



Welcome to the first edition of a new, bi-monthly bulletin aimed at ensuring all professionals and across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are up-to-date on all aspects of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

The bulletins will include information about new initiatives, campaigns and projects, details of new legislation, a round-up of recent, successful investigations and convictions, national issues and details of good work and awards. In addition, information about lectures, presentations and training will be included, to ensure practitioners across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are up-to-date with the work being undertaken by the Force and partners to raise greater awareness of CSE.

It's your newsletter, so please do share relevant news in your areas of work, by clicking on the link at the end of the newsletter.

A note from Detective Superintendent Matt Ditcher

Welcome to the first CSE E-Bulletin.

As awareness grows about the nature of exploitation I urge all of you to make sure you are aware of the many forms this can take. Research has found that patterns of grooming of children for criminal exploitation are very similar to those of sexual exploitation.

In the past, CSE was often perceived amongst professionals as the victim's fault, or due to them 'placing themselves at risk.' Perceptions are changing but these young people are often still criminalised and perceived as having 'made a choice' to take part in illegal activity. It is important these perceptions do not exist around criminal exploitation by gangs.

I'd like to encourage heightened awareness of all forms of child exploitation.

Sexual exploitation is used in gangs to:

- Exert power and control over members
- Initiate young people into the gang
- Exchange sexual activity for status or protection
- Entrap rival gang members by exploiting girls and young women
- Inflict sexual assault as a weapon in conflict.

But gangs also exploit children and young people in other ways. Boys are particularly at risk of being recruited to be drugs 'runners' or to make cash deposits into bank accounts.

These children are at high risk of violence and intimidation.



..continued..

A poster is available for circulation in your organisations, to help raise awareness of gangs and CSE. Click [here](#) to access the poster.

We all have a duty to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation and that includes passing on any non-urgent information. This information is very important to help us build intelligence and each piece you share may well be the missing part of a jigsaw which enables us to better target our response to prevent and disrupt CSE. It could include:

- Vehicle details including registration numbers, make, model and colour
- Details or descriptions of suspected perpetrators – names, phone numbers, addresses
- Details of unusual or regular callers to a children’s home
- Third party information e.g. rumours or concerns about people or locations

The form can be accessed [here](#):

This process should not be used to report concerns that a child may be at risk of harm and/or immediate danger. The process for reporting concerns about a specific child can be found on the LSCB’s website:

<http://lrsb.org.uk/childreport>

In an emergency call **999**
For non-emergencies call **101**
Visit www.leics.police.uk

Help and advice:

Leicester City Council - **0116 454 1004**
Leicestershire County Council - **0116 305 0005**
Rutland County Council - **01572 758407**



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Launch of Breck's Last Game



Breck's Last Game, the major new film aimed at protecting children from online grooming, has now been launched, along with a comprehensive resource pack which is currently being rolled

out to schools across LLR.

This latest phase in the continuing efforts to raise awareness of online grooming and child sexual exploitation was launched to the media at the Showcase de Lux cinema in Leicester last month, the result of an innovative collaboration between four police forces – Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Essex and Surrey.

The film tells the true story of Surrey teenager Breck Bednar, who was killed by Essex computer engineer Lewis Daynes in 2014 after months of online grooming. It follows on from the highly acclaimed *Kayleigh's Love Story* which has directly led to children coming forward to disclose grooming or abuse.

The recommendation is for delivery in KS3 and KS4 lessons but some primary schools have shown an interest in showing the film to their older students.

[For more information about the project or to request the online resource pack for a school, please contact \[claire.tompkins@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk\]\(mailto:claire.tompkins@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk\)](mailto:claire.tompkins@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)

Events

The Lighthouse Centre, the dedicated, Leicester based evidence centre for children who have been the victim or witnesses of crime, has been launched by Leicestershire Police. It took place in September and was supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Lord Willy Bach.

Pictured at the launch: Lord Willy Bach, Chief Constable Simon Cole, Barry Hunt (retired Chief Executive of Hinckley and Rugby Building Society, who opened the facility) Lighthouse Centre Manager Millie Gant, James Allen from the CPS, along with safeguarding leads from LLR and officers and staff from the new facility and the CSE hub in



Training - Spreading the Word

As part of the ongoing CSE campaign, a full day's training will take place in the new year, addressing the issues associated with the grooming and sexual exploitation of boys and men, and the issue of gangs, county lines and criminal exploitation.

The day is aimed at increasing awareness and the ability to identify and engage with boys and young men who have been, are being or are at risk of being sexually exploited, and to learn about the work taking place at the Wigston CSE hub to identify and safeguard children being exploited into gangs to carry drugs and/or sexually exploited.

Invites will follow in due course but if you would like more information, please contact Claire.Tompkins@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

Successful Investigations

Successful investigations

A man who befriended two young girls on social media has been jailed for more than two years after pleading guilty to child abduction offences. Charnjit Singh, 28, of Wavertree Drive, Leicester, was sentenced on Wednesday, 3 October at Leicester Crown Court after pleading guilty at a hearing last month to two counts of abduction.



In July, a man was jailed for six years at Leicester Crown Court after pleading guilty to sexual activity with a child and possessing indecent images of children. Ross Simmonds, aged 28, of no fixed address, admitted eight counts of sexual activity with a child and three counts of possession of indecent images of children. The inappropriate relationship between Simmonds and his now 15-year-old victim was reported to police in March this year. Simmonds was also ordered to sign the Sex Offenders' Register for life and made the subject of a Sexual Harm Prevention Order for 10 years.

Detectives believe a Leicester man found guilty of committing offences against 26 children while posing as a teenage girl online may have abused dozens more. Henri Michael Pinney, of Wynfield Road, Leicester, groomed his victims online and induced them to take and send him indecent pictures of themselves for his own sexual gratification. After a six-week trial at Leicester Crown Court which concluded in July, Pinney was found guilty of a total of 40 charges relating to the making and sharing of indecent images of children and was jailed for eight years. He was also made the subject of a sexual harm prevention order (SHPO) for life.



Sir Cliff Richard OBE and the BBC

The judgement of the legal case brought by Sir Cliff Richard OBE against the BBC and South Yorkshire Police, in which he claimed the BBC had invaded his privacy, is a timely reminder of the importance that we all adhere to strict laws and guidance about naming people under investigation.

Sir Cliff brought the case after the BBC broadcast footage of officers from South Yorkshire Police searching his home in 2014 and named him as under investigation following an allegation of a non-recent nature.

He was never arrested and no charges were ever brought against the pop star.

Following a lengthy court hearing, Mr Justice Mann ruled that Sir Cliff's rights to privacy had indeed been breached, and found the BBC and South Yorkshire Police liable (respectively 65% and 35% culpable). Interestingly, Mr Justice Mann found the breach occurred simply by the BBC naming Sir Cliff as under investigation, and that the use of a helicopter to broadcast live footage of officers searching his home was a secondary, "sensationalist" issue.

Leicestershire Police has a strict policy, which complies with guidance from the College of Policing, that it does not and will not, unless in exceptional circumstances, ever name anyone under investigation until and unless charges are brought. The Force's Media Policy, and an associated document which provides guidance for all officers and staff engaging with journalists, has recently been revised and updated to reaffirm this policy and to incorporate other, recent guidance from the College. Both documents were presented to the Force's Executive Board for approval on 16 August and will be posted on the Force's intranet in the coming weeks.

Awards & Recognition

DS James Muzzell and social worker Michelle Widdecome received the Outstanding Achievement for Collaborative Working award at the County Social Work Conference in June.

“It’s nice to be recognised for working with partner agencies in a fast-moving environment where success isn’t always measured by a conviction. Our priority is always safeguarding and supporting children.”

Huge congratulations to Leicestershire Police’s *Non Recent Investigation Team*, who won the Emergency Services Award at the recent Heroes of Leicestershire Awards ceremony.

The team investigate non-recent child sex abuse where the victim is an adult but was a child at the time of the abuse and the suspect was a family member, in a position of trust or had influence or care over them. Typically, cases are long, complex and protracted and can take months if not years to investigate. Despite this, and added to the fact that historical crimes are notoriously hard to prosecute, this small team are very successful.

In 2017 they achieved a total of 126 years in custody for dangerous sex offenders and child abusers.

By June 2018 the team had already secured convictions resulting in 79 years in custody for perpetrators of offences going back as far as the 1960s.

The above results are testimony to the excellent, high-quality investigations the team are conducting, locking up dangerous sex offenders, some of who have been abusing children for years. The victims are often very damaged by the abuse they have suffered which affects them for the rest of their lives. It’s often very hard for them to report – let alone take it all the way to court. It is only through the confidence they have in the investigator that they are able to do it.

Their results prove just how outstanding this team is, showing the people of Leicestershire that it may have happened years ago and the abuser may think they’ve got away with it but it isn’t the case. This team cares for victims, tracks down offenders and obtains justice in court.

and finally...

Have a story to share?

Thank you reading the first edition of the new, CSE E-Bulletin. Your feedback is welcomed, along with any ideas for future editions.

Please forward your suggestions to claire.tompkins@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

The next edition will be out in January 2019