

**Child Sexual
Exploitation:
Transition
Arrangements to
Access Adult Services**
Children and Families Service

May 2015

POLICY INFORMATION SHEET

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Service Area	Children and Families
Date effective from	5 th May 2015
Responsible Officer	Kate Press (Independent Safeguarding Chair)
Date of Reviews	May 2016
Status <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandatory (all staff name must adhere to guidance)• Optional (Procedures and practice can vary between teams)	Mandatory
Target Audience	
Date of CSMT/EPLT Decision	
Related Document (s)	
Superseded Documents	
Equality Impact Assessment	

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The protocol is intended to set out the agreed pathway in Cheshire East between Children's and Adult Services for recognising, responding and reducing risk for people where Child Sexual Abuse has been a significant issue in their lives.
- 1.2 In Cheshire East we are aware of a number of children in the older age group (16-18) who are at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). This often relates to half of the children subject to a CSE plan. Current research and enquiries clearly state that the only way to tackle CSE is through 'joined up working and information sharing' (1).
- 1.3 There are additional risks to young adults who have experienced CSE which include: mental health difficulties, criminal behaviours, alcohol and drug misuse, domestic abuse and having Social Care involvement with their own children. There has been a clear link made between domestic abuse and sexual exploitation and the way in which young people can be both victims and perpetrators. Therefore demonstrating a need for there to be ongoing support and services available to those young people who have been victims of CSE, but are now 18 years or older. Enquiries have identified that services have failed to provide long term therapeutic work for survivor's of CSE (The following Reports provide demonstrable evidence of this, 'If it's not better it's not the end: Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation and Gangs and Groups: one year on' – Sue Bereloqitz et al; 'Real Voices: Child Sexual Exploitation in Greater Manchester: An independent Review' by Ann Coffey MP; Report of Inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council' – Louise Casey). It is therefore critical that the transition for these children to adulthood does not result in them failing to receive the support and protection they may still need.
- 1.4 It is recognised that these young adults may decline further intervention from services, and this should be recorded on the Young Person's Record. Where support is accepted, this may comprise of signposting to additional services (for issues as described above), advising and assistance with access to support, treatment and/or therapeutic services (e.g. RASAC, Visyon, the IDVA Service and Barnardos) and on rare occasions co-ordination a care package of support.
- 1.5 There will also be a number of young people who have been identified as potential perpetrators, (persons of interest) who will also need to be identified and flagged to Adult Services for monitoring and awareness purposes.

2. Children on CSE Plans/Child Protection Plans (where CSE is an additional concern) and CiN Plans

- 2.1 The above plans can all continue until the child's 18th birthday and then will cease.
- 2.2 It is expected that where the allocated Social Worker has assessed (through the completion of a Combined Assessment) and with the agreement of the child, parent and the Core Group/CiN group that there is a need for ongoing intervention and support from Adult Services, that a referral is made to the agreed single point of contact into Adult Services (Julie Feather, Social Worker , Crewe SMART Team –(julie.feather@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

- 2.3 This should happen as the child approaches the age of 17 years.
- 2.4 The referral should consist of the Relevant Referral Form, Combined Assessment and an updated CSE Screening Tool.
- 2.5 The Allocated Adult Social Worker will then be responsible for completing the relevant assessment prior to the Young Person reaching the age of 18.
- 2.6 If this referral is accepted by Adult Services, it would be expected that the Adult Social Worker will become part of the Core Group/CiN Group as the child's 18th birthday approaches.
- 2.7 It must be recorded on the child's record that a request has been made to Adult Services for ongoing support.
- 2.8 Where a child is subject to a CSE Plan or Child Protection Plan, the need for involvement by Adult Services will be considered at the first Conference Review after the child's 17th birthday, and if required a recommendation will be made in the CSE/CP Plan for a referral as described above within appropriate timescales, and the identified worker from Adult Service must be included in the Core Group and Review Conference Meetings.

3. Care Leavers

- 3.1 Children who have been in Care of the Local Authority will have an allocated Personal Advisor until at least the age of 21.
- 3.2 It is suggested that they retain Key Work responsibility. However, a referral to Adult Services should be made when the young person reaches the age of 17 as per the process above.

4. Young People who are 'Persons of Interest'

- 4.1 There are young people who are identified at CSE Operations Group Meetings (CSE Ops) to be a risk to other young people.
- 4.2 A decision is made at CSE Ops Meetings as to whether they should be flagged as a 'person of interest'.
- 4.3 The details of these individuals will be sent to Adult Services (Julie Feather, Julie.feater@cheshireeast.gov.uk) for them to check their records.

- 4.4 The decisions in respect of flagging the individual will be sent following the CSE Ops meeting for Adult Services to flag.
- 4.5 This protocol will be implemented on 5th May 2015 and will reviewed 5th 2016 a year after implantation.