of disruption, arrest and conviction of perpetrators of CSE offences

