

**London Borough of Bexley and Bexley Metropolitan Police Service
Joint Operational Procedure: Child Sexual Exploitation**

Date of publication: 6th February 2017
Date for review: Review annually or with revised guidance

Responsible Manager:
Head of Child Protection and Family Support
Detective Inspector, Public Protection

Electronic file location: tbc

Associated statutory guidance and regulations:

Pan-London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocols:

http://www.cscb.org.uk/downloads/policies_guidance/london/Pan-London%20Child%20Sexual%20Exploitation%20Operating%20Protocol%20-%20March%202013.pdf

Working Together to Safeguard Children, a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, Department for Education Statutory Guidance March 2015:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation: supplementary guidance 2009:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-from-sexual-exploitation-supplementary-guidance>

Departmental advice on the national action plan for tackling child sexual exploitation DfE 2012:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-you-suspect-a-child-is-being-sexually-exploited>

Local documents:

Bexley CSE Strategy and Action Plan 2016 (Note the old one is still on the LSCB website - link to new one when available)

Bexley Children's Social Care Missing from Home, Care and Education and CSE operating procedures and practice guidance (see Tri X)

Key Objectives (including Signs of Safety principles to apply)

1. Mitigate the impact of child sexual exploitation by improving outcomes and reducing harm to young people who are:
 - a. vulnerable to or at risk of exploitation
 - b. victims of exploitation
2. Understand the scale of the problem in Bexley and develop a co-ordinated multi-agency response
3. Raise awareness of the issue through education and training
4. **Identify** those at risk and provide early help to **prevent** exploitation
5. **Support** victims to break free from sexual exploitation
6. Use information to **disrupt** patterns of exploitation and **prosecute** perpetrators

Detailed advice:

Members of the public or professionals concerned that a young person may be at risk or suffering sexual exploitation should refer to Children's Social Care.

Pathways for police and social care to refer issues on CSE are contained in the Pan London document:

- i. If the police receive reports of concerns of CSE, this is referred to the Sexual Exploitation Team to grade. If they are graded as level 1 officers from Bexley police will investigate. Level 1 is concern, level 2 and 3 reflect evidence of offences. Level 2 and 3 are investigated by the Sexual Exploitation team. A Merlin report that will be created and passed to the MASH.
- ii. If children's social care receive a report of concern of CSE, the social worker completes a referral to the police (87a - Child abuse investigation to police form) sexual exploitation team.
- iii. Social work manager with police, health and other appropriate agencies hold a strategy meeting and a



- decision will be made as to whether to proceed to undertake a S47 child protection enquiry or not.
- iv. Social worker undertakes a children and families assessment in accordance with the Children's Act 89 and takes into account specific risks in relation to CSE.
 - v. A safety plan will be started in the strategy meeting and developed through the assessment (including disruption activity) and consideration for initial child protection conference.
 - vi. Reconvene strategy meetings to review and manage risk (if required).
 - vii. All children identified at risk of CSE will be discussed and monitored fortnightly at the weekly Missing and CSE monitoring meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to quality assure progress of actions. This meeting tracks, discusses and identifies actions and follow up and will escalate if partner agencies cannot agree on particular action. Address any professional disagreement and escalate if unresolved. The Missing and CSE Monitoring meeting terms of reference available at: (weblink).
 - viii. Any themes, patterns, hotspots and learning are identified and reported up to the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Group (MASE) on a quarterly basis for consideration of resourcing and strategic decision making.
 - ix. MASE is held quarterly, terms of reference available at: (weblink).