

# What's going on

To prevent the sexual exploitation of children and young people

Summer 2010

**Welcome** to the second newsletter developed as part of the research project, funded by Comic Relief, to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and young people. There was a very good response to the first edition. We have had some very welcome contributions to this second edition and I hope that, over time, many more of you will find this a good platform to share information about your research, policy developments and practice innovations.

Please let us know what you think of the newsletter. Do you find it helpful? Are there issues that you would like to see covered? If you have a contribution to make to a future edition - get in touch!  
([sue.jago@beds.ac.uk](mailto:sue.jago@beds.ac.uk))

## Progress on the research project

The project team has now completed an initial survey of the 144 LSCBs in England. We have received **100** replies, hitting our target of a 70% response! So very many thanks to all of you who gave up your time to help to get this data to us. Having such a good return has given us a strong picture of the level of activity across the country. We have some excellent information on leading practice and, in the next phase of the project, we aim to share what we have found as widely as possible, and to develop models of intervention and other tools based on that good practice.

However, we also have some depressing findings about the lack of response in many areas to key elements of the guidance on *Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation*. This impacts on the strength and effectiveness of local partnerships.

For example:

- less than a third of areas have sub groups addressing this issue
- only a third of areas have identified lead professionals
- only a quarter have a coordinator in place, or plan to do so
- only a third have a specialist service in place, or planned
- less than a quarter of areas are proactively disrupting and prosecuting perpetrators

An interim report on the project, including fuller analysis of the data from the initial questionnaires, will be available in the autumn.

## A new member of the project team

Lorena Arocha

We are very pleased to welcome Lorena Arocha to the Institute of Applied Social Research at the University of Bedfordshire. Lorena will spend some of her time on this project and will bring to it her experience of working on the recent evaluation of the **UK's anti-trafficking measures (see inside)**.

A Special Edition of the Journal *Youth and Policy*, edited by Prof Jenny Pearce and Dr. Margaret Melrose, focuses on the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and young people. The special edition is now available - on-line at [www.youthandpolicy.org](http://www.youthandpolicy.org) and is free to access. This special edition addresses some of the most important questions in debates about trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and young people and makes a significant contribution to this field.



## What's going on next

We are contacting selected LSCBs to conduct interviews with key practitioners to enable us to collect more detailed data. This will help with the development of models of intervention and other tools.

We are also contacting LSCBs to trial a simple data monitoring tool to improve local data collection and to contribute to a national picture of the extent and nature of child sexual exploitation.

We will continue to work with the National Working Group to develop resources for specialist projects and agencies working with sexually exploited young people.

And there will be a number of specialist seminars aimed at particular groups of professionals or on particular issues –

**so watch this space!**

# What's going on?

## practitioners' views and experience

In this edition we are focussing on an organisation that has been in the vanguard of raising awareness and developing effective responses to child sexual exploitation. **Caroline Paskell**, from Barnardo's Policy & Research Unit, gives us a brief picture of the work that Barnardo's is delivering in this area.

**Barnardo's has been providing services to young people at risk of exploitation since 1994. It now runs 21 services across the UK supporting young people who are sexually exploited or go missing. Last year Barnardo's worked with 609 young people who were known to be sexually exploited, and with many others who were going missing. Barnardo's direct work with young people at risk of exploitation is based on four 'As':**

- **Access** – making it easy for young people to self-refer or be referred by various agencies
- **Attention** – providing consistent and persistent support from a specific worker
- **Assertive** outreach – demonstrating concern and interest through many forms of contact
- **Advocacy** – working to ensure that young people receive support from other agencies

In 2007 and 2009, New Philanthropy Capital which provides independent guidance for charitable donors, assessed Barnardo's sexual exploitation services as being effective. And, in addition to supporting young people who are at risk, Barnardo's delivers education and awareness-raising sessions to young people and to professionals who work with children and young people. These programmes engage hundreds of professionals and thousands of young people each year. Some have been evaluated and have been found to be effective in improving young people and adults' understanding and awareness of child sexual exploitation. Young people especially appreciate the guidance on how to recognize 'grooming', for themselves and for friends, and the information on where to turn if they have concerns. Professionals highlight the overview of CSE law, policy and guidance as making a particular contribution to their work with young people, and it is clear that sexual exploitation is still an area of confusion for many professionals.

Since Barnardo's began delivering services to young people at risk of sexual exploitation, it has also been campaigning, influencing policy and conducting research to improve their protection, treatment and support. This has included advising the UK Government and the devolved administrations, as well as local authorities and statutory organisations, on how to recognize and provide for those at risk. Barnardo's is currently campaigning to improve public understanding and awareness of sexual exploitation, with the release of its 'Whose Child Now?' report outlining real cases of exploitation and the 'Turnaround' television adverts in December 2009 showing how young people can be drawn into, and helped to exit from, such exploitative relationships.

One service working with young people who are sexually exploited or go missing is Safe Choices in Hull. Safe Choices' team of Barnardo's employees, seconded local authority social workers and volunteers links closely with a wide range of partners including local sexual health nurses, psychologists, substance misuse workers, a mentoring project, the police and the YOT. The association with the YOT has been fostered over the years by senior staff from both agencies who have seen the need for joint working to tackle the complex links that can exist between a young person being sexually exploited and also being involved in offending.

The identification of an overlap between sexual exploitation and offending prompted Barnardo's to study the association between experiencing sexual exploitation and being involved in crime as an offender. The research encompasses whether and how agencies involved in the youth justice system respond to the links. The objective of the study is to assist in improving practice to support young people who are victims of sexual exploitation and also involved in youth offending. The research findings are being launched on 28th June, and a report will feature in the next newsletter.

Caroline can be contacted on [caroline.paskell@barnardos.org](mailto:caroline.paskell@barnardos.org)

# What's going on?

## in research and practice

The first local study into **the sexual exploitation of children and young people in Northern Ireland** is underway. The research is being undertaken by Barnardo's Safe Choices service with funding from local government. The research will gather information on the nature and extent of child sexual exploitation across Northern Ireland, with a particular focus on the risks facing children in/missing from care (the clientele of the service and a known high risk group). It also aims to gather information on current responses to the issue, identifying both examples of good practice and areas where improvement is required. Although still in the early stages of fieldwork, the research is already beginning to influence practice, with social workers reporting that the completion of risk assessments is increasing both their awareness of the issue and their ability to identify risk. Referrals to Safe Choices service have also increased. Fieldwork will continue to take place throughout 2010, with the final report due in June 2011. The researcher and the Bedfordshire project are working together to ensure that maximum benefit is derived from the findings of these complementary studies.

For further information about the research or the work of Safe Choices, contact Dr Helen Beckett at [helen.beckett@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:helen.beckett@barnardos.org.uk)



# What's going on?

## in research and practice

Gabrielle Tracy McClelland, at the University of Bradford School of Health Studies, has recently completed a multi-method study identifying barriers and solutions to meeting **the physical and psychological health needs of young people involved in or vulnerable to sexual exploitation**. Although awareness of child sexual exploitation has been growing, the physical and psychological health problems, risks and patterns of use of health services by young people involved in or vulnerable to sexual exploitation, have not been adequately addressed. Gabrielle's study has focused on personal narrative accounts, through interviews with 26 young people, aged 13-18, involved in or vulnerable to sexual exploitation, and on the perceptions of 61 practitioners supporting young people involved in or vulnerable to sexual exploitation. A significant range of physical and psychological health problems have been identified, and behavioural risks to health and barriers to health care reported. The study identified a number of important factors that affected a young person's decision to access support for health issues, including the environment, accessibility, flexibility, attitude and reputation of a service. The absence of reactive and proactive staff and health support is likely to increase a sexually exploited young person's vulnerability. The study makes a number of important recommendations to improve the way in which services can meet the physical and psychological needs of this group of young people. For further information Gabrielle can be contacted on [G.T.McClelland@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:G.T.McClelland@bradford.ac.uk)

## UK failing trafficked people - says new report

The UK's anti-trafficking measures are 'not fit for purpose', according to a new report by a coalition of nine human rights charities, including Anti-Slavery International and Amnesty International.

The report found that 'minimally-trained' UK Border Agency staff 'put more emphasis on the immigration status of the presumed trafficked persons, rather than the alleged crime against them'.

In one case a West African woman in her twenties was told that though her 'experiences' of being forced to have sex with strange men were 'extremely unpleasant', this did 'not amount to trafficking' because she had failed to escape her tormentors when she had the opportunity was failing to protect trafficking people.

See [www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org) for more information and to access the report

## "What Works for Us"

### Young people's views of sexual exploitation services

On 3 June 2010 seven young women and men, supported by their project workers came together from six projects across England. This was the first meeting of the Young People's Advisory group for the What works for us project. What works for us is a consultation project led in partnership with young people and designed to find out young people's perspectives on the services and support available to those affected by sexual exploitation. It is hoped that the project will provide a valuable opportunity for policy makers and professionals to learn from young people's perspectives when developing services and policy. Members of the young people's advisory group travelled from Leeds, Derby, Doncaster, Middlesbrough, Keighley and Manchester and spent a full day getting to know each other, sharing their views and starting to develop new ideas to take the project forward.

If you know any young people, aged 16 – 21 interested in sharing their views or getting involved in further work of the advisory group please contact Camille Warrington on [camille.warrington@beds.ac.uk](mailto:camille.warrington@beds.ac.uk). The next meeting takes place at BBC Birmingham on 3 August 2010.

## New online tool to assist victims of forced marriage

The government's Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has launched an online resource to help health and social care professionals identify and provide appropriate support to potential victims of forced marriage. The free resource uses scenarios based on real-life stories from the FMU's work which take the user through a journey from identifying the first warning signs to providing the right support and reaching a positive outcome. The resource encourages anyone who comes into contact with those affected to work together closely to protect victims.

Olaf Henricson-Bell, Joint Head of the Forced Marriage Unit, said: "Frontline professionals may only have one chance to help someone at risk of forced marriage, and making the wrong call could have devastating results. Our new online resource is a step-by-step guide on how to deal with forced marriage cases and reach a positive outcome. We encourage people to make the most of this tool in the run up to the summer holidays which is when we see an increase in cases of forced marriage."

Shaminder Ubhi, Director of the Ashiana Network, said: "Given that many of the men and women forced into marriage are of school age, the need to raise awareness of this issue amongst professionals working with young people is essential. This innovative resource will equip them with the skills they need to offer appropriate support to victims."

The Forced Marriage Unit runs a public helpline that provides advice and support to both practitioners handling cases of forced marriage as well as to victims themselves. Call **020 7008 0151** between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday or email [fnmu@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fnmu@fco.gov.uk). For out of hours emergency advice, call **020 7008 1500** and ask for the FCO Global Response Centre.

The online resource is available at: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/info-for-professionals>

# What's going on elsewhere

There are a growing number of resources available to professionals delivering training or preventative education on sexual exploitation. Here we feature a few of the DVDs and education packs recommended by National Working Group members:

**B\*Wise Pack (2007)** equips teachers, social workers and counsellors to educate young people about sexual exploitation. Based on experiences of young people supported by Barnardo's. Full resources for activity-based sessions provided with thorough facilitators' notes and practical tips allow the user to feel confident about its delivery. Available from: [www.barnardos.org.uk/resources.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/resources.htm) £85.00

**Friend or Foe - who can you trust? (2009)** produced by Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service. Developed to help schools and other settings explore positive and negative relationships, peer pressure and sexual exploitation. The revised pack includes new exercises addressing risks associated with new technologies. Can be used with groups within PSHE, or 1:1 work. Contact Lynda Clarke on (0114) 2736 940 or [Lynda.Clarke@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Lynda.Clarke@sheffield.gov.uk) £10

**CEOP ThinkUKnow** the CEOP "thinkuknow" website has a range of free downloadable resources for work on online protection and sexual exploitation, including posters, literature and videos. Resources for professionals are accessible to all those who have attended CEOP's free THINKUKNOW training. [www.thinkuknow.org.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.org.uk) FREE

**Solomon: Keep Safe Prevention Package** includes a CD Rom and slide show aimed at years 6 & 7, raising awareness of risks and empowering young people to make safe decisions to prevent coercion and grooming. Covers internet safety, truancy and stranger danger. Call: 01922 621208/629980 or [admin@walsallstreetteams.co.uk](mailto:admin@walsallstreetteams.co.uk) £53

**The Keeping Safe Resource Pack** CD Rom and booklet produced by Barnardo's Turnaround Project in Bradford. Designed to raise awareness of abuse in relationships to help young people identify risks and find ways of overcoming it. Focuses on prevention. Interactive and friendly (designed and piloted with help of service users). Contact Kulsum Bibi on 01274 548379 or [kulsum.bibi@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:kulsum.bibi@barnardos.org.uk) £25

**SERAF Service Resource Pack (2009)** includes guidance to using the SERAF risk assessment framework, SERAF Level 1 and 2 assessment forms; intelligence sharing forms; safeguarding interventions best practice guide for key agencies; safeguarding action summary posters; pilot study report; the DVD 'Hidden' and guidance on how to use it; and CD Rom containing all information. The DVD is a hard hitting drama based on the stories of three young people in Wales who experience sexual exploitation. May be used with professionals, commissioners and service planners or young people. Contact Barnardo's Cymru on 029 2049 1743 or [SerafService@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:SerafService@barnardos.org.uk) £35

**Nae Danger - Animated Film and Resource Pack for young people** Made by young people affected by sexual exploitation, Nae Danger looks at risk and keeping safe. Designed for use with 11 to 16 year olds to explore issues around keeping safe, sexual exploitation, internet safety and related issues. Includes an animated film (DVD), a selection of games and activity sheets, all stored in a handy record bag. Comes with comprehensive guidance on how to use it. Contact Susan Arnold on [susan.arnold@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:susan.arnold@barnardos.org.uk) £150

**Protecting Self and Keeping Safe: Loving and abusive relationships: a practical education pack for use in schools and youth settings**

Pack supports individuals to deliver sex and relationships education to 11 to 16 year olds. Six sessions explore establishing the group; different types of relationships; warning signs for unhealthy relationships; different types of abuse within relationships and domestic violence; sexual exploitation and grooming; and producing materials to raise awareness within schools or youth settings. Includes the DVDs, *Lover Boy*, a stand-alone resource that can be used to highlight issues around sexual exploitation. Contact Barnardo's SECOS Project on 01642 819743 £45

**Innocent (2010 forthcoming)** A new DVD focusing on child sexual exploitation and internal trafficking. The storyline, theme tune and song are recorded and performed by young people. Contact Barnardo's SECOS on 01642 819743 £tbc

**No Son of Mine (2001)** This report and film draw attention to the sexual exploitation of boys and young men. New models are presented to show how boys are drawn into exploitation and recommendations made for further action at national and local levels. The video and report are available separately or together at a discount. Available online at [www.barnardos.org.uk/resources.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/resources.htm) £4.99

**My Dangerous Loverboy** was commissioned by the UKHTC to raise awareness of trafficking within the UK. It is supported by ACPO as a training and educational resource for the police and is also suitable for schools and practitioners. The film has been extensively piloted in schools across Sheffield and in regional police forces. The positive feedback has informed the creation of training and educational packs to accompany the film's distribution. The cross platform campaign aimed at reaching teenagers is growing through our youtube channel, Facebook fan page, and a creative project involving young artists on the Deviant Art social networking site. See [www.mydangerousloverboy.com](http://www.mydangerousloverboy.com) and [www.youtube.com/user/mydangerousloverboy](http://www.youtube.com/user/mydangerousloverboy)

## Diary of events

### Mid July

A short debate (1-1.5 hrs) has been requested by the Lord Bishop of Bradford and is scheduled for mid July 2010. The question for debate is:

*'The Lord Bishop of Bradford to ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to ensure the safety of children, especially children in the care of local authorities, from being groomed for sexual exploitation.'*

### 8 July 2010

**Northumbria University**  
Newcastle upon Tyne

**Safeguarding children and young people against sexual exploitation (levels 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Full day course for professionals and practitioners working with children, young people and families.  
Cost £125 + vat per delegate.

### 21 September 2010

**Nottingham Conference Centre - Safe and Sound 4th Annual Conference**

Hear keynote speakers from Europe and the UK speak about the latest trends and challenges in the fight against child sexual exploitation.  
Cost £175 + vat per delegate.

10% discount off these prices for registered charities. For more information, or to book your place, visit

[www.justwhistle.org.uk](http://www.justwhistle.org.uk)

Or contact Rachael Pepper by e-mail: [rachael.pepper@justwhistle.org.uk](mailto:rachael.pepper@justwhistle.org.uk) or phone on 01332 291166

**Also keep an eye on the Making Research Count programme of events at [www.beds.ac.uk/research/iasr/mrc/events](http://www.beds.ac.uk/research/iasr/mrc/events)**

A full list of resources for work with young people is available at [www.nwg.org.uk/resources](http://www.nwg.org.uk/resources).

See the full list under "Tools and Education Resources". If you know of any additional resources please contact:

[camille.warrington@beds.ac.uk](mailto:camille.warrington@beds.ac.uk)