

The *Make A Change* Team; What We Do...

Why do we have a *Make A Change* Team?

Following the murder of five street sex workers in Ipswich in December 2006 a multi-agency strategy was developed in response to the risk of exploitation posed to young women in the town. The launch of the *Make A Change* Team in 2007 was a consequence of this strategy and brought police, health, Suffolk County Council and others together to work directly with young women at risk of such exploitation.

The strategy and the work of the *Make A Change* Team were successful in reducing the number of young women at risk on the street and the team subsequently evolved to provide a service response to children and young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation across Suffolk.

What is the focus of the *Make A Change* Team now?

The *Make A Change* Team operates and is managed within Children's Social Care. The team is based in Landmark House, Ipswich, and offers a countywide service for children and young people who are at risk, or are victims of child exploitation. This includes those who engage in sexual acts for reward, those subject to female genital mutilation, forced marriage, honour based abuse, Modern Day Slavery and radicalisation as well as children and young people who go missing from home or care or are involved with gangs and groups.

The *Make a Change* Team acts as the 'intelligence hub' for all the aspects of Child Exploitation and are represented on the Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board CSE Strategic Group and all planning and strategic groups relating to the aspects of CE as identified above.

The team is represented at monthly meetings of the Tactical and Tasking Co-ordination Group which identifies and coordinates planning for young people most at risk as a consequence of going missing.

The team is also represented at the Monthly meetings of Chanel Panel which identifies and coordinates planning for young people most at risk as a consequence of radicalisation.

The *Make A Change* team plays a crucial role in determining the level of prevalence of concerns across Suffolk for Child Exploitation. This is measured by the electronic records held by Suffolk CYPS automatically informing *Make A Change* when a social worker has concerns for a child which are related to exploitation. This system allows the *Make A Change* team to identify repeat offenders, any hot spots across the county causing concern, children who are linked and may be missing together. This intelligence allows for consideration to be given to issuing Child Abduction Warning Notices.

The team also play a role in perseverance with young people who may be reluctant or worried about disclosure. The workers understand it may take time and commitment to listening to a young person before they are able to identify any exploitation they have suffered and disclose this formally.

The *Make A Change* team is involved with ensuring preventative work and strategies are in place in each of the 5 locality groups across the county. The *Make A Change* team ensures the groups are kept updated with training opportunities. The *Make A Change* team continue to raise awareness to many professionals across the County including health, education and police.

What services does the *Make A Change* Team offer?

The *Make A Change* Team works to provide expertise to the mainstream teams in all areas of exploitation. The team will offer direct work with young people and children who have an allocated social worker in circumstances where perseverance is required or specific direct work but does not offer specialism in isolation of the mainstream teams. It is an expectation of all the mainstream teams to use the Child Sexual Exploitation toolkit when carrying out assessments having the opportunity to consult with Make A Change if further assistance or advice is required.

The team is able to offer support to young people at risk of Child Exploitation and their families in a number of ways:

Advice and information – the team holds a wide range of materials to assist young people to stay safe in relationships. Advice can be provided to young people and other family members about low level concerns in order to prevent behaviours becoming more risky.

Consultation for professionals – the team offers direct professional consultation for staff in Early Help and Children’s Social Care Teams in their casework with children and families for whom there is believed to be a risk of any form of child exploitation. Consultation is also provided to Health professionals, schools and Youth Justice service.

Direct work with young people and families – where there is clear evidence of risk or actual harm associated with child exploitation the Make A Change Team may become directly involved with young people and their families subject to a referral to the team from the case holder. The Make A Change Team will follow up on closed cases every 3 months for 12 months, to track the Young persons progress and enable intervention if identified, this provides a measurable service in terms of impact.

The *Make A Change* Team will not become case responsible but will work alongside the case holder to provide consultation and advice. The *Make A Change* Team member is able to attend ABE interviews as support to the young person, attend strategy meetings, be directly involved in case planning and work face to face with the young person and other family members as agreed with the caseworker. The aim of the intervention will always be to reduce the level of risk to the young person.

In circumstances where it is needed the team are able to identify and arrange specialist therapeutic support for young people who have suffered harm as a consequence of Child Exploitation.

Raising awareness - the team, work with professional networks in all localities in Suffolk to maintain an awareness of the issues relating to child exploitation. Social workers are located in some of the teams across the locality weekly. Child Exploitation presentations are provided to CYPS, Health and education across the County.

Who is in the *Make A Change* Team?

The *Make A Change* Team is managed within the Children’s Social Care service structure with a Service Manager responsible for the effective overall planning and delivery of the service.

The Manager is responsible for the day to day work of the team, the quality and effectiveness of practice, analysis of emerging trends and patterns in team activity, support to team members and maintenance of sound working arrangements with other teams and services. The manager also contributes to strategic planning and represents the team in county forums related to Child Exploitation. Prioritising incoming work and assessing the level of response needed. The Manager will monitor continuing casework and provide both individual and group supervision to team members. The Manager provides consultation to professionals in other Children's Social Care teams and Early Help working with young people for whom Child Exploitation may be identified as a risk. Where the team are involved in direct casework, the Manager will attend ABE interviews and strategy meetings where required. The Manager and the Child exploitation Co Ordinator will carry out Bi-monthly audits to evaluate the work of Make A Change and identify any changes that need to be made.

The Social Workers provide consultation to professionals in other Children's Social Care teams and Early Help working with young people for whom Child Exploitation may be identified as a risk. Where the team are involved in direct casework, the Social Worker will attend ABE interviews and strategy meetings where required. The social workers will work directly with young people and their families at risk of exploitation. The Social workers will be present in the CYPS children's homes fortnightly to offer support and advice to staff and Young people, they will also be present in teams across the county. Where there is multiple Child exploitation concerns, the Social workers will lead with police on Police operations and will provide an overall report.

3 Family Support Practitioners undertake direct work with young people and their families. The work will always be alongside other professionals and both individual and group work approaches may be used.

The Assessment Co ordinator maintains the management information systems that support timely and effective interventions, tracks emerging trends and patterns in work of the team, provides monthly and annual reports to Senior Management.

All of the *Make A Change* Team's contacts and interventions are recorded on the young person's Liquid Logic case note, and on the Make A Change pathway on Liquid Logic.

How can I contact the team if I am concerned about a young person being at risk of child sexual exploitation?

Referrals or requests for consultation should be made through the Make A Change general mailbox at MakeAChange@Suffolk.gov.uk or by telephoning 01473 263507.

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