

NATIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION STRATEGY.

WALES

In collaboration with



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NATIONAL CSAE PREVENTION STRATEGY

WALES

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE) is a national threat and a public health issue. It needs a whole society approach in order to address the increasing scale and impact of the problem.

The CSAE Prevention Programme is delivered in partnership between The Children's Society, Victim Support and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and has been funded for one year (March 2017–March 2018). The aim of the programme is to scope the needs and trends relating to child sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse across the 10 policing regions in England and Wales, and to create regional strategies to support improvements in preventative and protective responses.

After a period of evidence collection, this document has been produced to detail areas for development, and subsequent recommendations, on a national level for Wales. Our vision is that these documents are used alongside existing strategies to build on the good work already taking place across the region.

The child sexual exploitation (CSE) statutory guidance and policies for Wales are currently undergoing change, following recommendations from the Review of the Wales Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation Statutory Guidance. We hope that the following recommendations can be of value during this process, and in the future as new policies and guidance are created. We envisage multi-agency networks working together to implement recommendations to help prevent the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and young people in Wales.

Throughout our work delivering the CSAE Prevention Programme, one message is clear: child sexual abuse and exploitation can feel like an insurmountable problem, yet individuals, families, communities, businesses and organisations are determined to play an active role in preventing it and support those who experience it the best way we can.



EDUCATION: HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

There is a general lack of age-appropriate and consistent preventative education about consent, safe touch, boundaries, expectation, appropriate relationships, online safety, and speaking to a safe adult.

Children and young people who present harmful sexual behaviour are not receiving a consistent response, or appropriate interventions to prevent the escalation of behaviours.

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESOURCES TO SUPPORT RESPONSE
<p>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preventative education should be provided to all early years, primary, and secondary age children and young people about consent, safe touch, harmful behaviours, pornography, boundaries, expectation, and speaking to a safe adult. Lessons should be revisited regularly and build with age and key stage developments. ● Education on the impact of sexting and the law around indecent images of children and young people should be embedded into education throughout school years, not just as a one-off session or assembly. ● Children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviours should receive a safeguarding response, and age-appropriate support and intervention. ● A policing lead on the Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) expert panel should be allocated, to promote the inclusion of education aimed at harmful sexual behaviour prevention. ● Police, health, education and social care leads must look at the patterns and context of harmful sexual behaviour to plan a strategic response and/or intervention, rather than solely focusing on individual incidents. ● If harmful sexual behaviour is investigated as a criminal offence rather than a safeguarding concern, the child or young person presenting harmful sexual behaviours should also be given support and a multi-agency assessment of needs and risk should take place. ● Schools should provide education programmes for groups of children and young people who may be presenting early signs of harmful sexual behaviour 	<p>Lucy Faithfull Foundation</p> <p>Stop It Now Wales and Stop It Now Helpline</p> <p>NSPCC: PANTS</p> <p>Barnardo’s: Offside</p> <p>Barnardo’s: Your Choice</p> <p>AWSLCP</p> <p>FPA: Jiwsí (North Wales)</p> <p>Spectrum Project</p> <p>Lucy Faithfull Foundation: Inform Young and Hedgehogs</p> <p>Victim Support Switched On</p>

<p>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CONT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children and young people in custody should receive appropriate therapeutic interventions for harmful sexual behaviour. ● Harmful sexual behaviour must be addressed as soon as possible, to help prevent the child or young person from perpetrating further harmful sexual behaviour ● Children and young people presenting harmful sexual behaviour should be engaged with as a potential victim, not a perpetrator, as set out in the All Wales Child Protections Procedures. 	<p>The SRE expert panel’s recommendations are currently being considered by the Welsh Government.</p> <p>A task and finish group is meeting to develop refreshed practice guidance on harmful sexual behaviour, to be used in conjunction with new National Protection Procedures due to be published in December 2018.</p>
<p>FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As part of the harmful sexual behaviour guidance review, implementing a harmful sexual behaviour tool similar to the Seraf Service, or including harmful sexual behaviour elements whilst reviewing the Seraf Service, should be considered. ● The Welsh government should consider including guidance for responding to children and young people presenting harmful sexual behaviour, when reviewing its child sexual exploitation guidance. ● Therapeutic interventions for harmful sexual behaviour should be put in place in Gwent and the Dyfed-Powys Police, and should not rely on ‘spot purchases’ to the Better Futures service (Barnardo’s). Ideally, Better Futures, or similar therapeutic services should be extended to other areas ● Organisations should have specific procedures for responding to harmful sexual behaviour, and staff must have access to appropriate training and resources. 	<p>The Children’s Society: Harmful Sexual Behaviour Toolkit for Professionals</p> <p>NICE: Harmful Sexual Behaviour Among Children and Young People Guidelines</p> <p>NSPCC: Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework</p> <p>Brook: Traffic Light Tool</p> <p>AIM Project</p> <p>NSPCC: Children and Young People Who Engage in Technology-assisted Harmful Sexual Behaviour</p>

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES CONT.

- Professionals working with children and young people should be made aware of, and regularly reminded of, the clear pathways and procedures in relation to children and young people presenting harmful sexual behaviour.
- Children’s services should be made aware of harmful sexual behaviour as early as possible, and a strategy meeting should be convened.
- Professionals must be made aware of, and regularly reminded, that the needs of a child or young person presenting harmful sexual behaviour should be met in the same way as the victim.
- Professionals working with children and young people presenting harmful sexual behaviour should receive appropriate emotional support and guidance.
- Accurate and detailed records should be kept on all harmful sexual behaviour incidents. This will allow professionals to get an overview of what is happening now and in the future. Information should be shared during strategy meetings and social workers should be informed.
- Professionals and parents should be aware of online harmful sexual behaviour (technology-assisted HSB).
- Families and schools should be aware of the difference between ‘problematic’ and ‘abusive’ harmful sexual behaviour.
- Families should be aware of the services that provide appropriate support and advice for children and young people presenting harmful sexual behaviour.
- If it is safe to do so, parents and/or carers should be involved in harmful sexual behaviour intervention, and should be given the resources and support to allow them to better support their child.

NSPCC: [A Review of the Research on Children and Young People who Display Harmful Sexual Behaviour Online](#)

University of Bedfordshire: [Young People who Sexually Harm Peers in Groups](#)

Barnardo’s: [Better Futures](#)

NSPCC: [Turn the Page \(Cardiff and Vale\)](#)

FPA: [Jiysi \(North Wales\)](#)

Stop It Now Wales: [Parents Protect Sessions, Family Safety Plans and Online Information](#)

Lucy Faithfull Foundation: [Pack for Parents of Children and Young People Who Have Got Into Trouble Online](#)

Lucy Faithfull Foundation: [Inform Young People](#)

There is potential to deliver these recommendations through:

SRE expert panel

Harmful sexual behaviour task and finish group

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES CONT.

- Sports coaches, faith leaders and other community leaders should receive appropriate harmful sexual behaviour training and should be made aware of safeguarding procedures.
- Secure Training settings accommodating children and young people who are presenting harmful sexual behaviour should adopt a therapeutic and educational approach, and provide appropriate interventions.

ACE funding, particularly Gwent and Dyfed Powys to consider funding to go towards harmful sexual behaviour

Barnardo's: [Better Futures](#)

The Seraf Service, which is being reviewed as part of Wales' review of statutory guidance on child sexual exploitation. The intention is that children should receive a proportionate assessment under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. The legislation provides for Local Authorities undertaking or commissioning specialist assessments where necessary.

There will also be a package of training to support the implementation of new National Protection Procedures and aligned practice guidance on children in specific circumstances, such as harmful sexual behaviour.

SITUATIONS AND PLACES

- If victims of peer on peer abuse attend school with children and young people presenting harmful sexual behaviour, appropriate actions should be taken to ensure that the victim feels comfortable and safe.
- Schools must consider how they can take a whole school approach to change the environment to prevent sexual harassment and violence in school.
- Schools must implement a zero tolerance policy to harmful sexual behaviour, with clear expectations and responses, ie that skirt-lifting or bra-pinging is considered sexual assault. Schools should outline clearly the consequences, and develop socio-educative detention focussed on the deterrence of sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour.
- Schools should have a designated safeguarding lead who is aware of local information and intelligence-sharing protocols, and be proactive in sharing this information to relevant partners. The safeguarding lead can offer additional support to ensure that the child or young person (both victim and perpetrator/potential perpetrator) is given an appropriate response.
- Schools should ensure that they create a culture of vigilance, and that CCTV is in place and addresses blind spots.
- Teachers must be equipped to spot and challenge early inappropriate behaviours
- All school must be staff trained in spotting signs and responding to child sexual exploitation and harmful sexual behaviour, using trauma-informed approaches to intervening with incidents or behaviours.
- School staff should be aware of the local services that children and young people can be referred to for additional support.



EDUCATION: CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

There is a general lack of age-appropriate and consistent preventative education about child sexual abuse and exploitation – this includes education for young people aged 16 to 18 years old.

Parents, carers and community members are vital in responding to issues of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and should be equipped with the knowledge to enable them to respond appropriately if they have concerns.

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESOURCES TO SUPPORT RESPONSE
<p>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preventative education should be provided to all early years, primary, and secondary age children and young people about consent, safe touch, harmful behaviours, pornography, boundaries, expectation and speaking to a safe adult. Lessons should be revisited regularly and build with age and key stage developments. ● Education on the impact of sexting and the law around indecent images of children and young people should be embedded into education throughout school years, not just as a one-off session or assembly. ● Children and young people displaying signs of child sexual abuse and exploitation should receive a safeguarding response, and age appropriate support and intervention. ● A policing lead on the Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) expert panel should be allocated, to promote the inclusion of education aimed at child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention. ● Police, health, education and social care leads must look at the patterns and context of child sexual abuse and exploitation, to plan a strategic response and/or intervention, rather than solely focusing on individual incidents. ● Schools should provide education programmes for groups of children and young people who may be presenting with vulnerabilities to child sexual abuse and exploitation. ● Children and young people in custody should have access to appropriate therapeutic interventions for child sexual abuse and exploitation. ● Child sexual abuse and exploitation must be addressed as soon as possible. 	<p>BAWSO</p> <p>SEWREC</p> <p>NSPCC: Protect and Respect (Cardiff and Vale, Prestatyn)</p> <p>Barnardo's</p> <p>SARC (Cardiff and Vale)</p> <p>New Pathways (Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff, Risca, Carmarthen, Swansea, Newport, Newtown, Aberystwyth)</p>

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CONT.

- There must be consideration that victims may be present during lessons about child sexual abuse and exploitation. Content should be selected with this in mind, including how children and young people may be triggered.
- Lessons should educate pupils on what a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) is, and how they can be accessed.

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Lessons around child sexual abuse and exploitation should be implemented, ideally in every year group. Lessons in the new curriculum, or as part of the All-Wales School Liaison Core Programme (AWSLCP), should be considered.
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation lessons should be part of the AWSLCP Critical Core.
- Age appropriate child sexual abuse and exploitation lessons regarding consent, safe touch, and trusted adults should begin during primary school or early years education (lessons do not need to mention sex or abuse).
- Creative ways to raise child sexual abuse and exploitation awareness, eg a school play, should be considered.
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation lessons should include online sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Colleges should implement child sexual abuse and exploitation lessons.
- Parents should be involved with education around child sexual abuse and exploitation, eg through homework, parents' evenings or events.

[AWSLCP](#)
[Spectrum Project](#)
[Welsh Curriculum](#)
 Stop It Now Wales: [Parents Protect](#)
 Stop It Now: [Helpline](#)
 Internet Matters
[Safer Internet UK](#)
[CEOP](#)
 NSPCC: [TEAM](#)
There is potential to deliver these recommendations through:
 The Welsh Curriculum
 The child sexual exploitation guidance review

<p>FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES CONT.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents should be aware of new and emerging threats, eg certain apps that their children may be using. TEAM (Talk, Explore, Agree, Manage) should be promoted to parents and/or carers when discussing online safety. This can be done via schools and educational settings, or social media, with an emphasis on not solely relying on parental controls. 	
<p>SITUATIONS AND PLACES</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retailers selling internet-enabled devices should have some awareness of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and be able to talk to parents and/or carers about the online risks to children and young people. Staff should signpost parents to appropriate organisations to find out more information. 	<p>Welsh Police Forces: Online Safety Leaflet NSPCC: 02 Guru</p>



PERPETRATORS AND POTENTIAL PERPETRATORS

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Potential and convicted perpetrators must be stopped from offending or reoffending. There must be education and support available for perpetrators/potential perpetrators, including individuals who are concerned about their thoughts or behaviour towards children and young people. In addition, further understanding about perpetrator/potential perpetrator behaviour is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT RESPONSE

PERPETRATORS AND POTENTIAL PERPETRATORS

- There must be a better understanding of the terms ‘paedophilia’ and ‘hebephilia’, which should be clearly distinguished from child sexual abuse perpetrators/potential perpetrators. Not all paedophiles or hebephiles commit child sexual abuse, and not every sexual perpetrator/potential perpetrator is a paedophile or hebephile.
- There should be more help available for individuals who are self-motivated and aware of the problematic nature of their sexual impulses directed at children and young people.
- Perpetrators/potential perpetrators should be offered therapeutic and educational programmes to help manage their behaviour, and/or educate them on their actions.
- Perpetrators/potential perpetrators and individuals must be encouraged to seek help from their GP or mental health services.

- [NOTA \(National Organisation for Treatment of Sexual Abusers\)](#)
- [ATSA \(Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers\)](#)
- [Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#)
- [Stop It Now: Online Self-help for Those Concerned About their Online Behaviour](#)
- [Stop It Now: Online Self-help for Those Concerned About their Thoughts/Behaviour Towards Children](#)
- [Assessment and Treatment of Sex Offenders: A Handbook](#)
- [Lucy Faithfull Foundation](#)
- [Stop It Now Wales and Stop It Now Helpline](#)
- [StopSo](#)
- [Dunkelfeld](#)
- [Operation Netsafe](#)

<p>PERPETRATORS AND POTENTIAL PERPETRATORS CONT.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GP and mental health services must have some understanding of the issues, and where to access further support if needed. ● Services should be made available for paedophiles/hebephiles to seek help before they potentially offend. 	<p>There is potential to deliver these recommendations through:</p> <p>Lucy Faithfull Foundation</p> <p>Stop It Now Wales</p> <p>The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)</p>
<p>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Services and reporting mechanisms for victims and survivors must be advertised and accessible. 	<p>IICSA</p> <p>Stop It Now Helpline</p> <p>NSPCC: Protect and Respect (Cardiff and Vale, Prestatyn)</p> <p>Childline</p> <p>CEOP</p> <p>IWF</p>
<p>FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Operation NetSafe to reduce the threat, risk and harm posed by online child sexual exploitation and abuse should continue. ● There should be consideration into creating an operation similar to Operation NetSafe, designed to encourage individuals who are concerned about their own or others thoughts and/or behaviour towards children and young people to come forward; looking not focussed on sharing indecent images of children but also other forms of exploitation and abuse. 	<p>Lucy Faithfull Foundation</p> <p>Stop It Now: Online Self-help for Those Concerned About Someone Else's Online Behaviour</p> <p>Stop It Now: Online Self-help for Those Concerned About Someone Else's Thoughts/Behaviour Towards Children</p>

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES CONT.

- Advertisements should encourage individuals to come forward and seek help if they are concerned about their own or others thoughts and/or behaviour towards children and young people.
- Materials should encourage the notion that individuals are not at fault for their sexual preference, though everyone is responsible for their behaviour.
- Adopting a similar project to Dunkelfeld in Germany should be considered, where clinical and support services are provided to individuals who are sexually attracted to children, and want help to control their sexual urges.
- There should be more research to understand child sexual abuse perpetrators/potential perpetrators, including possible ‘treatments’.
- More UK-based research is needed into specialist medical and therapeutic interventions for perpetrators/potential perpetrators, such as Androgen Deprivation Therapy (ADT), Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors (SSRI), and GnRH-Analogs alongside CBT. Treatments and interventions should have the option to include partners and family members.
- Families and friends who are concerned about their loved one’s thoughts and/or behaviour towards children and young people should be aware of the appropriate support and help available.
- Services must be put in place to provide appropriate emotional support for families and friends of individuals seeking help, and of convicted child sexual abuse perpetrators.
- Support for families should differ depending on the type of offence eg distributing or viewing Indecent Images of Children (IIOC), compared to intra-familial abuse.
- Faith leaders and GPs should refer perpetrators/potential perpetrators to appropriate services to receive help.

NOTA
ATSA
Dunkelfeld

SITUATIONS AND PLACES

- Campaign materials around child sexual abuse and exploitation should be promoted via TV adverts, radio, billboards, etc, in various public locations.
- Campaigns should be advertised on the general internet, adult sites and the dark web, in order to increase the probability of IIOC perpetrators/potential perpetrators viewing the advert and seeking help or treatment.
- Adverts should state that viewing indecent images of children under the age of 18 is illegal, to avoid misconceptions.
- Stop It Now must continue to be promoted in public, directly to perpetrators/potential perpetrators, and during professional training sessions, particularly with police, probation, prison staff and children’s services.

[Stop It Now Helpline](#)

Stop It Now: [Online Self-help for Those Concerned About Someone Else’s Online Behaviour](#)

Stop It Now: [Online Self-help for Those Concerned About Someone Else’s Thoughts/Behaviour Towards Children](#)



AWARENESS

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Materials and training should be promoted and available across Wales to ensure that all parties are educated about the risks of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Community members, parents and/or carers must be encouraged to gain an awareness of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and be supported when sharing intelligence or reporting their concerns.

In addition, perpetrators/potential perpetrators should be educated to understand their behaviour and its effect on victims.

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESOURCES TO SUPPORT RESPONSE
<p>PERPETRATORS/ POTENTIAL PERPETRATORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raising child sexual abuse and exploitation awareness may have an educational impact on perpetrators/potential perpetrators, helping them to understand that their behaviour is not appropriate and can lead to a criminal conviction. ● It should be considered that perpetrators/potential perpetrators, or individuals who are concerned about their own or another’s thoughts/behaviours, may potentially be present during training sessions. Therefore, advertisement of Stop It Now is recommended. 	<p><u>Stop It Now Helpline</u></p> <p>Stop It Now: <u>Online Self-help for Those Concerned About their Online Behaviour</u></p> <p>Stop It Now: <u>Online Self-help for Those Concerned About their Thoughts/Behaviour Towards Children</u></p> <p>There is potential to deliver these recommendations through:</p> <p>A child sexual exploitation awareness-raising campaign being developed by the Welsh Government with partners for 2018-19.</p>
<p>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raising awareness may allow children and young people to have more confidence in reporting and seeking support. ● Materials should include local and national services where children and young people can seek support. ● Children and young people who have experienced child sexual abuse and exploitation may be present during sessions, therefore content should be selected with this in mind including how content may be triggering. 	

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Consideration should be made into mandatory training for taxi drivers around child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child criminal exploitation, similar to Gwent Force.
- Licensed premises, public transport, etc, should receive mandatory training on child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child criminal exploitation.
- Training should highlight the importance of reporting and intelligence sharing. It should have clear instructions on how to do so, including what to report, and where to report it.
- Licenced premises, public transport, etc, who have received training should be 'tested' via test-purchasing techniques, helping to monitor the effectiveness of the training provided.
- Call handlers should receive child sexual abuse and exploitation training so that the caller can quote Operation Makesafe, and be dealt with effectively.
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation training should promote the use of quoting Operation Makesafe when calling 101 or 999.
- Operation Makesafe material should be placed in every Local Authority to prevent the idea that child sexual abuse and exploitation only happens in certain areas.
- Engagement and materials should target all communities and groups eg LGBTQ+, black and minority ethnic (BME), faith groups, and boys and young men.

[Operation Makesafe \(Gwent\)](#)

CSA Centre: [Responding to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in the Night-Time Economy](#)

Barnardo's: [Learning from Barnardo's Nightwatch Training and Awareness Raising Programme](#)

Stop It Now Wales: [Parents Protect Sessions, Family Safety Plans, and Online Resources](#)

[Operation Makesafe \(Gwent\)](#)

Gwent Force: [Missing Person Hub](#)

SIA training

There is potential to deliver these recommendations through:

Stop It Now Wales training delivered to taxi drivers and in licensed premises, public transport etc

SITUATIONS AND PLACES

- Materials should be placed in public places to raise awareness of child abuse and exploitation, eg health settings, transport hubs, shopping centres etc.
- BBC Wales could be used as a platform to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Retailers selling internet-enabled devices should have some awareness of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and be able to talk to parents and/or carers about the online risks to children and young people. Staff should signpost parents to appropriate organisations to find out more information.

[Operation Makesafe \(Gwent\)](#)

Welsh Police Forces: [Online Safety Leaflet](#)

NSPCC: [02 Guru](#)



CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

There is currently a concerning lack of understanding and identification of child criminal exploitation, including a lack of awareness around children and young people who are trafficked for the purpose of criminal exploitation in relation to county lines and other forms of modern day slavery.

In addition, there is a lack of available interventions for children and young people experiencing child criminal exploitation.

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESOURCES TO SUPPORT RESPONSE
VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS/ POTENTIAL PERPETRATORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The police should consider the use of modern slavery and trafficking offences to arrest, charge and/or prosecute perpetrators/potential perpetrators of child criminal exploitation. 	
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children and young people must be recognised as victims, rather than solely as perpetrators, when criminal activity takes place through child exploitation. ● Services must be put in place to support children and young people who are affected by child criminal exploitation. ● Child sexual exploitation services must consider the suitability of their services for victims of child criminal exploitation. 	<p>St Giles Trust: SOS Project (Cardiff and Vale)</p>
FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implementation of a child criminal exploitation ‘tool’ similar to the Seraf Service, or to include child criminal exploitation elements whilst reviewing the Seraf Service, should be considered. ● It is important to note that child criminal exploitation is not limited to drugs exploitation. ● The inclusion of child criminal exploitation when reviewing child sexual abuse and exploitation guidance should be considered. It should provide guidance on responding to children and young people who may be victims of child criminal exploitation (see The Children’s Society’s toolkit on child criminal exploitation for further information). 	<p>The Children’s Society: Child Criminal Exploitation Toolkit for Professionals</p> <p>NCA: County Lines Violence, Exploitation and Drug Supply 2017</p> <p>APPG on Runaway and Missing Children and Adults: Briefing Note on the Event on Disrupting Exploitation of Children Among County Lines</p>

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES CONT.

- The inclusion of early education and lessons on child criminal exploitation and county lines should be considered. Lessons should also include links to child sexual abuse and exploitation guidance.
- All professionals working with children and young people must be trained to recognise if a child or young person is, or may be, being criminally exploited.
- Professionals should make a referral to children's services if they believe a child or young person is at risk of criminal exploitation.
- Direct referrals must be made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) if it is suspected that a child or young person is being trafficked for the purpose of criminal exploitation. The police, children's services, Barnardo's, BAWSO and New Pathways are first responders who are able to make this referral, however other agencies can and should support this referral to ensure it provides a full picture of the child or young person's experience.
- Specialist services should be available across Wales for children and young people who are victims of child criminal exploitation.
- Specialist case workers should be available in each area to work with victims of child criminal exploitation. Alternatively, social workers or family liaison officers should be given the appropriate support and training to work with victims of child criminal exploitation.
- Criminal exploitation caseworkers should be available in each force.

Home Office: [Criminal Exploitation of Children and Vulnerable Adults: County Lines Guidance](#)

Missing Persons and St Giles SOS: [Safe Call](#)

NCA: [National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#)

Potential to deliver through:

Welsh guidance

[AWSLCP](#)

Welsh Curriculum

St Giles Trust: [SOS Project \(Cardiff and Vale\)](#)

There is potential to deliver these recommendations through:

A task and finish group, which is meeting to develop practice guidance on child criminal exploitation and is to be used in conjunction with new National Protection Procedures due to be published in December 2018.

SITUATIONS AND PLACES

- Social media and local media should raise awareness of child criminal exploitation. Posters and flyers should be placed in schools, GP surgeries, and community centres etc, to raise awareness.
- Transport hub staff, eg those working at bus and train stations, should receive child criminal exploitation, and child sexual abuse and exploitation training. This would give them the ability and confidence to report suspected exploitation, abuse and/or county lines issues.

SWP: Operation Guardian



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO GO MISSING

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

There is a disparity in approaches to offering Return Home Interviews (RHIs) and Debriefs across Wales. A robust and comprehensive statutory approach is needed to respond to children and young people who go missing. There must be appropriate support available to all children and young people who go missing.

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESOURCES TO SUPPORT RESPONSE
VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS/ POTENTIAL PERPETRATORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people should be made aware of the support and advice available to them if they were to go missing from home. 	Missing People
FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return Home Interviews and/or Debriefs should be statutory and consistent across Wales. These should be undertaken by a person the child or young person can trust. (see The Knowledge Gap in the resources to support response section for more information). Making it statutory for Local Authorities to send notifications to the police force about children and young people they are placing/have placed outside of their Local Authority area, including where the new placement is located, should be considered. Responders should be aware that missing or absent children and young people are at an increased risk of sexual and criminal exploitation. These responders should have access to the appropriate training to have the confidence to spot the signs of exploitation. Responders should ensure that all information is appropriately shared with the relevant agencies. If appropriate and safe to do so, the views of parents and carers should be included in RHIs and Debriefs to ensure a wider picture is sought, and additional information and intelligence is shared. 	<p>The Children’s Society: The Knowledge Gap: Safeguarding Missing Children in Wales</p> <p>Gwent Force: Missing Person Hub</p> <p>Missing People</p> <p>There is potential to deliver these recommendations through:</p> <p>A task and finish group, which has been meeting to develop practice guidance on children missing from home and care, to be used in conjunction with new National Protection Procedures due to be published in December 2018.</p>



FURTHER READING

To find more information about existing recommendations for Wales in regard to child sexual abuse and exploitation, please see:

- Welsh Government: [Review of the Wales Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation \(CSE\) Statutory Guidance](#)
- The Children's Society: [The Knowledge Gap: Safeguarding Missing Children in Wales](#)
- Welsh Government: [National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation \(Wales\)](#)
- NHS: [Child Sexual Exploitation \(CSE\) Prevention Strategy for the NHS in Wales 2016–2019](#)