



Warwickshire Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children Strategy.

2017-2020

Working together to safeguard children in Warwickshire at risk of going missing, being sexually exploited and/or being trafficked.



Warwickshire
Safeguarding
Children Board

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Foreword

Safeguarding children is everyone's business. This is particularly the case with child sexual exploitation, missing children and trafficking. Individuals (whether professionals or the public), agencies, and partnerships can all play their part. It is vital that people know what to look for and what to do if they suspect exploitation. Child sexual exploitation and trafficking destroys lives and its effects damage communities.

This is the first time in Warwickshire sexual exploitation, missing children and trafficking have been included within one strategy, we have done this because these areas are clearly interlinked. This strategy outlines the commitment of Warwickshire Children Safeguarding Board to ensure professionals work together effectively to identify exploitation, protect those at risk, support victims and disrupt and prosecute criminals who exploit children.

The safeguarding board have given child sexual exploitation a significant focus over a number of years. The success of the multi-agency team and partnership in tackling child sexual exploitation was evidenced in the latest OFSTED inspection in 2017. A particular success have been the links with children who go missing from home, care and school. Many of the successful operations to prevent, protect and pursue justice have been informed by intelligence from return home interviews.

Child trafficking is often thought of as an international or national crime; however it can also be committed within a local area. This strategy recognises that trafficking is happening to children in Warwickshire. Whether children are resident in Warwickshire or unaccompanied from abroad they are in danger of being trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation or being criminalised. This strategy aims to increase knowledge of trafficking nationally and locally to ensure this is recognised and addressed.

This strategy makes clear our unequivocal commitment to tackling the sexual exploitation of children. This strategy will better coordinate our response and better identify and care for victims. It will also help us move in the coming years with integrating processes, towards a focus on the quality of outcomes. Robust coordination and greater ownership across all agencies and communities is required to undertake this move. The strategy is brief yet comprehensive. It is vital that all agencies are clear about the strategy and apply it rigorously, to ensure its effectiveness.

David Peplow
Chair, Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board

Introduction & Purpose

This is Warwickshire's second child sexual exploitation strategy, the first being published in 2013. However, this is the first missing children and trafficking strategy and in addition the first time that child sexual exploitation, missing children and trafficking have been placed together in one document.

Warwickshire, like every other area of the country, is faced with the challenge of tackling the issue of children going missing from home, care or school, being abused through child sexual exploitation and being trafficked. These issues have been a key priority for Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB). The board have adopted a wider strategy due to the interconnections between child sexual exploitation, children who go missing and trafficking. These issues cannot be dealt with in isolation.

This strategy builds upon the significant work already taking place and sets out how all agencies will work together to ensure the most effective and co-ordinated response over the next three years to eradicate the exploitation of children. Strategic planning and collaborative multi-agency working, this will enable effective leadership and progress our understanding and practice. This will in turn improve the lives of children and young people at risk of harm and exploitation. In order to achieve this we have identified four key objectives:

- [Understand and identify.](#)
Strengthen the early identification and assessment of children at risk.
- [Prevention.](#)
Raise awareness across Warwickshire within agencies, communities, children and their families.
- [Intervene, protect and support.](#)
Continue to improve the victim experience to ensure intervention, protection and support is provided, including therapeutic support and access to specialist services into adulthood.
- [Disrupt and bring to justice.](#)
Lead in disrupting perpetrator behaviour and bring offenders to justice through continually understanding the local profile and risk assessments which address criminal activity.

Whilst this strategy relates specifically to children it is important to recognise that adults are victims of non-recent sexual abuse and trafficking too. The identification of an adult who has been exploited or is being exploited can lead to the identification of risk to children. Therefore, it is important that when responding agencies do not just focus on children; we have a responsibility to people of all ages.

Agencies also need to work across borders with partners in other Local Authority areas in order to effectively respond to child sexual exploitation. In Warwickshire we have successfully undertaken complex operations with colleagues in CSE teams in other areas and are seeking to formalise these with strategic agreements.

Governance & Partnership

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is the responsible body for the strategy and action plan which supports and influences work across Warwickshire to safeguard children who are victims or at risk of CSE, children missing from home, school and care and child trafficking. The Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board will hold partner agencies to account for their own agency's plan and actions.

To support the strategy the board has a sub-committee and an operational group as detailed below. Progress of this strategy will be monitored by the WSCB Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing and Trafficking Sub-Committee, by working in accordance with an agreed detailed action plan, taking into account local need and learning from national research and practice.

The roles within the governance structure are:

WSCB Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing & Trafficking Sub Committee

This is the strategic sub group that drives the multi-agency strategy, develops and agrees the approach to commissioning multi-agency operating models and ensures the implementation and effectiveness of this strategy. It reports directly to Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board.

WSCB Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing & Trafficking Operational Group

The operational group ensures the service delivery and seeks to obtain intelligence to identify patterns and trends. The group consider those children at highest risk of repeat missing episodes and children at risk or who have experiences of child trafficking. The group reports to responsible senior officers in the Council and Police. The group also report to the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board's Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing & Trafficking Sub Committee.

Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing & Trafficking Team¹

A key strength is our combined approach between the statutory and voluntary sector. This enables a flexible approach to engagement with children, allowing us to consider which agency/practitioner is best placed to engage with children and their families. The multi-agency team have the following staff roles: Police Officers, Social Workers, Barnardo's CSE Practitioners and Missing Children Practitioners. All supported by a Barnardo's Community Engagement & Training Officer, Police Intelligence Analyst, Police Missing & CSE Coordinators and a Business Support Officer. We have also recently added a Barnardo's Parenting Practitioner to work with parents and carers.

¹ The Police & Barnardo's main focus within the team is upon CSE, Missing and "internal" trafficking. Children's Social Care also support young people suspected of being "international" trafficked.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Definition

In February 2017 the Home Office launched the new definition of Child Sexual Exploitation. The new definition:

“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.”

We know that there are multiple models of sexual exploitation. These models are complete and overlapping as perpetrators often use a variety of models to groom and abuse children, making it more difficult to identify, disrupt and protect children from exploitation. Barnardo’s (2017) set out eight different models of child sexual exploitation as demonstrated in the diagram below:

Model	Definition
Party Model	Parties in venues or homes in order to target, groom and then coerce into exploitative situations. Using drugs and/or alcohol to lower inhibitions and ensure compliance.
Online exploitation	Using technology to target and exploit children. This can include grooming and exploiting through texts and picture messages. Use of social media to groom, exploit and even blackmail.
Boyfriend /Girlfriend model	Perpetrator befriends and grooms a child into a "relationship" where the child believes them to be their boyfriend or girlfriend. A traumatic bond is formed as the perpetrator draws upon the child’s feelings and insecurity.
Commercial sexual exploitation of children	Previously referred to as child prostitution. Children are groomed and controlled by a third party. Even when the child feels they are doing it out of "choice", it is grooming, and coerced. Sometimes in exchange for alcohol, drugs, money or other items.
Gang involvement & drug running	Internal gang sexual exploitation or external retribution. Serious organised crime involving children in exchange for money or involved in other criminality like drug dealing, burglary/theft or fraud.
Trafficked young people	This can include children being moved and passed through

	networks where they are forced or coerced into sexual activity with multiple perpetrators.
Self-generated indecent imagery	Images are sent from one person to another using technology and social media. Children are targeted and coerced to take pictures or videos of themselves, often with the promise of a relationship developing and that they will not be shared. Then used to blackmail the victim to do further sexual acts.
Peer Exploitation	This can occur within any age appropriate association but there inevitably will include a form of power, control, manipulation or coercion.

Background Facts and Figures

National Context

In February 2017, the UK government identified CSE as a national threat in the UK. The government have also launched the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse. The centre is funded by the Home Office, led by Barnardo's, and works to help bring about significant and system wide change in how child sexual abuse is responded to locally and nationally by generating and sharing high quality evidence of what works to prevent and tackle child sexual abuse in regards to policy and practice. In the centre's first publications in 2017 they identified that:

- 785,000 children aged 11-17 experienced any type of sexual abuse during childhood. 228,000 experienced contact sexual abuse in childhood (2009).
- 53,811 child sexual abuse offences were recorded by police in England & Wales in 2015/16.
- 10.5% girls and 2.6% boys had experienced any form of sexual abuse by an adult before the age of 16.
- 3.4% girls and 0.6% boys had experienced penetrative offences (including attempts by an adult before the age of 16).

In addition the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse identified that there was mixed data regarding perpetrators. The police recorded information suggests there were 6,107 CSE offenders in 2017; 93% were male and 7% were female. The average age of a perpetrator was 26 years old.

This document also sets out what is not yet known around sexual abuse and aims in the future to fill gaps. This includes:

- Knowledge around relationship of perpetrators to victims
- Full age and gender analysis of perpetrators
- How much child sexual abuse is child sexual exploitation
- Tracking changes over time, whether there is more or less child sexual abuse than there used to be.

For more information see www.csacentre.org.uk.

Warwickshire Context

In Warwickshire we are working hard to develop a multi-agency agreed data set which reflects the nature and level of sexual exploitation. The issue of sexual exploitation is present in every town and city across the United Kingdom. **There is no more or less of an issue with child sexual exploitation in Warwickshire than in any other county.** There is a culture within Warwickshire of professionals and agencies being able to think the unthinkable. We listen to children and young people and take allegations of abuse seriously, ensuring concerns are investigated and addressed. There is no evidence of any systemic organisational failure to address child sexual exploitation in Warwickshire, as there has been identified in other areas.

Taken from the 2016-2017 Child Sexual Exploitation Annual Report:

- There were 113 CSE related crime incidents and 250 criminal investigations in Warwickshire. This led to 23 CSE related prosecutions and 4 other cautions with CSE related crimes.
- On 31st March 2017 there were 65 children open to the Child Sexual Exploitation Team. 23 were children looked after.
- From April 2016 to October 2016, 56 children were subject to a Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Meeting (MASE). From November 2016 to March 2017, 132 children were subject of a MASE Meeting. 30 children were subject to review MASE Meetings. There has been increased recording of MASE Meetings.
- More than half of CSE crimes involve young people who had either been reported missing from home or care.
- Most crimes of CSE involve perpetrators who were known by their victims. Suspects and known perpetrators mainly ranged in age 25-29 years. All are male.

We are committed to working with regional colleagues to develop shared priorities and share good practice through the strategic governance group. This strategy will be regularly reviewed to ensure it reflects changes in the local, regional and national response.

We cannot be complacent and must ensure we have a clear understanding of the scale of sexual exploitation in Warwickshire and make it easier for the public to identify and report concerns.

Missing Children

Definition

The definition of missing:

“Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered missing until located and their well-being confirmed.” (College of Policing, APP)

All missing people sit within a continuum of risk from no apparent risk (absent) through to high risk cases that require immediate and intensive action. Children who go missing usually fall into the latter category.

Before a child or young person becomes categorised as missing, a clear judgement needs to be made. One category of missing used in some areas has been “away from placement without authorisation”, known as the absent category. This could occur when a child is late home to the placement, when they run away from a placement following an incident, or when their whereabouts are known and there are minimal risks to their safety or well-being.

A particular strength has been that Warwickshire Police do not use the absent category. Demonstrating the police commitment to vulnerability, as every report where a child’s whereabouts are unknown is taken seriously, whether they are missing from care, home or school.

Background Facts and Figures

National Context

There are no exact figures for the number of children who go missing or run away. The Children’s Society “Still Running” survey estimates around 100,000 children under the age of 16 go missing from home or care every year across the United Kingdom.

Children may run away from a problem, such as abuse or neglect at home, or to somewhere they want to be. They may have been coerced to run away by someone else. Whatever the reason, it is thought that approximately 25% of children and young people that go missing are at risk of serious harm. There are particular concerns about the links between children running away and the risks of sexual exploitation. Missing children may also be vulnerable to other forms of exploitation, to violent crime, gang exploitation, or to drug and alcohol misuse.

Children in local authority care are particularly vulnerable to going missing. Research called “Heading back to harm” by Every Child Protected Against Trafficking (ECPAT) and Missing People published in November 2016 discovered an alarmingly high number of children go missing from care. Between September 2014

and September 2015, 28% of trafficked children (167 children) in care and 13% of unaccompanied children from abroad (593 children) in care went missing at least once.

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires local authorities and other named statutory partners to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are discharged with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This includes planning to prevent children from going missing and to protect them when they do. Local authorities should agree with local police and other partners a protocol for dealing with children who run away or go missing in their area. The protocol should be agreed by the Local Safeguarding Board. Warwickshire's protocol was implemented in 2013. A full update will be undertaken in 2017.

Safe and well checks are carried out by the police as soon as possible after a child reported as missing has been found. Their purpose is to check for any indications that the child has suffered harm, where and with whom they have been, and to give them an opportunity to disclose any offending by or against them.

When a child is found, they must be offered an independent return interview. The interview should be carried out within 72 hours of the child returning to their home or care setting. This should be an in-depth interview and is normally best carried out by an independent person (e.g. someone not involved in caring for the child) who is trained to carry out these interviews and is able to follow-up any actions that emerge. Children sometimes need to build up trust with a person before they will discuss in depth the reasons why they ran away.

Warwickshire Context

In Warwickshire our joint aim is to reduce the incidents of missing children, we also seek to reduce the risk of harm to those children who go missing and to provide support and guidance to them and their families.

Warwickshire Police missing policy is such that no child will be recorded as 'no apparent risk' or 'low risk'.

The number of children reported as missing and the number of incidents of those children going missing has greatly increased within Warwickshire over the last five years, as shown in the table below.

	Children reported missing to police				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Number of police reports of missing children (number of missing episodes)	603	533	682	893	1621
Number of children reported missing one or more times	262	265	307	506	771
Number of children reported missing 2 or more times	82	84	108	159	247
Percentage of missing children receiving return home interviews.	19%	16%	25%	50%	57%

The reasons for the increase are likely to be due to better understanding of missing children and improved recording. Until September 2016 just 50% of children received a return home interview. A review led to an increase in staffing by 3.5 FTE Missing Children's Practitioners. This has led to proactively offering a return home interview to children and successful completion of 85%-90% of return home interviews in each month since November 2016. Research nationally demonstrates Local Authority areas with Missing Children's Practitioners who undertake direct work with young people are likely to achieve reductions in children repeatedly going missing, increase intelligence regarding exploitation of children and reduce risk of sexual exploitation.

There has been an increase in the number of children who repeatedly go missing. The top twenty children who repeatedly go missing have their individual situations reviewed regularly. The last review in July 2017 showed that 98% (19 children) out of the top twenty had seen a reduction in missing episodes due to intervention by a number of agencies working together. This included Missing Children's Practitioners completing ongoing direct work. Maintaining professional relationships with young people who regularly go missing is vital. Most child sexual exploitation operations in Warwickshire have been based upon intelligence and information from Missing Children's Practitioners. For example in May 2017, 8 young people felt able to disclose child sexual exploitation formally to police. This accounted for over 30 child sexual offences. Without the commitment, building relationship and support from Missing Children's Practitioners who suspected children had been exploited, we would not have supported these children or been able to bring those responsible to justice.

In Warwickshire the top 10 missing children accounted for a cumulative cost of £794,000 in a 12 month period, to Warwickshire Police. This demonstrates the significant and intense resources required for every missing episode. Financial savings would be made if through partnership working the number of missing episodes and missing children can be reduced.

Trafficking of Children

Definition

Children can be trafficked across international borders or local borders. We know we have trafficked children in Warwickshire. Children are trafficked in a variety of ways for a number of reasons including, sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, domestic servitude and criminal exploitation.

Trafficking is defined by the United Nations, Palermo Protocol (2000) which the UK ratified in 2006 as:

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

Essentially, trafficking is the process that combines three basic components:

1. Movement.
2. Control.
3. For the purpose of exploitation.

Movement can occur across international borders or within one country. It is accepted that children (people under 18) can be controlled purely on account of their young age, and further evidence of control (e.g. deception or threats against family) are not required to evidence the definition in respect of a child.

International Trafficking

Children who arrive in the country unaccompanied and trafficked, is complex area of work. Children brought to the United Kingdom may have travelled with the consent of parents who falsely believed that their child would be cared for and have a better life. Families may be aware of the risks of sending their child abroad or paying an agent, but they may nonetheless see it as a survival strategy that offers the hope of a better life for both the child and their family. Other children have been forcibly separated from their families and trafficked to the UK in order to be exploited through servitude, modern day slavery, or sexual exploitation and there are instances where children and their parents have been trafficked together.

Trafficking is not to be confused with smuggling. Smugglers transport a person from one area to another and avoid detection and are paid for this; they do not use coercion or threats. It is accepted that a child cannot consent to his or her own exploitation; therefore, even if a child has agreed to travel from one place to another,

this could still be considered human trafficking if there is the intent to exploit them either as they travel or at the final destination.

National, Local or “Internal” Trafficking

The movement of a child within one country or area is often described as ‘internal trafficking’. This means children are moved around the UK, England, West Midlands or Warwickshire for example for the purposes of exploitation. Whether they are children from abroad or citizen children, they can be considered a victim of trafficking. There are case examples in Warwickshire where children have been trafficked, sometimes whilst they are reported missing, for the purposes of exploitation or criminality.

Background Facts and Figures

National Context

The National Crime Agency established in 2009 the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which provides a way for all agencies to share information across the country for greater detection of victims and perpetrators regarding trafficking. From July 2015 the NRM was extended to all victims of modern slavery following the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The NRM identified 3,805 victims of trafficking in 2016, a 17% increase in one year. The number of children referred to the National Referral Mechanism identified as being trafficked was 1,278 in 2016. The majority of children were reported to have been exploited through forced labour, including forced criminality such as cannabis cultivation.

The most prominent country of origin for trafficked children was the UK, with a total of 255 reported cases, followed by Albania (227), Vietnam (227), Afghanistan (74), and Eritrea (48). The largest increase was in the number of UK national children reported to have been abused through sexual exploitation. There was a 104.8% rise from the previous year, reflecting the growing awareness of trafficking offences being closely linked to sexual exploitation.

“Heading back to harm” by Every Child Protected Against Trafficking (ECPAT) and Missing People (2016), identified an alarmingly high number of unaccompanied children from abroad who are located in the UK and who go missing from care very quickly. Many have not been found after they go missing. Between September 2014 and September 2015, 207 missing, trafficked or unaccompanied children had not been found. The NRM data for 2015-2016 showed the highest recorded numbers were from Vietnam. For unaccompanied children who had gone missing, the data reveals that boys were considerably more likely to go missing than girls. The report identifies that children often feel bonded to their traffickers through fear, coercion or financial ties (debt bondage), all of which provide strong ‘pull factors’ for trafficked children to go missing.

Warwickshire Context

International trafficking

The West & East Midlands region was identified by ECPAT and Missing People (2016) as the fourth largest region to record children suspected or identified as trafficked in local authority care. Behind London, the South East, and East Anglia. From the four regions, 75% or 445 children were reported to have been trafficked or at risk of being trafficked. These regions were also most likely to have unaccompanied children with 90% or 4,267 children.

In Warwickshire to date, we have identified 20 children who are all unaccompanied children who went missing. They went missing after being found in Warwickshire, the majority were taken into care but went missing very quickly, usually within 24 hours. In March 2017, 14 children (to date who are still under the age of 18) remain missing. The majority are from Vietnam or China. They have all been referred to the NRM and are regularly reviewed by the Police and Social Care to ensure all actions possible are taken to locate children.

Children from abroad who have been trafficked for exploitation do not necessarily go missing from care. They are also exploited for bonded labour whilst remaining in the care/leaving care system. Children from Afghanistan are particularly at risk from this model of exploitation. The level of this type of exploitation among Warwickshire children is not well understood.

National, Local or "Internal" Trafficking

A number of CSE investigations in Warwickshire involve trafficking. We recognise the importance of ensuring that all victims of trafficking are referred to the NRM. We are working to increase the number of cases we refer to ensure that we comply with the requirement.

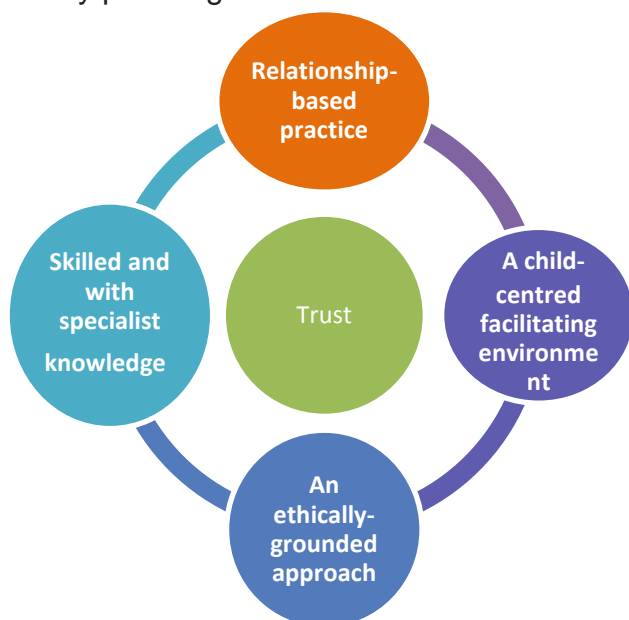
In November 2016 a review of cases showed that less than five children had been referred to NRM, since then a further 25 referrals to NRM were made. More needs to be done to ensure that professionals fully understand the definition of internal trafficking and the role of NRM.

Practice Approach

Our chosen approach is to ensure our children are at the heart of what we do. Developing a practice system which can effectively build around a child centred principle is vital. Building enduring relationships and listening to young people to enable them to trust professionals are key to our approach. Young people need stability, continuity, and persistence. Therefore, support needs to be flexible and highly intensive.

Research and serious case reviews have evidenced that key aspects are often misunderstood or taken at face value within sexual exploitation and trafficking, in particular around choice, freedom and capacity to consent. In addition children do not see themselves as victims and adolescents are sometimes mistakenly seen as more resilient. Research is clear that young people may be more likely to be blamed for contributing to and exacerbating risk. This fails to account for the interconnected nature of adolescent vulnerability and that victims of CSE and trafficking are often groomed and do not have freedom or capacity to make choices about what is happening to them.

There is often a complex interplay of systems in addressing vulnerability; a core challenge is the need to hold the tension between children's right to safety and protection and their right to participate in making decisions that affect them. It is important that the young person feels they have been heard and are part of the safety planning.



Children and young people need to be at the centre of our approach, to ensure a holistic response to their needs is provided. Practitioners need to be trained and supported to see young people as individuals, to be transparent, recognise strengths, and undertake relationship-based practice, partnered effectively with parents and other agencies.

Intervention with young people needs to be trauma informed and abuse informed. Interventions are usually longer and trauma may be the root cause of young people's health, mental health or behaviour problems. Practitioners need to take a strength based approach to focus on building resilience alongside reducing risk.

Lefevre, M., Hickle, K., Luckock, B. & Ruch, G. (2017) Building trust with children and young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation: the professional challenge' *British Journal of Social Work*.

Something's Not Right



Warwickshire's multi-agency training, development and community awareness campaign has been highly successful. Our website, www.warwickshirecse.co.uk has been the initial focus of an active and popular campaign to highlight child sexual exploitation, particularly via social media. The Something's Not Right campaign stand goes to many events in Warwickshire. There continue to be big leaps in social media engagement across Facebook and Twitter reaching literally thousands of people. In 2016 Twitter received 181,000 impressions, which equates to 2,000 a day. In one week in 2016, over 20,000 people viewed our Twitter page. Particularly successful campaigns have centred around the annual CSE awareness day and annual youth conference.

Key to our success has been our Barnardo's training and Community Engagement Officer, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner. This has led to more than 2,500 professionals receiving free CSE training across Warwickshire to date. In 2016/17 35 CSE awareness and 141 specialist or targeted CSE training events were held.

A particular achievement in Warwickshire is that all taxi drivers have to complete CSE training before they are granted a private taxi licence by district and borough councils. In 2016-2017 over 1400 taxi drivers across the county took part in CSE awareness sessions.

A key part of the future strategy will be extending child sexual exploitation awareness and training, in particular to extend to the "night time economy" in Warwickshire. We wish to extend awareness sessions engaging business owners, managers, and staff within hotels, pubs, clubs, restaurants and fast food outlets.

Missing and Trafficking

Unfortunately there is currently no multi-agency training regarding missing children and trafficking, although the child sexual exploitation does make the links with children who go missing from home, care and school and trafficking. A key part of the future strategy needs to establish such training for professionals and community leaders to fully understand what they can do to identify missing and trafficked children and young people.

Are your staff and volunteers fully CSE Trained?

To find out more about CSE Training please look at the WSCB website at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wscb or contact our Barnardo's Project Worker Katy Shipley who leads our training offer by emailing katy.shipley@barnardos.org.uk

Strategic Objectives 2017-2020

Warwickshire have identified four key objectives for 2017-2020. Under each objective details of how this will be achieved are outlined. The Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board will formulate an annual CSE, Missing and Trafficking action plan reflecting these objectives which will be informed by developments in research and legislation.

Objective one: Understand and identify - Strengthen the early identification and assessment of children at risk.

This will be achieved by:

- Strengthen our local intelligence and mapping, to continually understand the local profile of CSE, Missing and Trafficking.
- Establish a long term funding plan which includes funding for a CSE, Missing and Trafficking Co-ordinator.
- Strengthen links with health, particularly a staff contribution from health to the multi-agency team.
- Increase the number of boys identified at risk of trafficking and/or exploitation, including sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation such as drug dealing.
- Implement Public Health England's Framework for Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Establish awareness training for professionals about missing children and trafficking, to include specialist training around unaccompanied children from abroad.
- Ensure every child or young person who goes missing is offered a return home interview and set a target that 90% of young people who go missing receive a return home interview.

Objective Two: Prevention - Raise awareness across Warwickshire within agencies, communities, children and their families.

This will be achieved by:

- Reducing the number of children who go missing and the number of missing episodes by 40% by 2020, compared to 2016-2017.
- Strengthen training and awareness of CSE within the "night-time economy". Particularly focusing over the coming years with specific campaigns for hotels, pubs, night clubs, fast food venues and within town centres.
- Develop training and awareness of trafficking to focus particularly upon haulage companies, transport hubs and service stations.
- Strengthen and widen our use of Safeguarding Champions across agencies, not just within Social Care.
- Strengthen our links with neighbouring local authorities and resolve cross border issues.
- Increase support and knowledge to parents, carers and young people regarding child sexual exploitation, trafficking and the risks associated with missing episodes.

- Using local intelligence to target particular areas where there is a high prevalence of children with missing episodes, to improve risk awareness of young people and partnership response to reduce or disrupt any linked offending activity by perpetrators.
- Widen the use of CSE, Missing and Trafficking identification and assessment tools. Ensure reporting mechanisms for all organisations are established, to ensure a consistent understanding to thresholds of intervention.

Objective Three: Intervene, protect and support - Continue to improve the victim experience to ensure intervention, protection and support is provided. Including, therapeutic support and access to specialist services into adulthood.

This will be achieved by:

- Strengthen support for parents and carers (particularly Foster Carers) who are caring for children and young people who are at risk or identified as experiencing sexual exploitation and trafficking. Particularly those who repeatedly go missing, to improve stability and safety.
- Review and update CSE, Missing and Trafficking Strategy & Procedures. Ensure they reflect an integrated approach to CSE, to avoid duplication and increase effectiveness.
- Increase the understanding of professionals regarding the role of referrals to the National Referral Mechanism. This will be evidenced by increasing the amount of referrals sent by agencies within Warwickshire.
- Establish a parents and carers engagement group to understand parents' experiences, which will help shape and improve practice.
- Establish a preferred providers system for counselling and support for children who have experienced sexual exploitation and trafficking.
- Review and implement new strategies regarding the initial support and interventions with children from abroad, to stop child trafficking.
- Participate in the development of the regional strategy and approach to tackling trafficking across the West Midlands.
- Ensure accommodation for children who may have been trafficked can be improved to ensure this meets their needs and keeps them safe.
- Establish individual support services for children who have been trafficked, to understand their experiences and inform the shaping of intervention and services.

Objective Four: Disrupt and bring to justice - Lead in disrupting perpetrator behaviour and bring offenders to justice through continual understanding of the local profile and risk assessments which address criminal activity.

This will be achieved by:

- Increase the number of convictions relating to child sexual exploitation and child trafficking offences.
- Strengthen our local understanding regarding perpetrators, their offending background and further understand interventions which reduce re-offending.

- Increase knowledge of our own and our partner organisations, legislative powers that can disrupt exploitation and trafficking activity through use of criminal or civil orders.
- Consider how tactical interventions can be widened and resources increased. Particularly in regards to ensuring proactive identification and disruption through technology and social media.
- Engage with national and regional colleagues to understand the intelligence regarding perpetrators of international and local trafficking, to inform action and disruption.
- Improve the experience of victims when they attend Court through proactive victim and witness support plans and training/awareness of staff within the Court arena.

The success of the strategy will be measured through monitoring and reports from the Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing & Trafficking Sub Committee which will drive performance.

Where to get support

If you have been a victim of child sexual exploitation or are concerned about someone who is please contact us:

Warwickshire Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing and Trafficking Team

Telephone: 01926 684490 or 01926 742226

Website: www.warwickshirecse.co.uk

Warwickshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Telephone: 01926 414144

Website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/MASH

Call Warwickshire Police on 101 (always call 999 in an emergency)



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