

Presentation By:

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# Exploitation and Transition

# Transition

- **Process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another**
- **Transire to move across**
- **Preparation for adulthood**

# Exploitation

Exploitation affects young people and vulnerable adults;

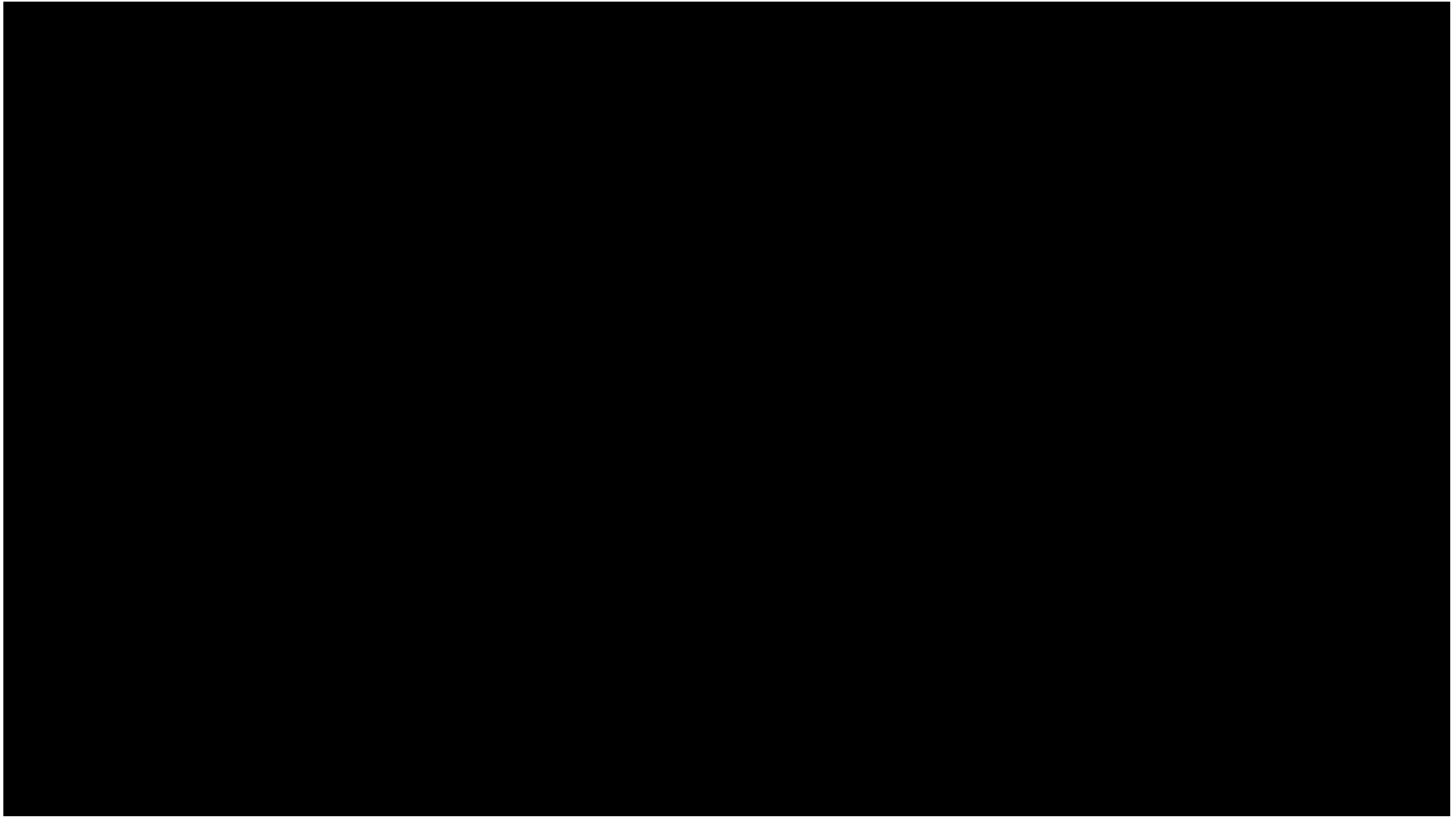
- Exploitation can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- Can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- Can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- Can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- Can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults;
- Is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation.
- Examples of exploitation are; Sexual exploitation, Trafficking, forced labour, county Lines, criminal exploitation etc.

**What is the current practice in your area regarding exploitation and transition?**

# National overview

- **Change drivers**
- **Systems and processes- Culture**
- **Vulnerable adolescent strategies**
- **Wider exploitation models**
- **Early help**
- **YEAR 11- HIDDEN TRANSITION!!!**

# Victim Blaming Language



# Consent

- **Views are wide and diverse**
- **CSE Guidance**
- **CPS Guidance**
- **Jenny Pearce ‘Social Model of Abused Consent’**
- **Impact of research/reports**

# CSE: Social Model of Consent (2015)



University of  
Bedfordshire



# Transition into adulthood-Why do it ?

- Exploitation does not stop just because you turn 18 (Sheffield slogan)
- Young adults as well as children are also vulnerable to (C)SE and other forms of exploitation. Perpetrators target vulnerability not age (Newcastle slogan)
- Good transition can help stop further problems developing
- Newcastle, Sheffield, Leeds and Rochdale examples
- Serious case reviews

- Sexual exploitation is not restricted to child victims; Vulnerability is not determined by age and it is likely that extensive abuse of vulnerable adults is taking place across the country (Newcastle Serious Case Review).
- The project uncovered significant anecdotal evidence of unmet needs of both survivors of child exploitation and those at high risk or being sexually exploited as adults. The project identified a lack of recognition of sexual exploitation by both young adults and professionals, with abuse experiences often becoming normalised. (Sheffield Transition Project).

# Three key strands for consideration;

- Continuous exploitation from childhood into adulthood
- Consequential impact of childhood exploitation in adulthood
- Adults who have not been previously exploited becoming victims of exploitation

How can exploitation and transition into adult services be improved in your area?

# Challenges

- Understanding of adolescent development and impact of trauma
- Different eligibility criteria
- Different budgets
- No resources to support transition
- Different ways of working
- Different databases/culture/thresholds
- Lack of awareness in adult services of (C)SE and the impact that it has on children and young adults
- Joint commissioning of services against need
- Services working together

# How can it be done?

- Policies/procedures/protocols put in place to support transition
- Joint training of adult services in (C)SE and wider exploitation
- Hold Transition Forums/Panels
- Undertake audits on current transition arrangements
- Develop a position statement on transition with recommendations
- Awareness raising and implementation of the Care Act
- Locate staff together e.g. Newcastle
- Consistently review
- Case Study

# Principles behind good transition....

- Be person centred and strength based
- Start transition as early as possible, do not rush it
- Plan the transition with clear timescales
- Ensure all assessments and plans are up to date and ensure that transition planning takes into account each young person's capabilities
- The point of transfer should not be based on a rigid age threshold and take place at a time of relative stability for the young person
- Joint visits with workers with a focus on handover
- Do not use non engagement as a reason to close cases

## Advice/what has helped;

- Having named managers from both Children's and Adult services to develop practice
- Culture of thinking 'out of the box' and thinking and working in different ways
- Persistence to engage with those at risk or who are victims of exploitation. Need to go out and engage
- Can do attitude and solution focused to deal with issues as and when they arise
- Flexibility in service delivery
- Resilient staff supported by effective supervision



# Advice/what has helped cont.....;

- Build on existing policies and procedures
- Develop an effective victim strategy
- Joint training with Children's and Adult services around exploitation, trafficking and modern slavery. This has helped joint working between Children's and Adult Services.
- Development of a multi- agency partnership for exploitation across Children's and Adult Services. Services include;

CAMHS/SIPS

Learning Disability

Community Mental Health Team

# Advice/what has helped cont.....;

- No case closed due to 'non-engagement', they are brought back to the meetings for further discussion
- All the referrals into the Multi –agency partnership must have consent given by the child or young adult.
- Staff have an understanding of the impact of trauma
- Children's Services make a referral to Adult Services as the child approaches 17.5yrs.
- Adult Services subsequently attend appropriate meetings to support and child/young adult
- Regular meetings to review and develop practice
- Young adults with LDD are a key concern, especially those with undiagnosed learning difficulties

# Challenges;

- Police need a better understanding of Adult Social Care statutory powers and what support can be offered
- Mental Health Services need to take more ownership and offer better support to victims/those at risk of exploitation
- Personality disorders may be being diagnosed when the person could actually be suffering from trauma

# Disruption Opportunities;

- Criminal Powers
- Civil Powers
- Partner agency Powers

# Any Questions?