



### Message from Deborah Lightfoot, LSCB Chair

Welcome to the February issue of the LSCB newsletter. In this we continue to draw attention to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) as a key safeguarding risk to children. CSE Awareness day is 18<sup>th</sup> March this year – see details below. We also draw attention to past Serious Case Reviews both national and local, which highlight young people's risky behaviour and our learning from these.

### Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children – fitting the jigsaw together

We are beginning our reminder about CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) and missing children, with the context that CSE is a small segment of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), most of which takes place in families / by known people. In February the LSCB audited MASE (Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation) meetings for Kingston and Richmond. We found that 80% of local children who were considered at risk of CSE had been missing, 60% had substance misuse concerns & 40% had mental health concerns.

### NSPCC Report regarding Missing Children 2012

10,000 young people go missing from care each year: a sample were asked, "what helps"? They said:

- Talking to someone; staying busy; being able to exercise autonomy; being shown some love.
- Issues for these young people were isolation; anger; separation from their families; feelings of helplessness; boredom; difficulties when their shoes were hidden to stop them running away. The report outlined that practitioners need to: understand why these young people are missing; give respect and boundaries.

### Learning from local and national Serious Case Reviews:

- Children benefit if we recognise risk and respond to manage that risk in timely ways;
- Children and adults' behaviour illustrate their wishes and feelings, as much as what they say;
- If we see children exhibiting sexualised behaviour, this may not just be about children exploring their sexual identity, but possibly a matter of risk at any young age;
- Practitioners are strengthened if they are able to think the unthinkable;
- Ask if gender plays a role – do we respond in the same way to risky behaviour for boys and girls?
- Understand history and diversity issues for the individual child and family.

### Child F Richmond LSCB 2013:

Child F died of an overdose in 2012 aged 13. He was living with his maternal grandparents, who for a long time he thought and had been led to believe, were his parents. Child F was receiving private education and visited a private psychologist; his mother and grandmother had some private health care. The mother had mental health and substance misuse difficulties; his maternal grandmother had a terminal illness and was dying at home. F died a month after his grandmother. F had emotional and behavioural difficulties at school and at home, and a statement in school to support him. There were ongoing worries for self-harm, obesity, self neglect, drug and alcohol use. **Learning:** ensure children's wishes are heard; practitioners need to escalate if they have concerns; practitioners working with adults need to see the child and their needs too; and share information regarding risk.

### Tom and Vic Kingston LSCB 2013:

Tom and Vic were hurt in an incident in 2012. Both young people had been involved in criminal activity for some years and had spent time separately in secure accommodation serving custodial sentences. At the time of the incident, they were going missing and had not attended formal education for a year. Their families received a wide range of resources, and Tom was in foster care. The review concluded that professionals did not identify the escalation of criminal activity and could have coordinated services more effectively leading to a speedier response to concerns. Find out more here: [www.kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/about-kingston-lscb/learning-improvement-case-reviews-41.php](http://www.kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/about-kingston-lscb/learning-improvement-case-reviews-41.php)

### Child R Southwark LSCB 2015:

Child R had a history of being in care and moving foster placements. [Child R came to the UK aged 8 with her mother and suffered physical abuse & neglect at home - she went missing from home too]. In foster care she often came back late, dropped off by an older man. It was not known where she was. Things were disrupted at

school and she was excluded -there were concerns for gang related activity. Child R went missing from her sixth foster placement and moved back to her mother - this was not known for 5 weeks. She then went to her seventh foster placement. In 2014, she was raped by an older man in a hotel aged 15 - this was someone she did not know - he said he had got her mobile number from friends. Child R disclosed this.

**Learning:** Understand a child's history and vulnerability; ensure a looked after child has someone to talk to; ensure young people know about mobile phone and e-safety risks.

### **Child R Lancashire LSCB 2014:**

Child R, a 16 year old girl, died from multiple stab wounds in 2013. Adult 1 contacted Child R via social media and convinced her to go to a commercial premises on the pre-text of being offered a job. Adult 1 was convicted of murder and received a 35-year prison sentence. Child R experienced multiple traumas during her childhood, including witnessing the death of a friend, physical assault, cyberbullying and rape.

**Key issues** identify risk factors affecting Child R, including: going missing from home, sexual relationships with peers her own age, sexually exploitative relationships with adult males, preoccupation with fire, drug and alcohol misuse and self-harm. Adult 1 had a history of physically and sexually abusive behaviour as an adult and child; cruelty to animals; and had a diagnosed conduct disorder as a child himself.

Below are links to additional resources on CSE including real life stories from young people affected by CSE:

- [http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/our\\_work/sexual\\_exploitation.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation.htm)
- [CAN YOU SEE IT? - Peer on Peer CSE - Video for Professionals](#)

### **LSCB 'Mini' Conference – Missing Children and Child Sexual Exploitation**

Thank you to all those who attended the LSCB Mini Conference on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. We had attendance from all agencies across the safeguarding community – about 180 local professionals and volunteers. At the Conference, the LSCB launched the CSE Strategy, Guidance and MASE (Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation) referral form, which are available by clicking - [LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation \(CSE\) Strategy](#).

#### **Additional resources and information:**

- [Missing Children in Education Protocol and Procedure](#)
- [CSE information and resources](#)

### **CSE Awareness Day – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

It is National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016! The LSCB would like to know what your organisation will be doing to raise awareness on CSE. Please could you inform [katia.kerekesova@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:katia.kerekesova@achievingforchildren.org.uk) as the LSCB would like to support you with the resource materials that are available.

Some ideas here for agencies in raising awareness:

- <http://www.stop-cse.org/national-child-exploitation-awareness-day/>
- For young people: <http://www.faceup2it.org>

### **LSCB Private Fostering Video**

The LSCB has produced a Private Fostering Video which can be used by your organization – do you have a reception or waiting area for the public, young people or professionals? This short video explains what Private Fostering is and how the Local Authority should be notified to undertake a statutory assessment, if you have any suspicions a child is being privately fostered.

[Watch the LSCB Private Fostering Video](#)

### **Updates on latest Policies and Information**

Please click on the latest guidelines and information recently published:

- [LSCB Female Genital Mutilation Prevention Guidelines](#)
- [LSCB Communications' Strategy](#)
- [Whistleblowing about children's services to Ofsted](#)
- DfE Child Abuse Awareness Campaign March-September 2016 – more information to follow
- **Safer Sleep Week - 14-20 March 2016.** More information will be sent out shortly but find out more here: [www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep-week](http://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep-week)