

Missing, Exploited, Trafficked (MET) Strategic Group

Terms of Reference

Aims

The purpose of the 4LSCB Strategic MET group is to meet legislative requirements, government guidance and implement recognised best practice to improve the safety and outcomes for children and young people in the following areas of risk:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Child Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Children who are missing

There are clear links between trafficked children, missing children and child sexual exploitation highlighted by a number of national publications since 2011.

Functions of the Group

1. Provide clarity on how safeguarding is addressed within the specific priority areas of child sexual exploitation (CSE), the trafficking of children and young people and agency responses to managing missing young people.
2. To ensure there is a local practice and procedure to provide an operational response to co-ordinate the work to reduce the exploitation of children including those at risk of trafficking and going missing.
3. Have a clear understanding of the prevalence of MET children throughout the LSCB area and incorporate national and local learning into the group's action plan, and meeting agenda.
4. To ensure that all practitioners and managers who work with or come into contact with children are trained and appropriately supported to identify children at risk of exploitation, trafficking or going missing and know how and where to report their concerns.
5. Ensure that all local practice and procedures are managed in line with statutory requirements.
6. To coordinate training to raise awareness about the risk factors leading to MET issues, ensuring a focus on education settings, protective carers and young people.
7. To enable the voice of children, young people, protective carers and professionals to input into this work and our responses.

8. To develop and implement processes for the sharing of multi agency intelligence information so that children at risk can be identified and action taken to manage risk.
9. To produce tools and guidance for public, professionals, children/young people and their protective carers on MET topics and provide continual assessment of relevance and gaps to encourage reporting of concerns.
10. To quality assure responses to MET issues by:
 - Monitoring data to establish patterns of activity and risk
 - Undertake audits and address the need for change in procedures and practice presented by the results of audits
 - Ensure lesson learned are disseminated and acted upon
 - Seek performance reports on MET issues from local providers of key services

Membership

Members from partner organisations should be senior with a strategic role, and have the capacity to complete/commission work on behalf of the group within their own organisation.

Members must be able to comment on the full range of their organisation's interests, and to report back to that organisation on discussion within the group.

They should also be able to answer for their organisation's delivery of their commitments to the group's work.

To contribute data and information to aid the identification of themes and trends in MET children.

The group will include:

- Children Social Care
- Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Probation
- Youth Offending Team
- Education settings representative
- Health - CCG and relevant providers
- Public Health
- Integrated Commissioning Unit
- Housing
- Community Safety Partnership
- Licensing Team

- Commissioned Voluntary organisations

Representatives from the other partner agencies may be asked to join the group as required if additional needs are identified or specialist advice is required.

Membership to be reviewed annually by Chair in consultation with the group.

Reporting and Accountability

The Chair and Deputy Chair will be appointed annually by the LSCB.

The Chair will report to the LSCB via the Executive Group of the Board and to the LSCB annually or upon request.

Frequency of Meetings, Attendance and Review

The group will meet quarterly.

Administration and taking minutes for the group is the responsibility of the LSCB.

Terms of Reference to be reviewed annually by the 4 LSCB policies and procures group to ensure relevance and value of work undertaken in terms of reference.

To be reviewed February 2017

