

## Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board's At-A-Glance Strategy to Identify and Tackle Child Sexual Abuse

### Strategic Objectives: What will the partnership achieve?

#### Awareness Raising

**PREVENTION:** We will develop a package of preventative awareness raising materials which will include information about services, resources and most importantly; listening to the voice of the child, for use by all agencies, parents and the general public.

**REFERRAL PATHWAYS:** We will publish referral pathways to support parents and professionals in knowing how to get support for children identified as being at risk of CSA, who have been sexually abused, or display sexually harmful behaviour.

**EARLY HELP/ WIDE ENGAGEMENT:** We will engage with a wide range of agencies to promote awareness throughout the implementation of the strategy, including Schools, Children's Centres, Voluntary & Community Groups

**SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY:** Agencies will be responsible for actively promoting awareness raising materials and resources with their staff and service users.

**AWARENESS RAISING EVENT:** A multi-agency conference on CSA will be delivered, to share some successes on tackling CSA and further promote awareness raising across the County

#### Training & Development

**MULTI-AGENCY:** We will review and develop the NSCB multi-agency training on CSA and sexually harmful behaviour to ensure it is fit for purpose for each agency.

**SINGLE AGENCY:** All agencies will review their own respective workforce's skill and knowledge in relation to CSA and provide single agency training where necessary to ensure the right level of skill and knowledge are achieved and that specialist practice is of a high standard.

**EVIDENCE:** We will review and develop the 'Achieving Best Evidence' training to ensure best practice working with children and young people when they are interviewed by police and social workers following abuse.

**CARING FOR CHILDREN:** We will ensure that there are specific resources and training for residential workers, foster carers and adopters who find they are caring for/parenting a child who displays sexually harmful behaviour.

**INCREASED VULNERABILITY:** We will ensure that all aspects of training and awareness raising make explicit reference to early years, children with disabilities and children from minority ethnic backgrounds because evidence suggests there is increased vulnerability combined with a higher risk of non-identification of CSA.

#### Practice

**MAPPING:** We will map the availability of services in Norfolk against the Lucy Faithfull Eradicating Child Sexual Abuse (ECSA) framework and the NSPCC HSB framework.

**RESOURCING GAPS:** The NSCB will support commissioners/joint commissioning bodies in addressing any resourcing gaps particularly support for children who display sexually harmful behaviour but are not within the criminal justice system.

**ACCESS TO RESOURCES:** We will ensure that pathways to resources that support children and families who have been affected by CSA, are clearly documented, communicated and accessible

**MULTI-AGENCY WORKING:** We will improve our information sharing across the partnership to promote the safety and welfare of children and prevent abuse wherever this is possible. This will include establishing communications with the local MAPPA Chair.

**PRACTICE STANDARDS:** We will expect high quality of practice in relation to CSA to include greater transparency with families and within multi-agency meetings when we are worried about signs that a child is at risk of being sexually abused, has been sexually abused or displays sexually harmful behaviour.

### Monitoring Impact: How will we measure the difference we make?

#### Awareness Raising

Agencies will report back on numbers of staff who have received awareness raising materials/training and the resulting impact on services provided

We will seek staff feedback to establish if their confidence and knowledge has improved following the awareness raising training and the implementation of the strategy

Agencies will be asked to seek feedback from parents and children/young people when they have shared resources with them, regarding whether their awareness of risks of child sexual abuse and exploitation have improved and whether they feel more empowered to prevent child sexual abuse at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

Feedback from the CSA conference will evidence increased awareness of and confidence in recognising CSA.

#### Training & Development

We will monitor the impact of multi-agency training on frontline practice and ensure any deficits are addressed in future workforce development agreements.

Agencies will report back on any single agency training being delivered and the impact it has had on the quality of practice.

Children/young people and families will have an opportunity to provide feedback following criminal investigations to allow us to learn from their experiences and improve practice.

We will seek feedback on the impact of training for residential workers, foster carers and adopters in terms of their ability to care for and meet the needs of the children they look after.

We will seek feedback from practitioners on improved practice in tackling CSA in cases relating to early years, children with disabilities and children from minority ethnic backgrounds.

#### Practice

We will monitor the impact of commissioning to ensure that the identified resourcing gaps have been addressed.

We will monitor the effectiveness of pathways to help and support by asking children, young people and families about their experiences.

Child Protection conference processes will be audited with the specific focus on CSA, categorisation and challenge

Multi-agency audits will evidence that the voice of the child is integral to practice standards where child sexual abuse is suspected or raised as a concern.

We will monitor frontline practice to ensure that professionals are working well together to prevent CSA and/or tackle it effectively. We will ensure that services are in place and that the safeguarding arrangements are co-ordinated and joined up.

### Leadership & Governance

The NSCB will monitor the implementation and impact of the CSA strategy on children and young people through performance data and the results of multi-agency audit activity.

Gaps identified within the implementation of the strategy will be raised within the NSCB and any other strategic partnership boards as identified

The partnership will give clear direction and guidance on information sharing for practitioners.

Through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the NSCB will monitor the impact of the strategy on children and young people's health and wellbeing

Leaders from within each agency will be accountable for ensuring their respective agencies are aware of the strategy, are appropriately resourced to actively implement it and are working intelligently with other agencies to effectively prevent CSA at primary, secondary and tertiary levels

## **NSCB Child Sexual Abuse Strategy**

The Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) commissioned a rapid evidence assessment into child sexual abuse in the family environment in 2014 which showed that 1 in 20 children in the UK have been sexually abused, 90% by someone they knew. Some prevalent studies of intra-familial child sexual abuse place this figure much higher. However, of the 43,000 children in England who are subject to a child protection plan at any given time, only around 5% are on a plan for sexual abuse. The emotional, sensitive and traumatic nature of child sexual abuse makes it one of the most challenging forms of child abuse to address.

The Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Thematic Report made a number of recommendations to Local Safeguarding Children Boards: LSCBs should promote effective joint work with children and young people who display, or are likely to develop, sexually harmful behaviour by:

- Ensuring that in the Early Help Strategy the needs of children and young people who display, or are likely to develop, sexually harmful behaviour are identified and recognised, and that they are provided with help and intervention at the earliest possible opportunity
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the multi-agency response to such children and young people in their area, particularly including the identification of such cases, joint assessments and the interventions to them and their families and, where appropriate, their victims
- Developing and implementing strategies to address apparent deficits
- Establishing open channels of communication with the local Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Chair and coordinator in cases where there is a shared interest

The NSCB Board has said that tackling CSA is a priority for Norfolk and must ensure that the implementation of this strategy is timely and monitored for impact. The timescales will be included in a detailed action plan and evaluation framework

### **How we will assess the services available to tackle CSA in Norfolk**

We will use the Lucy Faithfull Eradicating Child Sexual Abuse (ECSA) framework to map the current position and from there we will plan to address any gaps as well as building on existing strengths. Against this Framework services will be analysed under three headings:

1. Primary prevention – the extent to which child sexual abuse is prevented before it would otherwise occur
2. Secondary prevention- reducing the risk of CSA in at risk groups. Preventing individuals from offending for the first time/ preventing at risk children from being abused.
3. Tertiary prevention- preventing further CSA offences by known CSA offenders and preventing re-victimisation on known victims

### **Definition**

For the purposes of this strategy, the following definitions will apply:

Child Sexual Abuse ‘Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

"The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

"Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children." HM Government 2015

This strategy is written in recognition that child sexual exploitation (CSE) is another form of CSA and there is clear crossover, particularly in relation to Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB).

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) is defined as:

*"Sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people under the age of 18 years old that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or others, or be abusive towards another child, young person or adult."* (Hackett, 2014).

Harmful Sexual Behaviour includes:

- using sexually explicit words and phrases
- inappropriate touching
- using sexual violence or threats
- full penetrative sex with other children or adults.

Children and young people who develop harmful sexual behaviour harm themselves and others.

## Child Sexual Exploitation:

*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. HM Government 2017*

## **Principles:**

The NSCB adheres to the following principles in the development and implementation of this strategy:

- We will maintain a clear focus on the child whether they are a victim or an offender
- We will have whole system leadership in awareness raising and tackling CSA with all partner agencies taking responsibility for professional standards within their organisations.
- We will have clear lines of accountability and roles and responsibility in cases of CSA
- We will have a shared, multi-agency approach to identification of and interventions for CSA
- We will demonstrate commitment to equalities and diversity acknowledging that some children are at more risk due to their diverse needs
- We will be culturally competent in this area of work
- We will be competent and confident in recognising and managing the complexity and tensions inherent within intra-familial child sexual abuse, particularly sibling on sibling.
- We will ensure that the complex nature of CSA and the impact on the workforce is acknowledged and that there is practical and emotional support in place for practitioners

The NSCB's aspiration would be to eradicate child sexual abuse in whatever form it manifests itself. In acknowledging that some of the variables involved are beyond the Board and partnerships' ability to control or alter, the strategic aim seeks to:

*Minimise the risk of children experiencing CSA in the county of Norfolk and to support those that are or have experienced it.*

Our strategic aim recognises that protecting and safeguarding children and young people is about the development of a culture that promotes good practice and continuous improvement within services, raises public and practitioner awareness that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, responds effectively and swiftly when sexual abuse has been alleged or occurs, seeks to learn when things have gone wrong, is sensitive to the issues of cultural diversity and puts the young person at the centre of planning to meet their support needs and ensure they are safe in their communities.

This will be achieved through the following strategic objectives:

- Tackling the prevalence of CSA in Norfolk.
- Preventing new victims of CSA in Norfolk.
- Ensuring support for existing child victims of CSA.
- Equipping front line professionals with skills and knowledge regarding CSA.
- Ensuring practice within organisations and across partnerships is the best it can be.
- Developing our understanding of Norfolk's CSA in order to develop services and activity.

In support of the strategic intentions we have identified three strands of activity that will support the implementation of the strategy and ultimately improve the way we manage CSA in Norfolk. The strands are:

- Awareness Raising
- Training and Development
- Practice