

SHEFFIELD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION SERVICES

Annual Report

April 2017 – March 2018



South Yorkshire
Police

Sheffield Children's NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

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Introduction

Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service (SSES) is a co-located Multi-Agency Service responsible for tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Sheffield. The service works with children and young people experiencing sexual exploitation who are age 18 and under, with some older young adults dependent on need.

Over the past year the service has continued to grow and work more holistically to support children and young people who are being exploited and to prevent young people from being exploited where they are presenting with CSE risk factors. Whilst we are making headway in relation to early identification of CSE, it remains everybody's responsibility to ensure that they understand the signs of child sexual abuse and to be aware of the referral pathways to safeguard these children and young people, many of whom are vulnerable and have a range of complexities.

This report highlights the work SSES has undertaken during 2017/18 along with the profile data of the service users who accessed the service during that time, in order for us to better understand CSE need and prevalence in Sheffield. The service works with a range of statutory and independent organisations, and Sheffield Futures would like to thank the range of partners we work with who make this robust and multi-agency way of working possible.

National Context

In February 2017, The Government introduced new guidance for practitioners working with victims of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and published the following revised definition:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. (Child Sexual Exploitation - Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation, DfE 2017)

In 2012 The Office of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups interim report identified over 2,400 children who were victims of sexual exploitation by groups and gangs between August 2010 and October 2011. The same report identified a further 16,500 children who were at high risk of child sexual exploitation between April 2010-March 2011. The National Crime Agency published figures in 2014 identifying 236 children were believed to have been trafficked for sexual exploitation during 2013.

Overview of Service

The Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service is a multi-agency team of professions, based in Star House, which is in the city centre. The team comprises of Social Workers, Youth Workers, Police Officers, a Family Support Worker, CSE Manager, CSE Education Officer and NHS Nurse. This team ensures that there is a joined up approach to identification of risk through robust assessment and includes a whole range of interventions and strategies to protect vulnerable young people, support their families and ensure that those who exploit young people are prosecuted.

All concerns of CSE are referred directly through Sheffield Safeguarding Hub and do not take direct referrals. This ensures that CSE is always assessed within a safeguarding context, and addresses wider vulnerabilities and risk. The SSES gathers information from young people, professionals and communities to pursue those involved in the exploitation of children and young people. The detectives attached to the service are then responsible for bringing offenders to the prosecution stage whilst the wider team support victims through the criminal justice process.

The service works at all levels of risk from serious child protection to early prevention work - supporting children and young people with concerning behaviours which may lead to exploitative situations. The prevention arm of the service is supported by multi agency Community Youth Teams (CYT's) which undertake low to medium risk case work and group work, once the SSES have identified the level of risk and vulnerability. High to medium cases remain in the SSES. CYTs are a specialist young people's service which supports vulnerable young people within their own communities. Both the SSES and CYT services use youth work principles of engagement and strengths based interventions to address underlying contextual factors and to empower young people to make positive choices to keep themselves safe and reach personal goals.

The Service works to address sexual exploitation on five key principals: prevention, protection, pursuit, prosecution and participation. To achieve this, the service works with partner agencies to prevent sexual exploitation by raising awareness of issues with professionals, businesses, communities and young people. The service promotes a city wide responsibility to protecting vulnerable young people from exploitation in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's (LSCB) priorities. The service has a training function, and supports the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board to deliver multi agency training across the city, as well as group work with young people in schools and information events for parents/carers and professionals.

The Service hosts the Alexi Project, which is a grant funded 'Hub and Spoke' CSE best practice model. Sheffield CSE is the Hub of good practice, sharing learning with 3 spoke areas in Doncaster, Barnsley and Kirklees. This covers elements such as direct work with young people, training for professionals and the licencing trade, and young people who have experienced CSE voice and participation work.

A service structure can be found in [appendix 1](#).

It's important to note, that other organisations in the city, namely NSPCC and Gold Digger work directly with young people with low level CSE risk, and the SSES work closely with these organisations to ensure that we work as part of a whole system approach to CSE.

Local Governance Arrangements

Sheffield's response to child sexual exploitation is overseen by the Sheffield Safeguarding Children's Board, for whom tackling the issue has been a priority since the late 1990s. Oversight of services'

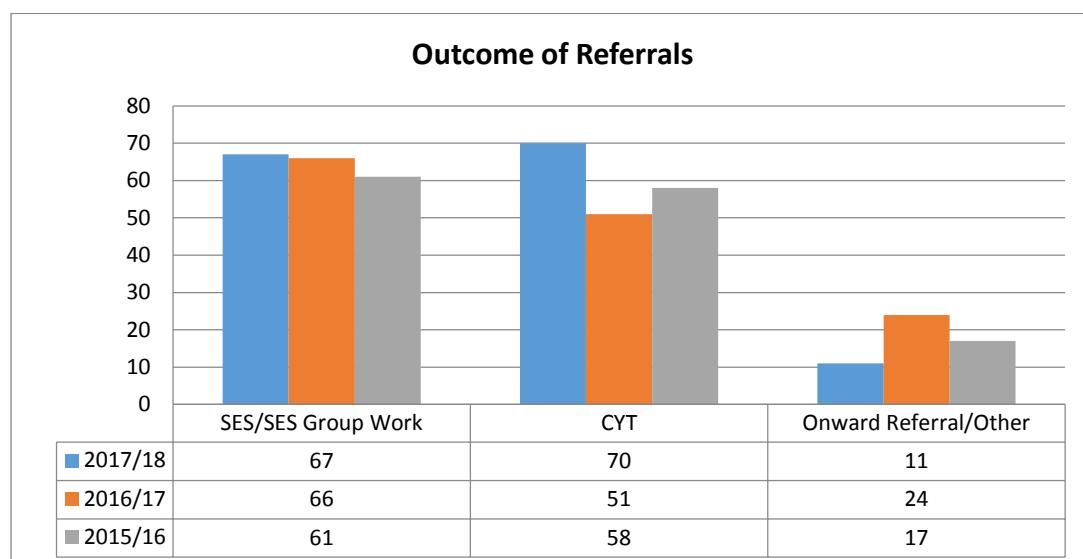
work to address sexual exploitation is the responsibility of the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Group – chaired by the local authority's Director of Children's Services. This group reports to Sheffield Safeguarding Children's Board's executive board. Membership of the strategic group includes representatives from the statutory sector – police, health, education and social care, as well as the voluntary sector – Sheffield Futures. The Sexual Exploitation Service provides quarterly performance updates to the executive board.

Beneath the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Group is the CSE Operational Group, responsible for implementing the city's aims and objectives for tackling sexual exploitation. In order to ensure that the multi-agency approach to addressing child sexual exploitation is delivered at all levels the SSES facilitates a practitioners meeting for all interested professionals. This provides a multi-agency arena to disseminate evidence based practice and share local practice and support.

Data and Analysis

A total of **148** referrals were received by the Sexual Exploitation Service (SES) between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018.

OUTCOME OF REFERRALS



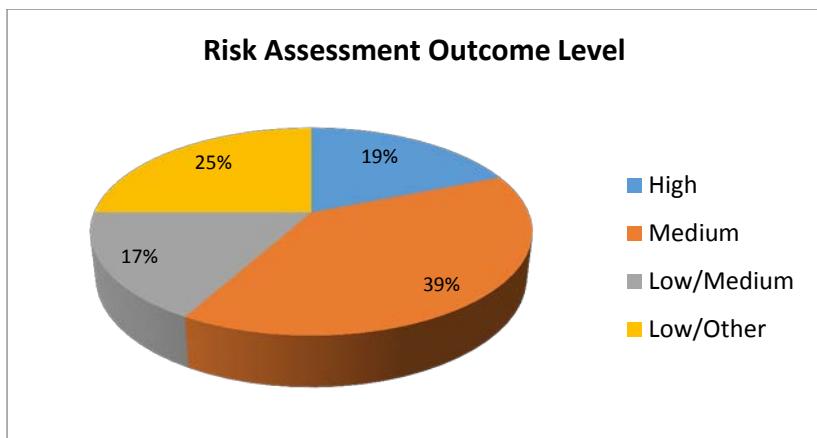
Of the 148 referrals for 2017/18, 45.3% (67) were allocated to the Sexual Exploitation Service case managers. There has been an increase in referrals to CYT and a significant reduction in the 'other' outcomes. The likely reason is the referrals received are appropriate for the service; in 2016/17 there were a few referrals which were so low level they did not warrant a referral to SES.

The 'onwards referrals' were to services out of the Sheffield area and to counselling service.

Of the 'Other', these are the main reasons why they were not allocated within CYT or SES;

- moved out of the city
- low risk and referrer to complete the work
- no CSE support need identified at SES triage meeting

The 148 cases were risk assessed by SES as:



All the high risks were allocated to SES case managers.

All referrals are initially sent to the Sheffield Safeguarding HUB for screening and appropriate referrals sent to SES; below are the original referring agencies into the HUB:

Referrer into Safeguarding HUB 2017/18	
South Yorkshire Police	25
Social Care	74
School	16
Parent/Carer	9
P&TH, Children's Homes, Other	10
MAST	7
Health Services	7
Total	148

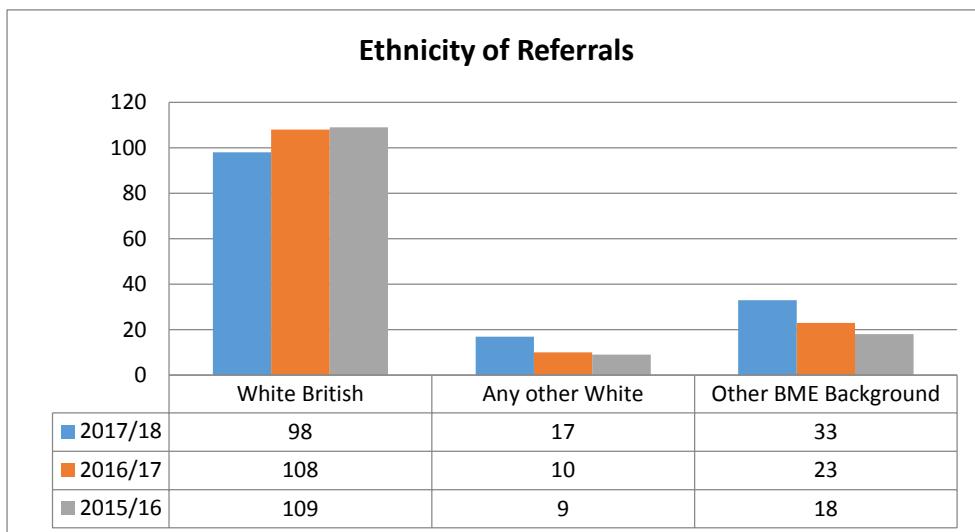
- 50% Social Care
- 17% Police
- 11% School/College

There are no notable changes in the referrals into SES.

GENDER OF REFERRALS

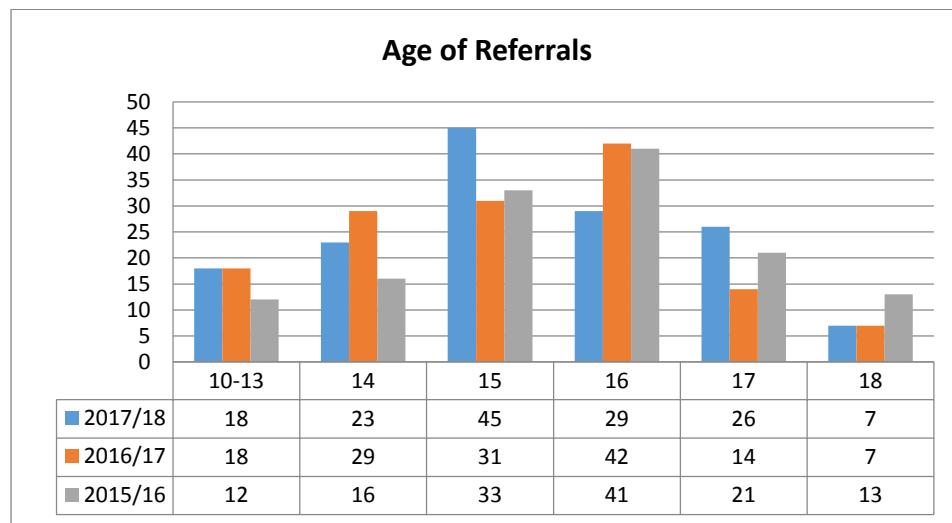
Of the 148 referrals, 90% were for females. In 2016/17 the gender split was 98/2 whereas in 2015/16 the total female was 92%.

ETHNICITY OF REFERRALS



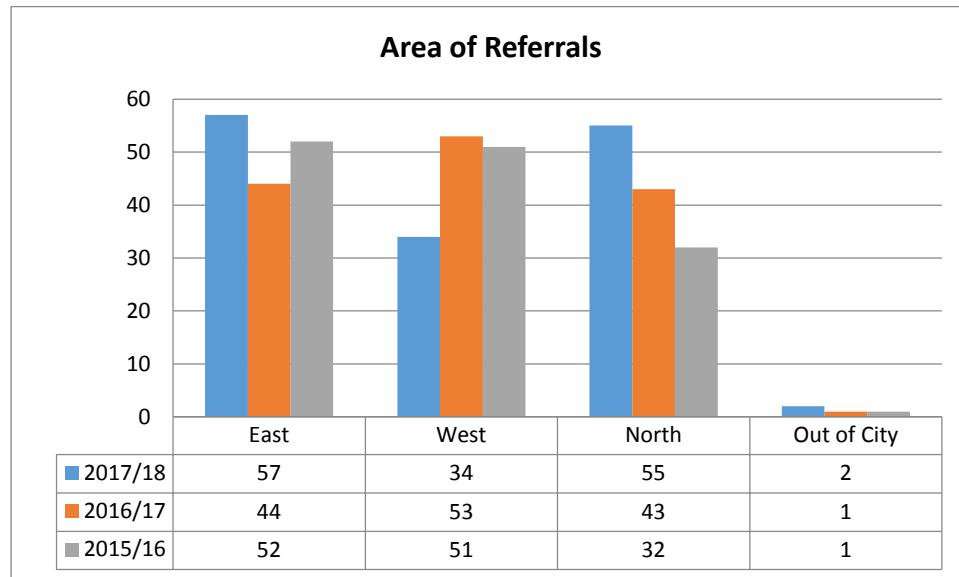
The majority of the referrals are White British with 66% of the total referral which is slightly lower than the 77% in 2016/17. There has been a slight increase in White European and Mixed although nothing significant.

AGE OF REFERRALS



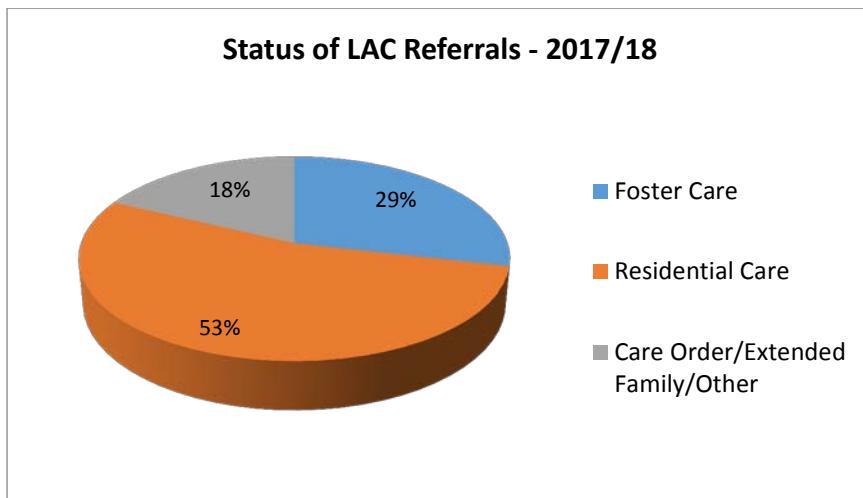
The peak age of referrals is 15 with 30.4% of the total; the peak age in 2016/17 was age 16 with 30% of the total. Age 16 has fallen in 2017/18, 19.6% of the total. There slight percentage differences across all the other ages but nothing significant.

AREA OF REFERRALS



There has been a significant drop in the West area referrals, 23% in 2017/18 compared to 37.6% in 2016/17 and the same in 2015/16. East is the same as 2015/16 38.5% but slightly higher than 2016/17, 31.2%.

LOOKED AFTER STATUS



- Of the 148 referrals in 2017/18, 18.9% are LAC at the point of referral which is double the 9% in 2016/17 and slightly higher than the 14% in 2015/16. The breakdown is:
 - 53.6% in Residential Care
 - 28.6% in Foster Care
 - Other includes living out of the area

Achievements and Impact

The Alexi Project

The Alexi Project was based on the ideas of Professor Jenny Pearce from the University of Bedfordshire's International Centre: Researching Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence and Trafficking, and aimed to look at ways that voluntary sector expertise could contribute to supporting statutory CSE services. The hub and spoke model that grew out of this meant that the voluntary sector 'hubs' would expand their support, learning and expertise across geographical neighbourhoods.

The Alexi Project came to an end after a three year phased funding programme that saw Sheffield identified as one of only 15 national hubs. Over the period of funding Sheffield have worked with Doncaster, Barnsley and Kirklees providing 1:1 support for young people identified as being at risk from CSE and delivering a comprehensive programme of training for professionals.

The final Alexi Project Evaluation report by the University of Bedfordshire, highlighted that the Hub and Spoke model strengthened regional responses to CSE providing an overview of CSE patterns and services across local authority areas. It also found that '*specialist voluntary sector workers within the Hub and Spoke programme have the capacity and expertise to address CSE through direct intervention with young people and through the training and support of other agencies and professionals.*'

Sheffield Futures, together with Safe and Sound and Link to Change were three hubs who formed a "super-hub" and jointly funded a Participation Development Worker to take on the additional strand of the Alexi Project research around the study of participation. We all shared resources and expertise and jointly developed a training resource around youth participation based on practice experience and underpinned by academic research.

‘Live, Learn, Survive’ was launched at an event in Nottingham to delegates around the country with workshops to demonstrate how the free resource is intended to be used with young people in the context of participation. The resource uses the principles of a strengths-based approach and solution focussed techniques to look beyond vulnerabilities and risk, to focus on the potential for what could become of each young person’s involvement in participation.

Training

In 2017/18, the SSES was able to train a range of professionals and young people:

Professionals Training	Sessions	Attended
Education (Including Huddersfield)	4	114
Health	1	70
LAC/Care Leavers/Children Services/Sheltered Housing/Residential	9	64
Multi Agency	53	873
Others/ Voluntary Sector	5	59
Total	72	1180

A total of 1180 professionals over 72 sessions have been trained by SSES to be aware of the risks and signs of CSE.

- 36 sessions over Sheffield
- 27 sessions over Kirklees
- 2 sessions over Huddersfield
- 7 sessions over Barnsley

Education includes secondary schools and special schools (Hinde House, Notre Dame, Yewlands Academy and Bents Green).

Health includes Sheffield Children’s Hospital, Sexual Health Sheffield and Becton CAMHS.

Multi Agency including substance misuse services, housing and foster carers.

Others/Voluntary Sector including taxi drivers and Crystal Peaks staff members alongside safeguarding and licensing – Julie Hague.

A total of 388 young people have been trained to be aware of the risks of CSE by SSES.

Young People Training	Sessions	Attended
Primary Education	2	22
Secondary Education	8	341
College / Further Education	2	25
Total	12	388

Other:

- 1 Session for 18 Parents attending training in Secondary school
- 3 Sessions for Taxi Drivers and small businesses covering 54 attendees

Prevention

The SSES service assesses all young people at all levels of risk, ensuring that young people with low level risk are offered early, preventative help to make positive choices and understand their own vulnerability towards sexual exploitation. Using a variety of youth focussed resources and interventions, the CYTs work in a 1-1 capacity with young people identified as low to medium risk,

within the context of their families and where possible their peer groups and schools. Many of the young people identified as low risk have specific concerns around their internet and social media use. The SSES work with other key partners in the city such as the NSPCC who deliver preventative and targeted group work in schools, with groups of girls and boys. The SSES worked closely with and supported the NSPCC and their ‘It’s Not OK Campaign.’ Where young people require additional 1-1 support, then referrals through social care are made to ensure that their needs are assessed holistically.

Prevention work across the city also includes a range of targeted multi agency training for professionals and direct work with parents. A Training Pathway has been developed by the specialist CSE trainer, which aims to give all professionals across Sheffield a quick and easy way of seeing what CSE training is available in Sheffield and what level they should be directed to. The Basic CSE Awareness Package has been updated to include Contextual Safeguarding and a newly written Advanced Package is available for professionals dealing with or identifying CSE on a more regular basis.

Protection

The introduction of a one route pathway through social care screening for all CSE referrals has been embedded. This has ensured that any referral requiring a joint visit by a social worker and police are identified and actioned immediately.

Cases which are risk assessed as being high risk are allocated a support worker from the Sexual Exploitation Service. The role of the CSE social worker is being developed with a view to case holding the highest risk. In all cases an initial meeting involving the young person, their family and professionals, is called to plan the package of support. Regular three month review meetings take place to ensure plans are adhered to or adapted to reflect changing needs.

The service continues to develop a ‘contextual safeguarding’ approach to protecting young people by attending various mapping and intelligence meetings across the city and assessing risk in the young person’s context; identifying and understanding where the exploitative situation occurs, and then addressing the factors that foster this in partnership with other agencies.

Pursuit

An intelligence focussed, multi-agency meeting continues to take place every month. This encourages enhanced information sharing and pursuit of perpetrators of CSE. Chaired by the police, the meeting has representatives from Housing, Residential Homes, YJS, Missing from Home Officers, Health and social care. The focus is on identifying vulnerable young people, offenders and ‘hot spots’ around the city, then jointly devising solutions to disrupt criminal activity and safeguard young people. Suspected named offenders are subject to a ‘scoring’ matrix by the police Integrated Offender Management team and dependant on this, a variety of tactics can be adopted.

Abduction Notices, a police power aimed at preventing inappropriate contact between adults and children are considered when an adult is associating inappropriately with a child or young person under the age of 16, or 18 if the individual is on a full care order. The service ensures it carefully observes local and national cases to continuously inform practice and utilise any legislative changes to achieve the aim of disruption and pursuit.

Prosecution

The Sexual Exploitation Service continues to offer intensive one-to-one support for victims involved in police investigations. The multi-agency make-up of the Sheffield SES continues to ensure young people affected by CSE receive a co-ordinated professional response. The service has again this year supported young people as witnesses through court proceedings resulting in sentences.

There is a range of legislation used when the threshold for prosecution is not met. Abduction Notices continue to be used to disrupt offenders and consideration is given to applying for Sexual Harm Prevention Order's (SHPO) which is a civil order granted through the Magistrates Court.

Participation

Participation is encouraged on an individual level, by supporting young people to be actively involved in decision making in relation to their own care planning, and decisions that affect them, their friends and families.

The consultation for 'Live, Learn, Survive' recognised that the young people we work with are vital in letting us know what works well and what doesn't. Projects that support the voice and influence of young people are beneficial to both the organisations that enable this and the participants themselves.

The research project team found that there were many academic articles on CSE and many on participation but none that overlapped to show how young people in CSE services had also been involved in participatory work.

To develop the resource, the Alexi Project team interviewed workers from different organisations that had established CSE youth participation groups. These groups have encountered challenges such as fear from workers that bringing together young people that had been affected could cause re-traumatisation or expose young people to potential peer-on-peer recruitment or exposure to each other's perpetrators.

The other challenge was with young people that were still dealing with vulnerabilities as a result of what had happened to them such as post-traumatic stress, difficulty engaging with education, substance misuse or being involved in ongoing criminal investigations etc. which could affect their ability to fully engage with participatory activities. This brought up questions of criteria for inclusion or exclusion of young people on safeguarding grounds.

To address some of the challenges, the team adopted principles of a strengths-based approach and solution focussed techniques to look beyond vulnerabilities and risk to focus on the potential for what could become of each young person's involvement in participation, rather than what they couldn't do. This led to the development of a safety tool to prevent practitioners from assuming that they know how and at what level young people are prepared to participate.

Partnership Working

CSE cannot be tackled by one agency operating alone. Effective responses must be built on a holistic understanding of the problem which comes from a shared commitment to partnership working. The Sexual Exploitation Service has embedded a fully integrated multi-agency working ethic at all levels.

The SSES continually work with a range of statutory and third sector agencies, schools and higher education. The Transitions Worker post, which completed in June 2018, identified a range of new organisations and the need for the development of pathways with adult services to ensure that young people reaching 18 and beyond were supported through transitions into adult services across health, education, social care etc. This work will be taken forward in 2018 – 19 as funding from the Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership has been secured to employ a vulnerable young adult sexual exploitation worker specifically to meet the needs of 18 – 25 year olds. This will also include awareness raising and training for professionals across the city.

The Specialist Nurse role has been promoted so that wider health services can contact and discuss any cases / concerns linked to CSE and they are given guidance about making referrals via the Safeguarding Hub. Awareness raising sessions for Practice Nursing Teams for the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have been given and we have accommodated student health practitioners on attachment to give them a greater understanding of CSE.

The Specialist CSE Nurse role has two main functions; firstly operationally, there is contribution to CSE risk assessments by sharing health related information with the assessing social worker and adding context to the health history. Following the risk assessment the health record is updated, enabling other professionals to see the determined risk and outcome.

The CSE Nurse attends CSE Meetings alongside visiting the young person to establish their needs by undertaking a health assessment/discussion (medium to high risk cases). From this session a care plan is formulated with the young person which includes what they want to address and their health priorities. They are then supported to access health services or brief intervention sessions, all of which is recorded within their health record.

By using techniques that include motivational interviewing, and by embedding a solution focused approach, encourages and puts the young person at the centre of making decisions about their health.

Young people are seen where they feel most comfortable, this may be within education, in the community, at Star House or their home. Health related sessions are individual, some appointments are up to an hour, others half a day or longer dependent on the need at the time. Some of the young people feel an initial appointment then follow up by texts/calls suits them, for others it is a weekly or monthly appointment. Where health is a high priority there may be several appointments in a week.

Alongside individual health support, liaison with professionals is a significant part of the role. Updating and building the multi-agency support plan is key to improving outcomes for this vulnerable group. Attendance at any safeguarding meetings - including strategy meetings and missing meetings - is daily alongside individual health appointments.

The specialist Nurse role is now well embedded within the SES. Strategically the role encompasses improving awareness of CSE. This has included improving referral pathways/access in to services and communication with partner and the wider health teams.

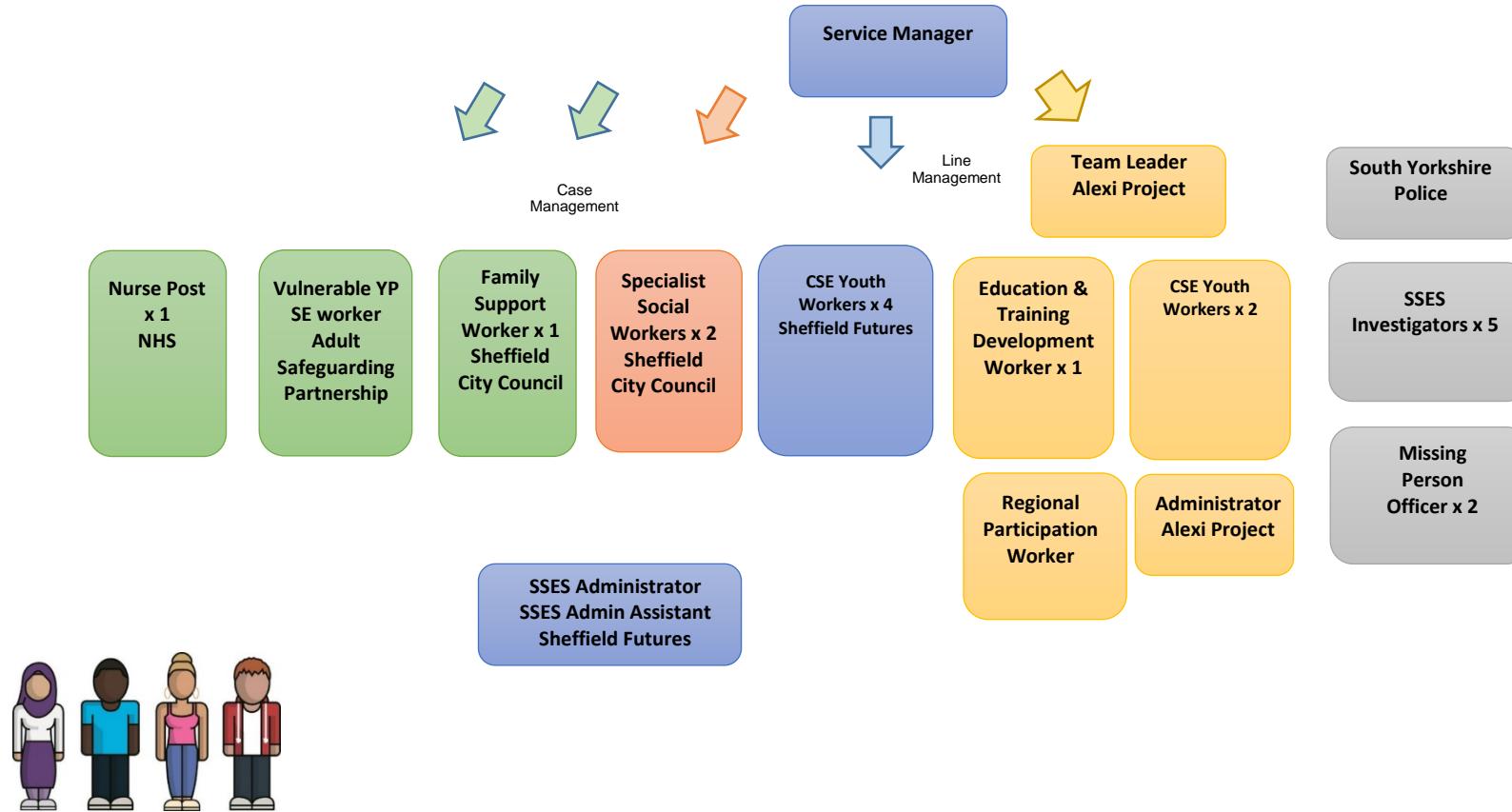
There are regular meetings with community and acute teams promoting access to the CSE team which includes training. CSE awareness sessions are ongoing with all health partners and close working relationships exist with the 0-19 team and CAMHS, offering advice and support with young people on their caseloads.

There are regular meetings with the CSE network in South Yorkshire and the other specialist nurses both for informal supervision, linking of cases and service development.

Appendix 1 – CSE Service Structure

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Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service



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