



## PAN DORSET INTER-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

### CHAPTER 3

#### 3.4 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

**Procedures Effective from: 2006**

**Review Date: June 2011**

*If you have any comments or queries about the pan-Dorset procedures please contact your agency representative on the Pan Dorset Policy and Procedures Group or notify the LSCB using the following email addresses:*

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## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Introduction and Definition.

- 1.1 Children and young people involved in prostitution and other forms of commercial exploitation should be treated primarily as the victims of abuse and their needs require careful assessment. They are likely to be in need of welfare services, and in many cases, protection under the Children Act 1989. Similarly, Safeguarding Children Involved in Prostitution (DoH 2000) gives additional guidance as to the inter – agency approach to be taken and aims to both safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and to encourage the investigation and prosecution of criminal activities by those who coerce children and into and abuse them through prostitution.
- 1.2 This protocol has been re-written in line the with the revised Working Together To Safeguard Children 2006 and is linked to Guidance for Professionals Working With Sexually Active Young People under the Age of 18 in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole 2007) and Guidance for Professionals Working with Sexually Active Young People Under the Age of 18 In Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset. ( is there enough reference to this in the Appendix)
- 1.3 For the purpose of this protocol the sexual exploitation of children and young people can be defined as:

- Prostitution

A female or male under the age of 18 is being abused through prostitution when sexual activity, whether agreed or coerced, is provided in exchange for some form of payment or reward.

'Payment or reward' may be in the form of money, drink, drugs, food, shelter or protection (*this list is not exhaustive*).

- The making of indecent images; also known as pornography. This may include visual and audio images or photographs, videotapes, the Internet and audiotapes.
- 1.4 It is important to recognise that those who use or abuse children through prostitution often physically, sexually and emotionally abuse them and may effectively imprison them. It should also be recognised that not all sexual activity by children and young people under the age of 16 years is considered as coercive or exploitative. Most young people will have an interest in sex and sexual relationships.
- 1.5 Although in recent years there has been an increase in awareness and information on the extent and nature of the problem, child sexual exploitation remains largely a hidden problem. It is increasingly recognised for the vast majority of children and young people who enter prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation that:
- they do not enter into it willingly; their involvement is indicative of coercion or desperation rather than choice,
  - they are being exploited by other persons even though they may think they are exercising free choice, and
  - they are victims of abuse.

- 1.6 Scant regard is paid towards male prostitution, and does not, in general raise the same issues regarding drug use or coercion and so rarely comes to the attention of agencies. It is important that all agencies should not focus solely on female prostitution and be mindful that young males can also be coerced or willingly, for a variety of reasons become involved in prostitution.
- 1.7 Additionally, attention should also be drawn to unaccompanied and asylum seeking children and young people, who are particularly vulnerable to becoming involved or coerced into prostitution.
- 1.8 All children and young people have a right to be protected from harm. Children and young people who might be involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, prostitution and pornography, should be identified by professionals as "children in need", who may be suffering, or may be likely to suffer significant harm. Professionals and services that come into contact with these children and young people have a responsibility to safeguard and promote their well-being, and to co-operate effectively to prevent children becoming involved in, and to divert children out of, sexual exploitation.
- 1.9 It is recognised that a multi-agency approach is essential in dealing with the complex and diverse issues that constitute child sexual exploitation. The Police and Children's Services are the lead agencies dealing with sexually exploited children and young people and the adults who abuse them. Within the Police Service the Sex Offender Investigation Unit are charged with the lead responsibility for child sexual exploitation.

### **Purpose and Aims**

- 2.1 *'Working Together to Safeguard Children'* (HM Government 2006) sets out the framework for all agencies and professionals in responding to the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children.
- 2.2 *'Safeguarding Children involved in Prostitution – Supplementary Guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children'* (DoH 2000) reinforces and expands the former, by setting out guidance which aims to enable agencies and professionals to work collaboratively to:
  - recognise the problem of child prostitution;
  - treat the child/young person primarily as a victim of abuse;
  - safeguard children and young people and promote their well-being;
  - work together to prevent abuse and provide children and young people with opportunities and strategies to exit from prostitution;
  - investigate and prosecute criminal activities by those who coerce children and young people into and abuse them through prostitution.
- 2.3 *'The National Plan for Safeguarding Children from Commercial Sexual Exploitation'* (DoH 2001), forms part of the Governments' drive to improve safeguards for children, in particular those who are induced or coerced into unlawful sexual activities for the commercial advantage of others.
- 2.4 *A Coordinated Prostitution Strategy; and a Summary of Response to Paying The Price* ( 2006) sets out the many responses of a public consultation and is informing the development of a coordinated prostitution strategy, including children and young people.
- 2.5 This protocol should be read in conjunction with the guidance documents listed above. It is intended to formalise local arrangements between Children's Services, the Police, other statutory agencies and voluntary organisations in Bournemouth,

Dorset and Poole regarding children and young people involved in/at risk of becoming involved in sexual exploitation, and is in accordance with the aims stated above.

2.6 This protocol sets out

In Section 1

- the principles governing work with children and young people involved in or at risk of involvement in prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation;
- guidance relating to recognition of the problem;
- the role and responsibilities of key agencies and the services provided by them;

In Section 2

- procedure and practice guidance for individuals and agencies

2.7 *Guidance For Professionals Working with Sexually Active Young People Under the Age of 18 in Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset ( this document is supplementary to and should be read in conjunction with appendix 6)* has been devised with the understanding that that most young people under the age of 18 will have an interest in sex and sexual relationships; it will assist those working with children and young people to identify where such relationships may be abusive, and may need protection and additional services.

## **SECTION 1**

### **Key Principles**

- 3.1 The well being of individual children/young people is paramount.
- 3.2 Children's Services need to be aware of
  - children and young people up to the age of 18 and
  - young people up to the age of 21 who were looked after for whom the local authority has statutory responsibility
  - who are at risk of/are being sexually exploited and for whom there may be child in need and/or child protection issues
- 3.3 Cultural tradition and religious beliefs alone neither explain nor condone acts of commission or omission which places a young person at risk of significant harm through prostitution. Issues relating to ethnicity will become apparent when children and young people are identified as being at risk of being involved in prostitution, and consideration should be given to the use of interpreter services.
- 3.4 Where possible, work will occur in partnership with the parent(s) as well as the child/young person.
- 3.5 Agencies and services will work together to safeguard the child/ young person involved and promote their welfare.
- 3.6 The priority for the police will be to investigate and prosecute those who involve or coerce a child/young person in sexual exploitation.
- 3.7 In the case of prostitution children/young people will be treated as victims of abuse. However, in exceptional cases the police may use the criminal justice system, where there is a refusal to respond and prostitution continues. This route would normally be taken only when a multi-agency meeting concludes that this is necessary, and should include those who are able to represent the child/young person's views where possible e.g. advocacy worker/project worker.
- 3.8 The response to any child/young person who is being sexually exploited will be on a non-discriminatory basis.
- 3.9 Confidentiality will be respected, but information will be shared between agencies on a need to know basis in order to ensure the child/young person is protected. (*refer appendix 1*)
- 3.10 Agencies and services should seek to work together to prevent abuse and provide children and young people with opportunities and strategies to exit from prostitution.

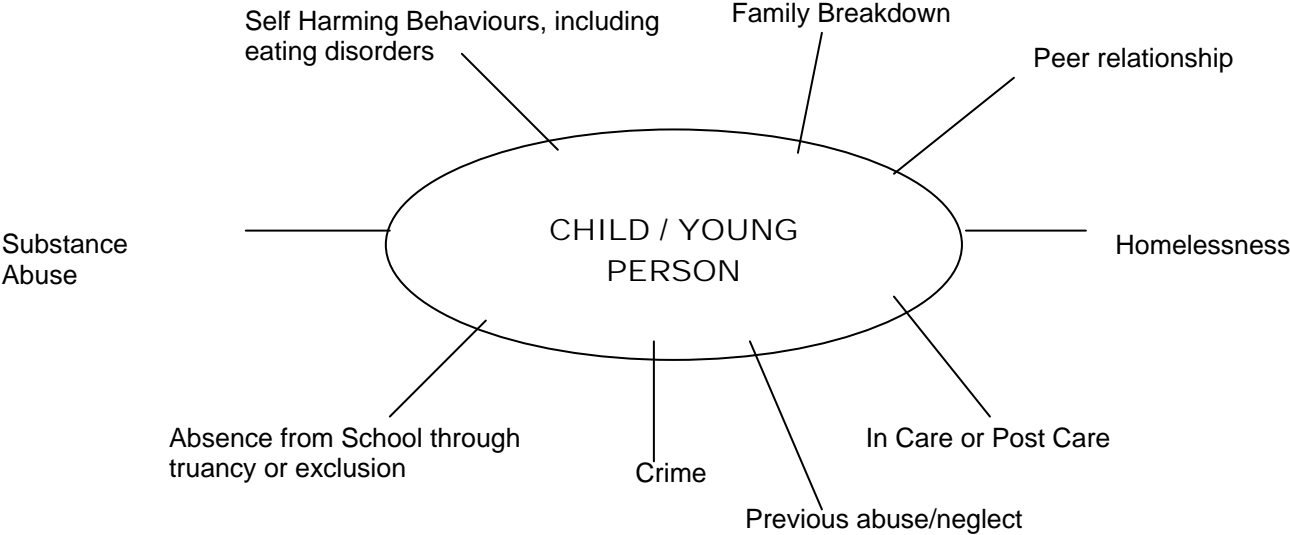
**Recognition and early warning signs**

4.1 All agencies are responsible for ensuring that their staff are able to recognise situations where a child/young person might be involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in sexual exploitation

**Children and Young People**

4.2 Agencies should regard prostitution and involvement in the production of indecent images of children or similar activities, as one aspect of the child/young person’s behaviour, which brings them to the attention of agencies and indicates the need for intervention.

4.3 Victims are often, but not always, part of a wider group of disaffected children/ young people for whom sexual exploitation is one route open to them. Vulnerability and low self esteem are factors which sometimes feature in the background of children and young people drawn into prostitution and several factors may contribute and lead to their increased vulnerability.



4.4

4.4 Workers need to be aware of the following possible indicators as part of their general assessment of the needs of a child/young person:

Have they or their friends told someone that they are engaged in prostitution or sexual exploitation?

Have they acquired money, clothes, jewellery or goods that they can't account for or describe as a present?

Has there been a noticeable change in recent behaviour

Have they been missing from home?

Is there a household locally where children / young people are known to frequent or use as a drop-in?

Have they been referring to pornographic material?

Are they losing contact with friends and associating with an older age group?

Have they started to truant from school?

Have they begun relationships with older men or women?

Have there been concerns about sexually transmitted infections?

Have they been physically assaulted or threatened by an adult?

Are they using or obtaining large quantities of contraceptives?

Have they been self-harming?

Is there evidence of teenage pregnancy or regular visits to sexual health services?

Are they referring to/using computer / internet technology inappropriately?

Are they using large amounts of substances (drugs or alcohol)?

Do they have access to large amounts of money or seem to be losing large amounts of money?

Are they suffering / engaging in self harming behaviour, including eating disorders?

**The above list is not exhaustive. However, it might help consideration of possible sexual exploitation.**

4.5 Indicators that adults might be sexual exploiting or seeking to sexually exploit children may include:

Those expressing a sexual or violent interest or attitude towards children/young people

Those who have numbers of children visiting their house regularly and appear to be using it as an open house to drop in to

Those who have or are suspected of having a relationship or series of relationships with children/young people

Those who harbour children/young people who are truanting from school or missing from home or may have taken a child/young person into their home as a lodger/boyfriend or girlfriend

Those who give children/young people treats, money or favours

## **5.0 Role of Agencies**

### **Children's Services**

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Children's Services have a duty to children and young people under the age of 18 years, to promote their health and development. Dorset Police also have responsibilities under the Children Act 1989 to ensure the safety and protection of children and young people in collaboration with other agencies and professionals.

Children's Services Duty and Assessment teams will undertake an assessment of a child or young person's circumstances in liaison with other statutory agencies, and where appropriate voluntary sector agencies. The child or young person will remain paramount in the assessment of risk.

### **Sex Offenders Investigation Unit (Dorset Police)**

The Sex Offenders Investigation Unit manages investigations and prosecutes those who abuse a child and those who coerce or are involved in the prostitution / sexual exploitation of a child.

### **Health Services**

Primary Care Foundation Trusts across Dorset, and Dorset Healthcare Foundation Trust (Are these titles sufficient?) provide primary care services, contraception services and sexual health advice.

Bournemouth and Poole Primary Care Trust, Contraceptive Health Services provide young person centred Youth Advisory Drop Ins in Bournemouth and Poole.

The Dorset Working Women's Project (DWWP) is funded by Bournemouth and Poole PCT and is a HIV prevention and sexual health project targeting women who sell sex, particularly those who also misuse drugs and/or alcohol.

The Project aims to assist working women to increase control over their health by enabling access to local health and social care resources and providing information upon which they can base healthy choices. The DWWP provides twice weekly Street Outreach providing condoms, lubricants, newsletters, information on safer sex, safer drug use, HIV, reproductive and sexual health, safety at work and attack alarms.

The DWWP provides home visits to indoor sex workers who are offered crisis and on-going one-to-one support, along with the delivery of condoms, lubricants, clean injecting equipment, newsletters, information on safer sex, safer drug use, HIV, reproductive and sexual health and safety at work.

As the project is street based the workers will often be the first to identify possible young people at risk of prostitution. The project works to a policy of contacting the Police and Children's Services when concerns are raised.

Bournemouth and Poole Primary Care Trust Sexual Health Team provide regular training to Children's Services staff and Education Welfare staff on Sex and Relationships and Young People. Included in the training package is a presentation from Dorset Working Women's Project on their work and risk factors for young people who might engage in prostitution.

Bournemouth Teenage Pregnancy Strategy operates a condom distribution service, free and confidential to young people under 18, called the C-Card Scheme. This

operates from various young people friendly services across Bournemouth and Poole, such as Connexions and Youth Services.

### **Education**

Teachers and those working with children and young people in school have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Whenever staff in schools have concerns about a child or young person, they have a duty to report these concerns to Children's Services and/or the Police, via the designated teacher with child protection responsibilities within each school.

The Education Welfare Service (EWS) or Education Social Work Service (ESWS) is a social work service to children/young people of school age and their families. It carried out the Local Authority's duty to investigate absence. Any child/young person who is missing school and at risk of possible or actual sexual exploitation should be discussed with the EWS/ESWS. Each school has a link Education Welfare Officer/Education Social Worker linked to it.

Bournemouth Community Care provide Sex and Relationship education, and operate a C-Card Scheme

### **Criminal Justice Action**

- 6.1 Sections 47 to 51 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 deal with the exploitation of children, whether through prostitution or pornography. The Act creates a number of offences that apply to both types of exploitation.
- 6.2 Dorset Police will treat children involved in prostitution and in the production of indecent images primarily as victims of abuse and their needs will be carefully assessed.
- 6.3 Information and/or comments should be passed in the first instance to the relevant Dorset Police Child Protection Investigation Unit. An officer will be allocated to manage the investigation who will in turn consult with the Dorset Police Sex Offender Investigation Unit who will deal with any issues involving the 'suspect offender'.
- 6.4 Irrespective of the nature or source of the concern, once the Police receive a referral / information, a careful assessment of need and risk will be undertaken in consultation with other agencies as appropriate and then steps will be taken to identify adult coercers. The priority for criminal justice action must be to investigate and prosecute those who abuse a child and those who coerce or are involved in the prostitution / sexual exploitation of a child.
- 6.5 The concerns identified will vary in their significance and seriousness. The concerns may not warrant or enable significant intervention, but may indicate other forms of abuse. However, it is acknowledged that children being sexually exploited are involved in high risk activities and will therefore be in need of support services and in some cases protection under the Children Act 1989.
- 6.6 All agencies involved with the child/young person where the child/young person has been involved in prostitution should be meticulous in their record keeping and document carefully any information which could be used to assist the bringing of charges against those exploiting a child/young person.

### **Voluntary and persistent return to prostitution**

- 6.7 The vast majority of children do not freely and willingly become involved in prostitution. However, there may be rare cases where a boy/girl under 18 freely chooses to continue to solicit, loiter or importune in a public place for the purpose of prostitution and knowingly and willingly breaks the law. In such cases, the Police should only start to consider whether criminal justice action is required following a strategy meeting when all diversion work has failed over a period of time and a judgement is made that it will not prove effective in the foreseeable future.
- 6.8 The decision on whether to initiate criminal justice action is for the Police and at a later stage the Crown Prosecution Service. However, in the context of this inter-agency approach unilateral action by the Police would not be appropriate. If the Police Officers think that it would be appropriate to consider criminal justice options then an inter-agency meeting should take place. Particular attention should be paid to the following factors: -
- the age and vulnerability of the child;
  - the needs of the child;
  - any drug misuse by the child;
  - that the return is genuinely voluntary and that there is no evidence of physical, mental or emotional coercion;
  - that resources to meet the young persons assessed need have been offered i.e. housing, medical care, rehabilitation, relocation;

- that the child understands that criminal proceedings may follow and the effect these could have in later life.

6.9 Support Services will continue to be offered to children and young people throughout the time they are involved with the criminal justice process. The Youth Offending Team will be involved at the reprimand stage and throughout to the final warning stage and any subsequent court process.

## SECTION 2

### Responding to concerns

- 7.1 Any concern about the sexual exploitation of a child /young person (including those aged 16 and 17) should be discussed with Children's Services. This is so that Children's Services can initiate the required response to help the child, in partnership with the agency raising the concern and other key agencies with an interest. This should always involve contacting the police where there is an alleged or suspected offence, in order to share information and facilitate any criminal investigation.
- 7.2 Any initial referral should be made to Children's Services in the geographical area where the young person is staying and/or where there is thought to be a risk. When a young person lives in one Children's Services area but regularly or occasionally visits another Children's Services area where there is thought to be risk to that young person, Children's Services in both areas will need to collaborate.
- 7.3 The police force for the areas where an offence may have been committed would normally be responsible for investigating such offences.
- 7.4 The initial response to the referral will include a determination of need and risk.
- 7.5 The age of consent is 16 years for males and females. Those under 16 years are not legally able to give consent to sexual activity and any concerns about involvement in prostitution and/or pornography within this age group will require an initial assessment and a decision about whether to initiate section 47 enquiries. For 16/17 year olds involved, or suspected of being involved in prostitution assessment is necessary to determine the nature of the 'consent' and to ascertain if coercion and/or exploitation is a factor. (It is illegal for anyone to pay for the sexual services of 16/17 year olds)
- 7.6 A child under the age of 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sexual activity. Any offence under the Sexual offences Act 2003 involving a child under 13 is very serious and should be taken to indicate a risk of significant harm to the child and, should always be discussed with a nominated child protection lead in Children's Services and a strategy discussion will be held.

Working Together To Safeguard Children (2006), Chapter 5 para 5:27 sets out the considerations that should be taken into account when assessing whether a child may be at risk of significant harm, and therefore the need to hold a strategy discussion in order to share information:

- The age of the child – sexual activity at a young age is a very strong indicator that there are risks to the welfare of the child (whether boy or girl) and, possibly, others
- The level of maturity and understanding of the child
- What is known about the child's living circumstances or background
- Age imbalance – in particular where there is a significant age difference
- Overt aggression or power imbalance
- Coercion or bribery
- Familial child sex offences
- Behaviour of the child – i.e. withdrawn, anxious

- The misuse of substances as a disinhibitor
- Whether the child's own behaviour, because of the misuse of substances, places him or her at risk of harm so that he or she is unable to make an informed choice about activity
- Whether any attempts to secure secrecy have been made by the sexual partner, beyond what would be considered usual in a teenage relationship
- Whether the child denies, minimises or accepts concerns
- Whether the methods used are consistent with grooming; and
- Whether the sexual partner/s is known by one of the agencies.

7.7 Unsubstantiated concerns that a child/young person may be being sexually exploited should be treated seriously but with sensitivity, recognising that mishandled intervention may have a negative impact on the outcome for the child/young person and may alienate them further into exploitative circumstances.

7.8 In the event that there are concerns, and information is limited about the child/young person, there will remain a requirement for Children's Services and Police to be informed of the concerns and a decision taken about how further information might be sought and by whom.

The agreed plan could be for the principal worker in contact with the child/young person to establish more about their concerns and needs.

Progress of the initial response would be monitored by Children's Services with multi-agency meetings to plan the continuing intervention.

7.9 Where it becomes evident, that there is sexual exploitation which constitutes or may constitute an offence, Children's Services and the Police must be notified at the earliest opportunity.

7.10 Whenever there is thought to be immediate danger to the child/ young person, an urgent referral to the Police (*emergency service*) should be made. This will include those who are aged 16/17 years as well as younger children.

### **The enquiry process and immediate protection issues**

7.11 Whenever concerns about a child's/young person/s involvement in prostitution/sexual exploitation are referred, Children's Services should decide on its course of action within 24 hours. This would normally follow discussion with any referring professional service and other professionals and services as necessary, and the police, would be notified at the earliest opportunity where a criminal offence may have been committed against a child/young person.

7.12 Referrals may lead to:

- no further action;
- directly to the provision of services or other help - including from other agencies following an initial assessment;
- the initiation of section 47 enquiries. (Children Act 1989) and/or
- a core assessment

7.13 A multi-agency initial assessment, led by Children's Services, using the framework set out in the "*Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (DoH 2000)*" should address the following:

- what are the needs of the child?
- are the parents able to respond appropriately to the child's needs? Is the child adequately safeguarded from significant harm and are the parents able to promote the child's health and development?
- is action required to safeguard and promote the child's well being?
- Is the harm attributable to the care being given or not given?

In the course of the assessment Social Services should ask:

- is this a child in need?
- is there reasonable cause to suspect that this child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm?

- 7.14 When there are no substantiated concerns that the child/young person may be suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm, a further assessment (*core assessment*) may be required to establish whether services would be helpful and, if so, what kind of help is most likely to bring about the best outcomes for the child/young person.
- 7.15 Following this assessment and/or at any time in the course of assessment, when there are wider issues to consider, an inter-disciplinary planning meeting should be held to:
- decide what help is required to meet the child's needs;
  - develop a plan based on the findings of the core assessment;
  - put in place arrangements for the implementation and review of the plan.
- 7.16 Any intervention should result in a multi-agency plan to support the child/young person's withdrawal from prostitution and any exploitative activities where these exist. The involvement of the child/young person in drawing up the plan will be essential.
- 7.17 In planning any response / intervention it is important to take account of the following:
- parents / carers may be aware of or even involved in the activities giving rise to concern;
  - the child / young person may be fearful about / unable to exit from the activity giving rise to concern.
- 7.18 If however at any stage, there is reasonable belief that the child/young person is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, section 47 enquiries will be necessary.
- 7.19 A strategy discussion/meeting should take place to consider whether the criteria for initiating section 47 enquiries are met and if so plan the enquiries.
- 7.20 The outcome of section 47 enquiries may include:
- concerns not being substantiated;
  - ongoing concerns but no real evidence;
  - concerns being substantiated but the child not being judged to be at continuing risk of significant harm;
  - the concerns being substantiated and the child being judged to be at risk of significant harm.
- 7.21 When there is agreement between those agencies/professionals involved that the child/young person can be assisted as being vulnerable and in need of help and services, but any continuing/future risk of exploitation/prostitution is no longer evident, an inter-disciplinary planning meeting should be considered to identify the child's/young person's needs, and develop and implement a plan to meet those needs. This meeting should include the child/young person, their parents/carers, supporter or advocate and all relevant agencies/services.
- 7.22 Where a young person is under 16, and there are concerns about continuing/future risk of significant harm, a child protection conference will normally be convened. A child protection conference should be convened, within 15 working days of the last strategy meeting. Any decision not to convene a child protection conference where the threshold criteria are met should be made in accordance with current procedures.
- 7.23 Where a young person is 16/17, the need for a child protection conference to be convened will be determined in relation to the child/young person's individual circumstances, including an analysis of the level continuing risk of significant harm.

- 7.24 It is important to recognise that just as entry into sexually exploitative activities may involve a complex set of factors, so will leaving it, particularly if there is a strong relationship of dependency with a coercer or abuser, or where there is drug misuse. The exit strategy should be developed with the child and family and should address the needs of the individual child. It could include mentoring to assist a return to education or employment, and help to secure appropriate health services, pursue leisure activities and develop a positive network of friends and relatives to offer continuing support.

### **Immediate action**

- 7.25 It may be apparent at any stage during the assessment/enquiry process that emergency and/or urgent action should be taken to safeguard a child/young person and secure his/her safety because of the risk to the child's life or likelihood of serious harm.
- 7.26 Such action should normally be preceded by an immediate strategy discussion/meeting between the Police Child Protection Investigation Unit, Children's Services and other agencies as appropriate.

### **Factors to be considered in relation to a child/young person who may be exploited/abused through prostitution**

- How and why the child/young person became involved in prostitution.
- The nature of that involvement (frequency, style, activities engaged in, who else is involved).
- The level of coercion that may be influencing their actions, and the likely response of those adults exploiting the child / young person.
- The risks involved and consequences for their well being (including actual and likely physical and emotional effects).
- The feasibility of controlling the child's/young person's movements and the likely effects of attempting to do so.
- The likely impact on a child's/young person's education either by non-attendance concerns and/or educational achievement concerns.
- The identity and role of significant children / adults in their life and their likely response.
- The knowledge/awareness of parents/carers that their child/young person is involved in prostitution and the ability of parents/carers to work with agencies to protect the child/young person.
- The feasibility of promoting the child's young person's participation/involvement with other agencies and identification of those agencies.
- The child's/young person's age, level of maturity and understanding; their ability to assimilate information; their level of cognitive development including their ability to fend and care for themselves and understand the issues of their own protection.
- The young person's perception and interpretation of their involvement of such activities.
- Immediate circumstances of physical safety: where they are staying that night; use of condoms; negotiation of safe sex; drug use and actual physical state.
- Sexual health needs of the child/young person with respect to HIV, other sexually transmitted infections (and contraception other than condoms for females).

## Appendix 1

### Consent and Confidentiality

#### Sharing Information with other agencies

- 1.1 Good practice requires that children/young people and/or their parent(s) should be consulted prior to information being shared between agencies.
- 1.2 Guidance in respect of information sharing and consent can be found in Appendix 3 What to do if You're Worried A Child is being Abused (DfES 2006) and Appendix 1 of the summary booklet by the same title.
- 1.3 In situations where the available information suggests the child/young person may be at risk of significant harm, it will always be necessary to share information between relevant agencies, despite consultation having occurred and the child/young person and/or their parent(s) not agreeing to this. If there is a belief that the child/young person may be a victim of sexual exploitation or prostitution, this would constitute a risk of significant harm.
- 1.4 There will be exceptions to any consultation with the child or young person, about sharing information about them with other agencies; this is when doing so would place the child/young person at increased risk of significant harm.
- 1.5 Occasions will arise when the child/young person is not at risk of significant harm, but is in need and appears to require services from Social Services so as to safeguard and promote that child/young person's welfare. In this circumstance agencies may be able to share information with Social Services, the test being to address the following:
  - Why is consent to information sharing being withheld - what are the implications arising from this?
  - From the available information what is the likely impact on the child/young person if information is not exchanged/
  - Does it appear that providing a service to the child/young person is necessary, in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of that child/young person?
- 1.6 Any decision to proceed without the agreement of the child/young person and/or parent(s) should be accounted for in writing.

## Appendix 2

### CONTACT DETAILS FOR AGENCIES

#### 1. Dorset Children's Services

##### **North Dorset Office**

Bath Road  
Sturmaster Newton  
DT10 1DR

Tel: 01258 472652

##### **Bridport Office**

The Grove  
Rax Lane  
Bridport DT6 3JL

Tel: 01308 422234

##### **Ferndown Office**

Victoria Road  
Penny's Walk  
Ferndown  
BH22 9JY

Tel: 01202 877445

##### **Bournemouth ChildCare and Family Support**

##### **Bournemouth Central**

9 Madeira Road  
Bournemouth  
BH1 1QN

Tel: 01202 458101

##### **Poole Children & Young People's Social Care**

14a Commercial Road  
Parkstone  
Poole  
Dorset BH14 0JW

Tel: 01202 735046

##### **Purbeck Office**

19 Bonnets Lane  
Wareham  
BH20 4HB

Tel: 01929 553456

##### **Weymouth & Portland Office**

Jubilee Retail Park  
17 Jubilee Close  
Weymouth  
DT4 7BG

Tel: 01305 760139

##### **Christchurch Office**

Loring Road  
Off Jumpers Road  
Christchurch  
Dorset BH23 2JT

Tel: 01202 474106

##### **Sherborne Office**

**The Sheilings**  
**The Avenue**  
**Sherborne**  
**DT9 3AJ**

**Tel: 01935 814104**

- 2 Dorset Police Child Protection Investigation Unit**  
**Bournemouth**  
 5 Madeira Road  
 Bournemouth Tel: 01202 222446
- Poole**  
 Ashley Road Police Station  
 Parkstone  
 Poole Tel: 01202 223149
- Weymouth**  
 Western Divisional Headquarters  
 Radipole Lane  
 Chickerell  
 Weymouth Tel: 01305 226460
- 3. Dorset Police Sex Offender Investigation Unit**  
 Sex Offender Investigation Unit  
 Police Station  
 Madeira Road  
 Bournemouth Tel: 01202 222160
- 4. Dorset Working Women's Project** Tel: 07973 235438  
 Dorset House  
 First Floor  
 20-22 Christchurch Road  
 Bournemouth  
 BH1 3NL
- 5. Primary Care Trusts (Health)**
- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Bournemouth & Poole | Tel: 01202 443700 |
| North Dorset        | Tel: 01305 361300 |
| South East Dorset   | Tel: 01202 850600 |
| South West Dorset   | Tel: 01305 368900 |
- 6. Education Welfare Service**  
**Bournemouth Education Welfare Service**  
 Dorset House  
 20/22 Christchurch Road  
 Bournemouth  
 Dorset Tel: 01202 456179
- Dorset Education Social Work and Attendance Service**  
 Building C51F Winfrith Technology Park Tel: 01305 224422  
 Winfrith Newbury  
 Dorset DT2 8BH (South and West Dorset)
- Cedar House, Cobham Road  
 Ferndown, Dorset BH21 7SB (North and East)
- Poole Education Welfare Service**  
 Borough of Poole  
 The Dolphin Centre  
 Poole  
 BH15 1FA Tel: 01202 261900
- West Dorset General Hospital NHS Trust**  
**Poole Hospital NHS Trust**

