‘Child Sexual Exploitation and sexual abuse’

What are the new agenda’s for research, policy and practice?

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Covering…

- Definitions, findings from research and evaluations
- Evidence, policy and practice: the ongoing relationships
- Impact of austerity and global movements
- Whose voice is leading?
Definitions

- CSE: a form of CSA including exchange (Beckett et al. 2016)
- CSA, Early and forced child marriage, FGM
- Commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, modern day slavery: economy!!!!
- Resilience and strength based approaches lost in victim discourse
- Any violence against children can have traumatic impact: poly victimization and multiple vulnerabilities
Definition in context

• Economic change: poverty and austerity

• Gender power relations

• Movement of children from war and neglect

• Familial, peer, community based and institutional contexts for abuse
Child sexual abuse/exploitation

- Psychodynamic theories
- Psycho-social theories
- Socio-economic theories
- Gender based theories
- Ecological theories
- Environmental/situational crime prevention theories
- Intersectionality Public/private body identities

- FGM and early marriage
- International Moral Entrepreneurs
- Bringing international (UNCRC, Lanzarote agreement), National (Central gov. policy), regional and local together: where does change happen?
- Bringing local activists and local initiatives into the foreground for change
NRM end of 2015

• 982 children potentially trafficked referred to the NRM 2015

• England 901 : 127 of whom were UK origin, 105 of which CSE

• Northern Ireland 13

• Scotland 42

• Wales 26

Source: national Crime agency 2016
Prevalence data

- 3000 CSE service users (NWG 2010)
- 1875 cases localised grooming (CEOP 2011)
- CSE issue of concern for 1 in 7 young people known to social services in N.Ireland; 1 in 5 at significant risk (Beckett 2011)
- 2409 confirmed victims over 14 month period; 16,500 at risk (Berelowitz et al 2013)
- Rotherham (Jay 2014): 1400 children identified as victims over 16 years
- ONS 2016: 7 percent sexual assault as child
• Internal research produced on behalf of the national policing lead for Child Protection Abuse Investigation (CPAI) suggested that the number of CSA reports to the police has increased by 80% between 2012 and 2015 nationally.

• Given the continued national attention this area is receiving and the significant amount of offending which (despite recent increases) is not reported, it is predicted that this upward trajectory will continue for years to come.
Recorded Data 2015
Reflection of prevalence? NSPCC inform

- 2016: 11.5 million children aged 0-17 in England
- 2% with an education health and care plan (or statement of SEN)
- 0.4% on child protection plans,
- Over 3,000 children needing protection from sexual abuse in 2015: Disabled children: 3 times more likely to be abused
49,690 children in 2015 on CPP: approx. 0.4%

Children and young people who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) by age and gender at 31 March 2015.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unborn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 1</td>
<td>2,710</td>
<td>2,440</td>
<td>5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>7,420</td>
<td>6,750</td>
<td>14,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td>7,030</td>
<td>14,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-15</td>
<td>6,330</td>
<td>6,630</td>
<td>12,960 (26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 and over</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>1,560 : 3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prevalence studies flawed: self-reporting, child protection data, crime statistics

- Global prevalence rates for boys (between 7.9% to 8.0%) and girls (between 15% to 19.7%).

- ‘Davidson et al (2016) England, Italy and Ireland: 1500 18-25 year olds asked about on line experiences when 12-16. Over half UK participants were solicited online, majority by peers

- Ashurst L. and McAlinden A. (2015) Young people, peer-to-peer grooming and sexual offending
Sexual abuse: one of three main national threats (Prime minister and HO 2015)

• All four nations, police recorded the highest number of sexual offences against children in 2013/2014, greater than any year over the last decade;

• All four nations saw a sharp increase in recorded sexual offences against children in the last year;

• Police recorded crime related to sexual assaults in schools: significant numbers of physical assaults and rapes being reported.
Increase in reporting (see Allncock 2016: briefing papers)

- NSPCC: recorded sexual offences had increased by 26% in 2013/2014.

- Childline (2015) referrals made about sexual abuse and online sexual abuse increased 124% on the previous year.

- Rape Crisis England and Wales: 50% rise of sexual violence survivors receiving on-going support 2013-2015. Calls to helpline increased 27% : 13% of their service users under 18, an increase on service use by this age group.
Austerity and displacement: context

- The UN 2016 expressed “serious concerns” about growing inequality in the UK

- 2016: Lily Caprani, Unicef UK's deputy executive director said: "Today, nearly one in every 200 children in the world is a refugee”.

- Minimum wage not covering costs, charity and NGO sector under strain

- Hate crime rising: since Referendum: there has been a 57 per cent spike in the number of reported incidents of hate crime against migrants and ethnic minorities, according to the National Police Chiefs’ Council.
• What will child protection look like in 5 years time?

- Leadership, early intervention, information sharing
- Most authorities: only now starting to understand CSE happening in their area.
- A number have only begun to address CSE at a strategic level in the last 12 months.
- Local arrangements poorly informed by local issues and self-assessment: not linking with other local strategic plans.
- LA and police do not always follow formal child protection procedures with children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation.
‘Unprotected, overprotected’ (Franklin et al 2015):

- Awareness, support, identification
- Only 31 per cent LA’s /health and social care trusts: who collate figures on CSE identified young people with learning disabilities
Sexual orientation

• ‘hidden’

• Assumed experimentation

• Separated politics
Whose voice? : optimism for future

- Young Hackney: [https://www.younghackney.org](https://www.younghackney.org) Integrated youth services
- CSE and poly-victimisation
- NWG, Centre of Expertise, Inspectorates’ interest, Warrington 2013
Evaluations:

- **FCASE**: parents and families and carers are essential: approach communities through bottom up (www.beds.ac.uk/intcent)

- **AYPH 2016**: There’s a role for you: survey response: 316 parents (302 mothers): waiting times, disbelief, feeling excluded

- **NightWatch**: the private sector has a big role to play: taxi and minicab companies, deliveries, cafes, pubs and clubs, bouncers (www.beds.ac.uk/intcent)

- **Alexi Project**: impact of service location

- **Safe accommodation (Shuker 2013)**: relational, physical and emotional safety
Young People’s Voices

• ‘Our Voices’: Cody, Warrington
• Local, national and international ‘Group’ and individual voices
• Films, blogs, conferences
• (CATS), on-line chat
Beckett et al 2016: children’s experiences

- Children and the police: child suspects and victims (Beckett and Warrington, 2014).

- Child victims and witnesses (see for example Hayes and Bunting, 2013; Plotnikoff, and Woolfson, 2009).

- Children’s experiences of help-seeking and support services following maltreatment or experiences of going missing (see for example Allnock and Miller, 2013; Cossar et al., 2013).

- Types of child maltreatment in relation to criminal justice processes (see for example Allnock 2015 a/b; Beckett and Warrington, 2014).

- Procedural aspects of child protection investigations: e.g. forensic interviews
But, putting policy into practice?

- 2000: safeguarding children involved in prostitution
- 2001 national action plan
- 2002: Swann and Balding: 6% of ACPC meeting dual aim of protecting and prosecuting
- 2009: Safeguarding children and young from sexual exploitation
- 2011: Jago et al/ Pearce 2009: 1/3 LSCB’s meeting dual aim
- 2011: Munro review
- 2015: Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
Peers: let's focus on young people!

• NSPCC (2011) study of prevalence, the majority (65.9%) of contact sexual abuse is perpetrated by peers or young people under the age of 18.

• 1,353 young people 13 to 17: one in three girls, 16% of boys experienced sexual violence from partners (Barter 2009)

• International study of online and offline interpersonal violence and abuse: in England, 41% females/ 14% boys report sexual violence in relationships (Wood et al 2015)
Firmin et al 2016: Peer on peer includes

- Domestic abuse (previously reserved for abuse within adult relationships)
- CSE (often misunderstood as only featuring the exploitation of children by adults)
- Serious youth and gang-related violence
- Children who display harmful sexual behaviour (HSB)

Review of Local Authority site work implementing contextual safeguarding
2016: Parliamentary Inquiry launched into sexual harassment and violence in schools

Department for Education provided additional information on peer-on-peer abuse ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance’.

The 2016 Ofsted Social Care report ‘increasing concerns regarding peer-on-peer abuse and the need for holistic responses to child sexual exploitation (CSE) in order to accommodate this’.
The child protection system has two functions:

- protecting children
- ‘containing’ societies anxiety about child abuse
- …in line with Munro, argues for the importance of a tragic perspective on child maltreatment, to counter idealisations of the capacity of the formal system to protect children.
Private / public bodies: Pearce and Shuker 2016

Supposed ‘sexual abuse’ free identity

Social body

Sexual abuse contained in the child protection system

Child’s body

Hidden impact of sexual abuse
What difference would it make for the child if

• We were trauma informed?
• child protection was everyone’s business?
Trauma informed institutions

• Recognition of secondary trauma
• Supervision and support and training
• Whole school approaches
• Whole health approaches
• Whole community approaches
• Private and public sector engaged responsibility
• Allnock, D and Miller, P (2013) No one noticed, no one heard. A study of disclosures of childhood abuse. 


• Ashurst, L, McAlinden, A (2015). Young People, Peer-to-Peer Grooming and Sexual Offending: Understanding and 
  374-88.


• Beckett, H 2011 Not a world away, The sexual exploitation of children and young people in northern Ireland. Barnardos

• Beckett and Warrington (2014) 'Making Justice Work'. www.beds.ac.uk/intcent

• Berelowitz, s et al (2013) If only someone had listened. Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Inquiry into Child Sexual 
  Exploitation in Gangs and Groups. London

• CEOP 2011 ‘Out of mind, out of sight' breaking down the barriers to understanding child sexual exploitation 
  www.ceop.police.uk

• Cloward, K 2016 When Norms Collide Oxford University Press

  in the Public Sphere In Journal of Social Work Practice, Psychotherapeutic Approaches in Health, Welfare and the 


• Jago, S et al (2011) What’s going on to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation www.beds.ac.uk/intcent

• NWG : national working group network www.nwgnetork.org.uk


• Pearce, J (2009) Young People and sexual exploitation London Routledge


For more information and resources visit our website www.beds.ac.uk/ic

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