

# **Children and Young Peoples Make A Change Team**

## **Terms of Reference and Specification**

**Operational from: 2015**

**Agreed by:** CYPS Policies and Procedures Group

**Date of Equality Impact Assessment:**

**Responsible Service Area/Team:**

**Review date: February 2021**

### **Document Summary**

This document contains the terms of reference for the Make a Change Team and the service specification, both of which set out the aims and objectives to support young people who are at risk or are victims of exploitation, to provide 1-1 support and work collaboratively with parents/carers to help them understand the risks, enable them to report concerns, identify the indicators and keep their child safe within their community. Specific work is identified with the young person and promoting their self-esteem and confidence is a key area of the work.

### **Aim:**

To support all young people who are at risk, or are victims of child exploitation, as well as providing support and advice to parents/carers. The team will work with all forms of exploitation including female genital mutilation, forced marriage, honour-based abuse, gangs/groups, trafficking/modern day slavery, radicalisation and sexual exploitation.

The team provides expertise to the mainstream teams in all areas of exploitation and will offer direct work with young people and children who have an allocated social worker in circumstances where perseverance or

specific direct work is required but does not offer specialism in isolation of the mainstream teams.

### **Objectives:**

- To support young people and their parents/carers to gain insight into the risks of exploitation and to reduce the risk to the child by providing 1-1 support.
- To assist young people in working towards a better future for themselves
- To provide consultations to all professionals where there are concerns of exploitation.
- The team will work across Suffolk working with professional networks in all localities in Suffolk to maintain an awareness of issues relating to child exploitation.
- To determine the level of prevalence of concerns across Suffolk for Child exploitation.

### **Service Description**

#### **Background:**

Following the murder of five street sex workers in Ipswich in December 2006 a multi-agency strategy was developed in response to the risk of exploitation posed to young women in the town. The launch of the *Make A Change Team in 2007* was a consequence of this strategy and brought police, health, Suffolk County Council and others together to work directly with young women at risk of such exploitation.

The strategy and the work of the Make a Change Team were successful in reducing the number of young women at risk on the street and the team subsequently evolved to provide a service response to children and young people at risk of Child Exploitation in Suffolk in 2015.

In 2015 the Make a Change team had the expertise of a Barnardo's project worker for 2 years, leading on and addressing the issues of Female Genital Mutilation in Suffolk. This project worked in partnership with Public Health, Education, Police and the voluntary sector to create a Centre of Excellence. The CofE provided integrated services which coordinated action shared learning to prevent, protect, and treat girls and women affected by FGM. This service

provided the Make A Change team with the experience and knowledge to continue this across Suffolk.

### **Service Scope**

The Make a Change team has a Practice manager who is responsible for the day to day work of the team, quality and effectiveness of practice, analysis of emerging trends and patterns in team activity, support to team members and the maintenance of sound working arrangements with other teams and services. The practice manager also contributes to strategic planning and represents the team in county forums related to child exploitation, prioritising incoming work and assessing the level of response needed. The Practice Manager will monitor continuing casework and provide both individual and group supervision to team members.

The team consists of 4 full time Experienced Social Workers, 2 Part time Experienced Social Workers, 2 full time Family Support Practitioners, 2 Part time Family Support Practitioners and an Assessment Coordinator. Social workers will have between 8-10 open active cases at any one time, and Family Support Practitioners will have between 10-15 active cases at any one time. Cases that have closed to the workers will be provided with 3 monthly follow ups by the worker over 12 months to gain insight to the outcomes and impact of the service and shape future service delivery.

The Assessment Co-ordinator will collate data and generate reports to help support the team and offer analysis of outcomes to predict need and understand trends.

The Make a Change Team regularly support other professionals and services in delivering training to professionals across the County and students within the university of Suffolk.

### **Demographic**

The Make a Change Team will work with any young person up to the age of 18 years where there is a risk of, or the young person is a victim of exploitation.

The service will work with parents and carers of the young people to support them in understanding and reducing risk enabling families to care for their children safely.

## **Geographic coverage/Boundaries**

The Service is county wide.

## **Ways of Working Using a collaborative Signs of Safety Approach**

- The Make a Change team will work with young people who are at risk of, or victims of child exploitation.
- The Make a Change team will sit on the monthly Tactical Tasking Co-ordination Group meetings to contribute to actions preventing young people from going missing and reducing missing episodes.
- The Make a Change Team will sit on the Chanel Panel meetings to support with planning for young people most at risk as a consequence of radicalisation.
- The Make a Change Team also plays a crucial role in determining the level of prevalence of concerns across Suffolk for child exploitation and for this purpose is engaged with the Child Exploitation Coordinator for Suffolk.
- Where there is clear evidence of risk or actual harm associated with child exploitation the Make a Change Team may become directly involved with young people and their families subject to a referral to the team. This could include undertaking direct work with young people and offering resources with a view to building their understanding of exploitation and reducing risk taking behaviours.
- The Make a Change Team will not become case responsible but will work alongside the allocated social worker to provide consultation. The Make A Change worker may also work closely with other professionals who may know the child well to offer advice and consultation to the worker who is thought to be the most able to deliver resources to the young person effectively.
- The Make a Change Team members are able to attend ABE interviews as support to the young person, attend strategy meetings, be directly involved in case planning and work face to face with the young person and other family members as agreed with the case worker.
- The aim of the intervention will always be to reduce the level of risk to the young person.

- Where there is a concern of multiple exploitation the Make a Change Team will co-ordinate with police to progress police operations.
- The team will work with professional networks in all localities in Suffolk to maintain an awareness of the issues relating to child exploitation.
- The Assessment Coordinator will collate data and share monthly and annual data reports with senior management and to the LSCB as required.