



*A Stepping Stone to a Brighter Future*

## POLICIES & PROCEDURES

# 2. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## POLICY

## SCOTLAND

June 2015





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### **Principles, Aims & Objectives**

All staff must adhere to all policies and procedures and respond appropriately to concerns, allegations or disclosures of abuse and harm. This policy should be read in conjunction with Partners in Care, Pebbles Care & Radical Services Ltd (will be referred to as 'the company' throughout) Child Protection Policy Scotland which is based on the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and the SHANARRI indicators where every child is entitled to be:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Active
- Nurtured
- Achieving
- Respected
- Responsible
- Included

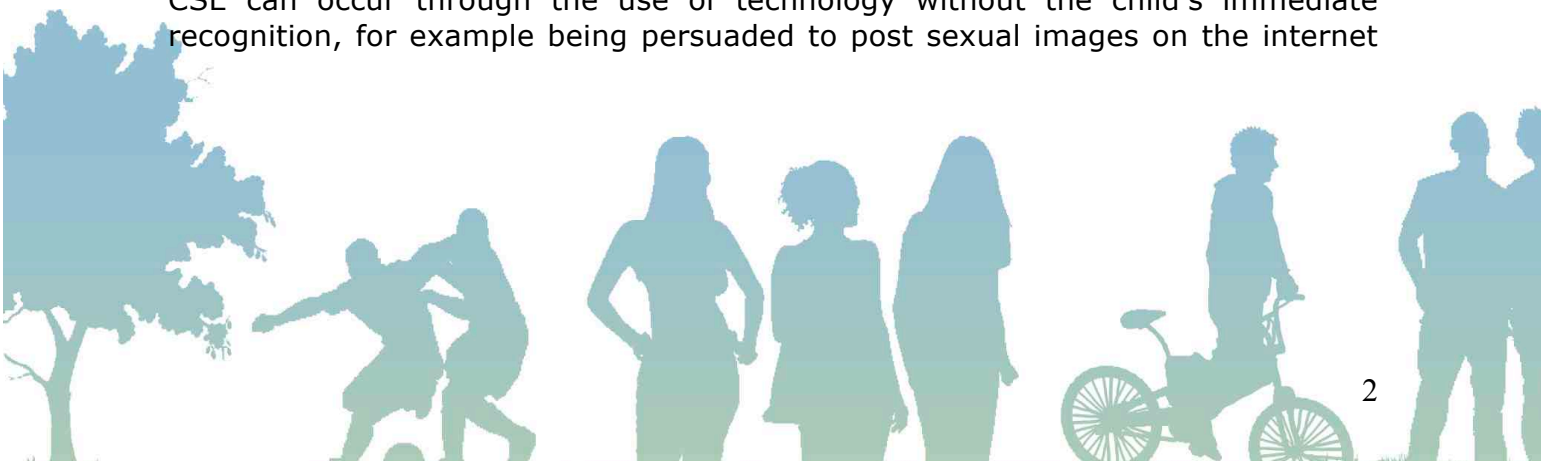
### **Definitions of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing/and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

(Barnardos)

- CSE is a form of child sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status and involves manipulation or coercion
- Manipulation involves befriending to build trust over time before abuse starts, children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship

CSE can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet





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or on a mobile phone without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person will have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social, economic, and emotional vulnerabilities

The company is committed to working with and for children/young people to end this exploitation and recognises this as a child protection concern as noted within National Guidance for Child Protection Scotland (2014). As such, any concerns referred regarding this issue should be given the same attention and urgency as any other child protection enquiry.

### **Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005**

Includes a number of offences to improve the protection given to children and young people from those who would wish to cause them sexual harm, or exploit them for sexual purposes including that of 'grooming' a child under the age of 16 and subsequently meeting or travelling to meet children for the purposes of committing a sexual offence; the offence is often linked to contact via online chat rooms. The act also includes Risk of Sexual Harm Orders to protect children and young people from persons who have not been convicted of any criminal offence but who have engaged in some level of sexually explicit behaviour or communication in respect of a child under 16. This is seen as a Civil matter.

### **Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009**

The Act has specific parts and incorporates online safety issues.

- Part one notes statutory offences which include rape, sexual assault by penetration, coercing a person to look at an image of sexual activity and communicating indecently. These offences are committed when a person engages in any such conduct without the other person's consent, and without any reasonable belief that the other person consented.
- Part two of the Act provides for a statutory definition of consent as "free agreement", supplemented with a non-exhaustive list of circumstances in which consent can never be present. It further provides that consent to conduct does not in and of itself constitute consent to any other conduct, and that consent may be withdrawn at any time.





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- Part four provides for "protective offences" which address predatory sexual behaviour towards children including online.
- Part five provides for offences concerning sexual abuse of trust. The Act provides that it shall be an offence for a person in a position of trust over a child under the age of 18 or a person with a mental disorder to engage in sexual activity with that child or person.

### **Prevention**

Staff at the company will ensure that all children/young people are aware of their absolute unconditional right to be kept safe and free from harm. Keyworkers will work with individual children/young people on their personal safety and protection and provide them with advice, assistance, guidance and support on how to keep themselves safe in future. Additionally, key workers and homes managers will liaise closely with allocated social workers and Police Scotland to further protect children/young people through agreed (written) plans.

Keyworkers and others will also act as 'Safe Adults' to whom children/young people can turn for help if they have been harmed, or fear they may be harmed in future. They will also inform children/young people of other support options including the names and phone numbers of Childline, Care Inspectorate and Police Scotland (101).

It is also important for Key workers to emphasise with each young person their responsibilities not to harm or exploit any of the other children/young people with whom they live and to treat them with dignity and respect (see Anti-Bullying Policy).

### **Recognition and indicators of Child Sexual Exploitation**

The following indicators, whether singly or in combination, should not be viewed as conclusive proof but any of them may be taken as suggestive of the possibility of child/young person sexual exploitation.

- Physical symptoms e.g. sexually transmitted infections, bruising or injuries they can't, or don't want to, explain, self-harms or wants to hurt themselves, STI's, teenage pregnancy.





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- Reports from sources i.e. Statutory and Voluntary agencies, Young Person, Peers.
- Reports that the child/young person has been seen in places known to be used for prostitution.
- Gets picked up in cars and taken places, consorting with unknown adults, has a much older boyfriend/girlfriend
- Associating with other children or young people who are known or suspected to be victims of sexual exploitation.
- Phone calls, letters, text messages or e-mails from adults outside the child/young person's usual range of social contacts.
- Phone calls, letters, text messages or e-mails from children or young people who are known or suspected to be victims of sexual exploitation.
- Awareness of grooming activity from other children/young people or adults.
- Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of the necessary funding.
- Persistent absconding or late return with no plausible explanation and no known base.
- Returning from absconding looking well cared for in spite of having no known base.
- Possessions/acquisition of money, expensive clothes, drugs or other possessions without plausible explanation.
- Often feels worried and moody and gets angry very easily
- Has changed their friends, who they hang round with and/or where they go
- Has started to drink, smoke or use drugs and doesn't always have to pay for them
- There are certain flats or places they go where there aren't adults about





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- They have been taken to stay in a hotel room
- Has changed a lot in how they look and take care of themselves
- They always have to have their phone and have to reply quickly to calls or messages.

### **Grooming**

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse or exploitation.

Children and young people can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age.

Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed, or that what has happened is abuse.

### Grooming in an abusive relationship

- Becomes an 'unloving' relationship
- Withdrawal of love or friendship
- Reinforcing dependency – stating they are damaged goods
- Isolation from family or friends
- Trickery or manipulation – “you owe me”
- Threatening behaviour
- Physical violence
- Sexual assaults
- Making them have sex with other people
- Giving drugs
- Playing on feelings of guilt, shame or fear





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### **Trafficking**

Child trafficking is child abuse. Children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold for financial gain. In most cases, the trafficker also receives payment from those wanting to exploit the child. Trafficking is not just the movement of children into the UK but from city to city within the UK. They are often subject to multiple forms of exploitation including CSE.

### **CSE in Gangs**

Sexual exploitation is used in gangs to:

- exert power and control over members
- initiate young people into the gang
- exchange sexual activity for status or protection
- entrap rival gang members by exploiting girls and young women
- inflict sexual assault as a weapon in conflict.

Girls and young women are frequently forced into sexual activity by gang members with girls considered to be engaging in casual sex seen as forfeiting their right to refuse sex. The majority of sexual exploitation within gangs is committed by teenage boys and men in their twenties.

### **Management**

All allegations or concerns in relation to abuse, neglect and/or sexual exploitation will be taken seriously and managed in line with the Companies Child Protection Policy (Scotland) and local Child Protection Procedures. (See Appendix I)

All staff will receive training on CSE to ensure the company equips staff with competency to meet the protection needs of all the children/young people they look after. This is further supported by regular supervision in which issues in relation to the management of any CSE concerns are addressed and any training needs identified.





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### **Recording/Confidentiality/Partnership working**

All CSE concerns will follow in line with the company child protection policy (Scotland) process or recording/confidentiality/partnership working.

When there are historical or current CSE concerns about a young person this information will be shared on a 'need to know' basis with the minimum number of people necessary to ensure the young person's safety and welfare. People who are informed will receive only the minimum amount of information necessary to enable them to implement the young person's placement plan.





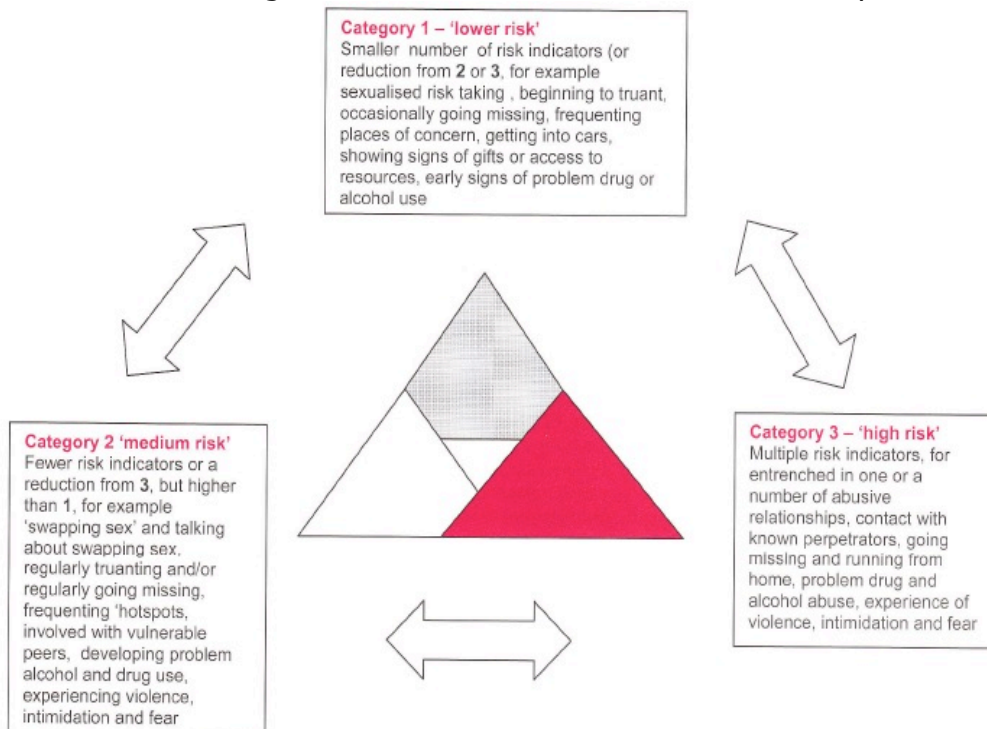
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### Appendix I

#### CSE Risk Assessment Cycle (developed by the NWG)

This model provides an indication of the intervention and support required for a child/young person or young person following an assessment of the degree or level of sexual exploitation they are experiencing. The assessment needs to be made on the basis of known risk indicators, or "signals" – immediate vulnerability factors – as well as any history of disadvantage or background of vulnerability factors.

The overlapping of the triangles reflects the fact that risk indicators may be shared between the different categories. The arrows indicate that children and young people move from one category to another. In a limited number of cases this may even include moving directly from high to low risk where interventions, including the prosecution of offenders, have been particularly effective. The movement between categories creates a CSE Risk Assessment Cycle:





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### **Cross Reference**

Radical Service, Pebbles Care, Partnership Care:

- Child Protection Policy Scotland
- Recruitment & Selection Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Whistle-Blowing Policy
- Disciplinary Policy

The United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

### **Legislation**

**Vulnerable Children and Young People: Sexual Exploitation Through Prostitution** (Scottish Executive 2003)

**Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences** (Scotland) Act 2005

**Safeguarding Children in Scotland who May have been trafficked** (Scottish Government 2009)

**Sexual Offences Act** (Scotland) 2009

**Child Abduction and Custody Act** 1985:

**Human Trafficking** (Scotland) Bill 2013

**National Guidance for Child Protection Scotland** (2014)

Updated: June 2015

