

1. Update on our response to Exploitation

The Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership has reviewed its response to child exploitation through a number of quality assurance activities:

- Recent case reviews of exploited children
- A review of the [Child Exploitation Pathway](#)
- Multi-agency audits
- Benchmarking the 'It was hard to escape' report against Shropshire's response.

This learning briefing shares the findings for practitioners.

2. Critical moments

Agencies need to find ways of being flexible and responsive enough to be ready to engage with children in those critical moments in real time. Days after the event might be too late to gather intelligence or get a disclosure.

Organisations must be flexible enough to respond immediately to the critical moment when the child is more likely to be open to change.

3. Difficult conversations

Practitioners cited fear of getting it wrong or making a situation worse when needing to have a difficult conversation. Knowledge, training, access to tools and effective management supervision were all cited as support that is required.

Being open and honest is important in building trust and enabling quality relationships to facilitate difficult conversations. Consistency of a key worker enables relationship-based practice.

8. Recognise what works well

Within a recent case review there was strong evidence of good multi-agency working to safeguard a young person.

Agencies were also able to evidence the implementation of actions arising from the recent Exploitation multi-agency audit which demonstrates that learning is taking place to improve outcomes for children who are exploited.



4. Disruption Planning

In order to effectively put in place disruption activities all information needs to be shared with all agencies involved.

It is important that everyone involved in the case has the full picture in order to effectively implement disruption activity.

7. Revised pathway

The [SSCP Child Exploitation Pathway](#) has been revised and re-published. The revision was informed by all information gathered through the work of the Exploitation Group, recent case reviews, practitioners' thoughts and feelings and benchmarking Shropshire's response against national findings.

Recent audits have identified that practitioner tools are not being used early enough and that they also need updating and resubmitting as risks escalate.

6. Cross-border working

Where children go missing across borders trigger plans should be shared with neighbouring police force areas. This will enable neighbouring forces to respond appropriately to any repeat missing episodes.

5. Record keeping

All records should be kept up to date with all information that is held and has been shared on the child, family and those exploiting them. This should enable the full picture to be built and minimise any opportunity for silo working both within and across agencies.

CHILD EXPLOITATION 2

Practitioner Learning Briefing

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