

Local Arrangements for Missing & Child Sexual Exploitation Forums

The Missing & Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Forums have been established to bring together key agencies who are working with children and young people who go missing and are at risk of exploitation. This might be due to episodes of going missing and are at risk of, or involved with activities that constitute sexual exploitation. The Forums will also maintain an operational overview of issues that arise within multi agency working and share information on alleged perpetrators of sexual exploitation in order to identify patterns of behaviour, locations of concern and young people who may be at risk. Concerns will be shared where this is identified as being an appropriate response.

The Forums do not replace any child protection, children in need or children in care processes for individual children neither are they intended to replace individual agency procedures nor replace other actions that workers may take to safeguard young people. The Forums offer an additional risk management and information sharing approach where there are concerns around child sexual exploitation. Terms of reference for the Forums can be found within the Peninsula CSE Protocol.

Aims of the Forums

The Forums will:

- Consider children and young people up to the age of eighteen who are at risk of or involved with aspects of sexual exploitation and/or at risk and/or of going missing are supported to ensure their safeguarding and wellbeing are promoted. Raise awareness and promote multi-agency understanding of young people at high levels of risk by developing and enhancing communications between all partner agencies who are working to improve the services for children and young people who are at risk of or involved with aspects of sexual exploitation.
- Ensure that all young people reported missing receive a Return Home Interview where appropriate and are identified, if at risk of sexual exploitation
- Work collaboratively to ensure joint planning and decision making to make a positive impact on children and young people who are at risk or involved with sexual exploitation.
- Promote link information about different children who may be at risk from the same perpetrators
- Identify the appropriate agency to offer support
- Share information and raise awareness with regard to work being undertaken.
- Share information on perpetrators in order to identify patterns of behaviour and or key areas where adults may be operating in order to assist Devon & Cornwall Police with the undertaking of the appropriate disruption tactics.

- The Forums will also link into the Peninsula CSE Steering Group to inform practice and cross boundary issues.

Information discussed at the Forums

When any professional has reason to believe that a young person is at risk, they should refer to the South West Child Protection Procedures and where necessary, make a referral to the **Multi Agency Referral Unit on 0300 123 1116 or alternatively via secure e-mail: multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gcsx.gov.uk or cscintake@cornwall.gov.uk**. Where child sexual exploitation is suspected or known to be taking place referrals should be made to the MARU in the usual way.

How are notifications made to the Forums?

A social worker or lead professional (in consultation with their line manager) should contact the Missing & CSE Manager via the MARU when they have concerns about a child or young person who may be at risk of sexual exploitation. Information regarding concerns about a location, address or vehicle etc. should also be referred to the Missing & CSE Manager. For further guidance on the process, dates and times of the Forums and any other information, please contact the Missing & CSE Manager and the website will be updated shortly.