

Child Sexual Exploitation

LCPF Co-Commissioning Workshop

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MAYOR OF LONDON

OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

LCPF Co-commissioning – data pack

These data packs are not intended to provide a comprehensive download of all the data available on the priority area.

They are provided to aid initial thinking on the development of EOIs and to potentially help boroughs and agencies to seek collaborative partnerships.

You are advised not to rely on these as a sole source of data for your EOIs and especially if they get through the proposal stage.

The onus is on partners to demonstrate the need and the problem which you are trying to address.

It should also be noted that often a lot of this data is not held by MOPAC but by other agencies.

Useful Links (CSE)

NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/>

CSE Definition and guide for Practitioners (Home Office): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners>

Barnardo's: http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/policy_research_unit/research_and_publications/sexual_exploitation_research_resources

National Crime Agency: <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/crime-threats/child-exploitation>

Sexual Violence Against Children & Young People Needs Assessment 2016:

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sexual_violence_against_children_young_people_needs_assessment_report_2016.pdf

MPS CSE Operating Protocol: <https://www.met.police.uk/globalassets/downloads/child-abuse/the-london-sexual-exploitation-operating-protocol-3rd-edition-june-2017.pdf>

Definition Of Child Sexual Exploitation

MOPAC's London partners agreed to use the ACPO definition of Child Sexual Exploitation:

“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status. Consent is irrelevant, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and may occur online.”

- Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet or mobile phones without immediate payment or gain
- Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice, as a result of their social, economic or emotional vulnerability
- A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation

Sexual Violence Against Children in London

- Children and young people represent approximately a quarter of the capital's population, where they represent a great diversity of ethnicity. It means ensuring protection of this young population remains a priority.
- Recent high profile safeguarding failures have increased the priority attached to CSE. However available data and reporting relating to CSE is less well developed than those for sexual violence against adults.
- Due to the nature of CSE, where “a child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation,” it is left to schools, youth services and other's to identify such cases.
- Analysis of MPS data in 2015 indicated that peer on peer abuse accounted for over half (55%) of all CSE cases in London
- The London profile of CSE and the preponderance of peer-on-peer abuse is very different from other parts of the country where the proportion of peer on peer cases is estimated at around a quarter.
- Subsequent to completing the fieldwork of this needs assessment the CSEW produced their first estimate for historic child sexual abuse. This estimates that nationally 7% of adults experienced sexual abuse as children (11% of women and 4% of men).

Factors that increased a CYP's vulnerability to CSE

In the London Area:

- Vulnerabilities identified through MPS data on contact CSE identified young people going missing (35% of all victims), looked after children (21%) and young people involved with gangs or other offending behaviours at significantly greater risk.
- Data from the Havens on rape and serious sexual assault of children indicates other vulnerabilities, most notably:
 - those in the 30% most deprived communities were 7.5 times more likely to suffer abuse than those in the 30% least deprived communities
 - with almost a third (31.8%) having a pre-existing mental health issue and/or had experienced domestic violence (29.4%)
 - 6.8% were learning disabled and around a quarter used alcohol (24.1%) or recreational drugs (23.4%)
- Data from MPS (CSE contact) and the Havens (serious sexual assault) indicate that risk levels of were broadly proportionate for white CYP to their numbers in the population, but CYP from black and mixed heritage backgrounds were at greater risk and those from Asian backgrounds less risk.
- CSE does not respect borough boundaries with a third of reported offences taking place in a different borough to the victim's home and a similar proportion of young people vulnerable to "county lines" e.g. the offence taking place outside London.

The Prevalence of CSE

- Figures for prevalence are highly contested with the Child Online Protection Centre estimating prevalence at 5% of children being victims of sexual abuse at some time in their lives by the age of 18 to the NSPCC's estimate (based upon the percentage of 18-24 year olds reporting that they were sexually abused as a child) at 24.1% (with 11.3% indicating that this abuse included contact sexual abuse).
- An Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry, found that of the 2,409 victims of CSE in either gangs or groups reported to them, 155 were also identified as perpetrators of child sexual exploitation. These figures are from a 14 month period from August 2010 to October 2011
- The Inquiry also identified 16,500 children at risk of CSE. This would provide an estimate of approximately 3,000 young people at risk in London.

Key findings from MPS Data (Nov 2014 – Nov 2015)

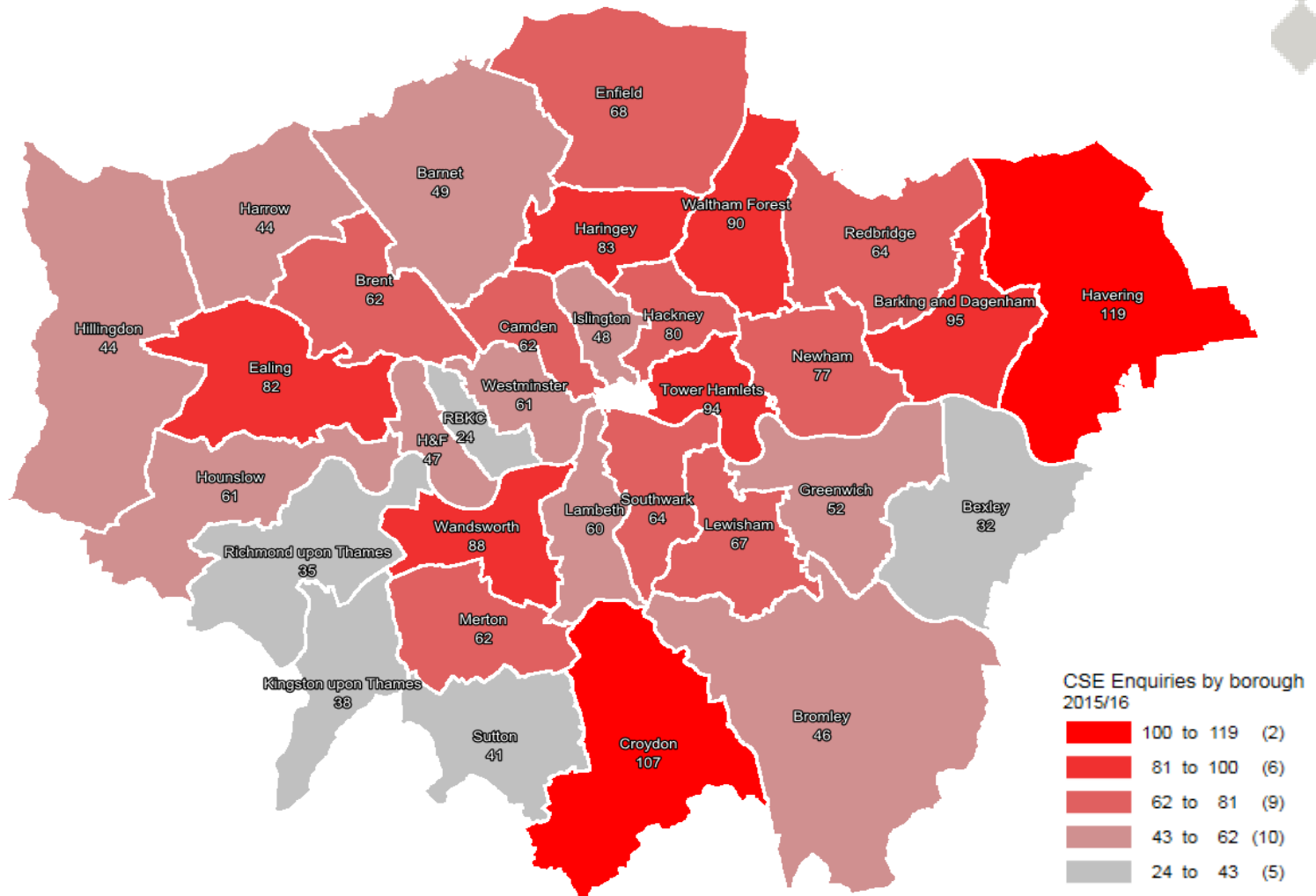
- Almost half of all reports were direct to the police (by phone or person) with the majority of third party referrals coming from social services
- The average age of victims was 14.6 years (although victims of gang perpetrated offences were slightly older at 15.4 years)
- Predominantly young women
- Just under half of victims were white with black victims representing 28%. 1 in 10 victims were described as Asian.
- There was a strong connection with young people going missing (35% of all victims)
- 61.4% of CSE victims had previously been arrested
- Almost a third of suspects were describe as African Caribbean and 17% white
- The average age of offenders was 24 although gang offenders were substantially younger at an average age of 17 years old
- Peer on peer offending accounts for 34% of CSE offences

Peer on Peer Abuse

- Nationally data on CSE indicates that around a quarter of cases are peer-on-peer offending
- However, the profile in London is very different with around half of all incidents estimated as peer-on-peer.
- The context for young people in London with its transport links and permeability may in part drive this difference.
- However, MsUnderstood (funded by MOPAC to undertake three additional borough audits) suggest that it may also arise from the different way in which work on CSE in London has developed distinctly from other parts of the country.
- The London response has been more closely aligned to the urban street gang context and this may lead to a higher rate of identification of peer-on-peer abuse rather than a higher rate of prevalence.

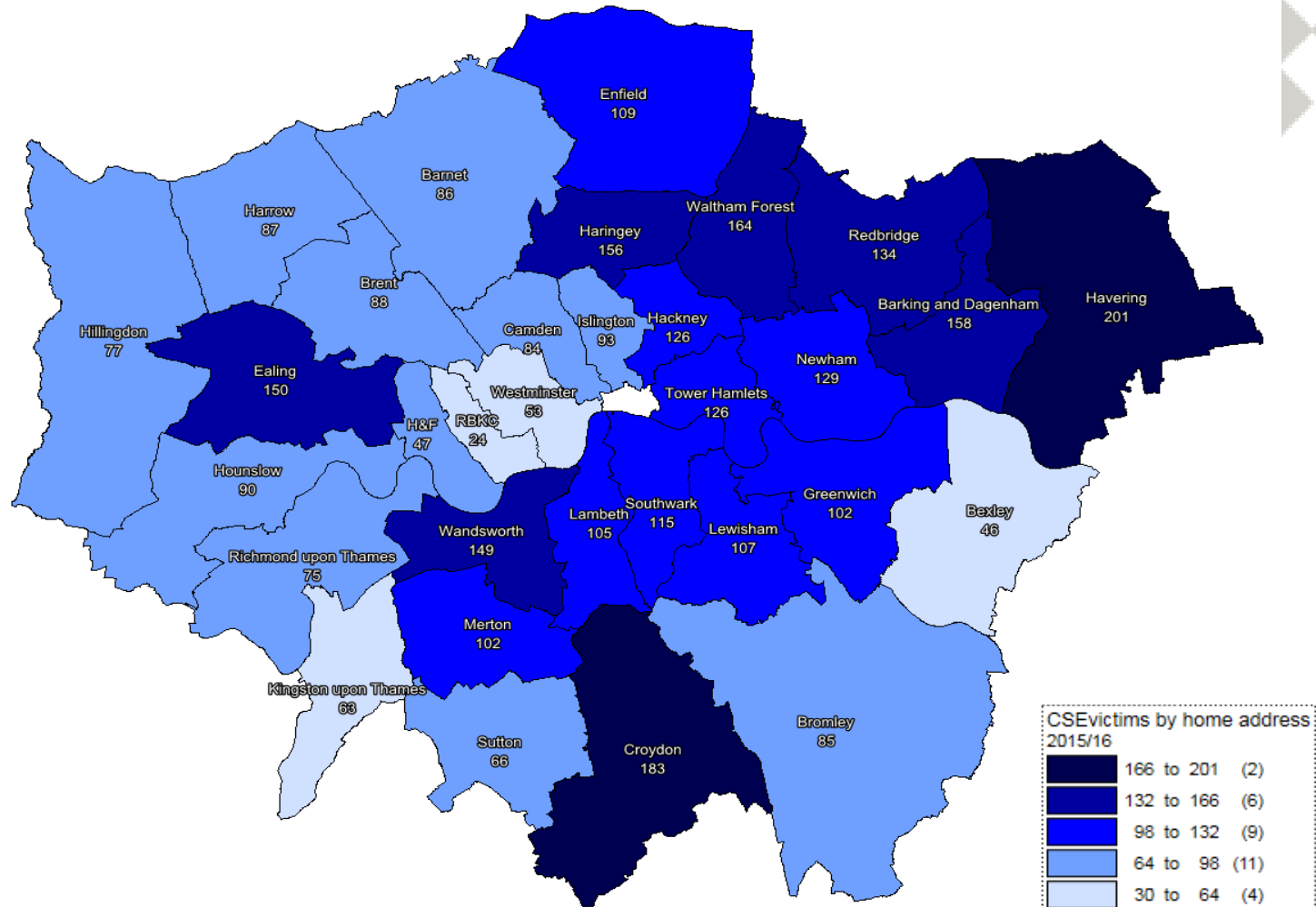
Borough Profiles of CSE

- This map reports the number of recorded incidents/investigations CSE in 2015/16. There is a close correlation to gang prevalence and areas of greatest deprivation.



Borough Profiles of CSE

- The location of incidences does not always correlate to the place of residence of victims. The second map is the count of victims of CSE by home addresses in each borough in 2015/16.



The Prevalence of CSA

- Prevalence estimates for child sexual abuse vary considerably
- Estimates of adults who suffered sexual abuse whilst children varied between 7% and 24%, with estimates of “contact” CSA at between 5% and 11%.
- Nationally 7% of adults experienced sexual abuse as children of which 11% were women and 3% were men (CSEW).
- The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and the NSPCC estimated that 5% of UK children suffer contact sexual abuse at some point during childhood and 190,000 children will be victims of abuse by a stranger or adult relative by the time they reach 18. This represents an average of more than 10,000 new victims in the UK every year.
- NSPCC have developed a methodology for estimating prevalence at a national level based upon their 2011 research²² and 2013 report “How Safe are our Children?” Estimates of current victims of CSA using this methodology found that 16.5% of 11–17 year olds reported being sexually abused at some point in their childhood

Utilising NSPCC Methodology

An estimate for the prevalence of both current and historic CSA in London would be

London Estimates ²⁵		Central Estimate	Lower Estimate
Current Child victims	All CSA	172,672	86,336
	Contact CSA	52,491	26,245
Adult victims of CSA	All CSA	1,682,295	841,147
	Contact CSA	788,794	394,397

There were approximately 900 presentations of 11-17 year olds to the Havens and Designated Doctor Referrals in 2014/27 for CSA. Over the past four years the Havens has seen on average 411 children and young people per year.

Age Range	2011-2	2012-3	2013-4	2014-5
0-12	84	71	109	91
13-15	218	128	204	174
16-17	177	111	126	151
Total CYP	479	310	439	416

²⁵ Please note these estimates represent total figures of prevalence not annual figures of incidences

Havens detailed analysis of all adolescent cases

The Havens have undertaken a detailed analysis of all adolescent cases (13 years of age and over) between April 2013 and April 2015. In summary the profile indicates:

Gender: 95.3% are female, 4.5% male, 0.2% male to female transgender

Age at time of sexual assault: 13 years = 13%, 14 years = 19.8%, 15 years = 21.8%, 16 years = 23.2% and 17 years = 22.2%

Deprivation 59% of victims were in the 30% most deprived communities and 9.4% were in the 30% least deprived communities.

Ethnicity: white = 50.3%, Black = 22.4%, Mixed = 16.1%, and Asian = 7.3%.

Vulnerabilities:

- 31.8% had a pre-existing mental health issue
- 6.8% had a learning disability
- 45.1% had a history of self harm
- 29.4% had experienced domestic violence
- 12% were on the child protection register
- 10.7% were looked after children
- 24.1% used alcohol
- 23.4 used recreational drugs.

Police: 91% of all cases were reported to the police

Borough Prevalence of CSA

As noted previously, there are no accurate estimates of the number of victims of CSA available at a national level. Utilising the methodology employed by the NSPCC, the table below provides a crude indicator of prevalence of both current and historic CSA by the 32 London Boroughs:

Average Prevalence per borough²⁹			
		Central Estimate	Lower Estimate
Current Child victims	All CSA	5,396	2,698
	Contact CSA	1,640	820
Adult victims of CSA	All CSA	52,572	26,286
	Contact CSA	24,650	12,325