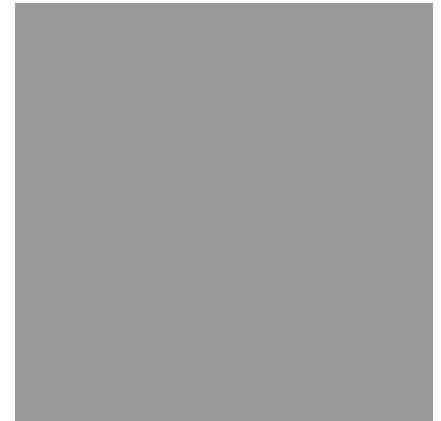


## Child sexual exploitation thematic inspection findings

The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?

17 November 2014



## Agenda

1. Methodology
2. Key findings
3. Recommendations
4. Next steps

# Methodology

- 8 local authorities
- 141 cases tracked in detail
- 50 initial referrals sampled
- spoke to 157 children and young people
- 41 parents or carers
- in excess of 200 professionals
- 36 children's homes
- 33 published SIF reports



## Local authorities

- Brent
- Bristol
- Camden
- Kent
- Luton
- Oldham
- Rochdale
- Rotherham



# Key findings

## **Strategic leadership**

- full responsibilities to prevent child sexual exploitation, to protect victims and to pursue and prosecute the perpetrators are not being met
- the pace to meet statutory duties is too slow
- local arrangements are poorly informed by local issues and self-assessment - do not link up with other local strategic plans
- specific training - is of good quality but it is not always reaching those that need it most

## Key findings

### **Performance management**

- local authorities are not collecting or sharing with their partners the information they need in order to have an accurate picture of the full extent of child sexual exploitation in their area
- not all local authorities and LSCBs evaluate how effectively they are managing child sexual exploitation cases

### **Raising awareness**

- successful use a range of innovative and creative campaigns

# Key findings

## Findings from practice

- formal child protection procedures are not always followed
- screening and assessment tools are not well or consistently used
- plans are not robust: CIN are poor; child protection and looked-after children plans vary in quality; no contingency plan in place if the initial plan was not successful
- plans for CIN are not routinely reviewed
- management oversight is not strong enough to ensure cases are always being properly progressed or monitored in line with the plan
- a dedicated child sexual exploitation team does not always ensure that children receive an improved service – 2 workers

## Key findings

### **Disrupting and prosecuting perpetrators**

- full range of powers to disrupt and prosecute perpetrators are not being used

### **Missing children**

- too many children do not have a return interview following a missing episode
- not cross-referencing CSE information with frequently absent from school
- even when the correct protocols are used, too many children still go missing



# Recommendations

## **Local authorities:**

- improve management oversight of assessments, plans and case review arrangements
- every child returning from a missing episode is given a return interview; set of standards; information centrally collated
- schools and the local authority cross-reference absence information with risk assessments for individual children and young people
- establish a targeted preventative and self-protection programme on child sexual exploitation for looked after children

# Recommendations

## **Local authorities and partners:**

- develop and publish a CSE action plan; progress should be regularly shared with strategic boards and senior leaders
- proactive sharing of information and intelligence
- consider using child sexual exploitation assessment tools
- have sufficient therapeutic support available
- experiences of victims and families should inform strategies and plans
- enable professionals to build stable, trusting and lasting relationships with children and young people
- effectiveness of local schools in raising awareness

# Recommendations

## **LSCBs:**

- ensure a comprehensive CSE action plan is in place
- hold partners to account for the urgency and priority given to the CSE action plan
- critically evaluate the activity and progress and publish these findings in the LSCB annual report
- check that child protection procedures are followed
- check that statutory duties on missing episodes are met
- ensure threshold documents are adhered to

# Recommendations

## **LSCBs:**

- ensure CSE training, including specialist training, is available to all professionals in the local area who require it; attendance monitored with follow-up action taken where professionals fail to attend
- evaluate the impact of training with a focus on how it makes a positive difference to keeping children and young people safer
- include information relating to child sexual exploitation activity in their performance framework

# Recommendations

## **Ofsted:**

- ensure that child sexual exploitation is considered within the safeguarding sections of all future inspection frameworks and across all remits
- continue to sharpen the focus given to child sexual exploitation in all children's services inspection frameworks, including the review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

# Recommendations

## **The government:**

- review and update the 2009 *Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation; supplementary guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children*
- develop a national data set that requires local authorities, the police and their partners to report on all prevention, protection and prosecution activity relating to child sexual exploitation in their area to a standard format. (inc. missing children and LAC children)
- require every police force to collate information specifically on child sexual exploitation, including the number of crimes reported, the level of disruption activity undertaken and outcomes, including cautions and prosecutions

## Next steps

- media strategy
- dissemination and learning
- any questions?

