**Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) Group**

**Terms of Reference**

**Version 11**

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1. **Introduction**

This Terms of Reference outlines the local multi-agency working arrangements agreed by the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board to strengthen the response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) through the establishment of Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) meetings.

All organisations have a responsibility to keep children and young people safe from harm and need to work together to achieve this. Between the Partner organisations from both the statutory and voluntary sectors they have access to a considerable amount of information about what is happening within their communities and by sharing relevant information they seek to ensure that appropriate action can be taken to safeguard children and identify and disrupt offenders. In addition, statutory partners have a wide range of powers that can be used to help tackle CSE.

The MACSE has been established to bring together these key agencies in order to effectively address the causes of CSE. It will monitor the response to risk posed to children, by understanding and recognising current and emerging trends whilst acknowledging risk posed by certain geographical areas and by identified offenders. The MACSE will also review existing disruption plans and hold agencies to account for delivery of actions to minimise risk.

The MACSE will have the potential to call upon the diverse skills and experience available from amongst its members. In conjunction with sharing information to increase the understanding of the risks posed by child sexual exploitation they will bring together a range of specialist knowledge to ensure that each organisation plays its part in addressing the needs of young people considered to be at high risk.

It is not the responsibility of the MACSE to replace or replicate the operational work carried out by the CSE Strategy Meetings, but to provide a more holistic review of the issues across the whole of the Cwm Taf.

This document does not replace the All Wales Protocol: Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children who are at Risk of Abuse through Sexual Exploitation which sits in the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

1. **Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (as per All Wales CSE Protocol)**

The sexual exploitation of children and young people is a hidden form of abuse. A number of different definitions have been developed through the work of researchers and practitioners though the concepts of exploitation and exchange are central to each.

Child sexual exploitation is the coercion or manipulation of children and young people into taking part in sexual activities. It is a form of sexual abuse involving an exchange of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, ‘protection’ or affection. The vulnerability of the young person and grooming process employed by perpetrators renders them powerless to recognise the exploitative nature of relationships and unable to give informed consent.

CSE for the purpose of this guidance includes:

* abuse through exchange of sexual activity for some form of payment
* abuse through the production of indecent images and/or any other indecent material involving children whether photographs, films or other technologies
* abuse through grooming whether via direct contact or the use of technologies such as mobile phones and the internet
* abuse through trafficking for sexual purposes

**Children do not volunteer to be sexually exploited and they cannot consent to their own abuse; they are forced and/or coerced.**

The guidance applies to male and female children up to the age of 18 years irrespective of whether they are living independently, at home, with carers, or in a residential setting.

1. **Purpose of Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) meetings**

The purpose of MACSE meetings are to:

* Identify, map and assess risk and patterns of CSE within the Cwm Taf region
* Ongoing collection of data regarding how many CSE cases there are in the region
* Review and where necessary agree amendments to interventions that reflect the local picture and ensure activity is kept updated, relevant to service demand and emergent issues
* Share information on perpetrators in order to identify themes and trends
* Assist South Wales Police and other agencies with undertaking appropriate disruption tactics
* Ensure that preventative education and awareness-raising is undertaken in identified locations to protect those at risk
* Review and assess the current risk around different children who may be exposed to CSE
* Raise awareness and promote multi-agency understanding of young people at particularly high levels of risk
* Identify and monitor Children who are at risk of CSE who are approaching adulthood and to ensure that a robust transition risk management plan is in place to support the young person
* Encourage and monitor joint working to ensure that there is coordinated response to tackling chid sexual exploitation and to hold partners to account for delivery
* To identify any current and emerging training requirements in relation to CSE and where necessary feed into the Training and Learning Group

***MACSE meetings do not replace CSE-focused Multi Agency Strategy meetings which focus on safeguarding individual children on a case by case basis as per the All Wales CSE Protocol.***

No agency should delay taking action to safeguard a child whilst waiting for a discussion at the next MACSE meeting. It may be that cases assessed as particularly high risk are discussed in MACSE meetings once the CSE focused strategy meeting process has already been followed for that child.

Analytical Review

The MACSE meeting provides the framework to allow regular information sharing and action planning to tackle child sexual exploitation on a strategic level. The intelligence and information shared at the meeting will be recorded on South Wales Police Niche RMS system. This will allow an analyst to identify themes, patterns and trends emerging from MACSE meetings in relation to CSE. This may include the identification of serial perpetrators and the involvement of gangs/groups or premises/locations linked to CSE. Analysis developed as a result of this will be brought back to subsequent meetings and action plans developed.

It is important that a record is kept of any decisions made and that these are recorded on each agencies relevant system.

1. **Governance of the MACSE Meeting**

The MACSE meeting will be chaired by a Detective Inspector, South Wales Police. The Vice Chair will be from a different agency (RCT Children Services). The MACSE meeting will report to the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Joint Operational Committee.

The MACSE meeting should provide the Joint Opperational Committee with information on the following:

* Volume of cases
* Communities affected to allow awareness raising and targeted intervention
* Patterns of CSE identified
* Activity against perpetrators
* Number and type of disruptions e.g. civil orders, charging of offenders, closure of premisis
* Actions agreed to address any of the above

1. **Suggested MACSE Agenda**

A typical agenda for a MACSE meeting will include;

* **Data** **collection** – How many CSE cases are known to each agency at the present time
* **Particularly High Risk cases** - progress of case and any key issues in relation to this i.e. agencies not participating in case management. Strategic issues in relation to resources etc. (This is not a case management discussion and should be no more than an update from the lead agency and compliance against the key tactical options available).
* **Transition** – to consider all cases where a child is at risk of CSE and is approaching adulthood and to ensure that a robust transition risk management plan is in place to support the young person.
* **Cross border Issues** - identification of trends issues, review of contact/joined up working with neighbouring authorities.
* **Identified perpetrators -** to ensure all control/disruption measures have been taken and perpetrators have access to support programmes (Please see Appendix A).
* **Problem locations and trends** - issues identified from problem profile, progress against issues identified. Identification of other agencies/departments that may need to be involved
* **Training** – identification of any training needs or gaps in service, to be then fed into TALG as appropriate.

**The Chair’s role in each meeting will be to ensure that:**

* All agencies are represented at the appropriate level and if not report back to the Children’s Operational committee
* All members are given an opportunity to contribute to the meeting.
* The information shared is done so in accordance with current guidance and is accurately recorded on each agencies system.
* Actions are collated and addressed.
* Ensure that the meeting is at the appropriate level and focused on achieving the aims within this document.

1. **Membership of the MACSE Meeting**

The membership of the MACSE meeting will involve representatives from the following agencies:

* South Wales Police
* RCT Children Services
* Merthyr Tydfil Children Services
* Adult Services Representatives (RCT and MT)
* Education (MASH)
* Licensing (RCT and MT)
* Housing (RCT and MT)
* Cwm Taf University Health Board
* Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service
* Barnardo's Missing Service
* Treatment and Education Drug Services (TEDS)/Substance Misuse
* National Probation Service
* Wales Community Rehabilitation Company
* Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

### The members’ roles will be to ensure that:

* They attend meetings regularly or send a deputy from their own area of expertise.
* Contribute to the information sharing which enables the meetings to fulfil their purpose.
* Implement appropriate levels of disclosure of information shared at the meetings to enable further integrated working with other frontline partners.
* Contribute to the actions agreed during the meetings and provide timely reports on progress and outcomes.
* To provide relevant information prior to the meeting to ensure that informed and effective decision making is made.
* Feedback relevant information to their respective organisations

1. **Meeting Frequency**

The meeting will be held every 6 weeks and the venue will be the Command room at either Merthyr or Pontypridd Police Station

1. **How will notification be made to MACSE?**

Notifications will be made to the MACSE by the lead attendee from each organisation.

**Review of these Terms of Reference**

These terms of reference will be reviewed one year following their adoption by the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board.

***Appendix A – Disruption plans to be considered***

There are a number of disruptive and preventative activities that should be considered for each child at risk or being exploited. These include:

1. Has the child/victim got a PNC report on indicating they are at risk?
2. Has the suspected perpetrator got a PNC report indicating they pose a risk?
3. Have abduction warning notices been considered and if so served/recorded and everyone made aware.
4. Who is the lead agency/individual responsible for de-briefing the child following missing episodes is this being done and is the information being shared.
5. Is there a forensic strategy in place around the child/victim i.e. has there been discussion around the recovery of the child’s clothing following missing episodes or contact with suspected perpetrators.
6. Have civil orders been considered e.g. Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, **S**exual Risk Orders, Child Abduction Warning Notices, Anti-social Behaviour Orders and High Court Injunctions.
7. Is any other legislation relevant e.g. harassment act.
8. Does the child have a phone that has a tracker on and if so who has permission to track this?
9. Are all the people relevant to the child aware of the risk that they face i.e. consider disclosure to relevant people.
10. Is secure accommodation a possibility and if so have the police provided evidence to support this.
11. Have any victim of suspect vehicles been considered for ANPR to provide information on the following:

* Activity outside children’s homes or other venues.
* Vehicles used to transport victims between towns.
* Vehicles roaming the streets looking for children.

1. Have CCTV staff been briefed to look for activity as under ANPR above.
2. Briefing sheets - Consider circulating pictures and details of potential victims and perpetrators along with vehicle details to all relevant people including Police, Local Wardens, other enforcement staff, CCTV operators etc.
3. Covert tactics where appropriate.
4. Source tasking may be an option.
5. DNA and other forensic examination - should be considered when there is some evidence that sexual activity has taken place. Items of clothing etc. should be seized and locations forensically examined even when a complaint is made. DNA may identify a significant number of perpetrators. If you believe a child is at risk of sexual exploitation, a volunteer DNA sample can be taken and submitted for inclusion on the Vulnerable Person DNA database (VPDD). The DNA Bureau will seek authority from the DNA Strategy Board to use this sample for elimination purposes in all CSE cases where the donor is the suspected victim. When a child continually goes missing from care, efforts should be made to make direct contact with care home staff and arrangements made for the prompt recovery of evidence where sexual offences are suspected to have taken place. Taking possession of mobile telephones and clothing could be crucial to the success of any future victimless prosecution.
6. Financial Investigation - may assist in locating vulnerable children missing from home. If you suspect that children are being trafficked for sex and the perpetrators are profiting financially, you should liaise with financial investigators and agree an investigation strategy. This may also be relevant where the perpetrator is also believed to be involved in drug offences. Financial transactions may reveal spending information e.g. hotel stays that can be followed up or identify evidence of benefit fraud, for which suspected perpetrators can be prosecuted.
7. Home visits - if you believe that potential victims are frequenting a suspected perpetrator’s address, particularly where an abduction warning has been given, it may be appropriate to arrange regular visits to the perpetrator’s home address to ensure that children at risk are not present, and to reinforce previous advice.
8. Hotels - where CSE perpetrators frequent hotels and the management are failing to prevent this, you could consider liaising with the local authority Licensing Department regarding compliance with legislation. Other options include:

* Routine high visibility visits
* Meeting with area and regional management
* Using abduction warnings for management and staff
* Seizing of CCTV and guest registers
* Forensic examination of rooms
* Obtaining payment details used by perpetrators
* Covert observations
* Sections 14 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 may apply if hotel staff allow perpetrators to rent rooms in return for money and in the knowledge that they intend to commit such an offence.

20. Parks and Town Centres - can be the location of initial contact between victim and perpetrator; or sexual offences. If a particular park or city centre location is identified then you may wish to consider working with the local authority to develop a joint action plan including:

* Briefing PCSO and neighbourhood policing teams and high visibility patrols.
* Briefing relevant staff from other agencies (Local Authority, Security Guards etc).
* Using CCTV and briefing CCTV Operators.
* Covert observations.

21. Takeaways and taxi firms - are sometimes linked to CSE incidents. If the staff/proprietors are uncooperative, you could consider:

* Briefing PCSO, neighbourhood and high visibility patrols at relevant times.
* Using child abduction warning notices.
* Prosecuting regarding Child Abduction Offences or section 14 (Sexual Offences Act 2003) Offences.
* Covert surveillance, potentially also including mobile surveillance.
* Liaising with Local Authority Licensing and Trading Standards with a view to revoking licences.
* Liaising with the Department of Work and Pensions and UK Border Agency regarding illegal employees.
* Consider Closure Orders.

22. Children’s Homes - Some perpetrators will park vehicles near to homes and are always likely to contact the victim by phone to arrange meetings. You could consider:

* Liaising with Children’s Services to ensure that the home is recording patterns of unauthorised absence incidents (not reported to the Police) and that the police are being updated.
* Preparing a Police Children’s Services Action Plan, agreeing joint actions for when the potential victim go missing.
* Briefing care staff regarding identities, photos and vehicle details of potential perpetrators and collating and analysing intelligence from care home staff regarding incidents, e.g. details of vehicles seen etc.
* High visibility patrols at relevant times.
* Covert observations.
* Consider moving the victim to new accommodation to prevent contact and break-up groups of victims who may go missing together.
* Collect potential sources of evidence from home staff, e.g. mobile phone lists and clothing when the victim returns and it is believed that sexual activity has taken place.

23. Schools - Schools may be identified as having particular issues in connection with CSE because one child has been targeted and is drawing friends into the abuse or because perpetrators may live locally or have attended the school themselves. You may wish to consider:

* Briefing school staff with identities, photos and vehicles details of potential perpetrators.
* Collating and analysing intelligence from staff regarding incidents.
* School staff recording unauthorised absence incidents.
* Talk to pupils about CSE issues and utilise high visibility patrols at relevant times.
* Covert observations with the school as a “pick-up point”.

24. Immigration Status - If you suspect that a perpetrator maybe a recent arrival in the UK, enquiries should be made with UKBA to establish immigration status.

25. MAPPA referral - if the appropriate criteria are met, the perpetrator could be managed as a MAPPA case. If Probation have no involvement it may still be possible to nominate an individual as a Potentially Dangerous Person (PDP) in order for a Superintendent to authorise multi-agency involvement, third party disclosures and inclusion on VISOR.

26. Targeting other offences - perpetrators could be disrupted if targeted for other offences including monitoring or Public Order Offences.

27. Technology - Wherever possible Section 18 PACE searches of the perpetrators premises and vehicles should be conducted to secure and preserve relevant evidence including mobile phones, computers and other data storage devices. Patterns of phone calls may disclose evidential material of value, particularly if a victim’s absences from a care home coincide with the receipt of calls from a particular number.

28. Facebook and social media - Although CSE Victims typically only allow access to identified “friends”, accessing Social Media sites may still disclose some information. You may wish to consider gaining the appropriate authority to secure further access.

29. Search Warrants - The information shared at MACSE may be sufficient for consideration of a search warrant being obtained for the home address of the suspected perpetrator. The types of warrant utilised include:

* PACE warrants searching for relevant evidence.
* Section 50 of the Children’s Act allows entry and search where there is reason to believe that a child that is subject of a Care Order, Emergency Protection or Police Protection Order is being held in circumstances amounting to an offence under Section 49 of this act (keep away a child without lawful authority).
* Misuse of Drugs Act, as there is a strong link between drug dealing and adults engaged in CSE.