

# Child Exploitation Multi-Agency Audit

June 2023



Organisations involved were:

- YOT
- Children's Social Care
- Sirona
- Preventative Services
- Safeguarding Advisor for Education
- Police/ VRU
- CAMHS
- BNSSG ICB on behalf of GPs
- BASE
- Educational Psychology
- Unity Sexual Health
- Probation

## Acronyms:

EIT – Exploitation Identification Tool

PIMM – Partnership Intelligence Management Meeting

CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation

This audit reviewed the records of eight children to consider how effectively organisations within South Gloucestershire identify and respond to child exploitation. The aim of the audit was to assess whether there were good multi-agency standards for managing cases and whether organisations have implemented a robust and consistent response in line with statutory and good practice guidance, SGCP policies and procedures.



The children were aged from 11-18 years old



6 boys & 2 girls

## Good Practice Identified:

- There was evidence of effective communication between multi-agency partners including good multi-agency attendance to various meetings.
- There were examples of early referrals to PIMM which have enabled sharing of intelligence and multi-agency problem solving at the earliest opportunity.
- There were examples of EITs completed effectively and sometimes in a timely manner which has supported appropriate assessment and planning for young people.
- There were examples of professionals engaging parents and involving them in safety planning for their child.
- There were examples of professionals applying persistence to enable building of positive relationships with young people.
- Barnardo's BASE were consulted appropriately around concerns relating to CSE.

The EIT is a multi agency tool to be used when you suspect a child may be at risk of or suffering exploitation. It ensures you consider a wide range of areas and issues.

*Click on this box to access the EIT.*

We are reminded to apply the Resolution of Professional Differences policy which provides a formal and clear way for concerns to be expressed and taken seriously.

*Click on this box to view this policy.*

## Concerns Identified/ Areas for Improvement:

- It was clear that GPs did not consistently have access to information about children's involvement with Children's Services. GPs were not consistently invited to strategy meetings nor routinely informed about outcomes of strategy meetings/ S47 investigations.
- It was apparent that at times, exploitation was viewed as the primary issue/ area for concern and professionals were not considering the possibility that the child was impacted by other traumatic lived experiences.
- There was a lack of professional curiosity/ due diligence at times which may have led to over-optimism. For example one child's involvement with Children's Services was ended on the basis that the parent told the practitioner that their child was now registered with a GP. However it was determined by BNSSG ICB that this child was actually still not registered with a GP.
- For one child there was an example of some significant professional differences in opinion around threshold however this was not resolved effectively through application of the Resolution of Professional Differences Policy.
- There was a risk of start again syndrome for children who had moved into South Gloucestershire from different local authority areas.
- Where relevant, probation representatives were not consistently invited to attend strategy meetings.
- EITs were not consistently reviewed in a timely manner and there were no examples of the EIT being used outside of Children's Services practitioners.

## Key themes & tips

Where parents were engaged and on board, this enhanced safety for their child. There are lots of resources for use with parents to educate and support them to understand child exploitation.

Parents against child exploitation

Internet matters

The multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm are designed to support effective partnership working across different local contexts.

*Click on this box to read more about the Practice Principles.*

