



Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Group (CSSG)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Purpose

This group brings together senior officers from the three safeguarding partners with responsibilities for child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation and modern slavery. It is responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of the Child Exploitation Strategy and underpinning action plans and associated work streams. Activity pertaining the CSSG will feed into the Halton Children & Young People Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report.

2. Membership

The three safeguarding partners will rotate the chair on an annual basis. During the first year this group will be chaired by the Operational Director Children's Social Care, Halton Borough Council. A Deputy Chair will be identified and fulfil the role of the Chair in the Chair's absence.

Members of the Subgroup will be Exploitation Champions for their agency or sector. Membership will include representatives from:

- Cheshire Police
- Halton BC – Adults' & Children's Social Care
- Halton BC – Commissioning Team
- Halton BC – Community Safety Team
- Education Sector
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children Unit
- Safeguarding Lead(s) from Health Sector
- Riverside College
- YJS
- HCYPSP Head of Safeguarding
- Relevant Commissioned Services for exploitation

Other representatives may be co-opted as required.

3. Key Responsibilities

- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who are at risk of all forms of exploitation including criminal, sexual, modern slavery or going missing and advise on ways to improve practice and performance.
- Develop a clear understanding of the prevalence of all forms of exploitation, criminal, sexual, modern slavery and missing children throughout Halton ensuring that information and data gathered supports response activity including: disruption, prosecution, learning and service development.
- Lead, monitor and inform the HCYPSP response to all forms of exploitation, criminal, sexual, missing children and modern slavery through the collation and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data identifying themes, trends and emergent patterns of concern.
- Oversee and review the work of the Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group where information and intelligence on potential victims, perpetrators and localities is shared and actions developed.
- To raise awareness of all forms of exploitation and the links between this and missing and/or trafficked children amongst practitioners, children and young people, parents/carers and the public.
- To engage and consult with a range of stakeholders including children, young people, parents and carers to identify areas of concern, gaps in service provision and inform action planning and commissioning.
- To work in line with the Subgroup Work Plan and HCYPSP Business Plan and provide regular reports to the Safeguarding Executive Group.
- HCYPSP has adopted the Pan Cheshire: Joint Protocol on Children and Young People who Run Away or Go Missing from Home or Care, the Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol, and the Safeguarding Trafficked Children Protocol. The Subgroup will ensure the effectiveness of each agency's work to safeguard children who go missing or who are at risk of all forms of exploitation, criminal, sexual or modern slavery by undertaking to:
 - Review performance in relation to the response of member agencies.
 - Review the local implementation of the protocols.
 - Identify areas of concern.
 - Identify any patterns and trends in children who go missing, modern slavery and child sexual exploitation episodes.
 - Develop local strategies/plans to address concerns/patterns/ trends.
- Consider implications of new policy, legislation, research and guidance in relation to all forms of exploitation, criminal, sexual, modern slavery and missing children.

5. Frequency of Meetings

Every six weeks - agendas and supporting papers will be circulated 5 days before the meeting.

6. Attendance/Substitutes

All members should endeavour to attend all meetings, apologies should be sent to the Chair in advance of the meeting.

Named alternates from each organisation should be kept appropriately briefed and carry suitable authority to participate in the business of the meeting, including making decisions in place of the main representative where necessary.

All members will prepare for meetings by reading through agenda and supporting papers and preparing written reports as appropriate. Members of the Subgroup will be responsible for ensuring:

- Their own agencies are informed of, and fully involved in, the work of the Subgroup.
- Information is disseminated within own sector/agency/department/team and other partners as relevant.
- Active participation in agenda and discussion, bringing issues to and from their own area of responsibility.
- They liaise and work with senior managers in their own sector/agency/areas of responsibility to ensure ownership of Subgroup agenda.
- Actions are undertaken as agreed by the appropriate meeting date.
- If a member cannot attend, their representative will provide an update on their actions.

If a nominated member of the Subgroup is unable to attend, then a representative should attend in their place. The nominated member should inform the Multi-agency Safeguarding Unit and ensure that their designated representative has been briefed and provided with the relevant papers.

Accountability

This group reports to the Safeguarding Executive Group. The Chair of the CSSG will attend the Safeguarding Executive Group and provide a subgroup report to the Safeguarding Executive Group.

The Chair of the Subgroup is responsible for ensuring that the relevant targets identified within the HCYPSP Business Plan and Subgroup Work Plan are met. Where targets are not being met, the HCYPSP Head of Safeguarding will work with the Subgroup to identify ways of overcoming blockages.

Month/Year Approved: June 2022

Renewal Date: June 2024