Local Learning from Serious Case Reviews

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Learning from local reviews where Child Sexual Exploitation was a key factor tells us:

- The language **YOU** and others use will determine how you and other agencies respond. Avoid using phrases such as “putting themselves at risk” “lifestyle choices” as this makes the child responsible for their abuse.
- When older children try to control the situation- it maybe they feel “out of control”. What they see as the solution may not always be the best/safe plan.
- Children who are physically or emotionally neglected are MORE vulnerable to CSE. When thinking about neglect think about the physical and the emotional environment for children– use the screening tool whenever neglect is a feature.
- Frequently alcohol misuse and domestic violence are evident in families where neglect is a factor. These are also common features in the parents of children vulnerable to CSE.
- Children **CANNOT** consent to abuse.
- Children and vulnerable young adult describing older “boyfriends” **ALWAYS** requires workers to use Professional Curiosity to know what is really happening.
- Children who are experiencing CSE do not always recognise themselves as victims- We MUST not fall into this trap.

Please read the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board CSE Practice Guidance which sets out warning signs and vulnerabilities for children who may be at risk.

https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/professionals/child-sexual-exploitation/

http://www.listentomystory.co.uk/