

Thematic inspection - Child sexual exploitation

QUESTIONS

Note.

The questions listed below are for use by inspectors as a guide only, recognising that the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) arrangements in local authorities will not always be the same, and some flexibility will be required to respond to the local circumstances. These example questions are for use to draw upon as necessary and gather evidence concerning each overarching key line of enquiry (KLOE). There are no 'set' questions.

KLOE 1. Is there effective strategic leadership of the multi-agency response to CSE that identifies prevalence, trends, themes and patterns and secures improved outcomes for children and young people?

1. Are elected members and senior leaders able to articulate good awareness and understanding of CSE and the levels of risk locally, including the risks for looked after children who are placed out of area?
2. Do elected members and senior leaders have access to good quality information about prevalence, trends, themes, patterns and practice, on CSE? Do they offer robust scrutiny and critical challenge?
3. Is there a clear and robust multi-agency strategy for information sharing, preventing and managing CSE? Is it linked to other key strategies such as: children and young people missing from home, school or care; trafficking; gangs? Is there an awareness of the significant problems of child/young person on child/young person CSE? How do you know the strategy works?
4. Is there specific reference to CSE in the Children and Young People's Plan and have other strategic forums, for example, the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership Board, considered and addressed the risks associated with CSE locally?
5. How effective has local authority and its partners, including the police, been in engaging with the local community, voluntary groups and with community and religious leaders in order to raise awareness of CSE and to create good communication which can handle the sensitivities which surround CSE?
6. How does the local authority and its partners challenge attitudes and where necessary individuals within the community who may seek to use racial, cultural or religious reasons to minimise or excuse their activities?
7. Are services resourced sufficiently to meet identified needs around CSE?

KLOE 2: To what extent is the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) complying with the statutory guidance set out in 'Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation'?

8. Has the LSCB undertaken a CSE evaluation or self-assessment? Has the LSCB developed an action plan as a result which is effectively driven forward, tracked and monitored? How do you know the plan is effective?
9. Has a set of localised multi-agency policies and procedures been put in place? Are they regularly reviewed and updated in the light of current research and lessons learnt from practice? How do you know that they are implemented in practice across the partnership?
10. Has an LSCB sub-group been put in place to ensure effective co-operation and drive forward the work emerging from the above multi-agency activity? Are its members clearly identified as the lead professionals within their agencies for implementing the statutory guidance? What are its reporting arrangements? How do you know that it is effective?
11. If there isn't a dedicated LSCB sub group in place how is the work managed and reported?
12. How strong is the scrutiny and challenge provided by the LSCB to all partners? Can you provide some examples please.
13. Is there specific reference to CSE in the LSCB Annual Report and annual business plan which is regularly reviewed and updated?
14. Does the LSCB act as a reference point within its local community on the topic of CSE, raise awareness and issue guidance for the local community? Is this message suitably differentiated according to the needs of the community as identified by research and lessons learnt from practice? Can you provide some examples please.
15. Is a multi-agency CSE training session a regular part of the training programme? How do you know it is reaching the right professionals? Who is being trained? Is training input reviewed and re-commissioned regularly in the light of the latest research and the lessons learnt from practice? How do you know that training is having an impact on practice? Has this been evaluated?
16. Are foster carers and children's home staff given the right level of training to enable them to safeguard, protect and support looked after children who have been, or are at risk of being, sexually exploited?
17. Has a system been put in place to track and monitor the multi-agency response to individual cases? Is that system sophisticated enough to identify emerging patterns and themes that indicate potential hotspots and

networks? Who gets that information? Is it shared with frontline managers and staff? What action is then taken?

KLOE 3: How effectively are partners sharing information and working together to tackle CSE locally?

18. Is there an operational group that meets regularly to share information and consider the risks to individuals and groups of children and young people? Does it involve representatives from all of key agencies including the voluntary sector?
19. How well is local partnership intelligence used to inform both operational and strategic planning so that it may respond to CSE locally as well as across local authority boundaries and nationally?
20. How is intelligence about children and young people missing from home, school or care used to inform the response to CSE?
21. Does CSE information take full account of age, disability, ethnicity, faith or belief, gender, language, race and sexual orientation?
22. Does the mapping of gang nominals and the young people who are associated with them inform intelligence? What are the identified links known locally? What action has been taken in response?
23. Children's Commissioner findings indicate that children who have been sexually abused within or linked to the family environment are at higher risk of being victims of CSE as they enter puberty and adolescence. Do you identify this vulnerable group and target prevention and support?
24. Does analysis of available information effectively inform strategic planning? Are trends and patterns identified and used in the planning of future operations? Can you provide some examples please.
25. Are there any examples/evidence of joint operations or good practice locally? What were their success criteria and did they meet them e.g. disruption, protection, prosecution? Have these been evaluated and learning shared across the partnership?

KLOE 4: Is practice robustly quality assured and is there evidence that this leads to better services for CYP?

26. How is CSE covered in one to one supervision across the partnership/within your service? Do staff have good access to guidance and specialist expertise on CSE? How is that brought in to the supervisory relationship? Is there any evidence to demonstrate that it has improved outcomes for children and young people?

27. Are supervision audits undertaken? Is this across the partnership or just within children's social care? Has CSE been identified as a theme within those audits? What action was taken in response to audit findings? How do you know that supervision is supporting staff around CSE?
28. Are thematic/practice audits undertaken? Has CSE been identified as a theme within those audits? What action was taken in response to audit findings?
29. Is CSE identified as a separate topic in any performance information produced? Is that information shared with strategic forums, frontline managers and staff? How is it used and what impact does this have?
30. How do findings from audit work drive performance management and target setting across the partnership/within individual agencies?

KLOE 5: What is the extent and effectiveness of local CSE prevention work?

31. Are there any good and effective examples of a preventative approach to CSE? How do you know that prevention activity is working? How is this evaluated?
32. Do the local authority and its partners have a well-developed programme for raising awareness of CSE amongst children and young people, parents and carers, staff in children's homes, other professionals and the wider community?
33. Has the warning signs checklist published by the Children's Commissioner's, which sent to every DCS, Chief Constable, LSCB chair head etc. for distribution, been distributed to all partners? What is the evidence of impact locally? (Appendix 3: Warning signs and vulnerabilities "If only someone had listened", Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, Final Report, November 2013)
34. What action has been taken to raise awareness and build resilience amongst those groups of children and young people who are more likely to be vulnerable to CSE, including for example, looked after children and care leavers, children and young people who are regularly absent from school, are missing from home, who have mental health issues or are misusing alcohol or other substances and young people who are homeless?
35. Are schools proactive in addressing the risks of CSE through personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education?
36. Do the local authority and its partners have a clear picture of the prevalence of CSE in the area? Where and how is this captured?

37. Is any work being done with individual or groups who are at particular risk of becoming involved in sexual exploitation to reduce their tolerance of exploitative behaviour? Can you provide some examples please.
38. What action has been taken to address the dangers associated with online grooming?
39. Is there an effective approach to signposting children and young people, parents and carers, to sources of advice and support both locally and nationally, including for example Childline and CEOPs? How do you know it is effective?
40. Has the local authority actively engaged those groups of adults who by virtue of where they work may come into contact with children and young people who are at risk of being sexually exploited, such as those who work in parks, leisure centres, licensed premises, hotels or the taxi business? What is the impact? Can you provide details please.
41. Is there effective outreach with children and young people who may be at risk of CSE through the voluntary and community sector and/or youth and community workers?

KLOE 6: How effective is the local authority and its partners in ensuring that young people at risk of CSE are identified at the earliest opportunity?

42. Do the threshold criteria for access to children's social care and early help services refer specifically to CSE? Are they clear, explicit and well understood by partners? How do you know the threshold criteria are applied as intended?
43. Is there a robust escalation process and are there any examples of it having been used in relation to CSE?
44. Are there clear protocols in place with health partners, including for example genito-urinary medicine, contraceptive clinics, CAMHS, accident and emergency? If there are, are there any examples of good practice?
45. Are there clear protocols in place with the Youth Offending Team (YOT) and if so, any examples of where joint working has improved outcomes for children and young people?
46. Is a CSE screening tools used locally across the partnership? How do you know it is effective? Is expert advice readily available? Has this been evaluated?
47. How are services structured and commissioned to meet the demands of CSE? Is there a specialist CSE team or a CSE coordinator who leads a 'virtual' CSE team?

KLOE 7: Are children and young people, including looked after children, who are at risk of, or who have been, sexually exploited effectively safeguarded, protected and supported?

48. How do you hear the voice of children and young people who are victims of, or are at risk of, CSE? What action have you taken as a result of this?
49. Does every child or young person who has been missing have an appropriate return interview to explore the reasons for them having gone missing in the first place and identify what needs to be done to support them? How is the information from these interviews used to inform the wider trend data and intelligence?
50. Is appropriate use made of S47 child protection strategy meetings to explore the risks and develop an appropriate and coordinated response to children and young people who go missing?
51. Is there an awareness of the issue of child/young person on child/young person sexual exploitation? Is this appropriately responded to and investigated?
52. Are evidence-based CSE risk assessment tools routinely used to assess the level of risk? Are they effective? Have they been evaluated?
53. Are the risks to the children of those suspected, or known, to be involved in sexual exploitation assessed appropriately?
54. Are the potential risks to siblings and friends of children and young people who have been sexually exploited routinely assessed and effective plans put in place to support them where needs identified?
55. Are the risks to the children of those suspected, or known, to be involved in sexual exploitation subject to a good quality assessment? Does the assessment include the child's voice about their experiences?
56. What is the prevalence of CSE as the primary reason for child protection conferences and child protection plans?
57. Do the victims of CSE have robust individual plans that set out how the local authority, their parent(s) or carer(s) and other services will work together to provide the help, support, guidance and advice that reflect assessed need?
58. Do those plans specify how the child or young person will be protected, how risk will be managed and reduced and how the plan will be monitored, reviewed and updated in light of new information and changing circumstances? Are there robust contingency arrangements in place?

59. How effective are those plans in improving outcomes for children and young people who have been, or are at risk of being, sexually exploited?
60. How effectively are children and young people engaged in direct work to build their resilience and mitigate the impact of CSE experiences on their wellbeing?
61. Are children and young people given the right level of help and support, including specialist therapeutic support, to try to minimise the long-term impact of CSE in their lives?
62. Do children and young people, and their families, feel well supported and protected? How do you know?

KLOE 8: Are commissioning arrangements effectively meeting the wide range of needs of children and young people affected by CSE?

63. Is CSE identified and addressed as a topic within the JSNA? Is it used to inform commissioning strategies such as the sufficiency strategy?
64. Are the views of children, young people and their families taken into consideration in developing these commissioning strategies?
65. Are the trends and patterns in CSE identified from practice mapped against the local community, so that scarce resources can be targeted effectively?
66. Where an individualised package such as an out of area placement is purchased in response to CSE, is sufficient consideration given to the continued safety of the young person?
67. Are there any examples of good practice locally where effective (joint) commissioning has led to the safe placement of child(ren) and young people who are vulnerable to CSE?
68. Are the criteria for commissioning secure accommodation to protect children and young people from CSE sufficiently clear? Are young people placed in a secure setting in order to meet their assessed needs or is secure accommodation agreed when a more suitable alternative would have been to restrict the liberty of the perpetrator? Is there a viable move on plan that ensures that an alternative safe place for the young person to live is identified at the earliest opportunity?

KLOE 9: How effective is the local authority and its partners in disrupting the activities of those engaged in child sexual exploitation and taking legal action against them?

69. How has the Crown Prosecution Service contributed to the development of local policies, procedures and practice to combat CSE?
70. How successful have the police and their partners been in prosecuting those engaged in sexual exploitation, either as exploiters or abusers or both?
71. How do different council departments work together with children's services and the partnership to tackle CSE? For example Community Safety, Licensing, Environmental Health, Adult Services etc?
72. How effective is the support and protection provided to children and young, and their families, who are involved in criminal proceedings either as victims or witnesses? How do you know? Has this been evaluated locally?
73. Do children and young people, and their families, who have been involved in criminal proceedings feel that they have been well supported and protected? How do you know?
74. How does the number of cautions and prosecutions for CSE relate to the number of referrals?
75. What use is made of abduction notices? How successful has this been? Has impact been evaluated?
76. Has any use been made of Serious Case Reviews or Critical Learning Reviews to identify and share the learning from unsuccessful operations against CSE either locally or elsewhere?