

Home Affairs Select Committee – June 2013

Child Sexual Exploitation and the Response to Localised Grooming

No	Recommendation	Assessment	Action
Child Sexual Exploitation: scale and prevalence			
1	Those cases of children at risk identified by the Office of the Children's Commissioner must be monitored by local authorities who have overriding responsibility for the welfare of those children. (Paragraph 16)	Relates to individual children / cases that Office of Children's Commissioner (OCC) identified.	No Action Required
2	We recommend that the Government publish a timetable for implementation of the recommendations made by the Office of the Children's Commissioner which will ensure they are in operation by January 2014. (Paragraph 17)	All recommendations from OCC within accelerated and Interim report (CSEGG).	Check CSSEG report against CSE action plan
3	Statement (Paragraph 18)	Commitment of Govt / DfE on CSE	No Action Required
Children's Social Care			
4	We note the work taking place on the issue of children in residential care. We recommend that the Government implement its action plan for improvements in residential care by January 2014. (Paragraph 21)	Refer Appendix 1 for full list of recommendations in relation to residential care. NOT IN ACTION PLAN	Reassess our local action plan and ensure we acknowledge work on residential care
5	All local authority Directors of Children's Social Care should ensure that their staff view troubled children who have been exploited as victims rather than collaborators in their own abuse. Directors of Children's Social care must ensure that they have received adequate training on the issue of child sexual exploitation (Paragraph 22)	Learning and Development Activity for social care staff, including residential staff and managers. PREVENT - Action 6	Progress and Evidence Log required. DCS undertaken refresher CSE training in June 2013
6	All frontline council workers, even those who do not work directly with children	Requires more evaluation of local	Training Needs Analysis

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	and young people, ought to be trained to recognise the signs of localised grooming and the indicators of child sexual exploitation, and should know how to report anything that might give them cause to believe that a child is at risk. (Paragraph 23)	state of play. PREVENT – Action 6	Liaise with NAS, EDS and any outsourced providers re awareness raising / training for staff. Include promotion of CART / OOH / EHAT
7	We recommend that all local authorities ensure that there are clear lines of dialogue between their children’s social care departments and their licensing boards. As part of their scrutiny role, Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards should monitor the relationship between children’s social care departments and licensing boards and ensure that any recommendations made to the licensing board are acted upon. Local authorities must make greater use of licensing to tackle the issue of grooming. (Paragraph 24)	Links between Licensing, Licensing Board and CSE Team / LSCB already well-established and evidence that this has been effective . PREVENT – Action 7 PROTECT – Action 3	Protocol / process flow diagram required – including information sharing (PM).
8	We recommend that the forthcoming statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care should require local authorities to conduct return interviews, delivered by an independent professional a child or young person is comfortable speaking with, to all children who run away or go missing from home or care, within 72 hours of a missing incident. (Paragraph 26)	Assessment required – refer report on Children Missing Running Away to LSCB June 2013. NOT IN ACTION PLAN	Evaluation of effectiveness and gaps in Rotherham required. Ensure work is reflected in action plan Risk – new definitions for missing and absent to be introduced – CSE pathways needs to take account of this CSE Sub Group needs to incorporate Children Missing agenda / data
Scrutiny of Children’s Social Care departments			
9	Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) must collect data in a standard format so that it can be shared between them. Given the historic difficulty of LSCBs collecting comparable data, we	Regional or sub regional core data items possible but unlikely a full suite as local needs and	In absence of nationally prescribed data set, work with SY LSCBs and SYP re core data set.

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	recommend either that Boards form a network to ensure uniformity and promulgate best practice or, if that fails, the Government identify an appropriate body to produce central guidance. (Paragraph 32)	systems differ. Local CSE Performance framework in place. PROTECT – Action 3 PURSUE – Action 3	To be discussed at SY PCC CSE forum Requires partners to submit accurate and timely data.
10	Every Local Safeguarding Children’s Board should publish an annual report on the work of the child sexual exploitation team, using the data collected to assess the scale and nature of child sexual exploitation within the local area. Such a report ought to include data on the number of: complaints; investigations; prosecutions; convictions: and, police officers social workers and other specialist support workers working on child sexual exploitation. (Paragraph 33)	LSCB 2012-13 report does have a CSE section but without data	Incorporate available / relevant data before publishing end July 2013
11	The role of a Local Safeguarding Children’s Board is to scrutinise the effectiveness of its members, not protect them from criticism. We recommend that the Government give the victim or their family, or an independent third party, the right of redaction of serious case reviews, rather than the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board. We also recommend that Serious Case Reviews are published in full, subject to delay where it may compromise an on-going investigation. (Paragraph 37)	Await Gov guidance, of from Gov SCR panel which has been set up. Child S redaction was only undertaken to protect family members – not services.	No action required at this stage
Local Authorities and Local Safeguarding Children Boards			
12	Prevention and early intervention in cases of children at risk of sexual exploitation is essential rather than trying to resolve the situation once the exploitation has started. We recommend that all local authorities ensure that there is sufficient funding for prevention within	The CSE team has resources for work in schools and a parenting support worker. PREVENT – Action 1	Evaluation (diagnostic) due in July 2013.

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	<p>the budget of any multi-agency team tasked with tackling child sexual exploitation.</p> <p>We also believe that it is important for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards to consider how they will approach the sensitive issue of raising awareness of child sexual exploitation risks among Year 6 and Year 7 students, as abusers are targeting that age group. The Government can assist in this by gathering together in one easily accessible location best practice resources. (Paragraph 52)</p>	<p>We currently work with Y8 pupils and this has taken place in 13 of 16 schools</p> <p>PREVENT – Action 1 (needs assessment)</p>	<p>Work with healthy schools to develop appropriate materials for yr 6 & 7 pupils</p>
13	<p>Statement (Paragraph 55)</p> <p>Committee surprised notice to improve was lifted in Rotherham though CSE remains an issue.</p>	<p>This was not the assessment of Ofsted re the CSE service in Rotherham in July 2012</p>	<p>Barnados leading a service diagnostic in July 2013. This will provide a baseline with where to make necessary improvements</p> <p>Future diagnostic planned for October 2013 led by LSCB chair with external specialist support</p>
14	<p>We recommend that further Ofsted reviews take place for Rotherham over the next two years to ensure that the changes they are implementing are not just cosmetic. The first should take place by December 2013 (Paragraph 56)</p>	<p>The new Ofsted framework for CP and LAC Inspection will be implemented from November 2013 (different evaluation descriptors)</p>	<p>See 13</p>
Criminal Justice System			
15	<p>We recommend that the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office report quarterly on progress of improvements of the response of the criminal justice system to child sexual exploitation to the working group on child sexual</p>	<p>Await outcome of DfE CSE working group. The final report of OCC is due autumn 2013.</p> <p>PURSUE – Action 1& 2</p>	<p>Establish Gold group links with local CSE CPS rep. To be invited to attend Gold group</p>

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	exploitation set up by the Department for Education. (Paragraph 67)		
16	Statement (Paragraph 68)	Director of Public Prosecutions and Chief Crown Prosecutor North West commended for their work on CSE	
17	Statement (Paragraph 72) SY PCC not engaging with victims		RMBC considering appropriate opportunity for Cabinet Member and DCS to hear the victims voice
18	Statement (Paragraph 74)	Expectation that prosecutions in South Yorks will increase – responsibility of Chief Constable PURSUE – Actions 1 & 2	To be considered at SYP PCC – CSE forum
19	We recommend that all police forces ensure that their IT systems are able to identify these incidents and whether multiple perpetrators have been involved. We also recommend that the College of Policing work with CEOP to formalise the sharing of best practice, including the use of surveillance and alternative legislation to prosecute perpetrators. (Paragraph 75)	Assessment required by SY Police and Rotherham District PURSUE – Action 3 Await guidance	Update needed with timescales to Gold Group
20	We recommend that police forces be required to notify the child sexual exploitation coordinator of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board as to how many cases they have investigated linked child sexual exploitation; how many have been prosecuted and how many of those prosecutions were successful to be	Performance Management Framework in place PROTECT – Action 3	Data to be reported monthly to Gold Group

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	<p>published as part of their annual report.</p> <p>We also recommend that CEOP use the reports by child sexual exploitation co-ordinators to monitor the performance of all police forces and, if necessary, implement an action plan for improvement where forces are failing to perform. (Paragraph 76)</p>	Where will CEOP source data on all forces / LSCBs – annual reports?	Await guidance
Identifying vulnerable victims and ensuring they have access to support			
21	We recommend that all victims of child sexual exploitation be offered the services of an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor prior to their Achieving Best Evidence interview. The ISVA should be trained in court processes and, wherever possible, the victim should be supported by the same individual throughout the process. (Paragraph 82)	<p>Recommendation within ACPO action plan</p> <p>PURSUE – Action 2</p>	Update / Response from SY Police required at Gold group level
22	We recommend that the new national policy and guidance for police and the Crown Prosecution Service which will be drawn up by the College of Policing include a checklist of support services which a victim of child sexual exploitation ought to be offered following the decision to prosecute the case. This checklist ought to include, at the very least, pre-trial therapy, a pre-Court familiarisation visit and a chance to meet the prosecuting barrister. The Independent Sexual Violence Advocate assigned to the case ought to be present when these support services are offered to the victim. (Paragraph 83)	These are some of the measures that were put in place in Rotherham for the victims in Operation Central	Await national policy and guidance
Court Processes			
23	We recommend the Ministry of Justice implement Pigot 2 by January 2014. We are at a loss to understand why the Ministry of Justice, fourteen years after the Act was passed, has still failed to implement this measure. If the Lord Chief	S28 of Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act – make provision for video recorded cross examination (one of the measures	Await implementation by Ministry of Justice

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	Justice, Lord Judge, with his unrivalled experience, can find no reasonable legal obstacle to the immediate implementation of Pigot 2 then there can be no justifiable argument for continuing to subject highly vulnerable victims to cross examination in court given the highly publicised risks this clearly carries. (Paragraph 85)	known as pigot2)	
24	We recommend that each court have a named individual with the responsibility for ensuring that special measures are being implemented appropriately whether that requires training for staff or investment in technical equipment. (Paragraph 88)		Need response from local courts (South Yorkshire)
25	<p><i>We conclude that child sexual exploitation offences are an area on which further specific guidance and training of the judiciary would be appropriate, in particular the question of whether cross-examination of complainants by all defence counsel in cases with multiple defendants should be controlled and if so, how. This should include consideration of allocation of issues between counsel, and the imposition of time limits</i></p> <p>We invite the Lord Chief Justice to consider recommending to the Judicial College that this training (be developed and provided, and will write to him accordingly. We recommend that the Ministry of Justice provide funding for any work that the Lord Chief Justice and Judicial College decide to undertake. We invite the Bar Standards Board and Solicitors Regulation Authority to work with the Judicial College and Ministry of Justice to develop and provide similar training for barristers and solicitor advocates</p> <p>We recommend the Ministry of Justice provide guidance on the use of expert witnesses in child sexual exploitation</p>		Await response from Ministry of Justice

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	cases who can at least assist by educating juries about some of the apparent behavioural anomalies associated with child sexual exploitation. (Paragraph 93)		
26	<p>We also recommend that the Ministry of Justice introduce specialist courts (similar to the domestic violence courts currently in existence) for child sexual abuse or sexual offences as a whole.</p> <p><i>This court room should be selected on the basis that it has the most up to date technology and appropriate access and waiting facilities. For each region a team of specialist child sexual exploitation judges, prosecutors, police, witness support and ushers should be identified, trained and linked into the local Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and Local Safeguarding Children’s Board teams.</i></p> <p><i>We will write to the Ministry of Justice requesting periodic updates on this piece of work and will revisit the issue in eighteen months’ time. (Paragraph 94)</i></p>	Operation Criminal Case did feature use of specialist technology and support for witnesses.	Await response from ministry of Justice
Health and Education			
27	<p><i>We accept that there is a level of commitment within Government to ensuring that health professionals are aware of the issue of child sexual exploitation and a desire to identify victims through their interactions with health professionals.</i></p> <p>We recommend that the Government ensure that the details of all children up to the age of 16 who present at Accident and Emergency Departments are entered on the Child Protection - Information System rather than just those of younger children. (Paragraph 98)</p>	This initiative is one that was proposed in 2012 – further details required	Discussion with designated professionals and TRFT required.
28	We recommend that all frontline health professionals be given training on the warning signs of child sexual exploitation and that representatives from both	Proposal for a health worker to be part of CSE Team and being recruited to	Review multi-disciplinary CSE team – diagnostic in July

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	<p>primary and secondary care are within any local multi-agency team set up to combat child sexual exploitation.</p> <p>We also recommend that, given the importance of sexually transmitted diseases as a marker for child sexual exploitation, sexual health services give consideration as to how such information might be shared across the region in order to better identify children at risk. (Paragraph 99)</p>	<p>PREVENT – Action 6</p> <p>Assessment of data sharing across health trusts re STIs as a marker for CSE / Sexual Abuse</p> <p>PREVENT – Action 3 PROTECT – Action 3</p>	<p>Gold group to ensure frontline health colleagues undertake CSE training</p> <p>Documented pathway between sexual health and CART / CSE team to be submitted to LSCB / Gold Group to provide assurance.</p>
29	<p><i>We welcome the increase in funding to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Child sexual exploitation is extremely to damaging to a young person's mental health and may result in a young person being unable to be a functioning member of society. It is therefore in the financial, as well as the wider, interests of society that the pain and trauma experienced by victims is recognised and dealt with as soon as possible.</i></p> <p>We recommend that the Government publish the report and recommendations of the health working group on child sexual exploitation and a timetable for the implementation of all the recommendations it has accepted. (Paragraph 100)</p>	<p>Await publication of report.</p> <p>The Torbay CSE SCR had some health recommendations which might be relevant.</p>	<p>Await publication of report.</p>
30	<p>We recommend that the Government ensure that all teachers are provided with the list of warning signs for child sexual exploitation and the contact details of a named individual within the local authority that they can contact with any concerns.</p> <p>We again recommend that schools should be reminded annually of their</p>	<p>Assessment required</p> <p>PREVENT – Action 6 (further assessment)</p> <p>Schools safeguarding responsibilities under</p>	<p>Engagement with all schools safeguarding leads re workforce development on issue of CSE</p>

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	statutory responsibilities in this matter by the Secretary of State. (Paragraph 104)	legislation and Working Together 2013	
Voluntary Sector			
31	<p><i>The voluntary sector plays a vital role in identifying child sexual exploitation and supporting victims through investigations, prosecutions and beyond. We recommend that the Government ensure that where voluntary organisations are effectively supporting official agencies in tackling child sexual exploitation, there are resources made available to continue the partnership. This is especially important in terms of funding for voluntary sector organisations which work with young people at risk.</i></p> <p>We earlier highlighted the importance of prevention and early intervention and we take this opportunity to recommend that resources be allocated to ensure that this vital work takes place. (Paragraph 107)</p>	<p>Member of National Working Group now a member of Gold Group</p> <p>Through South Yorkshire Police, Barnardo's committing a full time social worker to join our local CSE Team</p> <p>GROW and Safe@Last both secured grant from Police and Crime Commissioner to strengthen local CSE activity</p> <p>Not specifically in CSE Action Plan</p>	
The Issue of Race			
32	We welcome the establishment of the Rochdale community forum and we recommend that multi-agency safeguarding hubs carry out outreach work in order to connect with forums such as this and all communities (Paragraph 120)	<p>Training for and attendance at Mosque liaison group, also parish councils, ward councillors and neighbourhood watch groups</p> <p>PREVENT – Action 2,3 & 5</p>	At point of writing 24 Neighbourhood watch co-ordinators and 56 Ward Councillors have undertaken CSE training; training planned for Parish Councillors and School Governors.
33	<p>Statement (Paragraph 121)</p> <p>Not focus on one model of CSE</p>	Rotherham welcomes this and does take this into account	Use data to understand, support and evidence this

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34	<p>Statement (Paragraph 122)</p> <p>Every child, whatever community they come from, must feel able to report abuse. In order to do so, they need a justice system that they can have confidence in and communities to give them absolute support. We are concerned by reports that ethnic minority children are less likely to be identified as victims of child sexual exploitation. Statutory agencies must ensure that they are able to support children of all races and tackle abuse by offenders of all races.</p>	PROTECT – Action 3	Evaluate data available to provide an understanding of the profile of ethnicity of both perpetrators and victims
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs			
35	<p>We recommend that each Local Children’s Safeguarding Board be required to set up a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub which would house representatives from social care, local police, health professionals, education, youth offending teams and voluntary organisations.</p> <p><i>Each MASH ought to be linked to one of the Crown Prosecution Service specialist co-ordinators for child sexual assault cases so that advice regarding any potential prosecutions can be sought early on if required. The police and the CPS should also produce guidance on data sharing via the MASH. Where there is one or more significant minority community within the area, each MASH team ought also to have a community liaison who can develop a trusted relationship with that community in order to ensure that officials are working with the community to combat all models of child sexual exploitation. (Paragraph 127)</i></p>	<p>Rotherham CSE team (with direct links to and support from CART and EHAT) is a local safeguarding hub dedicated to CSE.</p> <p>A health worker post is being recruited to as is a worker from the vol and comm sector</p> <p>PROTECT – Action 7</p>	Links of CSE Team to specialist CPS professional

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Legislation			
36	<p>We recommend that the Government commission work to examine the feasibility of introducing a statutory duty to co-operate and share information to tackle child sexual exploitation.</p> <p>We also recommend that the Government examine the Florida Protection of Vulnerable Persons Act passed in 2012 in order to ascertain whether the mandatory reporting of child abuse could, and should, be implemented in England and Wales. (Paragraph 130)</p>	<p>There is already a duty to cooperate S10 Children Act 2004 and other statutory guidance (WT 2013)</p> <p>S11 audit and challenge meetings have assured RLSCB that their safeguarding children arrangements are robust.</p>	Await Govt response

Appendix 1

Office of Children's Commissioner - Accelerated Report July 2012

Briefing for the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, on the emerging findings of the OCC's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, with a special focus on children in care

Recommendations

The Office of the Children's Commissioner was asked whether any specific changes were required in legislation, regulation, guidance or practice to better protect children in residential care.

The following recommendations must not deflect attention from children who are affected by sexual exploitation and who are not in care. The CSEGG Inquiry will be making interim recommendations on prevalence and patterns, and on tackling child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups, in September 2012. We will make full recommendations on policy and practice at the close of the CSEGG Inquiry in September 2013.

We are aware of some excellent work being done by residential children's homes and across the wider child protection system to protect children from sexual exploitation. Some local areas, and the residential homes within them, are working considerably beyond what the regulations require, in order to protect children. It is such practice that we want to see mirrored across the country. We are also aware of the work being conducted by the Department for Education's support and improvement programme for children's homes.

The following recommendations take into account the place of residential care within the wider care and child protection system, and in addition, the connections to policymakers' and society's broader concerns around child sexual exploitation. The evidence submitted for this accelerated report raised a range of observations and recommendations about children in care, irrespective of their being either subjected, or vulnerable, to child sexual exploitation. Whilst some recommendations are directly related to the ability of residential children's homes to better protect children from sexual exploitation, they are linked to recommendations about both residential children's homes, and the care and child protection systems more broadly.

In order for staff in residential children's homes to be empowered and supported to safeguard the children in their care, and to enable some of the most vulnerable children in society to live in a safe and supportive home, the Office of the Children's Commissioner makes the following recommendations:

Government should undertake a thorough examination of residential care, including the profile of children, location and type of homes, recruitment, qualification and training of staff, and analyses of how local authorities are meeting their duties under the sufficiency requirements. For full recommended scope of a thorough examination of residential care please see Appendix D.

Appendix D: Recommended scope of a thorough examination of residential care

The thorough examination of residential care should as a minimum, cover the following:

The place of residential care within the wider care and child protection system

A workforce review similar to that conducted into social work by the Social Work Taskforce, led by Moira Gibb and currently being implemented by the Social Work Reform Board. This should examine recruitment, qualifications and training for both managers and staff in residential children's homes

Examination of the nature and frequency of the supervision provided to staff and the qualification of supervisors

Mapping of children's residential care across England including: the type of provision, such as specialisms; ownership, whether local authority or private; location, including in terms of deprivation indices, and numbers of registered sex offenders in the locality

Examination and analysis of the profile of children in care, taking into account the reason for granting of a care order, distance from home, numbers placed out of authority, care status and care history, numbers of children reported missing and frequency of incidents, history of sexual exploitation, offending history, age, asylum status, disability, faith, ethnicity, gender, nationality, and any other relevant information

- Analysis of numbers and distribution of emergency beds, including by placement type
- Analysis of whether, and how, local authorities are meeting their duties under the sufficiency requirements
- Analysis of cost of placements
- Analysis of local authority commissioning priorities when awarding contracts
- Analysis of the nature of multi-agency relationships including agreed protocols with police and health services
- Analysis of the provision of mental health and other therapeutic services
- Analysis of the numbers of children leaving residential care and being placed in bed and breakfast, foyers and hostels
- Consideration of any further regulatory changes that may be required to enable personalised, high quality, provision to children across the country

Appendix 1 Cont

1. Government should amend the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 and related Guidance to state that a child's care plan should include a safety plan when the child/young person is at risk of or has experienced CSE. This should be based on a thorough assessment of need and explicitly address the risks the child faces, be negotiated with the child and engage family, supporting adults and, as appropriate, the police.
2. Regulations should proscribe any child in care, or leaving care, from being placed in bed and breakfast accommodation.

3. Amendment should be made to Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 (as amended by the Children's Homes (Amendment) Regulations 2011). Monthly inspection visits to private children's homes should be by a person independent of the organisation running the home and appointed or approved by the local authority.
4. Consideration should be given to current planning regulations in relation to children's homes. Safeguards need to be put in place to ensure that children's homes are not opened in areas that present a high risk to the children being placed. This must include checks on numbers of registered sex offenders in the area.
5. The Government should amend the Care Standards Act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010 to allow Ofsted to routinely share its information about the location of children's homes with the police.
6. All references in Guidance and Regulation to 'prostitution' when speaking of children should be amended to 'child sexual exploitation'. (For example Schedule 5 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 (as amended by the Children's Homes (Amendment) Regulations 2011).
7. Consideration should be given to amending Regulation 11(2)(d) of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010. Currently this requires authorities to notify the area authority where the child is to be placed. This could be strengthened by requiring the placing authority to consult with the area authority to assist their assessment that the placement is the most appropriate placement available and that it will meet the child's needs identified in the care plan. This would enable the placing authority to establish, for example, if there is known intelligence locally of sexual exploitation associated with the children's home or local area.
8. Consideration should be given, in the National Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan, to the role of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards in having oversight of:
 - a. The relationships between police and local authority children's homes in the local area, so that intelligence about groups of exploiters in the area and support to staff and young people can be provided
 - b. Children who go missing and children at risk of or who have experienced exploitation: ensuring analysis of information gathered through Runaway Children and Missing From Care (RCMFC) records.
9. In line with the 2009 statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from care, regulations should be amended to ensure when children have run away from care, that all return interviews involve an independent person, preferably an advocate or trusted adult from outside the home. These should enable young people to talk about any concerns including about the home. The content should feed into local police intelligence about sexual exploitation. Police 'safe and well' interviews should be considered as well – with the young person's agreement. Possibly through amendment to Sec 16 (4) (b) of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 (as amended by the Children's Homes (Amendment) Regulations 2011).
10. The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 and related Guidance should be amended to ensure that a child's Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) should be informed when children run away and consider bringing forward the

review. The IRO service should be informed about the pattern of absences or running away by children in care.

Once we have completed evidence gathering and our fuller analysis on best practice, the OCC will make full recommendations on the following issues. We are extremely concerned about them, and urge the Government to give them due consideration:

Whether there should be standard arrangements for recording incidents of children going missing, including from care and school; and equally standard recording of incidents where they affect those considered at risk of, or who have experienced, sexual exploitation.

Whether specific changes are required to ensure that effective measures are in place to safeguard children aged 16 – 18 accommodated in foyers and hostels.

Whether there should be an extension to the age limit from 16 years to 18 years within the provisions of the Child Abduction Act 1984 regarding the abduction warnings process and that these should be issued with or without parental consent, if deemed necessary.

Whether amendments are required to the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 and related Guidance to ensure that independent advocacy is available to all children in all children's homes.