

# Working with sexually exploited young people



Presentation to Croydon DASV Practitioners Forum

11.10.16

# Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Explore Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) definition
- ✓ Identify CSE vulnerabilities, behaviors and risk indicators
- ✓ Putting learning into practice – CSE case study
- ✓ CSE responses and referral processes



Our vision is for young people in London to feel safe and achieve their potential.

We work to improve the safety and wellbeing of young people in London affected by violence and crime.



# Projects



Early intervention mentoring for those close to becoming caught up in the cycle of violence and crime.



Pan-London holistic support for young people (16-24), gang-involved and at imminent serious risk of harm. Lead delivery partner with support from Redthread and Only Connect, to complement existing local services and fill gaps in provision.

Referrals come through the Community Rehabilitation Company.

**Pan London  
Domestic Violence  
Service**

In partnership with Victim Support, development of a directory of DV & related services pan London and needs assessment. Aiming to provide a comprehensive picture of available support and foster increased consistency and sustainability of DV support for victims & survivors across London.



Support programme addressing young women's experiences of sexual exploitation, primarily through gangs.

# Projects

## Young Men's Project

Supports young men 11-18 displaying **Harmful Sexual Behaviour**. Intervention focuses on young men's vulnerabilities and aims to provide them with knowledge, skills and confidence to make appropriate choices. Consultancy and training for professionals on working with young men displaying sexually harmful behaviour.

## Missing Project

Partnership with NSPCC, Croydon Council, Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board, and the Railway Children. Intensive support for young people who go missing, Increase understanding and awareness of issues and upskill professionals to better to respond to young people who are/at risk of being missing.

# Training and Consultancy

**SPECIALIST  
TRAINING &  
CONSULTANCY**

Services available on a wide range of Safer London's areas of expertise.

We can develop bespoke training packages, using a foundation in academic research, policy development and expertise from practice, and local research to ensure that trainings are tailored to audiences.

# Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

# Child Sexual Exploitation

The 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' (eg. Food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, **affection**, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or **others** performing on them sexual activities.

**Child** sexual exploitation can occur through use of **technology** without the child's immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual **images** on the **internet**/mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/**young person** have **power** over them by virtue of their age, **gender**, intellect, 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.



# Home Office Consultation on a new child sexual exploitation definition

First published: 15 February 2016

The proposed definition is:

‘Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse.

It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status.

Consent is irrelevant, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and may occur online.’

When **assessing** whether a young person is experiencing or at risk of sexual exploitation, consider the issue of **consent**:

- **Under 13**: not legally capable of consenting to sex (statutory rape) or any other type of sexual touching
- Sexual activity **under 16** is an offence
- Offence for a person holding a **position of trust or authority** in relation to a 16 or 17 year old to have a sexual relationship
- Sexual activity with a 16 or 17 year old (not an offence) may still result in harm, or the likelihood of harm being suffered
- Non consensual sex is rape whatever the age of the victim
- **Incapacitated** victims (alcohol, drugs, victim or family that has been threatened/experienced violence, cannot give true consent (offences may have been committed)

CSE is potentially a child protection issue for anyone under 18.

# Young People's Perspective

"Through threats, bribes, violence, humiliation, or by telling you that they love you, they will have the power to get you to do sexual things for their own, or other people's benefit or enjoyment, including: touching or kissing private parts, sex, taking sexual photos ..."

Young Women's Group, New Horizons: 2008 Out of the Box: Doncaster Streetreach

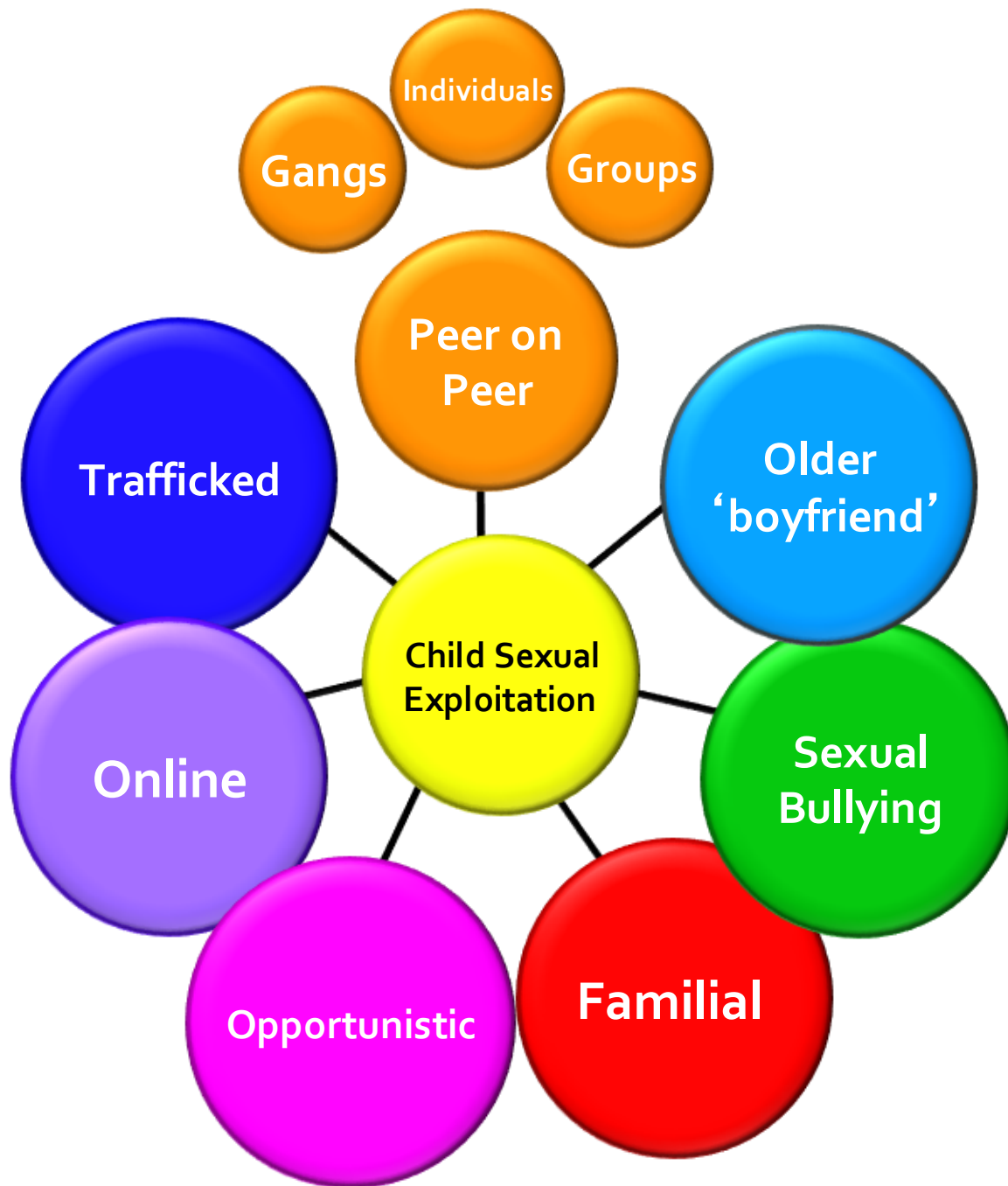
"It's when you don't know your choices, that other people have all the power ..."

"Some one taking advantage of you sexually, for their own benefit..."

# Trends in CSE

- 2,409 confirmed victims of CSEGG August 2010 to October 2011.
- 16,500 at risk (3 or more behaviours)
- 72% were girls and 9% boys
- Perpetrators are predominantly male, victims predominantly female
- Most often takes place between people who are known to each other
- Used as a means of boys and young men exerting power and control over girls and young women

OCC CSEGG Interim Report, Nov 2012



# Vulnerability Factors

- Living in a chaotic or dysfunctional household
- History of abuse
- Living in residential care, hostel, B&B or being homeless
- Gang association either through relatives, peers, intimate relationships or neighbourhood
- Lacking friends from the same age group
- Attending school or are friends with young people who are sexually exploited
- Not engaging in education/training or employment
- Unsure about their sexual orientation or unable to disclose sexual orientation to their families
- Learning disabilities
- Young carer
- Recent bereavement or loss
- Low self-esteem or self-confidence

OCC Inquiry CSEGG Interim Report, 2012

# Behaviour and Risk Indicators

- Older 'boyfriend'
- Gang-involved male peers
- Missing from home or care
- Physical injuries.
- Drug or alcohol misuse
- Involvement in offending
- Repeat sexually-transmitted infections, pregnancy and terminations
- Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet and/or social networking sites
- Disclosures made then withdrawn
- Unexplained money or gifts and unexplained mobiles
- Absent from school
- Bullying in or out of school
- Change in physical appearance
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations
- Family involvement in sexual exploitation
- Poor mental health
- Self-harm or thoughts of/or attempts at suicide

# Jay: Losing Control



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XasNkfQ5AVM>



# Pan-London Sexual Exploitation Protocol

March 2015



# Safeguarding Children from Sexual Exploitation



**London Child  
Protection Procedures**



[http://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/sg\\_sex\\_exploit\\_ch.html](http://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/sg_sex_exploit_ch.html)



relax

breathe

smile

What can I do?

# Protective factors

- ✓ Knowledge of healthy relationships
- ✓ Strong self-esteem
- ✓ Awareness about consent



“A person consents if he/she agrees by **choice** and has the **freedom** and **capacity** to make that **choice**”

Section 74 Sexual Offences Act:2003

- ✓ Awareness and trust in support services

# Further Reading

- ✓ If it's not better, it's not the end: Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups 1 year On (OCC Feb 2015)
- ✓ Female Voice in Violence Final Report: This is it, this is my Life (ROTA 2011)
- ✓ The London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (LSCB March 2015)
- ✓ Safeguarding children affected by Gang Activity and/or serious youth violence (LSCB 2010)
- ✓ Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation (DCSF 2010)
- ✓ MET CSE Protocol
- ✓ Teenagers at Risk: The Safeguarding needs of Young People in Gangs and Violent Peer Groups (NSPCC 2009)

# Helpful Links

- PACE: Parents against Child Sexual Exploitation <http://www.paceuk.info/>
- Blast: Blast support's and works with boys and young men who have been, are being, or are at risk of being sexually exploited. <http://mesmac.co.uk/blast>
- Barnardo's: Children's charity <http://www.barnardos.org.uk/>
- NSPCC: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/>
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre: <http://www.ceop.police.uk/>
- Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board (full day CSE training available): <http://croydonlcsb.org.uk/>

# Courses we offer

- Safeguarding and Gangs (One day training)
- Introduction to Child Sexual Exploitation (Half day training)
- Supporting Young People Affected by Child Sexual Exploitation (One day training)
- Champions Training: Working with Young People Affected by Child Sexual Exploitation (Two day training)
- Missing Children and Young People Affected by Child Sexual Exploitation (One day training)
- Young People Who Display Harmful Sexual Behaviour (One day training)
- Safeguarding Young People Using Internet and Social Media (One day training)





# Contacts

For further advice on CSE or to find out about your nearest Empower Young Person's Advocate:

[empower@saferlondon.org.uk](mailto:empower@saferlondon.org.uk)

For more information on training courses we deliver go to:

[www.saferlondon.org.uk](http://www.saferlondon.org.uk)

Or to contact the Safer London training team:

[training@saferlondon.org.uk](mailto:training@saferlondon.org.uk)