



YMCA WISE PROJECT

Supporting children and young people
to stay safe in their relationships

The Sexual Exploitation of Boys & Young Men in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex

01 January 2017

A report commissioned by Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner scoping the understanding and prevalence of the sexual exploitation of boys and young men in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex

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1. Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of a six month research and scoping study into the sexual exploitation of boys and young men in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex which was undertaken by YMCA Downslink Group WiSE Project.

To inform this study, research was gathered from a wide range of sources which included:

- An on-line survey completed by 1069 individuals with specific questions for children and young people, parents, professionals working with children and young people and the wider public
- Members of the public being asked set questions through 'vox pops'
- Interviews of professionals working with vulnerable boys and young men
- Interviewing boys and young men through focus groups and one-to-one interviews
- Interviewing members of the MSM community through outreach at Dukes Mound and interviews at sexual health clinics
- Working with Sussex Police and analysing their data
- Interviewing male victims of CSE and their families

The key aims of the reports were:

- To understand what sexual exploitation of boys and young men looks like in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.
- To identify what knowledge people (young people, adults and professionals) have of sexual exploitation and how boys and young men are affected.
- To identify reasons why boys and young men are not being identified as potential victims of sexual exploitation.
- To identify what barriers there are for people to report suspected exploitation of boys and young men.
- To establish if the boys and young men who have been identified as victims of sexual exploitation, could have been identified earlier and what lessons can be learnt to identify other potential victims at the earliest opportunity.
- To capture the voice of victims and what would have helped prevent/helped them to report, or helped them escape their exploitation at an earlier stage.
- To identify positive and negative practices amongst professionals in identifying and working with boys and young men who may be at risk of sexual exploitation.



- To make recommendations for improving services to prevent, detect and support boys and young men affected by sexual exploitation

Key Findings

Knowledge and understanding of CSE, consent and grooming

Boys and young men frequently reported that they thought CSE was something that happened to girls. Many boys and young men reported having never had CSE explained to them and only 22% reported have a good understanding of CSE. It was acknowledged that messages received were that it is the males' responsibility to ask and for the female to give consent. The vast majority of those interviewed identified that they wouldn't know how to negotiate sexual consent with a partner.

Although 90% of professionals surveyed reported they knew what Child Sexual Exploitation was, only 52% reported 'I knew it all' once given the definition. In interviews professionals struggled to identify more than two-three models of sexual exploitation and very few identified peer-on-peer exploitation.

Only 19% of children and young people considered that 'people the same age' may sexually exploit boys, compared to 84% who identified that 'strangers online' may try and sexually exploit boys.

During 'vox pops' the wider community struggled to envisage scenarios in which CSE may occur despite 86% having initially identified that they knew what CSE was. The majority did not consider grooming to be a feature of CSE, with some believing that if a child has said yes to sex, regardless of being underage or any power imbalance, they have consented.

This highlighted a concern that people consider themselves to have sufficient knowledge and understanding around CSE which was rarely reflected when they were asked to elaborate. This could be a particular concern if professionals were to be complacent about their ability to recognise CSE.



Perceptions

Most members of the wider public considered girls to be more vulnerable than boys, and acknowledged that CSE of boys and young men "*must go on*" but usually wasn't something they had previously considered.

Both children and the wider public considered strangers met online and older men to be the most likely to perpetrate CSE against boys and young men, and friends the same age to be the least likely to sexually exploit boys and young men. Duke's Mound was a specific location in Sussex that which was commonly identified as a place where boys and young men are exploited.

Evidence of sexual exploitation of boys and young men in Sussex

Sussex Police analysed their data and found that 22% of recorded CSE crime was against boys; however 42% of reports made are from abuse over a decade ago. Sussex Police recorded 11 sextortion offences against male victims under the age of 18 in 2015. This correlates with information from the National Crime Agency that nationally offences of sextortion are increasing.

Sussex Police identified that a significant number of sexual offences against males under 18 by a non-familial perpetrator may have not been correctly identified as victims of CSE and that recording of information can be improved which would also help identify hotspots.

9% of referrals which WiSE receive are for boys and young men in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex, whilst SWIFT had received no referrals for boys and young men identified as being at risk of CSE in East Sussex. Boys and young men referred were all known to be experiencing sexual exploitation, whilst many females were referred as they had been identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation, suggesting a higher threshold for agencies to make referrals for males. The report contains narratives of sexual exploitation of boys and young men in Sussex, which were provided by victims themselves or provided by professionals working with victims or perpetrators of CSE.

Vulnerabilities and risk indicators

43% of boys and young men considered girls to be more vulnerable than themselves and 72% of parents stated they were more likely to worry about a daughter being sexually exploited than a son.

Sexuality was frequently considered to increase vulnerability. We received reports of boys and young men frequently turning to online gay 'hook-up' apps when they felt unable to disclose their sexuality to friends or family. 85% of messages received by an 18 year old profile were from men over 30 years old. Chem sex parties are also frequently advertised through these apps. There are reports of vulnerable young men new to attending chem sex parties who would be deliberately overdosed so others can have non-consensual sex with them.

However there have been instances of professionals justifying boys sexually exploited by older men as them "exploring their sexuality", despite no evidence that these boys had identified as being gay or were questioning their sexuality. A third of boys referred to WiSE identified as being gay, a third unsure and a third as straight. It is conceivable that where young men are known to be gay or questioning their sexuality, they are more likely to be identified as being at risk of CSE.

Barriers to identifying boys and young men

Unconscious bias and gender stereotypes exist, even in those who value gender equality. The wider public identified barriers in reporting as fear of not being believed or it being their word against another. Fear of statutory services becoming involved and shame were given as reasons why families had not sought help when they were concerned about a son.

Victims identified fear of upsetting their parents, not recognising the abuse and feeling embarrassed as some of the reasons they did not tell anyone.

Some professionals reported struggling to get other services to acknowledge their concerns when they believed a boy or young man was as at risk of sexual exploitation, often considering boys to be perpetrators rather than victims.

Existing awareness raising

It was widely accepted that CSE awareness raising focuses on girls as being victims and many felt they were unable to relate to existing campaigns showing females or if they did not recognise themselves as being exploited.

Engaging boys and young men

Boys and young men identified that they would like a confidential service as they often would like support, but not if the cost was that statutory services would be notified. Boys and young men identified that they would like the choice of working with a male or female support worker, who could start working with them instantly, that they didn't have to wait for. Taking time to build a trusting relationship, consistency in the support they receive and knowing that their worker will be able to support them for as long as they need were also identified as important.

2. Glossary

- CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation
- MSM – Men who have Sex with Men
- Sexting – Sending sexual message and images via mobile phones and digital technology
- LGBTU – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Unsure
- LGBTQ - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer
- KS3 – School years 7-9
- KS4 – School years 10-11
- PSHE – Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (Also known as PSE, RSE and sex-ed)
- Chem Sex Party – A sex party where drugs are taken as part of the experience
- G – Slang term for GHB (gammahydroxybutrate) and GBL (gammabutyrolactone) which are both Class C drugs
- Tina – Slang term for Crystal Methamphetamine, a Class A drug
- MEOW – Slang term for Mephedrone, a Class B drug
- Bareback – unprotected sex
- SEN – Special Educational Needs
- PRU - Pupil Referral Unit
- LSCB – Local Safeguarding Children’s Board
- NTE – Night Time Economy
- Children – Where this report refers to Children, we are referring to those under the age of 18
- Children and young people – Where this report refers to Children and Young People, we are referring to those 25 and under
- Boys – Where this report refers to boys, we are referring to those who have identified as male or trans male and are under the age of 18
- Boys and young men – Where this report refers to boys and young men, we are referring to those who have identified as male or trans male and are 25 or under.
- Professionals – where this report refers to professionals, we are referring to professionals who work with children and young people as part of their role
- Sextortion – A form of sexual exploitation that employs non-physical forms of coercion e.g. recording the performing of sexual acts on camera which is then used to extort further sexual acts from the victim or financial gain

- Op Kite – A Sussex Police Operation raising awareness and reporting of concerns around or incidents of sexual exploitation
- PrEP – Pre-exposure prophylaxis is a HIV prevention strategy in which HIV-negative people take an oral pill before coming into contact with HIV to reduce their risk of HIV infection
- PEP – Post-exposure prophylaxis is a HIV prevention strategy in which HIV-negative people take an oral pill after possible contact with HIV to reduce their risk of HIV infection

3. About YMCA Downslink Group's WiSE Project

YMCA WiSE (What is Sexual Exploitation) is an award winning, specialist sexual exploitation project delivered by YMCA Downslink Group. WiSE began in Brighton & Hove in 2010 when sexual exploitation hadn't yet reached the mainstream media, which occurred as a result of high profile inquiries into Rotherham, Oxford etc. and people in the public eye such as Jimmy Saville. When we began our initial focus was to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation in Brighton & Hove and have CSE recognised locally as a safeguarding issue. Over the years our work has developed, and we now operate in Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and Surrey.

Direct Work with Children and Young People – We work one-to-one with children & young people up to 25 years old who are at risk of, or experiencing sexual exploitation. We recognise that adolescence extends beyond the age of 18 and that it is important to offer support to those at risk at a time when many agencies cease their involvement. We are an independent, confidential (within Safeguarding remits) service that offers one-to-one support with children for as long as they may need, using a range of intervention approaches, tools and resources.

Professional support – We provide advice and guidance to professionals on sexual exploitation and can offer consultations to professionals who already have an established positive relationship with a child or young person, and are therefore best placed to support the individual and undertake work around CSE.

Training – We deliver workforce development training through both Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB). We are also commissioned to deliver bespoke training events to agencies, organisations and businesses.

Schools – We predominantly work in secondary schools and colleges, but have delivered work to primary schools and universities. We deliver assemblies, workshop and targeted groupwork programmes for vulnerable girls, boys, SEN and those displaying harmful sexual behaviours. We support school staff through teacher training and our CSE Champions programme.

Consultation & training packages to children's homes and private fostering agencies – We provide tailored packages of support, including reflective practice discussion groups and training modules.

Community engagement and awareness raising campaigns – we raise awareness of CSE in our local communities and deliver campaigns, e.g. WiSE Up – our Night Time Economy (NTE) campaign.

Research – Undertaking research to raise awareness and understanding of CSE.

4. Introduction

This report presents the findings of a six month research and scoping study undertaken by the WiSE Boys and Young Men’s Development Worker. This study was funded by the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner.

Whilst there have been many national reports and inquiries into CSE, these have primarily focused on girls, whilst acknowledging that boys are victims too but that comparatively little is known.

The Children’s Commissioner Report “If only someone had listened” 2013 stated “Boys too often remain invisible victims, as the assumption is that only girls are subjected to these assaults. We have spoken with victims who begged for help and no one listened or took the actions necessary to meet their needs.”

Children and young people irrespective of gender are unlikely to make outright disclosures that they’re being sexually exploited and boys and young men are thought to experience additional barriers in reporting sexual exploitation which will be explored within this report. It is therefore crucial that professionals working with children and young people and the wider public are aware that sexual exploitation affects boys and young men and there are mechanisms in place to identify those who are at risk of, or experiencing sexual exploitation and adequately safeguard them.

Tipping The Iceberg – A pan Sussex study of young people at risk of sexual exploitation and trafficking 2007 stated “sexual exploitation of boys and young men was described as a hidden problem”. This report will look at whether this remains the case in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex and what progress had been made in the multi-agency response to the needs of boys of young men as potential victims of CSE.

4.1 Aims

- To understand what sexual exploitation of boys and young men looks like in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.
- To identify what knowledge people (young people, adults and professionals) have of sexual exploitation and how boys and young men are affected.

- To identify reasons why boys and young men are not being identified as potential victims of sexual exploitation.
- To identify what barriers there are for people to report suspected exploitation of boys and young men.
- To establish if the boys and young men who have been identified as victims of sexual exploitation, could have been identified earlier and what lessons can be learnt to identify other potential victims at the earliest opportunity.
- To capture the voice of victims and what would have helped prevent/helped them to report, or helped them escape their exploitation at an earlier stage.
- To identify positive and negative practices among professional in identifying and working with boys and young men who may be at risk of sexual exploitation.
- To make recommendations for improving services to prevent, detect and support boys and young men affected by sexual exploitation.

4.2 Definitions

Child Sexual Exploitation CSE

There are varying definitions of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) available but the current statutory definition as defined by The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People, 2008 is:

'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.'

However the government launched a consultation in February 2016 to propose changing the statutory definition to the following:

'Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status. Consent is irrelevant, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and may occur online.'

Grooming

"Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse or exploitation. Children and young people can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age. Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed, or that what has happened is abuse."

Consent

Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 74 defines consent as 'if he agrees by choice, and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice'. Crown Prosecution Service guidance Sexual Offences Act 1956 state that lack of consent may be demonstrated by:

- The complainant's assertion of force or threats;
- Evidence that by reason of drink, drugs, sleep, age or mental disability the complainant was unaware of what was occurring and/ or incapable of giving valid consent; or
- Evidence that the complainant was deceived as to the identity of the person with whom (s)he had intercourse.

A boy or girl under the age of 16 cannot consent in law, (Archbold 2004, 20-152).

The law does not allow a person's consent to sexual activity to have effect in the following situations:

- where the person giving consent did not understand what was happening and so could not give informed consent, for example in the case of a child or someone suffering from a severe mental disability;
- where the person giving consent was under the relevant age of consent.



4.3 Models of CSE

There are no statutory defined models of CSE as sexual exploitation can occur in a wide range of settings and victim's experiences may not neatly mimic a model, and indeed they may experience multiple forms of sexual exploitation. Services have however adopted the following terms to help explain some of the different forms in which sexual exploitation may occur:

Inappropriate relationship model

These usually involve one offender who has inappropriate power or control over a young person (physical, emotional or financial). One indicator may be a significant age gap. The young person may believe they are in a loving relationship.

Relationship/Grooming model (also known as boyfriend or boyfriend/girlfriend model)

The offender befriends and grooms a young person into a 'relationship', the relationship becomes abusive and then coerces or forces them to have sex with friends or associates. The boyfriend may be significantly older than the victim, but not always. Services have reported a rise in peer exploitation where young people are forced or coerced into sexual activity by peers and associates.

Organised or networked sexual exploitation or trafficking

Young people are passed through networks, possibly over geographical distances, between towns and cities where they may be forced/coerced into sexual activity with multiple men. Often this occurs at 'parties' and young people who are involved may recruit others into the network. Some of this activity is described as serious organised crime and can involve the organised 'buying and selling' of young people by offenders, and can involve the National Crime Agency. High profile cases reported in national media: Rochdale, Derby, ongoing Oxford case.

Online

Targeting, befriending and grooming takes place over the internet, mobile phone and/or through social media. CSE can occur online without the young person realising it. Young people may believe they are talking to someone of similar age, but this isn't always the case. Young people may be convinced to post photographs or videos of themselves online, or the young person may be coerced into exposing themselves without the knowledge that the offender is recording. These images may then be used to blackmail the young person often by using threats of

violence or coercion in continuing to send further images or videos or used to persuade them to meet offline.

Gang related

There is still limited understanding of gang models in child sexual exploitation. This can include sexual exploitation through gang initiation rituals, gang pressure or as punishment i.e. for crossing areas/boundaries, losing drugs. Gang members can also be victims themselves.

'Party Lifestyle' model

Young people are invited to a party which could take place in flats, hotels, bars, clubs and other venues. Parties are set up with the explicit intention of grooming children and young people. Grooming can take place in the course of an evening or over several parties with drinks being bought, possibly drugs given out and transport provided. Young people are often encouraged to bring friends and will often go in groups, giving a perceived feeling of security and normalising behaviour. Children and young people are then told they 'owe' the organisers and need to repay the debt by engaging in sexual activity.

Taking control / Opportunistic

This may occur quickly and without any form of grooming. The offender identifies a vulnerable young person and will offer a 'reward' or payment in exchange for a sexual act(s). Occurs when a young person's choices are constrained and the young person is choosing to make the best out of their situation within their constraints, e.g. Having to perform sexual acts for the landlord/ friend/ acquaintance in order to have somewhere to live which they may consider better than being homeless.

Peer on peer sexual exploitation

Young people can be sexually exploited by people of a similar age as well as by adults, and peer-on-peer exploitation is the most frequently identified form of sexual exploitation. Peer-on-peer exploitation can occur quickly without a grooming process and young people can be at greater risk as they try and gain popularity and can result in sexual bullying. Peer-on-peer sexual exploitation can feature in any of the above described forms of exploitation. The peer may be the abuser or acting indirectly where they recruit other young people to be abused. In all cases of peer-on-peer exploitation, a power imbalance will still inform the relationship, but this inequality will not necessarily be the result of an age gap between the abuser and the abused.

5. Methodology

All research activity was completed between May and September 2016.

Working with Young Men's Health Champions

The Boys & Young Men's Development Worker worked alongside the YMCA Right Here Young Men's Health Champion's (YMHC's), a group of 16-25 year old boys who volunteer. The YMHC's received CSE awareness training before assisting on designing the online survey, and undertaking and transcribing 'vox pops' within Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.

Online Survey

The online survey was designed to scope the wider public's knowledge and opinions on the sexual exploitation of boys and young men. The survey was open for anyone aged 11 and over and questions were divided into the four subsections, which the respondent would either be asked, or would skip depending on their answer

- Questions for all
- Questions for those who identified as being aged between 11-25
- Questions for those who identified as being a parent of carer of a child aged 25 or under
- Questions for professionals who work with children and young people under 25 or in the Night Time Economy

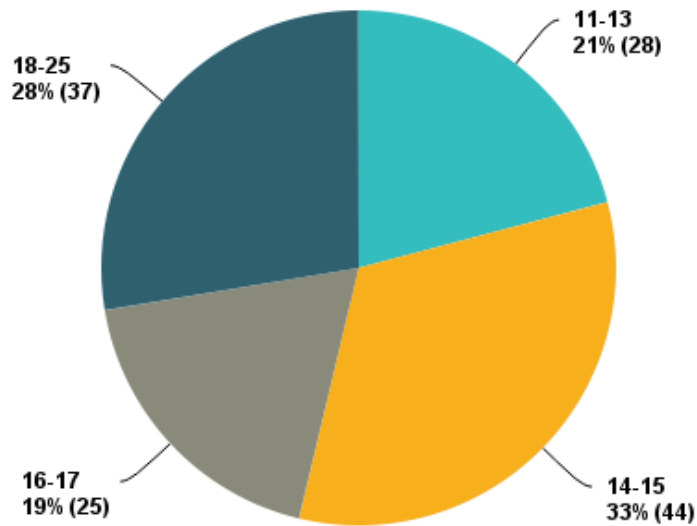
The Survey was undertaken by 1069 respondents of which:

- 38% lived in Brighton & Hove, 55% lived in East Sussex and 7% lived in another county
- 25% were aged 11-17, 10% were aged 18-25 and 65% were aged 26 and over
- Of those aged 11-25, 43% identified as male, 55% identified as female and 2% identified as unsure or another
- 38% of all respondents were a parent, guardian or carer for a child aged under 25
- Of those who identified as being a parent, guardian or carer for a child under 25, 27% identified have a girl(s) under 25, 33% identified having a boy(s) under 25, 40% identified as having both a boy(s) and a girl(s) under 25
- 50% of all respondents identified as working with children and young people under 25 or in the night time economy

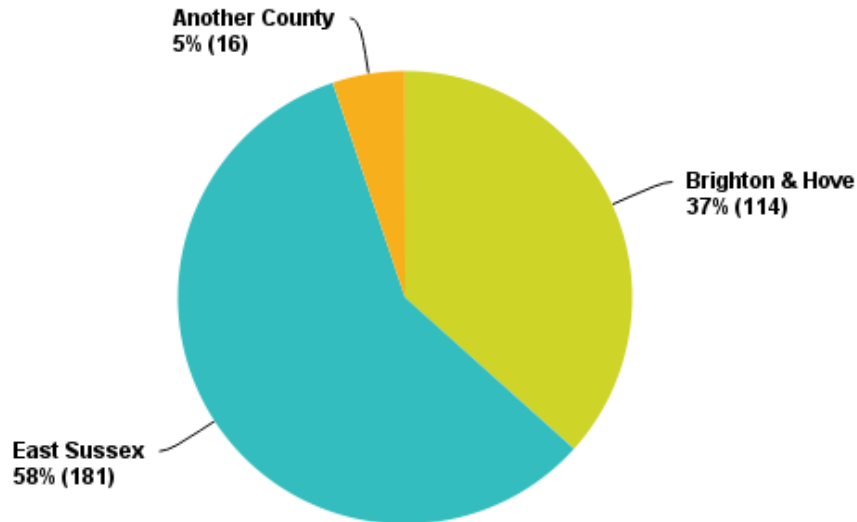


- Of those respondents who identified as working with children and young people under 25 or in the night time economy, 35% worked in Brighton & Hove, 64% in East Sussex and 6% in another county (some professionals worked across more than one locality)
- Of those respondents who identified as working with children and young people under 25 or in the night time economy, 25% identified as working within Children’s Social Care, 14% within Youth Support Services, 13% within Secondary Education and 7% within a medical profession

Ages of Boys and Young men who completed the survey



Where Children and Young People 11-25 Resided



Capturing the community voice:

In addition to data gained through the online survey, qualitative data was also gathered through the following methods:

'Vox Pops'

Members of the community in Brighton and Hove and East Sussex were selected at random in the street and if they consented, were asked a set of questions. A total of 16 'Vox Pops' interviews were conducted with 21 individuals.

A specific focus was given to those who identified as Gay, Bi-sexual or MSM:

Dukes Mound - Brighton

We conducted three outreach sessions to Dukes Mound (a public sex environment) at different times of the day. Interviews were conducted with 12 men who were frequenting the Dukes Mound area.

M Clinic - Brighton

4 men were interviewed at Claude Nicol's 'M Clinic' which is a sexual health clinic specifically for men who have sex with men. 3 of these interviews also focused on their experiences at chem sex parties.

Revenge Nightclub, Brighton

Revenge is a large gay club in Brighton centre. We interviewed 6 men between 21-29 years old, 5 of whom identified as being gay and 1 as straight.

Squirt 'Hook up' site

In response to people reporting they had been exploited on online dating/hook-up websites, we created a profile of an 18 year old boy 'Jordan' on Squirt. No messages were sent to other users, we monitored messages 'Jordan' was receiving and at no point were any replies sent.

Capturing the voice of boys and young men:

Capturing the understanding and opinions of boys and young men was a vital part of this research. In addition to the 134 who completed the online survey, 6 that took part in the vox pops and 4 who were interviewed at Revenge, we used the following methods to gain further data:

Focus Groups

Young Men's Health Champion's focus group, prior to their training, with 8 boys and young men aged 16-25

School focus group with 12 boys aged 13-14

Through outreach at 'The Level', an impromptu focus group with 10 boys and young men aged 16-25

Young Person's Clinic, Claude Nicol Centre

We placed ourselves within the Young Person's sexual health clinic at the Claude Nicol Centre where we interviewed 3 young men.

Capturing the voice of victims and their families:

Through Professionals

Professionals interviewed discussed boys and young men they had worked with who had been identified as at risk of, or a victim of sexual exploitation. Information which could identify the victim is not used in this report.

Interviews of victims

Victims interviewed included boys and young men who had previously worked with WiSE and those who disclosed having been a victim as part of interviewing in the community. In all



instances where disclosures were made, they were given details of support organisations and those 25 and under were offered assistance to access support.

Interviews of victim's families

We interviewed 2 mothers and 1 sibling of boys in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex who had been victims of child sexual exploitation.

Capturing the voice of professionals:

In addition to the capturing the views of 417 professionals working with children and young people within our online survey, we also undertook the following:

Professional Interviews

We interviewed 17 professionals who work directly with boys and young men who have identifiable vulnerabilities within Brighton & Hove and East Sussex. This included professionals working in Health, Social Care, Criminal Justice and the voluntary sector. To encourage honest reflections upon the work of individuals and their agencies, we have agreed not identify workers or agencies quoted within this report.

Professional Focus Group

A professional focus group was held to gather agencies experiences and establish the best way of engaging the gay, bisexual and MSM community. This group consisted of staff from Police, Mankind, Terrence Higgins Trust, Claude Nicol Centre and WiSE.

Door Staff Briefing

21 door staff and 4 street pastors agreed to complete a paper questionnaire at door staff briefings in Brighton. A further 2 door staff were spoken to at Revenge whilst interviewing within the club.

Police data analysis

We met with a Sussex Police Intelligence Analyst around the boys and young men section of the Sussex Police Child Sexual Exploitation in Sussex 2015-2016 report and offered feedback on the draft data set and requested additional interrogating of their data.



6. Findings

6.1 Knowledge & Understanding of CSE, Consent and Grooming

Children and young people’s understanding of CSE and grooming

We asked boys and young men what they thought CSE was and received a mixed response. Some were able to provide clear explanations, whilst others were unsure what it involved and who might be a victim.

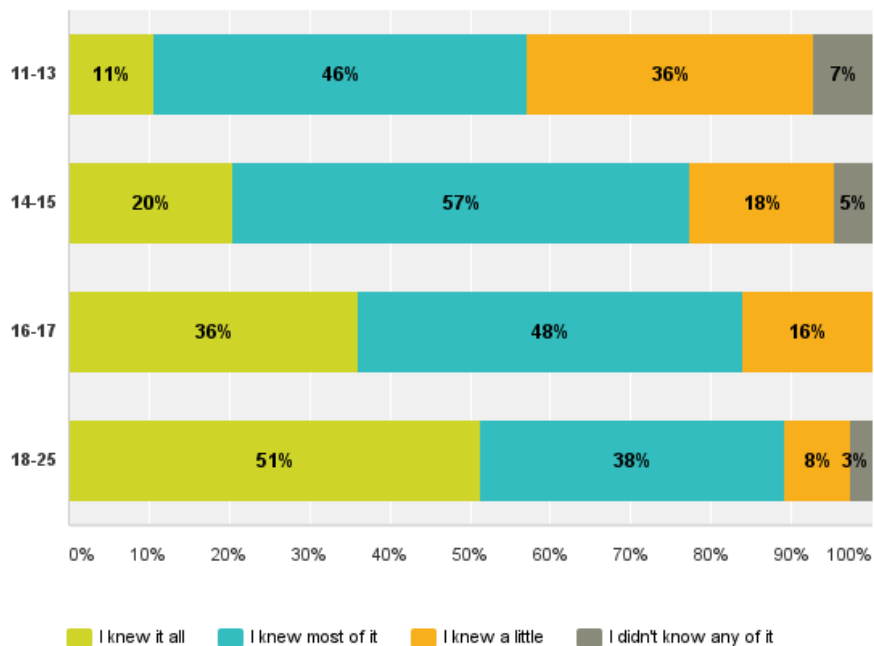
“Isn’t that something that happens to girls.” Interview of a young man

“I think it’s selling sex. A man selling a girl, like a lot in Africa, a pimp, takes her money....A woman might enter the UK and he will make her work as a prostitute.” Interview of a young man

“I dunno, to sexually harass someone who’s underage.” The Level Focus Group

When 11-25 year olds of all genders completing the online survey were asked “Do you think you know what Child Sexual Exploitation is?” 66% of respondents originally answered “Yes”, however when provided with the current CSE definition, and asked “Having read this, how much did you know before?” only 22% responded that they “Knew all of it”. 134 boys and young men completed the survey which showed that their overall understanding of CSE increased with age.

Breakdown of boys and young men’s responses by age





When asked "Before today has anyone explained to you what sexual exploitation is?" 22% of all boys and young men responded "no" with 33% of 11-13 year old boys responding that no one had explained what sexual exploitation was to them.

The school focus group were asked their opinion on the existing definition of CSE, which they concluded that it was too long and complex for children and young people to understand. They were asked to write their own definition in groups and created the following:

"CSE is the act of making people perform sexual acts which is unwanted"

"When someone vulnerable is manipulated so they can be used sexually"

"The use of a youth for wrong and immoral purposes"

A male victim of CSE was asked to create a definition based on his knowledge and experiences:

"Exploitation is something that happens when they take advantage of you in a way which isn't at first obvious, you might realise when so much has happened you can't go back in what you were doing"

25% of boys and young men surveyed reported they had known nothing, or very little about grooming after being provided with the definition.

Children and young people's understanding of consent

There were mixed responses from boys and young men as to whether they've seen anything on consent but they unanimously agreed any media they had seen placed the onus of asking for sexual consent within a heterosexual relationship on the male and implied that consent is something for the females to give. No one reported having ever seen any media involving a same-sex couple or of woman asking for consent. When asked what they thought consent was:

"Legal age is 15" School focus group with boys

"Wanting something and being happy with doing something" School focus group with boys

"Being allowed to, the age of consent" School focus group with boys

"When somebody 100% is happy to have sex or relations out of your own choice" Interview with a young man

Many considered being legally old enough as the only requisite to sexual consent. The vast majority were aware the legal age at which you can give sexual consent is 16, however a few were unsure. Without prompting, no one gave consideration as to how you would negotiate consent with your partner and when asked how they would negotiate this, the vast majority did not know. There were many comments of presumed consent including:

"Because I asked her to come back to mine...she could have gone home" Focus Group The Level

"If she's there, I know" Focus Group The Level

"You're my girlfriend.....everyone has sex in a relationship" Focus Group The Level

"A lot of people get drunk too quick. They are not in a position to consent, it's taken for granted the consent, it's just assumed" Young man interview, Revenge

There was a greater understanding of what would prevent someone being able to give consent with boys and young men stating the following:

"Blackmail"

"Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol"

"Need something and has no choice like if they'd been kicked out of home"

"Learning needs"

"Not being emotionally sane"

"If a girl's drunk and I'm sober, go home, if she remembers my name call me when you're sober"

Community understanding of CSE, Consent and Grooming

86% of people aged 26 and over who completed the online survey thought they knew what sexual exploitation was, only 48% identified 'I knew it all' when presented with the definition.

92% of those aged 26 and over completing the online survey thought they knew what grooming was, only 70% identified 'I knew it all' when provided the definition of grooming.

The high number of respondents who identified knowing what CSE and grooming was as part of the survey was not reflected during interviews.

When asked to describe CSE and how it may occur, the majority of respondents stated they "can't" or comments to similar affect. A reflective sample of those that did try to describe CSE stated the following:



"A young person having to be doing stuff, or do stuff against their will. Something they don't really want to do"

"Raping children"

"They're like being touched and shit. Touched inappropriately"

"Like abducting kids"

Less than half were able to provide examples of where they think sexual exploitation may occur, with the internet being the most commonly described model and few were able to describe more than one potential model. Most considered force to be involved in CSE with only 18% of those interviewed describing a scenario which involved grooming:

"Where you kinda get lured in via gifts...being led into a false sense of security through things that at the beginning seem fun and entertaining, but when you look into it become quite not what it seems." Vox Pop interview

Many members of the community voiced that even if a young person was under the legal age of sexual consent (16), but mature, they considered this to be sufficient to provide consent, even if there were a significant age gap. Some struggled to comprehend why an age gap would present an imbalance of power and how this may constitute sexual exploitation. Most believed that if a child or young person had willingly consented to sexual activity, sexual exploitation had not taken place. However when posed the question "Can a young person consent if they've been groomed" the vast majority acknowledged that this would not be possible, with a few still descending.

Professionals understanding of CSE

90% of professionals surveyed reported they knew what Child Sexual Exploitation was, however when provided with the definition, only 52% reported 'I knew it all.'

During professional interviews, all interviewees were able to describe child sexual exploitation to some degree and recognised that grooming is often involved. However most professionals struggled to identify more than two-three models of sexual exploitation with the most frequently described models being grooming, inappropriate relationships and online. Few identified peer-on-peer exploitation.



6.2 Perceptions

The vast majority of boys and young men interviewed began describing scenarios involving female victims and male perpetrators when asked to consider how sexual exploitation occurs. When questioned "Do you think it happens to boys", after some pondering everyone acknowledged it probably does but that it wasn't something they'd heard of before.

The community response was similar in that it is something they acknowledged "must go on" but something they had generally not heard of before. However some considered force to be required in sexual exploitation and thus struggled to comprehend that a boy may be sexually exploited.

"You can't rape a boy; you can't force a boy to have sex"

"Boys can't be exploited because you can't force them to get a hard on"

Boys were considered by many to be more likely to be seen as perpetrators rather than victims of CSE *"...boys definitely do that, a bit more predatory, rather than likely to be targeted, they're the ones doing the targeting"*

Perceptions of Perpetrators

Children and young people surveyed considered the following persons most likely to exploit boys in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex (1 being most likely and 8 being least likely):

1. Strangers met online – 84%
2. An Older Man – 71%
3. An Older Woman 61%
4. Gangs – 55%
5. Strangers met in a public place – 52%
6. A Partner (boyfriend/girlfriend) – 47%
7. A professional in a position of trust 35%
8. Friends the same age – 19%

Those surveyed aged 26 and over considered the following persons most likely to exploit boys in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex (1 being most likely and 8 being least likely):

1. Strangers met online – 92%
2. An Older Man – 88%
3. Strangers met in a public place – 73%
4. An Older Woman – 71%
5. A Partner (boyfriend/girlfriend) – 63%
6. Gangs – 62%
7. A professional in a position of trust – 55%
8. Friends the same age – 39%

Both children and adults thought it more likely that sexual exploitation would be perpetrated by a male and that “men tend to be more sexually aggressive than women” was one of the reasons given for this rationale.

“If a woman’s taking advantage of you, you’re wet” The Level Focus Group

“You need to be sexually into that, you need to get hard, unless she’s spiked you Viagra” The Level Focus Group

Boys and young men at The Level felt that sexuality of the perpetrator would be important and that boys are more likely to be exploited by gay men:

“Guys think they’d be exploited by a guy if he’s gay. As a straight man, I’m just gonna think that about a gay guy”

When interviewing men who identified as being gay, bi-sexual or MSM, many externalised people working in children’s home, ‘the church’, schools and family members as being likely perpetrators of sexual exploitation of boys and young men. When asked to think of how sexual exploitation of boys and young men may occur within their communities, a range of views were elicited but a reoccurring response was older men having relationships from casual sex to long-term relationships with boys and young men who would be significantly younger than themselves:

“Someone younger who’s quite desperate, I think they’re more likely to go with an older man”

Perceptions of Locations

Children and young people surveyed considered sexual exploitation of boys and young men to most likely occur at the following locations in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex (1 being most likely and 8 being least likely):

1. Online – 83%
2. Parties 76%
3. In strangers houses – 74%
4. Night clubs – 68%
5. Parks – 49%
6. In the streets – 46%
7. In friend’s houses – 45%
8. Beaches – 35%
9. Hotels – 35%

Those surveyed aged 26 and over considered sexual exploitation of boys and young men most likely to occur at the following locations in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex (1 being most likely and 8 being least likely):

1. Online – 95%
2. Parties 87%
3. In friend’s houses – 87%
4. Parks – 86%
5. In strangers houses – 83%
6. Beaches – 81%
7. In the streets – 79%
8. Night Clubs – 78%
9. Hotels - 72%

Dukes Mound was a specific location both professionals and the community identified as a place where they thought boys and young were likely to be sexually exploited.

6.3 Evidence of sexual exploitation of boys and young men

Existing research

- A 2005 study conducted by the U.S. Centre for Disease Control reported that 1 in 6 (16% of males) had been victims of abusive sexual experiences before age 18, and that this is possibly a low estimate since it does not include non-contact experiences.
- Barnardo's "Research on the sexual exploitation of boys & young men: a UK scoping strategy – summary of findings" 2014 found between 11-29% of victims of child sexual exploitation were male.

Sussex Police Data

Sussex Police have analysed their crime data and found that in 2015, 11 offences relating to CSE had been recorded which involved a male victims under the age of 18 and a non-familial perpetrator. 9 of the 11 crimes involved a blackmail (sextortion) offence. Males accounted for 22% of victims of CSE recorded crime in 2015 in Sussex. Sussex Police data indicated that boys were more likely to be a victim of offline CSE at a younger age than girls.

However, this data may not be an accurate indicator of reported CSE related crimes as Sussex Police acknowledged that many sexual crimes may not have been flagged correctly, and the actual number of male CSE victims may be significantly higher. Sussex Police recorded there were 38 rape offences recorded in 2015 which involved a male victim under the age of 18 and a non-familial perpetrator. Half of these occurred in 2015 and over 42% occurred over a decade ago.

A further 120 offences of sexual assault or sexual activity were recorded by Sussex Police in 2015 which involved a male victim under the age of 18 and a non-familial perpetrator. 43% of these occurred in 2015 with remaining 57% occurring pre-2015. 43% of offences recorded in 2015 occurred over a decade ago.

Whilst all 11 boys and young men open to Op Kite in February 2016 were as a result of suspected sexual exploitation involving a male perpetrator, 3 of these victims had intelligence recorded on NICHE suggesting they may have previously been a victim of CSE which involved a female perpetrator.

Sussex Police reported that of suspects recorded for sexual offences against males under 18, 8% were female, 92% were males and 32% were also under 18 years of age themselves. These figures do not necessarily represent a true picture of perpetrator as it relies on accurate identification of CSE victims and perpetrators, which may be biased by gender and age of both.

Intelligence was passed to the Police by a professional who had concerns about a member of the public who was regularly giving gifts to 2 young homeless males. However it later transpired that this intelligence had not been recorded on any police systems or any CSE markers applied to the potential perpetrator or victims.

In 2015, Sussex Police recorded 281 boys under the age of 18 had been reported missing throughout Sussex. Boys accounted for 43% of missing episodes of under 18's and girl accounting for 57%; however only 2 boys had CSE markers applied following a Return Home Interview or debrief by the Police, compared to 85 girls.

Disparity between recorded crime and referrals to WiSE

Boys and young men account for 6% of referrals received in Brighton & Hove and 10% of referrals received in East Sussex by WiSE requesting either direct support or professional consultations. Whilst boys and young men make up on average 9% of referrals to WiSE, there is a significant difference between this and the 22% of CSE offences recorded by Sussex Police. One theory for this difference is agencies are more likely to refer females who they identify to be vulnerable and at risk of sexual exploitation so that a preventative intervention can take place, whilst all boys referred were already known to have been victims of sexual exploitation, suggesting agency threshold for referring boys is higher than with girls.

Reported incidents of sexual exploitation by model

The following CSE models include brief summaries of CSE against boys and young men which were disclosed to the research team by professionals who have worked directly with male victims of CSE, or perpetrators of CSE, or directly from victims themselves:

Peer-on-peer

- A local survey found that 11% of KS4 boys surveyed reported they had experience unwanted sexual touching in school. This compares to 16% of girls and 27% of those who identify as another gender. Whilst this does not necessarily constitute sexual

exploitation, this does evidence the prevalence of sexual assaults against boys by their peers.

- Sussex Police reported that 32% of suspects recorded for sexual offences against young males under 18, were also under 18 years of age themselves. Whilst this figure may include some age appropriate and 'consensual' sexual activity, it is indicative of peer-on-peer exploitation.
- Gangs – there is a disparity among professionals about whether gangs formed in Sussex exist, but it is widely accepted that there is a regular presence of gangs from London involving Sussex children in drug dealing. Whilst most concerns raised about sexual exploitation from these gangs have been for female victims, there is evidence of boys being sexually exploited by gangs in London, often as a form of punishment or humiliation.

Relationship/Grooming/Boyfriend

- A perpetrator befriended and groomed parents of a 9 year old boy over 3-4 months. Having built up the trust of the parents, the boy was allowed to stay at the man's address where he was a victim of sexual abuse. The boy was given money and attention.
- A perpetrator groomed a teenage boy and started sexually exploiting the boy himself before introducing the child to his boyfriend who also sexually abused him.

Online

- A 14 year old boy who was unsure about his sexuality joined Grindr. He began talking to a man who he believed to be 18-20 and they arranged to meet. The man who picked him up looked to be "about 60" but the boy agreed to give him oral sex because he "didn't know what else to do".
- A 13 year old boy joined an LGBT group on Facebook, his profile was open and his personal details available on his profile. He began receiving lots of messages and indecent pictures from unknown men and responded to some of the men with indecent images of himself.
- Police recorded 9 sextortion crimes in 2015 where boys were talking to persons they believed to be female and were coerced into shared indecent images. The offenders then used these images to blackmail the boys for money, requesting for amounts ranging

from £50-£5,500 to be sent across the world. In some instances where these demands were not met, these images were shared on social media and posted online.

Inappropriate Relationship Model

- A 13 year old boy joined an LGBT group on Facebook, his profile was open and his personal details available on his profile. One man began messaging and grooming the boy online. The perpetrator stated he was 18, but later turned out to be 28. The boy believed he was in a relationship with this man and agreed to meet him, where he performed oral sex on the man.
- A boy with learning difficulties was approached in a public place by an older man previously unknown to him. Over time this man befriended and groomed him with gifts such as cigarettes and money, and then sexually abused him.
- A 75 year old man entered into a relationship with an 18 year old young man who had just been ostracised by his family and subsequently became homeless for 'coming out'.

Taking Control / Opportunistic

- A man in his 50's would approach homeless teenage boys and allow them to stay at his property in exchange for sex.
- Boys would approach men at Dukes Mound and exchange sexual acts for cash or drugs. The boys would often travel to Dukes Mound with their friends. Some of the boys identify as being heterosexual.
- A young man wanting drugs agreed to exchange sex for drugs with his dealer. The dealer overdosed him and tied the young man down to a bed in a hotel where numerous men proceeded to enter the room and rape him whilst he was unconscious.
- A homeless young man contacted a man on an LGBT B&B website offering sex in exchange for somewhere to stay.

Parties

- There are reports of boys as young as 16 attending chem sex parties. Young men have been given free drugs at chem sex parties, sometimes by the host so that they feel 'obliged' to have sex with that person. There are reports of young men, usually new to chem sex parties, being 'put under' by giving them too much G resulting in them becoming unconscious. Sexual acts are then performed whilst they don't have the

capacity to consent and they usually remember nothing when they gain consciousness. Videos of the parties are sometimes filmed and uploaded to pornography sites without the participant knowing. (More findings on chem sex parties can be found in Section 9.2)

6.4 Dukes Mound as a location

Dukes Mound (a.k.a. 'the bushes') is a long established public sex environment for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and was identified as a location where both professionals and the community think sexual exploitation of boys and young men is likely to occur, including by those who frequent the area.

"This place [Dukes Mound] is a cruising ground...there were some Police around about a year ago who were looking for a young guy. Although I've never seen anyone young, but my instinct is to say these places could be potential places for exploitation."

One man estimated the age range of those visiting Duke mound to be 18-60 and when asked what he thought attracted the 'younger ones' to the area he stated *"some of them might be on drugs. They rely on drugs and I think they might sell themselves for a bag of weed or whatever you know...we just explain to them...this is a cruising area for gay people and not for your body to rent, if you want to do something do it somewhere else, not round here because this is a popular area, we don't want a bad name"*.

One young man we interviewed reported that his first experience of injecting drugs was at Dukes Mound, where someone he didn't know injected him. Another man stated that drug use at Dukes Mound was prevalent and that he himself had been spiked with ketamine whilst there and seen someone unconscious having taken G.

Op Crossroads was a Sussex Police operation which was instigated following reports that boys and young men between the ages 13-19 were exchanging sexual acts for money in the area. Whilst most users we spoke to reported an awareness of historic incidences of sexual exploitation of boys and young men occurring at Dukes Mound, many were insistent that no young people continue to frequent there. However we did receive contradictory reports, that young people continuing to be seen there, including a report that a 16/17 year old who was *"off his head on drugs...seeking someone to take him home for the night"* just weeks before.

There was a mixed response from users of Dukes Mount about their experience of Police patrolling the area with some viewing it as a negative and others feeling it helped make it a safer place and wanted an increased Police presence there. However the consensus was that they valued Police informing them why they were there when they were searching for missing boys and young men.

However the majority of users of Dukes Mound demonstrated a general lack of understanding of sexual exploitation and did not consider the boys and young men who use the area may be vulnerable, expressing that it was their choice to go to Dukes Mound and they go there for a reason. Boys and young men having sex with significantly older men was thought of as acceptable to most users.

People also spoke about missing children and young people ending up at Dukes Mound *"There's people down here who runs away from homes...they're not allowed down here because we say they might get raped, they might get mugged."*

"We've had a couple of, from Manchester running away, kids running away... we knew straight away, the new ones on the block... and you don't go up to them straight away, you don't frighten them, but you make friends and you make contacts and you get their information, why they run away and then you get a picture in your brain and you go 'right let me do something'. We've had a couple of people like that."

And when asked how he responded to the missing young person:

"Just give them some assurance, to go back or else ring authority up, Childline or whatever, and let them be involved. The maturity of the people that comes down here, some of them are a bit timid, they don't tell their names...it's just catch 22 really...but we don't want people like that down here. In fact in the last 3 or 4 years we did have one from Wakefield, and we thought he were 20 year old and he went day by day and then found he were 14 year old. So, you know, we stopped that...we had to ring the police. We had to do it...we didn't want to but we had to."

In 2015 Police located 2 Brighton & Hove missing boys at Dukes Mound, however, the number of missing people from outside of Sussex located there is unknown as found locations would be recorded on the reporting missing force database. It is difficult to assess whether Dukes Mound is a destination point for missing people from outside of Sussex whilst missing in Brighton, but we received anecdotal reports of boys from London, Manchester and Wakefield going there.

The sexual exploitation of boys & young men at Dukes Mound was highlighted in Barnardo's 'Tipping the Iceberg' back in 2007, and researches from the YMCA and University of Brighton also evidenced homeless boys and young men exchanging sex for money and accommodation at Dukes Mound in the 2006 'Out on my Own' report. Users of Dukes Mound reported an awareness of various incidents of child sexual exploitation dating back over the past 20 years.

Over the past 20 years an outreach van was commissioned to deliver sexual health and HIV prevention interventions at Dukes Mound several nights a week. This provision has recently been withdrawn with Terrance Higgins Trust now only able to provide on-foot detached outreach twice per month. This reduces the opportunity for services to identify any CSE concerns at Dukes Mound, and for the Dukes Mound community to access support. During our interviews at Dukes Mound, 8 out of 12 men disclosed to us that they had experienced sexual abuse either in childhood or adulthood. No men were asked about their experiences, but just through our discourse, they willingly disclosed, suggesting that increased open dialogue with Dukes Mound users about sexual exploitation and violence may result in disclosure and the opportunity for them to be signposted to support.

6.5 Vulnerabilities of Boys & Young Men

When asked "Who do you think is more vulnerable" as part of our online survey, 22% of all respondents stated that 'Girls are more vulnerable than boys' and 75% stated 'Girls and boys are vulnerable the same. However boys and young men were most likely to consider girls more vulnerable with 43% stating that girls are more vulnerable, whilst 4% felt that boys were more vulnerable than girls.

Whilst many people we interviewed during our 'vox pops' were initially of the view that girls are more vulnerable than boys to sexual exploitation, once they were asked to consider why and think what might make a boy or young man vulnerable, they quickly acknowledged that there were many similarities between boys and girls. This simple discourse allowed the public to reconsider their views.

Boys completing the online survey were more likely to consider physical strength as a key factor in determining someone's vulnerability and provided the following examples:

"Because girls are physically weaker"



"Because girls could get raped"

"Although typically it would be seen as 'sexist' to say so, it is common knowledge that women are more vulnerable than men as most men are able to control a woman by physical strength"

"Because when a boy hits the age of 16-17 they physically mature and are able to defend themselves from predators"

However some boys recognised this is a misconception, often reinforced by media, that girls are more vulnerable than boys:

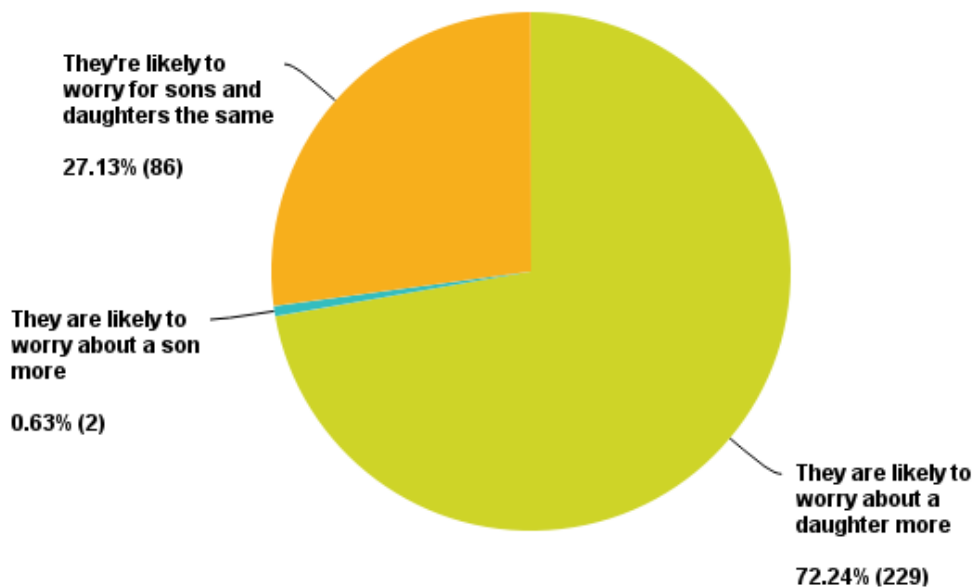
"Because of the many examples in the media, girls seem to be featured in exploitation much more but boys are still at risk" Boy, online survey

Adults who were 26 years and over were more likely to identify equal gender vulnerabilities with 85% identifying boys and girls as equally vulnerable.

Parents of children and young people 25 and under were asked 'Do you think parents/carers are likely to worry about their sons being sexually exploited as much as a daughter?' and 72% responded 'They are likely to worry about a daughter more.'



Responses of parents and carers of children and young people 25 and under to “Do you think parents/carers are likely to worry about their sons being sexually exploited as much as a daughter?”



During the survey people were given a range of scenarios and asked to state how worried they would be. They were first asked scenario's involving girls, and then the same scenarios involving boys. Respondents were generally only slightly more worried about girls in most scenarios. Where the survey highlighted a significant difference, was that 70% stated they would be extremely worried if they saw a 'girl getting into a car with an unknown man', whilst only 56% stated they would be extremely worried if they saw a 'boy getting into a car with an unknown man'.

During interviews with boys and young men, the public and professionals, they were asked to consider what might make a boy or young man vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Most demonstrated good insight into potential vulnerabilities and were able to generate a considerable list, with homelessness and substance use considered as the greatest vulnerability.

Men interviewed who themselves identified as being gay, highlighted that being unsure of your sexuality or unable to disclose being gay, would make them additionally vulnerable. Many people identified that although Brighton is considered an inclusive, gay friendly city; this doesn't remove the barriers many experience in disclosing that they're gay or questioning their sexuality. Many felt that there are lots of stereotypes that "all gay men cheat and gay men just hook-up" and messages around healthy gay relationships are rarely portrayed. "On almost

every bus stop at the moment is a Squirt advert saying hook up with gay men now. If I was walking along the street as a gay teenager, I know that I would assume that's what gay men do; they hook-up, they don't look for a relationship".

Some boys and young men interviewed described accessing dating apps such as Grindr and Squirt to explore their sexuality before coming out to others. They reported having received numerous messages from usually significantly older men offering money in exchange for sexual activity or images, and having received messages from men who were not who they said they were. One young man disclosed at the age of 14 he arranged to meet a man he believed to be no older than 20, but transpired to be approximately 60, and was coerced into performing oral sex.

Another young man interviewed at Revenge said *"On Grindr, [there are] guys who are confused. I've heard of cases on Grindr as young as 13 creating fake profiles."* A member of staff at Revenge said *"A few of my regulars are defined as 'twinks', and don't work but are always in here and they're selling photos of themselves to older men."*

A survey on social media experiences conducted at Allsorts LGBTU youth project, on our behalf for this research, found that 38% of respondents received unwanted sexual images and 43% had been asked to share images or videos of a sexual nature online.

In response to people reporting their experiences on apps such as Grindr and Squirt, we created a profile for a supposed 18 year old boy on Squirt and we monitored messaged he received. A total of 73 messaged were received by men claiming to be aged between 19 -57, 85% of which were over the age of 30.

"If you Skype, face time or Cam then I will Ping you £100. If you could come to Hastings today around 1pm then £200 on offer to suck and rim you" 51 year old man

"Hey kid....Looking for a real barebacking leather daddy into hardcore SM?" 50 year old man

"Hope you ain't offended but I am looking for sex with hot sexy blokes like you and happy to pay" 47 year old man

Victims' identification of their vulnerabilities

We asked the boys and young men we interviewed who had been victims of sexual exploitation what they considered their vulnerabilities to be at the time of their exploitation:

"At 13 you're in your teenage years, changing the most, hormonal, people are going to explore new things"

"I had been bullied so was home schooled"

"I had Asperger's"

"Broken family"

"Victim of bullying"

"ADHD"

"History of mental health difficulties including self-harming"

"Witnessed domestic abuse at home"

"I felt so lonely, I didn't have any friends....I was battling with depression"

"No one knew I was gay"

Families and professionals working with victims identified the following additional vulnerabilities:

"He had a learning disability"

"Adopted"

"Authoritative relationship with parents, he didn't have that experience of being able to say things"

"The need for material goods, money or drugs"

"He trusted people"

6.6 Risk Indicators

Most of the public struggled to think what signs there may be if a boy or young man was being sexually exploited, some identified "withdrawn" or "change in behaviour" whilst others believed "you would just know".

Other young people who often spend prolonged periods of time with their peers may be in a prime position to notice changes and recognise indicators, but without an understanding of CSE, the likelihood of this is reduced. Reporting or 'Grassing' is often considered in a negative

context and young people need to have the confidence to report something if they are concerned.

The victims we spoke to explained they never instigated any disclosures, but disclosed when someone started questioning them about a change in behaviour or another sign. Victims identified the following signs and incidents which prompted someone to enquire which led to their disclosures:

"I had love bites"

"My mum looked at my phone and saw the messages"

"I forgot to lock my phone and mum saw a message pop up.....she told the Police"

A mother stated her concerns were raised when: *"He wasn't coming home after school, we didn't know where he was; then he called from this man's phone."*

Recognising Indicators from a professional capacity

When asked 'Do you think your organisation is identifying boys and young men who are at risk of sexual exploitation at the earliest stage possible', 23% of all professionals responded 'Yes', 16% responded 'No' and 61% responded 'Not sure'.

During professional interviews, they identified the following reasons why agencies, including their own, are failing to recognise the signs of CSE when involving boys and young men:

"With boys it's swept under the carpet, not deliberately, I think people don't see them as the same vulnerabilities as girls".

"People think of gifts, trainers, but it more commonly love and affection, especially if they're missing that at home".

"How can you get drugs and alcohol when you're 13...how are you paying for it....even cigarettes, you have to stand outside the shop and ask someone to buy them for you".

"We work a lot with the exploited girls but don't think enough about working with the exploiting boys who have been exploited themselves in terms of the gang sort of stuff....there was a thinking it's only in London that gangs happen but we are really recognising there is a south coast issue going on".

"If it was a girl who was missing for x hours people would see it but people think he'll keep himself safe, he'll be alright".

Many professionals interviewed who work with vulnerable young people hadn't questioned how they maybe affording substances and they commonly thought of it as offending behaviour rather than it triggering their professional curiosity and being a possible indicator of exploitation. Smoking cigarettes was thought to be relatively common place for young people within certain vulnerable groups and most had not considered the expense involved and difficulties in purchasing them which may involve approaching strangers outside shops.

Professionals consider sexuality to be a key vulnerability and boys who identify as being gay or are questioning their sexuality are considered at increased risk of being sexually exploited, primarily by older gay men. Of the referrals received by WiSE for boys and young men in a 12 month period, 30% identified as straight, 30% Gay, 30% Unsure and 10% was unknown. Blast who are a specialist CSE service for boys and young men based in Yorkshire identified 1/3 of their cases identify as being gay or bisexual which is comparative to WiSE data.

Whilst the quantity of referrals for gay and bisexual boys is demographically disproportionate, this raises the question, are boys who are gay, bisexual or questioning their sexuality more at risk of sexual exploitation compared to those who identify as being straight, or are professionals more likely to identify sexual exploitation with boys they know or believed to be gay, bi-sexual or questioning?

6.7 Barriers to identifying CSE in boys and young men

Sussex Police data found that male victims who had been a victim of a sexual offence took 'notably longer' than female victims to disclose the offence to Police. Almost half of all male victims took over a year or more to report, with 47% taking a decade or longer to make their disclosure.

Survivors UK research found that male victims of a sexual offence wait on average 26 years before disclosing to anyone.

Unconscious Bias and gender stereotypes

The signs of CSE do not present as vastly different in boys and girls, but yet even professionals who have in many cases received training in recognising signs of CSE, fail to identify boys who may be at risk. Gender stereotypes exist, we are influenced by our upbringing, friends, the media and the vast majority of people will consciously or unconsciously pass gender stereotypes

at some time to some degree, even though they may value gender equality. The first step in changing our practice is recognising and accepting that we have an unconscious bias and that by being aware of this, we are able to challenge our beliefs and decisions. Many who completed the online survey reported that it challenged their perceptions, raised their awareness and some even went on to identify boys who were at risk of CSE.

Victim's reasons for not disclosing

Many victims of CSE do not recognise that they are being exploited or considered that they were consenting to their exploitation. This was true for all the victims we spoke to, but despite not recognising it, they felt the need to conceal their relationships from those around them, knowing they would not approve. The victims we interviewed identified the following barriers in disclosing their abuse:

"I didn't want to upset my parents in anyway"

"I have Asperger's, don't like talking to people I don't know or trust"

"I didn't want to be in trouble.....thought I'd be arrested"

"I didn't want to say shit, I was so embarrassed"

"I thought he loved me"

"My mate wont go to the Police because everyone thinks he's straight, he's gay but doesn't want to come out, he's so embarrassed"

"People knowing you're gay"

"Flashbacks"

"It's just not easy to say"

"I wouldn't have told teachers anything"

"I didn't like hurting my family and I think telling my mum would have hurt her so much so I kept it to myself"

"I didn't recognise it"

Interestingly an additional barrier to disclosure was cited as being the fear of the gain being lost: *"Someone who is exploiting a young person, or someone who is giving them things such as alcohol or drugs or money, and they'd be fearful of that being withdrawn."*

Barriers for public reporting concerns

During interviews members of the public disclosed occasions where they were worried about a child, but didn't report it.

"I was really shocked, I didn't know what to do. I didn't do anything in the end, I just left."
when describing seeing an adult "pimping" his supposed 10 year old son at Dukes Mound 10 years ago.

"I don't know who I'd let know, whether it would be the police or what, it's my word against theirs....they might think I made it up."

Fear of not being believed or being judged was more prevalent within the MSM community, with others who had passed on concerns having done so through substance misuse or sexual health services rather than directly to the Police.

Some members of the public we approached to interview declined because it was "deep" or an issue they shouldn't concern themselves with and "some things are better left alone" occasionally relaying beliefs that CSE isn't a community issue.

Families of Victims

The families we interviewed spoke about the impact of the exploitation on the whole family.

"This has made him [victim] really angry; he's just really angry towards all of us"

"He didn't know how to cope with it...he kept running away"

"This has been 2 years of hell"

The parents disclosed how they had felt unable to turn to even close friends and family for support for fear they wouldn't understand or would judge them; instead they tried to cope alone. However they thought this would not have been so much of an issue if the victim had been female *"I wouldn't want them to judge him, I don't think people know it happens to boys as well as girls"*. There was a general fear of services becoming involved and feeling judged by them; that they should have been able to stop or prevent it.

"We got judged at the beginning and it wasn't us that put [him] in that situation....our world was getting turned upside down; we had to prove it wasn't us. We're not bad parents." Mother

Both families we interviewed immediately contacted Police once they recognised that their son was the likely victim of child sexual exploitation. They felt the initial response from Police was positive, but were frustrated by the lack of on-going communication whilst the investigations were undertaken, rarely ever receiving an update from the police and feeling 'forgotten about'.

They both felt aggrieved by the suspects being released back into the local area with in their opinion, insufficient bail conditions, and would have liked to have had a voice in saying what conditions would make them feel safe. This is something which was reiterated by victims, stating they would continue to see the suspect in the town and whilst no contact would be made, this was enough for them to experience a traumatic response and subsequently make them fearful to go out.

Professionals interviewed spoke about how the 'shame' of having services involved and not knowing what response they would receive from statutory services if they were to report concerns deterred some families from seeking help even though they had been worried about their child:

"The family had never had services involved before so they dealt with it on their own and dealt with it very badly. They were secretive because they'd never had services involved before."

"Because they didn't want to get him [son] in trouble, they wouldn't report him missing and he'd be gone for days and come back with gifts."

Both families reported that they hadn't felt supported by children's service. One mother had received phone support from Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE) and found it helpful to have someone to "rant at" on the phone, but would have like someone local who could "help talk on my behalf" with statutory services and "have a tea and coffee with"; "someone who knows the ins and outs of that sort of thing [CSE]".

Professionals

Professionals reported frequent barriers when working with other agencies and how they often didn't recognise that boys could be victims of CSE and share the concerns that the boys and young men they are working with are at risk.

"I get infuriated constantly by the lack of professional understanding of CSE and boys. They are definitely identified much later along the grooming continuum and there is a confusion about how to intervene that is not so present now with females. I often have to spell out that if this was a girl you would be acting much more quickly and decisively. Some individuals are better than others. There is a reluctance 'to go there' potentially because of embarrassment, shame, lack of knowledge or because the boys or young men deny anything is happening".

The propensity to see boys and young men as perpetrators rather than victims was a reoccurring issue, especially when they may also be displaying harmful sexual behaviours themselves and recognising the complexities of someone being a victim and possible perpetrator concurrently.

"There appears to be much more of a willingness to see boys and young men as perpetrators and commonly a lack of understanding of the victim/perpetrator overlap. Boys and young men are just as susceptible to grooming behaviour particularly being told they are loved and cared for."

On occasions professionals have appeared to struggle to comprehend that even where a child believes they are consenting to sexual activity, a child cannot consent to their own abuse. Some have seen this as a particular grey area when a child is 16 or over, and legally old enough to consent to sexual activity. Professionals have also rationalised that teenage boys who are involved in sexual activity with other males are exploring their sexuality rather than being abused, and a presumption that boys and young men who are exploited by males must also be gay or questioning their sexuality.

"...we were talking about 13 and 14 year old boys, and 16 year old boys with learning disabilities, going to Dukes Mound with specific info that some of them were being paid cash for sex. The Police and some other professionals in social work kept saying that the boys might be 'exploring their sexuality' by being down at Duke's Mound. This had to be challenged repeatedly."

Professionals undertaking the survey reported that they are unsure of referral pathways or where to access guidance. 60% of professionals, including those working in children's social care, reported being unaware of Op Kite.

6.8 Existing Awareness Raising

Education within schools

65% of boys 11-17 report sexual exploitation was explained to them at school, whilst 19% of boys report they have never had sexual exploitation explained to them by anyone.

When a mother of a victim was asked if she thought there was anything that could have prevented her son's exploitation, she responded *"They never did anything like that in school; they should make it a class, explain what grooming is"*.

Boys who reported learning about CSE in school often felt it wasn't applicable to them and *"is something that happens to girls"*. PSHE isn't mandatory within the curriculum and how schools undertake their delivery varies considerably. Some schools have dedicated PSHE lessons and teachers, whilst form tutors can be responsible for delivery in others. Within the survey, professionals from secondary schools were given a range of topics relating to sexual relationships and asked how much knowledge and confidence they had in discussing these topics. This identified that many felt they didn't have sufficient knowledge or confidence to be able to discuss these topics with young people. Porn, masturbation, how to negotiate consent, anal sex and rimming and sexual acts in a homosexual relationship were areas the vast majority felt they did not have the knowledge or confidence to discuss and there was an overwhelming response requesting more training, particularly in these areas.

LGBTU response to PSHE

89% of young men asked at Revenge stated that they didn't feel that they received any sexual education relevant to their sexuality and that many young people are already on apps like Squirt and Grindr before they receive any education around sex and relationships, which they get from doing their own research or from accessing a sexual health clinic. One respondent said he got his sex education through having sex, and *'lots of young people don't understand what they're getting into'*.

The boys within the schools focus group discussed sex education, *"A lot of my friends are gay, lesbian or bisexual and a lot of the sex ed is for just straight sex, when they get into a relationship with someone of the same sex it hasn't been very well explained to them"*.

Professionals also replicated these feelings around lack of discussions about LGBTQ relationships in PSHE: *"There is no one saying what is OK....no one saying what a healthy relationship is [in a LGBTQ relationship]"*

Parents & Carers

Although 96% of parents undertaking the survey stated that have or would try to explain CSE, only 26% of girls and 20% of boys said their parents had spoken to them to explain CSE. This demonstrates there is willingness from parents but that they perhaps do not have the

knowledge base themselves to be able to explain CSE. Discussing pornography, how to negotiate sexual consent with a partner and having sex were the topics parents felt least able to discuss with their children.

Media



Posters aimed at raising awareness of CSE usually depict females as victims, often crying or looking physically harmed which may result in young people feeling unable to relate to these images if it doesn't mimic their own circumstances. Sussex Police undertook a CSE campaign to raise awareness and created new posters, including these above. In our online survey, we presented a range of posters from different sources. 27% of parents report seeing the boy poster above and 26% of parents report seeing the girl poster above. However only 12% of children and young people undertaking our survey report seeing the boy poster and 16% report seeing the girl poster.

Young people were asked what they thought about the posters and whilst they liked the images, they thought they would probably only help a young person if they recognised themselves as exploited. Using the word 'raped' was also criticised as young people who didn't recognise the exploitation and believed they were consenting to sexual activity would not consider themselves to be a victim of rape. This is equally true if they have not had what they perceived to be sex.

A male victim commented in interview *"I was nearly exploited, I still have my virginity, we did oral."*

TV was an overwhelming suggestion for raising awareness, from documentaries to stories within soaps. Some young people reported watching a male rape scene in Hollyoaks that had helped raise their awareness that men can be victims of rape too; although their understanding often involved physical force being used.

6.9 Engaging Boys

Professionals' experiences

Professionals working with boys and young men who are at risk of, or are experiencing sexual exploitation, provided the following responses on their experiences in engaging boys:

"Boys and young men are less likely to engage over a prolonged period of time. It's difficult to generalise as all young people are different but often there is a reluctance to talk about anything that might make them appear or feel vulnerable. This is often the case for females as well but there seems to be an added layer with boys and young men where they struggle with the suggestion that they may not be as in control as they want to believe. I have worked with a number of young men who identify as gay or bisexual. Appearing masculine is not something they have been concerned with but there is still shame attached to the assumption that they may not be able to protect themselves as men. My approach is usually as slow and non-pressurised as possible. No particular environment seems to be better but school is a real no in my experience". WiSE Worker

"I have found male clients much more difficult to engage, they seem to find talking face to face e.g. in a coffee shop much more difficult, and prefer to either walk and talk or be doing an activity – drawing etc." WiSE Worker

"I'm often more worried by what they're not saying, than what they are". Claude Nicol Centre.

"Professionals often tend to want a disclosure rather than looking at the risk indicators or try and find 'explanations' rather than accept the possibility that it's exploitation. It's important not to rely on a disclosure. More often than not boys won't make a disclosure but we shouldn't dismiss the risk indicators because they haven't said anything concerning or have provided an explanation that we have taken on face value. You can still do work with them, use resources that talks about others as victims. In time they may talk about their experiences".

WiSE Worker

What boys and young men want in a professional's response

During our interviews with victims and other boys and young men and their engagement with professionals, they identified the following points as important in a professional's response:

Instant support following a referral: *"At first there wasn't much support, had to wait 2-3 months, it should have been straight away"*

Feeling confident they will receive an appropriate and measured response from a professional when disclosing their abuse: *"I'm open with you because you're new and you've done this sort of thing before"*

Consistency and knowing that professionals are going to be able to continue supporting them: *"I worked with a CAMHS Worker for 6-7 months and then she left. I felt really, really bad, I went you know what, I'm not trusting anyone else..... what's the point, they might just leave....I didn't talk to anyone else after that....6 or 7 professionals, I didn't speak, I just sat there"*

Not presenting as a 'professional' and appearing human: *"She started gaining my trust and then I started speaking to her about my life. She just started speaking like a normal person. All the others would say I feel sorry for you and all this crap and there's me thinking 'shit happens'"*

"She won't meet you and be 'I'm a professional' and all that, she'll obviously have to mention it and confidentiality, but she's more of a 'friend' than a worker"

Making the young person feel heard and not rushed: *"She's nice really nice, she's the only person who wouldn't interrupt me half way through a conversation, others would interrupt me and try and push their opinion. She's just blunt and that is the best thing I've had in a person....it's better than beating around the bushes"*

Take time to build a trusting relationship: *"It takes a matter of time, gain their [victim's] trust. Don't bring it up every time. Don't push, one of the professionals tried to push me and that didn't work. I felt so pressured. They're so impatient to do their assessment"*

What boys and young men want from a support service

Boys and young men reported if they were worried about themselves or a friend they were most likely to turn to a parent or trusted adult, the Police, a friend or look online.

Boys and young men reported that if they wanted support, being confidential, knowing they'll be believed, non-judgemental and being involved in what happens next were the most important qualities they would want.

Boys and young men were asked how important gender was for them, whilst there was a mixed response, being able to have a choice of working with a man or woman was an overwhelming request and 9% of boys and young men completing the survey stated working with another male would be essential and not being able to offer a male worker could potential prevent them from accessing support.

Boys and young men were asked 'If you could design a service, what would it look like? Confidentiality was the main barrier they identified in them access accessing support, identifying that they might like to talk to someone but concerns that the information would be shared with statutory services and the police getting involved would inevitable prevent them in many cases. They identified being able to 'chat' to someone online or possibly the phone would be their preferred method if it could be entirely confidential, but they would like it to be someone local so that they had the option to meet them in person for support or to physically support them to report it once they felt they had built up that trust.

"I think it's better face to face, meeting at a school or a café"

"Help on how to come out. Should be someone to talk to online and one to one.....I would never have walked into a LGBT group in case there's someone I know there and they spread my shit"

What parents, carers and families want

One mother reported that she had used the PACE phonenumber and that she found it really helpful to have someone to talk to who was non-judgemental and wasn't "them" [statutory services]. They felt that whilst support was offered to their child, they weren't offered this. They would like someone "like a WiSE worker" who was local so they could meet and talk to and support them in meetings, advocating on their behalf.

7. Recommendations

Training

- CSE training should be mandatory for all staff who are likely to encounter children within their role to pass probationary period. Those working with specific vulnerable groups of children and young people should be required to undertake training before commencing front line work with children so that opportunities to spot sexual exploitation are not missed i.e. services which engage the street community.
- Professionals working with vulnerable adults and families should be required to undertake an enhanced level of offline CSE training as they are in a position to identify a child or young person within a household that may be at risk of CSE, e.g. Police who are in positions where they are likely to build on-going relationships with offenders, victims and the community, e.g. neighbourhood and IOM officers.
- All staff working directly or indirectly in youth environments e.g. all school staff should receive CSE training so that they are equipped to spot and report concerns; training should not be limited to pastoral staff.
- Services to be funded to develop a training workshop that looks at gender bias and equips professionals to understand and respond to the sexual exploitation of boys and young men, e.g. police training that supports police to consider anti-social or criminal behaviour as a potential indicator of safeguarding concerns.
- Online training should specifically discuss sexual exploitation of boys and young men with parity of gendered scenarios.
- Services to be funded to develop and deliver a training workshop to professionals on how to discuss sex, including sex within non-heterosexual relationships as identified within the online survey. This will increase professionals knowledge and confidence to respond to children and young people's queries, and enable children and young people to have increased confidence in the response from professionals.
- Short CSE training refreshers should be delivered internally within organisations during team meetings, recapping models, indicators and referral pathways.
- Vulnerability training delivered to door and venue staff within the Night Time Economy to be developed to include scenarios of male victims of sexual exploitation.

Improving awareness

- A multimedia awareness raising campaign to be developed around boys and young men as victims of CSE, targeting multiple audiences, in partnership with Sussex Police and both LSCB's. Campaign to depict different models of CSE and not feature bruised, upset children, to improve recognition.
- All professionals who have contact with children and young people, including Social Workers and staff within the Night Time Economy to be made aware of Operation Kite and referral pathways.

Education and preventative work

- Professionals working with vulnerable boys and young men i.e. Youth Offending Service, Alternative Education Providers, to routinely undertake male targeted CSE awareness raising work with all boys and young men. As well as raising awareness, this will help to reduce the stigma and help identify themselves as professions they can talk to about CSE.
- Educational CSE groups to be completed with asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors who are an identified vulnerable group and increased likelihood of having already been victims of sexual exploitation as detailed in The Children's Society Report 'Boys Don't Cry' and disproportionately represented within missing persons statistics.
- Outreach and targeted work to be undertaken at CSE 'hotspots' to engage hard to reach children and young people who may not be accessing other services.
- Sextortion and guidance on keeping safe to be included within PSHE in schools
- Delivery of sex & relationships education in schools should, without exception, always be inclusive, meaningful and accessible for LGBU identifying people.
- Problematic and harmful sexual behaviours to be addressed in school through groups or one-to-one work, to challenge attitudes and behaviours which are implicit within peer-on-peer CSE.

Improving identification of victims

- Introduce a vulnerability and risk indicator checklists to be used as an initial screening tool where a child or young person, irrespective of gender, possess a known vulnerability. This will provide the opportunity to identify where there may be other

vulnerabilities present and prompt further monitoring and preventative interventions whilst reducing the opportunity for potential gender bias.

- Practice supervision of frontline staff should help identify and challenge any unconscious gender bias which prevents boys and young men being recognised as victims of CSE including assumptions that boys will not engage.
- A trusted service to be established who can act as a conduit for people who would not ordinarily report to the police, to share intelligence and concerns.
- CSE support services to have a presence on dating applications i.e. Grindr, and offer online outreach and support on CSE to application users.
- Sexual health services to consider implementing procedures to ask adults how old their partner is.

Support for professionals working with Children and Young People

- Professionals in all sectors working with children and young people to have access to specialist CSE consultation and practice support when working with victims of sexual exploitation, and those at risk.
- A toolkit to be created to better equip professionals for working with boys & young men who are victims of, or at risk of sexual exploitation.

Support for Victims of CSE

- Developing a confidential online and phone service where children and young people can receive support and they can 'test the water' without fear of statutory services becoming involved, but with the opportunity to meet the worker when they are ready.
- Boys to be able to have a choice of working with a male or female worker, which was a consistent request from boys and young men.
- Boys and young men affected by CSE to have access to specialist male CSE worker.
- Open dialogue to be instigated with users of Dukes Mound to signpost to appropriate support services in response to the significant number of disclosures of sexual abuse.

Support for families of victims of CSE

- Independent support workers to be commissioned who can support families, help raise their awareness of CSE and advocate on their behalf with other services.
- Police to consult victims and families about what bail conditions will help make them feel safe.
- Police to call victims and their families once a month during investigations, even if investigations are still on-going so they don't feel "*forgotten about*".
- Families experiencing CSE to be offered support from an independent specialist CSE Family Support Worker.
- Creation of an 'online forum' where families can discuss CSE concerns and receive local guidance. Additional support to be offered to families who are anxious or apprehensive about sharing concerns with statutory services to support them through the process.

Police Specific Recommendations

- Sussex Police to consistently apply CSE markers in their internal data management system, NICHE.
- Data such as age, gender and nature of risk to be recorded in searchable fields opposed to body of reports on Single Combined Assessment of Risk Forms (SCARF's) and intelligence logs on NICHE so that data can be interrogated.
- Police officers to ensure encounter locations are recorded on all CSE reports on NICHE
- Sussex Police to interrogate encounter locations on NICHE to identify 'hotspots' and work with partner agencies to agree a strategy to detect and disrupt sexual exploitation within these locations.
- Sussex Police to look at developing a procedure to record data on out of area missing person's found in Sussex. Sussex Police to request a copy of Return Home Interview report to establish 'pull' factors of missing persons travelling to Sussex and any intelligence.
- Police to consult victims and families about what bail conditions will help make them feel safe.
- Police to call victims and their families once a month during investigations, even if investigations are still on-going so they don't feel "*forgotten about*". Use of e-mails to cease unless specifically requested as victims and families reported finding this method "rude" and impersonal.

- Op Stepping Stone is an initiative that has recently been developed to look at how the Force can reduce the criminalisation of children and young people. The key principals are that children should be treated as children first and that a full understanding of their circumstances should be sought before any decisions are made. This approach is particularly relevant to male victims of CSE, who are more likely than females to be referred to CSE services by criminal justice agencies. Op Stepping Stone should encourage Officers to take the time to understand what may have led the child to committing crime, an approach that is more likely to highlight any CSE concerns, as well as develop a more positive relationship with the young offender.

Multi Agency Partnership Working

- Local Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) groups to outwardly represent violence against men and boys by changing name of group or creating a separate Violence Against Men and Boys group.
- CSE concerns to be shared with sexual health and flagged on their system. This will help to ensure the correct tests are completed.
- Services such as sexual health clinics to assist individuals to access CSE support services by having workers present within certain clinics.

Specific recommendations to support and engage Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and LGBT individuals and communities

- Develop a multi-agency strategy around Dukes Mound. This should involve police, LSCB, the MSM community, Community & Voluntary Sector agencies (i.e. YMCA, THT, Allsorts), Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership.
- Delivery of CSE outreach to Dukes Mound engaging users around issues of consent and healthy/unhealthy relationships, gathering intelligence, identifying victims of sexual exploitation, and following discussions refer users to appropriate support services, e.g. drug & alcohol services.
- Further engagement with the MSM community through a research project that seeks to understand levels of knowledge and awareness of consent and sexual exploitation, and practices and beliefs around sex and relationships, within the MSM community.

- Devise and deliver an awareness raising campaign within the MSM community and the LGBT Night Time Economy around consent and sexually exploitative relationships, with scenarios, how to respond and report to it, and differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships.
- Delivery of sex & relationships education in schools should, without exception, always be inclusive, meaningful and accessible for LGBU identifying people.
- Develop a Safe Space project (similar to YMCA Safe Space on West Street) in or immediately near St. James Street, or a detached unit operating out of YMCA Safe Space, but patrolling the St. James Street area.
- Little information is known about CSE within transgender communities. Research to be conducted into attitudes and prevalence of CSE in transgender communities.

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Sussex Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Claude Nicol Centre

Boys and young men, victims and their families who agreed to be interviewed

All 1069 individuals who completed the online survey

Feedback

If you are a professional working with children and young people, we would like to hear what you have learned from this report, for example, how has it changed your working practice, are you now identifying boys and young men as possible victims of CSE when you wouldn't perhaps have before?

Please email us on wise.brightonandhove@ymcadlg.org

9. Appendices

9.1 Research reports referenced:

YMCA, Out On My Own 2006

http://about.brighton.ac.uk/cupp/images/stories/projects/c-k-e/LGBTU/Out_on_my_own.pdf

Barnardo's, Tipping the Iceberg 2007

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/resources/research_and_publications/tipping-the-iceberg/publication-view.jsp?pid=PUB-1368

"If Only Someone Had Listened", Office of the Children's Commissioner's Enquiries into the Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups 2013

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publications/if-only-someone-had-listened-inquiry-child-sexual-exploitation-gangs-and-groups>

The Children's Society "Boys don't cry" 2016

<http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/boys-and-trafficking-report-lowres-pcr059.pdf>

9.2 Findings on Chem Sex Parties in Brighton & Hove

During our interviews of men in the MSM community, three individuals disclosed attending and hosting chem sex parties in Brighton and Hove and spoke about their experiences and observations. We also spoke to professionals from sexual health and substance misuse services who work with individuals who attend chem sex parties.

Individuals explained that chem sex parties would often be advertised through the hook-up apps Grindr, Squirt or BBRT or people would be invited directly through these apps. However attempts to keep parties exclusive rarely panned out as planned as word of parties spreads and sometimes they can be *"out of control"*. There is always a party on at any time *"it's rife in Brighton and Hove"*. They usually take place in peoples' flats and can last 3-4 days. They explained that whilst individuals may agree online to have sex at the party, and discuss what acts they will consent to, once intoxicated *"everyone just has sex with everyone"*. Most people want to engage in unprotected sex and those who don't won't get invited to the party. Those who do have intentions of practicing safer sex usually don't when intoxicated with *"everyone going bareback"*.

Mephedrone, G or Tina were described as the most common drugs used at parties and how nearly everyone at the party would *"Slam"* and use drugs intravenously and those who may start to attend parties without a history of injecting, would very quickly start and *"90% of people are injecting...injecting MEOW and Crystal Meth is ridiculous now"*. They reported *"sometime there will be a dealer at the party whilst sometimes the host will have got loads"*.

"I've seen a guy at a party who was getting given free drugs at a party, he was a young man and the host was about 25. The host said we're injecting now and the young guy said no...the host of the party said you've got to do it or you can go" and the host proceeded to inject him. Individuals felt that despite feeling uncomfortable with what they were witnessing, it would be hard to challenge someone in this situation, especially when it's the host as you don't want to have to leave the party.

Availability of clean needles was often identified as an issue, even if they had prepared by going to a chemist to obtain them beforehand, or the host had provided them, it was felt there would never be enough. They described how when the needles start to run out they would try and hide them in cupboards but everyone would try and do the same thing and when intoxicated they'd forget where they hid it and would never be sure it was their needle they were reusing.

"You're so fucked, you run out at 3 in the morning, every where's shut and you don't care; you just use whatever's there. You're desperate, you want to keep going". Dealers may sell needles at the party.

There were many reported instances of people exchanging sex to fund their substance use, either from personal experience or observations:

"When someone's providing you drugs [at a party], you feel obliged to focus on them".

"A London dealer was with a 19 year old boy he'd met that weekend and that boy was doing whatever he was told because he had the drugs".

"I've sold myself before, from 19 years onwards, if that got me the money to carry on taking drugs or drinking I was willing to do it, but you definitely feel taken advantage of. That person's old enough, they know and you know you don't want to be doing that. They'd use you for a reason".

"Mine was for going out drinking and clubbing".

"People are exploited more down here because there are a lot of young people don't have the money...in terms of not having the money to buy drugs".

"They know you're not doing it as an act of pleasure; you're doing it because you're desperate".

"I took MEOW for the first time with the dealer. I was really high and he asked me whether I would be tied- up which I said was fine. He kept me tied up and invited people over. Part of me was really scared...when I came to I realised it was rape".

It was explained that young men, often new to parties and drugs would be deliberately "put under". Those providing the drug would be fully aware that they were giving an amount which would place the individual "in a coma". *"You hear it all the time that young boys are being given too much G so they can take advantage and do what they want". "20% of the time what you see is not consensual [when they're] on G, they'll be out of it".*

It was felt that without the drugs, the parties wouldn't happen and people wouldn't engage in *'half the things they do'*.

Sex is often recorded at parties, sometimes with consent and other times without their knowledge, however it was acknowledged that even if you give consent to be filmed, you never know what happens to the video. Professionals described instances where the videos have later been used to bribe and exploit individuals. Sometimes the party will also be streamed live online and people aren't made aware that is happening.

Whilst none of the men interviewed reported having seen PrEP being given at parties, professionals did report having being told of instances where young men had supposedly been given PrEP at parties and been told they can have unprotected sex as it will prevent them contracting HIV. PrEP being given in this manner will offer limited, if any protection against contracting HIV.

9.3 Sample of Professional Questions

The aim of interviewing professionals is to find out their understanding of how CSE affects boys and young men in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex; what experiences they may have of working with boys and young men affected by CSE; the challenges they have faced in working with boys and how they think professionals could be better supported in their roles to identify and support boys and young men who are at risk of, or a victim of CSE.

- What's your role / who does your service work with?
- What's your understanding of CSE?
- Specifically thinking about boys and young men, how do you think they are being exploited?
- Are you aware of any specific places in Brighton & Hove or East Sussex where boys and young men are sexually exploited?
- Do you ever see anything that worries you? Trends in attitudes and behaviour ?
- Within your service, have you worked with boys or men who have been a victim of CSE?
- Can you describe how those boys and young men had been exploited?
- How did they come to be involved in your service?
- Thinking back to their history, do you think they could have been identified earlier as being at risk or a victim of CSE? How could that have been achieved?
- How did/does your service work with boys and young men who are at risk or who have experienced sexual exploitation? What does it do well? What could be improved within your service to provide a better service for preventing/identifying/reporting/supporting boys and young men affected by sexual exploitation?
- What suggestions and ideas do you have that could improve community awareness that boys and young men are sexually exploited?
- What suggestions and ideas do you have for services/campaigns that could help prevent/identify/reporting/support boys and young men affected by sexual exploitation



9.4 Door Staff Briefing Questionnaire 03/06/16

Place of work (optional).....

- 1. In your role, what signs may you look out for that someone could be taken advantage of sexually or be sexually exploited? Please list as many as you can.

- 2. In the past year, have you ever intervened when you've been worried someone may be sexually taken advantage of? If so how many were....

Girls? _____

Boys? _____

- 3. If you thought someone may be taken sexual advantage of, how confident are you to intervene?
Please circle.

Not confident at all Very confident

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- 4. How confident are you that you know what action to take? Please circle.

Not confident at all Very confident

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- 5. Do you know the reporting/escalation procedures are for your place of work should you think someone may be taken advantage of sexually or a victim of sexual exploitation? Please circle.

Yes Some details No We don't have any



6. If you saw an intoxicated girl leaving with someone much older, how concerned would you be?

Not worried at all

Very worried

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

7. If you saw an intoxicated boy leaving with someone much older, how concerned would you be?

Not worried at all

Very worried

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

8. Have you heard of Op Kite? Please circle.

Yes

No

9.5 Vox Pops Community Questions

INTRODUCTION

"Can we just ask you a few questions for a research project?"

Target those who are 18 years+. If there is any doubt, ask their age. ***"Sorry do you mind if I just check, are you over 18?"***

EXPLAIN PROJECT & GAIN CONSENT

"We are part of a YMCA project which has been commissioned to undertake research into the sexual exploitation of boys and young men in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex. Part of this involves speaking to the community to find out their understanding and views on the exploitation of boys and young men."

"Would you mind if we interviewed you as part of this? We would like to record it and we may include quotes in our report, but we won't write anything that may identify someone; is this okay with you?"

If yes, pass them the information sheet. ***"This confirms that you have agreed to be part of our research. It has our details on in case you change your mind at a later stage and want to contact us. It also has details of some support agencies in case you or anyone else may need them."***

"Do you have any questions?"

QUESTIONS

Turn microphone on and start recording

Q1. *In your own words, can you explain what child sexual exploitation is?*

Q2. *Where and how do you think boys and young men are being sexually exploited?*

Wait for answer. ***Who do you think is exploiting the boy or young man in that situation?***

If they've only given brief answers: ***Can you think of any other situations where boys and young men are sexually exploited?*** Wait for answer. ***Who do you think is exploiting the boy or young man in that situation?***

Q3. *Do you know any places in Brighton & Hove or East Sussex where boys and young men may be being sexually exploited?*

Q4. *How would you know that a boy or young man might be being sexually exploited; what signs would there be?"*

Q5. *What do you think might prevent a boy or young man from telling someone?*

Q6. Only ask this if they are engaging, if it looks like they need to go, skip to the next question.

Give picture of the female teacher. **"This is a 29 year old teaching assistant in Manchester. She began contacting a 15 year old boy from her class on facebook before entering into a 'relationship' with him. They had sex approximately 80 times. What do you think about this?"** Wait for answer.

"How do you think this has affected the boy's life?" Wait for answer.

"She was originally sentenced to two years suspended custody and given 250 hours Unpaid Work, but on appeal was sentenced to two years custody; do you think this was the right sentence?"

Give picture of footballer. **"This is the 28 year old footballer Adam Johnson. He met a 15 year old girl at a football match, got her number and began contacting her, meeting several times. He was found guilty of grooming and sexual activity with a child. What do you think about this?"** Wait for answer.

"He was sentenced to six years custody; do you think this was the right sentence?"

Wait for answer.

"In either of these cases, do you think the child was groomed?" Wait for answer. **"Do you think a child can consent to sexual activity if they've been groomed?"**

Q7. "What do you think can be done to help boys and young men who are at risk, or a victim of sexual exploitation recognise what may be happening to them and to get support?" Wait for answer.

Q8. "What do you think would work to raise awareness public awareness that boys and young men are victims of sexual exploitation too?" Wait for answer. **"Where does you current understanding of sexual exploitation come from?"**

CLOSING

"That's all the questions we have for today. How are you feeling?" Wait for answer. If answer is that they're feeling distressed in anyway. Get a member of YMCA staff. **"Thank you very much for taking part today, it really is appreciated. We would love it if you could complete our online questionnaire which asks some further questions. If you feel you need to talk to someone later, details of who to contact are on the sheet we've given you".**

9.6 Focus Group Information And Consent Form For Parents, Guardians And Carers

RESEACRH AND SCOPING PROJECT INTO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF BOYS AND YOUNG MEN

What is the project?

YMCA Downslink Group are undertaking a research and scoping project into the sexual exploitation of boys and young men in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex. We aim to gather information from a range of people including: young people, survivors of exploitation, the community and professionals working in relevant agencies. Using this information we will write a report sharing our findings and making recommendations. This report will also be shared with other agencies.

What are the aims of the project?

- To understand what sexual exploitation of boys and young men looks like in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.
- To identify what knowledge people (young people, adults and professionals) have of sexual exploitation and how boys and young men are affected.
- To identify reasons why boys and young men are not being identified as potential victims of sexual exploitation.
- To identify what barriers there are for people to report suspected exploitation of boys and young men.
- To establish if the boys and young men who have been identified as victims of sexual exploitation, could have been identified earlier and what lessons can be learnt to identify other potential victims at the earliest opportunity.
- To capture the voice of victims and what would have helped prevent/helped them to report or helped them escape their exploitation at an earlier stage.
- To identify positive and negative practices among professional in identifying and working with boys and young men who may be at risk of sexual exploitation.
- To make recommendations for improving services to prevent, detect and support boys and young men affected by sexual exploitation.

Why has my child be asked to take part in a focus group?

We have randomly selected boys and young men within schools and other groups to take part in focus groups. Your child has not been selected because we think they are vulnerable or for any other reason. We really value your child's opinion and want to find out what their understanding of exploitation is and want their help to identify how the needs of boys and young men can be better met.

How will the focus groups be used and what will happen with their information?

We will voice record the focus groups. This is so the person leading the group can engage with the young people without having to write lots of things down. This recording will then be saved on a computer in a password protected folder which only they and their manager can access. This will be deleted on or before 31st July 2016.

The information and ideas we gather from the focus groups is very important to us and will help inform the report and recommendations we make. We may want to include some of the discussions and quotes in the report. Where we do, we will not mention anything that may identify any young person or any school.

Safeguarding, potential risks and benefits

Sexual exploitation can be a difficult topic to talk about but all discussions will be age appropriate. We want all young people taking part to feel that they are contributing to an important project which will go on to promote awareness and provide services for boys and young men in the local area.

A member of staff from the school will be present in the focus group and if there are any concerns or we believe a young person may be at risk of harm, the schools safeguarding policy will be followed.

All young people attending will be given details of both local and national support agencies. Should any young person require support after the focus group, we will work with them to ensure this is in place.



Voluntary participation

Taking part in the focus group is completely voluntary and your child does not have to take part if either you or they object.

If at any point you wish to withdraw your consent, you can do so at any time without prejudice or negative consequences. If they do not to partake, or consent is withdrawn at a later stage, this will not affect your rights to access any other services.

Further information

If you have any further questions about the project, please contact:

**Charlotte Amor, WiSE Project Manager & Boys & Young Men's Development Worker
07841 067418**

If you wish to make a complaint about how this research is being conducted, please contact:
Mark Cull, Wellbeing & Targeted Support Services Manager, 07834480725

Consent

- I have been informed of and understand the purpose of the study
- I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions
- I understand I can withdraw at any time without prejudice
- Any information which might potentially identify my child will not be used in published material
- I agree for my child to participate in the study as outlined to me

Name of Child:

Date of Birth:

Signature of Parent, Carer or Guardian:

Date: