

# **CSE Transition to Adult Services Procedure**

**Children and Families Service**

**March 2016**

**POLICY INFORMATION SHEET**

<b>POLICY INFORMATION SHEET</b>	
<b>Service Area</b>	Children and Families
<b>Date effective from</b>	14/03/2016
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Kate Press
<b>Date of Reviews</b>	06/10/2016 06/10/2017
<b>Status</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Optional (Procedures and practice can vary between teams)</b></li></ul>	
<b>Target Audience</b>	All Children and Families Social Care Staff and all Adult Social Care Staff
<b>Date of CSMT/EPLT Decision</b>	
<b>Related Document (s)</b>	Pan Cheshire CSE Policy
<b>Superseded Documents</b>	
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	Considered

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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This protocol is intended to set out the agreed pathway in Cheshire East between Children's and Adult Services for recognising, responding and reducing risk for people where Child Sexual Abuse has been a significant issue in their lives.
- 1.2 In Cheshire East we are aware of a number of children in the older age group (16-18) who are at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). This often relates to half of the children subject of a CSE plan. Current research and enquiries clearly state that the only way to tackle CSE is through "joined up working and information sharing".
- 1.3 There are additional risks to young adults who have experienced CSE which include: mental health difficulties, criminal behaviours, alcohol and drug misuse, domestic abuse and having social care involvement with their own children. There has been a clear link made between domestic abuse and sexual exploitation and the way in which young people can be both victims and perpetrators. Therefore, demonstrating a need for there to be ongoing support and services available to those young people who have been victims of CSE, but are now 18 years or older.
- 1.4 Enquiries have identified that services have failed to provide long term therapeutic work for survivors of CSE (The following Reports provide demonstrable evidence of this, "*If it's not better it's not the end: Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation and Gangs and Groups: one year on*" – Sue Berelowitz et al; "*Real Voices: Child Sexual Exploitation in Greater Manchester: An Independent Review*" by Ann Coffey MP; *Report of Inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council*" – Louise Casey).
- 1.5 It is therefore critical that the transition for these children to adulthood does not result in them failing to receive the support and protection they may still need.
- 1.6 It is recognised that these young adults may decline further intervention from services, and this should be recorded on the Young Person's Record. Where support is accepted, this may comprise of signposting to additional services (for issues as described above), advising and assistance with access to support, treatment and/or therapeutic services (e.g. RASAC (Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service), Visyon, the IDVA (Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors) Service and Barnardo's) and on rare occasions co-ordinating a care package of support.

## **2. Children on CSE Plans/Child Protection Plans (where CSE is an additional concern) and CiN Plans**

- 2.1 The above plans can all continue until the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and then will cease. It is expected that where the allocated Social Worker has assessed (through the completion of a Children and Families Assessment) and with the agreement of the child, parent and the Core Group/CiN Group that there is a need for ongoing intervention and support from Adult

Services, then a referral is immediately made to the appropriate SMART Team using the emails below.

[Congletonandsandbachadultsocialcareteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Congletonandsandbachadultsocialcareteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

[Creweandnantwichadultsocialcareteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Creweandnantwichadultsocialcareteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

[Macclesfieldadultsocialcareteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Macclesfieldadultsocialcareteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

[Wilmslowandknutsfordadultsocialcareteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Wilmslowandknutsfordadultsocialcareteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

The worker should also copy in Cat Stewart ([cat.stewart@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:cat.stewart@cheshireeast.gov.uk)). Where the young person has a disability please copy in Louisa Joyce, Transition Coordinator ([louisa.joyce@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:louisa.joyce@cheshireeast.gov.uk)).

- 2.2 The referral to Adult Social Care should happen before the child reaches the age of 17 years (ideally no later than 17 and a half). The referral should consist of the relevant referral form, Children and Families Assessment and an updated CSE Screening Tool. The allocated Adult Social Worker will then be responsible for completing the relevant assessment prior to the young person reaching the age of 18.
- 2.3 Where a child is subject to a CSE Plan or Child Protection Plan, the need for involvement by Adult Social Care will be considered at the first Conference Review after the child's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, and if required a recommendation will be made in the CSE/CP Plan for a referral as described above within appropriate timescales, and the identified worker from Adult Social Care must be included and invited to the Core Group and Review Conference Meetings.
- 2.4 If this referral is accepted by Adult Social Care, it would be expected that the Adult Social Worker will become part of the Core Group/CiN Group as the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday approaches. It must be recorded on the child's record that a request has been made to Adult Social Care for ongoing support.
- 2.5 It is suggested that where appropriate the Adult Social Worker will be actively involved with the child and the plan at least 3 months prior to the child becoming 18.
- 2.6 If through the referral for assessment there are continuing safeguarding concerns then a safeguarding referral will need to be made. Some young people will not fit Care Act 2014 section 42 safeguarding criteria. However, as a Local Authority we have the power to undertake other safeguarding enquiries when it would support the young person's well-being and prevent further abuse.
- 2.7 There is an expectation where Children's Services have been involved that they continue to be involved as well as any relevant partners in order to fully support the young person after their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday if required.
- 2.8 It is acknowledged that there may be a number of young people who may have been referred to Adult Social Care for further support under the CSE Transition Procedure who will subsequently decline the involvement of Adult Social Care. Where possible the young

person should be provided with details of how they could self-refer themselves in the future should they change their minds. There will be other circumstances where after consideration and assessment by Adult Services the most appropriate support will be an onward referral to RASAC, IDVA Service or Barnardo's for further therapeutic support.

### **3. Care Leavers**

3.1 Children who have been in the care of the Local Authority will have an allocated Personal Advisor until at least the age of at least 21 (or 25 if they continue to be in full-time education). It is suggested that they retain "key worker" responsibility. However, a referral to Adult Social Care should still be made when the young person reaches the age of 17 as per the process above.

### **4. Young People who are "Persons of Interest":**

4.1 There are young people who are identified at CSE Operations Group Meetings (CSE Ops) to be a risk to other young people. A decision is made at CSE Ops Meetings as to whether they should be flagged as a "person of interest". The details of these individuals will be sent to Adult Social Care (see email address above) for them to check their records. The decision in respect of flagging the individual will be sent following the CSE Ops meeting for Adult Social Care to flag.

## CSE Transition Policy Flowchart

Review CP/CSE Conference, Cared for Review or CiN Meeting to consider the need for ongoing involvement post 18 at the Meeting which falls between the child's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and becoming 17 and a half



Children's Social Worker (CSW) to update Children and Families Assessment (C and F Assessment) and CSE Screening Tool



Referral to Adult Services to include C and F Assessment and CSE Screening Tool to be emailed to SMART Teams copying in relevant workers (see section 2.1)



Adult SW to become part of Core Group/CiN Group by the time child is 17 and three quarters



Adult SW to consult with the young person regarding Adult Services involvement, (and consider/assess need for further involvement with Adult Services, onward referral to alternative resource or provision of details of how to self-refer in the future). Adult SW to make Safeguarding Referral if required.