



## **REPORT FROM BRIGHTON & HOVE LOCAL CHILDREN SAFEGUARDING BOARD TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION – 23 APRIL 2013**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

**1.1. Research – ‘Tipping the Iceberg’** - A pan Sussex study of young people at risk of sexual exploitation and trafficking was commissioned and funded by Barnardo’s and the three Sussex wide Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) in 2005. The study was carried out by researchers from Barnardo’s Policy and Research Unit between December 2005 and December 2006. The findings were produced in a final report entitled Tipping the Iceberg in September 2007.

**1.2. Sussex Central YMCA – Specialist Sexual Exploitation Service**  
Following publication of the Tipping the Iceberg research report, a project advisory group was subsequently established to consider the findings of the report. As a result of the work of the group, Sussex Central Young Man’s Christian Association (YMCA) was supported to set up a specialist service for young people aged 13 - 25 in Brighton & Hove regarding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) issues. Nine months development funding was initially secured from the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, and later joint funding for three years was secured from Comic Relief and the former Children and Young People’s Trust.

**1.3. Vulnerable Young Person’s (Sexual Exploitation) Development Worker** - As a result of the work of the project advisory group, a jointly funded post was established within Sussex Central YMCA to take work forward. A Vulnerable Young Person’s (Sexual Exploitation) Development Worker was subsequently employed from the joint funding on a three year contract from April 2010. Due to the success of the work in the city, Sussex Central YMCA has recently secured a further 3 year funding stream from Comic Relief. In addition, Sussex Police provided additional funding in 2012-13 and 2013-14 which has enabled the recruitment of a 0.5 support worker.

**1.4. Sexual Exploitation Steering Group** - A multi-agency Sexual Exploitation Steering Group was set up in October 2010 to support the Young People’s Sexual Exploitation Project. Membership of the group was from a

wide range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations across the city. Following a presentation by Sussex Central YMCA to the September 2011 Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), the LSCB Chair and Board agreed that the work of the Sexual Exploitation Steering Group was importantly sufficient for it to become an official LSCB sub group.

## **2. LSCB CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION SUB GROUP**

**2.1. LSCB CSE Sub Group** - The LSCB CSE sub group meets quarterly and is currently chaired by T/Superintendent Jeremy Graves, Crime Manager, B&H Division, Sussex Police. The purpose of the city-wide multi-agency sub group is to engage all relevant agencies and promote the delivery of an enhanced service to ensure children and young people who may be sexually exploited or at risk of exploitation are identified, safeguarded and supported.

### **2.2. The main aims of the LSCB Sexual Exploitation Sub Group are:**

- To support Community Safety Partnership/Police/LSCB Strategic plans regarding CSE
- To gain an understanding of the City Problem Profile
- Monitor ongoing prevalence and responses to CSE
- To develop and maintain an effective local strategy ensuring that there is a co-ordinated multi-agency response to CSE
- Increase understanding of CSE in both the professional and wider communities
- Address issues around Trafficking of young people for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

**2.3.** The CSE sub group also helps support the 'What is Sexual Exploitation (WiSE) project which is led by Sussex Central YMCA's Vulnerable Young Person's (Sexual Exploitation) Project Worker.

## **3. WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (WiSE) PROJECT**

**3.1.** Following consultation with the Vulnerable Young Person's (Sexual Exploitation) Development Worker, the Young People's Sexual Exploitation Project was named WiSE (What is Sexual Exploitation). Key aims of the WiSE project include:

- Providing a specialist service for young women and young men aged 13 – 25 at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation.
- Working in partnership with Sussex Police, Children's Services and the LSCB.

- Raising awareness through a young people-led eyes and ears campaign.
- Delivering a multi-agency training programme.
- Case working young people at risk and /or experiencing CSE through one-to-one and group work.

#### **4. CARE PATHWAY**

**4.1.** There have been significant developments within Brighton and Hove to review the care pathway for CSE, which have included the evaluation of existing meetings and forums to reform the processes by which children and young people at risk of CSE are identified. Changes have included how cases of concern are raised and discussed with key agencies, information sharing, allocations support plans, accountability and reviews.

**4.2.** The Missing Young People steering group is due to extend its remit from the 1<sup>st</sup> April to include any child or young person who is deemed to be vulnerable and this includes sexual exploitation. Children and young people will be referred to the steering group which will be multi-agency and the group will have responsibility to ensure the most appropriate response is given. The group will also act as an intelligence gathering forum in order to establish patterns and trends among groups of young people or possible perpetrators.

#### **5. INFORMATION SHARING**

**5.1.** There is an excellent working relationship between WiSE, Sussex Police and Children's Social Care, regarding CSE. WiSE is a key member of the Police's information sharing meetings and has been invited to use their intelligence systems, ESINS. This allows WiSE to inform and update Sussex Police and Children's Social Care of any intelligence gathered around both perpetrators and survivors of CSE and trends/locations of concern. This allows key statutory agencies to be linked into information that may otherwise have been unavailable.

**5.2.** CSE has been recognised in the job title and responsibilities of a key member of the Police Child Protection Team which is further evidence of the commitment the force is making to the work around CSE. A 'marker' is now put on Police reports to ensure that any information where CSE is mentioned gets sent to the Child Protection Team.

**5.3.** CSE has been added as a 'client characteristic' to the new Single Assessment document that will be replacing Children's Social Care's Initial and Core Assessments as of mid April 2013. This will enable Children's Social Care to draw upon data regarding those cases where CSE has been

identified as an issue.

## **6. TRAINING**

**6.1.** The 'Preventing and Disrupting Sexual Exploitation' multi-agency training course run by WiSE was successfully piloted on the LSCB multi-agency programme in 2011. Additional courses were run in 2011/2012 and more dates are being put on during 2013 in order to raise awareness of the project to more professionals across the city including a level two course for practitioners who want to develop their understanding of CSE.

**6.2.** In addition, WiSE has continued to train a large number of frontline workers from professional teams from a wide range of organisations, including Sussex Police and a large training day of 80 Social Workers and Social Work Resource Officers (SWROs) from Brighton and Hove's Children's Services Advice, Contact Assessment Service (ACAS) Duty Team.

**6.3.** WiSE has also delivered lectures to Brighton University Social Work Master's students. The training programme has become embedded within the training of health professionals. WiSE sessions have become part of core training for student midwives and paediatricians in the city.

**6.4.** Professional training has had an extremely enthusiastic response from a huge number of organisations across the city. This has led to the large increase in the numbers of young people who are at risk/being exploited being identified and referred to the project; providing evidence for successful awareness raising across the city.

**6.5.** The training programme has been significant in changing professional attitudes around the risky behaviours young people undertake as a result of CSE, the training has opened people's eyes and provided them with the confidence to identify abusive relationships with confidence, and an understanding of what support is available to children and young people.

## **7. OUTREACH WORK**

**7.1.** WiSE has developed and maintained strong links with services across the city delivering support to young people around Housing, Sex Working, Sexual Health and within the Night- time economy. WiSE has made particularly good progress at the Claude Nicol Clinic (GUM) providing outreach during young person's drop-in sessions.

**7.2.** Outreach sessions increase accessibility for vulnerable children and

young people and help host providers talk about the service highlighted CSE as an issue within the service integrating the screening tool as part of their assessments.

## **8. MARGINALISED GROUPS**

**8.1.** WiSE has been working with organisations in Brighton and Hove to ensure that services are available for young people who may be 'hard to reach' or not in contact with many support services.

**8.2.** WiSE work very closely with Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVA's), meeting every two weeks to share information and refer into each others services. ISVA's from Survivors Network (a local voluntary organisation that supports female survivors of childhood sexual abuse) will also be co-delivering group work to young people in order to build capacity in both services.

**8.3.** The recent training of the whole ACAS team referred to in section 6.2 has led to a whole section of vulnerable young people being offered support from WiSE. ACAS were also joined by members of the Police Child Protection Team and the Police Anti Victimisation Unit on their training. The purpose of which was to develop a common language and understanding between agencies with statutory safeguarding responsibilities, in terms of identification and response.

**8.4.** At the beginning of the year, WiSE trained the staff team at St John's College for children and young people with learning difficulties, this was in response to the number of referrals made to the service of young people with learning disabilities.

**8.5.** WiSE is also working with the staff (and some of the young people) of the local Asylum Seekers support group, to train staff and raise awareness of the understanding of sexuality and relationships in the UK, based on a few incidents of cultural differences causing problems for young male asylum seekers in Brighton and Hove.

**8.6.** WiSE aim to work with 'Mosaic' (Children and Family Service) and B&H BME Youth Group to raise awareness of the WiSE Project with BME young people in the city.

**8.7.** A Practice Lead in respect of CSE has been created in both ACAS and the Police Child Protection Team. The Practice Leads are available as Specific Points of Contact to staff for the purposes of consultation in respect of identification and response to CSE. In addition the Practice Leads have taken responsibility for the dissemination of advice, training and development

within their respective teams on the issue. The Practice Leads also meet on a fortnightly basis with a WiSE representative to complete a safeguarding review in respect of children and young people who have come to the attention of services as a result of CSE.

## **9. WORK WITH YOUNG MEN**

**9.1.** WiSE has recently given particular focus on how to promote the service and the support offered to young men. This has been done through linking in with 'Mankind' (a local voluntary sector organisation for providing support to male survivors of sexual assault) and Allsorts (an LGBT youth organisation offering activities and support). It is the intention of the project to fund raise for a specialist young men's worker to increase accessibility to the service.

**9.2.** WiSE also reviewed the content of their training sessions to include discussion about the needs of young men in order to support male referrals to WiSE.

**9.3.** Currently the referrals for young men at risk of CSE are 14%, 84% female and 2% transgender. As WiSE enter their fourth year of funding they plan to work with 'Mankind' to create further specific promotional material, based on the recent evaluation of a research survey produced for men in the city around attitudes and understanding of sexual assault, unhealthy relationships and SE.

## **10. DATA 2012-13**

**10.1.** There were 86 referrals including those believed to be at risk of CSE and those experiencing CSE into WiSE in 2012-13. Of the 86, 63 ended up being worked with through one-one case work. The remainder were non-engaging and/or did not want the support of the service. Out of the 63 being worked with, 67% were, or had been in the care system at one time.

## **11. WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH**

**11.1.** Access to schools is essential in relation to early intervention, and WiSE has been able to build upon the links that YMCA already has in schools and the local authority to get CSE on to education agendas. WiSE has been a part of the development and design school's group-work programme entitled 'Positive Choices'.

**11.2.** The Positive Choices Programme will be delivered in partnership with WiSE, Survivors Network and Rise (Women's Refuge) and is being supported across the local authority through the Partnership Adviser: Health and Wellbeing who is looking to promote this as part of a whole school approach

across Brighton and Hove secondary schools. The successful pilot was completed in autumn 2012 and the partnership aims to roll out the programme to other secondary schools in the summer 2013.

**11.3.** The local authority Partnership Adviser: Health and Wellbeing, with support from Wise and Rise, will support and review and development of planning tools for the primary and secondary school PSHE curriculum to ensure these cover age appropriate issues related to safe touch, healthy relationships, domestic and sexual violence and sexual exploitation.

**11.4.** Through a Whole School Approach to Domestic Violence and Sexual Exploitation, training will be provided to schools to support the development of understanding CSE.

## **12. PAN SUSSEX CONFERENCE**

**12.1.** A Sussex wide conference regarding Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking and Missing Children was held in October 2012 to further raise awareness and increase understanding for practitioners and managers across the county. The conference was very well attended with over 100 multi-agency partners from a range of agencies.

**12.2.** Key note speakers included Sheila Taylor, the Director of the National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and a live theatre performance called 'Chelsea's Choice' by Alter Ego Theatre Company. Participative workshops included: best practice and legislation for health care professionals around confidentiality and sharing information; group work sessions based on activities and exercises that are normally undertaken with young victims of CSE; Identifying and Safeguarding Trafficked Young People and Operation Newbridge; on-line CSE and examination of the latest national and local data with regard to the types of online sexual behaviours that young people engage in on the internet and other connectable devices and identifying and reducing missing young people from local authority care and from the community.

## **13. NATIONAL WORKING GROUP FOR TACKLING CSE**

**13.1.** The National Working Group (NWG) for tackling CSE is the main national forum where practice issues and learning is exchanged amongst professionals working on CSE Projects. Sussex Central YMCA is a member of the National Working Group on CSE and has tools published on the NWG website. YMCA staff have participated in practitioner forums and has fed into the development of the University of Bedfordshire data management tool.

**13.2.** The LSCB Business Manager has also attended NWG network meetings to share information and best practice examples with other LSCBs.

#### **14. OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONERS' TWO-YEAR INQUIRY INTO CSE IN GANGS AND GROUPS**

**14.1.** WiSE has supported all the calls for evidence in relation to the inquiry and has been interviewed by the Office of Children's Commissioners (OCC), the project has regular contact with Sue Berelowitz (Deputy Children's Commissioner) exchanging information and providing learning from the work in Brighton & Hove.

**14.2.** The LSCB has also been actively involved with the OCC Inquiry. The previous chair of the LSCB (Alan Bedford) was interviewed as part of the evidence gathering process in year one of the inquiry and the LSCB has recently completed the OCC dataset request required for year two.

#### **15. UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE RESEARCH**

**15.1.** Sussex Central YMCA took part in the University of Bedfordshire's research project, supported by Comic Relief, exploring the extent and nature of the response LSCBs to the 2009 Government guidance on safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation on behalf of Brighton & Hove LSCB. The research is referenced in the Government's action plan on tackling child sexual exploitation.

#### **16. CONCLUSION**

**16.1.** It is fair to say that Brighton & Hove has well supported multi agency processes in place and is making good progress compared to other areas where high profile CSE cases have not been triggered. Nonetheless, there is still further work to be done in terms of capacity, understanding networks of perpetrators and recognising the national drive. LSCB partners will therefore continue to work as jointly as possible in order to address such issues.

**16.2.** In summary, the overarching achievement over the past three years is that the sexual exploitation of children and young people in the city of Brighton and Hove is being recognised by statutory services as a safeguarding issue in which a lot of joint work has been put in place. Furthermore, key achievements over the last three years include the following:

- WiSE steering group adopted as a sub-group of Brighton & Hove LSCB with excellent multi-agency membership which is now chaired by Sussex Police.



- Referral pathway embedded amongst professionals including connection with SARC, health, social care partner agencies.
- Adoption of CSE screening tool
- Missing Persons Panel changed to Vulnerable Young People's Panel to reflect inclusive of missing children and CSE.
- Information-sharing protocol with Sussex Police developed fortnightly meetings with ACAS and Police with WiSE.
- Police Missing Persons lead has CSE formally recognised and integrated into their role.
- Marker put on Police reports to ensure that any information where CSE is mentioned gets sent to the Child Protection Team – (process tested via mystery shopper and verified as working accurately)
- Citywide training of professionals being included within B&H Children's Workforce development and LSCB multi-agency training programme.
- Increased numbers of young people supported to reduce risk taking behaviours, minimise harm and exit sexually exploitative relationships.
- Changes to PSHE curriculum in schools to include CSE.
- Development of a whole schools training package with WiSE, Survivors Network and RiSE
- Close working links with the National Working Group, Office of Children's Commissioner and University of Bedfordshire (academic lead for CSE in country).
- Young people's participation in the development of posters, leaflets and DV.
- Established cross border relations with neighbouring LSCB's including regular meetings between Business Managers and pan-Sussex conference on CSE
- WiSE project is very well-regarded by funders Comic Relief and has been re-funded for another three years plus years funding from Police to provide a part time case worker due to an increasing demand on case load.

