

**REPORT OF JOINT CSE REVIEW GROUP  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 2023**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. In 2018, Telford & Wrekin Council agreed to commission a judge-led independent inquiry (“IITCSE”) into historic child sexual exploitation (“CSE”) within the Borough. Further to this agreement, the Council engaged international law firm Eversheds Sutherland in January 2019 as an Independent Commissioning Body to appoint an independent Chair of the Inquiry. The Independent Chair, Tom Crowther KC, was appointed in July 2019 and his work commenced shortly thereafter.
2. Supported by the Independent Commissioning Body, the appointment of the Independent Chair of the Inquiry was carried out through joint working between a cross-party group of elected Members and survivors. This group also agreed the terms of reference for the Inquiry.
3. On 12 July 2022, the Independent Chair of the Inquiry published his report (“the Report”) which contained 47 recommendations and 148 specific actions.
4. Recommendations 1 to 5 called for the creation of a Joint CSE Review Group to collate and analyse data and produce an annual report:
  - Recommendation 1: *Establishment of a ‘Joint CSE Review Group’*
  - Recommendation 2: *‘Joint CSE Review Group’ to publish an annual CSE Report*
  - Recommendation 3: *WMP to prepare mapping and prevalence data to be shared with the Joint CSE Review Group*
  - Recommendation 4: *Council to prepare Children Abused Through Exploitation (“CATE”) data to be shared with the ‘Joint CSE Review Group’*
  - Recommendation 5: *Schools and colleges to prepare data to be shared with the ‘Joint CSE Review Group’*
5. In addition, this annual report should also include information relating to four other recommendations:
  - Recommendation 7: *Ring-fencing of CATE Team resource - The Council should publish information regarding the resourcing and workloads of the CATE Team as part of the ‘Joint CSE Review Group’s’ Annual Report.*
  - Recommendation 18; *The Council should annually review its CSE therapeutic support offering, to include services it provides directly and services it commissions and the review should be published annually as part of the ‘Joint CSE Review Group’s’ Annual Report.*
  - Recommendation 22: *Council to review its CSE complaints procedure and publish a summary of CSE complaints as part of the Joint CSE Review Group’s Annual report.*
  - Recommendation 26: *Council to collate data relating to complaints against taxi drivers as part of the Joint CSE Review Group’s Annual report.*
6. This report is the first annual report produced by the Joint CSE Review Group. Its development has strengthened collaborative work between Telford & Wrekin Council, West Mercia Police, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB and the Office

of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner focused on sharing information and data.

7. Part one of this report presents a profile of CSE in Telford and Wrekin to:-
  - explore the scale of CSE;
  - set out what support is provided to both victims, and those at risk of becoming a victim, of CSE;
  - create a profile of victims, and those at risk, of CSE;
  - set out the outcome of criminal investigations;
  - show locality analysis; and
  - provide a profile of suspects.
8. This report is very much seen as the start of ongoing work and a baseline in profiling CSE. In draft form, the profile has been shared and discussed with key stakeholders and has stimulated rich debate and discussion on meaning and future lines of enquiry to support the safeguarding of children and young people. Reflecting this, to inform further analytical work and future editions of this report, ten actions have been identified to improve the understanding of CSE in Telford and Wrekin, how those at risk are safeguarded, and enhance multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to protect and safeguard victims of CSE.
9. Part two of the report presents the additional information required by the IITCSE Report Recommendations.
10. The Joint CSE Review Group will next meet formally in July 2023. A full progress report will be published in July 2024 and each year thereafter.

## **DEFINITION OF CSE**

11. The definition of CSE used throughout this report is that adopted by the IITCSE:-

“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.”

## **JOINT CSE REVIEW GROUP**

12. The Review Group met formally, for the first time on 1st February 2023 (following earlier informal meetings) to consider initial findings from analysis of incidents of CSE in the borough by West Mercia Police and Telford & Wrekin

Council and to agree an Action Plan to develop and deliver this Annual Report. Since then, the members of the group have worked to bring this first report together.

13. The group will continue to meet to progress and implement the recommendations identified in this report.
14. The terms of reference of the Review Group and the minutes of the first meeting are set out in Appendix A and Appendix B respectively.

## **PART ONE: CSE PROFILE**

15. Recommendations 1 to 5 require data and information to be shared and analysed to profile CSE in Telford and Wrekin using a broad range of data and information from West Mercia Police, schools and colleges and Telford & Wrekin Council.
16. In developing this CSE profile, the CSE Review Group has built their analysis around the multiagency safeguarding arrangements developed and implemented by the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board. These arrangements describe how all relevant agencies should assess, and the action that should be taken, when indicators of CSE are identified for a child or young person. This approach has been taken to test these processes and decision making to ensure that the right action is taken and that the right information is shared at the right time. It also looks at the characteristics of the children and young people who are considered to be at risk of becoming a victim of CSE or have been a victim of CSE exploring age, gender, ethnicity, SEND status, missing episodes and school and college attendance. It follows confirmed cases of CSE through to criminal justice outcomes and profiles suspects where known.
17. It specifically focusses on those children and young people that live in Telford and Wrekin.

### Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements

18. Telford & Wrekin Council, West Mercia Police and the NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin have a statutory duty to instigate multi-agency safeguarding arrangements that ensure vulnerable children are protected and supported. This responsibility is discharged through the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board. Membership of the Board includes representatives from:
  - Telford & Wrekin Council including Education & Skills (representing early years, schools and colleges) and Children's Safeguarding and Family Support
  - Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICS (NHS)
  - Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
  - Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
  - Shropshire Community NHS Trust
  - West Mercia Police

- Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Probation
- Youth Justice Service
- Housing
- Community & voluntary organisations.

19. Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board works to:

- create an environment where Child Exploitation (CE), and specifically CSE, is prevented, identified, and challenged, and;
- ensure that children, young people and families whose lives are affected by CSE will receive a high level of support as well as protection, and the perpetrators are held accountable for their actions, and brought to justice.

20. Since the publication of the IITCSE report, linked to IITCSE Recommendation 9: *The Council should review its subgroups*, a review of the partnership has been completed and the review recommendations are now being implemented.

### Threshold Guidance

21. The Safeguarding Children Board has developed and adopted updated “threshold guidance” to ensure that anyone who works alongside children, young people, their families and carers work together, share information and ensure that effective support is provided.

22. The guidance describes a range of different needs and the intervention that will meet that need. Consistent application of threshold for statutory intervention and early help provision is crucial in identifying and meeting the needs of families and maintaining quality of provision of support across all services.

23. This approach should ensure that all partners respond to concerns about CSE in the same way. It enables partners to understand each individual report or case, share information with partners and ensure that those who have been subject to CSE, and those at risk of CSE, are receiving the right support.

24. The document describes factors associated with CE:

- Running away/going missing
- Coercion/control
- Contacts with abusive persons and/or risky environments
- Substance misuse
- Education
- Use of social media/technology
- Emotional & physical health and sexual health
- Accommodation and family relationships
- Offending/criminal activity
- Community/social isolation factors

25. The CE Threshold Guidance has four levels of need. For each of the above factors the guidance sets out the relevant signs and behaviours for each of these levels of risk (threshold descriptors).

Universal - a child or young person’s needs are adequately met by universal services and no additional support is required.

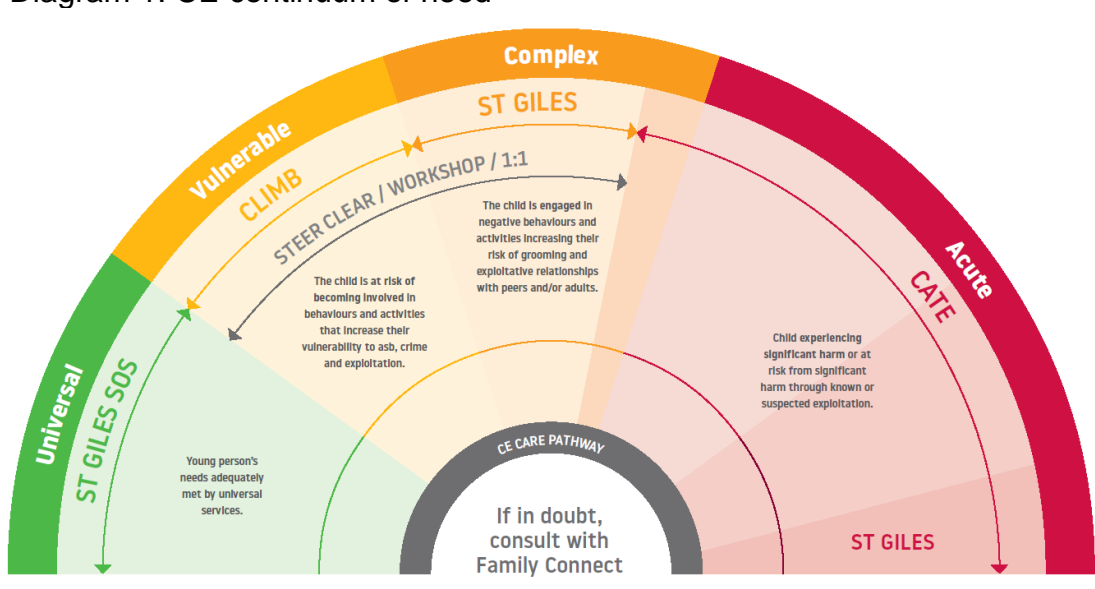
Vulnerable - children and young people defined as needing some additional support as there are early indicators of potential exploitation. Without support, these issues may develop into more worrying concerns. An Early Help Assessment may be undertaken to identify need and the support required to be undertaken by a single agency.

Complex - the child or young person remains vulnerable to exploitation. They are potentially at risk of developing acute/ complex needs if they do not receive targeted intervention. A multi-agency response will be provided.

Acute - exploitation is known or suspected and there are urgent and immediate safeguarding concerns for the child or young person. A multi-agency response will be provided, informed by specialist assessments.

26. These four levels form a continuum of need described as a “windscreen” as set out in diagram 1.

Diagram 1: CE continuum of need



27. The document sets out the concept of significant harm and how harm should be understood and managed. In the context of CSE and CE, the guidance sets out how harm outside the home should be assessed through “contextual safeguarding”.
28. When an agency or practitioner has safeguarding concerns about a child or young person, they assess the information known to them to identify the level of risk and harm. Where the risk is assessed as “complex” or “acute” then this

information is shared with Family Connect. As well as practitioners from partner organisations, members of the public, family and friends share safeguarding concerns with Family Connect.

### Family Connect

29. Family Connect is the Safeguarding Children Board's multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) run by qualified professionals from the Council, NHS (including mental health services, hospitals and "0 to 19" services), West Mercia Police, Youth Justice, Probation, education, Wrekin Housing Group and the Local Authority Designated Officer (responsible for managing allegations against adults who work with children). They work to build a picture of a child or young person's safeguarding risk. This is developed from the information that comes directly to Family Connect and their own organisation's information systems. This picture is screened by qualified social workers to identify what immediate action should be taken to safeguard the child or young person.
30. Each time an organisation or individual shares information with Family Connect, this is described as a "contact". When a contact into Family Connect is received it is recorded on an IDT case management system, Protocol. This is the single database used across children safeguarding services in Telford & Wrekin Council to manage cases and ensure that the right practitioners have access to relevant information and the case history for a child.
31. When a contact is received by Family Connect and CSE risk indicator(s) are identified, a specific "tick box" is selected on Protocol. This enables those contacts with CSE risk indicators to be readily identified and appropriate action taken.
32. In March 2023, the Threshold Guidance was refreshed and adopted by the Safeguarding Children Board. As part of the roll-out of the refreshed Guidance, a launch conference was held with over 170 practitioners from the NHS, Police, local authority, schools and colleges participating. This conference has been followed-up by a series of workshops to embed the way of working described by the Guidance. To date, 290 practitioners have participated with a further five workshops scheduled in autumn 2023. An essential part of the conference and workshops was training on when and how practitioners share information and contextual safeguarding case studies.

### Child Abused Through Exploitation (CATE)

33. The CATE team and "CATE pathway" are a core part of the Safeguarding Children Board's response to CSE and CE more widely. Research has established that to support children and young people where risks are external to living circumstances, solely using traditional safeguarding procedures as set out in Children Act 1989 is not always effective for all young people who may be suffering/at risk from exploitation. To address this, the Child Exploitation Care & Support Pathway is a process for safeguarding children underpinned by a contextual safeguarding approach to understand and respond to children and young people's experience of significant harm beyond their family and outside



the family home. This pathway has been reviewed in line with Inquiry Recommendation 10.

34. The Council's CATE Team, alongside the local Child Exploitation Police Team from West Mercia Police, take a central position within this pathway. For the children and young people where it is not appropriate for them to be supported solely by this pathway, they also receive support by statutory children's safeguarding services. It is not uncommon for children and young people to receive support from both the specialised CATE team and statutory safeguarding services.

### Methodology

35. To develop a profile and baseline report as required by Recommendations 1 to 5 of the IITCSE, West Mercia Police, Telford & Wrekin Council and the school and college CSE Lead Network have worked together to explore the following questions:
- How many contacts were made to Family Connect with indicators of CSE? Has the annual number of these contacts changed?
  - Who/which organisations made these contacts?
  - What was the outcome of these contacts? What support was provided?
  - What was the key characteristics of those who were provided with support? What was their age, gender, ethnicity, special education needs and disability ("SEND") status and school or college attendance, have they been "missing"?
  - How many of those that received support were at risk of becoming a victim of CSE and how many were victims of CSE based upon the definition adopted by the IITCSE Report
  - What criminal investigations were undertaken into the confirmed cases of CSE and what were the outcomes?
  - Where did the criminal activity take place?
  - What were the key characteristics of identified suspects?
  - How many children and young people have been identified with indicators of CSE by schools and colleges – whether assessed as vulnerable and provided with Early Help support or acute and complex and referred to Family Connect.
  - What risk indicators did schools or colleges identify?
  - What were the key characteristics of these cases including age, gender, ethnicity, SEND status and school or college attendance?
  - What support did the schools or college provide?

Diagram 2: CSE Contacts to Family Connect and their outcomes 2022/23

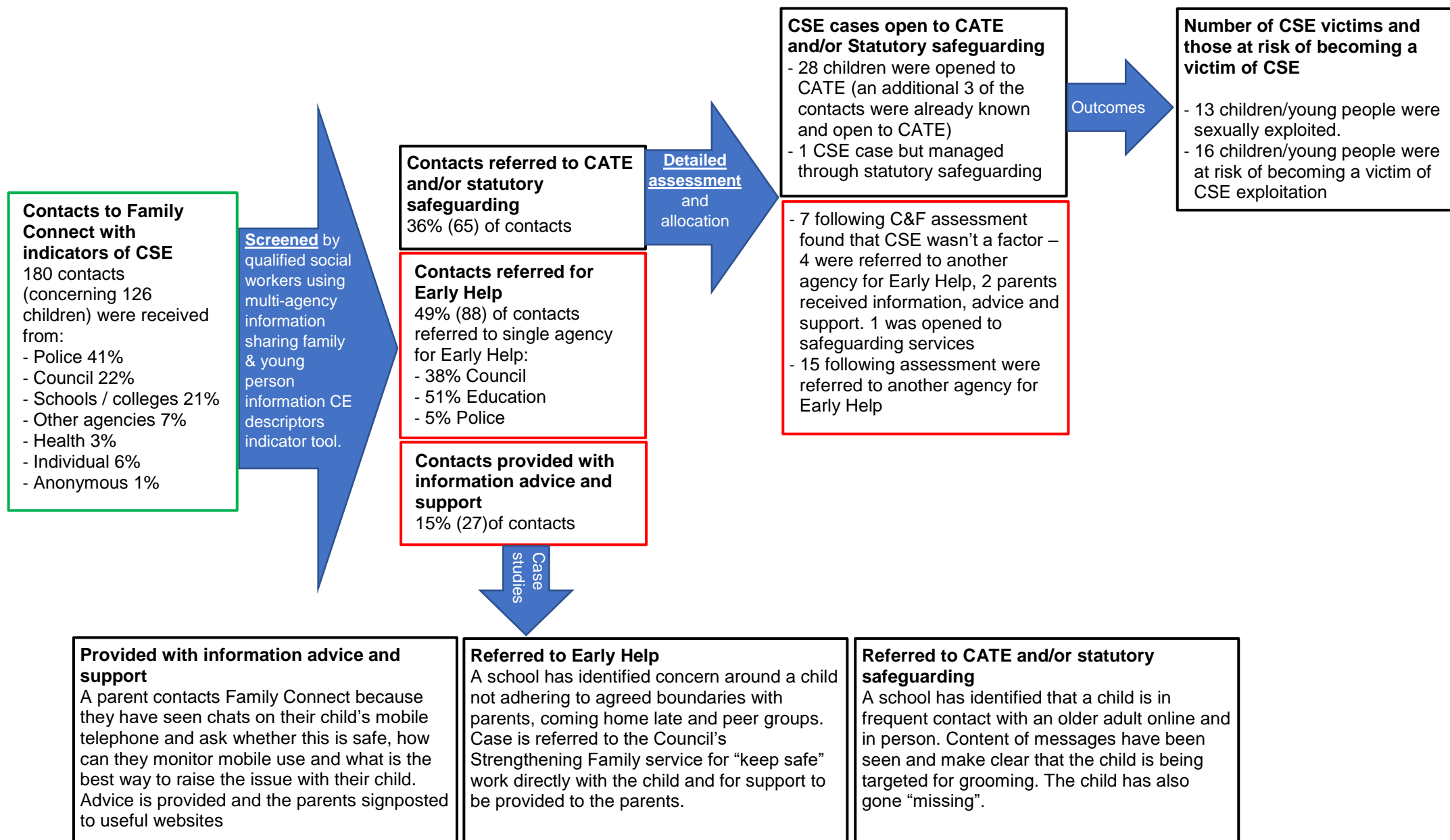


Diagram 3: CSE Contacts to Family Connect and their outcomes 2021/22

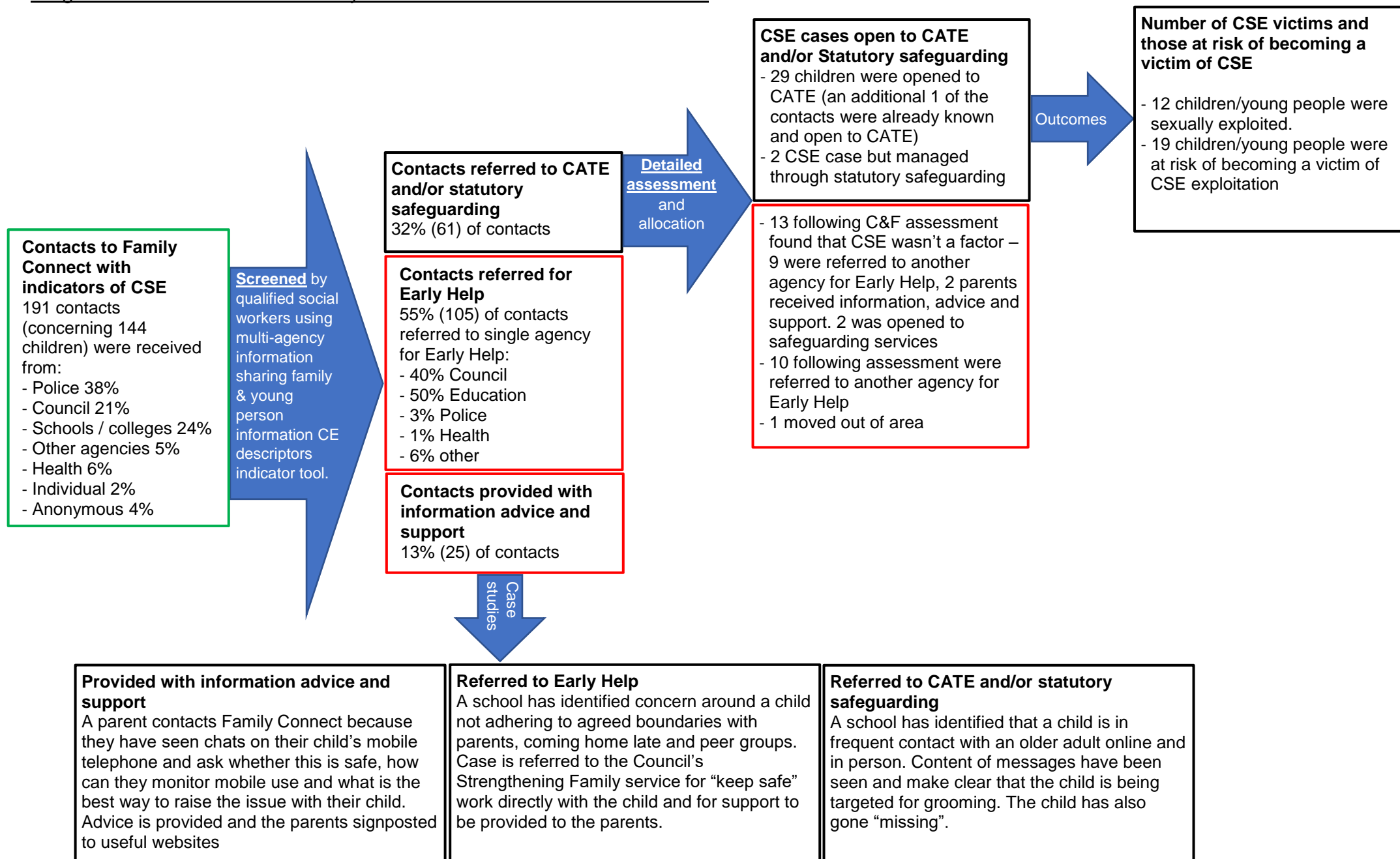
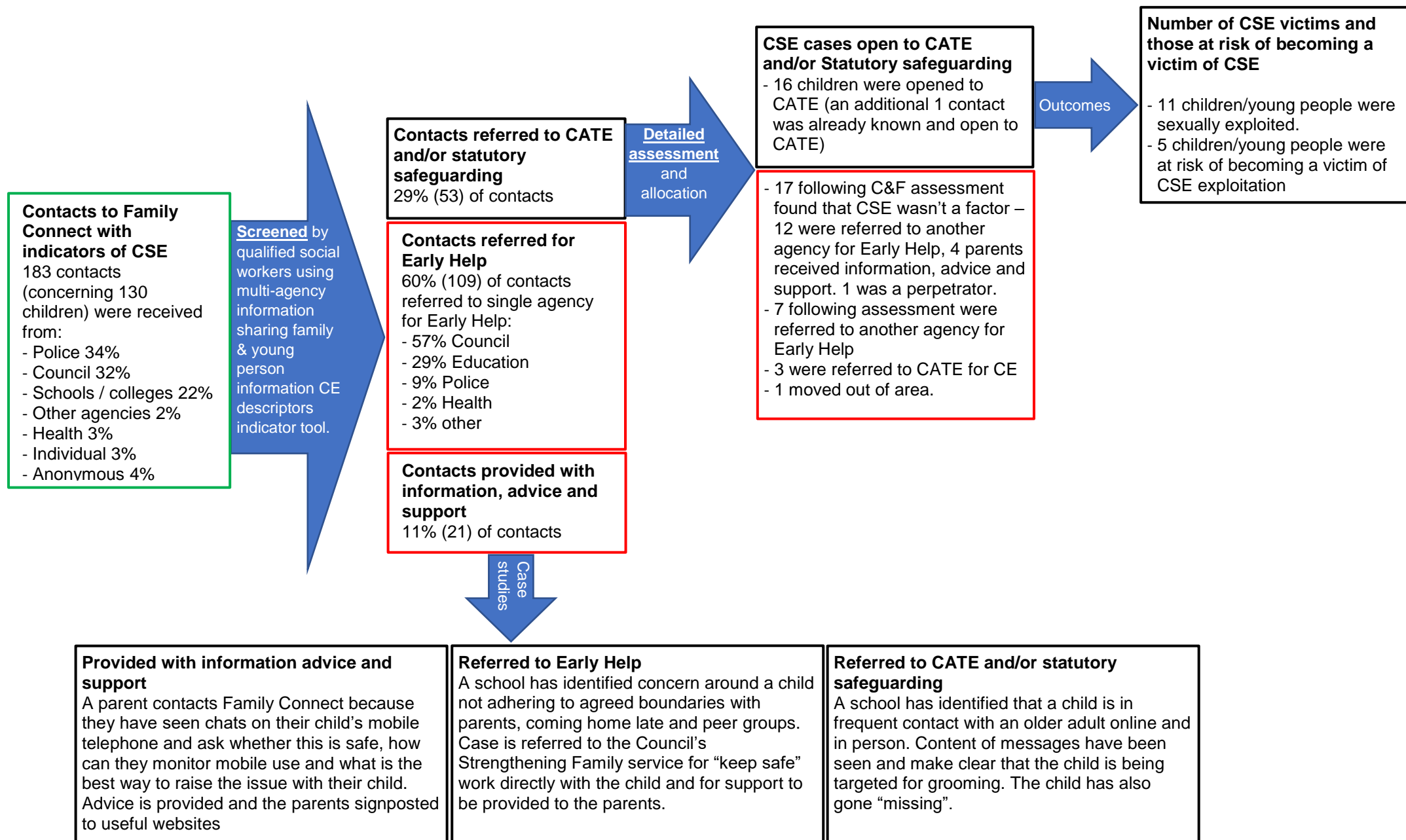


Diagram 4: CSE Contacts to Family Connect and their outcomes 2020/21



36. Diagram 2 above describes the contact with indicators of CSE into Family Connect during the year 2022/23, the outcomes of these contacts, including the number referred to CATE. In terms of the analysis below, this focuses on 2022/23 as the baseline year.
37. Diagrams 3 and 4 provide the same information in respect of the years 2021/22 and 2020/21 to provide some historic context and support in the identification of any trends. Where relevant, the analysis below provides data relating to the three-year average in brackets.

#### CSE Contacts into Family Connect

38. In 2022/23 there were 180 contacts into Family Connect with indicators of CSE. These 180 contacts accounted for 1.4% of all 12,865 contacts into Family Connect. The three-year average for such contacts was 185.
39. It is not unusual for there to be more than one contact into Family Connect about a child or young person as the referrer may call again with additional advice or contacts may come from two separate sources for example the Council and a school. In 2022/23, the 180 contacts related to 126 children and young people. In this year, the source of these contacts was as follows:-
  - Police accounted for 41% (38%);
  - Council 22% (25%);
  - Schools / colleges 21% (22%);
  - NHS accounted for 3% (4%);
  - “Anonymous” referrals 1% (3%); and
  - Individuals 6% (4%).
40. Following initial screening by qualified social workers in Family Connect:
  - 49% (55%) of contacts were referred to another agency for Early Help. This support is given to a family when a problem first emerges to avoid the concerns escalating, with the objective to improve outcomes for the child or young person. The support provided can take many forms and might include home visiting programmes, school-based programmes and mentoring schemes. For example, a school has identified concern around a child not adhering to agreed boundaries with parents, coming home late and peer group association. This case would be referred to the Council's Strengthening Families service for work around being safe, risks to safety and wellbeing and similar. The Strengthening Family service will also provide support to parents.
  - 15% (13%) of CSE contacts were provided with information, advice and support. This occurs when the risk of CSE is deemed to be very small. For example, a parent contacts Family Connect as they are concerned about their child's mobile phone use and want to know how best to monitor usage and broach the issue with their child. The parent would be provided with relevant information and advice and with links to appropriate websites.
  - 36% (32%) of the contacts met the threshold for referral to CATE and/or statutory safeguarding. This happens when the child who is the subject of

the contact is deemed to be at significant risk of becoming a victim of CSE. For example, the child has been contacted by adults online or in person and the content of messages makes clear that the child is being targeted for grooming. The child is known to have gone missing. In such a case, the contact is referred to CATE and/or statutory safeguarding for additional detailed assessment and allocation. This second assessment process is a very detailed analysis of the context of the referral and the child's family dynamics.

41. Following this process, 29 children or young people were opened to CATE and/or statutory safeguarding services as an open CSE. An additional three cases were already open to CATE and receiving support; that is, a contact had come in for a child or young person who was already receiving support from CATE or statutory safeguarding services. One case was opened solely to statutory safeguarding.
42. The outcome of the other 22 children and young people that were referred to CATE and/or safeguarding by Family Connect following detailed assessment were:
  - 15 were referred to another agency for single agency Early Help as they had not met the threshold for CATE and/or statutory safeguarding services.
  - CSE was not found to be a factor in 7 cases, and the following support was provided:
    - 4 were referred to another agency for Early Help;
    - 2 parents were provided with information, advice and support; and,
    - 1 was provided with support from statutory safeguarding services.

#### CSE Cases

43. As part of this review, detailed qualitative case analysis was undertaken by senior managers in the CATE and safeguarding service to ascertain which of the cases met the definition of CSE as set out by the Independent Inquiry and which were at risk of becoming a victim of CSE. This analysis identified that of cases opened in 2022/23 there were 13 confirmed cases of CSE and 16 children and young people who were at risk of becoming a victim of CSE.
44. Across the 2020/21 to 2022/23 period, there was an average of 12 new confirmed cases each year and an average of 13 new children and young people at risk of becoming a victim of CSE.

#### CSE Caseload

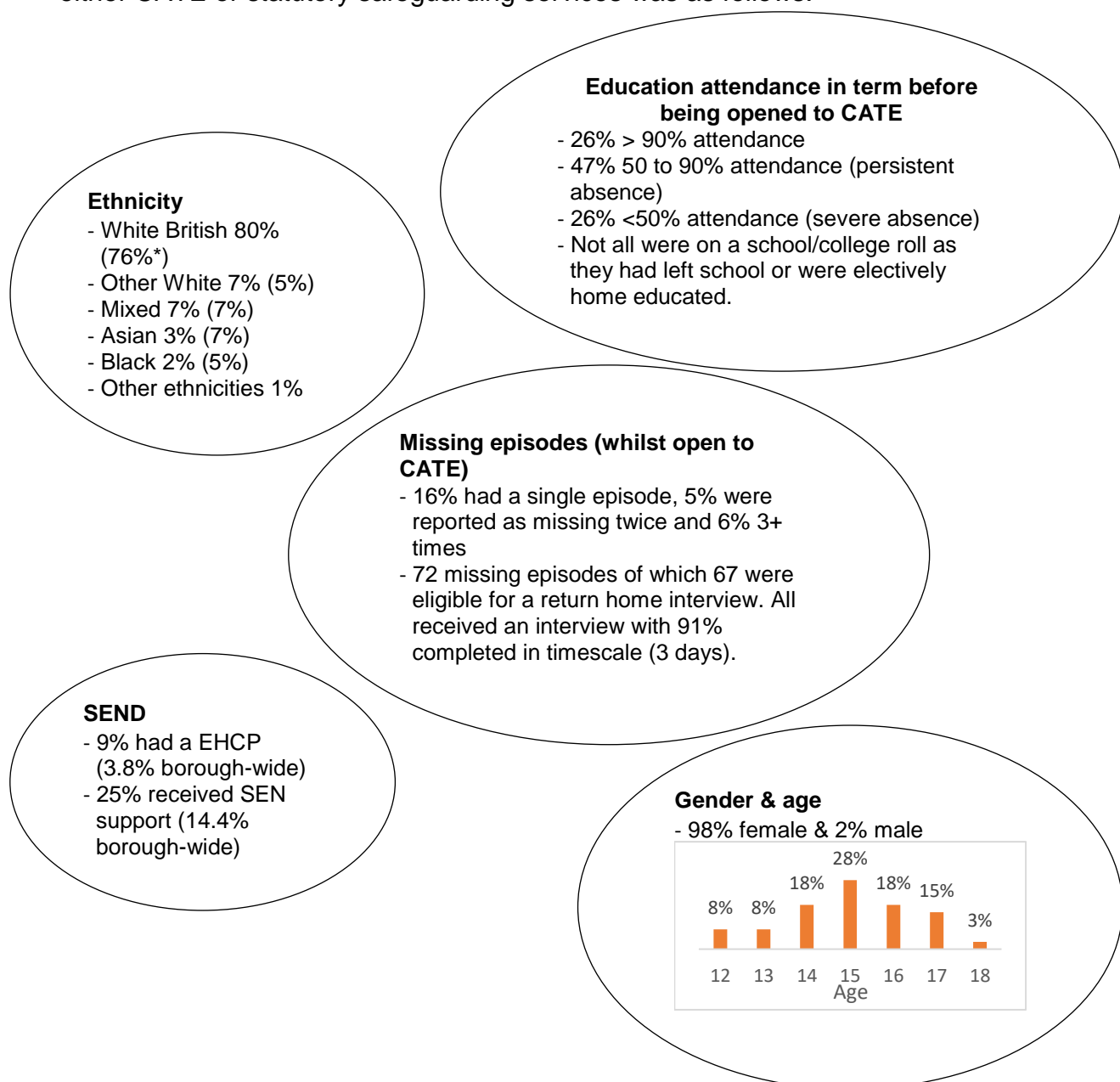
45. Across the three-year period, there were 129 CSE cases open to either CATE and/or statutory safeguarding. This is made-up of the new contacts each year and the pre-existing caseload at the start of the reference period.
46. Within the three-year period, 91 CSE cases were closed with all other cases continuing to receive appropriate support. On average, cases were closed after receiving service for 20 months.

Table 1: Open and closed CSE cases

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Cases open at start of year	53	25	39
Cases closed in year	45	17	30
New cases opened in year	16	31	29
Cases open at end of year	25	39	38

Profile of open CSE cases (“at risk” and confirmed victims)

47. An important objective of this report was to describe the characteristics of those children and young people receiving CATE or safeguarding support because of CSE, with reference to identifying vulnerabilities. It was agreed by the group that, in order to present a fuller picture across a wider group of children and young people, it would be helpful to consider a three-year period. Across the 2020/21 to 2022/23 period, the profile of children and young people open to either CATE or statutory safeguarding services was as follows:-



48. Ninety-eight percent of these cases were female, with an average age of 15. The youngest cases were 12 and the oldest 18.
49. The majority, four fifths, were White British (80%), a further 7% were “Other White”, 7% mixed ethnicity, Asian 3%, Black 2% and “other ethnicities” accounted for 1%. It has not been possible to produce an ethnicity profile for the borough’s 12 to 18 year old population from the 2021 Census for comparative purposes. The “best fit” is the 0 to 15 population which suggests that White British (76%) and “Other white” (4.6%) were overrepresented with Black (5%) and Asian (7%) underrepresented.
50. Compared with the borough’s school population, this cohort of children and young people were more likely to have SEND support with 9% in an Education, Health and Care Plan (“EHCP”) (3.8% borough-wide) and 25% receiving SEN support (14.4% borough-wide).
51. Analysis of education attendance in the term prior to referral to Family Connect found that 47% had either persistent absence (attendance <90% and >50%), 26% had chronic absence (<50% attendance), just 28% had satisfactory attendance. Support for pupils with absences may be in the form of early help or more targeted support and can take a variety of forms, including working with other agencies, consideration of an adapted timetable to support a return to school or referral to a local authority student engagement programme or targeted work with the child and family.
52. After being opened to CATE, 16% had a single missing episode, 5% were reported as missing twice and 6% 3+ times. In total there were 72 missing episodes recorded of which 67 were eligible for a return home interview. Return home interviews are undertaken to help identify any support that children and young people might need to help keep them safe. All (100%) received an interview with 91% completed in timescale (3 days). Reasons why return home interviews are not completed within the 3-day target include there being back-to-back missing episodes or when episodes occur over a bank holiday period.
53. Sixty one percent of the CATE CSE cases were also open to statutory safeguarding on one or more occasion. This is an important element of the CATE pathway model, that a child or young person can receive specialist support from CATE and statutory safeguarding services. Of the cases that were open to statutory services, 56 opened as a “Child in Need”, 26 “Child Protection”, and 20 “Looked after child”.

### Criminal Justice

54. As part of the development of this report, details of the confirmed CSE cases from the three-year research period were shared between Telford & Wrekin Council and West Mercia Police analysts to:
  - ensure that all relevant cases were known to the Police and that relevant investigations were undertaken and their outcome;
  - identify and profile suspects; and,
  - identify the location of criminal activity.

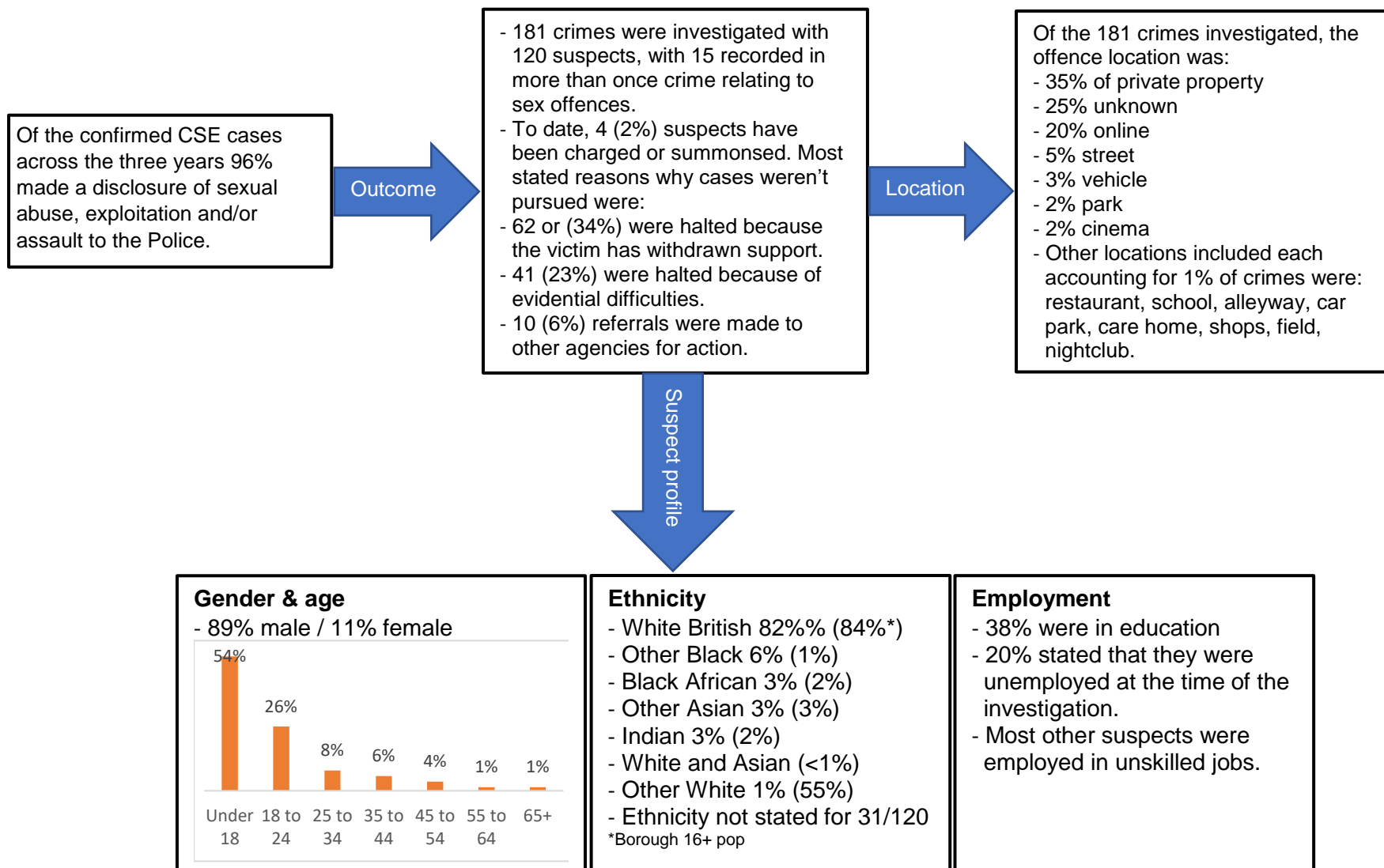


55. Following analysis, West Mercia Police confirmed that all cases were known to their Child Exploitation Team in line with multi-agency safeguarding procedures and that 96% made a disclosure of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and/or sexual assault to the Police. From this, 181 crimes were investigated with 120 suspects identified. Fifteen suspects were identified in more than one criminal investigation relating to sex offences.
56. To date, 4 (2%) suspects have been charged or summonsed. Nationally, the Office for National Statistics has found that in the year ending 2019, 4% of child abuse offences resulted in a charge or summons. The two main reasons why cases weren't pursued are:
- 62 or (34%) were halted because the victim no longer felt able to proceed; and,
  - 41 (23%) were halted because of evidential difficulties.
57. To improve the outcomes of rape and serious sexual offence investigations, West Mercia Police has adopted the key principles of a national end to end review of such investigations called "Op Soteria". This includes the recruitment of seven new Detective Sergeants within the West Mercia area. On a geographic basis (north and south) two will work as "gatekeepers" with the Crown Prosecuting Service ("CPS") to ensure timely and quality submissions of evidential files to increase detections and improve outcomes for victims of these crimes. In each of the Force's five local policing areas, a Detective Sergeant will work to support the "gatekeepers" and provide support for reviewing cases and ensuring best practice in the support provided to victims so that they feel able to continue with the prosecution. In addition, the force is rolling out a training programme to improve investigations and detection rates.

### Suspect profile

58. Analysis by West Mercia Police of the characteristics of the 120 suspects found:
- 89% of suspects were male, with 11% female.
  - Four fifths of suspects were aged under 24, with 54% being aged under 18. The oldest suspects were aged 65+.
  - Where ethnicity was identified, 83% were White British or White Other (89% 16+ borough population), with 9% Black African or Black Other (2.4%), 3% Indian (2.4%) and a further 3% White and Asian (<1%).
  - In terms of employment, reflecting the age profile of the suspects, 38% were students. Twenty percent stated that they were unemployed. Most other suspects were employed in unskilled jobs. No suspects were taxi drivers.
59. This criminal justice analysis by West Mercia Police is set out in Diagram 5 below.

Diagram 5: Criminal Justice 2020/21 – 2022/23



## Crime Spatial Analysis

60. Case analysis was undertaken of each of the 181 crimes to identify details of where the criminal activity took place. It was not possible to identify a location for 25% of the crimes, the locations that were identified across the remaining reported crimes were:
- 35% private property
  - 20% online
  - 5% street
  - 3% vehicle
  - 2% park
  - 2% cinema
  - Other locations included each accounting for 1% of crimes were: restaurant, school, alleyway, car park, care home, shops, field, nightclub.
61. West Mercia Police has confirmed that, as part of the investigation into these crimes, details of the nightclub and restaurants had been referred to “MATES” or Multi-agency Targeted Enforcement Strategy partnerships, which brings together relevant Police and Council services with other enforcement agencies to share information and drive tactical operations to reduce, disrupt or deter criminal activity in the borough.

## NRM Referrals

62. The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. Modern slavery is complex and may involve multiple forms of exploitation.
63. West Mercia Police has identified 511 NRMs between 01 April 2020 and 31 March 2023. 304 of these NRMs related to children, 65 of which were exploited in Telford. Of the confirmed CSE cases, 9% have been subject of NRMs.
64. Partners recognise that the number of NRM referrals could be higher, particularly given the support that can result for those referred. Work is underway to implement Recommendation 39: *Multi-agency approach to NRM referrals to be reviewed* which will ensure that all necessary referrals are being made. In addition, where CSE training more widely is being reviewed by statutory safeguarding partners, information about the NRM is being included.

## Schools & Colleges

65. As part of the development of this report, work has been undertaken through the secondary schools and colleges “CSE Lead” network to develop a process for collating and sharing information about those young people who have indicators of CSE and receive Early Help in secondary schools and colleges. These are cases which are not typically referred to Family Connect as they have been assessed by secondary schools and colleges as “vulnerable” (that is, of low risk) and a single agency response is appropriate.

66. A questionnaire was developed to capture this information because secondary schools and colleges do not have common IDT systems which would enable them to identify relevant historic cases and, because a child's record follows them when they move school or onto college, there is a risk of double counting.
67. Education settings were asked to identify all cases where a child had indicators of CSE and to provide the following information relating to those children/young people:-
- Age, gender and ethnicity
  - Indicators of CSE
  - Location of incident
  - Attendance record
  - SEND support
  - Details of support provided.
68. The timeline for this information was all new cases identified since the start of the current academic year in September 2022.
69. There are 24 secondary schools and colleges in the CSE Lead network; 16 provided case information and 8 provided a nil return. A total of 130 pupils were identified. The greatest number of cases identified from a single setting was 37.

#### CSE Risk Indicators

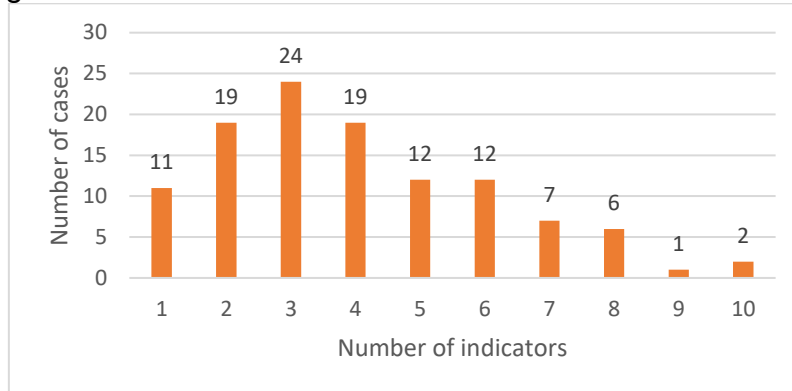
70. The risk indicators identified by secondary schools and colleges for the 130 vulnerable CSE cases are presented in table 2 with an average of 4 indicators per child. The most stated indicator was education based including engagement, deteriorating achievement or exclusions, followed by contact with abusive persons and/or risk environments and then emotional and physical health. The least stated indicators were "running away/going missing" and "offending/criminal activity".

Table 2: Indicators of CSE identified by schools and colleges

Indicator	Number of pupils	% of all pupils
Education (changes in engagement with education, changes in achievement and exclusions or suspensions)	63	55.8
Contact with abusive persons and/or risky environments	61	54.0
Emotional and Physical (inc. sexual) health	60	53.1
Substance Misuse	49	43.4
Use of social media/ technology	47	41.6
Accommodation and family relationships	41	36.3
Community/ social isolation factors	41	36.3
Coercion/ Control	36	31.9
Running away/ Going missing	34	30.1
Offending / criminal activity	23	20.4
Total	455	

71. There was an average of 4 indicators per case, with two cases identifying ten indicators.

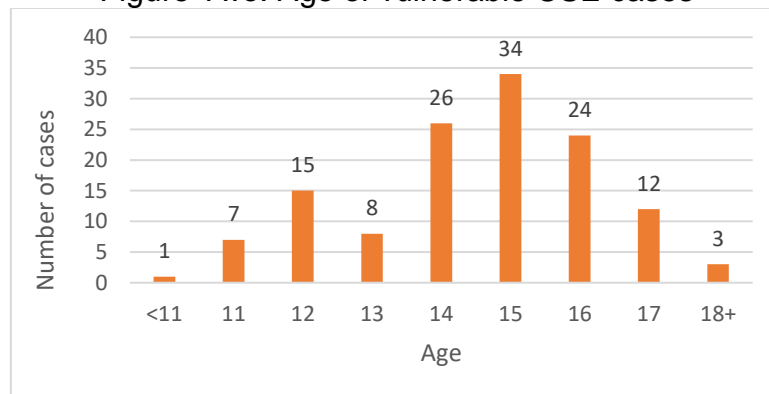
Figure 1: Number of CSE indicators for vulnerable CSE cases



Characteristics

72. In terms of the 130 vulnerable children and young people identified by secondary schools and colleges their key characteristics were:
- In terms of gender, 59% of cases were female and 41% male.
  - The average age was 14 years. 2% of cases were aged 18+ with one case aged less than 11.

Figure Two: Age of vulnerable CSE cases



- Four fifths of the children and young people were of a White ethnicity (71%), a further 6% were identified as “Other Mixed” ethnicity, 5% were of a White and Black ethnicity, 4% Black British, Caribbean or African and 3% “Other white”. The other children (11%) were from a range of other ethnicities.
- With regard, to SEND, 7% had an EHCP plan (compared to 3.8% borough wide) and 28% had SEN support (14.4% borough).

Early Help

73. As 130 of these children and young people were identified as vulnerable to CSE, they should all have been offered Early Help support by their secondary school or college, or from other agencies. 105 cases were offered Early Help and support.

In three of these cases, parents declined the help and support offered. Of the 25 other cases:

- Ten were referred to Family Connect for support
- Six were visited by school staff when the child was not in school
- Three were already receiving support from a social worker
- Two were assessed to be receiving good support from their family.
- One was receiving support from the Council's Strengthening Families service
- One had a managed move to another school.

#### Next Steps and Future Actions

74. This is the first-time that analysis of this breadth has been undertaken to explore CSE in Telford & Wrekin. Its development has strengthened data sharing and analysis between the Council, schools, colleges and West Mercia Police.
75. The research in this first annual report has focussed on developing a baseline position of CSE in Telford and Wrekin, including contact and referrals to Family Connect and the outcome of these contacts in terms of the support provided and the outcome of criminal investigations. The position against this baseline will be monitored every six months to identify any changing patterns or emerging trends which will be reported to the Safeguarding Children Board and its CE subgroup.
76. The subsequent discussions that have taken place throughout the development of this report, has informed a series of actions for further analysis and research which will shape the development of future reports by the Joint CSE Review Group.

#### Action One

77. That this research is shared with other local authorities and police forces and that they are invited to share data for the purposes of benchmarking and mapping CSE across England. The data collected should include:
  1. CSE contacts into their multi-agency safeguarding hub;
  2. Open CSE caseloads;
  3. Confirmed cases of CSE and those at risk of becoming a victim of CSE;
  4. Profile of confirmed cases of CSE and those at risk of becoming a victim of CSE to include demography and risk factors including SEND, missing and education absence;
  5. Number of CSE crimes committed, profile of identified suspects and the outcome of any criminal investigations.

#### Action Two

78. That anonymous contacts to Family Connect are monitored to understand the impact of changes to the Family Connect online contact form in line with IITCSE Recommendation 21 which called for a review of the online form and removal of the requirement to register on the Telford & Wrekin Council site.

### Action Three

79. That analysis is undertaken to benchmark the number of CSE contacts that are received from health providers. The analysis has shown that, currently, a relatively small number are received each year. This analysis should include which health providers such contacts are from (e.g. pharmacies, GPs, hospital, sexual health providers). Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB are currently rolling out a new CSE awareness training programme and this detail should inform any analysis of the impact of the training.

### Action Four

80. That further work should be undertaken through the secondary school and college CSE Lead Network to raise further awareness of the signs and indicators of CSE and monitor the number of “vulnerable” cases that are being identified by each setting. To support this, the online questionnaire that captures this data should be revised and subsequently completed on a real time basis by secondary schools and colleges as new cases are identified. Additional professional development should be undertaken with schools and colleges on contextual safeguarding thresholds and the provision of Early Help.

### Action Five

81. That re-referrals of cases that have been provided with support for CSE, whether Early Help or CATE, are monitored to understand how frequently re-referrals occur and the reasons for such re-referrals.

### Action Six

82. That further work should be undertaken to profile the specific Special Education Need and Disability (SEND) support that is provided to the victims, and those at risk of becoming a victim, of CSE. This analytical work undertaken by the CSE Joint Review Group has demonstrated that SEND is a potential vulnerability for CSE. This was apparent from the cases that were open to CATE and statutory safeguarding services and from the “vulnerable” cases identified by schools and colleges.

83.

### Action Seven

84. That further work should be undertaken to profile suspects, including their education attendance levels, SEND information, NEET status (not in education, employment or training), to understand their modus operandi and any evidence of CE to inform the development of early intervention programmes and how they can be targeted.

### Action Eight

85. The locality profile of criminal activity should inform both the evolution of ongoing CSE awareness training programmes with specific reference to relevant businesses and cyber security for young people.

### Action Nine

86. That Return Home Interviews should be analysed to identify any common patterns or trends in the reasons why children and young people who are a victim or at risk of becoming a victim of CSE go missing and any other common features, for example localities. Further analysis of missing incidents that have taken place before a child or young person receives support from CATE should be undertaken.

### Action Ten

87. That NRMs are monitored to understand the impact of training programmes that have been revised to include the NRM and ensure increased NRM referrals. Such monitoring will also identify the impact of the implementation of IITCSE Recommendation 39 and the review of the multi-agency approach to NRM.

## **PART TWO: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

88. In addition to the CSE profile and analysis set out in Part One of this report, the IITCSE Inquiry recommendations stipulated other information that should be included in this report. Part Two of this report sets out that information.

### **Recommendation 2.3: Staffing Workloads Telford & Wrekin Council CATE & West Mercia Police CE team**

89. For information on Telford & Wrekin Council CATE team workload please see Part 2 Recommendation 7 later in this part of the report.

### West Mercia Police Child Exploitation Team

90. The structure of the team is currently:
- A Detective Inspector
  - Two Detective Sergeants
  - Eight Detective Constables – with four reporting to each of the two Detective Sergeants. Of these, one Detective Constable is currently on maternity leave and one other post is vacant.
  - A CE coordinator
  - Analyst (shared with county-lines)
91. As at March 2023, the team had the following case load:
- 36 investigations
  - 4 cases
  - 20 child allocations.



### **Recommendation 2.5: Collaboration and Support Sought from Third Sector Organisations**

92. A key first step in collaboration with the third sector has been to undertake a survey of the third sector organisations that have been identified as potentially providing support to victims of CSE whether current or historic.
93. The purpose of the survey is to understand the scale and scope of the support that these organisations are providing to victims and those at risk of CSE. From this, it is intended that the three statutory agencies can explore how they can collaborate with, and support, these organisations more effectively.
94. The survey commenced in May 2023 and invited 11 organisations to participate. It is expected that the outcome of the survey will be reported to the statutory partners in September 2023.

### **Recommendation 2.6: Details of steps taken in relation to CSE training and awareness campaigns**

#### Training

95. An audit of training relevant to CSE has been undertaken of Telford & Wrekin Council, West Mercia Police, the NHS and that provided to schools and colleges by the Council's Education Safeguarding service on behalf of the local safeguarding partnership.
96. This has identified a common training package across all three organisations. Raising Awareness of Exploitation and Vulnerability is delivered by specialist trainers from West Mercia Police. The course focuses on county lines, human trafficking, sexual exploitation and modern slavery and aims to upskill professionals to feel confident in recognising the signs and symptoms of exploitation and to know how to report concerns, ensuring best practice is embraced. In summary, this course covers:-
  - Highlighting personal and situational factors of vulnerability and the impact these have on risk and harm;
  - Understanding the definitions covering vulnerability, exploitation and sexual exploitation, modern day slavery and human trafficking;
  - Developing an understanding of indicators that may show within various forms of exploitation;
  - Identifying the key considerations necessary when receiving a disclosure and the impact of trauma on any disclosure;
  - Understanding the individual's professional accountability and responsibility for sharing information and the legal basis for doing so under the GDPR;
  - Recognising the importance of documentation and record keeping in the effective protection of those identified as vulnerable, ensuring non-victim blaming language is used; and,
  - Understanding the process to get the right help, at the right time, for the identified vulnerable person(s).

97. This course has been delivered to employees of the Council, NHS and West Mercia Police and education settings, as well as local business and organisations including taxis drivers, hotels, pubs, religious organisations, sports clubs and shops.
98. Set out overleaf are the current training offers from West Mercia Police, NHS, and Telford & Wrekin Council. Where IITCSE Recommendations stipulated further development of CSE training, this is flagged where relevant before the detailed table describing current training.

99. In addition to the training offer set out below, Recommendation 12 calls for specific training of the CATE Team and social workers. Implementation of this has commenced.

Table 3: Telford & Wrekin Council CSE Relevant Training

Title and brief description of course	Who/what role(s) is this course targeted at?	How is this course delivered? (e.g. face to face, online etc.)
<p>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Awareness All employees and Councillors are expected to complete the course every two years. Employee completion is monitored by Directors. The course is designed to raise awareness of what CSE is and how participants should report their concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The signs of CSE</li> <li>• What grooming is</li> <li>• The impact on young people</li> <li>• How protecting young people is everyone's business and what you need to do</li> </ul> <p>NB. The course content is currently being revised and will include additional information on NRM and also 'Identifying a Complaint', as per IITCSE Recommendation 22 The content of the report will be reviewed by independent lived experience consultants.</p>	All employees of the council and all Councillors.	Online
<p>Child Protection - An Introduction This course provides basic awareness training and is aimed at anyone that might directly or indirectly come into contact with children - this would include those staff going into homes and business premises to undertake work.</p>	All employees of the council	Online
<p>Raising Awareness of Child Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight the legal influences to current child protection practice</li> <li>• Consider Working Together 2015 definitions of abuse</li> <li>• Develop an awareness of the indicators of abuse in a child's life and the implications for the child</li> <li>• Identify the considerations necessary when receiving a disclosure of abuse</li> <li>• Understand the individual's professional accountability and responsibility for sharing information with regards to child abuse</li> <li>• Recognise the importance of documentation and record keeping in effective protection of children</li> <li>• Understand the process to get the right help at the right time for the child if there are concerns for their wellbeing</li> </ul>	All employees of the council and Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board	Virtual and face-to-face
<p>"7 point briefings" - training resources developed by the Telford &amp; Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Voice of the Child</li> <li>- Professional Curiosity</li> </ul>	Relevant employees and the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board	

## West Mercia Police

Table 4: West Mercia Police CSE Relevant Training

Title and brief description of course and its purpose.	Who/what role(s) is this course targeted at?	How is this course delivered? (e.g. face to face, online etc.)
CSE training for student officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the nature of risks and vulnerabilities facing children and young people</li> <li>• Knowledge of the differing models of CSE and how children may be affected.</li> <li>• Understand the link between child trafficking and other forms of exploitation</li> <li>• Comprehend how agencies work together to address the exploitation of children</li> </ul>	Student officer	Face to face
Professional Curiosity 13 Strands of PVP - 1 week course (CSE included aimed at staff in relevant roles, investigators and senior officers up to Supt)	All police officers and staff performing an investigative role in this area of business.	Face to face
Specialist Child Abuse Investigators Programme (SCAIDP). A specialist course aimed at developing investigators working within the child abuse investigation arena. The course covers psychology (understanding sexual offending behaviour), legislation, multi-agency working, safeguarding and trauma regarding all types of child abuse including CSE.	Child Abuse Investigators	Face to face
Planned CPD on Child Exploitation for 2023. Looking to incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRM</li> <li>• Disruption</li> <li>• Inclusive Practice</li> <li>• Effective Engagement</li> </ul>	Frontline/Investigators	On-line

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB

100. Recommendation 42 calls for a review of CSE training delivered to NHS providers and practitioners (see further information under Recommendation 2.9). This has been undertaken and a single programme is being implemented across NHS providers except for the acute hospital trust. Independent lived experienced consultees have been engaged on the content of this training.

Table 5: NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin CSE Relevant Training

Title and brief description of course and its purpose.	Who/what role(s) is this course targeted at?	How is this course delivered? (e.g. face to face, online etc.)
<p>“7 point briefings” training resources disseminated to all staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSE</li> <li>• Exploitation</li> <li>• Stages of recruitment</li> <li>• Grooming line diagram</li> <li>• Professional curiosity and challenge.</li> <li>• Highlights the voice of the child and listening to the child.</li> </ul>	<p>The 7 point briefings are aimed at healthcare professionals.</p>	<p>Emailed to all staff</p>
<p>“Safeguarding children level 3 training including CSE” online training via Teams This interactive session contains case studies and explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contextual safeguarding</li> <li>• Risks and vulnerabilities</li> <li>• Information sharing and consent,</li> <li>• Dealing with disclosure, referral, documentation</li> <li>• Threshold document</li> </ul> <p>The training is at Level 3 safeguarding children training in accordance with the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Intercollegiate document</p>	<p>It is targeted at healthcare professionals who provide care directly to CYP and their caregivers – further defined within the intercollegiate document.</p>	<p>Online via MS teams</p>
<p>SSCP Shropshire Exploitation and Vulnerability Presentation WM Police April 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional curiosity</li> <li>• Victim blaming</li> <li>• Vulnerabilities and risks</li> <li>• ACEs</li> <li>• County lines</li> <li>• Practice guidance and protocol</li> <li>• Group work included</li> <li>• In depth CSE and associated risks and vulnerabilities training – specific to Shropshire.</li> </ul>	<p>This training provided by West Mercia Police and is aimed at Multi agency professionals who work in Shropshire. There is a focus on Shropshire in this session as it is run through the SSCP.</p>	<p>Online via zoom</p>
<p>“ACEs” delivered via MS teams which includes information regarding CSE, trauma, resilience. Recognising Trauma, trauma informed practice/care.</p>	<p>Healthcare professionals within the specific provider trust.</p>	<p>Online via MS teams</p>

Title and brief description of course and its purpose.	Who/what role(s) is this course targeted at?	How is this course delivered? (e.g. face to face, online etc.)
<p>Encourages professionals to consider what is behind behaviour.            ACES video includes ways to engage children and promotes professional curiosity.            Vulnerabilities, resilience.            Vicarious trauma, re-traumatising, self-care.            Fight and flight video</p>		
<p>Exploitation 2021            MS teams PowerPoint            HEE spotting the signs of exploitation video link: Professional curiosity, victim blaming, use of language by CYP and by professionals.            CE: CCE and CSE, Contextual safeguarding, human trafficking, MDS, county lines, grooming line. Parental account; C4 news video debt bondage, terminology. Spotting the signs of CSE HEE video. Victim blaming language. IITCSE, operation chalice, checklist, to do list            Interactive. Active chat. Opportunity for Q&amp;A. Quizzes. Video links</p>	<p>Healthcare professionals within specific provider trust. Part of safeguarding children level 3 training (RCN Intercollegiate document 2019)</p>	<p>Online via MS teams</p>
<p>Exploitation workbook            Unsure if this is instead of MS teams training or alongside it. Includes:            CE: CCE, CSE, county lines, case study, link to HEE spotting the signs of CSE video.            language. Professional curiosity            Use of quiz, case studies, question and answer sections.</p>	<p>Healthcare professionals within specific provider trust. Part of safeguarding children level 3 training (RCN Intercollegiate document 2019)</p>	<p>Online via trust safeguarding/training page</p>
<p>CCE safer 7 briefing            Professional curiosity            Written disseminated information</p>	<p>The 7 point briefings are aimed at healthcare professionals.</p>	<p>Emailed to staff.</p>
<p>Banardos Language matters presentation - training resource            Banardos Training Package slides            Use of victim blaming language and impact of it            Highlights inappropriate use of language            CSE, CCE, county lines, vulnerabilities, grooming, trauma informed</p>	<p>Shropshire multiagency professionals who have access to leap into learning.</p>	<p>Available to access as a resource, self-accessible and self-directed</p>

## Schools and Education Settings

Table 6: School and Education Settings CSE Relevant Training

Title and brief description of course and its purpose.	Who/what role(s) is this course targeted at?	How is this course delivered? (e.g. face to face, online etc.)
Newly appointed DSL training. This a statutory training course for all new DSL in schools and colleges to train them on their safeguarding roles and responsibilities, which includes identifying and responding to exploitation..	Newly appointed DSL training in schools and colleges	Face-to-face
DSL and safeguarding governor termly update. This is a termly briefing to DSL's and safeguarding governors to provide updates. Exploitation is a regular agenda item. All DSLs should attend one update per year. AS CSE Leads have to be a trained DSL they receive this information too.	DSLs and safeguarding governors	Online
Raising Awareness of Child Protection and Safeguarding training – should be completed by the children's workforce every three years. This is statutory training. Most of our schools tend to book training annually based on their SLA free session entitlement, as there is an acknowledgment that we update our training every summer (not all schools access every year however) CSE, CCE addressed and covered within this training. Signs, indicators, local context and priority is emphasised throughout, both in terms of curriculum expectation and culture of safeguarding.	All staff in education settings/governors.	Both
Managing Sexual Violence and Harassment. To train DSLs, senior leaders and governors in managing reports and incidents of sexual violence and harassment between children.	DSLs, senior leaders and governors	Face-to-face
Statutory DSL refresher training every two years. To provide statutory one day training every two years to DSLs. Bi-annual update of content with ongoing reference to exploitation.	DSLs	Face-to-face
Raising Awareness of Prevent - Target audience all staff in education settings. Exploitation is referenced as a parallel to grooming/exploitation in terms of vulnerability. Statutory expectation staff attend once, no requirement to attend an update.	All staff in education settings/governors.	Both
Raising Awareness of Sexual Violence & Sexual Harassment. Coercion and threats within SV&SH are included as indicators of potential entrapment into exploitation. Training includes grooming through SV&SH.	All staff in education settings/governors.	Both
Safeguarding governor training. Statutory training to train all those in education governance on their responsibilities.	Governors/Trustees	Face to face

## Awareness Campaigns

101. In March 2023, as part of the national CSE Awareness Week, over 60 practitioners from Telford & Wrekin Council, NHS, Police and local schools and colleges participated in a conference to raise awareness of CSE with a particular emphasis on highlighting how the Council’s CATE team, the West Mercia Police CE team, education settings and NHS work together to safeguard those at risk of CSE and victims. The conference had a particular focus on case studies. As well as statutory partners, representatives from the Holly Project shared case studies from their work illustrating how they support victims of CSE, including those adults who were victims of exploitation as children/young people.
102. Analysis of CSE contacts into Family Connect (see Part One of this report) has shown that there are, annually, only a small number of contacts from members of the public and anonymous contacts. The online form for contacts to Family Connect has been revised in line with Inquiry Recommendation 21 which states that the Council should refresh its system for reporting of concerns.
103. To raise awareness with members of the public to contact Family Connect if they have concerns about CSE or call 999 where appropriate, a CSE awareness campaign will be launched by the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board this summer. This will promote the signs of CSE and how these should be reported. The content of the campaign is being developed with independent lived experience consultees and through engagement with parents and carers to ensure the messages are age-appropriate and have impact. Further details of this campaign will be reported to the Joint CSE Review Group and in the next annual report.

**Recommendation 2.7: Details of PCC funded resources and initiatives and Recommendation 40. PCC to commit to continued funding of CSE initiatives: Taxi Marshall scheme and Street Pastors.**

104. West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner (“WMPCC”) has, over the past three years, directly funded a range of initiatives and projects to support victims and survivors of CSE in Telford and Wrekin and the wider West Mercia area.

Table 7: West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner CSE Investment

Organisation & Project	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
West Mercia Rape and Sexual Assault Centre “the Branch Project”: to provide education, intervention and support to children and young people (CYP) who are at risk of or have been a victim of CSE in Worcestershire, Shropshire, and Herefordshire.	£305,735	£305,735	£305,735
Child Independent Sexual Violence Adviser Service (ChISVA) - to provide support to any child aged 5-10 who has experienced sexual abuse regardless of whether there is an ongoing Criminal Justice Process or not. In addition, to conduct introductory	£38,647	-	-



Organisation & Project	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
sessions for 4 year olds to familiarise them with the ISVA, with a view to their 1-to-1 support commencing when they turn 5.			
Paediatric SARC to the West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service (SARC) (renamed NHS England Sexual Assault and Referral Service (SARS) which is a region-wide service providing expert care for children and young people who have disclosed sexual assault, or who may have been subject to sexual abuse. Clients are seen by an experienced paediatrician with specialist training in forensic examination and are supported by a crisis worker.	£118,277	£129,169	£155,161
AXIS To fund 1 x additional Counsellor to reduce the waiting list @ 4 days per week each for the whole year, plus counselling support officer to support them @ 1 day per week.	-	-	£147,466
For a consultant to undertake a RIBA Stage 2 Design Report into the development of the site to provide a new build SARC Facility with additional user requirements.	-	-	£29,322
<b>Total investment</b>	<b>£434,904</b>	<b>£460,896</b>	<b>£608,361</b>

105. In addition to the direct funding of CSE initiatives and projects by the WMPCC, for the past four years, the WMPCC has made available funding against which the Telford & Wrekin Community Safety Partnership has bid. The Community Safety Partnership brings together representatives from the Council, NHS, Police, Probation, Youth Justice to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. Through this bidding process, WMPCC funding has been secured to support two key schemes focussed on the night-time economy to protect the welfare of adults as they leave licensed premises. These are:

- Taxi Marshalls (£16,000 annual funding) - an essential part of keeping people safe within the night-time economy, especially when leaving the area and looking for taxis. The Taxi Marshalls play a vital role in supporting the Street Pastors in the early intervention of potential incidents. The Taxi Marshalls also support our local approach in managing touting & 'plying for hire'. Main Activities include:
  - Controlling, supervising & segregation of passengers & vehicles.
  - Effective dispersal of night time economy users
  - Prevention of disorder
  - Ensuring a safety of vulnerable and lone adults
  - Assisting the taxi trade to ensure lawful use of their vehicles
  - Promotes good partnership working and best use of resources.
- Street Pastors (£7,190 annual funding) - volunteers who work with the police to help keep those enjoying a night out safe, whether that be

providing water, a pair of flip flops or even a chat and making sure people can get home safe.

106. At its March 2023 meeting, the Telford & Wrekin Community Safety Partnership committed to fund both these projects whilst the PCC continued to make funds available against which the Partnership can bid.

**Recommendation 2.9: *Updates as to work undertaken to improve relevant services to children within the health and education sectors***

107. The primary focus of both health and the education sector has been to deliver those IITCSE recommendations that they have the lead responsibility for.

Education

108. Recommendation 32: *All schools and colleges to review and refresh training around CSE.* An audit is currently underway of schools and colleges to assess completion of this recommendation. CSE awareness for staff, parents and children to be delivered in September/October. Curriculum audit complete.
109. Recommendation 33: *All secondary Schools and colleges to appoint a CSE Lead.* All appropriate schools and colleges have appointed a CSE Lead. The next work meets monthly and has led the development of processes to collate and share case information to inform the CSE profile set out Part One of this report. Nursery, infant, junior and primary schools receive a termly exploitation update
110. Recommendation 34: *Schools to review CPOMS policy and systems for information sharing.* All schools have appropriate policies that cover their use of CPOMS.
111. Recommendation 35: *Schools and Colleges to carry out an annual review of site security.* All schools and colleges have completed this review and analysis of the findings is currently underway and will be completed by the end of July 2023. Findings will be reported to the Strategic Implementation Group and fed back to all schools and colleges for action.

Health

112. Recommendation 42: *Quality of CSE training delivered to NHS providers and practitioners.* There has been changes to how training is devised and implemented and this includes being more creative with training opportunities, encouraging curiosity, practical exercises, tests and a method of assurance and 7-point briefings which staff read and embedded in practice. The training is reviewed for content and format and linked through ESR, Safeguarding passport, supervision and items for meetings with six monthly evaluations and monitoring of referrals.
113. A training platform will shortly be implemented for all staff to access and will give staff a variety of different training opportunities. This includes CSE training

and this training has been reviewed with the lived experience consultees with recommendations for some alterations to ensure it has the most appropriate and relevant training information. Once this has been agreed it will be available on the platform for staff to access.

114. Recommendation 43: *Improvements to trauma-related mental health services for victims and survivors of CSE in Telford & Wrekin.* Currently children, young people and adults can access mental health services via MPFT and Axis, both of which have a trauma informed approach. There is further scoping in place to identify what other commissioned services are available for children and young people including identifying gaps which will be discussed with NHS England for their support and input.
115. Recommendation 46: *GPs in Telford & Wrekin to be consulted about CSE data collection.* A self-assessment has been completed by GP surgeries across Telford and Wrekin and this highlighted some really positive work in relation to identifying, recognising and training around CSE. There is still some further work needed including how surgeries can share their good practice amongst each other and some work has already been commenced with discussions at regular GP forums. The audit is due to be re-evaluated in early 2024.
116. Scoping is in place to establish a link between the CATE team and GPs to ensure any cases discussed in their exploitation meeting are shared with the so an alert can be placed on their GP record. A standard operating system will be devised for guidance and monitoring of this will part of the self-assessment audit.
117. Recommendation 47: *GPs to implement review system for children moving to a different practice.* There is currently no standardised practice for alerting a new practice if a child or young person transfers their care and are at risk of CSE. This issue has been shared with NHS England as well as the regional GP forum who have given support for this issue to be presented to the national safeguarding GP forum. The aim is to ensure there is a coding system in place to alert the new practice so they can offer the appropriate support from registration.
118. This has also been raised with NHS Digital and work is underway to ascertain how this may be part of the Child Protection-Information Sharing phases, and links are also being made to understand if this could link with the updated summary care record.

**Recommendation 2.10 A summary of any complaints received by any of the member authorities regarding the handling of a CSE matter. Each member organisation should publish a copy of the report on its website.**

Telford & Wrekin Council

119. A search has been undertaken over the past three financial years to identify complaints relevant to this recommendation as set out in table 8:

Table 8: Number of complaints with a CSE matter (Telford & Wrekin Council)

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of complaints	2	1	1

120. The outcome of each of these complaints are set out in table 9.

Table 9: Outcome of CSE complaints (Telford & Wrekin Council)

Date & reference	Complaint	Outcome
July 2020- TWC-55699	Complainant raised by a step-parent who had referred a concern regarding child for whom they do not have parental responsibility. Due to the nature of the communication between them and the child, they could not satisfy themselves that the child was not being trafficked as part of a conspiracy.  Complaint related to interaction with Council 5 years previously.	Not upheld.
September 2021- TWC-60274	Complaint about the actions taken by Family Connect following allegations made by young person who had previously received support from CATE which resulted in the complainant being arrested.	Outcome: this was a two-part complaint, how Family Connect responded to the allegations was not upheld. The unrelated second part of the complaint was partly upheld.
September 2021- TWC-59921	That the child's social worker was focused on child exploitation when there has been no evidence of that happening'.	Not upheld.
June 2022- TWC-63336	Complainant was a child at the time their family was involved with Children's Services in 2002.  The complainant considers that the Council did not do enough to safeguard them from sexual exploitation, following an incident where a taxi driver asked her to carry out a sexual act..	In progress

## West Mercia Police

121. Following a keyword search of the professional standards system, for CSE, Hydrant and Exploit, 18 complaints were identified. Of these, four related specifically to CSE; two are live and as such outcomes cannot be provided, the number of complaints in each year are set out in table 10.

Table 10: Number of complaints with a CSE matter (West Mercia Police)

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Number of Complaints	0	0	4

Table 11: Outcome of CSE complaints (West Mercia Police)

Reference	Complaint	Outcome
CO/1184/22- Nov 2022- Sch 3-(Telford)	Complainant states dissatisfaction with the service received from West Mercia Police regarding a failure to record / lack of recording of incidents reported to the police by the complainant, in relation to their experiences of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Telford. Complainant believes this could have been prevented if professionals had intervened at an early stage.	Service acceptable
CO/301/23- Mar 2023- Live (Worcestershire)	Complainant states dissatisfaction with the service received from West Mercia Police regarding the police investigation of an incident involving the complainant's child (victim) during their time at a school in Worcestershire.	Complaint live
CO/504/23- May 2023- Live (Worcestershire)	Complainant states dissatisfaction with the service received from West Mercia Police in regard to the actions of a police staff member in the handling of a Victim Right to Reply case involving CSE and the complainant.	Complaint live
CO/563/23- May 2023- Non-Resolved (Shropshire)	Complainant states dissatisfaction with the service received from West Mercia Police regarding the police response to the complainant's report of a missing person (looked after child) at high risk of CSE.	Referred to Safeguarding Advice Team to review both the contact record and complaint and to contact the complainant to discuss.

122. No complaints have been made to NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin about the handling of a matter relating to CSE.

**Recommendation 7. Ring-fencing of CATE Team resource and Recommendation 2.3 Staffing Workloads Telford & Wrekin Council CATE & West Mercia Police CE team**

123. Alongside calling for the Council to commit to the continued existence of the CATE Team within Telford at no less than its current strength in both numbers and budget (adjusted for inflation), for a period of no fewer than five years from the date of publication of the IITCSE report, this recommendation stipulates that the Council should publish information regarding the resourcing and workloads of the CATE Team as part of this report.

124. The current structure of the team is:

- 10 CATE workers (case holder)
- 1 Social worker (case holder)
- 1 Team Leader (case holder)
- 1 Group Manager

125. In March 2023, Telford & Wrekin Council approved a three-year budget strategy which included the commitment required of Recommendation 7.

126. As to creating a benchmark for the current strength and workloads of the CATE team, the baseline has been taken as July 2022 when the IITCSE report was published.

127. In developing a baseline for the CATE team, an assessment of all cases held by the team has been undertaken and not just CSE cases. Processes have been put in place to monitor monthly the caseloads of the CATE workers by the Director: Children's Safeguarding and Family Support.

128. Table 12 sets out the CATE team's caseloads as at July 2022 and for March 2023 as a first date point. This shows that the caseload for the team has reduced over this period.

Table 12: CATE team caseload

Report date	Average Caseload	Max Monthly Cases for a worker	Open involvements	Workers
July 22	8.0	14	96	12
March 23	6.5	11	78	12

## **Recommendation 18: Council to review annually all CSE therapeutic support services**

- 18. Council to review annually all CSE therapeutic support services*
- 18.1 The Council should annually review its CSE therapeutic support offering, to include services it provides directly and services it commissions, to ensure that:*
- 18.2 The offering is sufficiently broad in scope, encompassing mental health support and specialist trauma based support;*
- 18.3 The support is available for victims/survivors as children, when transitioning to adulthood, and ongoing support for victim/survivors in adulthood, including a focus on relationships and parenting;*
- 18.4 Such support is sourced from a range of providers, including national and local third sector groups;*
- 18.5 The support offering as a whole is clearly signposted to CSE victims/survivors and their families; and that*
- 18.6 The allocated budget is sufficient for need.*
- 18.7 The review should be published annually as part of the 'Joint CSE Review Group's' Annual Report.*

### Introduction

129. NHS guidelines recommend a range of therapeutic interventions to support people who have experienced trauma, including child sexual exploitation and for those with specific diagnoses associated with their trauma such as anxiety. These include the guidance for health professionals regarding the treatment and management of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for example <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng116> which recommends trauma focused CBT (a psychotherapy) or EMDR for adults who experienced trauma in their past. Some experienced practitioners are able to use a combined approach – using a range of counselling and therapeutic approaches tailored to the individual need, presentation and engagement.
130. This report was prepared by the officers responsible for mental health commissioning in Telford & Wrekin across health and social care, with contributions from the Clinical and Care Director, Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust. It provides an overview of current therapeutic provision in Telford for adults and children, and planned developments which aim to increase capacity.

### The Local Offer

131. The local offer comprises a range of mental health service and specialist counselling services for those in need of therapeutic interventions following trauma as demonstrated below:

Table 13: Local Provision

Service Name	Provider Type	Service Type	Funded by:	Referral	Referral options	Age Range	Support Provided			Onward signposting
							Face to face	Virtual	Group	
<b>Specialist Therapeutic Support (Trauma Informed Counselling / Psychological Therapies)</b>										
Axis	Charity	Counselling	ICB	Self Third Party	Telephone Email	11 plus	✓	✓	✓	✓
Base25	Charity	Counselling	LA	Self	Telephone Email	18 plus	✓	✓		✓
BeeU (CAMHS, MPFT)	NHS and Charity	General MH - Psychological Assessment and Therapy	Joint	GP	Telephone Letter	0-25 service	✓	✓	✓	✓
CAFS Framework	Private	Psychological Assessment and Therapy	LA / Joint	Private	CATE team via Brokerage	Up to 18	✓			
Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (MPFT)	NHS	Psychological Therapy	ICB	Self	Telephone Email	16 plus	✓	✓	✓	✓
Secondary MH services psychology offer – part of community team offer	NHS	General MH - Psychological Assessment and Therapy	ICB	GP	Telephone Letter	18 plus	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Specialist CSE Support Service</b>										
CATE Team, Children's Social Work	LA Team	Local Authority	LA	Self Third Party	Telephone Email	13 plus	✓			✓
Holly Project	Charity	Emotional and Practical Support	LA	Self Third Party	Telephone Email Online form	18 plus	✓	✓	✓	✓



132. Access to the right therapeutic / psychological support at the right time is of paramount importance, as are the support services which work with people to assist them to develop the confidence to access psychological services. In almost all service areas listed above there are development plans in place to improve capacity and support more people either through Community Mental Health Transformation or through the children's local transformation plan for children's mental health.

### Quality Assurance

133. All commissioned services deliver against a service specification which includes outcome measures and key performance indicators. Quarterly activity data is submitted to the relevant commissioner including information such as: referrals, current case load, waiting list, case closure, onward signposting or referrals, number who disengage with support. Contract reviews are determined within each contract and most often occur on a quarterly basis.
134. Anonymised case studies are requested as part of the quarterly report as these best evidence the impact the service can have on people, and the real changes and outcomes in improved emotional health and wellbeing that it can result in, as well as evidencing the complexity of need that people present with.
135. Feedback from people who have used the services is also regularly requested, as well as to understand how their feedback informs service improvement. For example, the Holly Project consistently provides case studies highlighting the profound impact on people's lives.
136. Base25 have provided this quote as an example of some recent feedback they received after initial contact with someone: *'Thank you for your email, it brought tears to my eyes, I feel you truly understand what I have been through'*.
137. Reported data from Axis indicates good recovery in both anxiety and depression scores for clients. Most clients felt their wellbeing had improved after the intervention. The provider manages safeguarding issues well and ensures all staff are well trained. The ICB reports excellent client feedback.

### Conclusion

138. Locally there are a range of trauma focused support by the NHS, the local authority, charitable and private organisations, and available to young people and adults and more activities are planned to raise awareness across the community of the need to be trauma informed. Specific psychological / counselling assessments and therapies are commissioned, on the whole, by the NHS.
139. Nationally and locally, demand has typically historically exceeded supply for these specialist therapeutic services however recent service improvements and planned developments should result in an improved position locally. The true

impact of these will start to be evident in information supplied to NHS commissioners as part of their contract reviews over the next 6 months, and you would expect this to be complimented by improved service user feedback.

140. The Inquiry report action plan identified five key questions in relation to Recommendation 18 in which the Council should annually review its CSE therapeutic support offering, to include services it provides directly and services it commissions. Based on the information considered as part of this report, the summary responses are below.

Table 14: Summary Responses to Recommendation 18

Recommendation	Children & Adults	Adults
The offering is sufficiently broad in scope, encompassing mental health support and specialist trauma-based support	Yes pending LTP intentions	Yes
The support is available for victims/survivors as children, when transitioning to adulthood, and ongoing support for victim/survivors in adulthood, including a focus on relationships and parenting;	Yes	Yes
Such support is sourced from a range of providers, including national and local third sector groups;	Yes	Yes
The support offering as a whole is clearly signposted to CSE victims/survivors and their families	Yes	Yes
The allocated budget is sufficient for need.	Yes – specialist support via the LA is commissioned on an individual basis. Pending the priorities and actions outlined in the LTP.	Yes for Inquiry support service and other related services. Yes pending full implementation of the developments outlined.

### Recommendations

- a. For a full demand and capacity review to be carried out by the ICB focused on all of its commissioned services in order to assess the impact of the planned developments. This could include the impact on waiting list size and duration for therapeutic support, and feedback from people who have been referred for the service.

- b. The Board may wish to request further information regarding the outcome of the bid focused on the mental health needs of victims of sexual violence to see how this might benefit those who have experienced CSE.

**Recommendation 26.1 The Council should publish annually, as part of the ‘Joint CSE Review Group’s’ Annual Report, a taxi licensing review to include:**

- 26.2 How many complaints it has received about taxi drivers;*  
*26.3 How many of those complaints related to drivers licensed by the Council;*  
*26.4 How many complaints related to sexual behaviour, including use of sexualised language or harassment, and of those, how many related to complaints involving such behaviour towards children; and*  
*26.5 How many complaints resulted in action by the Licensing Team, and what action resulted.*

141. Table 15 sets out the number of complaints that have been received for each of the years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. A total of 168 complaints were received. As context, it is estimated that there are around 900 taxis operating in Telford & Wrekin, of which around a third are licensed by Telford & Wrekin Council with the remainder licensed by other authorities.

Table 15: Taxi Complaints

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total number of complaints	35	65	68
Number of complaints investigated relating to drivers licensed with Telford & Wrekin Council	7	15	15
Number of complaints referred relating to drivers licensed with other local authorities	17	31	37
Number not investigated due to either insufficient information or because the complainant did not want to take any further action.	11	19	16

142. Across the three-years, the 37 complaints about drivers licensed with Telford & Wrekin Council, one was a safeguarding complaint of a sexualised nature involving a child. This case is currently under investigation by the Licensing Team in partnership with the Council’s CATE team and West Mercia Police Child Exploitation team. The driver has been suspended.
143. Under the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Act 2022, there is a duty on a licensing service from 31 May 2022 to refer to the relevant licensing authority and action complaints about taxi drivers in a specified time which relate to safeguarding or road safety matters. This covers relevant information indicating that a person has committed a sexual offence (regardless of whether the person was charged with, prosecuted for or convicted of the offence). All complaints referred to other authorities are followed-up by Telford & Wrekin Council Licensing team for a response on the outcome of the complaint.
144. On conclusion of a complaint, the Council can take the following actions:

- For a new or renewal application, the authority can refuse to grant a licence or put conditions / time limits on a licence.
- Once licensed the council can suspend a licence, issue warnings, retrain drivers and revoke a licence.

145. Table 16 sets out the actions that have been taken in each of the past three financial year.

Table 16: Taxi Licence Action

Action	2020/21	2021- 2022	2022-23
Licence refused: not compliant with taxi policy	2	1	1
Revocation	1		1
Warning: breach of licence conditions	1	5	
Suspension:	4		1
Additional training	1	2	
Annual total	9	8	3

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix A: CSE Review Group Terms of Reference**

#### **Telford & Wrekin Council**

#### **Joint CSE Review Group Terms of Reference**

#### **Terms of Reference**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1. The Independent Inquiry Telford into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Report published July 2022, made 47 recommendations for Telford & Wrekin Council, West Mercia Police, NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICS (referred to as the CCG within the Report) and West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner to implement.

1.2. Recommendation 1 called for the establishment of a Joint CSE Review Group to meet six monthly to:

- Consider data and information gathered – such data to include: the incidence, trends and locations of CSE within the borough; missing persons/truancy data; referral numbers and investigations/complaints; licensing and night-time economy information; and any other data considered relevant;
- Analyse such data and information in order to provide a reliable set of statistics against which the threat/risk and prevalence of CSE can be measured, and any apparent increase or decrease in the number of CSE cases considered;
- Maintain minutes of each meeting, with appropriate action plans attached; and
- Publish a report setting out the results of the analysis and accounting to the public for the action being taken in response.

1.3. Recommendation 2, called for the Joint CSE Review Group to publish an annual CSE Report (the Annual Report). This report should include, at a minimum:

- The output of the statistical analysis carried out in accordance with Recommendation 1;
- Current staffing numbers/caseload ratios within the WMP CE Team and the Council's CATE Team;
- The extent of collaboration and support sought from third sector organisations, including transparency about the level of funding ring-fenced for such support;
- Details of steps taken in relation to CSE training and awareness campaigns;
- Details of PCC funded resources and initiatives relevant to CSE;
- Statistics regarding the number of NRM referrals;
- Updates as to work undertaken to improve relevant services to children within the health and education sectors; and

- A summary of any complaints received by any of the member authorities regarding the handling of a CSE matter. Each member organisation should publish a copy of the report on its website.

1.4. The specific purpose of the Joint CSE Review Group is to discharge these recommendations.

## **2. Membership & Roles**

2.1. Telford & Wrekin Council representatives

- Service Delivery Manager: Policy & Development
- Insight Manager
- Service Delivery Manager: Assessment, Children Protection & Family Support
- Education Safeguarding Coordinator
- Customer Relationship and Quality Assurance Team Leader
- Public Protection Group Manager (Trading Standards, Licensing & Night-Time Economy)

2.2. West Mercia Police representatives

- Head of Analysis and Insight

2.3. NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin representatives

- Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality NHS STW

2.4. Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

- Head of Strategic Safeguarding

2.5. Those named above will be able to send substitutions to attend meetings where they are not able to attend in person although every endeavour should be made to attend.

2.6. The Joint CSE Review Group will also invite attendance from other individuals relevant to their area of expertise. There may also be times when the Group may wish to hear from organisations and groups who have particular skills, knowledge and experience in the field of Child Sexual Exploitation who can offer advice, support and guidance on the Group's programme of work.

2.7. The Group meetings will be supported by the Council's Partnership Team.

## **3. Chair**

3.1. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Group will be elected at the first substantive meeting with their term being four years unless they resign the position at an earlier juncture.

#### **4. Frequency of Meetings**

4.1. The Joint CSE Review Group will meet every six months.

#### **5. Purpose and Function**

5.1. The purpose and function of the Joint CSE Review Group is to discharge the recommendations described in part one of this document.

#### **6. Information Sharing**

6.1. A fundamental purpose of the Joint CSE Review Group is for the identified agencies to share information about CSE incidents that occur within the Borough of Telford & Wrekin and/or incidents that involve residents that may have happened outside of the Borough.

6.2. The legal basis to share this information is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, places duties on the Police, Council, health services and education settings to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. In line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, a data sharing protocol to support this goal is in place through the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children's Board.

#### **7. Governance**

7.1. As stated in paragraph 6.1, a fundamental purpose of the Joint CSE Review Group is for the identified agencies to share information about CSE incidents that occur within the Borough of Telford & Wrekin and/or incidents that involve residents that may have happened outside of the Borough. Beyond published reports, all information shared and discussed within the Group shall remain strictly confidential and used only for the purposes of this Group.

7.2. It is intended that agendas and reports will be shared with attendees at least 3 working days in advance of each meeting.

7.3. Minutes of each meeting will be taken and circulated within 5 working days of a meeting. Amendments will be required within 10 working days with draft minutes published within six weeks ready to be approved at the next formal meeting of the Group.

7.4. It is intended that the Joint CSE Review Group will work collaboratively and reach agreement on matters for consideration. Where a decision requires cross-organisational agreement and a consensus cannot be reached, matters will be decided by way of a vote. For that purpose, each organisation will have one vote each. The Chair will be responsible for administering, and recording the

outcome, of the vote. When called upon to do so, each member can choose to vote either in favour of a proposal, against a proposal or can abstain. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair will have a casting vote.

7.5. Where an organisation has concerns that the outcome of a vote may result in harm to children or young people, they can utilise the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership escalation procedure to seek resolution.

7.6. The Joint CSE Review Group will report to the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board each time it has met with the principle purpose of providing an update on its work to map and understand the risk and prevalence of CSE in the Borough.

7.7. The Annual Report produced by the CSE Review Group will be presented to Telford & Wrekin Council, West Mercia Police, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICS and West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner. It is intended that the Report will be presented to the relevant governing body to endorse the report and for the organisation to adopt its recommendations.

## 8. Review

8.1. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed no later than [12] months after the first meeting of the Joint CSE Review Group and then every 12 months thereafter. This does not prevent an earlier review should this be necessary.

### Appendix B CSE Review Group minutes of February 2023 meeting.

#### **MINUTES OF THE JOINT CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION REVIEW GROUP: 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2023; 3PM – 4:30PM**

Item	Action
<p>1. <b>Welcome, Apologies, Introductions</b>  <b>Attendees:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JP - Service Delivery Manager: Policy &amp; Development, Telford &amp; Wrekin Council</li> <li>• HP - Insight Manager, Telford &amp; Wrekin Council</li> <li>• TK - Service Delivery Manager: Assessment, Children Protection &amp; Family Support, Telford &amp; Wrekin Council</li> <li>• STW - Education Safeguarding Coordinator, Telford &amp; Wrekin Council</li> <li>• AH - Group Manager: Public Protection, Telford &amp; Wrekin Council</li> <li>• KH - Senior Formal Complaint Investigator, Telford &amp; Wrekin Council</li> <li>• JW - Head of Analysis and Insight West Mercia Police</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VW - Shropshire, Telford &amp; Wrekin Integrated Care Board</li> <li>• TB - Primary Care Partnership Manager, Shropshire, Telford &amp; Wrekin Integrated Care Board</li> <li>• KG – Assistant Partnership Development Officer, Telford &amp; Wrekin Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC - Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>• RZ - Team Leader: Customer Relationship and Quality Assurance Team (TB acting as substitute)</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Terms of Reference (Appendix 1)</b></p> <p>JP introduced the Terms of Reference (ToRs). The joint Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Review Group has been established following Recommendation One of the Independent Inquiry into Telford Child Sexual Exploitation. This states that the Group will meet six monthly and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider data and information gathered – such data to include: the incidence, trends and locations of CSE within the borough; missing persons/truancy data; referral numbers and investigations/complaints; licensing and night-time economy information; and any other data considered relevant;</li> <li>• Analyse such data and information in order to provide a reliable set of statistics against which the threat/risk and prevalence of CSE can be measured, and any apparent increase or decrease in the number of CSE cases considered;</li> <li>• Maintain minutes of each meeting, with appropriate action plans attached; and</li> <li>• Publish a report setting out the results of the analysis and accounting to the public for the action being taken in response.</li> </ul> <p>Recommendation 2 of the CSE inquiry has called for the Joint CSE Review Group to publish an annual CSE Report (the Annual Report). This report should include, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The output of the statistical analysis carried out in accordance with Recommendation 1;</li> <li>• Current staffing numbers/caseload ratios within the WMP Child Exploitation (CE) Team and the Council’s Children Abused through Exploitation (CATE) Team;</li> <li>• The extent of collaboration and support sought from third sector organisations, including</li> </ul>	

	<p>transparency about the level of funding ring-fenced for such support;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of steps taken in relation to CSE training and awareness campaigns;</li> <li>• Details of PCC funded resources and initiatives relevant to CSE;</li> <li>• Statistics regarding the number of NRM referrals;</li> <li>• Updates as to work undertaken to improve relevant services to children within the health and education sectors; and</li> <li>• A summary of any complaints received by any of the member authorities regarding the handling of a CSE matter. Each member organisation should publish a copy of the report on its website.</li> </ul> <p>The Group agreed the terms of reference in principle but with the job titles of members to be part of the document. AH to be added to the membership of the Group.</p> <p>There was a discussion around each member having a substitution. It was agreed for SC to be on the ToR and for VW to be the substitution. TB is due to leave his post shortly and another representative will be attending the next meeting. JW to pick up representation from the West Mercia Police (WMP) local policing team.</p> <p>It was agreed for the chair of the group to be JP. There was a discussion around the vice chair position and for anyone who is interested to contact JP.</p>	<p>ToR to be updated with job titles and names removed.</p> <p>AH job title to be added. Once amended KG to circulate to members.</p> <p>Members to confirm substitutions.</p> <p>Any member interested in being a vice chair to contact JP.</p>
3.	<p><b>Multi-agency CSE Profile</b></p> <p>HP and JW updated the meeting on work underway to develop a profile of CSE in Telford and Wrekin using Telford &amp; Wrekin Council (TWC), WMP and secondary school data.</p> <p>JW shared with the first iteration of the CSE data profile developed by WMP. This painted a picture of the number of crimes associated/marked as CSE and the outcomes of associated criminal investigations. The analysis set out a clear methodology, including definitions.</p> <p>STW questioned whether a contact into the Police that had been received from a third party agency, could the analysis show which agency. JW highlighted that the IMO may not include the agency as it will just be about the victim.</p>	<p>JW to share full report with members in 7 days.</p>

	<p>TK raised the issue of CSE including online exploitation and that it was important to recognise that online sexual exploitation does on occasion lead to face to face contact. JW confirmed she will be working with the Organised Crime Unit and the CE team to explore online CSE.</p> <p>JW will share the full report to members in a week.</p> <p>HP shared the Council's existing CSE dashboard built on data from Family Connect (multi agency safeguarding hub), children social care and the CATE team. The dashboard presents contacts into Family Connect that have a risk indicator of CSE and the organisation which has made the contact. It also included the risk threshold of all contacts following initial assessment: universal, vulnerable, complex and acute. The dashboard goes on to track the outcome of each of these initial contacts, including those that are referred to the CATE team and/or to statutory safeguarding. For those cases that are referred to CATE, the dashboard includes an assessment of the level of risk as it changes following intervention and support from the CATE service and/or statutory safeguarding as necessary.</p> <p>In terms of next steps, analysts from the WMP and TWC will continue to meet to finalise the cohort analysis in preparation for the publication of the Review Group annual report in July (see item 4)</p>	<p>WMP &amp; TWC Analysts to meet to finalise cohort analysis</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Annual Report Action Plan (Appendix Two)</b></p> <p>JP shared the annual report action plan which sets out who will provide the relevant data/content and by when. This will include information from WMP, TWC Insight Team. TWC education services working with schools and the TWC Licensing service. As well as mapping and analysing trends in CSE and the risk of CSE, the report will include information on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absence and truancy from school</li> <li>• Missing episodes.</li> <li>• The NRM section will be completed by the police.</li> <li>• The perpetrators will be completed by the police.</li> <li>• Training and awareness</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service complaints relating to how CSE has been handled by the WMP, TWC, NHS and schools.</li> </ul> <p>In terms of timeline for the Report and to generate robust trend data, the Report will focus on the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. Initial data up to the end of December 2022 has been requested with the final three months data to be provided to JP by the end of April 2023.</p> <p>JP highlighted that recommendation 46 has been omitted from the action plan but will be added. This recommendation was for a green flag to be added onto GP records to show a CSE marker. TB confirmed this is working progress due to regional and national systems. It will show that GPs are aware of CSE and training and that such data from GPs is accessible as it is an important source of information.</p> <p>TK shared that missing needs to be updated to include missing from home/care and that CATE is the team not the pathway. The pathway is the CE pathway.</p> <p>It was agreed for the action plan and the update ToR to be circulated.</p>	<p>VW and JW to share complaints contact with JP.</p> <p>Recommendation 46 to be added to the action plan. JP</p> <p>Action plan and the update ToR to be circulated. JP/KG</p>
5.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>No AOB were discussed.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>The members will be kept informed of developments via email.</p> <p>Once the majority of the data background work has been completed there will be an interim informal meeting as necessary added to the diary by JP.</p>	<p>JP to add informal meeting to the diary once data background work has been completed.</p>