

9 MINUTE BRIEFING

THIS 9 MINUTE BRIEFING IS AIMED AT PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

This short briefing presents the key findings and recommendations from a recent multi agency audit on **Child Exploitation**. A full report is also available for professionals working in partner agencies in Brighton & Hove upon request. please contact us at BHSCP.admin@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Safeguarding Children from Exploitation

The theme of this audit is child exploitation with a focus on child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child criminal exploitation (CCE). The audit tested the effectiveness of multi-agency working with children and young people who are being exploited or are at risk of being exploited. It is recognised that there are similarities between different forms of child exploitation and that for example, criminal and sexual exploitation of children may co-exist; i.e. victims of child exploitation may, at any one time, be subject to both.

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity [a] in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or [b] for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact – it can also occur using technology.

Child Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity [a] in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or [b] for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or [c] through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur using technology.

About this audit:

At the time of the audit all but one of the cases were open to the Adolescent Vulnerability and Risk Meeting (AVRM). This was an audit of 8 cases – featuring children of mixed ages, genders and ethnicity:

- **Age:** Youngest child was 13 and oldest child was 17
- **Gender:** 4 males and 4 females.
- **Multiagency Support Services:** 2 children were supported via a Child Protection Plan and 4 children were subjects of a Child in Need Plan; 2 children were looked after by the local authority and 3 children had a learning disability.
- **Ethnicity:** 2 children identified as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME).

Key Strengths Identified:

- The referral for action was mostly timely for the child/young person.
- In most cases there is evidence that agencies are working together, and this is judged to be good or excellent by the audit team.
- There are good examples of different approaches being used by professionals to ensure that the voice of the young person is heard.

Key Areas for improvement:

- ✓ Whilst the audit found examples of good practice in the planning, interventions and support provided to the young person, this did not appear to be making a difference in five cases.
- ✓ The audit highlighted the need to improve the identification and understanding by professionals of extra familial risks faced by young people (contextual safeguarding).
- ✓ The effectiveness of interventions may be impacted by the inability of services to engage the young person and young people who have a learning disability in particular.



Multi-Agency Training Provided by BHSCP:

The audits promote exploitation training across the city to enable staff to feel skilled and empowered to support young people and intervene to reduce exploitation.

E-Learning – The Many Faces of Exploitation

Exploitation Day 1 – Recognition & Understanding

Exploitation Day 2 – Working with Young People & Disruption & Exit Plans

Book through the [Learning Gateway](#) or visit the BHSCP Website for more information.