

Presentation

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Title:	Tackling Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children		
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Tackling Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children

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Missing Children

The 2013 Department for Education 'Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care' definitions;

Missing child: a child reported as missing to the police by their family or carers.

Missing from care: a looked after child who is not at their placement or the place they are expected to be (e.g, school) and their whereabouts is not known.

Away from placement without authorisation: a looked after child whose whereabouts is known but who is not at their placement or place they are expected to be and the carer has concerns

Missing Children

April 2013 the *Association of Chief Police Officers* (ACPO) issued guidance on how police forces should apply these definitions. This included a new definition of

- *Absent: a person not at a place where they are expected or required to be.*
- Stated that a child who was “away from placement without authorisation” would not be treated as either ‘missing’ or ‘absent’ under the police definitions.

National Inquiry

The All Party Parliamentary Group for runaway and missing children and adults launched a call for evidence to inform its inquiry 'Safeguarding absent children'.

The inquiry intends to examine how the police definitions of 'missing' and 'absent' are applied to children when they go missing and how the definition of 'absent' informs the safeguarding procedures followed by both the police and other agencies and organisations.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- “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’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.
- CSE 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.”

Trafficking

Child trafficking is ‘ *the recruitment and movement of children for the purposes of exploitation. Children are most commonly exploited for sexual purposes, exploited to carry out forced labour or criminal activity, or held in servitude.* ’

- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children
- Internal trafficking - organised movement of **local children** for the purpose of sexual exploitation. This would include children being moved within districts in Hampshire as well as those children being taken out of Hampshire.

Nov 2010 Derbyshire Grooming Operation Retriever



Eight men were convicted of systematically grooming and sexually abusing 26 teenage girls after a police undercover investigation.

May 2012 Rochdale grooming



Nine men jailed. The men plied their victims with drink and drugs so they could "pass them around" for sex.

May 2013 - Oxford Operation Bullfinch



Seven men convicted of sadistic abuse of children aged 11- 15 years.
Victims were plied with alcohol and drugs before being forced to perform sex acts. Some had also been beaten, burnt and threatened.

Rotherham Child Sexual Exploitation Scandal

- The independent inquiry into CSE led by Professor Alexis Jay, found approx 1,400 children had been sexually exploited / trafficked between 1997 and 2013. Predominantly by gangs of British -Pakistani men.
- In 2010 - five men of Pakistani heritage were found guilty of a series of sexual offences against girls as young as twelve.
- Led to Louise Casey Feb 2015- inspection into governance of Rotherham Council



Hampshire Safeguarding Childrens Board

Hampshire MET - Strategic multi agency group responsible for Hampshire MET strategy and action plan that reports to Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board

- **Prevention** – raising awareness to professionals , children , families and wider community
- **Understand and identify** – ‘operational MET’ - Confidentially share information about local children at risk of / experiencing MET and build coordinated responses
- **Intervene and support** – provision of support and intervention to victims of MET
- **Disrupt and bring to justice** – improve intelligence sharing to build an accurate / clear picture of local trends and networks. Multi agency work to disrupt and prosecute perpetrators

Hampshire Safeguarding Childrens Board

Pan Hampshire

- 4 LSCB MET protocol
- Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Form 'SERAF' now used within Hampshire, Soton and IOW
- Pan Hampshire awareness campaigns

Training

- CSE e-learning course developed and provide to all partners – with 900 practitioners having completed to date
- Multi agency MET training events

Challenge and Scrutiny

- Multi agency audit regarding use of SERAF
- Multi agency audit of safeguarding training to ensure MET is embedded
- MET Challenge day 25.05.16

Hampshire Children Services

- **MASH** 'Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub' - strengthens our front door and offer the right service to the right children
- **Children's Reception Team (CRT)** screen all referrals aged 10+ for CSE
- **SERAF** completed for all 10+ children in care in residential services or placed out of Hampshire
- **YOT** - Embedded use of SEARF in Hampshire Youth Offending Teams
- **Training** - Mandatory training for front line staff
- **Foster carers** – Mandatory MET training for all foster carers and development of specialist carers to take 'trafficked' children.

Willow Team

Specialist multi agency team - CSD, Police, Barnardos and Health funded by DfE Innovation fund.

- Direct work with children at risk of and experiencing MET
- Support / mentoring to professionals including 'advice line'
- Awareness raising/ training for professionals, children, families and communities
- Intelligence gathering and identification of offenders.
- Disruption plans for offenders and hotspot areas
- Distribution of up to date research via Willow Team Newsletter to all partners.

Volunteer Scheme

- DfE Innovation Fund – Volunteers Scheme
- Recruitment and training of group of specialist volunteers to undertake '**Return Interviews**' for missing children.
- Programme started January 2016
- 78 trained volunteers in Hampshire to complete Return Interview's
- Linking volunteers to local children homes to develop relationship with children

What can you do?

“Think the unthinkable”

- Remember missing children, child sexual exploitation and trafficking is prevalent everywhere and therefore it is happening in Hampshire
- Take the CSE E-Learning course to raise your own awareness
- Raise awareness with your colleagues and think about how we can engage your community

Resources and Information

A lot of resources are available online both Hantsnet and the HSCB web site:

<http://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk/resources-policies-guidance.html> under the letter C.

You can also access the CSE E-learning on :

<https://learningzone.hants.gov.uk/learningzone/course.aspx?courseid=46878>