

14. Recommendations

- 14.1 As a consequence of several reviews, reports and inspections over the last two years, the Council, its partners and the Safeguarding Board are already in receipt of many recommendations for improvement in their approach to CSE. The Safeguarding Board has brought these together into a single document. It includes the recommendations from the CSE Diagnostic Report, the Barnardo's CSE Practice Review, the HMIC South Yorkshire Police Response to CSE, and the report of the Office of the Children's Commissioner. The document is reproduced in Appendix 5.
- 14.2 The Inquiry took the view that it was unnecessary to repeat the recommendations listed in these reports. We have identified 15 areas which we consider should be a priority.
- 14.3 It should also be noted that the National Working Group Network on Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation has also recently produced a 'Summary of Recommendations for All Agencies', from a range of reports, inquiries, serious case reviews and research. This provides a helpful checklist, which could be used by the Council and its partners in conjunction with the list compiled by the Safeguarding Board.

Risk assessment

Recommendation 1: Senior managers should ensure that there are up-to-date risk assessments on all children affected by CSE. These should be of consistently high quality and clearly recorded on the child's file.

Recommendation 2: The numeric scoring tool should be kept under review. Professional judgements about risk should be clearly recorded where these are not adequately captured by the numeric tool.

Looked after children

Recommendation 3: Managers should develop a more strategic approach to protecting looked after children who are sexually exploited. This must include the use of out-of-area placements. The Borough should work with other authorities to minimise the risks of sexual exploitation to all children, including those living in placements where they may become exposed to CSE. The strategy should include improved arrangements for supporting children in out-of-area placements when they require leaving care services.

Outreach and accessibility

Recommendation 4: The Council should make every effort to make help reach out to victims of CSE who are not yet in touch with services. In particular, it should make every effort to restore open access and outreach work with children affected by CSE to the level previously provided by Risky Business.

Joint CSE team

Recommendation 5: The remit and responsibilities of the joint CSE team should be urgently decided and communicated to all concerned in a way that leaves no room for doubt.

Recommendation 6: Agencies should commit to introducing a single manager for the multi-agency CSE team. This should be implemented as quickly as possible.

Recommendation 7: The Council, together with the Police, should review the social care resources available to the CSE team, and make sure these are consistent with the need and demand for services.

Collaboration within CYPS

Recommendation 8: Wider children's social care, the CSE team and integrated youth and support services should work better together to ensure that children affected by CSE are well supported and offered an appropriate range of preventive services.

Ongoing work with victims

Recommendation 9: All services should recognise that once a child is affected by CSE, he or she is likely to require support and therapeutic intervention for an extended period of time. Children should not be offered short-term intervention only, and cases should not be closed prematurely.

Post abuse support

Recommendation 10: The Safeguarding Board, through the CSE Sub-group, should work with local agencies, including health, to secure the delivery of post-abuse support services.

Quality Assurance

Recommendation 11: All agencies should continue to resource, and strengthen, the quality assurance work currently underway under the auspices of the Safeguarding Board.

Minority ethnic communities

Recommendation 12: There should be more direct and more frequent engagement by the Council and also the Safeguarding Board with women and men from minority ethnic communities on the issue of CSE and other forms of abuse.

Recommendation 13: The Safeguarding Board should address the under-reporting of sexual exploitation and abuse in minority ethnic communities.

The issue of race

Recommendation 14: The issue of race should be tackled as an absolute priority if it is a significant factor in the criminal activity of organised child sexual abuse in the Borough.

Serious Case Reviews

Recommendation 15: We recommend to the Department of Education that the guiding principle on redactions in Serious Case Reviews must be that the welfare of any children involved is paramount.