

# Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: Emerging Victim Trajectories and Prevention

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# Overview

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- Definition:
  - Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
  - Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)
- Rationale behind the project
- Initial data and key findings
- Next Steps
- Comprehensive analysis
- Comprehensive prevention strategy and iterative evaluation

# New Definition of CSE

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Proposed in February 2016 to supersede 2009 definition.  
Consultation responses now being analysed.

*‘Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status. Consent is irrelevant, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and may occur online.’*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/500097/HO\\_DfE\\_consultation\\_on\\_definition\\_of\\_child\\_sexual\\_exploitation\\_-\\_final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/500097/HO_DfE_consultation_on_definition_of_child_sexual_exploitation_-_final.pdf)

# Statutory Definition of CSA

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Published in “Working Together” (2015), will remain unchanged.

‘Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.’

HM Government (2015) Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (PDF). London: Department for Education

# Rationale

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- International 'epidemic' (IFSW, 2014)
  - A '[national threat](#)'
- Media coverage
- Impact of technology
- Current responses are secondary and tertiary – require primary prevention for success

# Context: Emerging Trajectories

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- Childhood sexual abuse in particular, has been found to increase the risk of further victimisation (Desai, Arias, Thompson, & Basile, 2002)
- Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (CSEGG) found that victims had previously been sexually abused in the family environment but the abuse had not been identified or addressed (Berelowitz, 2013)
- The Munro review of child protection (Munro, 2011); Early Intervention, The Next Steps (Allen, 2011); NSPCC. Preventing Child Sexual Abuse - Towards a national strategy for England (Published June 2015)
- Specific offender, victim, community, situations need to be targeted within a comprehensive framework (Smallbone, Marshall & Wortley, 2013)

# Context: Emerging Trajectories

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National media attention on CSE has resulted in large scale Police organisational change

- CSE teams and multiagency response in every identified case
- Cases sought to prevent CSE via immediate precursors
- Earlier life indicators not sought = increased risk of entrenchment
- Specific CSA earlier life indicators harder to spot
- Can early life indicators of CSA and CSE and be identified?
- Can intervention targets be identified to prevent CSA and CSE?
- Can we prevent CSA and CSE?

# Initial Data Collation and Analysis

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1. Initial review of offence role relationship data: CSE, Rape and sexual assault victims & offenders 2013 to 2015. Warwickshire & West Mercia
  - Index offence details and victim and offender histories by age-group: Including victimology, criminality, intel, specific risk markers, family domestic abuse, stayed in children's home y/n, care plan y/n
2. Analysis of victim life-course data: All victims under 5 and their complete victim trajectories from 1996 to 2015



# Initial Findings

## CSA Victim/Offender Age Profile

Role		Offender																			
		Gender	Male										Female								
			Age	5-11	12-15	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	5-11	12-15	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Victim	Male	<5	5	6	1	15	14	7	5	1											
		5-11	18	18	1	15	31	22	18	1	3	4	2		4	5					
		12-15		8	6	6	17	10	10	3	1		1	1							
		16-17				2	1	1	2	1		1									
	Female	<5	13	8	4	11	31	8	3	4	1				1						
		5-11	33	36	9	15	43	44	27	13	10	13	3		1	2	2	1			
		12-15	7	101	40	34	38	25	29	16	7		4			3	1				
		16-17		4	31	49	20	8	10	5	7					1					

27% of male offenders against 5-11 girls were under 16 years of age

55% of male offenders against 5-11 girls were over 25 years of age

# Initial Findings

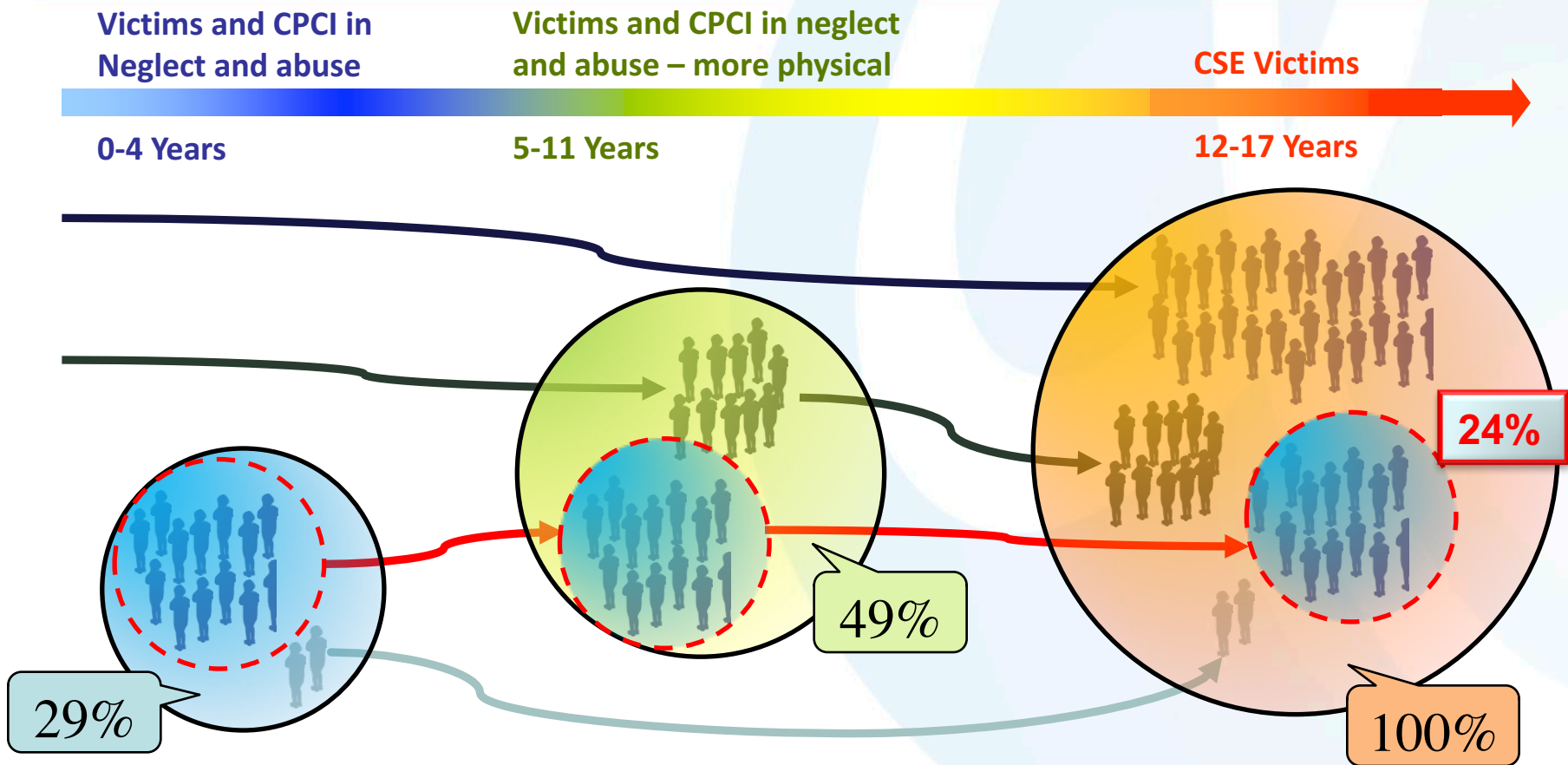
## CSE Victim/Offender Age Profile

Role	Offender																				
	Gender	Male										Female									
		Age	5-11	12-15	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	5-11	12-15	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
Victim	Male	<5																			
		5-11	1																		
		12-15				1	1	1									3				
		16-17		1	2																
	Female	<5																			
		5-11	4		1		1	1	1	1											
		12-15		19	15	43	13	8	5		1	1	1	2	1						
		16-17			1	5	5	4	2			1					1				

29% victims were 12-15 females with 18-24 male offenders  
 Total 74% of victims in CSE were 12-15

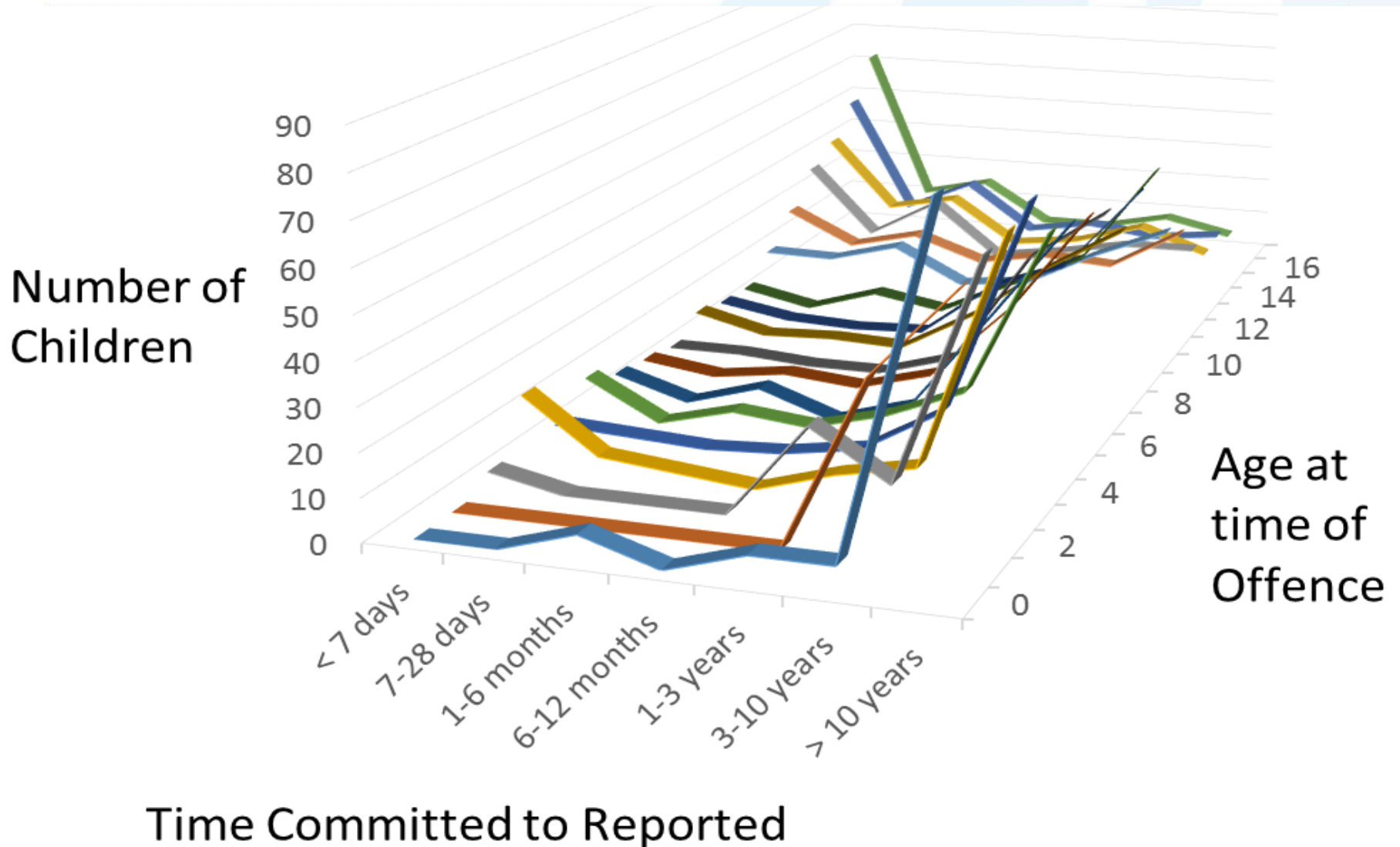
# Initial Findings

## Pathways to CSE



# Initial Findings

## Child Rape Data – Committed to Reported Time



# Initial Observations

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CSA and CSE victims risk repeat/chronic victim trajectories

- Many CSE victims are identifiable in earlier life
- Many CSA victims are not known to police until years later, many others remain hidden
- Need for comprehensive analysis to assess whether any variables can be identified which can predict CSA
- Vital requirement for development of robust comprehensive intervention framework with ongoing evaluation of effectiveness
- Tools need to be developed to identify and safeguard high risk and hidden individuals and groups

# Phase 2 Analysis

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## Sexual offence victims with child victim trajectories

- Hierarchical multiple regression
- Long format data: person x age-group x risk/protective variables. Variables representing: victims, offenders, family/community, situation/location
- Incorporate social services, education and health data into the model
- Ascertain whether sufficiently reliable and useable indicators of CSA can be identified within multiagency data
- Clearly define a cohort of vulnerable children most likely to become involved in CSE and provide rationale for early (continuous, proportionate and incremental) intervention

# Phase 2 Framework for Analysis, Strategy Development and Evaluation

(Smallbone, Marshall, & Wortley, 2013)

Targets	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Potential Offenders			
Children & Young People			
Communities/Families			
Situation/Places			

Prevention before it would otherwise occur

Reduce risk in at risk groups

Prevention of reoffending and revictimisation

# Phase 2 Evidence Based Comprehensive Prevention Strategy

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Continuously evaluate, develop and improve the comprehensive strategy

## Examples

- Interviews with victims of historic CSA to determine the barriers and opportunities to reporting and help-seeking
- Examine the influence of technology on forms of and effects of CSA and CSE
- Develop a methodology for ongoing understanding of actual CSA prevalence



# References

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