

# Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Exploitation Strategy

2019 – 2024

Version 1 (Nov 2019)



Essex Safeguarding  
Adults Board



## **Contents**

Why Have this Strategy?	3
Vision	3
Definitions	4
The Context	5
Key Objectives	7
Appendices	
Appendix 1: Governance structure	10
Appendix 2: Key partners & stakeholders roles and responsibilities	11
Appendix 3: Key documents informing the strategy	18
Appendix 4: Exploitation strategy on a page	19
Appendix 5: Child exploitation (CE) impact and outcome framework	20

## Why Have this Strategy?

Regardless of the type of exploitation, children their families and adults at risk have a right to be safeguarded from this form of abuse. It is vital that there is collaboration across statutory, private, voluntary and charitable organisations with a clear plan and objectives on how services will work together to support those at risk. The purpose of this strategy is to:

- identify a joint vision for all key partners and stakeholders (see Appendix 2: Roles and Responsibilities),
- provide the basis for identifying our key SET joint objectives and commitments over the coming five years,
- clarifying our agreed adopted definitions, and
- commitment to the SET agreed 'levels of risk' as outlined within the current exploitation toolbox.

Further information regarding SET operational responses to such defined level of risk is articulated within our Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures and Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Safeguarding Adult Guidelines.

This strategy is intended for use by all key partners and stakeholders outlined within Appendix 2.

## Vision

Our joint vision is to:

- Prevent the exploitation of any person (child or adult) living in our community, and
- Ensure that communities, businesses and workforces are confident and competent in recognising and responding to early indicators of abuse or vulnerability.

This strategy sets out how organisations can play a positive role in meeting these aims by working together and seeks to raise the profile and joint understanding of all forms of exploitation to children and adults at risk. It does not intend to create new systems alongside those that currently exist, our vision is to ensure that by identifying successful practice and joint commitments, we adapt where necessary, and increase the impact of our existing systems.

To achieve its aims, this strategy will focus on four closely interconnected **objectives**:

- To **prepare** the partnership and communities in understanding the scope and breadth of the problem, to understand our problem-profile, what risk looks like and understand how and what we do makes a difference to communities.
- To commit to a whole community approach to **prevention**, ensuring that 'blame' is not placed on the child, their families, and adults at risk for the occurrence of exploitation itself.
- To **protect and support victims** of exploitation and their families by providing the best possible support, intervention and services. Including recognising when victims are further recruited, coerced or threatened into facilitating the abuse of other victims.

- To **pursue** and **respond** to perpetrators of exploitation, holding them to account through enforcement activities and activities which deter perpetrators from abusing children and adults at risk across SET.

These **objectives** are inter-linked and support the overall aim of the strategy and are underpinned by a series of commitments. The commitments require action locally. Key partners and stakeholders should consider these commitments and objectives when building upon our current partnership activities.

A whole-system approach is required to address perpetrators and to protect and support victims. It requires engagement across the whole council, workforce and communities. A whole-system approach needs to not only protect and support children and adults at risk, but to try to prevent exploitation through raising awareness in the community and disrupting criminal activity.

“Most of my friends are 16 and don’t know what consent is, you only learn what it is when something bad happens to you. I joined a participation group and want to help deliver workshops to year 7s to better understand what consent is and better sex education.”

*(Essex young person feedback to The Children’s Society)*

## Definitions

**‘Adult at risk’** is a person aged 18 or over, who has needs for care and support, who is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and as a result of their care needs - is unable to protect themselves.

**‘Communities’** are referenced throughout this strategy and refer to the general public across Southend, Essex and Thurrock, and includes vulnerable young people their families, and adults at risk. It also refers to the community as a geographical area which is comprised of councils, businesses, organisations and activities which interact with the diverse population in and around it.

**Modern Slavery** and **Trafficking** provides the encompassing framework which features the exploitation of children, and adults at risk (Modern Slavery Act, 2015). This framework confirms two important points:

- (a) that a child (under 18 years) cannot consent to trafficking and modern slavery regardless of the ‘form’ of exploitation, and
- (b) that consent is ‘irrelevant’ where it is ascertained that the threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception or abuse of power is used for the purposes of exploitation.

“Trafficking of persons, shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour [including criminal\* exploitation] or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.” (Palermo Protocol, UN, 2000)

**Exploitation**, as a form of abuse, is often characterised by power, exchange and (the restriction or absence of) consent. See Southend, Essex and Thurrock exploitation toolbox for categories of risk level.

**‘Exploitation’** occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child (under the age of 18 years) or adult at risk, (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 be exploited for criminal\* or sexual\*\* purposes, it can include forced labour, organ harvesting, domestic servitude, and forced marriage. The victim may have been exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can occur through the use of technology.

**\*Criminal exploitation** is common in county lines\*\*\* and occurs when the victim is coerced and manipulated into criminal activities; for example, this includes children and adults forced or coerced into transporting drugs, working in cannabis farms, laundering money or to commit theft.

**\*\*Sexual exploitation** is a form of sexual abuse. The child or adult at risk is coerced, manipulated or deceived for sexual purposes.

**\*\*\*County lines** is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of ‘deal line’. They are likely to exploit children and adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons (*Home Office, 2018*).

It is important to recognise that these terms do not necessarily work in isolation and various forms of modern slavery may be operating concurrently.

## The Context

“What happened to me means I have more of a negative outlook on life at times. I hate my appearance and my personality. I can think I’m not a very nice person.”

*(Essex young person feedback to The Children’s Society)*

The last decade has seen a number of high-profile inquiries and a heightened national response to sexual exploitation calling for swift action across local authorities and police force areas to tackle this growing threat. In 2015 Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Local Safeguarding Children Boards responded by introducing multi-agency response and in 2017 the (SET) Safeguarding Adult Boards developed a multi-agency Modern Slavery Guidance, providing guidance on modern slavery referral pathways and support for victims. However since this time, our joint developed knowledge a SET Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy, setting out a co-ordinated multi-agency response. Since 2015, our joint developed knowledge and understanding of wider emerging extra-familial threats to children and adults at risk primarily within our communities and public spaces within our Local Authority areas, as well as cross county threats, has prompted the development of this 5-year SET ‘exploitation’ strategy.

This strategy recognises the importance of seeing exploitation in its wider context, including threats posed from an ever-increasing backdrop of violent crime, drug markets and organised crime in which children and adults at risk are seen as a commodity. It should also be recognised that changing social and economic norms and trends, including the impact of globalisation and

ever-increasing social media and technological advances provide the opportunities for abusive contexts to be seen as ‘normal’ and/or increase opportunities for bullying, including sexual bullying, and online coercion, control and grooming. Such opportunities further complicate an escalating picture of peer on peer abuse in which people are groomed, coerced and threatened into collaborating with perpetrators to abuse and harm others, and therefore any approach built to tackle and prevent exploitation must consider multi-agency intervention and oversight with perpetrators, and in some cases victims, to reduce risks of recidivism.

Pan Essex has seen a larger overall increase in crime against a national average. Violent crime is one of the areas that has continued to increase, particularly around youth violence and criminal exploitation. SET’s location makes it a prime target for ‘county lines’ as it is close to London with strong transport links in to the county hubs. Gang related incidents have increased from 3 per month in 2016 to 9 per month in 2017 and there has been an increase in the numbers of opiate and crack cocaine users in Essex. An ongoing rise in police recorded sexual offences has been noted locally and nationally with the Home Office ‘Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, 2016’ noting increased media coverage and high-profile television programmes contributing to an increased awareness, understanding and disclosure of sexual violence and abuse. The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which records the numbers of victims of reported modern slavery and trafficking, increases year on year. Predominantly this is due to an increase in reporting for ‘forced labour’ which includes the criminal exploitation of children and adults at risk by county lines and gangs, within Essex over half of reported incidents have been in relation to the criminal exploitation of children.

Whilst standalone, this exploitation strategy comprises one of four inter-related Southend, Essex and Thurrock strategies:

- Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy
- Missing People Strategy
- Gangs and Youth Violence Strategy
- Exploitation Strategy

Whilst there are differing forms of exploitation which require distinction in respect of intervention and service provision, there are commonalities which cross all:

- Risks often manifest within, or facilitated within, extra-familial environments.
- Are shaped by peer norms and environments.
- Interact with social and economic trends including gender norms and poverty.
- May involve victims perpetrating criminal offences, such as exploitation of others, as well as continuing to experience harm and abuse themselves.
- Can present as a perceived ‘choice’ the person has made, and/or continues to make despite professional and parental intervention.
- Often features grooming, coercion, criminality, sexual and physical harm; which creates climates of fear and reduces engagement with services.
- Are often beyond the control of parents, rarely instigated by parents, although familial context and adverse childhood experiences may play a part in increasing vulnerability.
- Can lead to multiple relocations following a rapid escalation in risk.

- Predominantly occurs during stage of development where individuals experience changes that impact their emotional regulation, approach to risk, desire for autonomy and ability to understand long-term gain or consequences.
- May continue into adulthood, particularly young people 18 – 25 years. (*Firmin et al., 2019*)

“As part of my court recommendations I was referred to counselling through the GP. There was a really long waiting list so with my ... worker looked at services more local and I am going to self-refer.” (*Essex adult feedback to The Children’s Society*)

## Key Objectives

(see Appendix 4 exploitation strategy on a page)

**VISION:** Prevent the exploitation of any person (child or adult) living in our community, and ensure that communities, businesses and workforces are confident and competent in recognising and responding to early indicators of abuse or vulnerability.

OBJECTIVES:	COMMITMENTS:
<p><b>Prepare</b> the partnership and communities in understanding the scope and breadth of the problem, to understand our problem-profile, what risk looks like and understand how what we do makes a difference to communities.</p> <p>Recognise what forms of harm are prevalent and understand the nature of such harm. Recognise factors within a child or adult life which can increase vulnerability and place them at disproportionate risk, including the precarious transition into adulthood for many young people and the associated challenges presented in preparing for adulthood. Recognise how grooming and coercion can be the instigator for many victims moving into a recruiter/ perpetrator of abuse.</p>	<p><b>1. We develop and enable an informed and high-quality workforce.</b></p> <p>Multi-agency training and development (including within our business community, transport hubs, hotels and travel and leisure industry) will raise awareness of the growing nature of criminal exploitation, the links with sexual exploitation and wider forms of exploitation including labour exploitation, trafficking. It will increase confidence, support and enhance the identification of children, young people and adults at the highest levels of risk as well as children and adults vulnerable to all forms of exploitation. Strong leadership and robust partnership working ensures opportunities for professional challenge, oversight and celebrating successes.</p> <p>Using the voices of others (children, young people and their families, adults at risk and professional workforce) to inform the evaluation of our responses and influence practice, create change.</p> <p>When young people and adults at risk are identified there are effective and responsive systems and processes in place to ensure their needs are assessed and a plan developed and implemented to meet those needs.</p> <p><b>2. Understand the nature and scale of exploitation; and this informs our response to tackle it.</b></p> <p>Through continuing to advance our mechanisms for collating intelligence and information sharing across a range of agencies we will maintain and improve our understanding on the scale and nature of exploitation. Such understanding will support prevention, protection, and pursue activities.</p>

OBJECTIVES:	COMMITMENTS:
<p>Commit to a whole community approach to <b>prevention</b>, ensuring that ‘blame’ is not placed on the child, or adult at risk or their families for the occurrence of exploitation itself.</p> <p>The concept of ‘prevention’ in relation to exploitation is contentious as it can sometimes imply victim-blaming and placing onus on the child or adult at risk to prevent abuse through their actions, behaviours, and knowledge.</p>	<p><b>3. Communities are resilient and knowledgeable</b></p> <p>Professionals, parents and carers, children and young people, adults at risk as well as other members of our communities are fully aware of the signs of exploitation and know where to go to seek help.</p> <p>There are multi-agency prevention activities across communities, including within educational establishments, health services, private sector and charitable and voluntary organisations. These activities are informed by feedback from children, their families, and adults at risk who are experiencing, and have also exited, exploitation.</p> <p>Activities within our communities recognise and reflect the diverse ever-changing make-up of the Essex population and reflect what our scoping profiles tell us.</p> <p>An understanding of adults at risk, children, young people, parent and carers needs, experiences, and how these can be best met or used to shape services.</p> <p><b>4. Adopt a graduated approach to prevention</b> with the primary commitment of a whole societal response through ensuring community resilience and knowledge.</p> <p><b>Universal primary:</b> designed to ensure our universal services are committed to strengthening emotional well-being and resilience through activities such as healthy relationships and well-being and using technology safely.</p> <p><b>Targeted primary:</b> focus on groups, and geographical areas, identified through our prepare activities as disproportionately at risk of abuse. For example, children in care, children and adults at risk that go missing, children and young people in gang associated neighbourhoods, adults with special educational needs.</p> <p><b>Secondary:</b> early identification of risk, through the identification of multiple vulnerabilities and or indicators, providing early help responses to decrease the likelihood of further escalation.</p>

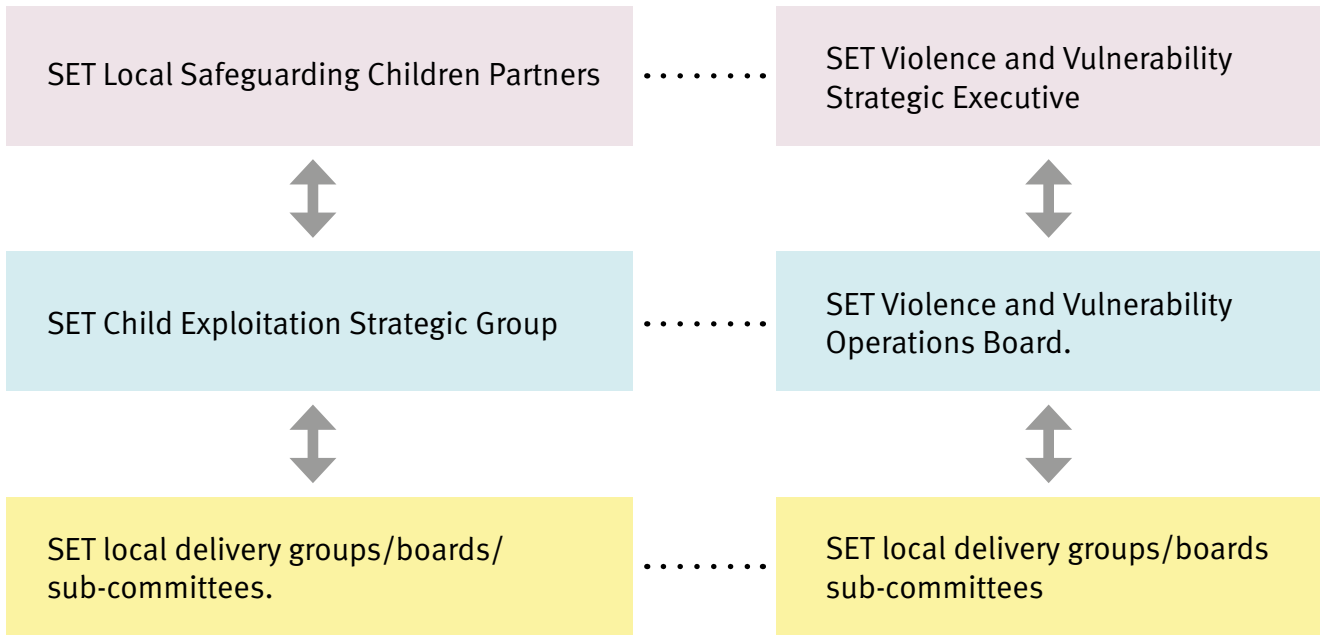


<b>OBJECTIVES:</b>	<b>COMMITMENTS:</b>
<p><b>Protect</b> and <b>support</b> victims of exploitation and their families by providing the best possible support, intervention and services to victims and their families. Including recognising when victims are further recruited, coerced or threatened into facilitating the abuse of other victims.</p>	<p><b>5. Essex victims are heard and supported.</b></p> <p>We seek to deliver successful interventions which lower the assessed level of risk and increase the resilience of children, their families and adults at risk. Victims voices and their families are heard and responded to in relation to accessing the most appropriate services/support to meet their needs in a timely way. Services use tailored and creative solutions to engage with victims and their families.</p> <p><b>6. Agencies adopt a consistent collaborative approach to assessment in relation to risk and vulnerability of exploitation.</b></p> <p>Statutory, voluntary and charitable organisations across SET consistently apply multi-agency cooperation in the assessment of risk to children and adults. This must include consideration of how environmental influences and perpetrators can facilitate the recruitment of others and, for some, reoffending. For vulnerable adolescents preparing for adulthood, agencies consider the 3 principles (a) the harm of exploitation experienced in childhood can continue into adulthood; (b) exploitation can occur to adults at risk; and (c) the impact of child exploitation can manifest in adulthood after the ‘harm’ has occurred.</p>
<p><b>Pursue</b> and <b>respond</b> to perpetrators of exploitation, holding them to account through enforcement activities and activities which deter perpetrators from abusing children and adults at risk across SET.</p> <p>Holding perpetrators and their activities to account requires a multi-agency response across councils, police, and children and adult workforce. It relies on evidence gathering and robust information sharing to ensure the identification of those that seek to exploit children and adults at risk.</p>	<p><b>7. Essex perpetrators are identified, and enforcement action is taken.</b></p> <p>There is an effective multi-agency community safety approach that uses local intelligence to identify perpetrators and/or locations of concern and disrupt activity by understanding and utilising a range of methods/orders/powers.</p> <p>Enforcement activity seeks to increase the arrests of perpetrators leading to convictions and increase the use of warning notices and orders which disrupt and prevent further exploitation.</p> <p>Behaviour change interventions are robust and effectively support perpetrators to desist from exploitation and achieve pro-social goals.</p>

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Governance Structure

Local Safeguarding Adult Boards and Local Safeguarding Children Partners act as the strategic governance for this strategy (formally approved through the Southend, Essex, and Thurrock Safeguarding Adult Boards; Essex Safeguarding Children Board; Thurrock Safeguarding Children Partnership; and Southend Safeguarding Children Partnership).



Commitment to, and engagement from partners and stakeholders will be supported and driven through wider partnership boards, including:

- SET Child Exploitation Strategic Group
- Violence and Vulnerability Strategic Executive Group & Operational Board
- SET Safeguarding Adults Group
- SET Anti-Slavery Partnerships
- Essex Children’s Partnership
- Safer Essex
- Health and Well-being Board
- Criminal Justice Board
- Essex Stay Safe
- Local Community Safety Partnerships

## Appendix 2: Key Partners & Stakeholders Roles and Responsibilities

Key Partner & Stakeholder	Prepare Objectives	Prevention Objectives	Protect and Support Objectives	Pursue and Respond Objectives
<p><b>Local Partnership:</b></p> <p>May differ from area to area but will include a combination of lead departments from communities, businesses and all agencies below.</p> <p>With effect from September 2019, Health, Police and the Local Authority hold the statutory responsibility for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that ‘exploitation’ is a priority in local structures - for example Community Planning, Community Safety Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards.</li> <li>• Create and/or embed SET Exploitation Strategy.</li> <li>• Identify exploitation and adults at risk/children leads.</li> <li>• Implement training and development opportunities across the workforce.</li> <li>• Implement local information sharing protocols in relation to exploitation of children and adults at risk.</li> <li>• Identify areas and groups disproportionately disadvantaged and at risk of exploitation and trafficking.</li> <li>• Challenge bias/inappropriate language which proportions blame to the victim and colludes with the exploitative nature of the abuse.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure exploitation, trafficking and signs of vulnerability for children, young people and adults is well understood within communities and within businesses and agencies across SET.</li> <li>• Create and/or embed SET Exploitation Strategy.</li> <li>• Involving survivors and advocacy organisations in the improvement and development of services, offers an opportunity for them to be heard without judgement or stigmatisation. It is vital that local partnerships use their expertise to influence service improvement through direct experience.</li> <li>• Implement multi-agency training and development opportunities across the workforce.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review local support services available and build reference file to refer and sign post when appropriate.</li> <li>• Identify opportunities for shared learning and training.</li> <li>• Commit to the attendance of multi-agency meetings designed to support and review plans for people at risk of exploitation.</li> <li>• Identify joined-up approaches to the commissioning and provision of services to provide people with the right support at the right time.</li> <li>• Services should ensure that victims and survivors, along with their information, flow seamlessly between the different services, including those provided by specialist third sector organisations, without complication and over their lifetime.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish information sharing protocol/agreement.</li> <li>• Promotes common understanding of risk assessment and oversight across agencies.</li> </ul>

Key Partner & Stakeholder	Prepare Objectives	Prevention Objectives	Protect and Support Objectives	Pursue and Respond Objectives
<b>Local Authorities:</b> Children social care Adult social care Youth Offending service Council Education Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree local protocols with Essex Police regarding responding to people at risk of exploitation and/or trafficking, including missing people defined as at risk of exploitation and/or trafficking.</li> <li>• Agree local information sharing protocols with Essex Police.</li> <li>• Provide and share local analysis for partners about children and adults at risk of exploitation in receipt of a statutory service and support.</li> <li>• Duty to notify the Secretary of State for the Home Department of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking via NRM or MS1.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure early assessment and prevention planning takes place for children and adults at risk in care and those living at home.</li> <li>• Agree local protocols with Essex Police regarding children and adults at risk missing from care; people going missing from the community where there is a risk of extra-familial abuse.</li> <li>• Ensure that all practitioners working with children their families and adults at risk know where to get help and follow the guidance set out in SET Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures and SET Safeguarding Adult Guidelines, should they encounter people at risk of exploitation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overarching responsibility for safeguarding in their area.</li> <li>• Assessments of children and adults at risk should consider whether wider environmental factors are present and are a threat to their safety and/or welfare.</li> <li>• Work with partners to ensure adults, children and young people victims of abuse and exploitation receive an appropriate, flexible, collaborative service.</li> <li>• Review the provision of emergency accommodation and other therapeutic support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and adults at risk who may be alleged perpetrators should be assessed to understand the impact of contextual issues on their safety and welfare.</li> <li>• Agree information sharing protocol with partners.</li> <li>• Agree to work to single definition of exploitation with local partners.</li> <li>• Adopt common understanding of risk assessment.</li> </ul>

Key Partner & Stakeholder	Prepare Objectives	Prevention Objectives	Protect and Support Objectives	Pursue and Respond Objectives
<b>District Councils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that exploitation is adequately addressed under the Council’s corporate safeguarding responsibilities and that there is an appropriate level of training and awareness.</li> <li>• Ensure that the local Community Safety Partnership is tackling exploitation effectively and that “vulnerability” remains a strategic priority.</li> <li>• Duty to notify the Secretary of State for the Home Department of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking via NRM or MS1.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify an exploitation lead within the organisation.</li> <li>• Agree local protocols on information sharing with Essex Police and Social Care.</li> <li>• Embed Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking into council policies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that exploitation is appropriately resourced including whilst undertaking their licensing function (protection of children and adults at risk from harm).</li> <li>• Ensure that exploitation is appropriately resourced whilst undertaking their strategic housing function (this may differ depending on whether the authority has a housing stock).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree information sharing protocol with partners.</li> <li>• Agree to work to single definition of exploitation with local partners.</li> <li>• Adopt common understanding of risk assessment.</li> <li>• Support local community safety partnership hub arrangements to enhance the response to exploitation by improving data sharing, enforcement and safeguarding arrangements.</li> </ul>

Key Partner & Stakeholder	Prepare Objectives	Prevention Objectives	Protect and Support Objectives	Pursue and Respond Objectives
<b>Health*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree local protocols on information sharing with Essex Police and partner agencies.</li> <li>• Ensure training is provided to health care staff to raise awareness of children and adults at risk of exploitation to support in the early identification of a person causing concern or showing signs of distress.</li> <li>• Ensure that the child or adult at risk is provided with specialist support, where appropriate.</li> <li>• Develop and use commissioning frameworks that explicitly describe what safeguarding means for victims and survivors of exploitation, define responsibilities and clarify what is expected of providers of services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure risk assessment and prevention planning takes place for children and adults at risk of exploitation.</li> <li>• Agree local protocols on information sharing with Essex Police.</li> <li>• Ensure all practitioners working with children, families and adults at risk know who to contact for advice should they encounter people at risk of exploitation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and adults at risk when carrying out their functions.</li> <li>• Review the provision of emergency and other therapeutic support.</li> <li>• Work with partners to ensure victims of abuse and exploitation receive an appropriate, flexible, collaborative service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree information sharing protocol with partners.</li> <li>• Agree to work to single definition of exploitation with local partners.</li> <li>• Adopt common understanding of risk assessment.</li> </ul>

## \*Health components

### National/Strategic/Commissioning

Department of Health  
NHS England/NHS Improvement  
Clinical Commissioning Groups/  
Sustainability & Transformation  
Partnerships/Integrated Care Systems

### Primary Care (Independent Contractors)

GPs  
Dentists  
Pharmacists  
Opticians

### Providers

Acute hospital trusts  
Community services  
Adult mental health services  
Child mental health services  
Ambulance service  
Patient transport services

Out of hours services (IC24/NHS111)  
Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)  
Sexual health services  
0-19 services (health visitors & school nurses)

### Private health care services

Key Partner & Stakeholder	Prepare Objectives	Prevention Objectives	Protect and Support Objectives	Pursue and Respond Objectives
<b>Essex Police</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide local analysis and data for partners about exploitation and trafficking.</li> <li>• Essex Police Force Plan 2019/20 focuses on tackling violence in all its forms and aims to protect all children and vulnerable people and all victims of crime.</li> <li>• Duty to notify the Secretary of State for the Home Department of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking via NRM or MS1.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide local analysis and data for partners about exploitation.</li> <li>• Embed Essex Police Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking Team to identify and support victims of exploitation.</li> <li>• Embed a culture of understanding exploitation and in all its forms and work with partners to prevent exploitation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to ensure adults, children and young people receive a good service and any identified criminal offences investigated.</li> <li>• Consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and adults at risk when carrying out their functions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree information sharing protocol with partners.</li> <li>• Agree to work to single definition of exploitation with local partners.</li> <li>• Adopt common understanding of risk assessment.</li> <li>• Investigate any identified criminal offences and bring those responsible for offending to justice.</li> </ul>
<b>CRC and NPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree local protocols on information sharing with Essex Police.</li> <li>• Provide early identification of a person causing concern or showing signs of distress.</li> <li>• Ensure that the person is provided with specialist support, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree local protocols on information sharing with Essex Police.</li> <li>• Support individuals identified at risk of exploitation with safety planning.</li> <li>• Support individuals at risk of exploitation to strengthen pro-social networks and activities.</li> <li>• Co-ordinate resettlement plans for adults released from prison into the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support adult offenders identified as victims of exploitation with safety planning.</li> <li>• Support the victims of offenders by information sharing and joint risk management with relevant partners.</li> <li>• Contribute to multiagency safeguarding and public protection arrangements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree information sharing protocol with partners.</li> <li>• Agree to work to single definition of exploitation with local partners.</li> <li>• Adopt common understanding of risk assessment.</li> <li>• Exercise the use of enforcement powers in response to risk escalation.</li> <li>• Provide robust management of identified offenders, through risk assessment, intervention, multi-agency working, home visiting and enforcement</li> </ul>

Key Partner & Stakeholder	Prepare Objectives	Prevention Objectives	Protect and Support Objectives	Pursue and Respond Objectives
<p><b>Education</b> (schools, colleges and higher education)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide early identification of a person causing concern or showing signs of distress.</li> <li>• Educate young people to understand about healthy relationships, what exploitation is and how to keep themselves safe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide early identification of a person causing concern or showing signs of distress.</li> <li>• Ensure that the person is provided with specialist support, where appropriate.</li> <li>• Share appropriate intelligence with Police and other partners.</li> <li>• Provide early, holistic and continuous education, utilising all potential avenues of communication, on healthy relationships / staying safe online / sex education / risk of exploitation.</li> <li>• Be alert to targeted primary prevention, providing messages about exploitation in a safe and non-judgemental environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible and appropriate support should be immediately available should any issues of concern be identified during educational activities.</li> <li>• Advise and assist the young person in accessing specialist support, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree information sharing protocol with partners.</li> <li>• Agree to work to single definition of exploitation with local partners.</li> <li>• Adopt common understanding of risk assessment.</li> </ul>



Key Partner & Stakeholder	Prepare Objectives	Prevention Objectives	Protect and Support Objectives	Pursue and Respond Objectives
<b>Third Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary services and charities to train their workforce in exploitation to recognise signs of abuse and vulnerability.</li> <li>• Appoint an exploitation lead within voluntary and charitable organisations.</li> <li>• Keep the voluntary sector updated of any changes in legislation or relevant policies.</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate protocols in place for the identification of and process for referring young people their families and adults at risk, and appropriate information sharing with relevant partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide specialist support and share information with relevant agencies.</li> <li>• Provide training or sign posting to appropriate sources of information or contacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to build awareness of support services available.</li> <li>• Provide specialist support and share information with relevant agencies.</li> </ul> <p>To undertake direct work with young people/adults at risk of or already involved in exploitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To contribute to multi-agency meetings and share information appropriately.</li> </ul>	

## Appendix 3: Key Documents Informing the Strategy

Department for Education (2017) *Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation*. London: Department for Education

Department for Education (2018) *Working Together to Safeguard Children*. London: Department for Education

Department for Education (2019) *Keeping Children Safe in Education*. London: Department for Education

Effective Probation Practice Team (2018) *Child Sexual Exploitation – Toolkit for Offender Managers*. HM Prison & Probation Service

Firmin, C., Wroe, L and Lloyd, J. (2019) *Safeguarding and exploitation – complex, contextual and holistic approaches*. Darlington: Research in Practice

Home Office (2018) *Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance*. London: Home Office

Ofsted (2016) *Time to Listen: A joined up approach to child sexual exploitation and missing children*. London: Ofsted

Ofsted (2018) *Protecting children from criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery: an addendum*. Manchester: Crown Copyright

Public Health England (2019) *Child Sexual Exploitation How public health can support prevention and intervention*. London: Crown Copyright

Southend, Essex and Thurrock Councils (2019) *SET Safeguarding Adult Guidelines*. Essex: SET Local Safeguarding Adult Boards.

Southend Essex and Thurrock Councils (2019) *SET Child Protection Procedures*. See Chapter 24. Essex: SET Local Safeguarding Adult Boards

Southend, Essex and Thurrock Councils (2018) *Modern Slavery Guidance*. Essex: SET Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

## Appendix 4: Exploitation strategy on a page

**VISION:** Prevent the exploitation of any person (child or adult) living in our community, and ensure that communities, businesses and workforces are confident and competent in recognising and responding to early indicators of abuse or vulnerability.

<b>Objectives:</b>	<b>Commitments:</b>
<b>Prepare</b> the partnership and communities in understanding the scope and breadth of the problem, to understand our problem-profile, what risk looks like and understand how what we do makes a difference to communities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We develop and enable an informed and high-quality workforce.</li> <li>2. Understand the nature and scale of exploitation; and this informs our response to tackle it.</li> </ol>
Commit to a whole community approach to <b>Prevention</b> , ensuring that ‘blame’ is not placed on the child their family, or the adult at risk for the occurrence of exploitation itself.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Communities are resilient and knowledgeable</li> <li>4. Adopt a graduated approach to prevention with the primary commitment of a whole societal response through ensuring community resilience and knowledge.</li> </ol>
<b>Protect</b> and <b>support</b> victims of exploitation and their families by providing the best possible support, intervention and services.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Essex victims are heard and supported.</li> <li>6. Agencies adopt a consistent collaborative approach to assessment in relation to risk and vulnerability of exploitation.</li> </ol>
<b>Pursue</b> perpetrators of exploitation, holding them to account through enforcement activities, and activities which deter perpetrators from abusing children and adults at risk across SET.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Essex perpetrators are identified, and enforcement action is taken.</li> </ol>

## Appendix 5: Child Exploitation (CE) Impact and Outcome Framework

Outcomes	Impact
<p>1.1. Multi-agency training and development to raise awareness of CCE and CSE increases confidence and supports and enhances the identification of those at the highest levels of risk as well as those vulnerable to all forms of exploitation.</p> <p>1.2. When young people are identified there are effective and responsive systems and processes in place to ensure their needs are assessed and a plan developed and implemented to meet those needs.</p> <p>1.3. Strong leadership and robust partnership working ensures opportunities for professional challenge, oversight and celebrating successes.</p> <p>1.4. Using the voices of others to inform the evaluation of our responses and influence practice, create change.</p>	<p>SET develops and enables an informed and high-quality <b>workforce</b>.</p>
<p>2.1. There is a coherent and comprehensive multi-agency approach to highlighting risks and sharing information about CE.</p> <p>2.2. Professionals, parents and carers, children and young people and members of our communities are fully aware of the signs of CE and know where to go to seek help.</p> <p>2.3. There are multi-agency prevention activities across communities, including within educational establishment, health services, and charitable and voluntary organisations.</p> <p>2.4. Work with our communities recognises and reflects the diverse ever-changing make-up of the Essex population.</p> <p>2.5. An understanding of children, young people, parent and carers needs, experiences, and how these can be best met or used to shape services.</p>	<p>Essex <b>communities</b> are resilient and knowledgeable.</p>
<p>3.1. Successful interventions are delivered, lowering the level of risk and increasing the resilience of young people and their families.</p> <p>3.2. There are effective mechanisms in place to ensure that young people at risk of or victims of CE are able to access the most appropriate services to meet their needs.</p> <p>3.3. Services are successful in getting young people and their families to engage with the work by offering a tailored approach.</p> <p>3.4. Continue to work with victims to understand CE and affect change</p>	<p>Essex <b>victims</b> are heard and supported.</p>
<p>4.1. There is an effective multi-agency approach that uses local intelligence to identify perps and disrupt activity by understanding and utilising a range of methods.</p> <p>4.2. Disruption activities are being implemented to stop perpetrators of CE and reduce risk.</p> <p>4.3. Arrests of perpetrators lead to convictions.</p>	<p>Essex <b>perpetrators</b> are identified, and enforcement action is taken.</p>
<p>5.1. Information is collated on the nature and scale of CCE, CSE, &amp; trafficking, variations across the county, neighbouring Local Authorities, and we seek to determine how it fits with the known national picture. Review and implement protective, complimentary creative means of help and support to children experiencing CE, either directly or vicariously?</p> <p>5.2. Our understanding of the nature and scale of child exploitation in Essex informs our response to tackle CE.</p> <p>5.3. There is understanding of what venue types and specific locations pose the most risk to children, measures are taken to reduce risks within these localities and to disrupt and prevent known abuse in such locations.</p>	<p>Essex understands the <b>nature and scale</b> of CE and this informs our response to tackle CE.</p>