



south ayrshire
health & social care
partnership

Sexual Exploitation Strategy

2020 - 2025



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Foreword

Sexual exploitation is an often hidden form of sexual abuse. It happens in person and online and has a devastating impact on victims and their families. We also know that women and girls are at increased risk of sexual exploitation precisely because they are female. No one should experience abuse of any form and our aim, in South Ayrshire, is to eliminate sexual exploitation.

Preventing and tackling sexual exploitation requires a co-ordinated, multiagency response. Universal and specialist services have important roles to play and it is vital that all practitioners have the knowledge and skills to identify exploitation and respond appropriately. This response must be underpinned by strong leadership and a focus on developing a shared understanding of the local profile of exploitation.

This strategy builds on the wide range of activity underway in South Ayrshire to tackle sexual exploitation and has been developed by the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group which is a sub-group of South Ayrshire's Violence Against Women Partnership. The strategy adopts the same strategic priorities as the National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation but also considers the needs and heightened risk of adults with additional vulnerabilities.

I would like to thank all those involved in its development. Their ongoing support and commitment will be critical in maintaining momentum to implement the strategy.

Councillor Julie Dettbarn

Chair of the Integration Joint Board

1. Purpose of Strategy

- 1.1 South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership's Sexual Exploitation Strategy for 2020 - 2025 applies to all children and young people and adults at risk of sexual exploitation. The Strategy is informed by and supports delivery of the priorities and requirements set out in South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership's Strategic Plan for 2018-2021.
- 1.2 People of all ages may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Victims of sexual exploitation can be children, young people or adults. It is the vulnerability (whether that be age, gender, disability, illness, poor life experiences, previous victims of abuse, isolation) of the alleged victim that is important, not just their age.
- 1.3 The conditions which allow sexual exploitation to take place are often complex, and require a multi-agency approach to robustly understand and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions. This requires staff working across services to be ambitious for the people they are working with and ensure the services they are planning, commissioning and delivering are of a high quality.
- 1.4 All children, young people and vulnerable adults are potentially at risk of being sexually exploited. However, research has shown that a number of factors can increase a person's vulnerability to sexual exploitation. These include a disrupted family life, a history of abuse, mental health issues or parental substance misuse.
- 1.5 It is known that some groups of people are more vulnerable to targeting by perpetrators. These include young people who go missing or are looked after, people with learning disabilities, children and young people who are excluded from school or people who misuse drugs and alcohol. Care experienced children and young people have additional vulnerabilities.
- 1.6 The [National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation Update](#)¹ was published in March 2016. This plan is built on the actions set out in 2014 and is structured around four outcomes:
 1. The risk that children and young people are exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early identification.
 2. Children and young people at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high quality support.
 3. Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and less likely to re-offend.
 4. Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling CSE are reduced.
- 1.7 South Ayrshire Child and Adult Protection Committees alongside the Violence Against Women Partnership previously developed South Ayrshire's Response to Sexual

¹ Scottish Government (2016) Scotland's National Action Plan to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation Update <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2016/03/scotlands-national-action-plan-prevent-tackle-child-sexual-exploitation-update/documents/00497283-pdf/00497283-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00497283.pdf>

Exploitation and Abuse covering the period 2017-2022. This has now been refreshed into this current Strategy.

- 1.8 This Strategy was produced by the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group. In line with the [National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation Update¹](#), the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group has agreed that this strategy is working towards the same strategic priorities and including vulnerable adults.

2. Who We Are

2.1 South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership brings together a wide range of community and primary care health and social work services into a single operational delivery unit. In South Ayrshire the Integrated Partnership includes Adult Services, Children's Services and Criminal Justice Services. The Partnership is governed by the Integration Joint Board (IJB). The IJB has members from NHS Ayrshire and Arran, South Ayrshire Council, representatives of the 3rd Sector, Independent Sector, staff representatives and others representing the interests of patients, service users and carers. The IJB is a separate legal entity in its own right and has within its scope, staff from both South Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran. It is responsible for planning and overseeing the delivery of a full range of community health and social work/ social care services, including those for people with learning disabilities. The IJB is responsible for allocating the integrated revenue budget for health and social care in accordance with the policy priorities set out in its Strategic Plan. In practice, this means that services will work more closely together to deliver streamlined and effective support to people that need it.

2.2 Our vision

'Working together for the best possible health and wellbeing of our communities'

2.3 Our mission

We will work with you to improve health, support social care, tackle health inequality, and improve community wellbeing. We will work in partnership with local communities to offer services that are:

- Easily understood
- Accessible and timely
- Well-coordinated
- Safe and person centred
- Effective and efficient

2.4 Our Values

In our work we and those that work on our behalf will uphold the following values:

- Safety
- Integrity
- Engaged
- Caring
- Individually focused
- Respectful

2.5 The IJB has approved a number of Strategic Objectives and Policy Priorities which have been designed to deliver progress locally against the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes.

3. National and Local Policy Context

National Context

Children and Young People

- 3.1 In response to the Public Petitions Committee Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Scotland, the Minister for Children and Young People announced in January 2013 a programme of action to address child sexual exploitation in Scotland.
- 3.2 A ministerial working group on child sexual exploitation, comprising key partners, was established to develop [Scotland's National Action Plan to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation 2014](#)². The action plan identified the following areas which required particular focus:
- prevention of abuse (with specific measures for dealing with particularly vulnerable children);
 - disruption and prosecution of offenders; and
 - supporting children and young people affected by child sexual exploitation.
- 3.3 The [National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation Update](#)¹ was published in March 2016. This plan is built on the actions set out in 2014 and is structured around four outcomes:
1. The risk that children and young people are exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early identification.
 2. Children and young people at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high quality support.
 3. Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and less likely to re-offend.
 4. Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling CSE are reduced.
- 3.4 The latest [Progress Report 2017-2018](#)³ details the progress made since the 2016 update of the National Action Plan.
- 3.5 In July 2020, the [National Action Plan to Tackle and Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation 2016 – 2020 – Delivery Report](#)⁴ was published and reflects the range of work delivered over the last three years.
- 3.6 In October 2016, the Scottish Government published the '[Child Sexual Exploitation Definition and Practitioner Briefing Paper](#)⁵.' The paper set out a clear definition and

² Scottish Government (2014) Scotland's National Action Plan to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-action-plan-to-tackle-child-sexual-exploitation/>

³ Scottish Government (2018) National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation: Progress Report 2017-18 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-action-plan-prevent-tackle-child-sexual-exploitation-progress-report-9781788517010/>

⁴ Scottish Government (2020) National action plan to tackle child sexual exploitation: final report <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-action-plan-prevent-tackle-child-sexual-exploitation-final-delivery-report/>

⁵ Scottish Government (2016) Child Sexual Exploitation Definition and Practitioner Briefing Paper

implications for practice. The paper also highlights the complexity and the impact of child sexual exploitation.

- 3.7 In 2017, the Scottish Government published '[Child Sexual Exploitation: a guide for health practitioners](#)⁶.'
- 3.8 The [Equally Safe Strategy](#)⁷, updated in March 2016, aims to prevent and eradicate the full spectrum of violence against women and girls, including domestic abuse, rape, incest, child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation. The strategy adopts a gendered approach but recognises that boys are also victims of sexual exploitation and other forms of sexual abuse. Equally Safe recognises that, as well as adult women, girls and young women are at risk of violence and abuse precisely because they are female. There are a number of specific issues prevalent in the lives of girls and young women; for example, sexting and non-consensual sharing of intimate images (also known as 'revenge porn') can also particularly affect young people.
- 3.9 [Getting it Right for Every Child \(GIRFEC\)](#) is Scotland's approach to improving outcomes for children and young people.
- 3.10 [Corporate parenting](#) is also defined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 as: "the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers"⁸. The Act states that Part 9 (Corporate Parenting) applies - regardless of age, gender, location or placement type - to:
- (a) Every child who is looked after by a local authority, and
 - (b) Every young person who-
 - (i) Is under the age of 26, and
 - (ii) Was (on the person's 16th birthday or at any subsequent time) but is no longer looked after by a local authority
- 3.11 Under section 58, the responsibilities of corporate parents are:
- o Being alert to matters that could adversely affect the wellbeing of care experienced children and young people
 - o Assessing their needs for the services and support provided Promoting their interests
 - o Providing opportunities for them to participate in activities that will promote their wellbeing
 - o Taking action to help them access the opportunities and services they provide Improving the way they exercise their functions in relation to care experienced young people

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00508563.pdf>

⁶ Scottish Government (2017) Child sexual exploitation: a guide for health practitioners
<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-guide-health-practitioners/>

⁷ Scottish Government (2016) Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy to eradicate violence against women
<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2018/04/equally-safe-scotlands-strategy-prevent-eradicate-violence-against-women-girls/documents/00534791-pdf/00534791-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00534791.pdf?forceDownload=true>

- 3.12 The Scottish Government launched the [Child Protection Improvement Programme](#) in 2016 to make improvements in all areas of child protection, including:
- neglect
 - child sexual exploitation
 - trafficking
 - data and evidence
 - systems
 - children's hearings
 - leadership and workforce development
 - inspections
 - internet safety
- 3.13 In March 2018, the Scottish Government published [Protecting Scotland's Children National Policy and Child Abuse Prevention Activity](#).⁹ These documents set out Scottish Government's vision of how to protect Scotland's children and young people.
- 3.14 The [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) includes a specific obligation for Governments to protect children and young people from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- 3.15 In February 2020, the [Independent Care Review](#) published its findings. [The Promise](#) reflected what over 5,500 care experienced children and adults, families and the paid and unpaid workforce told the Care Review. The Promise laid out five foundations (Family, People, Care, Voice and Scaffolding) and over 80 calls to action.
- 3.16 Scotland's new [Health and Social Care Standards](#), introduced from April 2018, set out the quality of care and support that people should experience regardless of setting¹⁰. They apply across social care, social work, children's services, and beyond. Some are particularly relevant for those who have experience of, or are at risk of, sexual exploitation:

1.29. I am supported to be emotionally resilient, have a strong sense of my own identity and wellbeing, and address any experiences of trauma or neglect.

3.20. I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities.

3.21. I am protected from harm because people are alert and respond to signs of significant deterioration in my health and wellbeing, that I may be unhappy or may be at risk of harm.

3.23. If I go missing, people take urgent action, including looking for me and liaising with the police, other agencies and people who are important to me.

3.25. I am helped to feel safe and secure in my local community.

⁹ Scottish Government (2018) Protecting Scotland's Children National Policy and Child Abuse Prevention Activity <https://www.gov.scot/publications/protecting-scotlands-children-national-policy-and-draft-child-abuse-prevention-activity/>

- 3.17 In 2015, the [Human Trafficking and Exploitation Scotland Act](#) was unanimously passed by the Scottish Parliament, thereby addressing the criminal activity, the support for survivors and wider conditions fostering trafficking and slavery head on.
- 3.18 The Act addresses human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced labour, and victim support within Scotland. The most pertinent provisions of the Act include the following:
- It provides a single definition to prosecute the crimes under, gives the courts new powers to prevent and punish, and it consolidates and strengthens existing laws against human trafficking.
 - The Act also raises the maximum penalty for trafficking to life imprisonment for both human trafficking and crimes related to exploitation.
 - Importantly, the Act places a duty on Scottish Ministers to secure provision of immediate support and recovery services for victims of human trafficking and exploitation.
- 3.19 The Scottish Government is also required under the Act to realise and implement a [Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy for Scotland](#)¹¹ which was released in May 2017.
- 3.20 The [Forced Marriage etc. \(Protection and Jurisdiction\) \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#) came into force in November 2011. It introduced Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPO) to protect people from being forced to marry, or who are already in a forced marriage. To extend protection to those at risk, [forcing someone into marriage was made a criminal offence in Scotland in September 2014](#).

Vulnerable Adults

- 3.21 The [Adult Support and Protection Act 2007](#) gives greater protection to adults at risk of harm or neglect. The Act defines adults at risk as those aged 16 years and over who:
- are unable to safeguard their own wellbeing, property, rights or other interests
 - and are at risk of harm
 - and because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.
- 3.22 It places a duty on local councils to inquire and investigate cases where harm is known or suspected. They have powers to visit and interview people, arrange medical examinations, examine records, and issue protection orders. They must also consider if there is any need for advocacy and other services, such as help with medication, or support services. Harm can take many forms but includes sexual exploitation.
- 3.23 The [Adults with Incapacity \(Scotland\) Act 2000](#) creates provisions for protecting the welfare of adults who are unable to make decisions for themselves because of a mental disorder or an inability to communicate. It allows other people to make decisions on behalf of the adults who cannot do that for themselves.

¹¹ Scottish Government (2017) Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/trafficking-exploitation-strategy/>

- 3.24 The [Mental Health \(Care and Treatment\) \(Scotland\) Act](#) came into force in 2005. It increases the rights and protection of people with mental disorders, which is a term that encompasses mental illness, learning disability and personality disorder. The Act places duties on local councils to provide care and support services for people with mental disorders. It introduced changes to develop community-based mental health services, involvement of service users and unpaid carers in decisions concerning treatment, and respect for the human rights of people with mental disorders. The provisions of this Act are intended to ensure that care and compulsory measures of detention can be used only when there is a significant risk to the safety or welfare of the patient or other people.
- 3.25 The [Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy](#)¹¹, published in May 2017, sets out a clear vision: to work with partners to eliminate human trafficking and exploitation. The Scottish Government is clear that the existence of human trafficking and exploitation in Scotland – or anywhere – is unacceptable and cannot be ignored.

Local Context

- 3.26 In South Ayrshire, the [Local Outcomes Improvement Plan](#) identifies the areas of focus for the Community Planning Partnership:
- Improving outcomes for care experienced children and care leavers;
 - Providing support for young people who are carers; and
 - Support for people living with dementia and their carers
 - Reducing social isolation and loneliness in older people
- 3.27 The Integration Joint Board approved a [Strategic Plan](#) for the period 2018-21. The Strategic Plan is the principal planning document of the Integration Joint Board and the Health and Social Care Partnership. It sets out health and social care needs in South Ayrshire, including in each of its six localities, and proposes a programme of activity to address these needs.

The strategic objectives that support the Sexual Exploitation Strategy are:

- We will protect vulnerable adults and children from harm;
 - We will work to provide the best start in life for children in South Ayrshire; and
 - We will improve outcomes for children who are looked after in South Ayrshire.
- 3.28 The [Council Plan 2018-2022](#) sets out the Council's vision for the next four years, with a focus on 'Our People, Our Place'. It details the high-level objectives and outcomes we want to achieve for our people and places by 2022.

The strategic objectives that support the Sexual Exploitation Strategy are:

- Reduce poverty and disadvantage; and
- Health and care systems that meet people's needs.

3.29 The [Children's Services Plan 2020-2023](#) sets out South Ayrshire's priorities for the next three years to ensure that services are working towards closing the gap and children and young people are achieving their potential.

The strategic objectives of the Children's Services Plan support the Sexual Exploitation Strategy. These are:

- Outstanding universal provision
- Tackling inequality
- Love and support for our care experienced young people and young carers
- Good physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Promoting children's rights

3.30 ['Recovery is Reality' - South Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Strategy 2019 – 2024](#) sets out the strategic priorities of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership in South Ayrshire. We know that people affected by alcohol and drug misuse can be vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

3.31 South Ayrshire's Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 2017-2022 supports the national framework and to ensure consistency and cohesion in South Ayrshire, a joint strategic outcomes framework and action plan was developed to align with the national framework. The plan focused on four key areas: children, young people and adults at risk, staff, communities and support.

3.32 The [Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-2021](#) sets out the statutory responsibilities that Corporate Parents have and the actions that will be taken forward to achieve the outcomes, including:

- Providing safe, secure, stable and nurturing homes for looked after children and care leavers;
- Enabling looked after children and care leavers to develop or maintain positive relationships with their family, friends, professionals and other trusted adults; and
- Upholding and promoting children's rights.

3.33 An Ayrshire Multi-Agency Practitioner's [Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation – Supporting Children at Risk](#) was developed in June 2018. This document provides initial guidance for any member of staff of any Ayrshire organisation who might come into contact with children or young people at risk of child sexual exploitation.

3.34 An Ayrshire Multi-Agency Practitioner's [Guidance on Forced Marriage](#) was revised in January 2019. This Guidance is intended to provide a concise overview of what forced marriage is, the legislation in relation to forced marriage, some of the issues that practitioners' should take into account when dealing with potential cases of forced marriage and the immediate steps practitioners should take if concerned that someone is at risk of, or has been subject to, forced marriage.

3.35 The HSCP has developed a Child Protection Improvement Plan to move towards greater family support and less investigatory, intrusive approaches to child protection.

- 3.36 South Ayrshire Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People (PPYP) Action Plan is being taken forward on a multi-agency basis led predominantly by Health and Education. Links to the work of this strategy will be made in the PPYP Action Plan.
- 3.37 Children and Young People Missing from Local Authority Care Joint Protocol is in place to support good decision making when children or young people go missing from the Children's Houses.
- 3.38 South Ayrshire's Adult Support and Protection Local Operating Procedures and Practice Guidance contain information on 'sexual harm. Sexual exploitation is a form of 'sexual harm'.

5. Developing the Strategy

4.1 We have based this strategy on evidence that we gathered in a number of ways:

- Feedback from the Child and Adult Protection Committees.
- A public consultation which took place from 13th December 2019 to 24th January 2020.
- A staff consultation.
- Focus groups led by South Ayrshire Champions for Change Champions Board.
- Information provided by with the members of the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group.
- Through the review of strategies and policies (see earlier) that direct how our services should work.
- Building on the evidence in South Ayrshire's Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 2017-2022
- Through the Equality Impact Assessment and Children's Rights Impact Assessment.

6. Where we want to be

- 5.1 The Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020 – 2025 supports the vision of the Child Protection and Adult Protection Committee's and the Violence Against Women Partnership.



- 5.2 The vision of [South Ayrshire's Child Protection Committee](#) is:

'Working together to protect South Ayrshire's children from abuse and neglect.'



- 5.3 The vision of the [Adult Protection Committee](#) is:

'The South Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee is committed to promoting public awareness of any harms affecting vulnerable adults and to working in partnership with all agencies within the wider community to support and protect any individual who may be vulnerable to any form of harm in South Ayrshire.'



- 5.4 This vision of the [Violence Against Women Partnership](#) is:

'South Ayrshire Multi-Agency Partnership to Tackle Violence Against Women and Children (MAP) is committed to the promotion of human rights within society and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and harassment.'

7. Where are we now

- 6.1 The Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group (SE JAG) evolved from the multi-agency Sexual Exploitation Reference Group set up in 2015. Initially intended to be a short-life working-group to provide support and guidance on the development of work to prevent/tackle sexual exploitation, it developed a more permanent status. It continues to operate under the auspices of the South Ayrshire MAP (Violence Against Women).
- 6.2 The Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group provides update reports to each Child Protection Committee and Adult Protection Committee which takes place on a quarterly basis.
- 6.3 The Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group is currently working on an action plan based on four key areas of focus:
1. Children, young people and adults at risk
 2. Staff
 3. Communities
 4. Support
- 6.4 The Joint Action Group is chaired on a rotation basis and is a multi-agency group made up of partners from:
- Education
 - Social Work
 - Community Learning and Development
 - Housing
 - Community Safety
 - Police Scotland
 - NHS Ayrshire and Arran
 - Moving On Ayrshire
 - South Ayrshire Women's Aid
- 6.5 Each service has its own individual role to play in either raising awareness of or preventing sexual exploitation or supporting those who have experienced it. Below is a brief description on the support that is provided by each service in relation to sexual exploitation:
- Young People's Support and Transitions (YPST) Team
- 6.6 All YPST Family Support Workers and Social Workers are Aims 2 (Sexually Harmful Behaviour training) and MARR (Management Assessment and Risk Reduction) trained and the service has taken part in the 1 day conversion to Aims 3 training and then the 2 day Interventions training to enhance their specialist knowledge.
- 6.7 The service uses the Aims training with young people referred by court as diversion of prosecution as well as making use of the Barnardo's Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment

Toolkit in cases where a young person might be at risk of sexual exploitation. This information is used when working with the young person and also in assessments for the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, at Looked After Reviews and to help formulate their care plans.

Children's Houses

- 6.8 Both Cunningham Place and Sundrum View are South Ayrshire Council Children's Houses that provide support and accommodation for 6 and 7 young people respectively. Young people can come to be cared for within the children's houses for a variety of reasons, and some will come through the Children's Hearing system, whilst for others it will be a voluntary agreement between social work and their legal guardians. Whatever the reason, the aim is to provide for all of the young people, a secure base from which they can grow, develop and meet their full potential.
- 6.9 Within the houses, the philosophy of care is underpinned by the Nurture Principles (a person-centre approach to planning) and the Health and Social Care Standards. To support the service to deliver high quality, safe and person-centred care and support, the care team is skilled, well-resourced and highly motivated. The service practices in a therapeutic and trauma informed way, and have developed systems within a broader learning culture that supports learning through reflection and the integration of theory and research into practice.
- 6.10 In relation to sexual exploitation, the service has the following in place:
- carers completed Barnardo's CSE Training for Trainers course
 - 1 manager completed Training for Trainers – Return Home Discussion Missing Framework – Barnardo's Missing and CSE Training
 - 15 carers completed Barnardo's CSE Training
 - 36 of a possible 43 carers have completed online CSE training
 - All carers issued with a copy of the *Independent Enquiry into CSE in Rotherham 1997-2013* by A. Jay. Findings and recommendations were then discussed at the team meeting.
 - A new CSE training programme has been developed for Children's House staff.
 - Residential carers attend a bespoke three day Child Protection training course which incorporates training on CSE. This is a mandatory course for all residential carers. This will be rolled out to all children's house staff within 6 months.

Family Placement Service

- 6.11 Within South Ayrshire Council's Family Placement Service, care and support is provided to approximately 104 children and young people. Support is provided to 62 Carers (including Foster Carers, Shared Carers and Supported Carers). As with the Children's Houses, Children and young people can come to be cared for within the service for a variety of reasons, and some will come through the Children's Hearing system and through Child

Protection concerns, whilst for others it will be a voluntary agreement between social work services and their legal guardians.

- 6.12 Within the Family Placement Team and not dissimilar to our Children's Houses, the ethos of care is underpinned by the Nurture Principles. Almost all of Foster Carers are trained in Nurture (new carers are planned to attend this 4 day programme) and the model is reviewed through coaching sessions in Carer Supervision. It is a mandatory programme of training that all Carers are to attend, as per the Learning and Development Portfolio. Again, this is underpinned by the National Health and Social Care Standards.
- 6.13 To support the service to deliver high quality, safe and supportive care environment, the team of Social Worker's, Support Worker's and Carers are provided with a high level of learning and development programmes to ensure they are skilled, well-resourced and highly motivated.
- 6.14 In relation to sexual exploitation, the following is in place:
- The creation of a Learning and Development Portfolio.
 - CSE training is a mandatory requirement for all Carers to undertake and is refreshed every 3 years.
 - The Learning and Development Portfolio, along with other colleagues in the Health and Social Care Partnership, have developed and delivered a 3-day Child Protection/Looked After Children's training programme. As part of this programme, a session in relation to CSE has been given dedicated time to discuss and explore issues around CSE. This is a programme aimed at Carers and colleagues in the Residential Children's Houses.
 - Almost all, with exception of Carers caring for very young children, have completed the CSE training facilitated through AC Education.
 - The Carers Handbook has been up-dated to reflect CSE issues.

Educational Services

- 6.15 Educational Services raise awareness of sexual exploitation through various activities and classroom lessons for pupils as part of personal and social education programmes or through partners like National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). These activities are aimed at age specific audiences to increase learning and awareness in order to help deter this type of behaviour. Career Long Professional Learning includes inputs delivered to all Education staff to help reinforce statutory responsibilities of safeguarding for all, this includes sexual exploitation.

Adult Protection Committee

- 6.16 Adult Support and Protection (ASP) training is provided across South Ayrshire by the Adult Protection Committee. The training is open to all partner agencies and service providers and is provided free. The purpose of ASP Level 1 training is to raise awareness of incidences of harm than adults might face, and what people should do if they have concerns that an adult might be at risk of harm.

- 6.17 The purpose of ASP Level 2 training is to provide Senior Staff with a more detailed knowledge of identifying the risk of harm and how to report concerns and support staff and those affected by harm. Each course covers 'harm' generally, including physical, financial, psychological, sexual, self-harm and neglect. Harm, or potential harm, as a result of sexual exploitation of adults is covered in these courses.

Community Learning and Development

- 6.18 Community Learning and Development (CLD) empowers people, individually and collectively, to make positive changes in their lives and in their communities through learning, personal development and active citizenship leading to stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.
- 6.19 CLD staff deliver sessions on Sexting, Grooming, Cyber Security and Coercion and mainly use resources from Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP). The service has a trained CEOP Ambassador who carries out a minimum of two sessions annually to staff and volunteers. Once staff has taken the basic CEOP course, they can access online resources to support their group work with young people.

Health

- 6.20 From a School Nursing perspective, the issue of sexual exploitation would be included as part of the routine health assessment of young people through discussion about risk taking behaviour and social media use.
- 6.21 From a Health Visiting perspective, discussion takes place with parents through the ages and stages questionnaire pre-school and age appropriate sexual behaviour. The Brook 'Traffic Light of Behaviour' can be given to parents should they wish further reassurance on this subject.

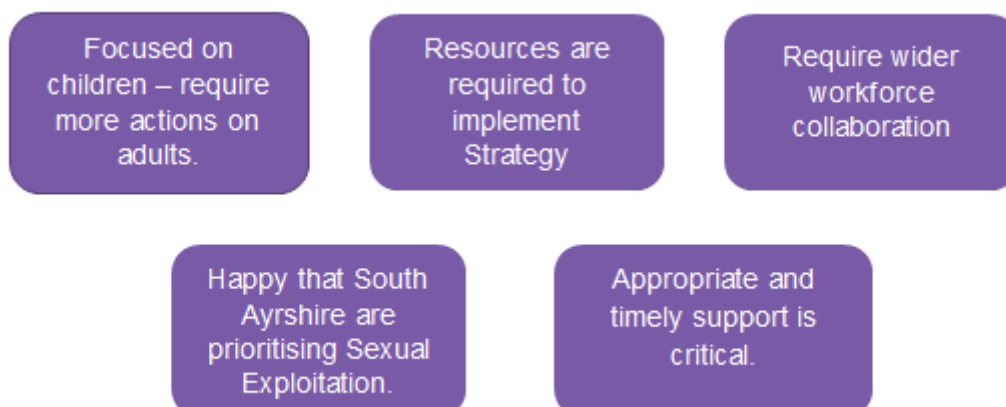
Moving On Ayrshire

- 6.22 Moving on Ayrshire (MOA) is a registered charity and counselling service for survivors (aged 14 years and up) of rape and sexual abuse in South Ayrshire, providing free one-to-one person-centred counselling at accessible hubs.
- 6.23 Since 2014, Moving on Ayrshire produced films and developed lesson plans around the issues of sexual abuse and rape for S2 pupils within South Ayrshire. Having piloted this within two schools for two years, South Ayrshire Council requested and funded the awareness raising programme to be presented to every S2 class throughout South Ayrshire for academic year 2017/2018. Following the success of this and in response to the feedback received from pupils seeking more information, MOA produced films on the issues of grooming. The grooming films are now a resource in Educational Library, within South Ayrshire Council.

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- 6.24 Positive progress is being made to develop and implement a College Equally Safe action plan. The action plan will seek to raise awareness among students and staff of gender-based violence with an emphasis also on sexual exploitation.
- 6.25 A college Equally Safe position statement is now in effect and the College continues to seek opportunities to promote a safe, inclusive and respectful learning and working culture. This work is ongoing with the college engaging in a pilot activity with Strathclyde University to support the roll-out of an Equally Safe toolkit for colleges and universities. As such, some class groups have received inputs delivered jointly between Rape Crisis and the Star Project.
- 6.26 Moreover, a number of staff mainly from Student Services and Inclusive Learning have participated in the First Responder training model endorsed by Strathclyde University and delivered by Rape Crisis with local input support from, for example, Women's Aid. Discussions are also underway as to all non-advanced students receiving an input on Relationships and Sexual Health as part of the Student Services programme delivery.

8. Consultation

- 7.1 A consultation took place which requested views on the draft Sexual Exploitation Strategy. The consultation took place from 13th December 2019 to 24th January 2020. Overall, there were a total number of 86 surveys completed. All consultation responses were considered and reflected in the final draft of the Strategy.
- 7.2 The majority of respondents (62%) were members of the public. Nearly a fifth (19%) were professionals working in children and families services and 8% were professionals working in adult services.
- 7.3 The vast majority of respondents (92%) found the Strategy clear and easy to understand. Respondents were asked if the priorities of the Strategy are appropriate. Nearly all (98%) of the respondents agreed that the priorities were appropriate.
- 7.4 The vast majority of respondents (97%) agreed that the proposed actions in the Implementation Plan were the right ones.
- 7.5 Respondents were asked if they felt there is anything missing from the Strategy. The majority of respondents (84%) felt there was nothing missing from the Strategy. A small percentage (16%) felt there was and provided information of what should be included, such as:
- “Addictions and exploitation - they fall out of Adult Support and Protection.”
 - “Need to ensure regular 'mandatory' training is provided across the local area for staff (all partners).”
 - “I think a clearer detail on communication in the wider community is appropriate. The agencies cited as involved are relevant and welcome. However, some idea of wider policy communication would be welcome.”
- 7.6 Respondents were asked to provide any other comments about the Strategy. The open-ended responses were categorised into themes and shown below:



- 7.7 South Ayrshire's Champions Board facilitated two focus groups and a one-to-one session to gather the views of care experienced young people on the strategy. The Champions Board had plans for further consultation but this was cancelled due to the COVID-19

lockdown and it was felt that consulting on this topic was not appropriate during this period of uncertainty.

- 7.8 Of the 7 young people, 6 were female and 1 was male and the median age was 21 years old. Overall, it was felt that young people need to know about this strategy.
- 7.9 When asked to rank the strategic priorities, the young people felt that the most important was the priority focusing on the support provided to those who are at risk or are experiencing sexual exploitation being appropriate and high quality. The young people gave their views on what makes a strategy clear and easy to understand which was simple language and clear headings.
- 7.10 The focus groups also provided useful information on how to let people know about the strategy. Suggestions include social media, information for tenants, leaflets and information in schools.
- 7.11 Further details on consultation responses can be found in Appendix 5.

9. Needs

Definition and understanding of sexual exploitation

8.1 In 2016, the national definition of child sexual exploitation⁵ (CSE) for Scotland was defined as:

*“a form of child sexual abuse in which a person(s), of any age, takes advantage of a power imbalance to force or entice a child into engaging in sexual activity **in return for something** received by the child and/or those perpetrating or facilitating the abuse. As with other forms of child sexual abuse, the presence of perceived consent does not undermine the abusive nature of the act.”¹²*

8.2 The national definition clearly defines child sexual exploitation and does not reference vulnerable adults. However, the same definition would apply when sexual exploitation takes place to a vulnerable adult as it is a form of sexual abuse in which a person takes advantage of a power imbalance to force or entice a vulnerable adult into sexual activity in return for something.

8.3 As referenced in the definition above, like other forms of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation:

- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse¹³;
- can involve coerced and/or enticement based methods of compliance; and
- can still be abuse even if it is claimed the child or vulnerable adult consented or assented (where the age of the child means they cannot legally give consent or the circumstances mean that agreement is not freely given¹⁴ and when an adult is unable to safeguard their own wellbeing¹⁵).

8.4 The key factor that distinguishes cases of sexual exploitation from other forms of sexual abuse is the **additional requirement for some form of exchange**:

¹² Sexual abuse is any act that involves the child in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person, whether or not it is claimed that the child either consented or assented. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or in watching sexual activities, using sexual language towards a child or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways (National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014)

¹³ This power differential can take many forms. It could be due to characteristics such as age, gender or disability (as covered by the Equality Act 2010). It could relate to status or social standing (position in a gang or professional position of authority, for example), intellect, physical strength, economic inequality or power yielded through indebtedness or threats of harm. It is not necessary for the victim to recognise the power imbalance for it to constitute SE – if a victim has been abused online by an adult who they believe to be another young person, for example, the power imbalance of age still exists even if they are not aware of it.

¹⁴ Circumstances where free agreement to sexual conduct cannot be given include: where someone is ‘incapable’ because of the effects of alcohol or other substances; where there is violence or threats of violence against themselves or other or where they have been deceived as to the nature or purpose of the conduct (section 13 of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009).

¹⁵ Scottish Government (2007) Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act
<https://careinfoscotland.scot/topics/your-rights/legislation-protecting-people-in-care/adult-support-and-protection-scotland-act-2007/>

- ❖ Where the gain is on the part of the child or vulnerable adult, this can take the form of tangible or intangible rewards (e.g. money, drugs, alcohol, status, protection or perceived receipt of love or affection). Fear of what might happen if they do not comply can also be a significant influencing factor. In such situations, the 'gain' for the child or vulnerable adult could be the prevention of something negative (e.g. a child engages in sexual activity in order to avoid harm to other friends and family).
- ❖ Where the gain is solely on the part of the perpetrator/facilitator, it must be something more than sexual gratification to be classed as sexual exploitation. This could be for money, other financial advantage (e.g. reduced costs of drugs/alcohol or discharge of a debt), status or power.

Just because a child or vulnerable adult receives something they need or desire does not mean they are not being abused. Taking advantage of this need or desire – and the limited alternative options they may have to meet these – and making them think they are in control because the child or vulnerable adult is getting something in return can be part of the abusive process.

- 8.5 Sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child or vulnerable adult's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet. In all cases, those exploiting the child/vulnerable adult have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common - involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or vulnerable adult's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.¹⁶
- 8.6 The profile of child sexual exploitation particularly has increased significantly over recent years particularly in light of Alexis Jay's report into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham¹⁷, with the highlighting lessons to be learned and development of national strategies. The issues are complex. There is now a greater understanding of how children and vulnerable people are placed at risk when targeted for grooming and exploitation by perpetrators as well as the extremely serious impact this has on their wellbeing and safety. However, the true prevalence of this type of exploitation remains unknown.
- 8.7 The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham evidenced that the majority of children who had been victims of CSE had reported multiple missing episodes. Addiction and mental health also emerged as common themes.
- 8.8 Almost 50% of children who were sexually exploited or at risk had misused alcohol or other substances (this was typically part of the grooming process), a third had mental health problems (again, often as a result of abuse) and two thirds had emotional health difficulties. There were issues of parental addiction in 20% of cases and parental mental

¹⁶ Department for Children, Schools and Families (2009) Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation <http://www.uknswp.org/wp-content/uploads/SAFEG.PDF>

¹⁷ Alexis Jay (2014) Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham (1997 – 2013) <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/download/31/independent-inquiry-into-child-sexual-exploitation-in-rotherham-1997---2013>

health issues in over a third of cases. Barriers to accessing specialist counselling and/or mental health services for children and young people were a recurrent theme.¹⁷

- 8.9 In just over a third of cases, children affected by sexual exploitation were previously known to services because of child protection and child neglect. There was a history of domestic violence in 46% of cases. Truancy and school refusal were recorded in 63% of cases and 63% of children had been reported missing more than once.¹⁷
- 8.10 There is no simple link between race and sexual exploitation, and across the UK the greatest numbers of perpetrators are white men. In Rotherham, the majority of known perpetrators were of Pakistani heritage.¹⁷ The 2006 report *Violence and Gun Crime: Links with Sexual Exploitation, Prostitution and Drug Markets in South Yorkshire* stated that 'it is believed by a number of workers that one of the difficulties that prevent this issue [CSE] being dealt with effectively is the ethnicity of the main perpetrators.'¹⁸
- 8.11 The UK Muslim Women's Network produced a report on CSE in September 2013 which drew on 35 case studies of women from across the UK who were victims, the majority of whom were Muslim. It highlighted that Asian girls were being sexually exploited where authorities were failing to identify or support them. They were most vulnerable to men from their own communities who manipulated cultural norms to prevent them from reporting their abuse.¹⁹
- 8.12 People with a learning disability can often hold incomplete or inaccurate knowledge of relationships sexual health and the legal and emotional aspects of sex due to a lack of information or support.²⁰ Whilst there is a need to protect the rights of people with a learning disability to express their sexuality and have relationships, there is also clearly a need to safeguard people with a learning disability from sexual abuse. Research suggests that children and adults with a learning disability are at a higher risk of sexual abuse than their non-disabled peers.²¹
- 8.13 The migration status, predominantly of women and girls, can increase their risk of sexual exploitation. Research carried out by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in 2012 examined the experiences of victims trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation in Scotland. The data available at the time of the report suggested that women are trafficked from a number of countries, but mainly from Nigeria, China and Brazil. These women are exploited in indoor prostitution, and are frequently exploited in England and then flee to Scotland. There is, however, increasing evidence that women are being directly trafficked to and exploited in Scotland.²²

¹⁸ Heal, A on behalf of South Yorkshire Police (2006) *Violence and Gun Crime: Links with Sexual Exploitation, Prostitution and Drug Markets in South Yorkshire*.

¹⁹ Gohir, Shaista on behalf of Muslim Women's Network UK (2013) *Unheard Voices. The Sexual Exploitation of Asian Girls and Young Women*.

²⁰ Whittle, C & Butler, C (2018) 'Sexuality in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities: A meta-ethnographic syntheses of qualitative studies' *Research in Developmental Studies*; Vol. 75, pp.68-81

²¹ Byrne, G (2018) 'Prevalence and psychological sequelae of sexual abuse among individuals with an intellectual disability: A review of the recent literature' *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities*; 22 (3)

²² Easton, H and Matthews, R (2012) *Investigating the experiences of people trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation in Scotland*. Equality and Human Rights Commission, Research report 82.

- 8.14 The report found that exploitation commonly occurs in privately owned flats, and most victims are kept indoors, supervised, and controlled (for example, passports are removed, they are told they will be arrested and deported or that they or their family will be killed). Often women are found to have been put under witchcraft oaths, are disoriented by traffickers, isolated from others, do not speak English or know little about the UK. Some are drugged to ensure compliance or as a sedative against the physical and emotional pain they endure during their exploitation.²²
- 8.15 People can be trafficked for the purpose of exploitation for a numerous reasons. Sexual exploitation of people who have been trafficked may involve being forced into prostitution or pornography. They may also be forced to have sex with their perpetrators or may be advertised online, in 'mainstream' sex markets and sexual entertainment venues.²³
- 8.16 In 2017, Engender carried out a project researching disabled women's experiences of parenting and reproductive health services in Scotland. ['Our bodies, Our Rights: Identifying and removing barriers to disabled women's reproductive rights in Scotland'](#) found that Disabled women's lack of reproductive control contributes to an increased risk of sexual violence, abuse and coercion.
- 8.17 International evidence suggests that disabled women and girls from BME, LGBT or minority faith communities in Scotland, as well as those from deprived areas, may be at even greater risk of sexual abuse²⁴, as are women and girls with sensory or learning disabilities.²⁵
- 8.18 The Expert Group Preventing Sexual Offending Involving Children and Young People published a report on [Prevention of and Responses to Harmful Sexual Behaviour by Children and Young People](#) in January 2020.
- 8.19 The definition of Harmful Sexual Behaviour(s) adopted by the Expert Group²⁶ is:
- “sexual behaviour(s) expressed by children and young people under the age of 18 years that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or others and/ or be abusive towards another child or young person.”
- 8.20 The report found that there may be a lack of understanding by Child Protection Committees between Child Sexual Exploitation and Harmful Sexual Behaviours. For clarity, this Strategy will focus solely on sexual exploitation.

²³ COSLA (2019) Human Trafficking and Exploitation. Guidance for Local Authorities.

²⁴ United Nations General Assembly (2017) Sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and young women with disabilities

²⁵ Sightsavers (2017) Submission to the study on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls with disabilities

²⁶ The Expert Group on Preventing Sexual Offending Involving Children and Young People Commissioned by the Scottish Government (2020) Prevention of and Responses to Harmful Sexual Behaviour by Children and Young People.

What does sexual exploitation look like in practice?

- 8.21 Sexual exploitation can take many different forms. It can include both contact and non-contact sexual activities and occur online or in person, or a combination of both. The following examples⁵, although all very different in nature and potentially involving the commission of different sexual or other offences, could all fall under the definition of sexual exploitation:
1. A 21 year old male persuading his 17 year old 'girlfriend' to have sex with friends to pay off his drug debt.
 2. A 44 year old female posing as a 17 year old female online and persuading a 12 year old male to send her a sexual image, and then threatening to telling his parents if he didn't continue to send more explicit images.
 3. A 14 year old male giving a 17 year old male oral sex because the older male has threatened to tell his parents he is gay if he doesn't do this.
 4. A 17 year old female who views a 21 year old male as her 'boyfriend' and engages in sexual activity with him, as he has said he will end the relationship with her if he doesn't.
 5. A 34 year old female with a learning disability is persuaded to have sex with her 38 year old male friend because he allowed her to stay at his house.
 6. A 15 year old female bringing two other 15 year old females to a party (where they are sexually assaulted) in order to prevent her from being sexually assaulted again.
- 8.22 These examples are neither exhaustive nor exclusive. Some children and vulnerable adults may also be both a victim and a perpetrator, as is the case in the final scenario.
- 8.23 Sexual exploitation can, and does, affect individuals from all walks of life, with no obvious pre-identified vulnerabilities. It is therefore critical that we are mindful of risk across the general youth population and do not assume that any child is immune from this form of abuse. There are however particular experiences²⁷ that can heighten vulnerability and may require proactive targeted preventative work.
- 8.24 These include:
- A history of abuse, neglect and/or disadvantage;
 - Being looked after, or formerly looked after;
 - Disrupted family life, including family breakdown, domestic abuse and/or parenting difficulties;
 - Disengagement from education and isolation from other support mechanisms;
 - Going missing from home or care environments;
 - Drug or alcohol misuse;
 - Poverty or homelessness;
 - Poor health and wellbeing, social isolation, bullying or low self-esteem;
 - Having a disability.

²⁷ CELCIS (2013) The Sexual Exploitation of Looked After Children in Scotland. A scoping study to inform methodology for inspection. <https://www.celcis.org/files/9114/3877/4674/Sexual-Exploitation-of-Looked-After-Children.pdf>

- 8.25 There is evidence of concern about the sexual exploitation of children in care. A study by Barnardo's was carried out. The objectives of which were to extend knowledge of the way in which sexual exploitation was a factor for young people placed in secure care in Scotland, their experiences prior to secure care, and the way in which their needs were addressed in secure care and thereafter.²⁸
- 8.26 A further study was carried out into sexual exploitation of looked after young people by the Glasgow Centre for the Child and Society jointly funded by Barnardo's and the Glasgow Child Protection Committee.²⁹ The study made a number of recommendations including ensuring that practitioners and managers are familiar with the potential indicators of vulnerability and ensuring that services are not concluded or withdrawn due to 'lack of engagement.'
- 8.27 A wide range of risk factors of sexual exploitation were identified by a CELCIS study carried out in 2013.²¹ Risk was heightened for children who are looked after away from home who have experienced frequent changes in placement. Networks become multiplied and magnified such that young people have connections to many individuals, some of whom may wish to exploit them.
- 8.28 Determining the strength of the relationship between going missing and sexual exploitation was one of the aims of the research. While it was agreed that going missing was an important factor, the context of running away was regarded as particularly important; for example, children could be running *from* or *to* exploitative situations²¹.
- 8.29 A key risk factor identified was children's emotional vulnerability, poor understanding of healthy relationships and their desire for love and affection. This made them an easy target for perpetrators who took advantage of this vulnerability²¹.
- 8.30 Sexual exploitation can be difficult to spot. Knowing the signs³⁰ can help protect those at risk:
- Unhealthy or inappropriate sexual behaviour.
 - Being frightened of some people, places or situations.
 - Bring secretive.
 - Sharp changes in mood or character.
 - Having money or things they can't or won't explain.
 - Physical signs of abuse, like bruises or bleeding in their genital or anal area.
 - Alcohol or drug misuse.
 - Sexually transmitted infections.
 - Pregnancy.
 - Having an older boyfriend or girlfriend.
 - Staying out late or overnight.

²⁸ Creegan, C., Scott, S., & Smith, R. (2005). The use of secure accommodation and Alternative provision for Sexually Exploited Young People in Scotland. Barkinside. Essex: Barnardo's Policy and Research Unit.

²⁹ Dillane, J., Hill, M., & Munro, C. (2005). A Study of Sexual Exploitation of Looked After and Accommodated Young People. Glasgow: Centre for the Child and Society and Barnardo's Street Team.

- Having a new group of friends.
- Missing from home or care, or stopping going to school or college.
- Hanging out with older people, other vulnerable people or in antisocial groups.
- Involved in a gang.
- Involved in criminal activities like selling drugs or shoplifting.

8.31 Barnardo's Scotland carried out a pilot national survey of public understanding of child sexual exploitation³¹. The survey was conducted in March 2018 and 1,007 adults (18+) took part.

8.32 The key findings include:

- Public understanding of child sexual exploitation is complex – different concepts appear salient in different contexts, sometimes in contradictory ways;
- Men appear less engaged with the topic of child sexual exploitation than women;
- While people acknowledge in general that child sexual exploitation is an issue, people are less likely to think that it is an issue in their local area – most likely reflecting a public narrative of child sexual exploitation as 'other' rather than something we can all play a role in preventing; and
- There are particular messages about child sexual exploitation that do not appear well embedded in public understanding, including that older children (16/17 year olds) can be affected, and that children may carry out exploitation.

8.33 The key findings will inform the public understanding and awareness raising work of this strategy, in particular around where there is a need for targeted messaging for particular groups in society or about particular aspects of sexual exploitation.

8.34 At the beginning of 2019, the Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration (SCRA) started a new research project: 'Sexual exploitation of children and young people involved in the Children's Hearings System'. This research is being carried out in collaboration with Barnardo's Scotland. It seeks to answer the questions:

- What are the pathways of children and young people to becoming at risk of sexual exploitation?
- When child sexual exploitation (CSE) vulnerability indicators first emerged, were these recognised as such by agencies and interventions made to protect and support the young person?
- What are the backgrounds, vulnerabilities and trajectories of young men most at risk of sexual exploitation in Scotland?
- Is CSE considered in decision making by Children's Hearings on young people at risk of or victims of sexual exploitation?

8.35 The initial findings show that this is happening in every part of the country, in the islands, in rural communities and in urban areas. The researchers have discovered that both boys and girls are victims of being exploited. The ages range from 11 to 17 years.

³⁰ <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/child-sexual-exploitation/>

³¹ Friskney, Ruth (2019) *Barnardo's Scotland – Public Understanding of Child Sexual Exploitation*.

- 8.36 The research was carried out over 2019/20 and will report in late 2020. The findings will be considered and any relevant actions will be included in the implementation plan.

The effects of sexual exploitation

- 8.37 Both sexual exploitation in person and online can have long-term effects.¹⁷ The person who has experienced sexual exploitation may:

- struggle with trust and be fearful of forming new relationships
- become isolated from family and friends
- drop out of education
- become pregnant at a young age
- experience unemployment
- have mental health problems
- make suicide attempts
- abuse alcohol and drugs
- take part in criminal behaviour
- experience homelessness.

- 8.38 Therefore, it is vitally important that a multi-agency response which considers the layers of impact is in place for individuals who experience sexual exploitation.

Data

Vulnerable Adults

- 8.39 'Sexual harm' is a form of harm specified in the Adult Support and Protection Act 2007 and is a specific reporting category for Adult Support and Protection. The category of 'sexual harm' cannot be broken down into further sub-categories such as sexual exploitation.
- 8.40 From 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, the number of Adult Protection referrals which cited 'sexual harm' as the primary harm was 24 (18 service users) out of a total of 1151. This equates to 2% of Adult Protection referrals. However, it must be made clear that only one 'harm' can be identified as the primary harm. Therefore, there may be people referred for other types of harm (e.g. psychological, neglect etc.) that may have also experienced 'sexual harm.'

Children and Young People

- 8.41 From the period 2017-18, there were 9 referrals to Social Work services for sexual exploitation. For 2018-19, there were 2 referrals. From 1st April 2019, the recording system has changed and can no longer report on referral reasons. It should be noted that these were where CSE was recorded as a reason for the referral however may not have progressed to Child Protection Case Conference or subsequent Registration. Referrals are now recorded as either Child Protection or Child Welfare and not broken down further.

- 8.42 In terms of sexual exploitation relating to child protection, for the period covering 1st August 2019 to 20th July 2020, there have been no new registrations between the dates. There are no children on the current child protection register with sexual exploitation concerns as at 20th July 2020.

10. Strategic Priorities

9.1 In line with the [National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation Update](#)¹ the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group has agreed that this strategy is working towards the same strategic priorities and including vulnerable adults:

1. The risk that children, young people and vulnerable adults are exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early identification.
2. Children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high quality support.
3. Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and less likely to re-offend.
4. Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling sexual exploitation are reduced.

11. What We Will Do Next

- 10.1 The Partnership is aware of the potential for the COVID-19 lockdown to have had an impact on the most vulnerable and for the risk of exploitation to have increased in some instances. We will work with our partners to consider the increased risk.
- 10.2 Once the Strategy is approved by the Integration Joint Board, the Sexual Exploitation Strategy Implementation Group will take forward the Implementation Plan.
- 10.3 The Strategy will be made available in accessible formats. A Summary version will be finalised. Also, an interactive Story Map version will be created which can be accessed online and allows the Strategy to be viewed in a dynamic way. Consideration will also be given to creating an Easy Read version.
- 10.4 Reports on the progress made to deliver the strategy will be required every six months and will be presented to the HSCP Performance and Audit Committee. Progress reports on the Strategy will also be provided to the Child Protection and Adult Protection Committees and the Violence Against Women Partnership on a quarterly basis.
- 10.5 A Performance Framework will be used to collect data which will support the implementation of the strategy and demonstrate the progress that is being made.
- 10.6 Outcomes-based evidence will be gathered across all services to assess the progress being made towards the strategic priorities.
- 10.7 The Strategy will be reviewed at its mid-point and we will consult with all relevant people and stakeholders to reflect their views.

12. How We Will Know If We Have Made A Difference

11.1 We will measure performance, both qualitatively and quantitatively, against the Strategic Outcomes we have set and report on this every 6 months to the Health and Social Care Partnership's Performance and Audit Committee. This information will be publicly available to all stakeholders through the Health and Social Care Partnership website:

<http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/health-social-care-partnership/>

11.2 We will be able to evidence:

- A reduction in the risk of exploitation and abuse by delivering education and awareness raising programmes to children and young people in early years settings, primary schools, secondary schools and in the Children's Houses.
- Local needs are considered by the CPC and APC by receiving regular management information on relation to the number of and profile of CSE victims.
- An increase in the number of children, young people and adults with learning disabilities who are supported to develop an understanding of relationships and risk.
- Increased understanding of sexual exploitation to support joint risk assessments and effective multi-agency responses by developing accessible guidance and by ensuring that all practitioners and agencies use the same definition of sexual exploitation.
- Increased monitoring of trends by developing a 'significant event' screening group.
- Local improvements to the quality of Joint Investigative Interviews (JIIs).
- An improvement in the identification and management of perpetrators by having robust multi-agency information sharing systems and processes in place.
- The CPC and APC have mechanisms to engage and consult with children, young people and vulnerable adults about sexual exploitation interventions and services.

11.3 Our Performance Framework is set out at Appendix 1 and details the systematic and robust approach we will adopt to demonstrate delivery against the 4 Strategic Outcomes. We have also included a Strategic Risk Analysis at Appendix 2, a full Equality Impact Assessment at Appendix 3 and a Children's Rights Assessment at Appendix 4.

13. Glossary

Adult with Incapacity (AWI)	An adult that is unable to make decisions for themselves. The Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 creates provisions for protecting the welfare of adults who are unable to make decisions for themselves because of a mental disorder or an inability to communicate. It allows other people to make decisions on behalf of the adults who cannot do that for themselves.
APC	<p>Under the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 each council must establish an Adult Protection Committee (APC); duties are listed in the Act at S42;</p> <p>(a) to keep under review the procedures and practices of the public bodies and officeholders to which this section applies which relate to the safeguarding of adults at risk present in the council’s area (including, in particular, any such procedures and practices which involve co-operation between the council and other public bodies or officeholders to which this section applies),</p> <p>(b) to give information or advice, or make proposals, to any public body and officeholder to which this section applies on the exercise of functions which relate to the safeguarding of adults at risk present in the council’s area,</p> <p>(c) to make, or assist in or encourage the making of, arrangements for improving the skills and knowledge of officers or employees of the public bodies and officeholders to which this section applies who have responsibilities relating to the safeguarding of adults at risk present in the council’s area,</p> <p>(d) any other function relating to the safeguarding of adults at risk as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify.</p>
CPC	South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is the local strategic planning partnership which is responsible for delivering continuous improvement in protecting children in South Ayrshire. Its work includes the design, development, dissemination and evaluation of inter-agency child protection policy, procedures and practice. It has a responsibility to promote awareness of child protection to the local public and promote good practice within and across agencies, as well as leading on child protection training and development.
Corporate Parenting	Corporate parenting is defined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 as: “the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers”.

Forced Marriage	Forced marriage happens when a person who does not want to get married, or a person under 16 or a vulnerable person (e.g. with a learning or physical disability) who is not able to give consent, is pressured or tricked into marriage.
GIRFEC	Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is Scotland's approach to improving outcomes for children and young people.
Human Trafficking	Human Trafficking is the illegal trade in human beings, both adults and children, for the purpose of commercial exploitation.
Perpetrator	A person who carries out a harmful, illegal, or immoral act.
Sexual Abuse	Sexual abuse is any act that involves the child in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person, whether or not it is claimed that the child either consented or assented.
Sexual Exploitation	In 2016, the national definition of child sexual exploitation ⁵ (CSE) for Scotland was defined as: <i>“a form of child sexual abuse in which a person(s), of any age, takes advantage of a power imbalance to force or entice a child into engaging in sexual activity in return for something received by the child and/or those perpetrating or facilitating the abuse. As with other forms of child sexual abuse, the presence of perceived consent does not undermine the abusive nature of the act.”</i>
Vulnerable Adult	The Adult Support and Protection Act 2007 defines adults at risk as those aged 16 years and over who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are unable to safeguard their own wellbeing, property, rights or other interests • and are at risk of harm • and because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

14. Implementation Plan

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1: The risk that children, young people and vulnerable adults are sexually exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early intervention.				
Objective Number	Action	Responsible Officer	Target Date(s)	National Outcomes Delivered*
1.1	Education and awareness raising programmes aimed at reducing the risk of exploitation and abuse will be delivered to children and young people in early years settings, primary schools and secondary schools.	Child Protection and Wellbeing Officer – Education	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	A
1.2	Education and awareness raising programmes aimed at reducing the risk of exploitation and abuse will be delivered to children and young people in residential care.	Service Manager, Looked After Children	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	3
1.3	Carry out a self-evaluation of current sexual exploitation processes and practices.	CPC/APC Policy, Practice and Improvement sub-group chair	30 th June 2021	8
1.4	The CPC and APC have mechanisms to engage and consult with children, young people and vulnerable adults about sexual exploitation interventions and services.	Child Protection Lead Officer / Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer	31 st March 2021	A

1.5	Multi-agency core Adult Support and Protection training to be reviewed for inputs to raise awareness across the whole workforce of the risks of sexual exploitation of vulnerable adults.	Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer	31 st March 2021	8
1.6	The Child Protection Committee and Adult Protection Committee will support Ayrshire College to raise awareness of sexual exploitation among students and staff.	Equality Advisor, Ayrshire College	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	A
1.7	Continue to promote the Scottish Government CSE Information awareness raising website http://csethesigns.scot/	CPC/APC Communication and Engagement sub-group chair	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	I
1.8	Continue to raise awareness of CSE as part of national campaigns including 16 Days of Action, Safer Internet Day, National CSE Day.	Violence Against Women Partnership	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	I
1.9	Continue to raise awareness of CSE using partner communication social media outlets.	CPC/APC Communication and Engagement sub-group chair	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	I
1.10	The CPC and APC receive regular management information on relation to the number of and profile of CSE victims, and the number of CSE victims being considered under CP	CPC/APC Policy, Practice and Improvement sub-group chair	31 st March 2021	8

	procedures.			
1.11	Develop and include CSE indicator(s) into the new Minimum Dataset for Child Protection Committees to improve understanding of the scale and nature of CSE and missing episodes.	Child Protection Committee Lead Officer	31 st March 2021	8
1.12	Identify improvement activity in relation to sexual exploitation in the Child Protection Improvement Plan being taken forward by Children and Families Social Work Services.	Chief Social Work Officer	31 st December 2020	8
1.13	Deliver the Mentors in Violence Programme in South Ayrshire schools to support young people to identify abusive and violent behaviours.	Child Protection and Wellbeing Officer – Education	30 th June 2022	A
1.14	Ensure that the new Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) education online resource is being used to support teachers with resources and information to improve the education for every child and young person have confidence in building positive relationships and making well-informed choices as they move into adulthood.	Child Protection and Wellbeing Officer – Education	30 th June 2022	A
1.15	Raise awareness and understanding of sexual exploitation with sports clubs, youth groups, churches and faith organisations, LGBT communities and organisations supporting children with disabilities.	CPC/APC Communication and Engagement sub-group chair	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	B
1.16	Raise awareness and understanding of sexual exploitation with the public.	CPC/APC Communication and Engagement sub-group chair	Ongoing across duration of Strategy	B

			31 st March 2025	
1.17	Provide improved protection for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities and support them to develop an understanding of relationships and risk.	Child Protection and Wellbeing Officer – Education / Team Leader – Children with Disabilities Team / Manager – Learning Disability & Sensory Impairment	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	7
1.18	Ensure that all practitioners and agencies use the same definition of sexual exploitation to facilitate joint risk assessments and effective multi-agency responses.	Child Protection Lead Officer / Adult Protection Lead Officer	31 st December 2020	8
1.19	The Child Protection Committee will implement the Core Components Checklist.	Child Protection Lead Officer	31 st March 2021	8
1.20	Community Justice Ayrshire will use 'A Guide to Self-Evaluation for Community Justice in Scotland (2016)' to support Community Planning Partnerships to evaluate the effectiveness of their response.	Senior Manager, Children's and Justice Localities Services	31 st March 2021	8
1.21	Develop multi-agency guidance to support staff in <i>Getting it right for vulnerable children and young people in South Ayrshire</i> .	Senior Manager, Authority-Wide Services	31 st March 2021	A
1.22	Develop accessible guidance on adult sexual exploitation.	Adult Protection Lead Officer	31 st March 2021	7
1.23	Ensure guidance on adult sexual exploitation is widely circulate across partner agencies.	Adult Protection Lead Officer	30 th June 2021	B
1.24	Promote awareness of provisions of Human Trafficking	CPC/APC Communication	Ongoing across	

	legislation.	and Engagement sub-group chair / Violence Against Women Partnership	duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	B
1.25	Promote awareness of provisions of Forced Marriage legislation.	CPC/APC Communication and Engagement sub-group chair	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	B
1.26	Chief Officers and Elected Members receive clear written statements and information with regard to sexual exploitation (at least every six months) and are regularly briefed on other local strategic partnerships work in relation to sexual exploitation.	Child Protection Lead Officer / Adult Protection Lead Officer	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	A
1.27	Deliver Sexual Exploitation awareness raising and training to Chief Officers and Elected Members.	CPC/APC Learning and Development sub-group chair	31 st March 2022	A
1.28	Consider the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on increasing the risk of sexual exploitation to our most vulnerable.	Child Protection Lead Officer / Adult Protection Lead Officer	31 st March 2021	B
STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2: Children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high quality support.				
Objective Number	Action	Responsible Officer	Target Date(s)	National Outcomes Delivered

2.1	Children, young people and vulnerable adults can access abuse recovery services when they need them.	Child Protection Lead Officer / Adult Protection Lead Officer	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	4
2.2	The CPC/APC Learning and Development sub-group will include delivery of inter-agency inputs of sexual exploitation for staff and volunteers in the general, specific and intensive workforces in the training calendar.	CPC/APC Learning and Development sub-group chair	31 st March 2021	8
2.3	Sexual exploitation education and awareness raising programmes will be delivered to parents and carers, local community groups and other business economies.	CPC/APC Learning and Development sub-group chair	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	B
2.4	Engage with 'night-time economy' to ensure workers have relevant information to provide awareness regarding sexual exploitation and abuse.	Community Safety Co- ordinator	31 st March 2022	B
2.5	Staff have access to child protection guidelines for underage sexual activity which includes information on CSE.	CPC/APC Policy, Practice and Improvement sub-group chair	30 th June 2021	7
2.6	Child Protection Sexual Health meeting with a Child Protection Advisor takes place to discuss any concerns about potential CSE/CSA clients, alongside other concerning child presentations.	Child Protection Advisor (NHS)	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	7

2.7	Develop a robust recording process of return interviews where a child, young person or vulnerable adult has been missing to help identify abuse.	Service Manager, Looked After Children / Adult Protection Lead Officer	31 st March 2021	7
2.8	Develop 'significant event' screening groups to analyse trends and plan to reduce risk to vulnerable groups.	Service Manager, Looked After Children Adult Protection Lead Officer	31 st December 2021	7
2.9	Ensure that young people's views are used for relevant training for practitioners which highlights the links between going missing and vulnerability to abuse.	CPC/APC Learning and Development sub-group chair	31 st December 2021	A
2.10	Market the <i>Runaway</i> (https://www.runawayhelpline.org.uk/) and <i>Say Something</i> (https://www.missingpeople.org.uk/how-we-can-help/young-people/646-saysomething.html) helpline services directly to people in South Ayrshire to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults are supported when they are thinking of going missing or need help to stay safe.	CPC/APC Communication and Engagement sub-group chair	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	A
2.11	Pilot a national protocol locally for looked after children who go missing from residential and foster care.	Service Manager, Looked After Children	31 st March 2025	7
2.12	Develop an integrated approach to Trauma Informed Practice in partnership with Community Planning partners.	Service Lead, Corporate and Housing Policy	31 st March 2023	B
2.13	Identify learning from joint inspections in relation to sexual exploitation to support continuous improvement.	Chief Social Work Officer	31 st March 2021	A

2.14	Work with partners to develop clear pathways for accessing support services for those who have been sexually exploited.	Child Protection Lead Officer / Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer	31 st March 2022	7
STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3: Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and less likely to re-offend.				
Objective Number	Action	Responsible Officer	Target Date(s)	National Outcome Delivered
3.1	Identify local improvements to the quality of Joint Investigative Interviews (JIIs) while the national programme of change is taking place.	Senior Manager, Children's and Justice Localities Services	31 st March 2021	8
3.2	Identify learning from the pilot of the <i>Stop to Listen</i> approach.	Senior Manager, Children's and Justice Localities Services	31 st March 2024	8
3.3	Develop guidance to inform partners of support available via, for example, Appropriate Adult scheme, Victim Support, Witness Support, to facilitate perpetrators being brought to justice.	Senior Manager, Children's and Justice Localities Services and Senior Manager, Authority-Wide Services	31 st December 2021	B
3.4	Robust multi-agency information sharing systems and processes among Public Protection partners to support the identification and management of perpetrators will be developed.	Senior Manager, Children's and Justice Localities Services	31 st March 2022	B

3.5	Identify a mechanism on gathering and providing intelligence where there are concerns in the community.	Child Protection Lead Officer / Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer	31 st March 2022	B
STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4: Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation are reduced.				
Objective Number	Action	Responsible Officer	Target Date(s)	National Outcome Delivered
4.1	Ensure strategy documents relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults consider the prevention and impact of sexual exploitation.	CPC/APC Policy, Practice and Improvement sub-group chair	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	A
4.2	Taking a whole school approach to gender equality by using the Gender 10 toolkit.	Child Protection and Wellbeing Officer - Education	31 st March 2022	A
4.3	Ensure that wider public protection concerns are incorporated into the response to sexual exploitation e.g. Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Violence Against Women Partnership.	Chief Social Worker	Ongoing across duration of Strategy 31 st March 2025	I
4.4	Undertake a local study to explore the links between sexual exploitation, race and migrant status in South Ayrshire.	Child Protection Lead Officer / Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer	31 st March 2022	I
4.5	Ensure responses to Sexual Exploitation consider and incorporate protected characteristics e.g. gender, sexual	Child Protection Lead Officer / Adult Support and	Ongoing across duration of	I

	orientation, race and disability.	Protection Lead Officer	Strategy 31 st March 2025	
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*National Outcomes are described in detail below:

The National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes are high-level statements of what health and social care partners are attempting to achieve through integration and ultimately through the pursuit of quality improvement across health and social care.		The National Outcomes describe the kind of Scotland the National Performance Framework aims to create. The outcomes reflect the values and aspirations of the people of Scotland are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and help to track progress in reducing inequality.	
1	People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.	A	People grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential.
2	People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community.	B	People live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
3	People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected.	C	People are creative and their vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely.
4	Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.	D	People have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy.
5	Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.	E	People are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.
6	People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and well-being.	F	People value, enjoy, protect and enhance their environment.
7	People using health and social care services are safe from harm.	G	People have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.
8	People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide.	H	People are healthy and active.
9	Resources are used effectively and efficiently in the provision of health and social care services.	I	People respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.
		J	People are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally.
		K	People tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.

Appendix 1: Performance Management Framework

Indicator	Source
Number of children and young people (looked after and/or subject to child protection processes) missing on two or more occasions (from home) over a 12 month period	Police Scotland analytical services
Number of children and young people (looked after and/or subject to child protection processes) missing on two or more occasions (from care) over a 12 month period	Police Scotland analytical services
Number of children with CSE marker on Police Scotland system over a 12 month period	Police Scotland analytical services
Number of CSE investigations over a 12 month period	Police Scotland analytical services
Number of young people who have a returning home officer interview	Carefirst
Number of young people missing whilst in our children's houses	Carefirst
Number of child protection registrations due to CSE	Carefirst
Number of children on the child protection register with CSE concerns as at 31 st July each year	Carefirst
Number of children currently on the child protection register with CSE concerns	Carefirst
Number of awareness raising sessions in early years settings	Educational Services
Number of awareness raising sessions in primary schools	Educational Services
Number of awareness raising sessions in secondary schools	Educational Services
Number of awareness raising sessions delivered	Ayrshire College Equality and

by Ayrshire College	Inclusion Officer
Number of awareness raising sessions delivered by Community Learning and Development	Community Learning and Development
Number of awareness raising sessions delivered by Community Safety.	Community Safety Co-ordinator
Number of awareness raising sessions delivered by South Ayrshire Women's Aid.	Manager - South Ayrshire Women's Aid
Number of attendees and area of service on Child Protection 3-day course	Children and Families Social Work Services Training Co-ordinator
Number of attendees and area of service on Child Protection 5-day course	Children and Families Social Work Services Training Co-ordinator
Number of attendees and area of service on Adult Support and Protection training	Adult Support and Protection Co-ordinator
Number of 'Sexual Harm' Adult Protection Referrals.	Adult Support and Protection Co-ordinator
Number of people accessing support from Moving On Ayrshire.	Manager – Moving On Ayrshire

Appendix 2: Strategic Risk Analysis

Risk Title	Risk Description	Impact Description	Risk Owner	Risk Manager
Information Sharing	Information sharing acts as a hindrance to effective integrated working rather than facilitating it.	Decisions will need to be based on incomplete information, requiring flexibility (and perhaps cost) when contracts are let.	Director of Health & Social Care	Senior Manager – Planning & Performance
Health Inequalities	Some people's life chances are poorer than others and have a negative impact on their health and wellbeing.	If health impacts are not considered in the Strategy, there will be long term impacts on the health and wellbeing of people who have experienced sexual exploitation.	Director of Health & Social Care	Senior Manager – Planning & Performance
Culture Change	Partnership Management and Staff/Provider Organisations do not adapt and/or are not supported to adopt new ways of working required as part of an integrated partnership approach.	Impacts adversely on service delivery to children, young people and adults who are vulnerable to or have experienced sexual exploitation.	Director of Health & Social Care	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services / Head of Community Health and Care
Effective Communication	The Partnership and partners fails to properly engage with all stakeholders.	Stakeholders are not engaged in the development of and implementation of the Sexual Exploitation Strategy. Therefore, the identified actions will not be taken forward.	Director of Health & Social Care	Senior Manager – Planning & Performance
Adult Support and Protection	The Partnership and partners fail to provide adequate adult support and protection.	Accident, incident or crime resulting in harm or abuse to an adult. Legal prosecution / civil litigation.	Director of Health & Social Care	Head of Community Health and Care
Child Protection	There is a risk of children and young people not being adequately protected from harm due to abuse and neglect.	Accident, incident or crime resulting in harm or abuse to a child. Risk of litigation with potential financial impact and threat of significant damage to reputation.	Director of Health & Social Care	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services

Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessment Scoping

1. Proposal details

Proposal Title	Lead Officer
Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020-2025	Strategy, Policy and Planning Officer

2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this proposal? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts

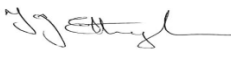
Community, Groups of People or Themes	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
The whole community of South Ayrshire		X
People from different racial groups, ethnic or national origin.		X
Women and/or men (boys and girls)		X
People with disabilities		X
People from particular age groups for example Older people, children and young people		X
Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people		X
People who are proposing to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone a process to change sex		X
Pregnant women and new mothers		X
People who are married or in a civil partnership		X
People who share a particular religion or belief		X
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights, Rurality and Deprivation.		X

3. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the proposal will support the Council to:

General Duty and other Equality Themes	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (high, medium or low)
Eliminate discrimination and harassment faced by particular communities or groups	High - Positive
Promote equality of opportunity between particular communities or groups	High - Positive
Foster good relations between particular communities or groups	High - Positive
Promote positive attitudes towards different communities or groups	High - Positive
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	High - Positive
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	High - Positive

Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	High - Positive
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	High - Positive

4. Summary Assessment

Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (A full EIA must be carried out on all high and medium impact proposals)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Rationale for decision: An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on the proposals contained in this report which identifies potential positive equality impacts.	
Signed :  Tim Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care Partnership	
Date: 05.12.2019	Copy to equalities@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Section One: Proposal Details*

Name of Proposal	Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020-2025
Lead Officer (Name/Position)	Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer (HSCP)
Proposal Development Team (Names/Positions)	Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer (HSCP) Service Manager, Authority Wide Services, Children and Families (HSCP) Interim Child Protection Lead Officer
Critical friend (s)	Learning Officer (HSCP)

What are the main aims of the proposal?	The Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020-2025 aims to improve the multi-agency response to the sexual exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
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<p>What are the intended outcomes of the proposal?</p>	<p>The outcomes of the Sexual Exploitation Strategy are to prevent or intervene at an earlier stage when there is a risk of sexual exploitation, to ensure that those who have experienced sexual exploitation have the support they require, that perpetrators are brought to justice and barriers to preventing and tackling sexual exploitation are reduced.</p>
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Section Two: What are the Likely Impacts of the Proposal?

<p>Will the proposal impact upon the whole population of South Ayrshire <i>or</i> particular groups within the population (please specify)?</p>	<p>The proposal will have particular positive impacts on children, young people and vulnerable adults who are at risk of experiencing or have experienced sexual exploitation. There may also be further positive impacts for the wider population due to awareness raising.</p>
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Considering the following Protected Characteristics and themes, what likely impacts or issues does the proposal have for the group or community.

List any likely positive and/or negative impacts

Protected Characteristics	Positive and/or Negative Impacts
<p>Race: Issues relating to people of any racial group, ethnic or national origin, including gypsy travellers and migrant workers</p>	<p>Sexual exploitation can affect people of any racial group. However, in recent years, race has appeared to play a significant part in organised exploitation.¹⁷ This will be taken into consideration by the multi-agency group taking forward the strategy to ensure that positive impacts are felt by all racial groups. There is also an action in the Implementation Plan for a local study to be carried out to explore the links between sexual exploitation, race and migrant status in South Ayrshire.</p>
<p>Sex: Issues specific to women or men</p>	<p>Sexual exploitation is more likely to happen to women and girls precisely because of their sex. Sexual exploitation can still happen to boys and men. Prevention and responses to sexual exploitation must take gendered analysis into account to ensure a positive impact on this protected characteristic.</p>
<p>Disability: Issues relating to disabled people</p>	<p>People with disabilities can be more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. The Strategy takes cognisance of this and has identified specific actions (1.17 and 4.5) to support vulnerable adults and children and adults with a learning disability to ensure that positive impacts are felt.</p>
<p>Age: Issues relating to a particular age group e.g. older people or children and young people</p>	<p>The Strategy includes children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Strategy also recognises the vulnerabilities of care experienced young people thus ensuring that corporate parents promote the wellbeing of care experienced children and young people and enable them to achieve the best outcomes up until the age of 26. There are also specific actions to support young people living in residential care. The strategy recognises that there are adults who are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation than others and this strategy will have a positive impact on this group.</p>
<p>Religion or Belief: issues relating to a person's religion or belief (including non-belief)</p>	<p>Positive impacts will be felt by children, young people and vulnerable adults of any religion or belief. The Strategy takes into account the needs of particular groups and will ensure these are considered when implementing the actions. The strategy highlighted research of sexual exploitation by the UK Muslim Women's Network which highlighted the abuse experienced by Muslim women and girls.</p>
<p>Sexual Orientation: Issues relating to a person's sexual orientation i.e. lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual</p>	<p>Positive impacts will be felt by children, young people and vulnerable adults of any sexual orientation. The Sexual Exploitation Strategy Implementation Group will take cognisance of same sex sexual exploitation.</p>

<p>Marriage and Civil Partnership:</p> <p>Issues relating to people who are married or are in a civil partnership.</p>	<p>Positive impacts will be felt by vulnerable adults who are married or in a civil partnership. The Implementation Plan includes an action to raise awareness of forced marriage legislation.</p>
<p>Gender Reassignment:</p> <p>Issues relating to people who have proposed, started or completed a process to change his or her sex.</p>	<p>Positive impacts will be felt by children, young people and vulnerable adults who have proposed, started or completed a process to change his or her sex. The strategy will take cognisance of the particular vulnerabilities to sexual exploitation that they may face.</p>
<p>Pregnancy and Maternity:</p> <p>Issues relating to the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby and the period after the birth.</p>	<p>The Strategy takes cognisance of the fact that pregnancy may be a sign of sexual exploitation and this will be incorporated into the Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Action Plan. Information on pregnancy and sexual health will also be incorporated into the relationship support provided to adults at risk of sexual exploitation.</p>
<p>Multiple / Cross Cutting Equality Issues</p> <p>Issues relating to multiple protected characteristics.</p>	<p>There will be positive impacts on children, young people and vulnerable adults who have several of the protected characteristics. To deliver the outcomes, actions will have to take cognisance of the multiple equality issues that people may have.</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity Themes Particularly Relevant to South Ayrshire Council</p>	
<p>Health</p> <p>Issues and impacts affecting people's health</p>	<p>Sexual exploitation can have a long-lasting impact on the health of those who experience it. The Strategy has identified actions to support the health and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults who experience sexual exploitation.</p>
<p>Human Rights: Issues and impacts affecting people's human rights such as being treated with dignity and respect, the right to education, the right to respect for private and family life, and the right to free elections.</p>	<p>A Children's Rights Impact Assessment has been carried out on the Strategy (see appendix 5).</p> <p>The Strategy has considered the rights of adults vulnerable to sexual exploitation particularly the right to a private life and how this may be restricted to ensure the person's safety.</p>
<p>Rurality</p> <p>Impacts relating to living and working in a rural community</p>	<p>The Strategy has considered the risks to young people and vulnerable adults when they go missing from their local area. People living in rural areas can also experience social isolation increasing the risk of sexual exploitation.</p>
<p>Deprivation</p>	<p>People who experience poverty and social exclusion are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. The Strategy will ensure that</p>

<p>Issues relating to poverty and social exclusion, and the disadvantage that results from it.</p>	<p>the needs of children, young people and vulnerable adults who experience the disadvantages resulting from poverty will be incorporated.</p>
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Section Three: Evidence Used in Developing the Proposal

<p>Involvement and Consultation</p> <p>In assessing the impact(s) set out above what evidence has been collected from involvement, engagement or consultation?</p> <p><i>Who</i> did you involve, <i>when</i> and <i>how</i>?</p>	<p>Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group – ongoing meetings.</p> <p>Public consultation from 13th December 2019 to 24th January 2020.</p> <p>South Ayrshire Champions Board – February 2020 consultation session.</p>
<p>Data and Research</p> <p>In assessing the impact set out above what evidence has been collected from research or other data. Please specify <i>what</i> research was carried out or data collected, <i>when</i> and <i>how</i> this was done.</p>	<p>Research was carried out in developing the Strategy.</p> <p>All references can be found in the Strategy.</p>
<p>Partners data and research</p> <p>In assessing the impact set out above what evidence has been provided by partners. Please specify partners.</p>	<p>The partners who are part of the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group provided input into the development of the Strategy and the Implementation Plan.</p>
<p>Gaps and Uncertainties</p> <p>Have you identified any gaps or uncertainties in your understanding of the issues or impacts that need to be explored further?</p>	<p>There is far more information and research available on child sexual exploitation than there is on vulnerable adults. Any new research that is produced will be incorporated into the Strategy and Implementation Plan.</p>

Section Four: Detailed Action Plan to address identified gaps in:
a) evidence and
b) to mitigate negative impacts

No.	Action	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
1	Any new research that is produced on the sexual exploitation of vulnerable adults will be incorporated into the Strategy and Implementation Plan.	HSCP Strategy, Policy and Planning Officer	Duration of Strategy - 2025

Section Five - Performance monitoring and reporting

Considering the proposal as a whole, including its equality and diversity implications:

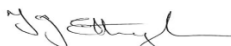
When is the proposal intended to come into effect?	19 th February 2020
When will the proposal be reviewed?	The Implementation Plan will be reviewed every six months and the Strategy will be reviewed at its mid-point.
Which Scrutiny Panel will have oversight of the proposal?	Performance and Audit Committee of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership. The Child and Adult Protection Committees and the Violence Against Women Partnership will receive quarterly updates on the progress of the Strategy.

Section 6

Summary Equality Impact Assessment Implications & Mitigating Actions

Name of Proposal: Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020-2025

This proposal will assist or inhibit the Council’s ability to eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations as follows:

Eliminate discrimination	
The Sexual Exploitation Strategy will support children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk of sexual exploitation and those that have experienced sexual exploitation. The Strategy recognises that there are particular groups that are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation and has developed actions to pay particular attention to those groups.	
Advance equality of opportunity	
The Sexual Exploitation Strategy will work to remove disadvantage through universal awareness raising activities and targeted sessions for those with particular vulnerabilities. The Strategy will also encourage increased participation of children, young people and vulnerable adults with decision makers e.g. CPC and APC.	
Foster good relations	
The Sexual Exploitation Strategy will foster good relations between services and the public through promoting understanding by raising awareness of sexual exploitation.	
Summary of Action Plan to Mitigate Negative Impacts	
Actions	Timescale
N/A	
<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 21.07.2020</p>	

Appendix 4: Children's Rights Impact Assessment

<p>1. What impact will or might the proposal have on the rights of children and young people?</p>
<p>The Scottish Government has put children's rights at the centre of its policy and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 puts a duty on key public services to report on what they are doing to promote them.</p>
<p>2. Will the rights of one group of children in particular be affected?</p>
<p>The Strategy encompasses all children and young people. However, there is recognition that children and young people with particular vulnerabilities will be more likely to experience sexual exploitation, such as young people who are currently or previously been in care and children with a learning disability. The rights of care experienced children and young people will also be taken forward by the Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-21. The Children's Services Plan 2020-2023 has a strategic focus on the rights of children.</p>
<p>3. Are there competing interests between the groups of children or between children and other groups?</p>
<p>No. Awareness raising sessions will be delivered to all young people and targeted sessions will be delivered to children and young people with particular vulnerabilities,</p>
<p>4. How does the proposal relate to, promote, or inhibit the provisions of the UNCRC, other relevant international treaties and standards, or domestic law?</p>
<p>The Sexual Exploitation Strategy promotes the UNCRC. Particular articles will be adhered to such as 12 (respect for the views of the child), 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect) and 34 (sexual exploitation).</p>
<p>5. How does the proposal contribute to the achievement of national goals for children and young people?</p>
<p>The Sexual Exploitation Strategy will implement the outcomes from the National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation Update. It also, encompasses the definition and implications for practice from the Scottish Government published the 'Child Sexual Exploitation Definition and Practitioner Briefing Paper.'</p>
<p>6. What overall impact will the proposal entail other policy areas or agendas, or other professionals or groups in their work with children?</p>
<p>The Sexual Exploitation Strategy was developed in partnership with other services in the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group. Actions have been identified in the Implementation Plan for all agencies to take forward.</p>
<p>7. Is follow-up evaluation/monitoring of the proposal and its implementation required?</p>
<p>Yes. The Implementation Plan of the Sexual Exploitation Strategy will be reviewed on a six monthly basis and a progress report will be provided to the Performance and Audit Committee of the South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.</p>
<p>8. Is research required to assess the proposal's impact on children once implemented?</p>
<p>The Strategy will be reviewed at its mid-point.</p>
<p>Completed by: HSCP Strategy, Policy and Planning Officer</p>
<p>21.07.2020</p>

Appendix 5: Consultation Responses

1. Background

1.1 A consultation took place which requested views on the draft Sexual Exploitation Strategy. The consultation took place from 13th December 2019 to 24th January 2020. Overall, there were a total number of 86 surveys completed.

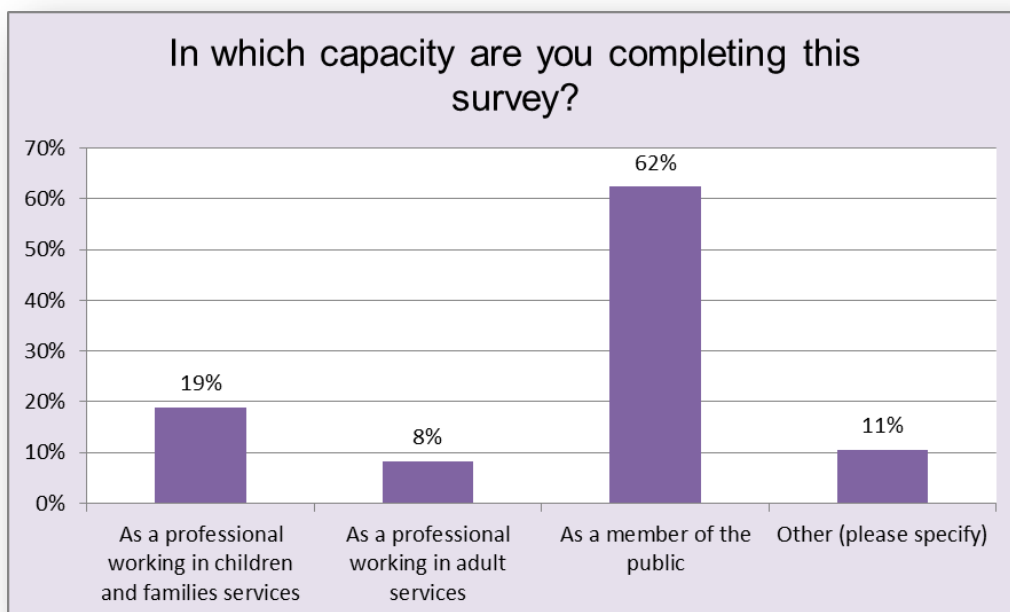
The consultation was promoted in a variety of ways to encourage responses. This included:

- South Ayrshire 1000 Citizens' Panel
- HSCP Twitter
- SAC Intranet
- NHS AthenA
- SAC South Ayrshire Weekly Email

Further details on consultation responses can be found below.

Q1. In which capacity are you completing this survey?

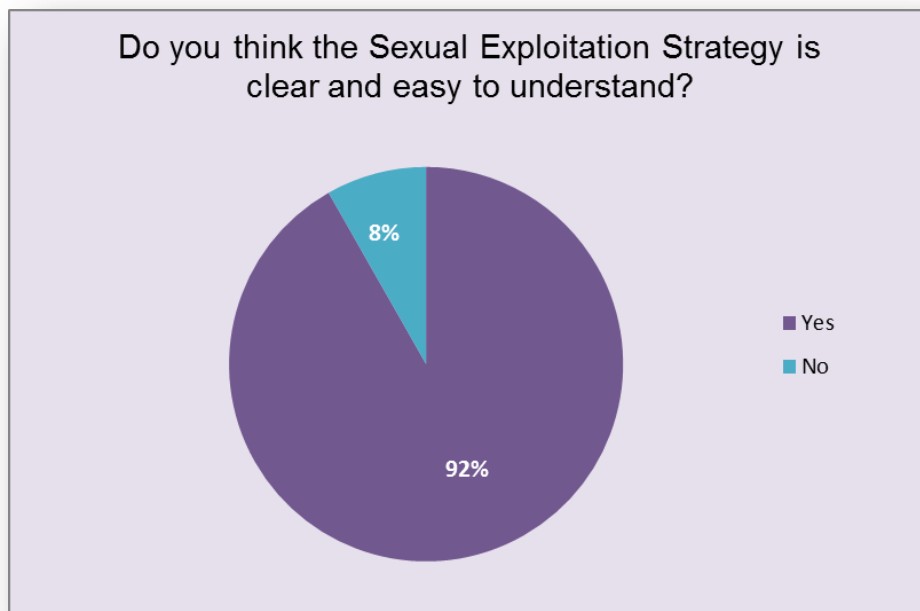
2.1 Respondents were asked in which capacity they were completing the survey. The majority of respondents (62%) were members of the public. Nearly a fifth (19%) were professionals working in children and families services and 8% were professionals working in adult services.



2.2 The respondents who identified as 'other' stated that they from a variety of backgrounds including a Community Councillor, volunteer with youth football club and Public Health employees.

Q2. Do you think the draft Strategy is clear and easy to understand?

3.1 Respondents were asked if they found the Strategy clear and easy to understand. The vast majority of respondents answered yes (92%) to this question and only 8% disagreed.



n=85

3.2 A selection of the open ended responses are shown below:



"It is written clearly and the layout made it easy to follow."

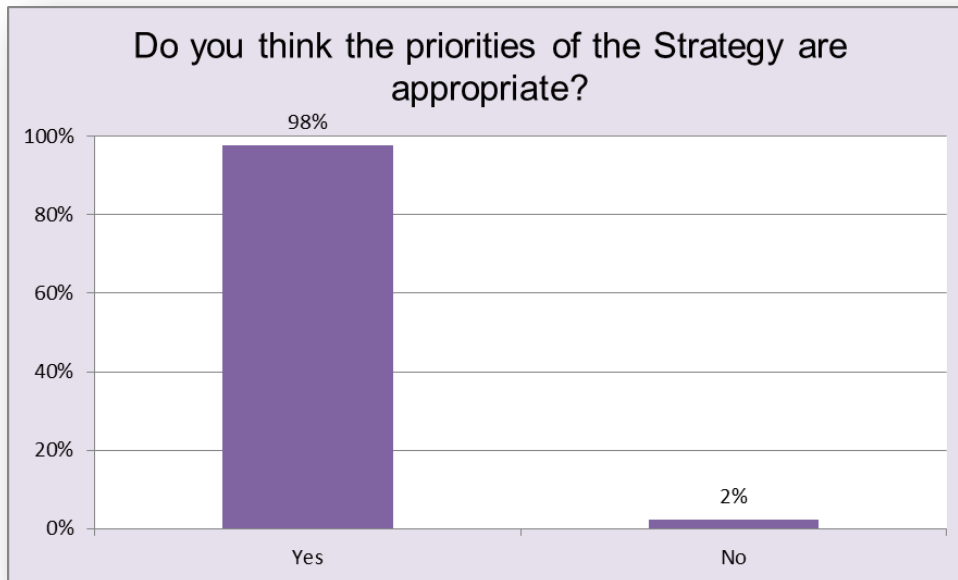
"The summary document is a very good document which focusses on the main issues."

"Information is succinct."

"It has a number of instances of complicated language but there is clarity in most important areas."

Q3. Do you think the priorities of the Strategy are appropriate?

4.1 Respondents were asked if the priorities of the Strategy are appropriate. Nearly 100% of respondents agreed that the priorities were appropriate.



n=84

4.2 A selection of the open ended responses are shown below:

“They address the risks, preventative measures and support for at risk groups.”



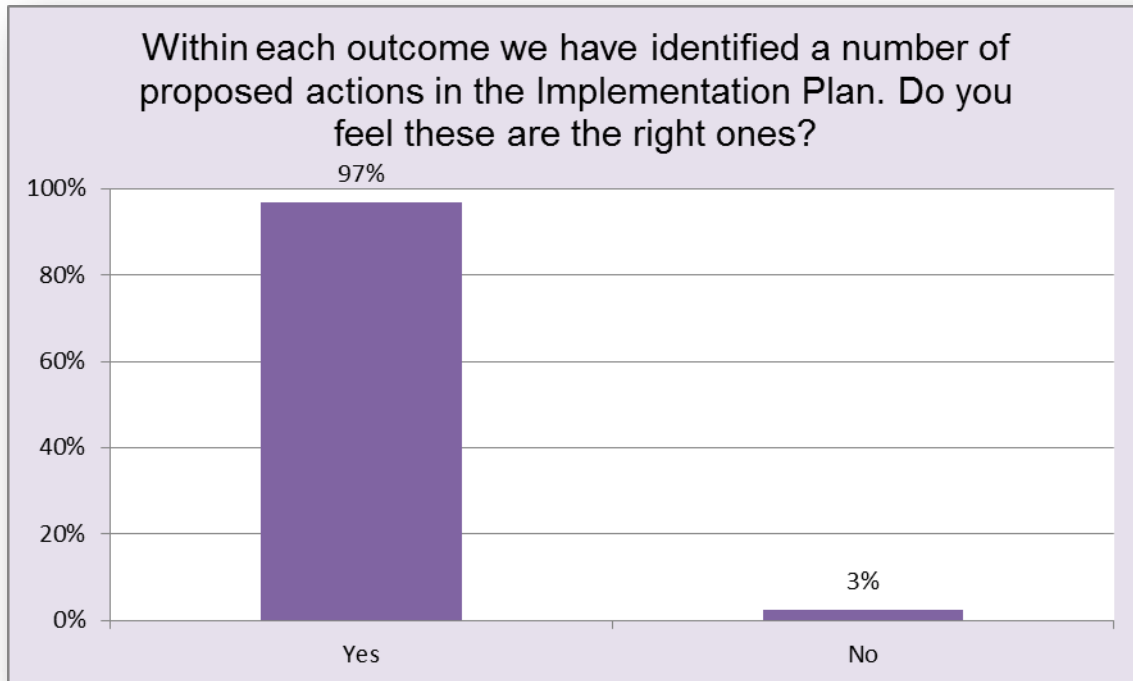
“Priorities are realistic.”

“Seems to cover most aspects but should be looked at and updated regularly.”

“Covers prevention, support and action for victims and steps taken against perpetrators.”

Q4. Within each outcome we have identified a number of proposed actions in the Implementation Plan. Do you feel these are the right ones?

5.1 Respondents were asked if they felt the proposed actions in the Implementation Plan were the right ones. The vast majority of respondents (97%) agreed that they were.



n=86

5.2 A selection of the open ended responses are shown below:

“The actions seem appropriate and sensible.”

“It’s a start but only collection of evidence will point you in the right direction.”

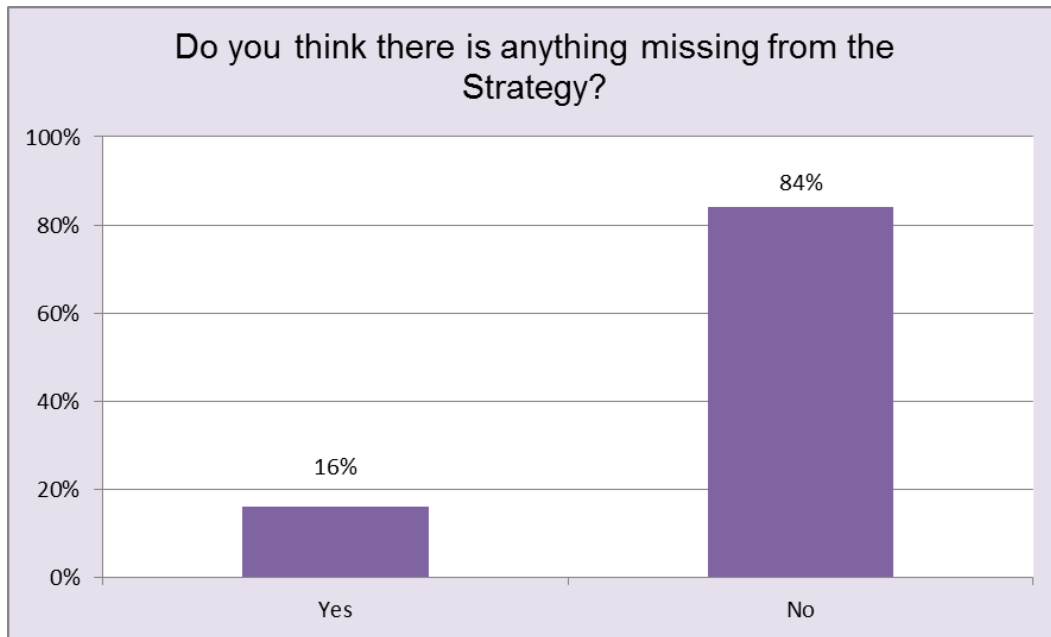


“I feel these are broadly correct but there are areas where I think we could expand and improve education and support within wider areas:

- *Wider local authority staff such as those accessing local authority housing or those working in parks, public toilets could also be supported to have a greater understanding and a clear route of reporting.*
- *Other areas of healthcare could be included such as Emergency Department, Paediatrics, maternity, sexual health and primary care are areas where a whole systems approach to identification and reporting could be improved.*

Q5. Do you think there is anything missing from the Strategy?

6.1 Respondents were asked if they felt there is anything missing from the Strategy. The majority of respondents (84%) felt there was nothing missing from the Strategy. A small percentage (16%) felt there was and provided information of what should be included.



n=86

6.2 A selection of the open ended responses are shown below:



“Addictions and exploitation - they fall out of Adult Support and Protection.”

“Need to ensure regular 'mandatory' training is provided across the local area for staff (all partners).”

“I think a clearer detail on communication in the wider community is appropriate. The agencies cited as involved are relevant and welcome. However, some idea of wider policy communication would be welcome.”

Q6. Do you have any other comments you would like to make?

7.1 Respondents were asked to provide any other comments about the Strategy. The open-ended responses were categorised into themes and shown below:

Focused on children – require more actions on adults.

Resources are required to implement Strategy

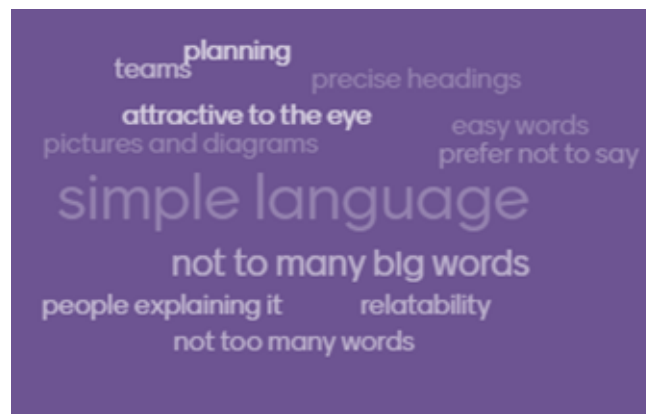
Require wider workforce collaboration

Happy that South Ayrshire are prioritising Sexual Exploitation.

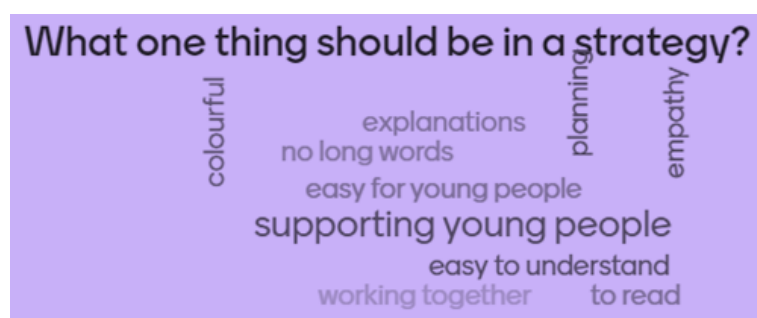
Appropriate and timely support is critical.

Focus Groups with Young People

- 8.1 South Ayrshire's Champions Board facilitated two focus groups and a one-to-one session to gather the views of care experienced young people on the strategy. The Champions Board had plans for further consultation but this was cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown and it was felt that consulting on this topic was not appropriate during this period of uncertainty.
- 8.2 The consultation was carried out using 'Mentimeter.' This is an online interactive tool which allows people to feed in their views in an anonymous way and displays the results instantly and in a pictorial format.
- 8.3 Of the 7 young people, 6 were female and 1 was male and the median age was 21 years old. The majority of the consultees were white Scottish with 1 identifying as 'other ethnic group.' One of the 7 people identified as having a long-term health problem or disability.
- 8.4 Overall, the consultees felt that young people need to know about this strategy.
- 8.5 The young people gave their views on what makes a strategy clear and easy to understand which is captured in a word cloud below:



- 8.6 When asked to rank the strategic priorities, the young people felt that the most important was the priority focusing on the support provided to those who are at risk or are experiencing sexual exploitation being appropriate and high quality.
- 8.7 The consultees were asked to name one thing which should be in a strategy. Responses are in the word cloud below:



-
- 8.8 The focus groups also provided useful information on how to let people know about the strategy. Suggestions include social media, information for tenants, leaflets and information in schools.

Next Steps

- 8.9 All of the consultation feedback has been collated and has informed changes in the Strategy.
- 8.10 The Strategy will be reviewed at its mid-point which will allow for focused consultation to take place with a range of stakeholders including children and young people, vulnerable adults, staff, parents/carers and community groups.

This information can be made available, on request, in braille, large print or audio formats and can be translated into a range of languages. Contact details are provided below.

درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات نابینا افراد کے لئے اُبھرے حروف، بڑے حروف یا آڈیو میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہے اور اس کا مختلف زبانوں میں ترجمہ بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ رابطہ کی تفصیلات نیچے فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔

本信息可应要求提供盲文，大字印刷或音频格式，以及可翻译成多种语言。以下是详细联系方式。

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ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਬੋਲ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਣਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਲਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਇਹਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਹੋਰ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

Niniejsze informacje mogą zostać udostępnione na życzenie, w alfabecie Braille'a, w druku powiększonym lub w formacie audio oraz mogą zostać przetłumaczone na wiele języków obcych. Dane kontaktowe znajdują się poniżej.

Faodar am fiosrachadh seo fhaighinn, le iarrtas, ann am braille, clò mòr no clàr fuaim agus tha e comasach eadar-theangachadh gu grunn chànanan. Tha fiosrachadh gu h-ìosal mu bhith a' cur fios a-steach.

South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

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