

Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton (HIPS) Child Exploitation Newsletter

Quarterly professionals update from the HIPS Child Exploitation Group - Summer 2021

The HIPS partners continue to work together to tackle child exploitation and the different risks to children that the pandemic has brought. This newsletter keeps professionals in all four areas up-to-date with issues and progress discussed in the HIPS Child Exploitation meetings and to flag up local and national campaigns.

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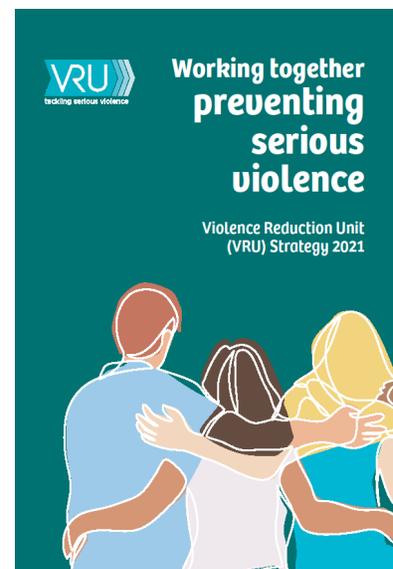
Violence Reduction Unit
The Violence Reduction Unit have published their strategy 'Working Together, Preventing

Serious Violence 2021'. The VRU has one clear vision.

Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton are places where individuals, families and communities and society can enjoy a happier, healthier, crime-free life.

The Strategy focusses on 6 key areas:

1. Tackling County Lines and Misuse of Drugs
2. Taking a whole system approach
3. Supporting communities and local partnerships
4. Law enforcement and the criminal justice response
5. Adverse childhood experiences and trauma





The Voice of the Child:

This meeting of the HIPS Child Exploitation Strategic Group considered examples of good practice This included:

Reducing the number of professionals the young person had direct contact with to support relationship building and reducing the confusion felt by meeting lots of different professionals.

Taking time to explore a child's apparent reluctance to engage and finding a way forward together.

Maintaining daily contact with a young person who was missing, valuing the young person and taking time to let them share their worries and concerns. Helping the young person to share those worries with those who care for them and agreeing how to move forward.

When being told by a child they found the police in uniform intimidating, the police officer was able to visit in plain clothes.

Removing barriers to attending school by taking time to explore and understand perceived unfair treatment.

Training provided which has been designed from the perspective of young people linked to exploitation.

The work of St Giles demonstrating the benefits of professionals with lived experience, who are able to bring a different perspective.

Asking children who they want to complete return conversations was noted as good practice

The Child's Voice, Key messages:

Voice of the child refers to what children say directly, and to many other aspects of their presentation. It means seeing their experiences from their point of view.

When children and young people feel listened to, plans are more successful when they are involved and prompt decisions are made about safeguarding when necessary.

The right of a child or young person to be heard is included in the [UN Convention of Rights](#)

Taking time to build relationships with children

Showing the child you value them by keeping in touch

Remembering to listen and understand the child's perspective

Strengths based recording, writing to the child and family with them in mind so the impact on them is strongly considered

'Mind your language' using child not young person and avoiding stigmatising language

Consider how children and people with 'lived experience' can support the development and delivery of services to children and families affected by exploitation

Work to make sure children and families don't have to repeat themselves to lots of different professionals

Include the views and feedback from children in training and continuing professional development.





Hampshire Constabulary presented to the meeting about Hotel Watch.

Hotel Watch is a business crime reduction partnership for the hotel and guest house business sectors. It's primary objective is to reduce or prevent incidents where children are at risk of exploitation.

Secondary objectives are focused on prevention of more frequent crime types such as, unlawful payments, theft, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour, sexual offences and domestic violence.

The aim is to provide prevention information, training guides and to share best practice. The partnership will increase communication between members and partners and provide the knowledge and confidence for early identification of these crime types. Through this the scheme aims to achieve an overall decrease in the commission of child exploitation and other crime types in this business sector.

For more information email :colin.pollard@Hampshire.pnn.police.uk

An update from the Youth Commissioners "The Big Conversation"



April's meeting focused on the voice of the child, this means we were about to question each organisation attending about how they currently involve the opinions and feedback of young people in the work. This focus is very important as if the voice of the child can be improved with exploitation then hopefully children and young people will have a much better experience using and working with these organisations.

During this meeting we also had the opportunity to update the group on our initial findings of our Big Conversation responses in the first quarter of 2021. In this period we're still operating online so we were pleased we were still able to reach 169 people who believed exploitation was their top priority. In particular Portsmouth and Havant reported the highest levels of concern about exploitation especially amongst the 14-16 age group.

Workshops, talking more openly and widening knowledge were all highlighted as things young people think could help in terms of education, one individual stated exploitation 'is dangerous because the victim often does not know until it is too late'. Our respondents outlined that the stigmas of reporting issues need to be reduced so they feel confident enough to report them to the police and know they will be taken seriously.

Since the last meeting we have been looking into working with some professionals to create case studies of their day-to-day work, proudest achievements and favourite parts of the job. We hope to create social media posts about this which we can use to promote the positive work done behind the scenes, as well as helping to promote young people's understanding of the support that exists.

See you next time,

Amelia & Julia

They're back, they're bigger...and badder than ever!



This June the award winning campaign is rebooting and relaunching with a whole host of treacherous new trolls in an all new version "Peril of the Possessed Pets".

This time Portsmouth has teamed up with the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships in Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Southampton to take the Trolls to all four areas. This means that thousands of families across the county and island can benefit from the campaign's fun activities, engaging stories and important messages to keep children safe online.

To find out more go to www.lurkingtrolls.com

The campaign will be supported by a new book, teacher resources packs, 5 two minute length animations and a website. There are also 5 amazing Trolls costumes that have been made to be used in interactive assemblies. If you would like any more details or a preview of any of the resources, please contact Lucy Rylatt, Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnerships Manager at lucy.rylatt@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.



Hampshire
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership



Disruption activity is designed to reduce risks posed to young people under the age of 18 who are at risk of or being exploited. Perpetrators patterns of behaviour include coercion, violence, intimidation and the power imbalance inherent in these behaviours. To manage these risks, different approaches are needed that consider young people's circumstances: such as the age of victims; the context in which offences occur; and the risk they pose. Disruption requires a range of different tools, deployed tactically and defensibly by different agencies working together to disrupt the risks posed to them.

Disruption activity

Reducing the risks of exploitation is a priority for the Pan Hampshire area. While criminal prosecution of child abuse perpetrators may represent the most desired outcome of law enforcement activity, it is not appropriate to leave the protection of vulnerable children and young people to the criminal justice process alone. Disruption methods can be both legislative and non-legislative.

Legislative disruption options

The Home Office have produced a [Home Office child exploitation disruption toolkit](#) to help all safeguarding partners to understand and access existing legislative opportunities at their disposal and to target specific risks, ranging from warning notices to offence charges and care orders.

This toolkit is split into six areas of law enforcement and other agency activity; these are abduction and trafficking, sexual offences, victim care, behaviour, location and other options. It emphasises that effective multi-agency collaboration to disrupt child exploitation is likely to involve the use of tools from more than one area. The disruption toolkit includes best practice guidance in three areas; information sharing and multi-agency working, intelligence and evidence and further links.

A second Toolkit is available from the NWG (National Working Group) and supported by Barnardo's and again sets out the various options available to practitioners. The NWG toolkit also adds additional materials around the Children Act [NWG Toolkit](#).

The Home Office [National Enforcement Powers guide](#) aims to help facilitate a faster tactical multi-agency response and to use the appropriate legislation available to gain entry into commercial and residential premises, where intelligence has indicated that there could be a potential case of exploitation or modern slavery. The guide aims at assisting practitioners to navigate the often complex process of knowing which agencies are able to intervene in operational activity and police investigations and includes a comprehensive overview of each agency's remit, their enforcement powers and details on how they can support multi-agency activity.

For any disruption activity in relation to a child who is looked after, agreement is needed from the Deputy Director of Children Social Care.

Non-legislative options

Enforcement action is sometimes not an option requiring alternative disruption interventions being considered and requires practitioners to consider different approaches. This could be a [Contextual Safeguarding](#) approach whereby practitioners develop an understanding, and response to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families or could require practitioners to undertake more robust engagement and diversionary strategies to influence change.

It is imperative practitioners understand:

Disruption does not replace Safeguarding - Please follow your agencies Safeguarding Processes.

The Home Office has recently published a [toolkit](#) to help practitioners deliver interventions to young people who are involved in, or at risk of involvement in, Serious and Organised Crime (SOC).

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This identifies the need for practitioners to:

- * **Be consistent and persistent** – It is often the case that children being exploited have significant ‘Push Factors’ and may have had traumatic lives and suffered Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). As such, basic or ‘normative’ tasks like getting up on time and keeping appointments may be a significant challenge for them.
- * Consider the **wider peer group** and map relationships where possible. Return conversations/ interviews completed in time can produce important information.
- * The use of **reachable and teachable moments** is a positive and encouraged technique that gives you the practitioner a window of opportunity to make and encourage changes.
- * **The voice of the child is paramount** and success can be found when involving the child and their parents/carers in decision making. Risk judgements should be informed by evidence but rather than making assumptions your professional knowledge of the child’s social context and opinion are vital. Don’t forget it’s the child’s lived experience.
- * **Parents can help disruption**, checking bank accounts / changes in bedroom / wider family keeping oversight and sharing information (e.g. give them a police contact to report car license plate numbers).
- * **Use the professional network** - there is a high likelihood children you work with are concerned about what is known to other professionals and are also a good source of information as well as a protective factor. Encourage the child to use their support network and keep strong communication going. Help the child to identify a trusted adult or adults and how they make contact. This can include supporting children to access constructive activities such as education, apprenticeships, work experience, youth groups etc.

Don’t forget the Community Partnership Information Form (CPI)

Partner agencies are asked to submit intelligence on CPI forms to ensure there is an accurate intelligence picture on perpetrators who are exploiting children, and to ensure that the Police have accurate information to safeguard children.

[Community Partnership Information](#)

Further information can be found at your Local Safeguarding Children’s Partnership:

Portsmouth	https://www.portsmouthscp.org.uk/professionals/child-sexual-exploitation/
Southampton	https://southamptonscp.org.uk/child-exploitation/
Isle of Wight	https://www.iowscp.org.uk/child-exploitation3
Hampshire	https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/professionals/child-exploitation/

At the HIPS Child Exploitation meeting in April 2021 the Partnership areas and Hampshire Constabulary updated on governance of their delivery plans:

Hampshire Partnership – continue to coordinate a Hampshire multi-agency review of child exploitation and this includes oversight of the local delivery plan within its methodology. The Plan will be considered by the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Group in May. Hampshire continue to make progress with their review which includes a planned workshop with the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership considering the recommendation and findings of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel “It was Hard to Escape” and a deep dive considering missing children.

Isle of Wight Partnership - The IoW Child Exploitation delivery plan will be considered by the IoW Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Group in May.

Portsmouth Partnership– The local delivery group consider impact of the plan and any challenges to implementation at each meeting. The Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership receive a quarterly update on progress with the full partnership receiving a 6 monthly update.

Southampton Partnership—The Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership considered the local CE delivery plan in March 2021. The Partnership received 6 monthly updates. The Safeguarding Practice Improvement Group of the Partnership is completing a deep dive multi-agency audit into Child Exploitation later this year.

HIPS Missing Task & Finish Group

The Missing task and Finish group continues to explore best practice. This group is multi-agency and covers Pan Hampshire agencies.

Some of the topics that have been looked at are the use of ‘Missing - 3 in 90’. This is the use of 3 missing episodes in a 90 day period. Its use highlights at an early stage where a child’s missing could be an escalating risk, so allowing practitioners to take early steps to better understand the risk of exploitation in particular for that child. Each authority uses this slightly differently but it was agreed that best practice after a 3 in 90 notification should trigger a CERAF and also a review of the child’s circumstances. More work will follow on this topic.

The group had a very informative update from the **Missing People Charity**. They have recently supported Hampshire police colleagues around their helpline and a resource for children and families to use when needed.

There has been a helpful discussion around revisiting the disruption toolkits available to practitioners and an update on their use and links are included in this newsletter.

One key area for the group has been the impact of children living in Hampshire from other Local Authorities and gaps in intelligence data when they go missing in our area. The group have been looking at other authority areas around the country to see how best we can capture this really important information. More news to follow.

Finally a Missing training Lite Bite session has been produced and will be available via your LSCP. This will focus of thinking about risk and why children go missing and what actions to take if a child is missing. You can book via your local LSCP:

southamptonscp.org.uk/

www.iowscp.org.uk/

www.portsmouthscp.org.uk/

[Hampshire Booking LINK](#)

A reminder:
Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) Child Exploitation Strategy 2020-23 can be found : [Here](#)

Contact Us

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership: hscp@hants.gov.uk

Isle of Wight Children Partnership: SCP@iow.gov.uk

Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership: PSCP@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership: Safeguarding.PartnershipsTeam@southampton.gov.uk