



REASON FOR REPORT	
Proposes specific action	Yes
Provides assurance	Yes

Report to Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report Title</b>	Scoping paper on risk factors, pathways and models on CSE/Missing to be developed considering how a local approach will feed into a regional approach
<b>Date of Report</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 – updated 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
<b>Purpose of report</b>	
To provide the Scrutiny Committee with the highlights of the report that was presented to the SSCB Board in January 2019, in relation to pathways and models for working with young people who are being, or are at risk of being sexually exploited and those that go missing from home or care and are trafficked. This report was commissioned as part of the Demand Seminar work that the SSCB undertook to address and manage the increasing demand on the child protection system.	
<b>Key points, risks and assurances</b>	
<b>Key Points:</b> <b>Background and context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This report is based on information from                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback from our children and young people referred to the Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Operational Group, Return Home Interviews and in attendance at the SSCB Young Person Conference in October 2018</li> <li>Barnardos who are contracted by Together for Children (TfC) – Sunderland to undertake all missing from home and care interviews for children residing in Sunderland</li> <li>A manual trawl of Liquid Logic (the electronic social care record) records for young people who were referred to Pre- MSET and MSET Operational Group between July – December 2018</li> <li>SSCB CSE Missing Profile Report 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018</li> <li>SSCB MSET Operational Group report – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019</li> <li>Information from a joint session of SSCB Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Project Group (VASPG) and the SSCB Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Operational Group members held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019</li> <li>Interim Snapshot Evaluation of the MSET Operational Group undertaken by Northumbria Police</li> </ul> </li> <li>The SSCB has a CSE Framework that includes a Risk Assessment Tool for professionals to use to assess the level of risk to a young person who may be being sexually exploited, going missing or being trafficked. The Risk Assessment Tool includes a scoring system to support an analysis of risk and a professional judgement to determine the level of risk to the young person. Evidence is required to underpin the score and a disruption plan is included to evidence what has been put in place through the case management process to address the risk to the young people</li> </ul>	

- The Missing, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficked (MSET) Operational Group is responsible for coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people who go missing and/or are at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), and/or trafficking. MSET is not about care planning, there is a strong focus on information sharing and problem solving and does have the added value to reduce risk and provide oversight of patterns and trends.
- MSET is preceded by a 'Pre' MSET. 'Pre' MSET is attended by the MSET Coordinator (Together for Children), the embedded 'Sanctuary' social worker (currently on maternity leave and there is no replacement at this time), the ICRT MSET Social Worker and the Police Missing from Home Coordinator (MFHC). At the Pre-MSET all submitted MSET Risk Assessment Tools are reviewed and assessed alongside police information and intelligence to determine if they meet the criteria for consideration at MSET
- These arrangements are mirrored across South Tyneside and Gateshead LSCB's except for a Service Manager attends other operational Pre MSET and MSET meetings in other local authority areas. This is not the case at Sunderland. The MSET Chair reports that from observation, involvement of a Service Manager does provide immediate managerial oversight of cases and the capability to intervene, expedite safeguarding and address training issues and under performance more quickly. This is being considered in Sunderland
- At 'Pre' MSET, Police and Children's Services also compare data relating to those children who have been reported as missing and consider whether, regardless of whether there is a risk of sexual exploitation, that the child's missing episodes warrant intervention and whether MSET can add value at that time
- MSET considers medium and high risk cases of concern and is chaired by the Detective Inspector from the specialist multi-agency unit formerly known as Team Sanctuary South. Referrals can be made by any agency and are made on the basis that the child may be at risk of being sexually exploited or trafficked. Whilst MSET specifically refers to 'sexual' exploitation, the Risk Assessment Tool encompasses a wide range of risk factors which would capture other forms of exploitation such as criminal exploitation & County Lines. During the 'pre' MSET discussion information is shared and a collective agreement is arrived at based on the threat, harm and risk posed to the child and whether MSET is likely to add value at that time
- MSET is attended by representatives from a wide range of agencies including Together for Children, the City Council (Community Safety and People Directorate), health services and specialist voluntary sector representatives. Safety planning and the reduction of threat, risk and harm of exploitation is a key focus. Community safety representatives act as an interface with a wide range of Council functions that can support the safety plans where appropriate
- Disruption of offenders is a key area supported by Safer Sunderland Partnership and wider City Council services and can be facilitated in complex cases via referral to extra ordinary Local Multi Agency Partnership Meetings (LMAPS) where offender disruption tactics are considered in detail
- Social Workers are required to attend to present the up to date Risk Assessment tool. Members of MSET are required to provide options and /or services over and above what would be expected of a core group or care group member
- Barnardos provides a 6 day a week offer working between 8am – 8pm under the contract with TfC. This offers a flexible service which is available outside of office

hours to a certain extent. There is regular contract monitoring on the commissioned service and the provider also reports into the SSCB Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Project Group.

### **Current Situation**

- The MSET Coordinator is seconded into the SSCB Business Unit for six months to strengthen the arrangements around MSET and to undertake the role of part time SSCB Performance and Quality Assurance Programme Board Officer during the substantive post holder's maternity leave
- The secondment arrangement has facilitated the appointment of a MSET Social Worker into the Integrated Contact and Referral Team as a six month pilot
- Both arrangements have been extended to October 2019

### **Updated profile of our young people impacted on by MSET issues**

#### **MSET Risk Assessment Tool and the MSET process between July 2018 – December 2018**

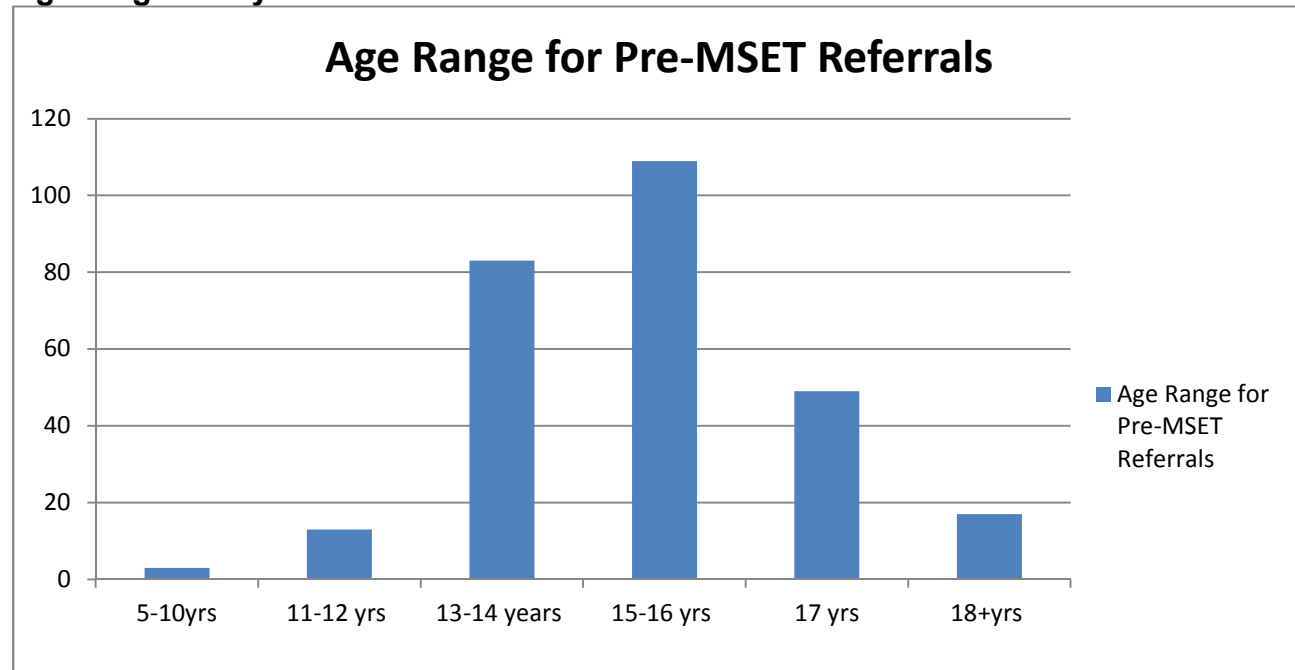
- Between July – December 2018, 6 Pre-MSET and 6 MSET meetings were held and 274 Risk Assessments were referred. Of these 249 (91%) were submitted from Social Care, 25 (9%) were submitted from partners. Only 23 of these Risk Assessments met the criteria for MSET and these were all cases submitted by social workers
- The level of risk in the 274 tools submitted was; 35 as low risk, 182 as medium risk and 64 as high risk. In contrast the Tools that were agreed to meet the criteria for MSET Operational Group were cited as 9 as medium and 14 as high risk. The conversion rate from Pre-MSET and MSET is therefore very low at 9% over this six month period
- Evaluation of the risk assessment tools received has highlighted that too many are being referred that do not meet the criteria for MSET. This will be addressed by the launch of an updated CSE Framework and MSET Risk Assessment Tool in March 2019 and accompanying training for multi-agency staff and more specialist sessions for social workers. The purpose of this is to strengthen the identification and analysis of risk and to ensure that only young people who require additional support outside of the case management process are considered at Pre-MSET and MSET accordingly

### **Characteristics of our young people considered at Pre - MSET and MSET**

#### **Gender**

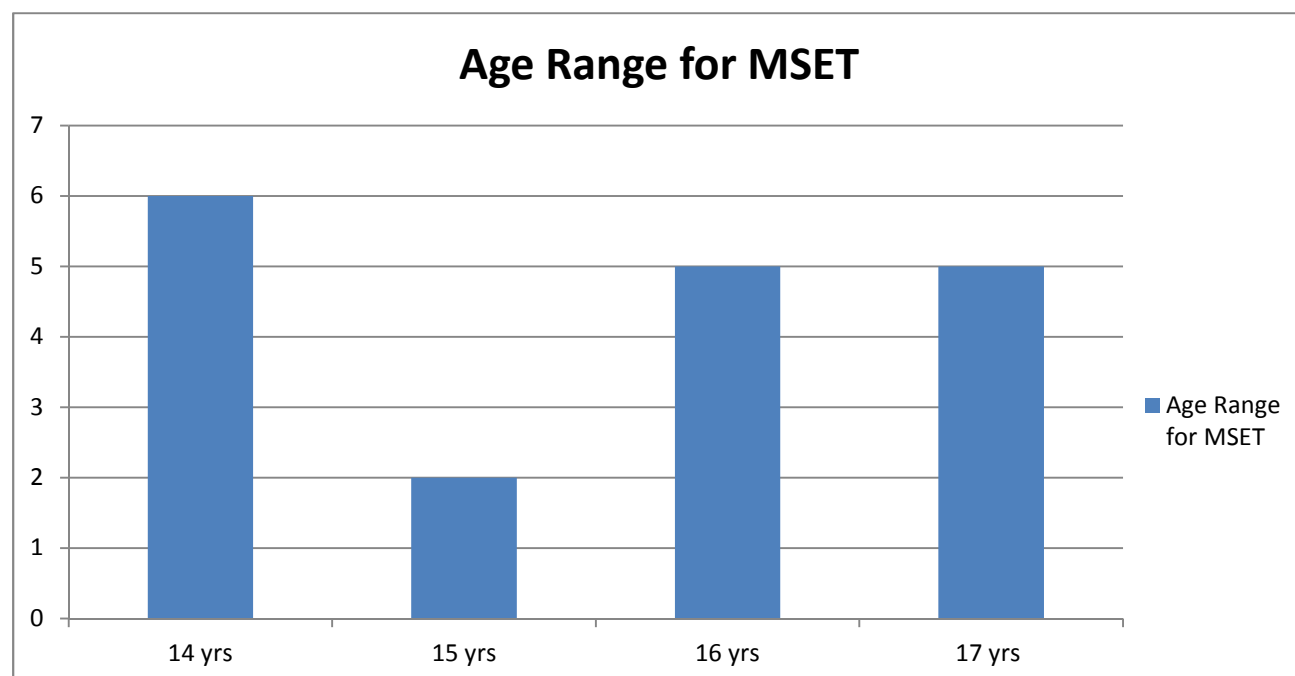
- There is a clear difference in gender between the Pre-MSET referrals and the cases that are determined to meet the criteria for MSET. 61% and 39% of the Risk Assessments referred to Pre-MSET related to females and males respectively but this ratio was almost reversed in the cases that met the criteria for MSET. That is, 31% and 69% related to females and males respectively.

### Age range – July – December 2018

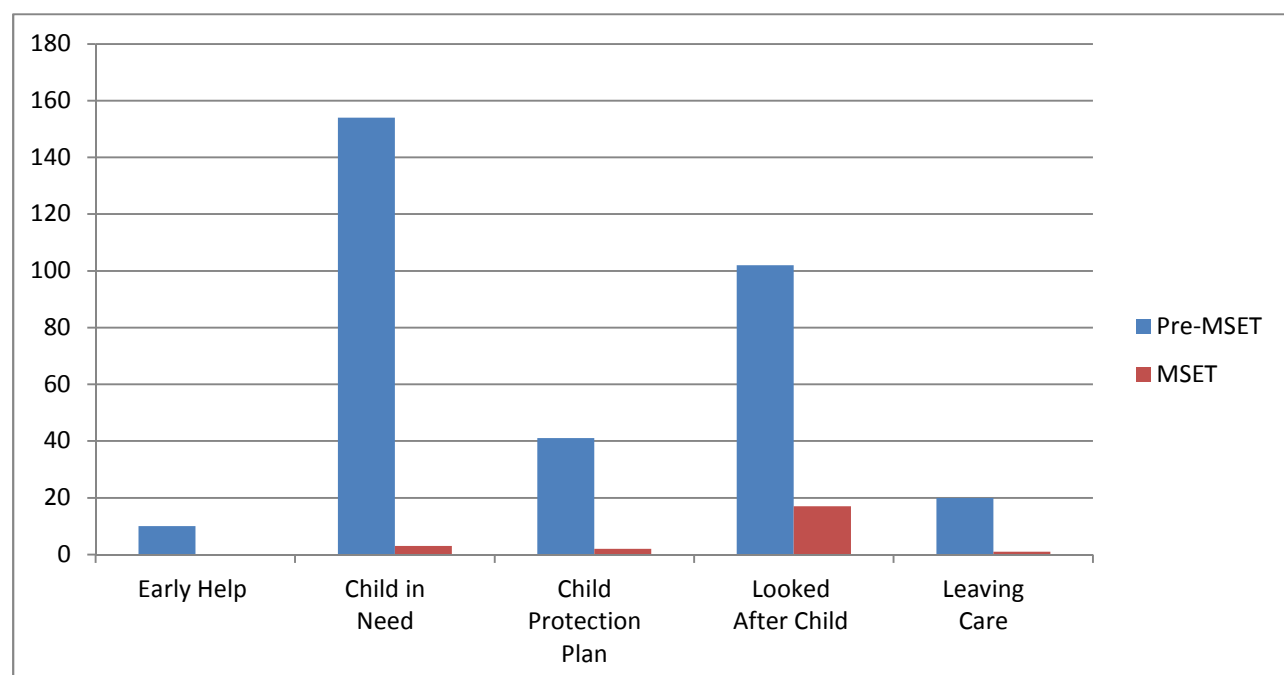


- For the Pre-MSET cases the most common age group is the 15-16 year olds but in the cases that were deemed to meet the criteria for MSET the largest proportion is young people who are 14 years old.

### Age range - July – December 2018

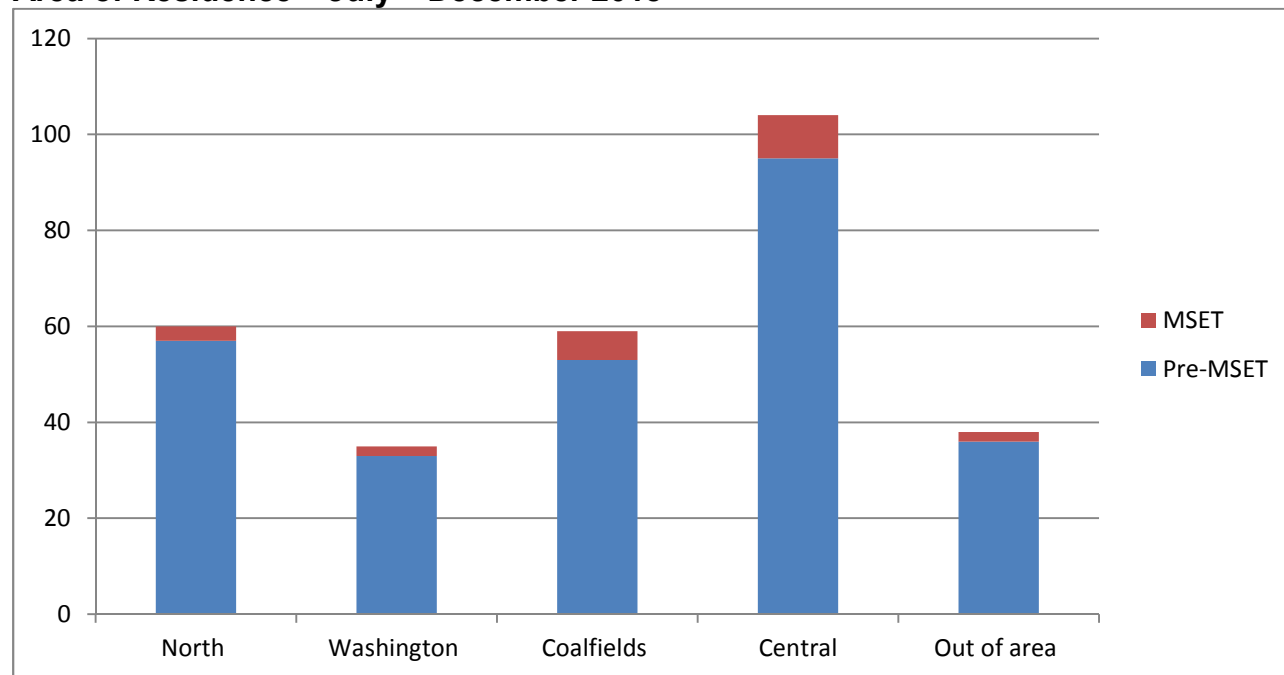


## Legal Status – July –December 2018



- Young people who were receiving services as a child in need<sup>1</sup> were the biggest cohort to be referred for Pre-MSET but the biggest cohort who were discussed at the MSET Operational Group were looked after children. A manual trawl of the risk assessments would be required to determine the young person's looked after status such as subject to a full care order as it is not possible to pull that data directly from Liquid Logic.

## Area of Residence – July – December 2018



<sup>1</sup> Section 17 of the Children Act 1989

- Most young people who were considered at Pre-MSET lived in the Central area of Sunderland, however, this is not an accurate picture as there may be an overestimate based on the areas where children's homes and supported accommodation is placed in the City

### **Exit from MSET**

- During July 2018 and December 2018 67 young people exited MSET. Again the reasons for the exit cannot be retrieved from Liquid Logic and would require a manual trawl of the cases. There are various reasons for exiting MSET which include the young person now being sufficiently safe, there is nothing more that MSET can offer, or the young person has moved out of the area etc.
- Strategies have been put in place to improve data collection on the key characteristics such as area of residence and to track the reasons for exiting MSET. This will ensure a more robust analysis of the impact of MSET and the needs of our young people impacted on by MSET issues

There have been significant concerns around CSE in a small number of cases where the child has not been known to services and few risks and indicators were perceived to be present before they came to Children's Services attention. This is increasing across Sunderland and further work is planned to better understand and address this trend.

### **Missing from Home or Care**

- Barnardos have a contractual requirement to achieve a 70% completion rate which was achieved until December 2018 for the reasons cited below
- In December 2018 Barnardos had 56 referrals of which over two thirds were males and over a third females. There have been 46 (82%) referrals processed with interviews offered and there have been 24 (43%) RHI's completed. This drop is due to a combination of change of staffing, Christmas holidays and a specific issue of not being able to access secure email over the Christmas and New Year period. 24 RHI's were offered within the 72 hour time period, which is also low and is due to the same issues
- In December, 29 of the interviews were not completed because the young person refused or the parents refused. Barnardos note that there remains confusion amongst parents as to why Barnardos need to visit if the child has already been seen by another professional. This is an area being addressed by the provider
- Further work is planned to strengthen the arrangements for return interviews which include improved and sustained completion rates, improved formats for the interviews and strengthening the use of the data and intelligence to inform improved practice.

Month 2018	No of referrals	Number Completed	% success rate
April	68	52	76%
May	70	58	83%
June	79	61	77%
July	76	59	77%
August	81	69	85%
September	60	51	83%
October	102	76	75%
November	60	39	65%
December	56	27	48%

**Key characteristics of our children and young people impacted on by MSET issues (i.e. Gender, ethnicity, disability etc)**

- Any child or young person could be affected by MSET issues
- Disabilities such as Asperger's and being on the Autistic Spectrum are vulnerable to online exploitation particularly as they sometimes find it easier to communicate online
- Undiagnosed or diagnosed but "untreated"/unsupported learning disability and/or mental health
- Minority ethnic group where English is not their first language
- Children involved in criminal behaviour and those being targeted for criminal exploitation
- Attachment issues and poor parenting capacity
- Suffered historical trauma (adverse childhood experiences)
- Not accessing services
- Lonely and isolated with a need to belong
- Emergence of young people not known to services and not known to be vulnerable
- Age – linked to key transitions (like moving to secondary school)
- Gender – under reporting of boys – social/cultural impact regarding reporting by males and it is not just girls
- Identity issues for young people and vulnerabilities linked to transgender
- Excluded (particularly permanently excluded, poor attenders, persistent absence)
- Those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- On the edge of care or who are already in care
- Parental lack of wider education and awareness in 'middle England'
- Homelessness – A relatively small but an increased number of 16+ young people being reported as being evicted/not abiding by care plans, sofa surfing and in a small number of examples believed on occasions to be rough sleeping or walking the streets

**Substance Misuse**

- A variety of drugs are being used by our young people including, Ecstasy, Crack Cocaine, Spice, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, Alcohol, MDMA, IV Heroin, Ketamine
- Increase in access to and use of prescription drugs such as Diazepam,



Gabapentin, Pregabalin, Valium, Codeine, Fluoxetine, and Xanax. This appears to be bringing a wider circle of young people into trying drugs when they may not have previously

- Alcohol such as vodka, spirits, cheap forms of cider are most common with young people persuading adults to go into the shops for them, typically in off licences in their locality/hotspots highlighted or more predominantly being provided by parents (“Middle England”)
- Different trends happen at different times
- Funding – money from parents, criminal activity, getting it from other peers, given it by exploiters
- Acceptance/maintenance rather than prevention/abstinence
- Dual diagnosis issues – what to address first, substance misuse issues or mental health issues
- The risks of the drug use are known but take to self-medicate/soothe
- Some young people will take ANYTHING without knowing likely effect

### **Areas of vulnerability – Push/Pull Factors**

- There are no “hotspots” of child sexual exploitation as it can occur in a wide variety of situations and locations, but we do identify vulnerability areas particularly where we have young people gathering or in areas such as retail, fast food and leisure outlets. We do not however know the extent of online abuse and grooming though have seen an increase in activity by online paedophile hunter “vigilante” groups and this highlights that the threat of online perpetrators is very real both within and beyond Sunderland
- Sunderland is a City Centre - this attracts people
- Anywhere that young people congregate
- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues related to the City Centre include Wearmouth Bridge, Metro System and South Tyneside. Places such as McDonalds, Centrepont, Retail Park, Ski Park, Flats, (Farringdon, Barmston, and Roker etc), buses and shopping centres act as hotspots due to food and free Wi-Fi
- Risk Assessments submitted for Pre-MSET identify young people going to Mowbray Park, Park Lane Bus Station but also visiting other unnamed parks and hanging around the streets
- There has also been reference made by the young people to visiting Gateshead, Durham, Newcastle, Bradford and Derby. Barnardos also note that missing incidents which include cross boundary travel and highlight the particular challenges in these circumstances to share intelligence
- The role of social media to arrange events and sell items needs further exploration to fully understand how it can be better disrupted
- Hidden vulnerability e.g. from “average” families who don’t come into contact with services
- Social events e.g. Pride, the Hopping’s etc
- Generational pulls e.g. older peers who have been exploited
- Parents/professional awareness of apps/locations of interest
- Impact of social media - accessibility – KIK, Yellow, Bidoo, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, dating apps e.g. Grindr
- Availability of drugs/alcohol – alcohol provided by parents (“middle England”)
- Opportunity for concealed sexual activity
- Financial/material benefit/opportunity



- Known adult exploitation – homes
- Community vulnerabilities
- Accommodation for vulnerable people in relation to areas of vulnerability

### **Types of exploitation and other risks**

- Peer to peer abuse remains the more common form of exploitation in Sunderland and manifests in various ways/models where peers themselves have often experienced varying levels of abuse themselves. Victims can become facilitators and/or exploiters
- Some young people report a fear of going places in Sunderland due to a risk of violence to them from other young people
- Parents, siblings, grandparents, strangers, wider family members, friends, associates can be exploiters
- Drug running/County Lines<sup>2</sup>
- Cuckooing<sup>3</sup>
- Links with sex work
- Exploitation within employment settings, e.g. nail bars
- Finding work through ‘helping friends’
- Changes in benefits
- Transition to adulthood - Gap into adult support provision – ‘the transitions’ for vulnerable young people
- Barriers are: Limited understanding/confidence/who do I share with?
- Online issues
- Parents – lack of awareness and education
- Lack of alternative youth provision – that meets need of potential vulnerable young people
- Drugs
- Financial
- Emotional – any relationship is better than none at all
- Generational trends and modelling
- Bullying
- Slavery

### **Assurance**

- Sunderland is the only local authority of the 6 Northumbria Police areas which provides for a dedicated MSET Coordinator. The Coordinator is an experienced social worker and intervenes and makes recommendations to social workers, their line managers and other agencies in order to mitigate risk where cases are not yet appropriate for discussion at MSET. This role therefore provides a ‘safety net’ in terms of risk management. It could be argued that missed opportunities should have been identified by line managers; however it should be born in mind that referrals can be made for a varied range of stakeholders with safeguarding responsibilities, who would not have this level of experience, expertise or capability

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<sup>2</sup> **County Lines**” is the term used to describe a form of organised crime where criminals based in urban areas pressurise vulnerable people and children to transport, store and sell drugs in smaller county towns. It takes its name from the phone lines used by organised crime gangs to communicate between towns

<sup>3</sup> **Cuckooing** is a form of crime in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for drug dealing

to trigger safeguarding activity which lies outside of their organisational role

- Over the last year, much work has been done to ensure a robust and effective MSET agenda, to avoid the meeting becoming a care planning meeting and to ensure an effective MSET which provides sufficient time to those cases which will benefit from the shared knowledge and diversionary, supportive, disruptive measures that can be provided by the regular and ad-hoc members in relation to both the children's themselves, perpetrators/offenders, locations and wider communities
- Attendance at Sunderland MSET is excellent and the effective contribution by members has improved considerably in the past year, particularly worthy of mention is the contribution and ownership taken by the educational representative at Sunderland MSET and health agencies.
- The MSET Coordinator has been seconded into the SSCB Business Unit to strengthen the MSET process and identify robust effective ways of collating data to develop a more robust profile for Sunderland.
- TfC have started a CSE pilot in the Integrated Contact and Referral Team by appointing a temporary social worker to deal with all referrals relating to the MSET agenda.
- The SSCB held a consultation event with 60 young people on 10.10.18 and This will be shared with the Safer Sunderland Partnership in their community safety role
- Strategically, following collaboration by all six local authorities, terms of reference & a corporate Risk Assessment tool are in the process of being agreed for MSET, which will be styled as Missing, Slavery, Exploitation & Trafficked Operational & Strategic groups across all six local authorities. In addition, for those areas not chaired by Police (Northumberland & Newcastle), it was agreed that the Police would chair those meetings in future. Work is ongoing to develop and support the training, implementation and embedding of this process and a timetable is to be agreed. Sunderland has been extremely pro-active in supporting and driving changes and improvements in this process
- The next steps in relation to this is the ongoing engagement with adult and children services across all 6 local authority areas to capture adults as part of the MSET process
- In addition the following work has been undertaken in respect of improving activity and outcomes for children impacted on by MSET issues:
  - TfC commissioned the CSE National Working Group to deliver CSE training at the front door for the ICRT/Assessment team workers
  - SSCB have provided safeguarding children and young people from abuse by sexual exploitation – all people who register for any SSCB training must complete this mandatory training
  - Key members of MSET Operational Group attended the Tackling Sexual Exploitation conference in Newcastle and attended the Modern Day Slavery Conference Newcastle re Operation Cluster (re a Slovak OCG group)
  - MSET Coordinator attended a conference on Sexually Abusive Behaviour with a view to implementing a framework across Sunderland to identify, assess and manage peer on peer abuse and the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) training
  - MSET Coordinator and Operation Sanctuary Social Worker:
    - § Delivered 2 training sessions in 2018 with foster carer's, on child sexual exploitation, MSET, Operation Sanctuary, Missing, Trafficking – recognising signs and indicators

- § Delivered 2 training sessions in 2018 at Sunderland University to post-graduate and under-graduate social work students, in relation to child sexual exploitation, MSET, Operation Sanctuary, Missing, Trafficking – recognising signs and indicators
- § Attended TfC team meetings of social workers and Early Help workers to raise the profile of MSET, Operation Sanctuary, processes and procedures
- SSCB arranged multi-agency training from Hope for Justice to deliver 10 Modern Day Slavery sessions between in 2018, 276 multi-agency staff attended
- Training was delivered to MSET Operational Group members entitled 'Introduction: Sexual Violence and Trauma Training' carried out by Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland.
- A Joint VASG and MSET Operational Group meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to strengthen relationships between the strategic and operational Group members, share intelligence and information regarding our cohort of children impacted on by MSET issues and contribute to this report
- SSCB Strategic Business Manager, Together for Children and the Council's licensing section are developing a plan for training requirements for taxi driver/escort on child abuse including recognising signs and indicators of CSE. A proposal is to go to the next SSCB Executive Group about how the requirement for taxi drivers to attend this training on a 3 year cycle can be part of their licensing requirements

## **Risks**

The following have been identified as key issues that must be addressed in order to improve safeguarding of children and young people impacted on by MSET issues:

At the SSCB Young People Conference in October 2018 our young people asked for the following from the conference:

- More information on Drugs and Alcohol, Stress and Health issues
- How to tell people if you are having difficulties with mental health, relationships and drugs
- They would like the Police to talk to them about how they are stopping crime
- More about Sunderland issues – i.e. racism, rapes and grooming
- More about bullies

This feedback will be taken forward by the SSCB Learning and Workforce Development Programme Board.

Professionals have identified the following:

- A whole system approach is needed which should include Public Health
- The education of parents and carers around key risks such as social media, online exploitation, alcohol and substance abuse and grooming etc is essential
- The appointment of the pilot MSET ICRT Social Worker is a positive move but they were also to work with the MSET Coordinator to strengthen the response to our young people impacted on by MSET issues but this has not been possible due their workload and as such there is no contingency support for the work of the

MSET Coordinator. The arrangements for post pilot also need to be agreed to be assured that there is sufficient resource and resilience to continue to make the improvements that are required

- Knowledge of criminal exploitation
- The risks of pop-up parties need to be better understood and addressed by parents /carers and professionals
- Increase the awareness of the community and key parts of the community such as taxi drivers etc to identify and report concerns
- Diversionary activities that provide a positive alternative to the risky, dangerous and criminal activities children can be drawn into
- Role models and mentors who are committed to children and who will maintain positive long term relationships outside of any professional role
- A skilled workforce who understands the real risks our children face today such as the potential risks from social media. This includes those who train other professionals
- Managing key elements of risk during transition arrangements to keep children safe
- Awareness and understanding of motivations to engage in activity
- Address the low cost of alcohol and easy access to it especially via parents and carers – “Middle England”
- Improved information sharing including intelligence around hot spots etc – this facilitates the identification of crimes being identified and responded to by the police
- Closing services when issues still exist
- Pathways are required
- Continue to embed the improvements in the MSET Operational Group work
- Strengthen the quality of assessments of children and young people impacted on by MSET issues through the introduction and embedding of the new SSCB MSET Risk Assessment Tool

Actions to respond to these concerns and risks raised by professionals are included in the SSCB Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Project Group Plan at Appendix 1.

The SSCB agreed in January 2019 to:

1. Extend the secondment of the MSET Co-ordinator and Front Door CSE Pilot to continue until October 2019 and MSET Coordinator to remain in SSCB Business Unit for management and supervision
2. Chief Executive of Together for Children to establish a multi-agency Task and Finish Group to consider how a multi-agency “one stop service” could be developed for vulnerable adolescents in Sunderland
3. Agreed the actions as outlined in the SSCB Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Project Group Plan at Appendix 1
4. Noted the findings of the Interim Snapshot Evaluation of the MSET Operational Group and agree the recommendations from that report at Appendix 2
  - To continue to strengthen the work of the MSET Operational Group
  - To establish a robust quality assurance framework to measure the impact of the work of the MSET Operational Group
5. Issues regarding access and impact of alcohol to be addressed as part of the Health & Wellbeing Alcohol Group

## **Conclusion**

- This report is the most comprehensive understanding of:
  - The key characteristics of our cohort of children and young people who are at risk of/are being harmed in respect of MSET issues
  - The risks that face our children and young people based on consultation with children and young people and practitioners
  - The key risks that are evident in the safeguarding system which must be addressed to safeguard our children
  - The progress that has been made in respect of MSET activity
  - The contribution that Sunderland has made to the regional MSET activity
  - The remaining activity that is required to improve, strengthen and embed our response

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**Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board Project Plan – Vulnerable Adolescent Framework  
V13 15.02.19**

**Key**

**S** = Action started

**C** = Action Complete

<b>Programme Board</b>	<b>Learning and Workforce Development Programme Board</b>	
<b>Project Group</b>	<b>Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Project Group (VASPG)</b>	
<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Linda Mason</b>	<a href="mailto:Linda.Mason1@togetherforchildren.org.uk">Linda.Mason1@togetherforchildren.org.uk</a>
<b>SSCB Lead Officer</b>	<b>Lynne Thomas</b>	<a href="mailto:Lynne.thomas@sunderland.gov.uk">Lynne.thomas@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

**Project:** In order to improve the effectiveness of multi-agency practice with adolescents who are at risk due to substance misuse, other forms of risk taking behaviour and/or abuse/exploitation, the SSCB should work with the Children's Strategic Partnership, the Safer Sunderland Partnership and the Sunderland Safeguarding Adult Board to develop a multi-agency framework to support the development of resilience and improve outcomes for vulnerable adolescents. This framework should include:

- a) A strategy, robust systems, protocols and tools for working with vulnerable adolescents and
- b) Workforce Development opportunities to support staff to engage effectively with young people, better assess and understand issues of risk such as CSE, substance misuse and transition etc.

No.	Task	Lead	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19
1	Agree governance arrangements for the VASPG and MSET Operational Group (MSET to become Missing, slavery, exploited (child sexual and criminal) and trafficked Operational Group)	LT/ CW	S											
2	Review and strengthen the performance and assurance framework for the MSET Operational Group to include scorecard, agency engagement measures etc.	LT	S											
3	<b>COMPLETE</b> Re-establish MSET Operational Group reporting to VASPG	LT	C											
4	Identify multi-agency workforce development needs and publish workforce development offer – to include	PJ	S											

No.	Task	Lead	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training offer to support practitioners to deal with the real potential risks that children face</li> <li>Training for MSET Operational Group members to maintain their expertise in providing “added value”</li> </ul>													
5	Review and update SSCB Missing Protocol	MH	S											
6	Develop and implement a Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy	LM	S											
7	Establish 6 monthly joint VASPG and MSET Operational Group development sessions	AS/ LT	S											
8	Establish Task and Finish Group to develop Vulnerable Adolescent Framework	AS	S											
10	Implement updated MSET Risk Assessment Tool	LT/ AA	S	C										
11	Consult with practitioners and their managers in the development of the VAF to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MSET Operational Group members</li> <li>Wider workforce</li> </ul>	LT/ AA	S											
12	Consult with relevant children and young people to inform the development of the VAF framework and workforce development opportunities for staff	LT	S											
13	Complete National Working Group benchmarking exercise	LT/ AA							S					
15	Identify good practice from the MSET Operational Group and use to improve practice	AA	S											
16	Develop and launch awareness raising tools for	LT	S											



No.	Task	Lead	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19
	professionals re: VASPG issues													
17	Develop and launch awareness raising tools for parents and carers re: VASPG issues	AA	S											
18	Develop and launch awareness raising tools for children and young people re: VASPG issues	LT/AA	S											
19	Deliver a city wide campaign around child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation in partnership with the NSPCC	LT/AA						S						
20	Develop and maintain a robust profile for CSE, criminal exploitation, trafficking, missing for Sunderland to inform future work	LT/AA	S											
21	Develop and deliver an education offer for parents and carers around key risks such as social media, online exploitation, alcohol and substance abuse and grooming	AA	S											
22	Increase the awareness of the community and key parts of the community such as taxi drivers etc to identify and report concerns	LT/AA	S											
23	Strengthen practice during transition arrangements to keep children safe	AA	S											
24	Work with Together for Children (TFC) to strengthen arrangements for return home/care interviews	AA/LT	S											
25	Establish a SSCB MSET Champions Group	AA/LT			S									
26	Implement and embed a new missing from home or care protocol (for operational activity)	MH/AA	S											



<b>Report to</b> SSCB Board	
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Interim Snapshot evaluation of the impact of the SSCB Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficking (MSET) Operational Group</b>
<b>Date of Report</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>Purpose of report</b>	
To provide an interim evaluation of the impact of the SSCB MSET Operational Group in respect of preventing future crimes to young people from a police perspective.	
<b>Recommendation/Action Required</b>	
Board members to agree: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To continue to strengthen the work of the MSET Operational Group</li> <li>2. To establish a robust quality assurance framework to measure the impact of the work of the MSET Operational Group</li> </ol>	
<b>Key points, risks and assurances</b>	
<p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SSCB MSET Operational Chair commissioned a snapshot evaluation of Sunderland MSET Operational Group to provide some understanding of whether or not it provided added value and whether the objectives of MSET are being met</li> <li>• The review has been undertaken to establish if those children, whilst under the scrutiny of MSET, have reported being a victim of crime</li> <li>• This was based only on police information so there was no review of the action taken by other professionals</li> </ul> <p><b>Assurance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 young people have been discussed at MSET from April – December 2018. One of the 23 children has reported being a victim of crime which occurred after MSET intervention. MSET did recommend a number of actions in that case and it is unclear if they were acted upon prior to the child becoming a further victim. Further review of that case is recommended to identify any lessons learned</li> <li>• 2 children disclosed being a victim of crime after MSET intervention, however, the crimes were historic, suggesting that professionals have positively engaged with the young people thereby building sufficient trust to disclose the crime</li> <li>• This research whilst single agency and based purely on whether MSET has led to a reduction in further crime, tends to demonstrate that despite areas for improvement, MSET plays an effective part of the safeguarding process, and combined with the expertise and range of supportive services embedded within the victim hubs, results in the obtaining of disclosures from young people that otherwise may not have been achieved</li> </ul>	

- It appears that the involvement of MSET Operational Group does lead to positive outcomes for young people. A more detailed analysis is available

**Risks:**

- There is a risk to basing the success of the arrangements on a limited evaluation and further work is required to get a more rounded, holistic understanding of the impact of the SSCB MSET arrangements have on improving outcomes for children and young people impacted on by MSET issues
- Further work is required to determine whether the crime committed against the one young person post MSET intervention, could have been prevented

**Report author and Designation**

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