

Child Sexual Exploitation: The changing role of sexual health services in identifying young people at risk of exploitation, gathering and sharing health intelligence with multidisciplinary task forces to provide follow up support for young people.

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Summary

Sexual health services play a key role in identifying young people at risk of, or experiencing, child sexual exploitation (CSE). The development of the Greater Manchester Screening Programme RUclear has helped identify young people at risk of CSE and has led the Greater Manchester Sexual Health Network (GMSHN) to develop a standardised CSE risk assessment tool, referral pathway and training for sexual health services. Sexual health services are sharing health intelligence with multi-agency teams to identify young people at risk.

The Greater Manchester Sexual Health Network



The aim of the GMSHN is to facilitate – by collaboration with all stakeholders – a greater profile and presence for all prevention, treatment and care services by improving clinical outcomes, patient experience and equity of access to all sexual health services.

The RUclear Chlamydia Screening Programme



Using sexual health service intelligence data is one way of identifying young people at risk of CSE. The RUclear Chlamydia Screening Programme covers all 10 Greater Manchester local authority areas and screens around 8000 young people a month around 1400 screening sites. The RUclear Programme Lead has identified young people at risk of, and experiencing CSE, from the chlamydia testing data. A full analysis of the dataset is planned to enable further identification of young people at risk of CSE. This work has been cited by the Office of the Children's commissioner as an example of good practice.

Project Phoenix

Improving information sharing within organisations, between health organisations and between health and other multi-agency partners is a key aspect of this work. The Greater Manchester Sexual Health Network is a partner in the Greater Manchester Project Phoenix.

Project Phoenix is chaired by the Chief Executive of Rochdale Council, with representatives on the group including the Detective Chief Superintendent of Greater Manchester Police, Directors of Children's Services representatives and GM Safeguarding Leads from local authorities and GM Safeguarding Health Leads. The Deputy Director of the Greater Manchester Sexual Health Network and the Programme Lead for RUclear also sit on this group to ensure that the CSE work in sexual health services is part of a multi-agency approach.

Greater Manchester Sexual Health Services CSE work

In October 2012, the GMSHN organised a workshop on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) for sexual health commissioners and providers to raise awareness of CSE, to share good practice and identify further actions required. 80 sexual health commissioners and health practitioners attended the event including staff from contraception services, specialist GU clinics, integrated sexual health services, young people's sexual health services and abortion services. The workshop highlighted that GM sexual health services were using different CSE policies and procedures and training on safeguarding and pathways to raise concerns around CSE varied. Specialist multi-agency CSE teams varied, as did referrals into these teams.

Following the workshop, the GMSHN established a CSE task and finish group for sexual health services to tackle 5 key areas:

- Increase awareness of CSE amongst all staff working in GM sexual health services and all commissioners of sexual health services
- Map out current CSE policies and procedures in sexual health services
- Standardise GM risk assessment tools, pathways, training and guidance on CSE
- Improve information sharing within organisations, between health organisations and between health and other multi-agency partners
- Consider the health and wellbeing of all staff working within this field - psychological support for staff for de-briefing/ very specialist supervision

The work in GM sexual health services is being held up nationally as good practice and the Greater Manchester Sexual Health Network has contributed to the National Working Group on CSE's report "If you shine a light you will probably find it" – A report of health professionals and their experiences of dealing with child sexual exploitation" and has presented at the Office of the Children's Commissioner CSE Groups and Gangs Inquiry workshop on offenders in June 2013.



Image courtesy of the NWG Network

Achievements to date

- CSE Task and Finish Group established - includes GM Sexual Health Commissioner and Provider Services representatives and Brook national lead for safeguarding
- Mapping exercise of current CSE policies and procedures in GM sexual health services carried out
- CSE risk assessment tool kit for sexual health services developed and piloted in 3 services
- Referral pathway for sexual health services developed
- Sexual health professionals working closely and sharing good practice
- Paragraph prepared for commissioners to insert into sexual health contracts on identifying CSE and referral mechanisms
- CSE is standing item on the GMSHN Board, GMSHN Sexual Health Commissioners and other GMSHN priority action groups
- GMSHN Deputy Director and RUclear Programme Lead part of GM Phoenix Steering Group, working closely with GM Police, local authorities, Designated Safeguarding leads
- Minimum health input requirements into specialist CSE teams identified

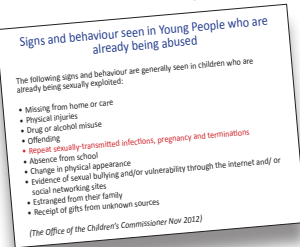
- RUclear Programme Lead working with local CSE multi-agency groups to identify young people at risk of CSE using chlamydia screening programme health intelligence
- Internal CSE meetings established in hospital trusts to share information between different departments
- GM work shared with national Office of the Children's Commissioner, the National CSE Working Group and local and national conferences
- GM CSE Task and Finish Group members contributed to the National CSE Working Group's latest report into CSE and health services

Next Steps

- Share GM CSE Risk Assessment Tool and referral pathways for Sexual Health Services with Safeguarding Leads, specialist CSE teams and national groups
- Strengthen sexual health professional input into GM and local Safeguarding Boards, local multi-agency CSE meetings and specialist CSE teams
- Organise standardised GM wide CSE training for all sexual health service professionals
- Increase appropriate sharing of health information for young people at risk of CSE

By October 2013, the final GM CSE risk assessment tool and GM CSE referral pathways, for use by sexual health services staff with young people and vulnerable adults, should be in place and be used.

A toolkit guide and information package will be provided with the risk-assessment tool, along with a short training session.



This will ensure there is consistency in approach across GM sexual health services in identifying young people and vulnerable adults who are at risk of being exploited. For those young people and vulnerable adults who are identified as being exploited there will be clear and

consistent referral pathways in place to support and protect them from further harm.

