

SECTION 3: CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

The Department for Education (2012) defines child sexual exploitation (CSE) as 'a form of child abuse which involves children and young people (male and female, of a range of ethnic origins and ages, in some cases as young as 10) receiving something in exchange for sexual activity. Perpetrators of child sexual exploitation are found in all parts of the country and are not restricted to particular ethnic groups'.

It has been acknowledged by Ofsted (2015) that until recently, CSE has not been recognised or responded to in a sufficiently skilled or robust manner by local authorities and partner agencies. This is evidenced by events in Rochdale, Rotherham and a number of other local authorities nationally which have received significant media coverage.

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Child Sexual Exploitation is the coercion or manipulation of children and young people into taking part in sexual activities. It is a form of sexual abuse involving an exchange of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, 'protection' or affection.

The vulnerability of the young person and grooming process employed by perpetrators renders them powerless to recognise the exploitative nature of relationships and unable to give informed consent.

When referring to Child Sexual exploitation the LSCB has adopted the definition developed by the National Working Group:

"The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and /or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability."

Use the links below to access the relevant strategies and documents for Darlington's LSCB.

- [Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy](#) [pdf document]
- [Child Sexual Exploitation Procedures](#) [pdf document]
- [Information Sharing on Suspected Sexual Exploitation](#) [pdf document]
- [Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Matrix](#) [pdf document]
- [CSE Process Map and Key Messages](#) [pdf document]
- [Digital Dangers](#) [pdf document]

Missing, Exploited and Sexual Abuse (MESA) Sub Group

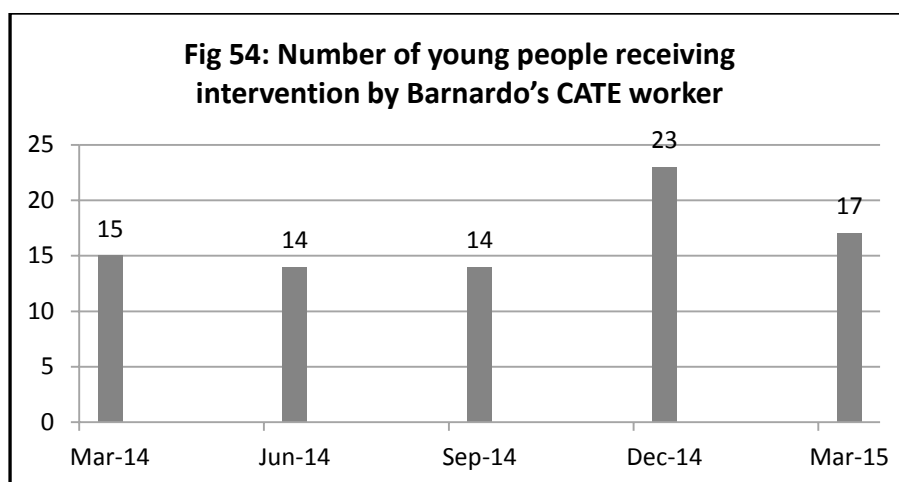
The MESA sub-group is a multi-agency sub group of the LSCB and meets on a monthly basis. It has met six times since it was established. The group has discussed 45 young people identified at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing from home or working with Barnardo's.

Barnardos with agreement and support of Darlington Borough Council have created a sexual exploitation project specifically for the Darlington area. The project is called the Barnardos CATE Project (Children Affected Through Exploitation).

You can find your local project by visiting the [Barnardo's website](#) [external link]

The CATE project is based within the Family Intervention Team and works with young people from 11 to 18 years old within the Darlington area that are being sexually exploited or at risk of being sexually exploited. Work can involve groups or one to one work, and this can be within the home (if appropriate), youth centres or at school.

The incidence of CSE cases receiving support from Barnardo's for the period March 2014 to March 2015 is shown below.



Out of the 45 cases discussed:

- 21 are now no longer deemed at risk of CSE and no further action required. This has been identified either through the completion of the risk assessment tool identifying minimum risk or they were not at risk of CSE but had been brought to the group due to their MFH episodes or other concerning behaviour. It is always highlighted that should any future concerns arise regarding the young person then they should be brought back to the group for discussion.
- The remaining 24 are carried forward to be discussed and will not be taken off the discussions until the group are satisfied the risks have been reduced for the young person.

Further information is available from [Darlington LSCB](#) [external link].