

Practice Guidance for Practitioners and Support staff Supporting Adult Victims of CSE

The Council is committed to supporting the adult victims of child sexual exploitation to address identified support needs resulting from their exploitation as children. Adult Social Care services will assess the needs of individuals referred to them for support by the Police or Children's Social Services using the agreed referral form. Adult Social Care Services will also act as the case manager and key worker for the individuals with the overall aim of supporting them to achieve independence.

Outlined below are some practice guidance notes for the social work practitioners and other support staff involved in meeting the assessed needs of the service users.

These should be used alongside the process charts for supporting the adult victims of child sexual exploitation.

1. The Role of Adult Care Social Worker (CSE)

The role of the Adult Care social worker will be to:

- To receive referrals from appropriate agencies
- To undertake an assessment of needs
- To write a support plan
- To act as case manager
- To sign post to relevant services to meet identified needs in the support plan
- To coordinate support
- To ensure confidentiality
- To raise safeguarding concerns/ make safeguarding alerts
- To build a professional relationship with the service user.

1.1 Assessment

When assessing the needs of the service user's needs the social worker should:

- Consider background information, including information from children's services and the Police
- Consider needs in line with the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) criteria
- Assess individual support needs to enable the service user to achieve independence: note – needs can, and may well be, outside of the FACS criteria
- Litigation: should the matter be raised by the service user at any point with the social worker or any council employees providing support the response should clarify that:
 - a.) The Social Workers role is to assess the service user's needs and provide professional support, including signposting to appropriate services, to help them to become independent and confident people
 - b.) It is not the role of the social worker/ other worker to provide information and guidance in relation to litigation against the council.

- c.) If the service user raises the matter of litigation they should advise them to seek independent legal advice from a Law Society accredited Solicitor who specialises in personal injury claims.
 - d.) If the service user is either the victim or a witness in a live court case explain that Witness, or Victim Support services may be the appropriate agency for the service user to discuss litigation with
- Should the service user disclose information regarding criminal activity support staff should contact the social worker providing case management support who will refer the disclosure to the appropriate agencies to investigate (e.g. the police).

It is important that all employees to whom a disclosure is made are aware of the need to accurately record what the disclosure is and what the service user says to them. They also need to be aware of the potential that following disclosures by service users, their records may be disclosed in criminal cases and they could be called as witnesses.

- Assessment tools
 - Adult care needs profile assessment tool should be used and added to according to the information gathered. As key needs outside of FACS may be identified these need to be recorded as part of the assessment
 - Consider using the Sunrise assessment tool as an alternative
 - Develop a specialist assessment tool for this specific client group

What Adult Social Care need for the assessment to be effective

- An appropriate referral
- Access to health and children's services records
- An agreed information sharing protocol with Children's services / health
- Information on what services the service user is currently accessing

1.2 Support Plan

- The social worker will be responsible for producing a support plan identifying what support will be put in place to meet the needs identified in the assessment.
- If FACS eligible the personal budget route needs to be followed
- A Personal budget maybe one element of a wider support plan
- The support plan should incorporate all the services that are assessed to be required to assist the service user to become independent
- The support plan needs to have an enablement focus and interventions need to be time specific
- The support plan should be reviewed every 6 months to consider progress/ next steps/ case closure.

If MH / Trauma/ counselling needs are identified:

If in the needs assessment the need for support in relation to mental health issues/ trauma/ counselling are identified the following referral routes should be considered:

- A referral to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) at St Mary's hospital Manchester should be considered – what's the referral route? Trauma counselling?

- A referral to a range of counselling services the social worker should outline the presenting issues and make a referral to: Primary Mental Health Service via Ajit.rughoo@nhs.net 01706 261 940

Employment, Education, Housing, Benefits

The support plan needs to clarify what support is required in this area, e.g. access to a specific college course, help with tenancy issues, re-housing

- A referral should be made to: The Skills & Employment Service helen.chicot@rochdale.gov.uk 01706925925
- The service is not to act in a befriending/ counselling capacity – emotional support to be provided by the case worker/ referrals to other appropriate agencies.
- Employment: consideration should be given to the Skills & Employment Service, Rochdale Employment Development Service (for MH/LD), or a direct referral to Job Centre Plus
- Adult Education / College: refer to the Skills & Employment Service
- Housing & Benefits: refer to the Skills & Employment Service

Learning Disabilities

If the needs assessment identifies that the service user has learning disabilities the CSE social worker would make referrals as appropriate to the :

- Health Services Community Team for Learning Disabilities including referrals for capacity assessments

Drug and Alcohol

If the needs assessment identifies that the service user has drug or alcohol dependency issues a referral should be made to the Community Drug Outreach team via Caroline Page at caroline.page@rochdale.gov.uk 01706 924884.

All workers involved in supporting the adult victims of CSE should contact the social worker case managing the individual they are supporting if they have any concerns about them or feel that they are at risk. The social worker acts as the key worker for the individual and has a coordinating role in relation to the service user and their support plan.

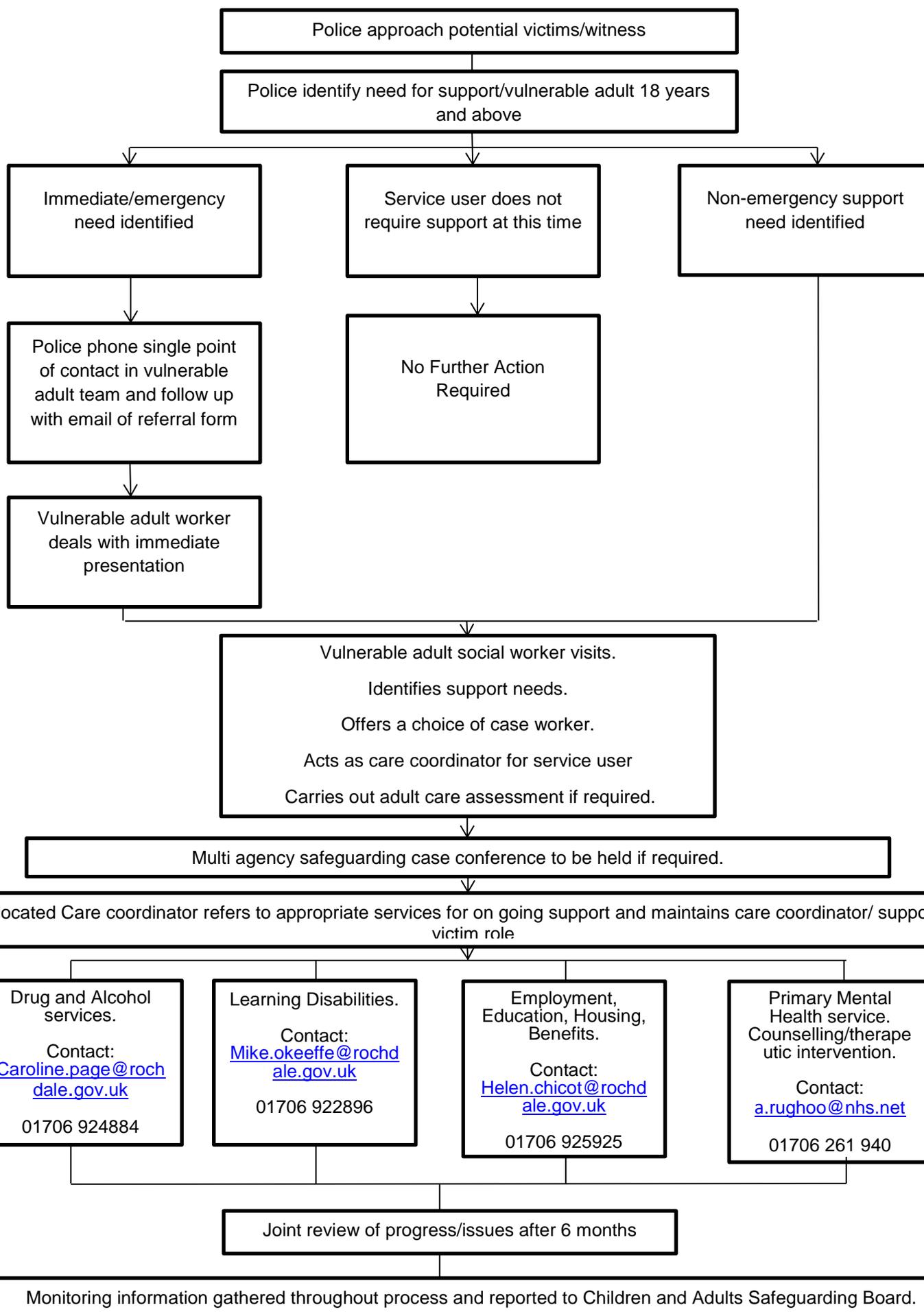
Process for supporting victims who are witnesses:

The social worker will support the service user through the court case. This support will be supplemented with support provided via Witness Support who will support the victim at court and Victim Support who will support the Victim post sentencing.

The Police and Community Safety can also provide support for the victim if the court case puts them at risk at home or in the community. Please discuss the need for protection with the Police Liaison Officer assigned to the case and contact Jeanette Staley on jeanette.staley@rochdale.gov.uk if further support is required.

Appendix 2

Process for supporting adult victims of CSE identified by Police (historic cases).



Appendix 3

Process for supporting adult victims of CSE identified by Sunrise team (current cases).

