



Child Sexual Exploitation (Policy)

OFFICIAL

Publication Scheme Y/N	Policy section can be published Procedure should be withheld
Department of Origin	Investigation and Intelligence
Policy Holder	Detective Chief Superintendent Investigation and Intelligence
Author	Detective Constable Public Protection Unit
Related Information	Authorised Professional Practice / CSE Sexual Offenders, Violent Offenders and other Potentially Dangerous Persons Policy Missing Person Policy Rape and Serious Sexual Assault Policy Procedure for safeguarding children and young persons through the use of child abduction warning notices Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings (2011) Crime Recording and Allocation Policy Child Sexual Exploitation Toolkit CPS Guidelines on Prosecuting Cases of Child Sexual Abuse (2017) NCA Disruption Manual Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Protocol (2018) Interim Guidance Suicide Prevention Risk Management Child Abuse Policy
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Community
first

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Policy

Statement

The sexual exploitation of children was brought to public notice by the court case in Rochdale which exposed appalling violations to which some children were being subjected. It raised serious questions as to how society responds to and protects highly vulnerable children.

In response to a report from the Office of the Children's Commissioner, the Association of Chief Police Officers Child Protection and Abuse Investigation Group created a national action plan for all forces in England and Wales to develop local plans.

Merseyside Police is fully committed to develop its own local plans and integrated working practices with partner agencies in a way that effectively tackles the problem of child exploitation

Aims

The main aim of this policy is to deliver a comprehensive and successful police response to the problem of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). It has an emphasis on preventative activity; is designed to help identify relevant issues at the earliest opportunity and enable quick information sharing with relevant partner agencies.

The policy is underpinned by detailed procedures that provide clear unambiguous direction for all those involved.

Objectives

The overriding objective is to reduce the harm caused to children. Associated objectives are to:

- a) Identify those who are at risk of being exploited by sharing information at an early stage and assessing that risk
- b) Improve the quality of call handling to ensure that first response officers are made aware of all relevant information, including risk factors
- c) Increase the volume and quality of intelligence submissions
- d) Improve prosecution procedures with an emphasis on victim care and support
- e) Increase the number of abusers brought to justice
- f) Improve statutory responses to CSE and access to services

Child Sexual Exploitation- Wirral organisations Single Point of Contacts (SPOC)

Application and Scope

All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to Merseyside Police must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant policy and associated procedures.

Safeguarding vulnerable people is the responsibility of all public agencies, including those that are statutory, non-statutory or from the voluntary services sector. There is a key acknowledgement that services engaged in the safeguarding of children and adults need to work together in a structured way to keep those people safe.

Assistant Chief Constable Investigation and Intelligence is the strategic lead for child exploitation. At a local level, Detective Chief Superintendent, Investigation and Intelligence has responsibility for ensuring relevant procedures are implemented.

This policy does not singularly address Child Sexual Exploitation. The policy should always be followed in conjunction with the current safeguarding procedures and is meant to reinforce safeguarding and thus more comprehensively reduce the opportunity for further exploitation of children.

This policy document sets out principles to help guide decision making and is in some parts quite prescriptive. However, it is vital that officers and staff have the freedom to innovate, exercise discretion and take risk based decisions centred on the needs of the victim and the merits of each case. Non-statutory policies, including College of Policing APP, provide guidance only. They are 'living documents' and it is recognised that there may be a better way of doing this. Accordingly, if staff depart from a policy but are able to give a good rationale for their actions, and have acted with honesty, integrity and professionalism, to make the best decision for the community we serve, they will be trusted and supported.^[1]

^[1] This paragraph inserted 16/06/2016 to emphasise appropriate use of discretion.

Outcome Evaluation

Progress against specific objectives should be measured on a routine basis. The Head of Crime/Chair of PVP Performance will determine responsibilities and activities involved in measurement.

In general terms, success will mean that appropriate risk assessments are completed, quality investigations are conducted, preventative engagement has increased and partner agencies have been consulted in all relevant cases within timescales.

Related Information

This procedure should be read in conjunction with the related information highlighted throughout this policy.

Officers should also be aware of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Community on POLKA and access the various tools, guidance and training material available on the POLKA site and Force Intranet. CSE is fully defined within the [College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice responding to Child Sexual Exploitation](#)
