

Haringey Exploitation service: Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation.

‘Our vision is a Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential’.

An adolescent out of sight is like a kite in the clouds even though you cannot see them, even though you cannot hear them, even though you cannot control their movements we can feel the tug on the strings of our systems, that sometimes cannot hold them.

Introduction:

Haringey's Children and Young People's Exploitation Service has been operational since January 2018, and was formed out of two separate forums: the Haringey CYPS 'Missing & Child Sexual Exploitation Panel' and the Gangs Unit 'Girls & Gangs' Panel.

Following a multi-agency task and finish review the Exploitation Service was relaunched as the Vulnerability Violence and Exploitation Prevention Service (VVEP).

The multi-agency collaboration has proved to be effective in managing the emerging challenges Haringey Children and Young People's Service is facing in relation to serious youth violence, child exploitation and contextual safeguarding concern. This report provides a detailed update on the developments within the service and the continued commitment to offer robust and timely intervention to families, young people, and vulnerable young adults at risk of or suffering exploitation.

The Haringey Context

The London Borough of Haringey has a large youth demographic of residents under the age of 18, which make up a third of the population. The population density of these young people can be found broadly across the east of the borough, in Tottenham Hale, Northumberland Park and Seven Sisters. Within these areas can be found high numbers of children and young people who are victims of child exploitation. We are now better at understanding that child exploitation encompasses many forms of abuse: child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation, gangs, county lines and Modern-Day Slavery – and we also have a greater understanding that our local children and young people are consistently targeted, groomed and held in debt hostage situations to local gangs and drug dealers, who use them to package and deliver drugs across the country.

The Exploitation Service

The Haringey Exploitation Service aims to provide a coordinated, multi-agency response to children, young people and vulnerable adults who are currently at risk, or likely to be at risk of, *Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, County Lines and Gangs*.

The service provides a range of services and forums whereby Violence, vulnerabilities and exploitation is discussed and addressed from a multi-agency perspective.

As part of the Ofsted improvement plan it is recognised that Haringey has a commitment to building on their delivery of services to Young people and families at risk of Exploitation.

The Exploitation Service is set to expand to incorporate a social work team to develop robust, timely and specialist intervention to children, young people and families at risk of violence, vulnerability and exploitation. The focus will be on adolescence whereby extra familial harm has been identified.

Outlined below are the current pathways under the umbrella of the Exploitation Service. The services aim to provide a wraparound approach to intervention and support to address exploitation and extra-familial harm in all its forms.

Contextual Safeguarding:

Child criminal and sexual exploitation and serious youth violence disproportionately impacts on young people within the borough. Haringey is facing increasing challenges in safeguarding our most vulnerable adolescents. Over the past twelve months front line professionals find themselves having to safeguard children and young people involved in exploitation, against a backdrop of an increased in knife crime (National Crime Statistics 2018) and find the usual structures and systems relating to child protection ineffective. To reinforce our safeguarding practice, the Exploitation Service is adopting a Contextual Safeguarding Approach as below:

Contextual Safeguarding has been developed by Carlene Firmin at the University of Bedfordshire over the past six years to inform policy and practice approaches to safeguarding adolescents. Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Gangs

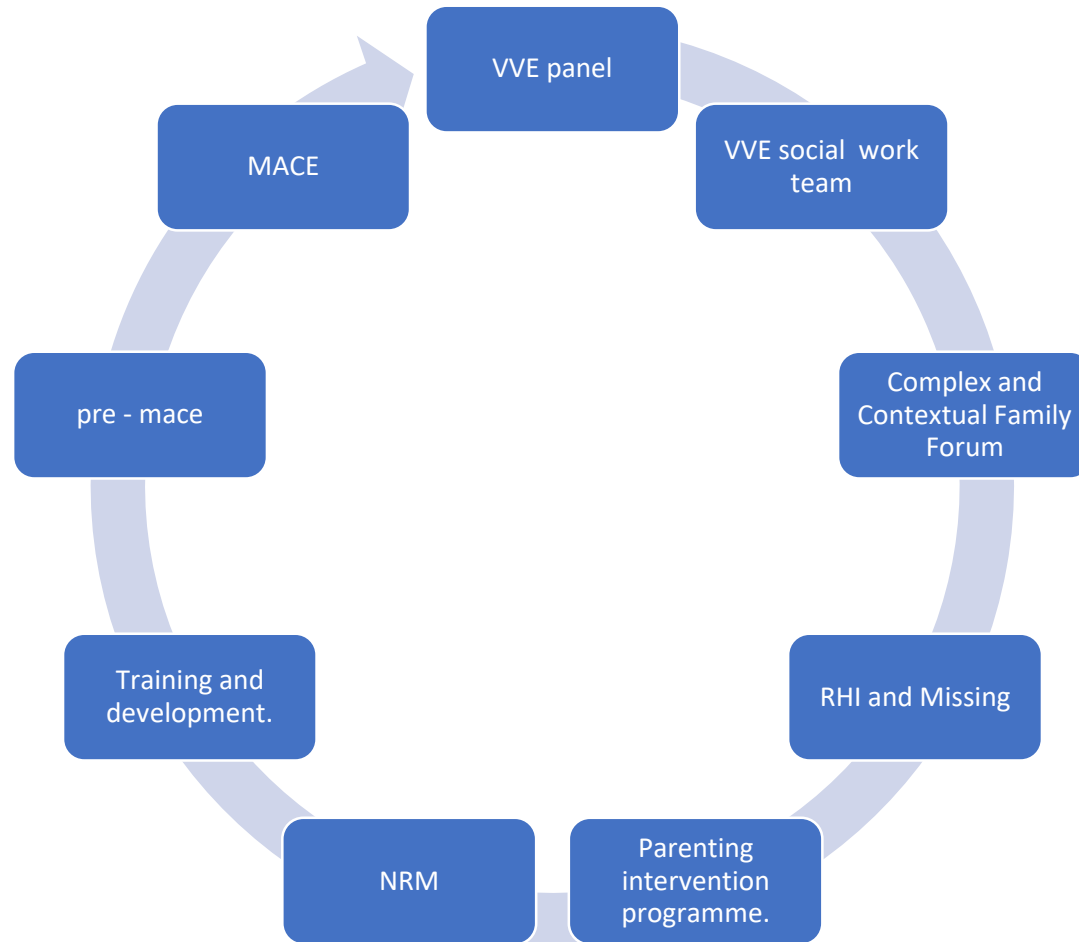
Haringey has a prolific history of gang activity. At present, a number of gangs operate within the borough with most holding territories within the east of the area. At present, we see the highest tensions between Wood Green Mob, Northumberland Park Killers and Tottenham gangs, who are predominantly affiliated to the Bruce Grove/Broadwater Farm area. The map below illustrates the proximity of these gangs.

Further reductions are envisaged, and it is hoped that the panel will be converted to a contextual safeguarding forum that will hear and review exploitation Children in Need plans from a contextual multi-agency perspective.

County Lines

County lines are illegal business models managed and operated by gangs – ranging from urban street gangs to serious organised crime gangs. These gangs use their power and position to groom, recruit and exploit children and young people for the purpose of criminal gain. This often involves high levels of violence, threat and force – and it is important to understand the grooming process, as this is evident within the recruitment of young people for criminal exploitation. (Home Office County Lines Guidance 2018)

County lines is highly active in Haringey, operating between the aforementioned gangs: the 'Wood Green Mob', the 'Northumberland Park Killers (NPK) and Tottenham (Broadwater Farm Estate). These gangs are systematically targeting, grooming and recruiting Haringey young people into their illegal activities. Once recruited our young people find themselves trapped in impossible situations and fearing for their lives. Trying to leave can often result in life altering injuries and/or loss of life. More recently the Exploitation Risk Panel has evidenced the targeting of even younger children by gangs, due to them being less likely to be stopped and searched by the authorities.



Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Prevention Panel. (VVE Panel)

Activity	Function	Members
<p>Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Prevention Panel. (VVE Panel) <i>1st Thursday of every month.</i></p>	<p>The Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Prevention Panel will provide support, oversight and scrutiny of the work required to ensure the needs of children and families at risk of exploitation are met and appropriate services are recommended.</p> <p>The purpose of the Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Prevention Panel:</p> <p>To agree a multi-agency safety plan for our vulnerable children and young people who are subject to Gang affiliation, Missing and at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and/or Child Criminal Exploitation.</p> <p>To identify, monitor and share information and intelligence on our most vulnerable Missing, CSE/CCE and Gang affiliated children & young people.</p> <p>To map the extent of links for Missing/CSE/CCE and gang affiliation of children and young people in Haringey.</p> <p>To ensure that responses to the above vulnerable children & young people are consistent and effective.</p> <p>Mapping through intelligence, information and data the links between our most vulnerable children and young people in Haringey.</p> <p>To map the local picture of Haringey’s vulnerable children & young people against local, regional and national data.</p> <p>To make recommendations to offer actions and guidance and referral pathways for additional resources and services. To provide a reviewing mechanism and to gather intelligence to ensure appropriate services and agencies are aware of the risk to young people in Haringey</p>	<p>CYPS – Social care exploitation rep</p> <p>CYPS –</p> <p>Community partnership – IOM Strategic Lead.</p> <p>Gangs Unit</p> <p>Violence Against Women & Girls Strategic Lead, Public</p> <p>Met Police – Child Exploitation Team</p> <p>Haringey Housing</p> <p>Principle Education Welfare Officer, Schools.</p> <p>Lead SPOC and Named Nurse Whittington Health</p> <p>Substance Misuse & Sexual Health Lead.</p> <p>Early Help & Prevention, Early Help</p> <p>CAMHS</p> <p>Youth Justice Service</p> <p>LSCB Schools</p> <p>Met Police Child Exploitation, MISPER Police Haringey and Enfield</p> <p>PRU lead.</p> <p>LAC Nurse</p>

<p>Child Criminal Exploitation Identify and share information and intelligence of children and young people who are at risk of criminal exploitation and are known to professionals as missing / frequent MISPERs and/or Gang Affiliation. To support social work teams in their intervention and care planning by offering recommendations of intervention and support, sharing intelligence and gathering further intelligence to ensure thematic issues are recorded and actioned.</p> <p>Child Sexual Exploitation Identify and share information and intelligence of children and young people who are at risk of child sexual exploitation and are known to professionals as missing / frequent MISPERs and/or Gang Affiliation. Agree agency or multi-agency responses required to support a safety plan.</p> <p>Gang Affiliation Identify and share information and intelligence of children and young people who are at risk of gang affiliation and/or are known to the Gang Action Group. Agree agency or multi-agency responses and interventions to safeguard children, young people and their families. Agree agency or multi-agency responses required to support a safety plan based on level of risk identified by the Panel.</p> <p>Radicalisation and Extremist Ideology Identify and share details of children and young people who are considered at risk of Radicalisation and Extremist Ideology and agree agency or multi-agency responses where required.</p>	<p>Roles and Responsibilities of Panel Members:</p> <p>Promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young people through multi-agency partnership.</p> <p>Assess risk from a multi-agency perspective and target services appropriately.</p> <p>Collect and analyse data to inform agency responses.</p> <p>Improve inter-agency accountability.</p> <p>Problem-solve and improve the support available to professionals working with high risk cases. Offer professional challenge and scrutiny.</p> <p>Identify services and resources that are the most effective in reducing risk and safeguarding.</p> <p>Inform the commissioning of specialist services</p> <p>Governance: The Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Prevention Panel feeds into the PRE-Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel providing information relating to Victims, Offenders, and Locations & Themes (VOLT). Themes from the VOLT are presented to the strategic Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel that reports to the Haringey Safeguarding Children’s Partnership.</p>
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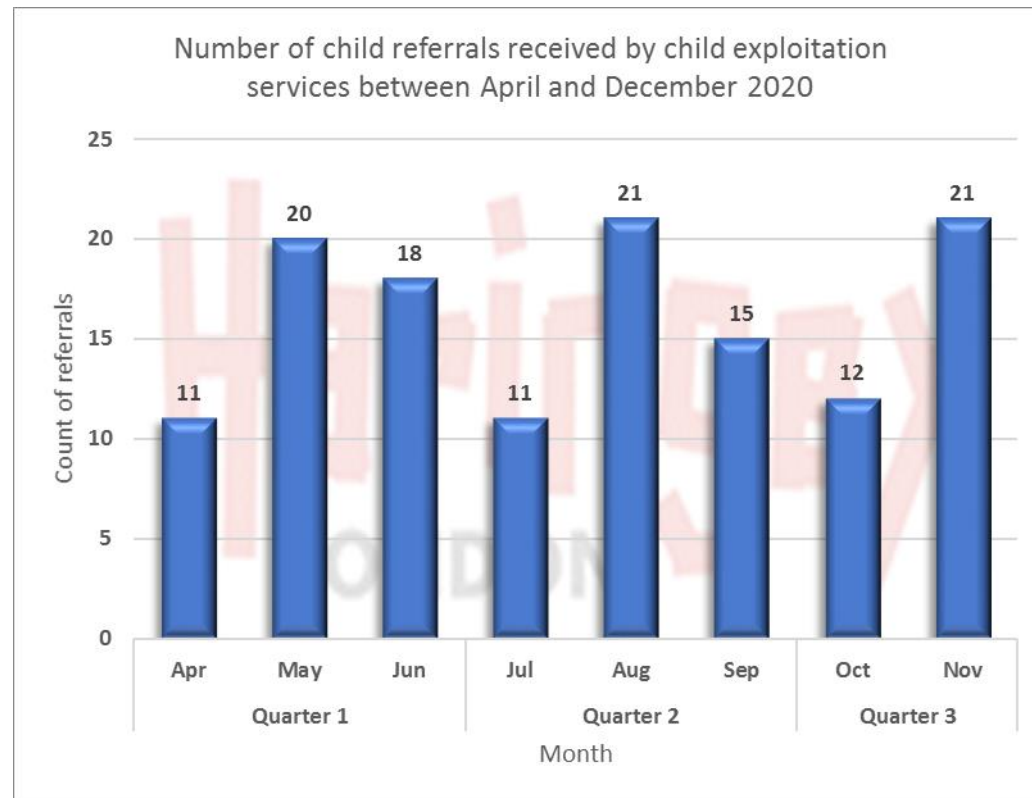
Analysis:

The VVE Panel continues to provide support, oversight and scrutiny of the work required to ensure the needs of children and families, at risk of exploitation are met and appropriate services are recommended and actioned.

The panel takes place once a month on the first Thursday of the month. Since the full implementation of the VVE team and the continued offer of direct intervention workers, there has been a reduction in cases heard at panel. Panel continues to hear the most complex cases that require a multi-agency perspective. It is hoped that once the full implementation of the VVE service is established the need for the panel will diminish further however it is vitally important that there remains a forum to discuss the most complex cases, to share best practice and to receive a multi-agency response and oversight.

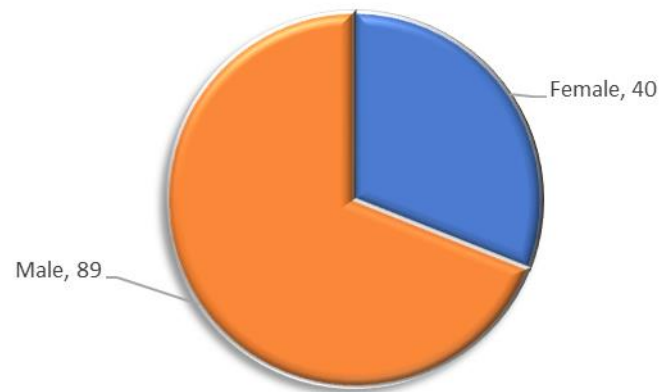
Please note data collection for the exploitation services has been a challenge and is a priority for the service. Work is underway to address this deficit.

129 cases have been referred into the exploitation service in the last 8 months.

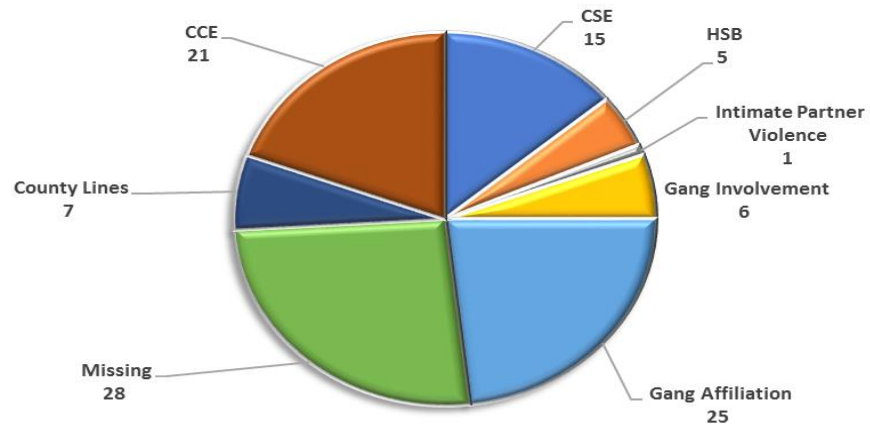


Of those referrals **89** were male and **40** were female.

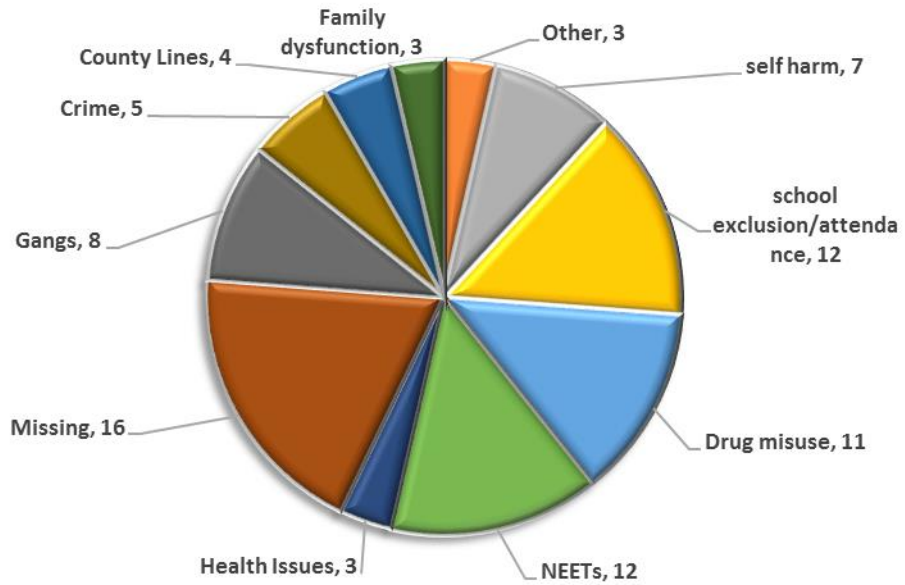
Gender of child referrals received by child exploitation services between April and December 2020



Confirmed Reasons for Referral - April to Dec 2020

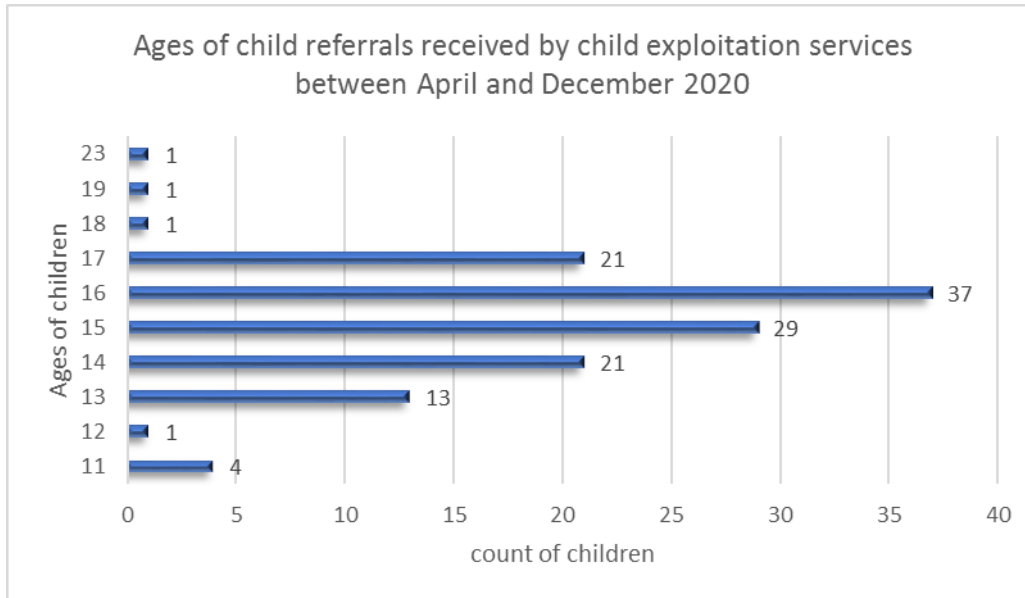


Presenting Issues - April to Dec 2020

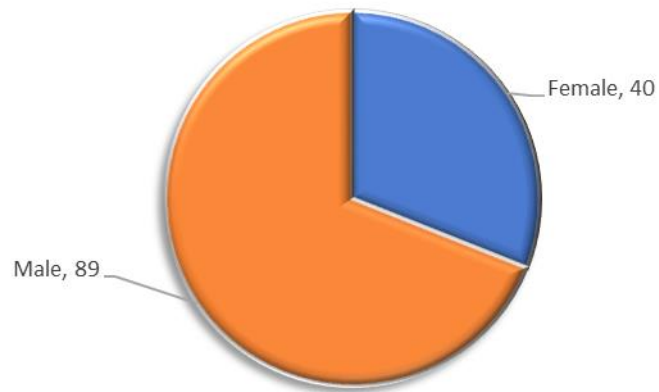


36 children were not in education or employment, 27 children were LAC

Ages of YP reported in



Gender of child referrals received by child exploitation services between April and December 2020



The number of missing young people presented to panel was 28.

Next steps:

- VVE to be given greater priority on the roll out of a new pathway created to build on the MACE principles with the right skills around the table to aid effective intervention
- Explore the offer from Bedfordshire University regarding evaluating contextual safeguarding approach
- Set multi-agency harm reduction targets
- Partner agencies understand and own a multi-agency approach to addressing complex and contextual safeguarding
- Governance for complex safeguarding is clear and partners understand where responsibilities for work streams lie

- A clear multi-agency process is embedded which allows agencies to develop plans to address instances of peer on peer abuse/violence
- Social workers, Schools/colleges with have a clear and consistent process for the delivery of key safeguarding messages to children of all ages.

Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Social work team. (VVE Team)

Activity	Function	Members
<p>Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Social work team. (VVE Team) <i>Frontline operational team</i></p>	<p>As part of the Ofsted improvement plan it is recognised that Haringey has a commitment to building on their delivery of services to Young people and families at risk of Exploitation.</p> <p>The exploitation service is set to expand to incorporate a social work team to develop robust, timely and specialist intervention to children, young people and families at risk of violence, vulnerability and exploitation. The focus will be on adolescence; whereby extra familial harm has been identified.</p> <p>The service will provide a wraparound approach to intervention to support and address exploitation and extra familial harm in all its forms.</p> <p>To work predominantly with children and young people aged 13 years and above.</p> <p>To address the complex needs and case management of Young people subject to Child Protection Plans due to exploitative and contextual safeguarding concerns.</p> <p>To convert Child Protection Plans to contextual CIN plans for this cohort of Young People in order to recognise fully where the risk lies, more often in the community and wider context and support parents to safeguard their children.</p> <p>To ensure a wraparound service is provided to meet emerging needs in a timely and robust manner.</p> <p>To ensure safety plans and VOLT applications are regularly reviewed.</p> <p>To embed a reviewing process for contextual CIN plans</p> <p>To ensure Parents are regarded as partners and expert within the professional network.</p>	<p>Exploitation service Service Manager Team manager Exploitation coordinator Senior practitioner Social worker x 3 Exploitation family support worker x 4 Return home interview officer Business support Officer</p>

The team aims to imbed best practice in the following areas:

Child sexual Exploitation	NRM intervention and support.	Group supervision	Intensive direct work	Safety mapping	Systemic approach to practice.
Child criminal Exploitation	Modern Day Slavery	Motivational interviewing	Out of hours support to young people and families	VOLT application.	RHI
Extra familial harm	Contextual Safeguarding	Mediation	Edge of care support	Disruption Intervention Prevention	ACE
Managing risk and promoting resilience	Multi systemic therapy	Understanding risk-taking behaviours and the teenage brain.	Trauma informed practice	Gangs and county lines activity.	Robust use of FGC

Anticipated benefits

- To ensure that Haringey CYPS is effective in its role and provides oversight and scrutiny when working with and delivering services to children and young people who go missing.
- To identify vulnerable children and young people who are subjected to contextual safeguarding concerns, gang affiliation, Missing, at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and/or Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). Through undertaking timely and robust return home interviews.
- To identify, monitor and share information and intelligence on our most vulnerable Missing, CSE/CCE and Gang affiliated children and young people.
- To map the extent of links for Missing/CSE/CCE and gang affiliation of children and young people in Haringey.
- To ensure that responses to the above vulnerable children and young people are consistent and effective.
- To continue to develop mapping through intelligence, information and data the links between our most vulnerable children and young people in Haringey.

Next steps:

- Team to be fully staffed and operational by December 2020.
- Develop a complex and contextual safeguarding strategy for Haringey

Direct intervention by FSW

Activity	Function	Members
<p>Direct intervention. Frontline operational service to support social work team</p>	<p>The Exploitation service has 4 direct intervention officers who deliver 6-week intensive intervention.</p> <p>The officers currently co work cases with Social Workers for children open to CIN/CP/LAC.</p> <p>Haringey has a core group of young people aged 13-17 who are considered high risk, due to them being at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation & Child Criminal Exploitation. Their risk indicators include being Looked After children, NEET, historical neglect, members of dysfunctional family dynamics and some with gang affiliation. These young people are extremely vulnerable to abuse within a contextual framework, often the abuse is not a direct result of the care afforded to them by their parents.</p> <p>We believe by engaging with this cohort of young people on a regular basis, by building trust and a rapport will better suit these young people as it will assist them in making safe choices for themselves.</p>	<p>Exploitation service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Manager Team manager Exploitation coordinator Senior practitioner Social worker x 3 Exploitation family support worker x 4 Return home interview officer Business support Officer

Analysis:

This intervention commenced in February 2020 with two direct intervention workers; a 3rd intervention worker joined the service in August 2020.

To date **92** Young People have received direct intervention from an exploitation family support worker.

Feedback from Exploitation family support workers

As Haringey exploitation Practitioners we are committed to the fight against Child criminal exploitation and Child sexual exploitation. We support victims and their families through direct intervention i.e. visits to the family home, school, in the community, as well as over the telephone. We help to support children and families to understand all the ramifications of exploitation i.e. the mind set and motivations of exploiters, signs for parents to look out for alongside family and individual safety planning. There is overwhelming evidence to show that early intervention can significantly change a child's developmental path and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities. All of the referrals into exploitation service are children aged between 13 and 17, all exhibiting differing challenging and disruptive behaviours. By far the most important aspect of this work, and yet the

most challenging, is building positive, solution focused relationships with the children and their families. All the young people I have worked with have been boys from the ages of 13 to 17. Among the 21 cases to date, 12 boys are from Black British African/Caribbean, 3 White British, 2 British Asian, 2 Eastern European 2 South American. Black British African/Caribbean families are in no more need of social care intervention than other demographics. Environmental apartheid, economics, social inequality, discrimination, and unconscious bias are causal factors in the disparity of the numbers.

Feedback from professionals

Hi team,

Just wanted to drop a quick note to express my absolute gratitude for all of you, but particularly to highlight the work that Peter and Richie do, and how they are an absolute asset to the project and information sharing. They clearly go above and beyond with every case, and are so appreciated by me. Both make co working cases an absolute dream, and I think that really needed to be documented. As a pan London project this isn't always easy with us, but I feel so assured knowing you are involved in cases, and the level of detail that is provided is exceptional. Haringey children are lucky to have you, and I only wish every worker was as dedicated as you are.

*Thanking you so so so much,
Jules*

Case study

S, a 17-year-old young man who witnessed DV at a very early age. There were also attachment and neglect issues. He developed mental health concerns which included suicidal ideation and self-harm. It appears from the case files that there were missed opportunities in respect of therapeutic support/Early intervention. Fast forward, parental supervision appeared to be lacking, Mother worked two jobs, S states he was left home alone with his younger sibling. S developed friendships outside the family home and began to use drugs and alcohol, his missing episodes increased. He then became easy prey for organised criminal gangs to exploit him. S is being criminally exploited to sell drugs and likely other criminal activities. He has been groomed to believe the criminal gang fraternity are his friends, family and support network, and this lifestyle is a viable and credible way of earning money. Coupled with a deterioration in his mental health it has been a real challenge to steer S away from this lifestyle.

Just like we have a de-radicalization programme for individuals who may have succumbed to the idea of terrorism, similarly we need to develop a tailor made programme for our young people, not too dissimilar from the radicalization, as their methods and strategies to recruit have many similarities. Just a thought.

Next steps:

- Early intervention and prevention to be a priority
- Deep dives into cases presented for direct intervention has evidence a need for intervention to be considered at a much earlier stage and to be embedded for a prolonged period of time, this will require further analysis and consideration on best steps forward.
- Direct intervention to focus on contextual safeguarding concerns and providing a robust risk assessment that clearly evidences the disruptive measures undertaken to safeguard our young people.

Exploitation Network meetings.

Activity	Function	Members
<p>Exploitation Network meetings.</p>	<p>The purpose of this meeting is to gain a multi-agency perspective on our most vulnerable children and young people, in order to support a coordinated response that addresses all systemic concerns relating to the young people discussed, all relevant data will be shared and reviewed by the professional network.</p> <p>To deliver direct and timely recommendations on live contacts and open cases by sharing intelligence from a multi-agency perspective in order to develop a clear pathway of intervention. This will be achieved by all members undertaking information checks with their relevant agencies prior to and or during this meeting. The intent is to develop a live, fluid reactive response to risk in the community by mobilising all key agency and providing a clear overview of all actions and recommendations with the aim to reduce response time and avoid drift and delay in decision making around our most vulnerable children.</p> <p>The approach is to be driven by strategic analysis at an operational level and based on information sharing between agencies by ensuring co-ordinated and targeted use of the multi-agency network.</p>	<p>Exploitation service lead Met police exploitation lead Gangs YOS service lead Early Help service lead MASH service lead Education lead Health lead Housing lead</p>

Analysis:

In order to drive forward improvement in the effectiveness of the **VOLT** development is required on the collating of relevant information to safeguard children and implement measures to protect.

The focus for contextual safeguarding concerns need to be on the ability to **Disrupt, Intervene** and **Protect**.

In order to collate relevant information, it is essential that children are thought of in the following way.

When planning for and implementing intervention it is necessary to understand the children and young people as:

Victims – Have they been a victim of crime? Have they been exploited? Are they subject of modern-day slavery? Do they require and NRM referral?

Offenders – what is their offending history and how does this impact.

Locations – what areas are the YP frequenting, where do they feel safe, where can they not go and why. What measures have been put in place to address these areas of concern.

Themes – is there school a place of safety or additional disturbance? is there home a place of safety or additional disturbance and distress. Is there local area a safe space for them or an area of concern?

The above allows for robust and timely intervention and creates a focus on areas of **contextual safeguarding** in order to activate measures for Disrupt, Intervene and Prevent (DIP).

Disrupt – utilise the multi-agency – for example - police powers of disruption to those individuals exploiting vulnerable children and adults. Escalation to MACE. Mobilise community partnership, safe spaces, taxi services, etc. to intervene. Offer training and development to universal services.

Intervene - utilise through Children in Need /Child Protection plans in the most extreme cases to offer support and advice from a multi-agency perspective to safeguard.

Prevent – utilise social care intervention and Early help intervention to offer support and advice.

Intervene - ensure services timely intervention that focuses on the best outcomes for the child and promotes interagency collaboration at the earliest opportunity.

Carleen Firmin asserts the need:

To respond effectively to extra-familial harm

- engage with the contexts in which such harm occurs
- recognise and respond to the overlap between children who have been harmed and those who are harming others in these cases
- identify individuals who can bring about change beyond the children and families who are affected.

Where we need to focus our energies

- Target the contexts in which harm/abuse occur.
- Use child welfare and child protection as the principal focus and legislative framework.
- Feature partnerships with individuals/organisations who have a reach into, or responsibility for, the places where harm has occurred.
- Measure the contextual impact/outcomes of the response.

Next steps:

- Look to utilise and embed Ecins.
- Ecins is a fluent data storage/sharing and communications platform which police and partners are developing.
- The system is implemented in a number of police forces across the country and now looking to be developed and implemented in North Area for both Enfield and Haringey.
- All police areas of business are planning on having access from Cait referrals desk, Exploitation Team and Missing person's Unit (MPU) and are currently looking at how Ecins can assist in the improvement of the current working practices.
- Ecins offers a fast and secure way of partner information sharing and will revolutionise the way in which we liaise with each other

Contextual CIN plans and Complex and Contextual Family Forum

Activity	Function	Members
<p>Contextual CIN plans and Complex and Contextual Family Forum</p>	<p>To ensure that Haringey CYPS are effective in their role and provide oversight and scrutiny when working with and delivering services to children and young people who are at risk of exploitation.</p> <p>To embed contextual safeguarding and hold partners accountable for their intervention in relation to disruption, intervention and prevention.</p> <p>To identify vulnerable children and young people who are subjected to contextual safeguarding concerns, extra familial harm, gang affiliation, Missing, at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and/or Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).</p> <p>To identify, monitor and share information and intelligence on our most vulnerable Missing, CSE/CCE and Gang affiliated children & young people.</p> <p>To map the extent of links for Missing/CSE/CCE and gang affiliation of children and young people in Haringey.</p> <p>To ensure that responses to the above vulnerable children & young people are consistent and effective.</p> <p>To continue to develop mapping through intelligence, information and data the links between our most vulnerable children and young people in Haringey.</p>	<p>Under development</p>

	<p>Create links to existing pathways and panels within CYPS.</p> <p>Develop existing policies and procedures to fully endorse the work of the Exploitation service.</p> <p>The model promotes parent partnership and expertise as the child primary carer within this Family forum.</p> <p>Child /Young person's participation is key.</p> <p>Instrumental in the development of their plan.</p> <p>YP to have a mentor.</p> <p>Our LAC and missing young people have all discussed the lack of education provision and support to be in education or work placement an issue.</p> <p>Community mentors</p> <p>Peer mentors</p> <p>Professional mentors</p> <p>Community disruption strategies</p>	
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