

2015

South West Peninsula Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015 – 2016.



Introduction.

This strategy document is an agreement between the Local Safeguarding Children Boards of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Plymouth, Torbay and Devon, the 4 local authorities and agencies working across the peninsula defined by the county boundaries of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and supports the Peninsula Protocol.

This document supersedes the previous Peninsula strategy dated 2012-2015

Its aim is to:

- Inform the strategies and action plans maintained in each local authority taking into account statutory guidance and
- Inspire continuity and common practice across the Peninsula.

Children and young people are not constrained by local authority boundaries and neither should the services designed to prevent them experiencing harm or supporting them during and following abuse.

Essential principles:

The Office of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry into CSE in gangs and groups report '*if only someone had listened*' in its framework for action '*see me, hear me*' establishes a set of defining principles for safeguarding children from CSE.

1. The Child's best interests must be the top priority
2. Participation of children and young people
3. Enduring relationships and support
4. Comprehensive problem-profiling
5. Effective information-sharing within and between agencies
6. Supervision, support and training for staff
7. Evaluation and review

These 7 principles will be applied by the Peninsula Steering group in pursuit of delivering this strategy and associated actions.

Statement of Intent.

It is our intent to keep children and young people within the peninsula safe and protected from child sexual exploitation – mitigating its impact by improving outcomes and reducing harm for those:

- **Vulnerable to or at risk of exploitation* and**
- **Victims of exploitation.**

To establish a culture where:

- **CSE is considered as a possibility by all agencies irrespective of what the presenting circumstances for the child are.**
- **CSE is recognised as child abuse and triggers the appropriate statutory response.**

*Exploitation in this instance refers primarily to CSE but includes exploitation via human trafficking and modern slavery.

Prevent

By working together to create an environment that does not tolerate CSE.

Establish and maintain a Peninsula CSE communication strategy.

In conjunction with the LSCB's ensure consistency and quality of training and awareness across the peninsula.

Promote good practice by sharing experience, resources and methodology.

Agree peninsula standards for residential and fostering provision in respect of CSE.

Work with all authorities to ensure online vulnerability is considered in all risk assessments (not only CSE).

Identify arrangements to address sexually harmful behaviour by young people; establish a diversion scheme.

Protect

Identifying and supporting victims.

Ensure thresholds for intervention are consistent and follow core safeguarding processes.

Develop information and data sharing between all agencies.

Establish a central intelligence process for multi agency information.

Identify arrangements between host and placing authorities to ensure all children in care receive return home Interviews in a timely manner.

Engage parents and support them in safeguarding their children. Develop services and interventions to achieve this.

Disrupt

Stopping perpetrators by identifying them early, targeting them via multi agency disruption plans, securing justice for victims and obtaining convictions.

Be clear about how to disrupt with multi agency 'tool kits'.

Embed a culture that uses clear multi agency **disruption plans** in conjunction with **evidential recovery strategies** to prevent offending and maximise opportunities for prosecution.

Manage our registered sex offenders/potentially dangerous persons and young offenders to prevent further offending.

Acknowledge every instance of sexual exploitation as a failure in our preventative strategy.

Agree basic principles in respect of larger CSE investigations.

Establish a range of therapeutic service that offer timely and long term support for young people before during and after sexual exploitation into the recovery stage according to their need.

Pursue the commissioning opportunities via the Health and wellbeing boards.

Governance:

The Peninsula Steering group reports to the chairs of safeguarding boards of Plymouth, Torbay, Devon and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly delivering actions the areas have collectively agreed.

Working groups will be established from the membership of the steering group - or appropriate deputy - to deliver activity in each strategy area.

The chairs of the strategic MACSE's will ensure delivery of the peninsula strategy and priorities as well as acting in accordance with the directions of their safeguarding board through their respective strategies and action plans. The strategic MACSE's should report to both their safeguarding board and the peninsula steering group.

Review:

This strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Next due end of 2016.