

# What's going on

To prevent the sexual exploitation of children and young people

Winter 2010

**Welcome** back to the newsletter. This edition we will be reporting on progress on the data collection trial. Aside from progress on the research project we are looking behind the headlines at the recent court case in Manchester following the sexual exploitation of a 14 year old from Rochdale. Our focus on a project/organisation section looks at the brilliant work that has been developed by Taking Stock in Sheffield. We also have our regular features on related research and dates for your diary. Please keep your contributions coming (to [sue.jago@beds.ac.uk](mailto:sue.jago@beds.ac.uk)) so that we can pack the newsletter with information to share on events, and on policy and practice developments.

## How many young people are sexually exploited?

The perennial question from funders, policy makers and journalists. The fact is that there is very little data collected at local level, and even less comparative data to enable us to come up with a national picture of the nature and prevalence of the sexual exploitation of children and young people.

A key objective for the research project has been to try to develop a simple data collection system that could help LSCBs to understand the scale of the issue locally, and provide a snapshot national picture. With the help of a number of interested practitioners around the country we have been working to develop a system that will be flexible enough to be used in any area, whatever the local organisational arrangements, provided that the area is working in line with the national guidance (*DCSF 2009*). We are wrestling with the tensions between the temptation to collect data on a wide range of issues to give us the clearest picture of the nature of the issue, and the need to keep the system manageable. At the same time, while favouring simplicity we are also keen to

try to capture data on those children and young people believed to be at risk, as well as those known to be experiencing exploitation. This is proving to be no mean feat but, with the help of our new Task Group, we now have a clearer idea of the kind of system that LSCBs may find workable, and the categories of data that practitioners would want to include.

**If your area has a well developed system – or has faced difficulties when trying to introduce such a system – we would welcome your views.**

This is a really important element of the research project. While numbers, and a clearer picture of the nature of sexual exploitation and those involved, will be of clear interest to researchers, we hope that the real benefit will be to LSCBs and their partner agencies. We hope that this work will be a help rather than a hindrance. Delivering a fully developed data collection system should help those areas that are not currently monitoring cases locally to get off the starting blocks. As well as

## All change!

Camille Warrington, who many of you will know as the Project Coordinator for the National Working Group for sexually exploited young people (NWG) has just taken on a new role at the University of Bedfordshire as 'Young People's Participation Development Officer: research and curriculum development'. Camille will continue to be involved in this area of work (see her article on the back page) and, we are pleased to report, will join the project team.

The acting Project Coordinator for the NWG is Stephanie Gulliford – contact her on [stephaniegulliford@safeandsoundderby.co.uk](mailto:stephaniegulliford@safeandsoundderby.co.uk)

providing a snapshot for the purposes of this project, if this system can be embedded in local areas it will leave a legacy that will enable LSCBs to spot trends and allocate resources appropriately, and monitor cases to test the effectiveness of interventions. In these cash-strapped times, it will be so important to be able to demonstrate need, and evaluate progress.

Our aim will be to get forms out to our trial areas in the autumn so that they can prepare for a data collection in the early spring. We are very grateful to the LSCBs who have already signed up to the trial, and to Barnardos who will also be submitting data on behalf of their own sexual exploitation projects.

**If you would like to take part in the trial or have a well established system from which you could contribute data to the national collection, please do get in touch.**

Contact: [sue.jago@beds.ac.uk](mailto:sue.jago@beds.ac.uk)

## What's going on next

We are about to go on the road to find out in more detail how local areas are responding to child sexual exploitation. The project team will be carrying out interviews with practitioners in a number of areas around the country to build our data on good practice, and to explore the barriers and challenges that practitioners and their agencies are facing.

We are also planning our next seminar which will look specifically at police operations. If you have experience of police operations targeting those who sexually exploit young people – as part of an investigation or the prosecution team, or providing support to young victims or witnesses – and would like to get involved, please contact us – [sue.jago@beds.ac.uk](mailto:sue.jago@beds.ac.uk)

# What's going on?

## practitioners' views and experience

In this edition we are featuring the long established and highly effective project, **Taking Stock**, in Sheffield. **Cherry Ackerley** tells us how the project came about and its achievements.

Taking Stock (Sheffield Futures) is the youth work element of the Sheffield SCB Sexual Exploitation Service (SES). It offers direct 1:1 work with young people at risk of, or who have experience of sexual exploitation. Sheffield SCB began to consider the issue of sexual exploitation in 1996 and worked closely with Irene Ivson, founder member of CROP, following the murder of her daughter, Fiona, aged 17 in 1993. Fiona was murdered by a man paying for the sexual services of a child. She had been forced into selling sex on the streets for just three weeks before she died. Prior to this she had been groomed and exploited from the age of 14.

Sheffield SES wanted to create a response that would have helped Fiona and prevented her from going down the road towards commercial sexual exploitation. Taking Stock was set up in 1998 with 2 part time youth workers and a co-ordinator to provide that vital response to young people. Today there are 4 face-to-face workers (3.3 fte) and an education worker (.5 fte). The third partner in SES is South Yorkshire Police.

Taking Stock aims to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation and to promote protective factors in young peoples' lives. During the early years a model evolved which is gratifyingly congruent with that described by Barnardos in their two year evaluation of what constitutes effective intervention, *Reducing the Risk (2006)*.

Taking Stock's work with young people allows for long term support. The ethos is to work within a youth work model and to begin from the young person's starting point. The workers carry a relatively small case load to allow them the flexibility to respond to young people who are extremely vulnerable and do not always fit neatly into allocated time slots. Much emphasis is placed on the quality of the positive relationship established between the worker and young person to counteract other negative relationships. This relationship is entirely voluntary and a great deal of effort is put into the initial meeting with a young person to maximise their willingness to engage.

All referrals to Taking Stock come from the SSCB. When a case is allocated an initial assessment linked to risk indicators is carried out. This can be repeated periodically to show distance travelled. When a case is closed an outcomes form, designed in-house, is completed and various positive outcomes are grouped under the 5 outcomes detailed in *Every Child Matters*. These are displayed graphically in the SES Annual Report, with year on year comparisons. The young person is also asked to complete an evaluation of how helpful they felt the intervention to be.

The project delivers training to professionals, usually as part of the multi-agency SES team. The relationships with our partners, SSCB and South Yorkshire Police, are very strong and our success is largely down to this fact. We meet monthly as a multi-agency team.



The project delivers awareness raising activities with young people in a range of settings. This work is particularly welcome in schools where it is delivered as part of a healthy relationships programme. *Friend or Foe?*, an educational resource looking at sexual exploitation and healthy relationships, is distributed free of charge within Sheffield, along with training in its use.

Taking Stock was successful in securing funding from Comic Relief for 3 years (2007-9) for a full time face-to-face worker. Part of the funding agreement was to produce a booklet of the creative writings of young people at risk, or with experience, of sexual exploitation: *Pieces of Me* is the fabulous result of this participative project and continues to be in high demand (available through the contact below). The project now has a further 3 years funding from Comic Relief for direct work; to provide awareness raising and resources for foster carers, and to extend work with boys and young men.

In common with projects elsewhere, prosecuting perpetrators is problematic. However there have been some successes, most notably Operation Glover that resulted in a 10 year sentence for one man for anal and vaginal rape, with 6 other men found guilty of immigration offences and deported. This summer another man received a 2 year sentence for paying for the sexual services of a child and will be deported on release. There have also been prosecutions for child abduction.

### Case Study

Katie was referred to Taking Stock from the Sexual Exploitation Strategy meeting. From the age of 14 she had been taken to another city by a group of men for long periods of time. She was introduced to other men and given alcohol, clothes and other gifts. When she came to Taking Stock at age 16 she had left home and, although seen occasionally, she was extremely difficult to contact. Eventually she went to Connexions to ask about benefits and, from there, was introduced her to the TS worker.

Katie was homeless, sleeping rough or on friends' sofas. She had extremely low self esteem and she was not looking after herself. She had been independent from an early age and had difficulty accepting boundaries. She needed safe accommodation that could meet her specific needs. Connexions and her TS worker found an appropriate hostel where a key worker was allocated to work with Katie and support her in budgeting, cooking and other independent living skills. The TS worker continued to meet regularly with Katie to build a relationship, to give her emotional support and to help her to explore a safer way of living.

Eventually Katie was ready to move on in her life. An assessment of Entry Level 3 in Numeracy and Literacy encouraged her to go back to learning. She also began to engage with her key worker at the hostel and her periods of 'going missing' decreased. Her self esteem noticeably increased and she became more confident and assertive.

Katie has now completed her initial studies and is studying at college and has a work placement. She has made friends with peers, has re-connected with her family and is living in a flat with her own tenancy.

Contact: Taking Stock, Star House, 43 Division Street, Sheffield, S1 4GE Tel 0114 2012800

<http://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org.uk/welcome/safeguarding-children-board/sexual-exploitation>

# What's going on?

## focus on offenders

### Recent prosecutions

There has been significant press coverage of recent prosecutions for offences related to child sexual exploitation. Pam Bowen of the CPS has provided this account of the case.

On 2 August 2010, 9 men were convicted at Manchester Crown Court for their role in the sexual exploitation of a 14 year old girl. The child went missing from her home in Rochdale on two occasions in February 2008. On the second occasion she was missing for 11 days, turning up in Rusholme in Manchester. When officers spoke with her she told them that she had been abused by a number of different men while she was missing.

Over the following weeks she was spoken to by a specialist team of officers and was able to identify where she had been the men who had taken her there and abused her. She had been abused by a number of different men as she went from one vulnerable situation to another. In many instances, the men were not linked but all exploited her vulnerability. Manchester Crown Court heard how she was first picked up in Rochdale town centre by Hassan who took her to a nightclub where she was plied with drink and taken to a flat along with two other men, Mohammed and Mohammed Atif, who all later sexually exploited her. A few days later she travelled to Manchester where she met another man, Khan, who also plied her with alcohol and drugs before ordering her to work as a prostitute.

Over the next 10 days she was forced to have sex with a number of men for money before flagging down a couple in the street and begging them for help.

Supt Paul Saville from the GMP commented that *"the level of abuse this child has suffered is almost beyond belief. She has been treated like a commodity; beaten, threatened and sexually exploited. The child was commended for her bravery in supporting this case. Even after the ordeal she was able to revisit the sites*

*where she was abused and testify against her abusers in court."*

In Manchester there is a specially trained team, the Protect Team, which specialises in dealing with victims of child sexual exploitation. Young people are supported through the investigation and court process and helped to come to terms with what has happened to them and to move on with their lives. The team involves both police officers and Manchester's Social Services, working with children's charities.

The defendants were sentenced as follows:

- **Aftab Khan** pleaded guilty to one count of controlling a child prostitute and one count of sexual activity with a child. He was sentenced to nine years in prison (later reduced to seven years on appeal)
- **Abid Khaliq** admitting perverting the course of justice and was sentenced to eight months in prison
- **Noorzai Ahmed** was convicted of paying for the sexual services of a child and sentenced to four years in prison
- **Mohammed Anwar Safi** was convicted of paying for the sexual services of a child and sentenced to 31 months in prison
- **Mohammed Khan** was sentenced to four years in prison after he was found guilty of facilitating child prostitution
- **Najibullah Safi** was sentenced to two years in prison after admitting to sexual activity with a child
- **Asad Yousaf Hassa** was sentenced to two years in prison after admitting two counts of sexual activity with a child
- **Mohammed Basharat** was sentenced to two years in prison after he pleaded guilty to sexual activity with a child under 16
- **Mohammed Atif** was sentenced to two years in prison after admitting to sexual activity with a child

### New research

Helen Brayley and Ella Cockbain, at the UCL's Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science, have recently completed an independent empirical analysis of internal child sex trafficking (ICST) in the UK. The work is unusual due to its offender focus and scientific methodology. In the first attempt to systematically deconstruct ICST, Crime Science tools of Crime Scripting and Social Network Analysis were applied. The project tested the viability of these tools to improve understanding of ICST and highlight inroads for intervention. The analysis

was based on data from the first two UK police investigations into ICST. Together these ongoing operations provided a broad and varied data set, covering numerous instances of abuse. Primary police data were complimented and contextualised by material gathered from in-depth interviews with other experienced stakeholders, including NGOs, government agents and academics. The results showed strong support for the value of these tools in tackling ICST from different perspectives, including: prevention, disruption, investigation, prosecution and education.

Preliminary suggestions for proactive interventions, based on the principles of Situational Crime Prevention, were proposed. The work is expected to be of particular interest to stakeholders involved in: Policy and Research; Policing; Prosecution Strategies; and Youth Work and Education.

For more information, please contact [helen.brayley.09@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:helen.brayley.09@ucl.ac.uk) and [eleonor.cockbain.09@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:eleonor.cockbain.09@ucl.ac.uk)

# What's going on elsewhere

## Council of Europe

### Campaign to Stop Sexual Violence Against Children

At the end of November 2010 the Council of Europe will launch a three year, pan-European campaign to stop sexual violence against children. The campaign has two main aims:

- 1) to support the signature, ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe standards to combat sexual violence against children (including the convention for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse), and,
- 2) to raise awareness on the extent and nature of sexual violence and ways of reporting and preventing it.

As part of a three day conference in Rome to launch the campaign, a group from the UK, including project workers and young people from sexual exploitation services, will attend. A central principle of the campaign is the engagement of children and young people in the development and implementation of policies to stop sexual violence against children. It is hoped that the young people from the UK will have the opportunity to observe and report back on the launch of the campaign as well as sharing their views and perspectives with those attending. In addition we hope to exhibit examples of work from the UK that has involved and supported young people. More details on the campaign can be found at

[www.coe.int/t/transversalprojects/children/violence/sexualabuse\\_EN.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/transversalprojects/children/violence/sexualabuse_EN.asp)

If you are interested in hearing more about the launch, would like to share examples of your work or would be interested in getting involved in the campaign in any way we would love to hear from you – please contact: [Camille.warrington@beds.ac.uk](mailto:Camille.warrington@beds.ac.uk)

## ECPAT

### The Body Shop global campaign to Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People

ECPAT has launched a global campaign to raise awareness about child trafficking after research has revealed that one in 10 Britons do not believe that it happens in the UK. The study was conducted by The Body Shop, ECPAT's partner in this campaign. The campaign – Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People – aims to raise awareness of the issues facing children who are trafficked from abroad for sexual exploitation.

ECPAT are asking the public to sign a petition (online and in Body Shop stores around the country) calling for greater protection for child victims of trafficking. The petition specifically calls on the UK Government to introduce a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking.

As part of the campaign The Body Shop has also launched a hand cream called *Soft Hands, Kind Heart*. The majority of the profits from the sales of the hand cream are helping to fund ECPAT campaigns against child trafficking in the UK. More details about the campaign and a link to the campaign petition can be found at: [http://www.ecpat.org.uk/body\\_shop\\_campaign.html](http://www.ecpat.org.uk/body_shop_campaign.html)



## Safeguarding Young People:

### Responding to Young People Aged 11 to 17 Who Are Maltreated

This research, published in July, urges a new approach to child protection for older children in order to ensure their safety. Safeguarding Young People found that the needs of 11 to 17 year olds were not always met by child protection processes, which are more geared to protecting younger children. The authors suggest that a lack of resources in Children's Social Care Services can negatively affect older children, and younger children in similar circumstances may be prioritised. The study found that young people had huge difficulty in disclosing maltreatment. There is a lack of services for young people over 14 which may deter professionals (teachers, police) from making referrals.

The study also found that there is a problem with some professionals' perceptions of older children. They were often seen as more competent to deal with maltreatment than younger children, including being able to escape abusive situations and seek help, as well as being perceived by some professionals as more 'resilient'.

The full report and summary is available at [php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/1774/](http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/1774/)

## Diary of events

### 14 October 2010

#### Welsh National Conference on sexual exploitation

Sexual Exploitation: What Young People need from their Healthcare Professional

*Swalec Stadium, Cardiff*

Organised by the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Wales, to present a healthcare assessment tool developed in collaboration with Barnardos to identify the risk of sexual exploitation in under 18s

Contact: Kim Leonard on **01633 623720** or [kim.leonard@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:kim.leonard@wales.nhs.uk)

### 18 October 2010

#### Sexual Exploitation: Young People and participation in developing and delivering prevention and support services

*The Tomlinson Centre, Queensbridge Road, Hackney, London*

This event, run by the NIA project, will explore how we give voice to sexually exploited young people, and how we ensure that young people influence the development and delivery of sexual exploitation support and prevention services. This will draw on the Nia Projects' 3 years of experience of prevention and participation work around issues of the sexual exploitation of young people.

Contact: Jennifer Parnham on: **020 7683 1270** ext: 228 or [jparnham@niaproject.plus.com](mailto:jparnham@niaproject.plus.com)

### 3-5 November 2010

#### National Children and Adult Services Conference 2010

Wednesday 3 - Friday 5 November 2010

*Manchester Central*

This is an established event with an audience of around 1200 high-level attendees coming together for three days to discuss and debate the latest issues affecting children and adult services.

For further information see [www.adass.org.uk](http://www.adass.org.uk)

### 18 November 2010

#### Child Internet Abuse: Implications for Practice

*London*

This conference aims to enable participants to discover how the internet is used by online sex offenders and the impact on children and young people.

Confirmed keynote speakers: Tink Palmer, CEO, Marie Collins Foundation; and Jonathan Taylor, Internet Safety Expert (Expert Witness).

For further information, visit:

[www.baspcan.org.uk/events.php](http://www.baspcan.org.uk/events.php)