



Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework

A pilot study

October 2007

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Barnardo's
Cymru

BELIEVE IN CHILDREN
CREDWCH MEWN PLANT

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ISBN 978-1-904659-04-4

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Acknowledgments

The SERAF pilot study would not have taken place without the commitment of Newport Children's Services, Gwent Police, Newport Area Child Protection Committee, and the partner organisations it represents. That Newport was prepared to facilitate the research was a bold step and we would particularly like to thank Sharon Davies and Carol Davies for their determination to see this work completed. Most of all we are grateful to all those Team Managers and Practitioners who dedicated their precious time to complete the forms and attend practice development sessions and for their valuable feedback so willingly given.

Special thanks are due to Hywel Jones, Helen Jones and Russell Thomas for their editorial work; to Michelle Gough for her huge contribution to coordinating the publication and to our colleagues in Barnardo's Cymru.

Foreword

In November 2005 Barnardo's Cymru published the scoping study report 'Out of sight, out of mind: Child sexual exploitation'. The report provided some of the first available information on the nature and prevalence of child sexual exploitation in Wales. One of the main findings of the scoping study was the huge challenge facing local authorities in terms of identifying this hidden form of abuse.

Barnardo's Cymru has been able to support local authorities in meeting part of that challenge. Since the launch of the scoping study report we have been involved in the delivery of awareness raising and training across Wales so that managers and practitioners are better able to recognise the risk indicators of child sexual exploitation. Whilst undertaking this work Barnardo's Cymru identified a need among practitioners for a straight forward risk assessment tool to identify children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation.

I was delighted when Newport ACPC decided to commission a study to investigate the prevalence of child sexual exploitation in the local authority. The pilot study was carried out in 2006 and involved Newport Children's Services teams in completing over 350 risk assessment forms, attending training with colleagues from other agencies and participating in practice development sessions. The study allowed for the successful piloting of a sexual exploitation risk assessment framework (SERAF) which identifies children and young people at risk and provides an information and intervention pathway for preventing and responding to child sexual exploitation. The bold commitment of the ACPC, Head of Children's Services and of managers and practitioners in Newport has led to the development of a risk assessment framework that we hope will contribute to the future safeguarding of children and young people throughout Wales.

There is still much to be done in taking forward a collaborative multi agency response to meeting the needs of children and young people at risk of or abused through sexual exploitation. Taking this work forward continues to be a priority for Barnardo's Cymru. That is why we have invested in the first specific service in Wales for sexually exploited children and young people. We are already working with a number of local authorities in Wales in taking forward good practice in the identification of child sexual exploitation and in preventing and responding to this important issue. We hope that the work we have undertaken for Welsh Assembly Government and with local authorities such as Newport will contribute to a safer future for children and young people in Wales.



Raymond Ciborowski.

Director Barnardo's Cymru

Foreword

As Head of Children and Family Services in Newport, I have responsibility for ensuring, with our partner agencies, that we collectively work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and protect them from harm. Child sexual exploitation is predominantly a taboo subject, but an area of practice that I particularly wanted to highlight and address, based on my significant experience and knowledge of this field.

Newport Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) revised their ACPC Interagency Protocol for Children Involved in Sexual Exploitation in 2005. Significantly this Protocol recognises children involved in, or at risk of sexual exploitation, as victims of abuse and sets out a response based on the holistic needs of the child and a continuum of services.

In November 2005 I attended the 'Out of sight, out of mind' child sexual exploitation conference in Cardiff and subsequently approached Barnardo's Cymru to attend an ACPC meeting. Following a proactive discussion around ways of taking forward work to safeguard children and young people at risk of abuse from sexual exploitation, Newport ACPC commissioned Barnardo's Cymru to undertake a piece of work. This was a study to investigate the prevalence and nature of child sexual exploitation in Newport. Coupled with this were numerous multi agency awareness raising training sessions on child sexual exploitation. I would like to acknowledge the commitment of partner agencies and in particular the hard work of Children and Family Services Managers and Practitioners in supporting the process involved in the pilot study. This report is the result of their efforts.

The pilot study has assisted in raising awareness of issues surrounding child sexual exploitation, has informed practice development and has developed our understanding of the local context. Within Newport we have good working relationships with partner agencies which assist in timely multi agency responses to protect the victims of child sexual exploitation. The newly developed Newport Local Safeguarding Children Board, which replaced the ACPC in October 2006, is committed to developing this area of practice on a multi agency basis and has highlighted child sexual exploitation as a key priority. Newport LSCB was keen to work with Barnardo's Cymru to influence best practice responses to the identification, protection and support of children and young people who are at risk, or are victims of this form of abuse.

I believe the contents of this report will assist colleagues across Wales in developing an understanding of child sexual exploitation in the Welsh context.

Sharon Davies.

Head of Newport Children and Family Services
Chair of Newport LSCB

Introduction

Barnardo's has been involved in child sexual exploitation work since 1995 and has sought to influence policy and practice and to develop effective inter-agency approaches to service provision for children and young people.

Child sexual exploitation is a hidden form of abuse and can be difficult to identify and therefore define. There are still large gaps in the knowledge base about the level and nature of child sexual exploitation in the UK as a whole. In Wales knowledge of the prevalence and nature of child sexual exploitation is particularly limited. In 2005 Barnardo's Cymru undertook a scoping study on behalf of the Wales Advisory Group on Child Sexual Exploitation.¹

The scoping study aimed to address our lack of knowledge about the nature of child sexual exploitation in Wales and is the only scoping exercise to have been undertaken on a Wales wide basis to date.

The scoping study found:

- general lack of awareness of issues relating to child sexual exploitation across agencies;
- that risk factors for child sexual exploitation were not addressed as part of the assessment process in the majority of local authorities (19 of the 21 Welsh local authorities who took part);
- evidence of a lack of formal monitoring processes;
- an identified need for training;
- limited knowledge of or confusion about the existence of local authority Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) protocols and associated responsibilities under the Department of Health/Welsh Assembly Government supplementary safeguarding children involved in prostitution guidance 2000²;
- lack of a consistent, systematic approach to multi-agency working around child sexual exploitation;
- a total of 184 separate cases where children and young people were identified as at risk of or were being abused through sexual exploitation;

The number of individual cases identified is likely to be an underestimation in light of the other study findings. The under-identification of sexual exploitation has been reported in other studies and is largely the result of the hidden nature of this form of abuse, barriers to disclosure in relation to this form of abuse and a lack of professional awareness.³ The study, 'Out of sight, out of mind'⁴ was launched at a conference in November 2005 and stimulated a considerable amount of interest from local authorities and their partner agencies.

¹ Coles, J (2005) *Out of sight, out of mind: Child sexual exploitation*. Barnardo's Cymru, Cardiff.

² Department of Health (2000) *Safeguarding Children Involved in Prostitution: supplementary guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children*, London: DoH, National Assembly for Wales, Home Office, DfEE.

³ Harper, Z and Scott, S (2005) *Meeting the needs of sexually exploited young people in London*. Barnardo's, Barking-side.

⁴ See 1 above.

Following the launch of the study Barnardo's Cymru has been involved in on-going work with Welsh Assembly Government, local authorities, partner agencies and relevant local and all-Wales bodies to take forward the recommendations of the report. A frequent issue emerging through engagement with local authorities was the need to quantify the prevalence of the issue in order to shape adequate responses.

Put simply there are no systems in place to specifically identify individual children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation or to capture local prevalence. Addressing this gap in knowledge was a priority in terms of dispelling the myth that child sexual exploitation is not a Welsh issue.

Newport pilot study

Newport was one of the first areas in Wales to demonstrate a commitment to developing work in relation to child sexual exploitation in response to local concerns and the issues highlighted through the scoping study. Newport Children's Services; the Police and the wider membership of the ACPC were able to identify funding to undertake a piece of work in relation to local prevalence. Barnardo's Cymru were commissioned to undertake this work and it was agreed that the work would allow for the piloting of a risk assessment tool across social services teams.

Newport is the first local authority in Wales to invest in a study of this kind. Newport Children's Services have a good working relationship with the Police Public Protection Unit in terms of addressing the issue of child sexual exploitation. The study has provided the opportunity to develop and pilot a risk assessment framework, SERAF, (Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework). The findings of the pilot study have helped to establish a picture of local prevalence and of dominant vulnerability and risk indicators. The Newport study provides us with the first detailed picture of the nature of sexual exploitation in a Welsh local authority.

Defining sexual exploitation

The sexual exploitation of children and young people is a hidden form of abuse and as such it is difficult to define. A number of different definitions have been developed through the work of researchers and practitioners though the concepts of exploitation and exchange are central to each. The varying ways in which abuse through sexual exploitation manifests itself are captured in the following definition:

A form of sexual abuse 'rationalised by the concept of exchange. It is specifically exploitation of young men and young women where they have needs that would compromise their ability to provide any form of informed consent to sexual activity. Exchange can be used to describe both tangible (money, drink, drugs) and intangible (shelter, protection, coercion) forms of payment'⁵

(Manchester ACPC, cited in Calder 2001)

⁵ Calder, M 'Child prostitution: developing effective protocols' *Child Care in Practice* 7(2), 2001: 98-115

Identifying child sexual exploitation

What evidence we do have about child sexual exploitation suggests that the majority of exploitation takes place 'off street', in private accommodation, hotels, or sauna/massage establishments.⁶ The findings of this study and the 2005 pan-Wales scoping study suggest that this is also the picture in Wales. This has a significant impact on the visibility of the problem. Disclosure of sexual abuse and violence is always difficult for children and young people. The sophisticated grooming and priming processes executed by abusing adults and the exchange element of the abuse, act as additional barriers which increase denial and make disclosure especially difficult.

Guidance in Wales is clear that procedures must be in place to identify children and young people 'who may be at risk of' sexual exploitation as well as those who are already abused through exploitation.⁷ At the same time the application of the Welsh Assembly Government universal Safeguarding Standard is of particular importance for 'children and young people in special circumstances' as set out in the National Service Framework (2005).⁸ Intervention is needed at an early stage to safeguard vulnerable children and young people and reduce the risks of sexual exploitation. Key to this is the ability to recognise 'at risk' children and young people. Evidence from research in relation to the vulnerabilities and risk indicators associated with sexual exploitation is now well established.⁹ Most recently a case study sample of Barnardo's service users was selected to represent young people presenting different levels of risk.¹⁰ The analysis supported the importance of understanding the factors that make young people particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation. The following factors were identified in the 2006 study:

- Disrupted family life;
- A history of abuse and disadvantage;
- Problematic parenting;
- Disengagement from education;
- Going missing;
- Exploitative relationships;
- Drug and alcohol misuse;
- Poor health and well-being.

SERAF (Sexual exploitation risk assessment framework) pilot study

The principal aims of the pilot study were to:

- establish a picture of local prevalence of risk of sexual exploitation among the caseloads of social services teams at the time of the study;
- contribute to practice development in relation to the identification of children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation and associated interventions;
- provide a 'fit for purpose' risk assessment and monitoring system.

The SERAF model is based on three interrelated and overlapping areas of action: Information, Identification and Intervention.

⁶ Swann, S and Balding, V (2001) *Safeguarding Children involved in Prostitution: Guidance Review*, London: DoH

⁷ Welsh Assembly Government (2005) *Safeguarding Children Together: Safeguarding and promoting the Welfare of Children in Wales: Guidance to Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales*, Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government.

⁸ Welsh Assembly Government (2005) *National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services in Wales*, Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government.

⁹ See for example: Scott, S (2001) *Barnardo's Phase Project: a case study evaluation*, Liverpool: University of Liverpool; Cusick, L (2002) 'Youth prostitution: a literature review', *Child Abuse Review*: 11: pp 230-251; Chase, E and Statham, J (2005) 'Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People in the UK- A Review', *Child Abuse Review*: 14: pp 4-25

¹⁰ Scott, S and Skidmore, P (2006) *Reducing the risk: Barnardo's support for sexually exploited young people: A two-year evaluation*, Barnardo's, Barking-side.

Approach

An initial meeting with the Head of Children's Services and a senior social services manager with responsibility for child protection was held to agree upon an approach. This was followed by a meeting with team managers in which the pilot study aims and objectives were explained and dates for training and practice development sessions were agreed.

Training sessions were provided to practitioners working across relevant social services teams and ACPC colleagues. The training sessions were intended to enable participants to gain a greater understanding of child sexual exploitation. This included:

- an examination of definitions and processes of control;
- indicators of risk of sexual exploitation;
- the legal framework and statutory responsibilities in regard to children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation;
- an exploration of professional assumptions;
- an examination of the needs of and impact of abuse on sexually exploited children and young people;
- an exploration of practice issues and appropriate responses in this area of work drawing on research and evidence of best practice;

The multi-agency nature of the training facilitates the exploration of the issues from the perspective of a range of professionals and agencies.

SERAF risk assessment forms were developed by Barnardo's Cymru drawing on evidenced sexual exploitation vulnerabilities and risk indicators. Risk assessment forms were completed in relation to individual cases by practitioners across social services teams.

- In total forms were completed in relation to 367 cases.
- Forms were completed by the following teams: Duty and Assessment (D/A), Child Protection/Family Support (CP/FS), Looked After Children (LAC) teams, Residential Units (RU), Aftercare (A/C), Youth Offending Service (YOS), Asylum, also one form completed by Nursery.

Conflicting commitments and pressures on practitioner time meant that forms were completed over a three month period. Some teams completed and returned forms at the start of this period, some at the end of the period and some throughout the period (start of February to end of April 2006). Practitioners were asked to complete forms in relation to their complete caseload for children and young people aged 10 years and over. In practice some practitioners did this while others only completed forms in relation to children and young people who they had specific concerns about. In this way the sample is biased towards at risk children and young people. The sample represents approximately one quarter of the total caseload population of the local authority.

Practice development sessions were delivered to teams during May and June 2006. Each team was offered three practice development sessions. The first two of these were designed to explore in depth the three areas of information, identification and intervention in relation to child sexual exploitation. These sessions were informed by evidence of best practice. There was a facilitated exploration of current practice in relation to information management, identification and interventions. This included an examination of current capacity and expertise within different teams. Individual case examples were used as an aid to exploration of the issues. The third practice development session offered to each team involved an examination of the pilot process and the SERAF model. Participants were provided with the rationale for the model and introduced to the scoring and categorisation of risk system. Participants were also asked to reflect on the degree to which the process and pilot outcomes 'made sense' to them as practitioners.

The views of participants have informed adaptations in the risk assessment form.

Practitioners' views on approach and outcomes

The practice development sessions provided the opportunity for practitioners to reflect and comment on the pilot approach; the SERAF model and the pilot outcomes.

Pilot approach

- Practitioners would have liked more information on the process and rationale of the pilot study at the start of the process.
- Attending the practice development sessions as a team was viewed as a useful way of considering issues from the team perspective.
- Practitioners reported that child sexual exploitation had been put firmly on the agenda for them through the pilot process and had informed and consolidated their understanding in relation to a range of issues.

Information

- Practitioners felt that the risk assessment form was easy to complete and that the information required to complete the risk assessment was usually held by the case holder.
- For some teams gathering information in relation to 'previous' vulnerabilities and indicators was time consuming.
- Practitioners felt that the SERAF risk assessment form should 'follow' the child or young person through the system and would provide a useful resource in terms of providing 'headline' information on a child or young person.
- Each team had a clear idea about the point at which completion of the risk assessment form would best fit into their working practice. This was different in relation to each team. It is important that the method of using the form within each team is tailored to working practices and not prescriptive.

Identification

- Practitioners reported that the SERAF risk assessment framework is a useful tool that is easy to use and will support the identification of risk in a useful way.
- Practitioners reported that they have confidence in and are supportive of using the SERAF risk assessment framework in the future.
- Practitioners provided useful contributions in relation to adaptation of the risk assessment form.
- Practitioners were not involved in generating 'scores' or categorising risk in relation to the cases included in the pilot study. During the final session they were introduced to the weighting system and reported that they were prepared to undertake this task themselves in the future and that they had confidence in their ability to do so.

Intervention

- Practitioners reported that the training and practice development sessions had given them a good understanding of the issues associated with child sexual exploitation and associated safeguarding actions.
- Practitioners could identify the level and nature of intervention that each team would be best placed to deliver.
- Practitioners were clear that children and young people identified as at moderate and significant risk of sexual exploitation would need specialist interventions.

Information

Sample

SERAF risk assessment forms were completed over a three month period. In total forms were completed in relation to 367 cases.

- Of the total sample 166 were female and 201 were male.
- The assessed cases involved children and young people aged between 8 and 22 years old with the majority of the sample aged between 14 and 17 years.
- Of the total sample 9% were identified as disabled and in all but one of those cases a learning disability was identified.
- Of the total sample 85% were described as White British; 6% as Dual Heritage; 2% as Asian; 2% as Black and 5% as Other.

Table 1. Total number of returns by team

Team	Number of returns
Duty and Assessment	53 (13%)
Child Protection/Family Support	86 (24%)
LAC 1	23 (6%)
LAC 2	41 (11%)
Aftercare	64 (17%)
Residential	8 (2%)
Asylum	26 (7%)
YOS	66 (18%)
Total	367

Table 2. Total sample by legal status

	Number
Section 17	102
N/A	83
Former relevant	66
Section 31	66
Section 20	31
Section 47	6
Section 24	2
Eligible	2
Section 38	1
Missing	8
Total	367

Analysis

Once completed and returned, SERAF risk assessment forms were analysed by Barnardo's Cymru. The form included a list of vulnerabilities and risk indicators which we know are associated with vulnerability to and risk of sexual exploitation. These vulnerability and risk indicators have been evidenced through research and practice.¹¹ Practitioners were asked to identify through a tick box system which vulnerabilities and risk indicators applied for each case. They were also asked to indicate whether the vulnerability or risk factor identified was 'previous' or 'current' in relation to the child or young person. Each vulnerability and risk indicator was weighted so that an overall 'score' could be generated in relation to each risk assessment. Final scores allowed for the completed cases to be put into one of four categories of risk, each of which has an associated safeguarding action (see below).

The SERAF risk assessment form provided information in relation to the gender, age, ethnicity and legal status of the child or young person. The form also captured information about any child protection procedures; involvement in the youth justice system and concerns about or prior identification of sexual exploitation as an issue in relation to the case. Practitioners were also provided with a comment box in which to record any principle areas of concern. This information has been analysed in relation to the total sample and in relation to each category of risk sub-sample. In each case the sub-sample has been split by gender so that anticipated differences in patterns for girls and boys can be captured.

Information provided in relation to vulnerabilities and indicators has also been analysed in relation to the total sample and each category of risk sub-sample by gender. This has provided evidence of different patterns of vulnerability and risk within different sub-samples. In addition to this analysis, the information provided has been used to generate a SERAF risk assessment in relation to each child and young person. The SERAF risk assessment records all the information provided by practitioners, a total score and category of risk in relation to each case and associated safeguarding actions. These have been returned to social services teams.

¹¹ See 9 above

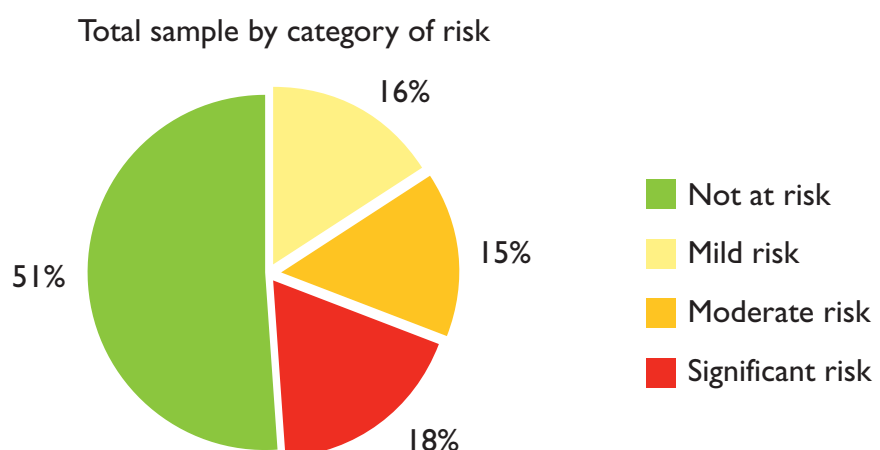
Table 3: SERAF categories of risk framework

SERAF Category of risk	Description	Associated actions
Category 1 (Not at risk) (0-5)	A child or young person who may be 'in need' but who is not currently at risk of being groomed for sexual exploitation.	Educate to stay safe. Review risk following any significant change in circumstances.
Category 2 (Mild risk) (6-10)	A vulnerable child or young person who may be at risk of being groomed for sexual exploitation.	Work on risk awareness and staying safe should be undertaken with this child/young person. Review risk following any significant change in circumstances.
Category 3 (Moderate risk) (11-15)	A child or young person who may be targeted for opportunistic abuse through exchange of sex for drugs, accommodation (overnight stays) and goods etc.	Convene multi-agency meeting under local protocol for sexually exploited children and young people to ensure effective exchange of information with multi-agency colleagues and agree protection plan. At least one review meeting to be convened. Work should be undertaken with this child/young person around risk reduction and keeping safe.
Category 4 (Significant risk) (16+)	Indication that a child or young person is at significant risk of or is already being sexually exploited. Sexual exploitation is likely to be habitual, often self-denied and coercion/control is implicit.	Convene multi-agency meeting under local protocols for sexually exploited children and young people to ensure effective exchange of information with multi-agency colleagues and agree protection plan, including regular review meetings. Protection plan should include long-term intensive direct work with the child or young person.
Moderate or Significant risk	Young person aged 18 years or above	Where a young person is aged 18 years or over the associated action in relation to Moderate and Significant risk: sexual exploitation should be addressed as an issue in relation to this young person through the Pathway or other work plan; liaison between children's services and Police Public Protection Unit to address the young person's protection.

The sample is biased towards children and young people at risk in two principal ways. First the sample is drawn from social services caseloads. This makes sense in that the majority of children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation are likely to have gone through experiences that have brought them to the attention of social services. However it also means that prevalence rates here are in relation to social services caseloads and NOT the local child population as a whole. Second, some practitioners only completed SERAF risk assessment forms in relation to cases where there was a concern rather than completing forms in relation to their total caseload.

A further issue is the inclusion of cases for whom the majority of vulnerabilities and/or risk factors were identified as 'previous'. For the purposes of the pilot study a decision was made to include children and young people for whom the majority of risk indicators were identified as 'previous' within the at risk categories. The rationale for this decision was two fold. First, the issue of child sexual exploitation had not been specifically addressed in this way before and so it was agreed that retrospective cases (in terms of risk) would be included. Second, there was a concern that for some young people (in particular care leavers now living independently) current information in relation to risk might be limited. The number of cases categorised as at risk but presenting with a majority of 'previous' indicators has been recorded as 51. Of those, 16 are cases categorised as 'mild' risk, 23 as 'moderate' risk and 12 as 'significant' risk. Individual SERAF risk assessments have been returned in these cases with direction on examining these cases at a team level before referral to associated safeguarding measures.

During the analysis it became apparent that a significant proportion of the male at risk sub-samples had a pattern of offending behaviour. This was in part a direct result of the Youth Offending Service's participation in the pilot study. Individual SERAF risk assessments have been returned in these cases with direction on examining these cases at a team level before referral to associated safeguarding measures. Our knowledge of risk factors and patterns related to boys and sexual exploitation is not as well established as evidence in relation to girls. However evidence from Barnardo's services (who work with boys and young men abused through sexual exploitation) has found a significant level of involvement with Youth Offending Teams among sexually exploited boys and young men.¹² This evidence also suggested that at times young men's offending behaviour can overshadow the sexual exploitation they may be experiencing. In other words there is evidence of a link between offending behaviour and risk of sexual exploitation for boys and young men available elsewhere. The Youth Offending Service team who participated in the pilot study were clear that it would be important to consider risk on a case by case basis and to take indicators of risk seriously.



¹²Stanway, D (2006) *Preventing the Sexual Exploitation of Boys and Young Men: PRIME*. Barnardo's, Bristol

Table 4: Sample by category of risk and team

	D/A	CP/FS	LAC 1	LAC 2	A/C	YOS	Asylum	RU	Total
Not at risk	34	46	11	20	30	23	22	0	186
Mild risk	4	19	4	4	10	16	3	0	60
Moderate risk	4	13	5	7	10	14	1	0	54
Significant risk	11	8	3	10	14	13	0	8	67
Total	53	86	23	41	64	66	26	8	367

Category of risk: gender, ethnicity, disability, age and legal status

Gender

Of the total sample, there was a gender split of 54% male and 46% female. As the level of risk increased the percentage of male cases in each sub-sample decreased and the percentage of female cases in each sub-sample increased.

Table 5: Sample by category of risk and gender split within each category

	Female	Male
Not at risk	40%	60%
Mild risk	44%	56%
Moderate risk	48%	52%
Significant risk	60%	40%
Total sample	46%	54%

The analysis suggests that females are more at risk than males and this is supported through other studies. However the number of males in the pilot study sample identified as at risk is significantly higher than numbers identified in other studies.¹³

Ethnicity

The percentage of White British cases remained static across category of risk sub-samples. However there was an increase in the percentage of cases in some other ethnic categories as the level of risk increased.

Table 6: Sample by category of risk and ethnicity

	White British	Dual Heritage	Asian	Black	Other
Not at risk	86%	2%	2%	1%	9%
Mild risk	86%	7%	2%	2%	3%
Moderate risk	86%	8%	0%	6%	0%
Significant risk	84%	13%	3%	0%	0%
Total sample	85%	6%	2%	2%	5%

¹³See 3, 9, 10 above

Disability

In total a disability was recorded in relation to 33 cases. Of these, 32 children or young people were recorded as having a learning disability and one child was recorded as having a physical disability. The percentage of children and young people with a disability was lower in moderate and significant risk sub-samples than in the total sample.

Table 7: Sample by category of risk and recorded disability

Disability recorded	
Not at risk	10%
Mild risk	11%
Moderate risk	4%
Significant risk	6%
Total sample	9%

Age

The age range within the total sample was between 8 and 22 years. The majority of the total sample were aged between 14 and 17 years. The patterns of age distribution are different for each sub-sample and there is also a difference in age pattern by gender.

- For males in the moderate risk category the most common age in the sub-sample was 17 years.
- For females in the moderate risk category the most common age in the sub-sample was 15 years.
- For males in the significant risk category the most common ages in the sub-sample were 16 and 17 years.
- For females in the significant risk category the most common ages in the sub-sample were 15 and 16 years.

The age range for the moderate risk sub-samples was between 11 years and 18+ years. Of the 54 cases categorised as at moderate risk, nine cases related to young people aged 18 and over. The age range for the significant risk sub-sample was between 9 years and 18+ years. Of the 67 cases categorised as at significant risk, 11 were aged 18 years and over. A full analysis of each sub-sample by age is included in the appendices.

Legal Status

- In the total sample children and young people were most likely to be identified as 'children in need' (under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989) or as having no legal status under the Act. This was also true of the 'not at risk'; 'mild risk' and 'moderate risk' sub-samples.
- In the 'significant risk' sub-sample children and young people were most likely to be identified as the subject of Care Orders (under section 31 of the Children Act 1989).
- There was a marked increase in the number of children voluntarily accommodated (under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989) in the 'moderate risk' and 'significant risk' sub-samples.

Vulnerabilities and risks

The SERAF risk assessment forms included a list of vulnerabilities and risk indicators which were informed by research and practice evidence. Practitioners were asked to indicate which vulnerabilities and risk indicators were present in relation to each assessed case. Analysis of the forms has allowed for the identification of patterns of vulnerabilities and risk indicators in relation to different category of risk sub-samples. Analysis has been carried out by gender as we expected to find different patterns for girls and boys.

The children and young people in the sample were all known to social services and as such we would expect to find high incidence of problematic family backgrounds and childhood experience. Issues such as childhood abuse, family history of domestic abuse, family history of substance misuse and family breakdown were identified across the category of risk sub-samples. However as the level of risk increased the incidence of these factors also increased in relation to most indicators.

The way in which the risk assessment framework operates means that we would expect to find higher incidence of risk factors such as 'periods of going missing' among the higher risk categories. Barnardo's services working with sexually exploited children and young people across the UK use the indicators that have been used in the pilot study as criteria for accepting referrals. The patterns of risks identified in relation to males and females have some distinct areas of difference. This suggests that the link between indicators and levels of risk is not simply an outcome of the way in which the scoring system operates.

Identification

Girls and young women

Family background

Girls and young women in the 'significant risk' sub-sample were more likely to have experienced emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse by a parent or carer than other cases in the female sample.

Females	'Not at risk' sample (74)	'Mild risk' sample (26)	'Moderate risk' sample (26)	'Significant risk' sample (40)	Total female sample (166)
Emotional abuse (previous: in childhood/ by parent/carer)	22 (30%)	12 (46%)	12 (46%)	23 (58%)	69 (41%)
Physical abuse (previous: in childhood/ by parent/carer)	4 (5%)	6 (23%)	2 (8%)	12 (30%)	30 (18%)
Sexual abuse (during childhood)	7 (9%)	3 (12%)	6 (23%)	10 (25%)	26 (16%)

The correlation between experience of abuse during childhood and risk of sexual exploitation is well established¹⁴. Childhood abuse may be viewed as a vulnerability factor in that children who are abused during childhood are likely to suffer from low self worth which makes them vulnerable to exploitation by abusive adults. Furthermore, children who have experienced sexual abuse have already been through a grooming process which establishes as 'normal' a breaching of appropriate sexual boundaries. Others have argued that childhood abuse serves to propel children into high risk situations such as running away.¹⁵

Recorded incidence of family history of domestic abuse and family history of substance misuse (including alcohol misuse) increased with each level of risk, rising to just under half of females among the 'significant risk' sample. Information was also gathered in relation to family involvement in prostitution. This was only identified in three cases for the total female sample. The most significant increase is in relation to incidence of family breakdown. The rate of family breakdown for 'significant risk' females is over double that for 'not at risk' females.

¹⁴Barnardo's (1998) *Whose Daughter Next?* Children abused through prostitution. Barnardo's, Barking. side.

¹⁵See discussion in Melrose, M and Barret, D (2004) *Anchors in Floating Lives: Interventions with young people sexually abused through prostitution*, Russell House Publishing, Dorset.

Females	'Not at risk' sample (74)	'Mild risk' sample (26)	'Moderate risk' sample (26)	'Significant risk' sample (40)	Total female sample (166)
Family history of domestic abuse	20 (27%)	9 (35%)	9 (35%)	19 (48%)	57 (34%)
Family history of substance misuse	25 (33%)	10 (38%)	9 (35%)	18 (45%)	62 (37%)
Breakdown of family relationships	33 (45%)	16 (62%)	18 (69%)	37 (93%)	104 (63%)

Experience of problematic parenting was identified as a common characteristic of young people included in the recent study of service users of Barnardo's sexual exploitation services.¹⁶ The negative impact of substance misuse on parenting capacity and the lives of children living in families where substance misuse is present is documented.¹⁷ Children and young people living in families where there is domestic abuse are at increased risk of abuse themselves and the detrimental effect of witnessing domestic abuse on children are clear.¹⁸ There is a high incidence of family breakdown across the sample as a whole and this as with other factors is related to the sample origin (i.e. drawn from social services caseloads). It is clear that family breakdown is a key risk factor for females in the sample with 69% of the 'moderate risk' females and 93% of the 'significant risk' females having experienced family breakdown. Family breakdown has been described elsewhere as an 'underlying vulnerability factor'.¹⁹ Family breakdown may also be a consequence of sexual exploitation. Where a girl is involved in a relationship with an older 'boyfriend' a common process of control has been identified which includes isolation of the girl and the creation of dependency on the abusing adult. Part of this process will often include the girl becoming isolated or excluded from her family.²⁰

The damaging effects of the childhood experiences discussed above expose children to exploitation by abusive adults. Girls who have been the victims of neglect and/or abuse and who have witnessed abusive relationships between significant adults in their lives are not equipped to recognise and negotiate 'healthy' relationships. Whether family breakdown is an 'underlying vulnerability factor' or a consequence of an exploitative relationship the protection and support afforded through family membership to the majority of children is lost. Children and young people need to be educated in order to distinguish between 'healthy' and harmful relationships. Children and young people also need support in reaching a sense of agency about their emotions and bodies in order that they can protect themselves and make informed choices. For girls who are involved in exploitative abusive relationships there are some strong parallels with other forms of abuse, particularly domestic violence.²¹ Policy and legislation recently developed in response to the issue of domestic violence²² acknowledge the real difficulties for survivors of domestic abuse in breaking away from abusive relationships.

¹⁶ See 10 above.

¹⁷ Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, (2003), *Hidden Harm*, London: Home Office.

¹⁸ Welsh Assembly Government, (2005), *Tackling Domestic Abuse: the All Wales National Strategy, A Joint Agency Approach*, Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government.

¹⁹ Creegan, C Scott, S and Smith, S (2005), *The use of secure accommodation and alternative provisions for sexually exploited young people in Scotland*.

Barnardo's, Barkingside.

²⁰ See 14 above.

²¹ Dobash, R E; Dobash R P; Cavanagh, K and Lewis, R (2000) *Changing Violent Men*. Sage Publications, USA.

²² See 18 above and also *Domestic Violence: Crime and Victims Act 2004*.

Emotional well-being

The family histories and behaviours that bring children into contact with social services often impact negatively on emotional well-being²³. Poor emotional well-being was an issue for just under half of the total female sample. Levels of emotional well-being deteriorate as the level of risk increase, so that 78% of 'significant risk' females were identified as having low self image compared to 43% of the total female sample. Similarly 80% of the 'significant risk' sub-sample were identified as having made expressions of despair (as described in the table below) compared to 48% of the total female sample. Low self esteem and poor emotional and mental well-being render children and young people vulnerable to exploitation and also result from exploitation.

Females	'Not at risk' sample (74)	'Mild risk' sample (26)	'Moderate risk' sample (26)	'Significant risk' sample (40)	Total female sample (166)
Low self image	13 (18%)	12 (46%)	14 (54%)	32 (78%)	71 (43%)
Expressions of despair (self-harm, overdose, eating disorder, challenging behaviour, violence, aggression)	10(25%)	18 (69%)	18 (69%)	32 (80%)	78 (47%)

Indicators of disengagement, isolation and exposure to risk situations

Disengagement from education, isolation from peers and exposure to risk situations increase the vulnerability of children and young people to sexual exploitation.

Females	'Not at risk' sample (74)	'Mild risk' sample (26)	'Moderate risk' sample (26)	'Significant risk' sample (40)	Total female sample (166)
Exclusions/unexplained absences from school	18 (24%)	18 (69%)	22 (85%)	36 (88%)	94 (57%)
Isolated from peers/family	12 (16%)	9 (35%)	7 (27%)	24 (60%)	52 (31%)
Staying out late	10 (14%)	15 (58%)	23 (88%)	37 (90%)	64 (39%)
Substance misuse	1 (1%)	9 (35%)	12 (46%)	21 (53%)	43 (26%)
Periods of going missing	0	6 (23%)	21 (81%)	37 (93%)	64 (39%)

²³Royal College of Psychiatrists, (2004) *Child Abuse and neglect: the role of mental health services*, RCP: Council Report.

Children and young people who are not engaged in school, who are isolated from positive social networks and who stay out late spend a large proportion of their time away from appropriate adults and protective networks. They are exposed to situations in which they are accessible to those who wish to harm or exploit them. Children and young people who go missing are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and periods of going missing may be a direct risk indicator of sexual exploitation.²⁴ Evidence suggests that running away or going missing from home or care is often a response to abuse, conflict or rejection.²⁵ The relationship between sexual exploitation and substance misuse is a complex one which may include the use of substances as a coping mechanism or as a focus of exchange and control by the exploitative adult.²⁶ A significant majority of at risk females as defined in this study had incidence of more than one of the factors discussed above. Disengagement from education, staying out late and periods of going missing were identified in relation to the overwhelming majority of 'moderate' and 'significant' risk females. All of the factors discussed here increase the exposure of girls and young women to risk situations where they may be involved with other vulnerable young people and may come into contact with exploitative adults perhaps while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Vulnerable children and young people will often be in a position of multiple disadvantage, and some or all of issues such as poor emotional well-being and mental health, substance misuse, social isolation and disengagement from education may be present. Building a protective network for children and young people involves close inter-agency working. This is recognised in DOH/WAG guidance (2000); which calls for 'a careful, caring and concerted inter-agency approach that may have to be sustained for a long period of time' (2.4). A multi-agency approach is essential both as a means to identify risk through information sharing and in providing support for children with interrelated and complex problems.

Sexual health

Incidents of pregnancies/termination of pregnancies and of sexually transmitted diseases were recorded. Incidence of sexually transmitted diseases was recorded as 5% for the total female sample, and 18% for the 'significant risk' females. Case holders are not necessarily party to confidential information about the sexual health of young people unless that young person chooses to disclose such information. Research suggests that young people at risk of sexual exploitation come to the attention of health professionals in a number of different settings including sexual health services. The same research found that levels of awareness with regard to risk indicators of sexual exploitation and safeguarding procedures among health professionals varied considerably.²⁷

The rate of pregnancies/terminations for the total female sample was 12%. There was range of between 4% for the 'not at risk' females and 30% for the 'significant risk' females. Evidence from practice suggests that parenthood may provide a strong motivation for some young women to engage in support to break away from sexually exploitative relationships and situations.²⁸

²⁴ Biehal, N and Wade, J (1999), *Children who go missing: research, policy and practice*, London: DOH.

²⁵ See 24 above, also Mitchell et al. (2002), *Running away in Wales: patterns, Needs and Services*, Cardiff: NAFW.

²⁶ Drinkwater, S; Greenwood, H with Margaret Melrose, (2004) 'Young People Exploited through Prostitution: A Literature review', in Melrose, M and Barret, D (2004), *Anchors in Floating Lives: Interventions with young people sexually abused through prostitution*, pp 23-35 Russell House Publishing, Dorset.

²⁷ See 3 above, Harper, Z and Scott, S (2005).

²⁸ See 10 above, Scott, S and Skidmore, P (2006).

Assault

Just under one quarter (23%) of 'moderate' and 'significant' risk females were the victims of sexual assault. The incidence of disclosure of sexual/physical assault followed by withdrawal of allegation was 13% for the total female sample, rising to 35% for 'significant' risk females. Withdrawal of an allegation may be the result of the complex nature of abusive relationships in which girls are involved which parallels the experience of women involved in relationships where domestic violence is present (as discussed above).

Relationship with an older 'boyfriend' or controlling adult

A common pattern in the sexual exploitation of girls and young women is the presence of an older 'boyfriend'. This abusing adult exploits the vulnerability of the girl through a process of control which begins with an apparently loving relationship and develops into a controlling, abusive and exploitative relationship over a period of time.²⁹ Recent evidence from Barnardo's service users demonstrates a clearly defined route into sexual exploitation through an older adult, most often but not always an older 'boyfriend'.³⁰

Females	'Not at risk' sample (74)	'Mild risk' sample (26)	'Moderate risk' sample (26)	'Significant risk' sample (40)	Total female sample (166)
Older boyfriend/controlling adult	0	1 (4%)	4 (15%)	35 (88%)	40 (24%)
Known emotional abuse by controlling adult	0	0	0	9 (23%)	9 (5%)
Known physical abuse by controlling adult	0	0	0	8 (20%)	8 (5%)

Incidence of an older 'boyfriend' or controlling adult was identified in relation to 88% of 'significant risk' females. In approximately one fifth of these cases practitioners were aware of girls and young women being the victims of emotional and/or physical abuse by that controlling adult. It is recognised that women who have been subjected to domestic violence need specialist support through service provision and legislation to address the complex process of leaving an abusive relationship. Children and young people in sexually exploitative relationships need the same level of legal protection and specialist support and this is not currently available.³¹ Girls may have a significant emotional investment in the abusive relationship and practice suggests that persistent engagement techniques are needed to work with children and young people who are heavily influenced by an adult exploiter or groomer.³²

²⁹ See 14 above, Barnardo's, (1998).

³⁰ See 10 above, Scott, S and Skidmore, P (2006).

³¹ See 22 above, *Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act*, (2004).

³² See 10 above, Scott, S and Skidmore, P (2006).

Direct risk indicators of sexual exploitation

Some behaviours are suggestive of direct risk of or involvement in sexual exploitation. There may be alternative explanations for some direct risk indicators, however where a number of these direct risk indicators are present they suggest a pattern of behaviour associated with sexual exploitation.

Females	'Not at risk' sample (74)	'Mild risk' sample (26)	'Moderate risk' sample (26)	'Significant risk' sample (40)	Total female sample (166)
Use of a mobile phone which causes concern	2 (3%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	17 (43%)	21 (13%)
Multiple callers	2 (3%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	16 (40%)	20 (12%)
Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items.	0	1 (4%)	3 (12%)	7 (18%)	11 (7%)
Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults (not car theft)	0	0	1 (4%)	18 (45%)	19 (11%)
Peers involved in clipping/'prostitution'	0	0	0	12 (30%)	12 (7%)
Frequenting areas known for 'prostitution'	0	0	1 (4%)	6 (15%)	7 (4%)

The majority of sexual exploitation of children and young people takes place 'off street'.³³ Mobile phones and the internet allow for exploitative adults to organise and orchestrate the abuse of children in private accommodation, hotel rooms and massage parlours. This explains the relatively low incidence of frequenting areas known for 'prostitution' among the 'significant risk' female sample. Around 40% of the 'significant risk' female sample were identified as having use of a mobile phone which causes concern, multiple callers and incidence of entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults. These indicators suggest a pattern of behaviour strongly associated with sexual exploitation.

³³ See 3 above, Harper, Z and Scott, S (2005).

Boys and young men

When the total male sample is compared with the total female sample, boys and young men are less likely to have experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse by a parent or carer than their female peers. However a comparison of the 'significant risk' male and female sub-samples indicates a different pattern. Boys and young men at significant risk are marginally more likely to have experienced emotional and physical abuse by a parent or carer than girls and young women at 'significant risk'. Reported sexual abuse remains lower for 'significant risk' males at 15% compared to 25% among the female 'significant risk' sub-sample.

Males	'Not at risk' sample (112)	'Mild risk' sample (34)	'Moderate risk' sample (28)	'Significant risk' sample (27)	Total male sample (201)
Emotional abuse (previous: in childhood/by parent/carer)	21 (19%)	9 (26%)	10 (36%)	17 (63%)	57 (28%)
Physical abuse (previous: in childhood/by parent/carer)	8 (7%)	9 (26%)	4 (14%)	10 (37%)	31 (15%)
Sexual abuse (during childhood)	4 (4%)	1 (3%)	2 (7%)	4 (15%)	11 (5%)

We know that experience of abusive family relationships leaves children and young people with low self-esteem, poor trust in adults and relationship difficulties, which in turn renders them vulnerable to sexual exploitation.³⁴ A history of abuse has been identified as a risk indicator by Barnardo's services working with sexually exploited boys and young men across the UK.³⁵

In common with the pattern for females, recorded incidence of family history of domestic abuse and family history of substance misuse (including alcohol misuse) increased with each level of risk for the male sample. For the total male sample, incidents of domestic abuse and of substance misuse were recorded in relation to around a quarter of the sample, compared to about one third of the female sample. Although a comparison of the female and male 'significant risk' sub-samples indicates that boys and young men at significant risk are more likely to have experienced a family history of domestic abuse and substance misuse than girls and young women. Incidents of breakdown of family relationships were high across the male sample and there was an increase in family breakdown as the level of risk increased. However incidence of family breakdown was slightly higher for the female sample as a whole.

³⁴ Leheup, R (1999) Floating Lives, Hide 'n' Seek Male Youth prostitution Conference, 1999.

³⁵ See 12 above, Stanway, D (2006).

The results suggest despite some differences in identified patterns that family breakdown and poor parenting capacity render children and young people vulnerable to risk of sexual exploitation irrespective of gender and this has been evidenced elsewhere.³⁶

Males	'Not at risk' sample (112)	'Mild risk' sample (34)	'Moderate risk' sample (28)	'Significant risk' sample (27)	Total male sample (201)
Family history of domestic abuse	16 (14%)	10 (29%)	10 (36%)	16 (59%)	52 (26%)
Family history of substance misuse	12 (11%)	13 (38%)	13 (46%)	17 (63%)	55 (27%)
Breakdown of family relationships	38 (34%)	23 (68%)	23 (82%)	24 (89%)	108 (54%)

Emotional well-being

Low self-esteem and poor emotional and mental well-being result from and render children and young people vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Low self image was identified as an issue for 40% of the total male sample and this is similar to the figure for the total female sample (43%). Boys and young men in the 'not at risk', 'mild risk' and 'moderate risk' categories were less likely to have been identified as having 'expressions of despair' than females in these categories of risk. Boys and young men can struggle to communicate effectively about their emotions. There is a general tendency for boys to 'act out' when in emotional distress. While girls may be seen as having problems boys may be seen as being a problem.³⁷ Similar rates of emotional despair were identified in relation to males (81%) and females (80%) in the 'significant risk' category.

Males	'Not at risk' sample (112)	'Mild risk' sample (34)	'Moderate risk' sample (28)	'Significant risk' sample (27)	Total male sample (201)
Low self image	26 (23%)	15 (44%)	19 (68%)	20 (74%)	80 (40%)
Expressions of despair (self-harm, overdose, eating disorder, challenging behaviour, violence, aggression)	20 (18%)	16 (47%)	11 (39%)	22 (81%)	69 (34%)

Once exploited boys and young men may feel compromised, confused and ashamed. There is external pressure to acquire a masculine identity which is in conflict with the nature of their abuse by men. Boys and young men may be confused about their sexual orientation and may deny their natural inclination to be gay or may privately believe that they are gay (when they may not be) because of the nature of their abuse by men.³⁸ Practitioners need to be aware of this as a possible dimension of need that should be addressed in supporting boys and young men.

³⁶ See 12 and 10 above, also Palmer, T. (2001) *No son of mine! Children abused through prostitution*. Barnardo's, Barking-side.

³⁷ See 12 above, Stanway, D. (2006).

³⁸ Palmer, T. (2001) *No son of mine! Children abused through prostitution*. Barnardo's, Barking-side.

Indicators of disengagement, isolation and exposure to risk situations

Disengagement from education, isolation from peers and exposure to risk situations away from appropriate adult supervision increase the vulnerability of children and young people to sexual exploitation. They are also key indicators of risk associated with offending behaviour.³⁹ Over a quarter (27%) of the total male sample represent youth offending service cases. Among the 'moderate risk' male sub-sample, 42% of the cases originate with the youth offending service. While one third (33%) of male 'significant risk' cases originate with the youth offending service.

Males	'Not at risk' sample (112)	'Mild risk' sample (34)	'Moderate risk' sample (28)	'Significant risk' sample (27)	Total male sample (201)
Exclusions/unexplained absences from school	41 (37%)	25 (74%)	27 (95%)	26 (96%)	119 (59%)
Isolated from peers/family	13 (12%)	10 (29%)	11 (39%)	14 (52%)	48 (24%)
Staying out late	23 (21%)	22 (64%)	26 (93%)	26 (96%)	97 (48%)
Substance misuse	25 (22%)	18 (53%)	18 (64%)	24 (89%)	85 (42%)
Periods of going missing	0	9 (26%)	27 (95%)	26 (96%)	62 (31%)

Evidence from Barnardo's sexual exploitation services identified a significant number of boys and young men who were involved with the youth offending service and also suggests that at times young men's offending behaviour may overshadow their sexual exploitation.⁴⁰

Boys and young men in 'at risk' categories were slightly more likely to have exclusions from or unexplained absences from school than girls and young women. The incidence of exclusions/absences from school and periods of going missing run at identical rates for the 'moderate and significant risk' male sub-samples. There is a strong association between running away or going missing and non-attendance at school due to truancy or exclusion.⁴¹ Non school attendance or exclusion from school has been identified as a risk indicator of sexual exploitation by Barnardo's services.⁴² Disengagement from education disconnects children and young people from their peers and mainstream routes towards adulthood and increases the likelihood of attachment to older people involved in drugs, crime and exploitation.⁴³ Children and young people may then be drawn into criminal activities by the exploitative adult. Disengagement from school is an early indicator of risk for boys and girls. Schools have a central role to play in delivering pastoral care and specialist support to re-engage children and young people. Staff need to be alert to risk indicators and to be in a position to identify them in the children and young people in their care.⁴⁴ The sample for this pilot study included cases where the initial concern in relation to a child had originated with a school. The cases in question involved schools identifying incidents of children being picked up in cars from outside school in lunchtimes or being seen with older men. Barnardo's services across the UK operate a prevention, protection and recovery model and educational work in schools, pupil referral units and residential settings is a key delivery mechanism for this work.⁴⁵

³⁹ MORI Social Research, (2001) *Youth Survey 2001: research study conducted for Youth Justice Board*, MORI. See also discussion in Welsh Assembly Government, (2003), *All Wales Youth Offending Strategy*, Consultation Document, Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government.

⁴⁰ See 12 above, Stanway, D (2006).

⁴¹ See 24 above, Biehal, N and Wade, J (1999).

⁴² See 12 above, Stanway, D (2006).

⁴³ See 10 above, Scott, S and Skidmore, P (2006).

⁴⁴ See 3 above, Harper, Z and Scott, S (2005).

⁴⁵ See 10 above, Scott, S and Skidmore, P (2006).

Boys and young men were more likely to be reported as having substance misuse issues than girls and young women. For the total male sample substance misuse was identified as an issue in 42% of cases compared to 26% of the total female sample. This difference is most marked in relation to 'significant risk' sub-samples, with substance misuse identified in relation to 89% of 'significant risk' males compared to 53% of 'significant risk' females. This may be the result of the high proportion of cases from the youth offending service in the male sample. While there is no evidence of a direct causal link between substance misuse and offending, research undertaken on behalf of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales shows that young people in the youth justice system have a high prevalence of substance misuse needs, even in comparison to other groups of vulnerable young people.⁴⁶

The work of Barnardo's services for boys and young men who have been sexually exploited suggests a strong link between sexual exploitation of young males with their running away from home, their substance misuse and their offending.⁴⁷

Sexual health

Only two male cases in the total sample were identified as having had sexually transmitted diseases. Although females under 20 'bear the burden of sexually transmitted diseases' the significant increase in sexually transmitted diseases among young people over the past decade and a half suggests that low incidence in the pilot study sample is a result of under-reporting.⁴⁸

Assault

Of the total male sample, only 3 cases or 1% of the total sample were identified as the victims of sexual assault. The incidents of disclosure of sexual/physical assault followed by withdrawal were 4% for the total male sample, and 19% of the 'significant risk' male sub-sample. Both reported incidence of sexual assault and disclosure of assault followed by withdrawal were notably higher for girls and young women. There is strong evidence to suggest that the sexual assault of males as a phenomena is underreported.⁴⁹

Relationship with an older 'boyfriend' or controlling adult

A relationship with an older 'boyfriend' or controlling adult was identified in relation to 7 (or 3%) of the total male sample, compared to 40 (or 24%) of the total female sample. For the 'significant risk' sub-samples 25% (7) of the boys had an older 'boyfriend'/controlling adult compared to 88% (35) of the females in the 'significant risk' sub-sample. This indicator of risk suggests a clear gender difference between the male and female samples.

The exploitation of girls and young women is commonly initiated by abusing men who appear to offer a loving sexual relationship to an emotionally vulnerable and targeted young female. The abuse of boys and young men is more likely to happen through befriending, enticements, grooming and priming. The process is often a gradual one and follows a similar pattern of targeting, creation of dependency and control identified for girls and young women in abusive relationships.⁵⁰ Boys and young men are less likely to learn about sex from informed sources and there is an expectation that they will have sexual knowledge as a result of their gender. This means that they are often misinformed and their opportunities to discuss relationships and feelings is restricted. This in turn means that they are unprepared to recognise that other men may be sexually predatory towards them.⁵¹ Case study discussions with practitioners during the pilot study revealed that for young men

⁴⁶ Youth Justice Board (2006). YOT substance misuse worker: integrating youth justice provision and substance misuse treatment, London: YJB

⁴⁷ See 12 above, Stanway, D (2006).

⁴⁸ National Statistics Online (2004), *Sexual Health, teen infection doubled*, London: ONS

⁴⁹ Speigal, J (2003), *Sexual abuse of males: the SAM model of theory and practice*, New York: Brunner-Routledge

⁵⁰ See 38 above, Palmer, T (2001).

⁵¹ See 12 above, Stanway, D (2006). Also 38 above, Palmer, T (2001).

who are perceived as being gay, agencies can erroneously interpret sexual encounters with other older men as being part of some kind of natural exploration of their sexuality.

There is also evidence of a pattern of entry for boys and young men which involves escape from untenable home situations and exchange of sexual services in specific public places to support survival. However cases in the sample for this pilot study originate with social services and as such they do not include children and young people in extreme housing need or who are street homeless.

Direct risk indicators of sexual exploitation

Some behaviours are suggestive of direct risk of or involvement in sexual exploitation. Where a number of these direct risk indicators are present they suggest a pattern of behaviour related to sexual exploitation. Boys and young men in the sample were less likely to be identified with use of a mobile phone that causes concern or 'multiple callers' than girls and young women in the sample. This difference was most apparent through a comparison of the 'significant risk' sub-samples. In the female 'significant risk' sub-sample multiple callers were identified in 40% of cases and use of a mobile phone which causes concern was identified in 43% of cases. The figures for the male 'significant risk' sample identify 'multiple callers' in 11% of cases and use of a mobile phone that causes concern in 19% of cases. Boys and young men in the 'significant risk' category were 50% less likely to be identified as having peers involved in clipping/'prostitution'. Lower levels of identification of direct risk indicators in relation to boys and young men may be the result of the fact that this form of exploitation remains particularly hidden and denied.⁵²

Males in the 'significant risk' sub-sample were more likely to have been identified as having unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items (52%) than their female counterparts (18%). It is difficult to draw conclusions from such a small sample but we know that the grooming and entrapment of boys and young men is often built on enticement.

Males	'Not at risk' sample (112)	'Mild risk' sample (34)	'Moderate risk' sample (28)	'Significant risk' sample (27)	Total female sample (201)
Use of a mobile phone which causes concern	0	1 (2%)	3 (11%)	5 (19%)	8 (4%)
Multiple callers	2 (2%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	3 (11%)	7 (3%)
Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items	0	1 (2%)	4 (14%)	14 (52%)	19 (9%)
Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults (not car theft)	0	1 (2%)	2 (7%)	13 (48%)	16 (8%)
Peers involved in clipping/'prostitution'	0	0	0	4 (15%)	4 (2%)
Frequenting areas known for 'prostitution'	0	1 (2%)	2 (7%)	4 (15%)	7 (3%)

⁵² See 12 above, Stanway, D (2006).

Cases of children and young people entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults were similar for both genders. This indicator was identified within the 'significant risk' sub-sample for 45% of females and 48% of males. We know that vehicles may be the location of sexually exploitative acts and that exploitative adults often drive children and young people to private homes or hotels so that abuse can take place. During the pilot study practitioners gave examples of incidents which they believed to involve the movement of children and young people by abusing adults to other towns and cities in Wales and across the border into England.

Summary

The factors that put children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation as identified in the pilot study are in common with those factors identified in the Barnardo's UK national evaluation of sexual exploitation services.⁵³ These have been set out earlier in the report and include disrupted family life, a history of abuse and disadvantage, problematic parenting, disengagement from education, going missing, exploitative relationships, drug and alcohol misuse and poor health and well-being. The pilot study sample suggests a number of indicators which are particularly significant irrespective of gender. Analysis of information gathered in the pilot study also suggests some key gender differences in patterns of risks.

- The results suggest that despite some differences in identified patterns (as discussed above) a history of abuse, family breakdown and poor parenting capacity render children and young people vulnerable to risk of sexual exploitation. This is irrespective of gender and this has been evidenced elsewhere.
- Low self image and expressions of despair were identified in relation to a significant number of children and young people in the 'significant risk' sub-sample irrespective of gender.
- Staying out late and periods of going missing were identified in relation to a significant majority (between 90-96%) of children and young people identified as at 'moderate or significant risk'.
- Exclusions/unexplained absences from school were reported in relation to a significant majority of children and young people (between 85-96%) identified as at 'moderate or significant risk'.
- Reported substance misuse increased as the identified level of risk increased. Incidence of substance misuse were higher for boys and young men, in particular when the male and female 'significant risk' sub-samples were compared;
- Of the girls and young women in the 'significant risk' sub-sample, 88% were identified as having an older 'boyfriend'/controlling adult. For boys and young men in the 'significant risk' sub-sample this figure was 26%.
- Boys and young men in the sample were less likely to be identified with use of a mobile phone that causes concern or multiple callers than girls and young women in the sample.
- Boys and young men in the 'significant risk' category were 50% less likely to be identified as having peers involved in clipping/'prostitution' than girls and young women in the same category.
- Males in the 'significant risk' sub-sample were more likely to have been identified as having unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items (52%) than their female counterparts (18%).
- Cases of children and young people entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults were similar for both genders. This indicator was identified within the 'significant risk' sub-sample for 45% of females and 48% of males.

⁵³ See 10 above, Scott, S and Skidmore, P (2006).

Case histories were discussed during the practitioner development sessions. Examination of the 'at risk' cases in these sessions supports the pattern of vulnerability and risks suggested in the SERAF assessment sample. The cases discussed involved children and young people from chaotic families where parental substance misuse and domestic violence were common. Evidence of or allegations of childhood abuse were also identified in the case histories. Disengagement from education and school exclusion was an issue in relation to the majority of examined cases. Episodes of running away or going missing were a common issue. In all cases there was a lack of stability in families of origin and in placements. Substance misuse and offending behaviour were identified in the majority of cases. Case histories identified information about children and young people entering vehicles driven by unknown men and locations such as private residence that were known as dangerous venues for children and young people. There was also some evidence of networks of abuse between young people within the local authority and across other local authorities. The trafficking of young people within the UK to other cities was also evidenced. Practitioners reflected on the ways in which their professional instincts had caused them to have real concerns about some children and young people. A lack of knowledge however meant that they had been unable to associate a set of concerning behaviours with the issue of sexual exploitation. A lack of knowledge of the existence or contents of a local sexual exploitation protocol meant that practitioners lacked confidence in taking forward these concerns.

Interventions

The risk assessment tool SERAF has been developed to enable the identification of children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation. The development of a framework which includes four categories of risk is intended to inform appropriate responses in relation to children and young people's safeguarding needs.

Providing an appropriate response requires a protective network for children and young people and effectiveness depends heavily on a multi-agency response. This response is best delivered in the structure offered by local protocols for children and young people involved in sexual exploitation. Newport can be classed as one of the most progressive local authorities in addressing the issue of sexual exploitation and yet only nine out of the 152 people who participated in the training and practice development sessions held as part of this pilot were aware of the existence of these protocols. This highlights the need for cascading information about the protocols on an ongoing basis. By mainstreaming the protocols as part of the safeguarding procedures, barriers such as staff turnover will no longer mean that safeguarding falls through the net.

Within the four categories of risk framework, different responses are required in relation to each level of risk. Each of the four categories of risk has an associated action.

Category 1 – Not at risk of sexual exploitation (SERAF score 0-5)

Children and young people in Category 1 do not have indicators of risk in relation to sexual exploitation. The majority of the pilot study sample (51%) were categorised as not at risk of sexual exploitation. However as children and young people in contact with social services, they are likely to have some vulnerabilities present.

Children and young people assessed as being in this category need access to basic information that will enable them to develop an awareness of the risks that can lead to a situation in which they may be exposed to sexual exploitation. They need access to information that will equip them to avoid risk situations and to protect themselves. Practitioners working in children's services teams are well placed to deliver such information as part of their interaction with the children and young people with whom they are in contact.

The school Personal Health and Social Education (PHSE) curriculum provides a sound platform through which to deliver basic safeguarding information, to explore ideas around 'healthy' sexual relationships and to provide children and young people with a sense of agency and control about their bodies and selves. This also needs to include opportunities for children and young people to understand the very real risks involved in staying out late and going missing from school, home or care. Work in schools is already successfully delivered by Barnardo's services elsewhere in the UK. Barnardo's Cymru is developing a schools information resource pack to support teachers and pastoral staff in addressing this safeguarding issue.

Category 2 – Mild risk (SERAF score 6-10)

Children and young people in Category 2 are likely to have multiple vulnerabilities such as problematic parenting and childhood experiences present. One or two risk indicators may also be present. These vulnerabilities increase the risk of such children and young people being groomed for sexual exploitation. Early intervention and preventative work is needed to protect children and young people who have multiple vulnerabilities present.

Consideration should be given to convening a multi-agency meeting to ensure all information is shared and agree a plan to address risk and need. A planned programme to raise awareness of sexual exploitation and to provide tools for children and young people to self protect is required. Such an intervention should raise risk awareness, provide information on keeping safe and address specific identified issues that pose a threat to safety. Such a programme should be delivered by a practitioner who has a good working relationship with the child or young person. It should include opportunities for children and young people to understand the very real risks involved in staying out late and going missing from school, home or care.

Risk needs to be regularly reassessed as part of the planned work undertaken with a child or young person. Any significant change in circumstances which might increase vulnerability or any incidence of behaviour associated with risk should result in an immediate reassessment of risk.

Category 3 – Moderate risk (SERAF score 11-15)

Children and young people identified as being in Category 3 are likely to have multiple vulnerabilities present as well as one or more indicators of risk. The range of need within this category of risk is wide in terms of the difference between a child or young person with a SERAF score of 11 and a child or young person with a SERAF score of 15. Children and young people at moderate risk may be groomed or targeted for opportunistic abuse and/or exploitative relationships by abusing adults.

It is in this category that any omitted information can have the greatest effect on accuracy of assessment and information sharing. A multi-agency strategy meeting under the local protocol for children abused through sexual exploitation should be convened in relation to children and young people assessed as at moderate risk (in line with DOH/NAW Guidance, 2000). Multi-agency strategy meetings enable the effective exchange of information between representatives of key agencies. The meetings should include the individual who has identified risk or raised concerns in relation to the child or young person and representatives of Children's Services, Police, Health, Education, Placements and any specialist child sexual exploitation service. Multi-agency strategy meetings should respond to the needs of children and young people for whom risk of sexual exploitation is indicated but not known, as well as responding to cases where evidence of sexual exploitation is available. In research undertaken with 30 London boroughs and two local authorities outside London only two local authorities surveyed stated that they had identified sexual exploitation through disclosure by a young person. In the same research respondents welcomed the introduction of multi-agency strategy meetings and noted the difficulty of using traditional child protection processes with this form of abuse.⁵⁴ In light of the complex and hidden nature of this form of abuse which children and young people rarely disclose, it is important to work on the basis of concerns rather than relying on hard evidence. The SERAF framework enables safeguarding action to be linked to evidence of risk thereby facilitating both preventive action and appropriate intervention.

The multi-agency strategy meeting should agree a protection plan and action to include direct work with the individual child or young person. The focus of any protection plan and of direct interventions should be the reduction of specific risks which are causing concern. In particular where staying out late and/or going missing from school, home or care is identified, these should be addressed as a priority.

⁵⁴ See 3 above, Harper, Z and Scott, S (2005).

The safeguarding implications of staying out late and going missing should not be underestimated by any agencies. The length of intervention required will be different in each case and is reliant on the specific circumstances of the child or young person and the nature of the risks which are being addressed. Individual children and young people may respond to intervention in different ways and this will also impact on the length of that intervention.

A change of circumstances such as a placement change for example, may serve to support the reduction of risks in a relatively short space of time, conversely a placement change could serve to quickly escalate risk. At least one review meeting by the multi-agency strategy group should be conducted to ensure that actions have been taken, assess progress, consider the impact of interventions, share further information and reassess the level of risk. Risks should be carefully monitored and reviewed over time in relation to children and young people for whom there have been concerns as part of assessment and planning processes already in place within teams. A SERAF resource pack has been developed by Barnardo's Cymru which includes tools for working specifically in relation to the issue of sexual exploitation.

Category 4 – Significant risk (SERAF score 16+)

Where children or young people are assessed as being in Category 4 there is a clear indication that they are at significant risk of sexual exploitation or that they are already being abused through sexual exploitation. This is likely to include cases where abuse is habitual, denied, and where coercion and control is implicit.

A multi-agency strategy meeting under the local protocol for children abused through sexual exploitation should be convened in relation to children and young people assessed as at 'significant risk' (in line with DOH/NAW Guidance 2000). As with Category 3, multi-agency strategy meetings should ensure the effective exchange of information between representatives of key agencies. The meetings should include the individual who has identified risk or raised concerns in relation to the child or young person and representatives of Children's Services, Police, Health, Education, Placements and any specialist child sexual exploitation service. Participants of the meeting should agree a protection plan and action to include long-term intensive direct work with the individual child or young person. Review meetings should be conducted throughout the period in which the specialist intervention is taking place to ensure that agreed actions are implemented, and to assess the progress and impact of agreed interventions. Risk should be closely monitored and regularly reassessed as part of the risk reduction process.

All agencies involved in working with the child or young person should address issues of sexual exploitation whether in relation to, for example, placements, offending behaviour; work with the child or young person's family, education or sexual health as part of their work with that child or young person. A coordinated and synchronised approach by all agencies maximises the effectiveness of interventions and the impact of planned actions. All agencies should agree and adopt a consistent approach that does not shy away from or collude with risky behaviour. All agencies and professionals need to be aware of the intensive and long-term nature of the approach required. The presence of multiple vulnerabilities and risks in the lives of children and young people at significant risk often means that they are difficult to engage and that positive outcomes take time. Appropriate approaches to working with children and young people at significant risk of or abused through sexual exploitation are discussed in more detail later in this report.

The threshold for Category 4 within the framework is a SERAF score of 16 or above. Of the 'significant risk' sub-sample in the pilot study, the local authority had already identified sexual exploitation as an issue in 11 of the 67 cases. In all but one of the 11 cases which had already been identified by the local authority, a SERAF score of 30 or above was generated (between 31 and 49). This suggests that a significant majority of vulnerabilities and risk indicators have to be present for a child or young person before sexual exploitation is identified as an issue through standard child protection procedures and practices. The use of a fit for purpose sexual exploitation risk assessment framework should allow for the identification of vulnerability and risk in relation to the majority of children and young people at an earlier stage. Over time, routine assessment, early identification and appropriate interventions should reduce the numbers of children and young people who are exposed to significant risk of sexual exploitation.

Young people aged 18 years and over, entitled to Aftercare services

The supplementary guidance Safeguarding Children Involved in Prostitution (2000) applies to all children and young people under the age of 18 years. However reference is made to a duty of care towards older young people leaving care under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 with regard to the safeguarding guidance.

Where there are concerns regarding risk of sexual exploitation in relation to a young person entitled to receive services under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, the associated actions set out above should be generally followed.

In relation to Category 1 and Category 2 cases, information and awareness raising actions should be addressed as part of the pathway planning process. Risk should be assessed and addressed as part of existing processes. Similarly where young people are assessed as Category 3 or Category 4 cases sexual exploitation should be addressed through the Pathway or other work plan. Liaison between Children's Services and the Police Public Protection Unit is also required in addressing the protection of the young person.

SERAf (Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework)

Risk and intervention: protecting children and young people

Multi-agency meetings, regular reviews and intensive direct work by key professional over extended period to protect

Significant risk

Educate to stay safe, multi-agency meeting, direct work and close monitoring of case to protect

Moderate risk

Educate to stay safe and monitor to protect

Mild risk

Educate to stay safe

Not at risk

Interventions with individual children and young people should be aimed at addressing the specific areas causing concern, beginning with the most risky or dangerous as well as those areas identified by the child or young person as areas where they are willing to work on making changes. This supports reduction of risks and progresses cases to positive outcomes. Barnardo's Cymru has adapted a traffic lights system⁵⁵ to provide a means of monitoring positive outcomes. The SERAF STEP assessment enables children and young people to self-assess as well as allowing for a comparison between a child or young person's own appraisal of their situation with that of their worker. The SERAF STEP assessment is designed to provoke discussion and debate and when used regularly over time is able to map progress and change. Children and young people can use this tool to prioritise areas of work to be undertaken with their workers and can discuss action needed to move them to a reduced level of risk. In this way children and young people are encouraged to contribute to the identification of the various risks associated with sexual exploitation as they relate to their own lives. The SERAF STEP assessment is integral to risk reduction work.

⁵⁵ Created by Barnardo's Merseyside Service.

Reducing risks for positive outcomes

Each of the areas which present risks for children and young people in relation to sexual exploitation can be dealt with to promote safeguarding and to achieve positive outcomes. Reducing these risks involves a multi-agency approach which delivers a protective network and holistic package of care.

The Seraf service works to achieve the following outcomes which incorporate a set of national outcomes adopted by Barnardo's services across the UK. They have been matched against Welsh Assembly Government's seven Core Aims for all children and young people in Wales.

- 1.** Child or young person is in regular contact with the service and able to accept support (WAG Core Aim 5).
- 2.** Child or young person has a suitable place to live, with care and support adequate to their needs (WAG Core Aim 6).
- 3.** Child or young person does not go missing from home/care (WAG Core Aim 6).
- 4.** Child or young person has reduced conflict with parents or carers (WAG Core Aim 6).
- 5.** Child or young person does not associate with controlling/risky adults (WAG Core Aim 3).
- 6.** Child or young person does not associate with peers involved in sexual exploitation (WAG Core Aim 3).
- 7.** Child or young person attends education/training/work (WAG Core Aim 2).
- 8.** Child or young person is aware of sexual health risks and protects themselves appropriately (WAG Core Aims 2 and 3).
- 9.** Child or young person does not have problematic drug/alcohol use (WAG Core Aim 3).
- 10.** Child or young person does not experience violence (WAG Core Aim 3).
- 11.** Child or young person is able to recognise risky and exploitative relationships and to assert their rights in relationships (WAG Core Aim 2).
- 12.** Child or young person is safe from abuse (WAG Core Aim 3).
- 13.** Child or young person has a consistent positive relationship with at least one nurturing adult (WAG Core Aims 5 and 6).
- 14.** Child or young person has their health needs met (WAG Core Aim 3).
- 15.** Child or young person has opportunities to enjoy a range of activities and has the confidence to participate (WAG Core Aims 2 and 4).
- 16.** Child or young person has a range of independent living skills (WAG Core Aim 2).
- 17.** Child or young person engages in law abiding, positive behaviours (WAG Core Aim 2).
- 18.** Child or young person has a reduced SERAF score (WAG Core Aim 3).

Local practitioners' recommendations

During the practice development sessions participants made a number of suggestions in relation to local intervention. They identified the need for:

- early intervention and prevention supported by the cascading of joint training to colleagues in education, the youth service, health services and the police;
- support for CSE assessments across agencies and earlier referrals to tackle risk factors early on;
- a multi-agency response supported through good information sharing protocols, regular multi-agency meetings between those working at the operational level and strategic commitment to identifying and responding to risks.

Working with children and young people at significant risk of or abused through sexual exploitation

By the point in a child or young person's life where they are significantly at risk of or are already abused through sexual exploitation they are subject to a complex pattern of life experiences which impact negatively on each dimension of their life. Because of this they can present to agencies such as the police as 'streetwise' or as 'problematic' rather than in need of support. Information, training, tools for risk identification, protocols and procedures and tools for assessment lead to a plan of intervention. Intervention, support and action should be based upon the child or young person's needs and be delivered by a trusted worker in conjunction with a protective network of appropriate agencies.

Working with children and young people for whom sexual exploitation is an issue requires a holistic approach through investment of time and resources in long term intervention. An important aspect of the work can be maintaining contact and being available to children and young people until they reach a point where they are ready to think about their situations. The process and effort spent by a worker on relationship building can be an important factor in bringing them to that point. These 'windows of opportunity', when they present, should be fully capitalised upon, with the right kind of support being made available at the time it is required by the young person. This can only be achieved through the cooperation and joint working of an established network of appropriate agencies.

Establishing a positive trusting relationship with such vulnerable children and young people takes time. A relationship needs to be developed which offers something tangible to the child or young person. At the same time it is important to acknowledge that workers are not providing a friendship and that there are inescapable power differentials. Change needs to happen at a pace that is set by the young person and which provides real choices and promotes a sense of positive control for the young person. Working with children and young people who are exposed to risk situations and experiences of sexual exploitation requires an approach that is non-judgemental and where staff are 'unshockable'. There is a need to be consistently honest and to listen to and respect the views of children and young people.

- Intervention should begin with relationship building and assessment of risks and vulnerabilities with the child or young person.
- Honest discussions and inclusion in assessment and planning processes will assist the child or young person in feeling included, and create a sense of ownership and connection with the plan.
- The plan should address each of the identified areas of risk.
- Workers need to be realistic about expectations and to understand that this is long term intensive work.

Barnardo's has been involved in child sexual exploitation work since 1995. The core features of Barnardo's model of practice can be summarised in the Four A's of Access, Attention, Assertive outreach and Advocacy.⁵⁶

Access

Barnardo's services contribute to the development of effective protocols in their area to ensure effective pathways of referral. This includes inter-agency work to raise awareness and increase identification of children and young people at risk.

Services have to be provided in a way that is accessible to children and young people with chaotic lives and who may have a history of poor relationships with professionals. Services have to be delivered by staff who take time to build trusting relationships. Providing support to young people on their own terms is crucial, as is honesty about the boundaries of confidentiality.

Attention

As a result of their life experiences, children and young people at risk of or abused through sexual exploitation are unlikely to have concerned adults who give them positive attention in their lives. This makes them susceptible and responsive to the attentions of abusive adults. Barnardo's services aim to provide consistent and persistent attention from a named worker. This fosters protective, supportive relationships within which children and young people feel safe enough to start to make changes in their lives. This approach provides a positive relationship with a safe adult as an alternative to an unsafe relationship with an abusing adult.

Assertive outreach

Persistent and innovative engagement techniques are required. The steady persistence of workers serves to convince children and young people that they are the subject of genuine concern and care. Such persistent engagement techniques are important to counteract the influence of abusive adults.

Advocacy

Effective support has to involve a range of agencies. A coordinated and synchronised approach by all agencies maximises the effectiveness of interventions and the impact of planned actions. A key role of staff is to advocate for children and young people in relation to the provision they need from different agencies. Examples from practice show that advocacy for the right kind of support at the right time can be particularly important in providing a 'turning point' in a young person's life.

⁵⁶Information in relation to the Four A's is in large part taken directly from or adapted from: Scott, S and Skidmore, P (2006) *Reducing the risk: Barnardo's support for sexually exploited young people: A two-year evaluation*, pp48-49. Barnardo's, Barking-side.

Appendices

I. 'Not at risk' sample

Just over half or 51 per cent of the total sample was categorised as 'not at risk' using SERAF. Of those cases categorised as 'not at risk':

- 74 (40%) were female and 112 (60%) were male;
- 19 (10%) had a learning disability and 1 had a physical disability.

Table A1: 'Not at risk' sample by team

	D/A	CP/FS	LAC 1	LAC 2	A/C	YOS	Asylum	RU	Total
Not at risk	34	46	11	20	30	23	22	0	186
'Not at risk' sub-sample as a % of each total team sample	64%	53%	48%	49%	47%	35%	83%	0	

Table A2: Ethnicity as a percentage of 'not at risk' sample

	%
White British	86%
Dual Heritage	2%
Kurdish	6%
Asian	2%
Black	1%
Other	3%

Chart A1

■ 'Not at risk' sample by legal status

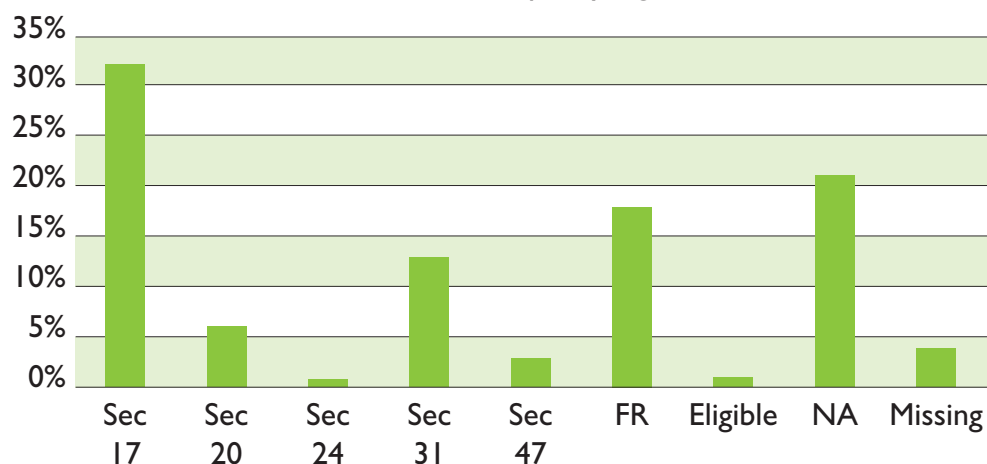
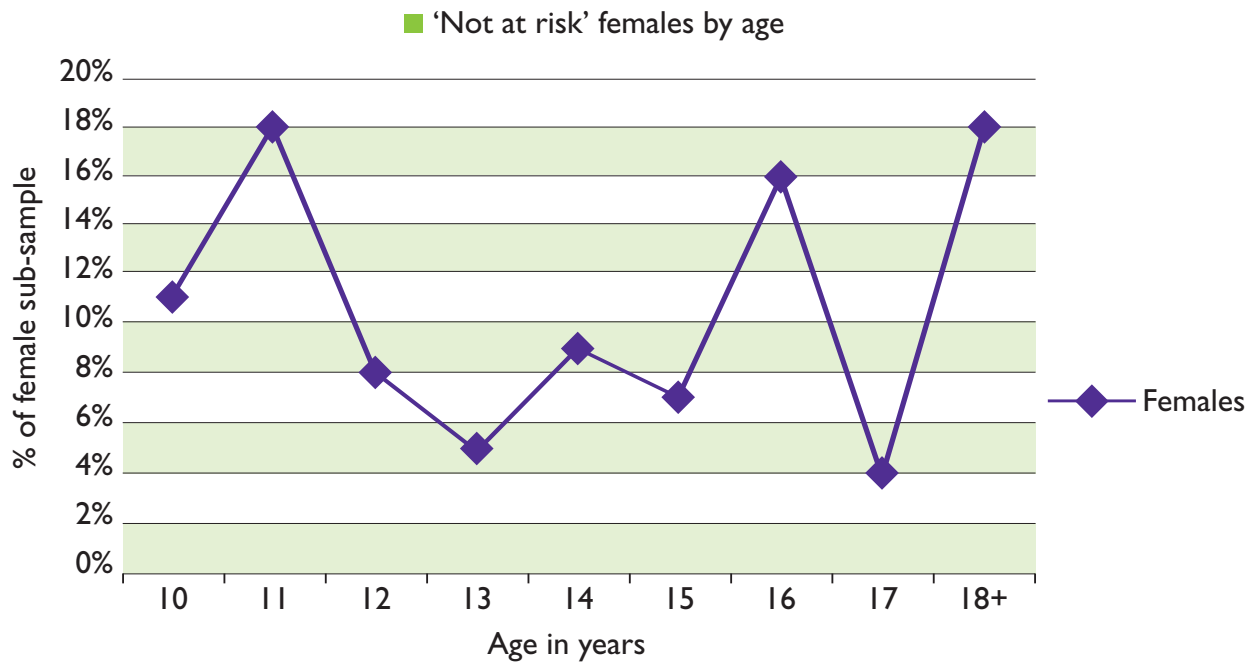


Chart A2



Chart A3



2. 'Mild risk' sample

Of the total sample 16% of cases were categorised as at 'mild risk' using SERAF. Of those categorised as 'mild risk':

- 26 (44%) were female and 34 (56%) were male;
- 7 (11%) had a learning disability.

Table A3: 'Mild risk' sample by team

	D/A	CP/FS	LAC 1	LAC 2	A/C	YOS	Asylum	RU	Total
Mild risk	4	19	4	4	10	16	3	0	60
'Mild risk' sub-sample as a % of each total team sample	7%	22%	17%	10%	16%	24%	11%	0	

Table A4: Ethnicity as a percentage of 'mild risk' sample

	%
White British	86%
Dual Heritage	7%
Asian	2%
Black	2%
Other	3%

Chart A4

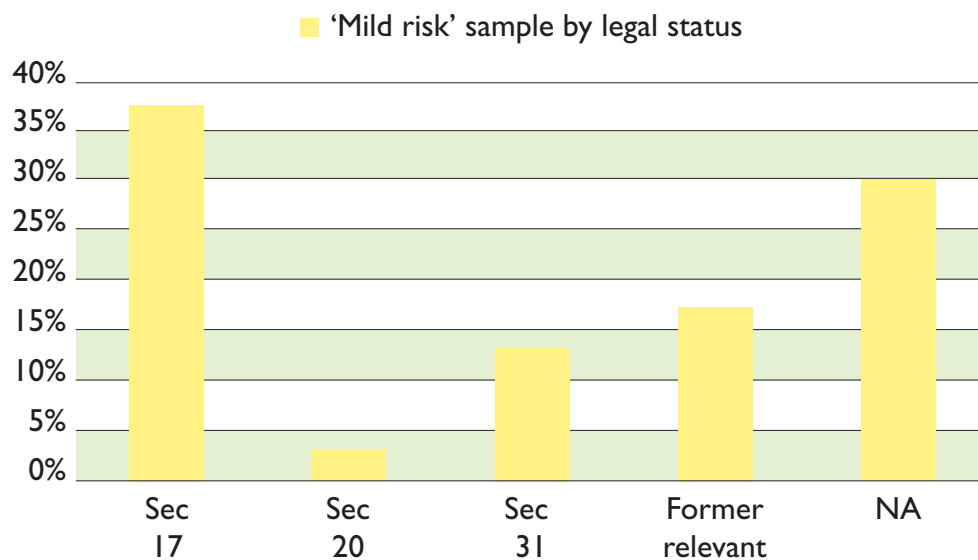


Chart A5

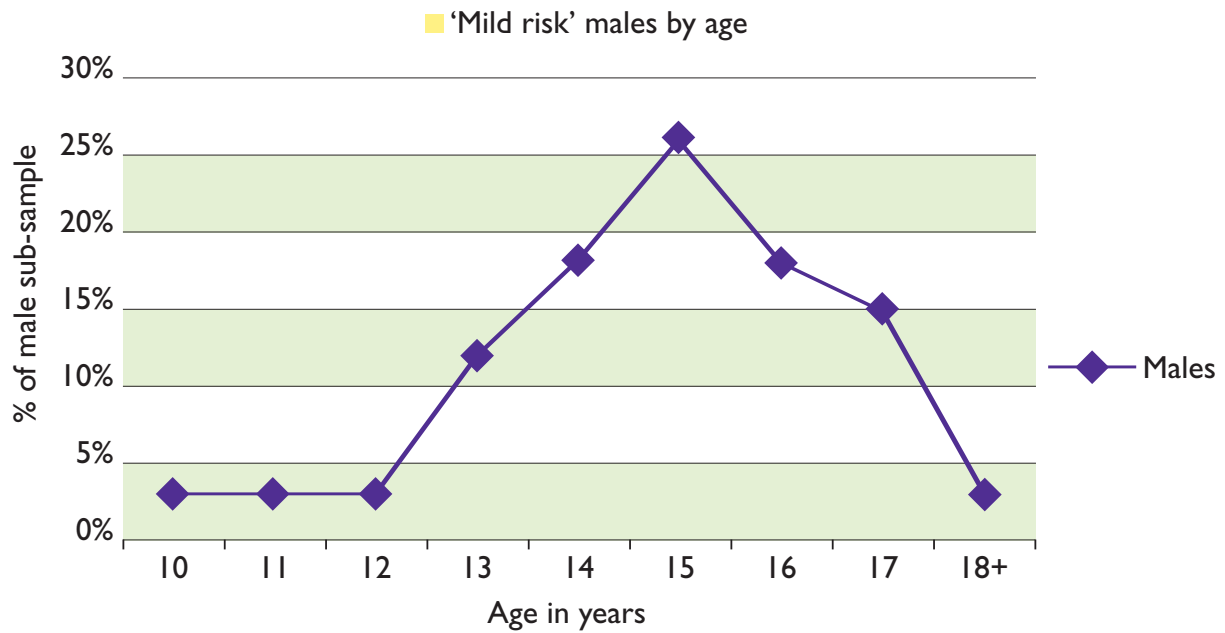
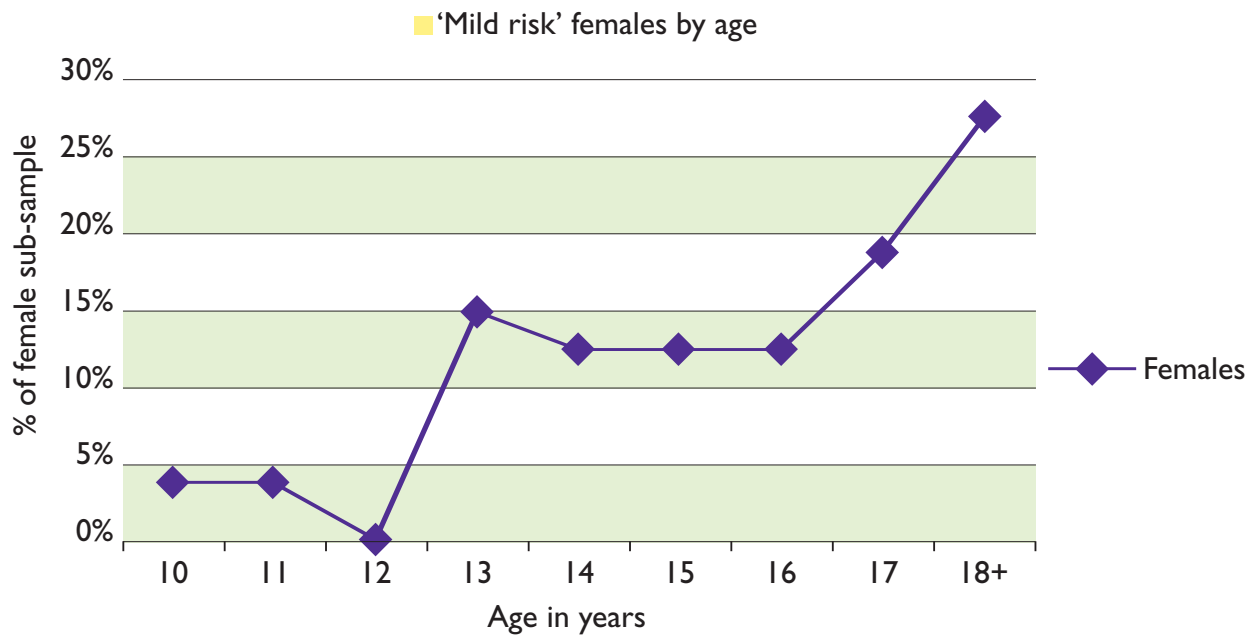


Chart A6



3. Moderate risk sample

Of the total sample 15% of cases were categorised as at ‘moderate risk’ using SERAF. Of those categorised as ‘moderate risk’:

- 26 (48%) were female and 28 (52%) were male;
- 2 (4%) had a learning disability.

Table A5: ‘Moderate risk’ sample by team

	D/A	CP/FS	LAC 1	LAC 2	A/C	YOS	Asylum	RU	Total
Moderate risk	4	13	5	7	10	14	1	0	54
‘Moderate risk’ sub-sample as a % of each total team sample	7%	15%	21%	17%	15%	21%	3%	0	

Table A6: Ethnicity as a percentage of ‘moderate risk’ sample

	%
White British	86%
Dual Heritage	8%
Black	6%

Chart A7

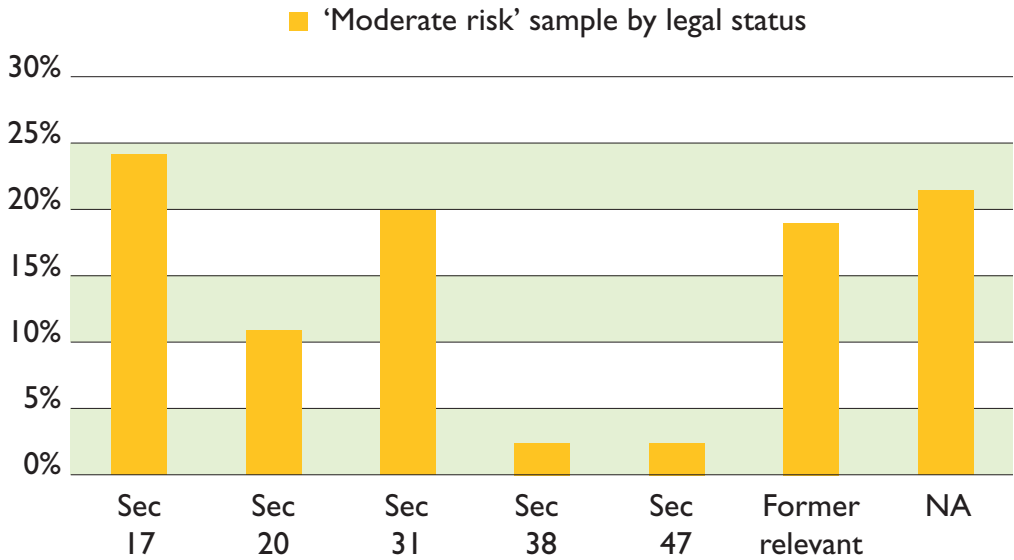


Chart A8

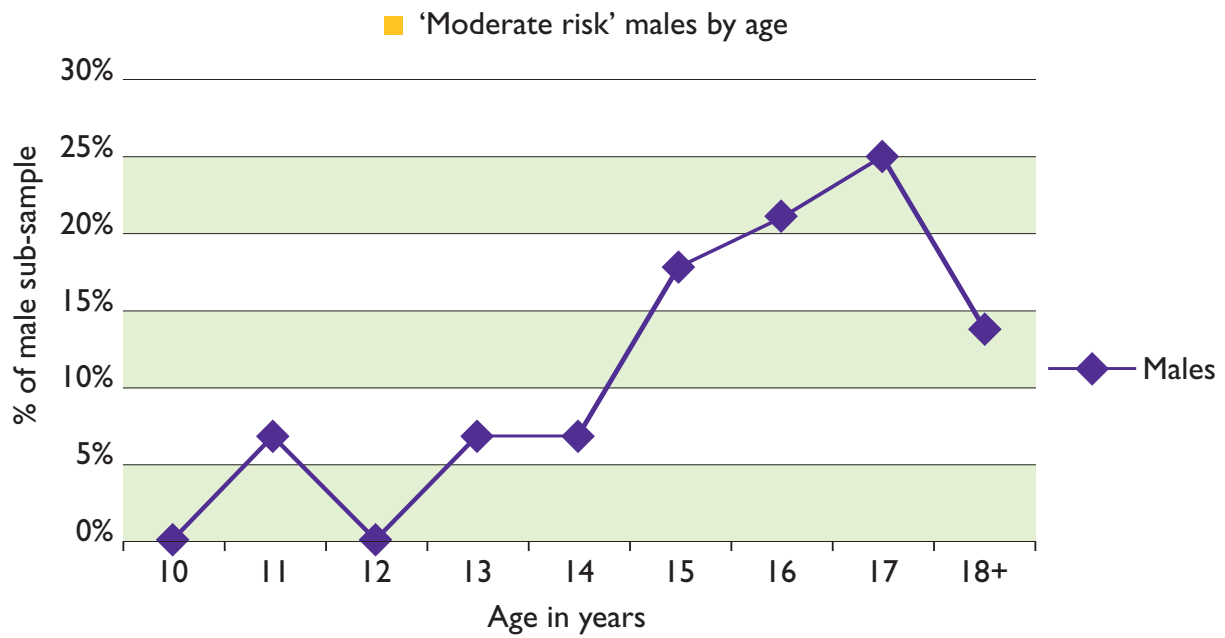
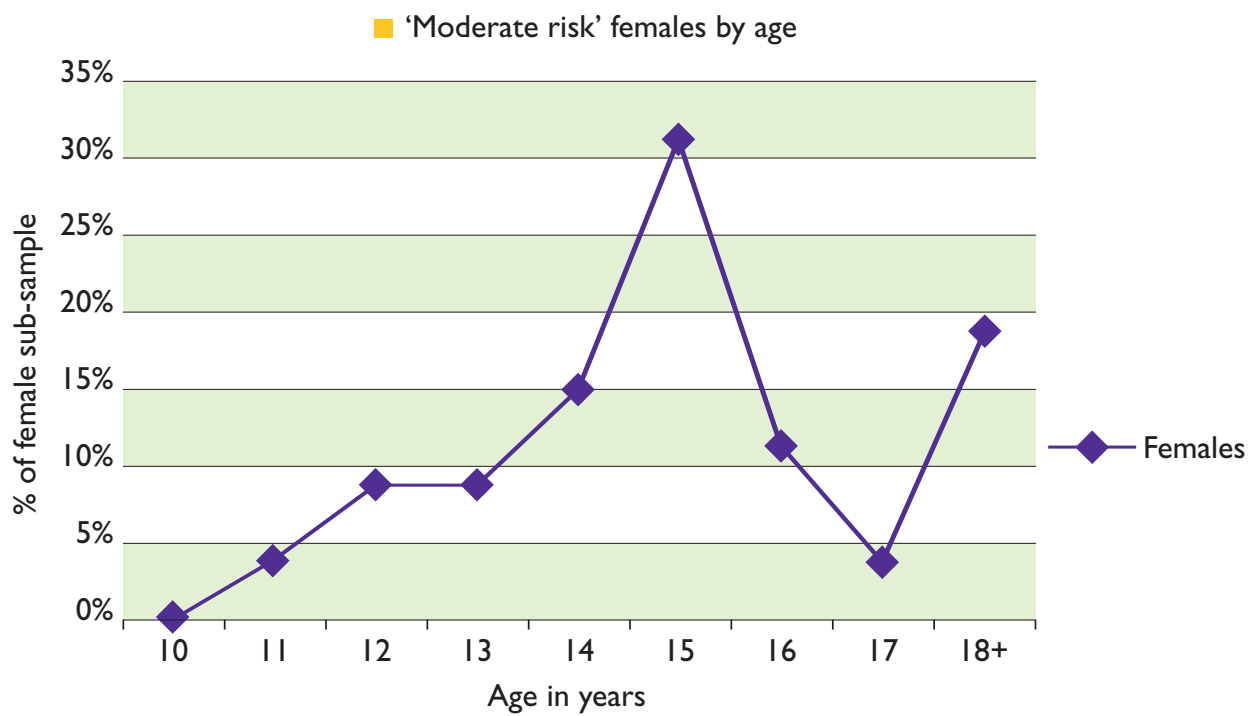


Chart A9



4: Significant risk sample

Of the total sample 18% of cases were categorised as at 'significant risk' using SERAF.
Of those categorised as 'significant risk':

- 40 (60%) were female and 27 (40%) were male;
- 4 (6%) had a learning disability.

Table A7: 'Significant risk' sample by team

	D/A	CP/FS	LAC 1	LAC 2	A/C	YOS	Asylum	RU	Total
Significant risk	11	8	3	10	14	13	0	8	67
'Significant risk' sub-sample as a % of each total team sample	20%	9%	13%	24%	21%	17%	0	100%	

Table A8: Ethnicity as a percentage of 'significant risk' sample

	%
White British	84%
Dual Heritage	13%
Asian	3%

Chart A10

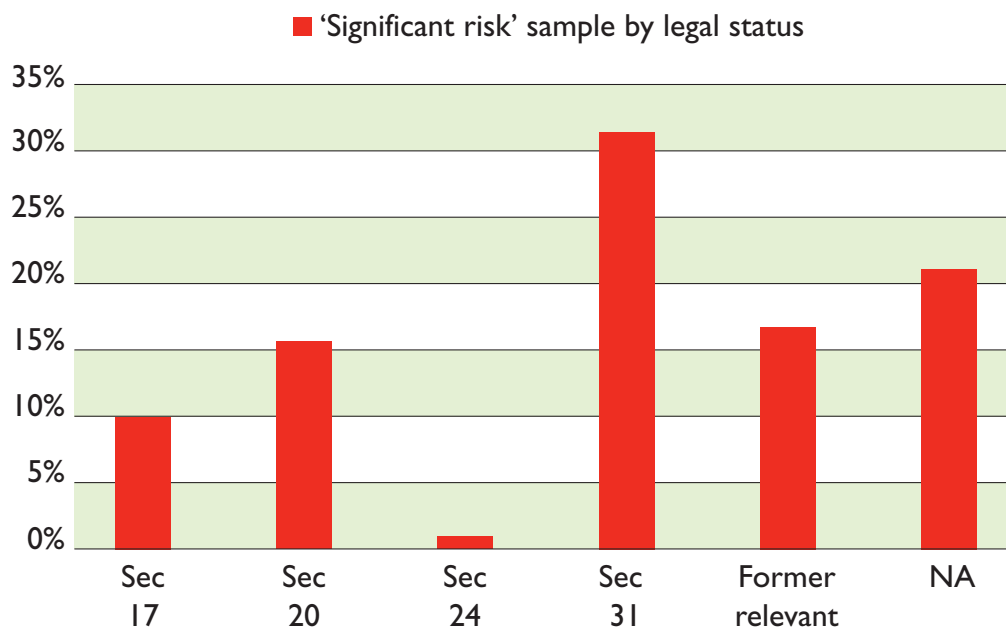


Chart A11

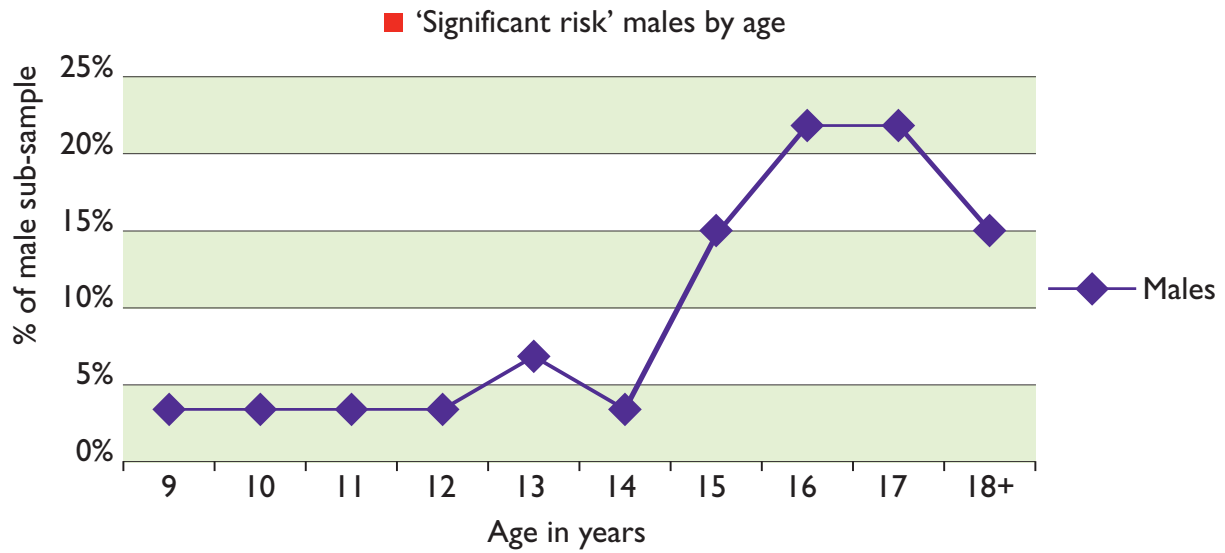


Chart A12

