

# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

## Threat and Risk Assessment

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**REDACTED**



**Classification: OFFICIAL**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) crimes have remained relatively stable over the past 2 years, despite this, they are expected to significantly increase, in particular non-recent CSE offences. This is in part due to the rapid technological advancements, such as social media platforms, that can be used a pathway by offenders to gain access to a large number of children and young people. Children may feel less inclined to be risk averse in engaging in sexualised messaging and image sharing if there is no physical contact between victim and offender. As such , it is very difficult to investigate and identify offenders. This highlights the importance of using a multifaceted approach, inclusive of increasing parents awareness of parental control facilities on social media applications, to act as a preventative measure against child exploitation. The recent launch of 'Brecks Last Game' by Northamptonshire police has the realistic possibility of increasing the public awareness of online grooming, impacting upon the number of expected future recorded crimes.

Young individuals with Organised Crime Group (OCG) and gang links are at greater risk of being targeted for CSE, in particular young females who can be exploited through the offer of drugs/alcohol and money in exchange of sexual activity. These children and young people can be groomed into committing criminal offences followed by being sexually exploited and vice versa. It is important that there is intelligence development around the exploitation of young individuals by gang members and affiliates, in particular peer on peer exploitation. The use of hotels were identified as locations targeted by suspects/offenders to facilitate CSE, indicating they are a potential CSE crime attractor.

## KEY FINDINGS

- The highest number of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) crimes and U18 missing episodes, linked to CSE occurred in the North East area of Northampton, Kettering and East Northants.
- Snapchat is the predominantly used social media platform for offences committed online. Previous requests for information from the company to aid investigations have been unsuccessful.
- The use of pressure and persistence for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) committed online and online to offline offences is one of the main recorded exploitation methods used by suspects/offenders.
- A large proportion (68%) of online committed CSE offences are reported within 7 days of the last offence taking place. A dip sample revealed reasons for this early reporting ranging from the victim self reporting to the school, the indecent images being distributed around the victims school, to a parental figure checking the child's phone at night.
- There is a higher proportion online committed crimes with 'No suspect identified' compared to the offline and online to offline CSE offences. This highlights that the vast scale of social media avenues open to offenders are a way of initiating and facilitating CSAE, posing a huge challenge for police when investigating these type of offences.
- Offline committed CSE offences had the highest proportion of non-recent reports (40%), with the average number of years prior to reporting being 22 years. Of the 12 victims who were identified over a decade after the offence took place, 7 were not self reported and instead were identified through a police investigation/operation or through a known associate reporting the crime to the police.
- Over 38% of both offline and online to offline committed CSE occurred at the suspect's home address.
- Only 18% of reported CSE victims were male. All the male victims (2) of offline committed CSE offences were non recent, indicating an intelligence gap around male victims reporting CSEA around the time of when the exploitation is taking place.
- The average age of victimisation for online to offline CSE is 13 years old. The age groups of U12 and 15-16 had less of a victim cohort. This may be due to 12 -14 year olds having less restrictions in freedom of movement compared to the U12's, while at the same time, arguably being more naive than 15-16 year olds.
- Only 0.4% of intelligence related to sexual offences against children, with 0.2% of that relating to CSE, highlighting an intelligence gap. This is in part due to the difficulty in the public spotting the signs of CSE and the offender manipulating the victim, resulting in them being unaware that they are being exploited.
- None of the U18 members/associates of gangs within the county have active CSE flags. The process of using CSE flags needs to be reviewed.

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

## PREVENT

- Ensure appropriate education is delivered to children and young people via multiagency working on the dangers of going to unknown addresses with strangers or people they do not know well; particularly people they have met online.
- Increase officer training in identifying child sexual exploitation indicators and potential victim vulnerabilities.
- Conduct a 12 month review of CIRV after launch date, to assess outcome, impact and best practice in supporting female gang members who have been victims of CSE.
- Development of CSE training to relevant officers and staff, to raise awareness of peer on peer CSE.

## INTELLIGENCE

- Conduct a review on CSE suspects with indirect links to gangs/OCGs/drug lines and establish whether they should be reclassified as members.
- Ensure consistent recording of offence locations to enable accurate mapping of offences and identification of vulnerable areas targeted by offenders/suspects. If locations do not become apparent until interview, officers must go back into the occurrence and update it.
- Increase identification of child sexual exploitation in males to allow for improvements in multiagency support and encourage early reporting of this crime type in young males.
- Social services to ensure they shared data about individuals who have been placed in a care home.
- Dip sampling of sexual offences of under 18's to ensure appropriate use of existing CSE flags.

## ENFORCEMENT

- Continue to record independent return interviews on NICHE and embed this process in order to improve our knowledge of where children are going, what they are doing during the missing episode, who they are with and what harm/risks they have been subject to while missing. This is particularly important for identifying potential CSE offenders and locations as more detail is often captured in these interviews than interviews conducted by the police.
- Review examination process criteria for mobile phone handsets and computer/laptops seized at warrants and during the course of investigations.
- Continue to engage with national media and parliament regarding the necessity of information sharing with popular social media platforms to aid investigations that sit below Grade 1 offences (murder).

## REASSURANCE

- With partner agency involvement, engage with schools and the community to advise parents of children and young adults of the threat that social media applications pose and the parental controls available to them.

## AIMS AND PURPOSE

The aim of this assessment is to identify the threat and risk of CSE and provide an overview of the linked crimes, incidents and intelligence regarding under 18s for the following areas;

- Sexual Exploitation
- Exploitation
- Serious Organised Crime & Gangs
- Missing Persons

The report will then aim to identify emerging risks and issues experienced within county. This profile assesses data drawn from internal police systems and therefore does not contain data from partnership agencies such as children's services, education or health.

## METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE

CSA/CSE crime and intelligence data between the time parameters of 1st October 2017 – 30th September 2018 was analysed to establish key locations, offenders and victims.

CSE was the primary focus, with CSA offences being analysed at a higher level. The Serious Crime Matrix (SCM)<sup>1</sup> and Knife Crime Profile (January 2017- April 2018)<sup>2</sup> will also be utilised.

Internal police systems of NICHE(crime recording) and COMPACT (missing person database) were used to look at crimes in relation to the above areas. Employing key word searches to ensure that all crimes and intelligence logs were included.

## CSE DEFINITION AND GUIDELINES

To fall in line with previous strategic assessments, the following working definitions of CSE, with guidelines obtained from the August 2016 CSE Partnership Assessment<sup>3</sup>, were used to data cleanse and identify CSE offences within the dataset;

*Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in **exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator**. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.*

## DEFINITIONS

- **Organised Crime Group** - Individuals, normally working with others, with the intent and capability to commit serious crime on a continuing basis. An OCG is likely to consist of a number of key roles, and individuals are assigned to one of three categories: Principal subject - top of the hierarchy who have a fundamental role in the way the OCG operates), Significant subject- A robust core of individuals essential to the efficient running of the criminal enterprise and Peripheral subject - Individuals performing minor roles
- **Serious Organised Crime** - Organised crime can be defined as serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain. Organised criminals working together for a particular criminal activity or activities are called an organised crime group.
- **Aim, Inspire and Maintain (AIM)** - The AIM team officers (Navigators) will work with ex-offenders to support their desistance from crime thereby reducing offending and protecting the people of Northamptonshire from harm.

<sup>1</sup> Northamptonshire Police Force Intelligence Bureau: Serious Crime Matrix (October 2018)

<sup>2</sup> Northamptonshire Police Force Intelligence Bureau: Knife Crime Profile (April 2018)

<sup>3</sup> Department for Education: Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners (February 2017)

# CSE AND CSA OCCURRENCES

Between 01/10/2017 – 30/09/2018 there were a total of 667 sexual offences against children reported to Northamptonshire Police. Of these 112, met the definition of CSE, equating to 17% of the total.

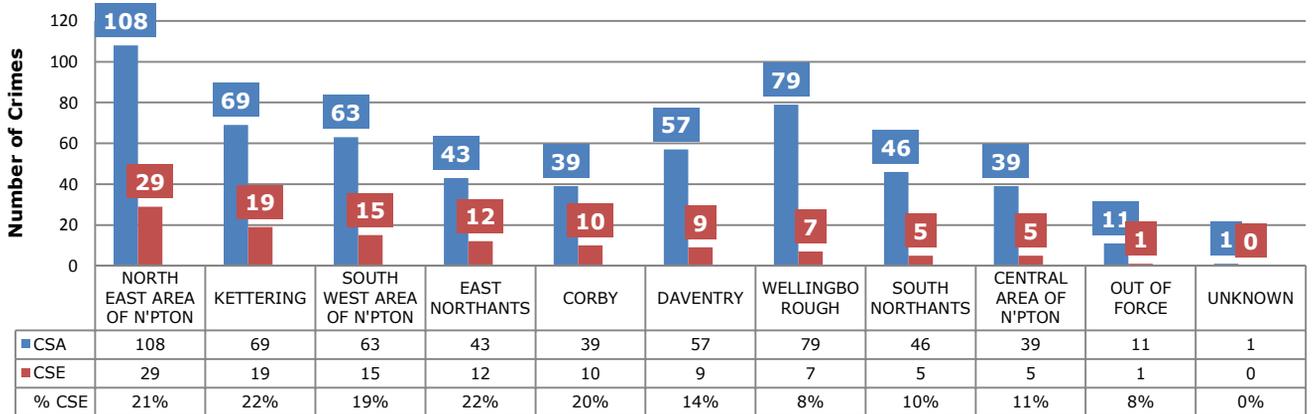
In addition, 252 of the 667 CSAE occurrences were non recent reports (38% of the total). Non recent reports are offences reported 6 months between the latest date of the offence and the date of the offence being reported.

The graph below indicates the levels of CSE and CSA, recorded per district and the proportion which have been classified as CSE. The highest number of offences occurred in the North East area of Northampton and the highest proportion of CSE offences occurred in Kettering and East Northants.

These figures however should not be accepted at face value, as the recorded location of the crime is often not the actual location of the offence. This is due to a number of factors including:-

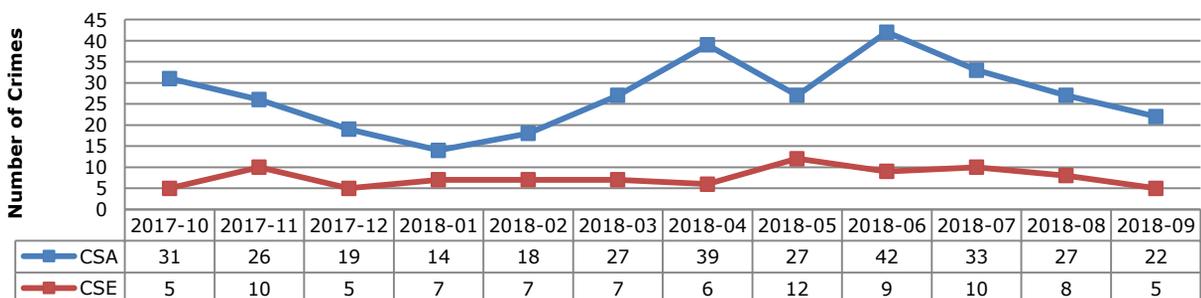
- If an offence has occurred online, it will be recorded as occurring at either the victim's or offender/suspect's address.
- A lack of distinction of where online and offline CSE offences have occurred.
- The location of the offence may not be known when the crime is first recorded and so may be recorded as the victim or offender/suspect's address.

**CSE and CSA occurrences created between 1st October 2017 and 30th September 2018**



The graph below illustrates the CSAE occurrences created between October 2017 and September 2018 (excluding non recent reporting). It is difficult to determine any seasonality for CSAE offending due to such exploitation often occurring over a period of time e.g. several months or years. The peak months for CSA during the period are April and June 2018 with reporting declining after this point. With CSE, levels are very low and remained fairly consistent each month other than a higher period of offences between May and July 2018. There is a realistic probability that the lack of children being in school in summer months contribute to a lack of reporting.

**CSE and CSA occurrences between 1st October 2017 and 30th September 2018 (excluding non recent reports)**



# NON RECENT CSEA

Despite the rise in the number of recorded CSEA offences, the proportion of non recent CSEA has remained relatively stable throughout the previous 5 years. 9% of these non recent offences did not have a recorded end date.

## CSE OCCURRENCES

The table below details the Home Office Groups recorded for CSE crimes. The most common offence type was sexual activity with a child aged under 16, which accounted for 25% of all offences, followed by sexual grooming (22, 20%) and sexual activity involving a child under 13 (16, 14%).

HO Group	Number of Occurrences
SEX ACTIVITY CHILD UNDER 16	28
SEXUAL GROOMING	22
SEXUAL ACTIVITY INVOLVING A CHILD U13	16
RAPE OF FEMALE UNDER 16	9
RAPE OF FEMALE OVER 16	7
ABUSE CHILD PORN & PROSTITUTION	7
SEX ACTIVITY W/OUT CONSENT	5
SEX ASSAULT FEMALE OVER 13	5
SEX ASSAULT FEMALE UNDER 13	4
SEX ASSAULT MALE OVER 13	3
SEX ASSAULT MALE UNDER 13	2
RAPE OF MALE UNDER 13	1
RAPE OF MALE OVER 16	1
BLACKMAIL	1
RAPE OF MALE UNDER 16	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>

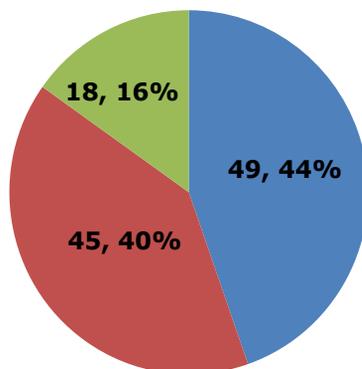
### Methods used to commit CSE:

The CSE data analysed identifies that this criminality has been facilitated through both offline and online means. The graph below indicates that the data can be separated into 3 distinct categories namely:-

- **Online Only**
- **Offline Only**
- **Online to Offline**

### Method Used to Commit CSE

■ online only ■ offline only ■ online to offline





# 44% ONLINE COMMITTED (49 of 112)

## Top 3 Apps/Websites utilised:-



**Snapchat – 18 crimes**



**Instagram – 9 crimes**



**Facebook – 8 crimes**

- 49 of the total CSE offences analysed were committed online, with 96% of these being stranger related. In the two crimes that were not stranger related, the victim knew the offender through a family/friend.
- Snapchat is the most predominantly used social media platform, followed by Instagram and Facebook. Unlike Facebook, Snapchat is centred around the sharing and distributing of photos with timer applied on how long the image can be viewed. Snapchat is a USA based company with previous information requests proving difficult due to their lack of co-operation with UK law and jurisdiction in information sharing.
- It was identified from an OFCOM 2018 Media Literacy Tracker<sup>4</sup>, that approx. 55% of parents who had children between the ages of 5-15, were not aware of the parental controls on these apps, with a further 25% of parents aware of the parental control but not using it. This present a risk to U18's as it is already very difficult to supervise and protect these individuals from harm when using these apps.

## Exploitation Method:-



**Pressure/Persistence – 27 instances**



**Threats – 16 instances**



**Ambiguity – 7 instances**



**Cash – 4 instances**



**Deception – 2 instances**



**Gifts – 1 instances**

- The use of pressure and persistence were the chief exploitation methods used. Below are examples of this exploitation type found within the dataset;

11 year old female changes access rights on her Snapchat allowing everyone to access her story. Victim then receives numerous indecent images from males and subsequently feels pressure to send indecent images of herself also.

Unknown male follows 11 year old female on Instagram and begins a friendship by role playing as an animal. Unknown male behaviour escalates and begins to flirt with the victim, following being persistently pressuring her into sending indecent images.

15 year old female is initially contacted through Snapchat by 9 different individuals and received numerous indecent videos and photographs of male genitalia from these individuals. These individuals then state that as they have sent images the victim should send indecent images of herself in return.

<sup>4</sup> OFCOM Media Literacy Tracker (2018)



**96% Stranger related** (47 of 49)



**2 Non Recent Reports**

- Only 2 (4%) of the 49 online committed CSE crimes were non recent, these were reported over 7 years after the offence took place. Of the recent crimes (96%), it took on average 2 weeks for the crime to be reported.
- Several of the crimes did not have a recorded end date, with the other 32 being reported to the police within 7 days of the last date/time the offence took place. From conducting a dip sample of the 32, the reasons for early reporting were as below;

Self reported to the school then victim becomes uncooperative after police involvement.

Victim is threatened if indecent images not sent, followed by the images being distributed around the school.

Father takes the phone from the son and upon looking through it, discovers that indecent messages and images were sent to offender.

**VICTIMS**



**80% Female**  
(39)



**18% Male**  
(9)



**2% Not Stated** (2)

- Females made up the majority of the online committed CSE victim cohort, accounting for 80% of all online committed CSE victims. The victims were as young as 9, with the peak ages being 12, 14 and 15.

	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>
<b>Youngest Age</b>	9	8
<b>Oldest Age</b>	17	17
<b>Average Age</b>	13	14
<b>Peak Age</b>	12,14 &15	14

- There is little difference between male and female victim ages, as demonstrated above, with regards to online committed CSE recorded crimes. Also the age range of victims is quite large, starting from 9 and ending at 17. Offenders who commit CSE offences online are able to exploit the social networking platforms to establish contact with a larger audience of children. In particular, the use of social media apps allows the offender to lie about their true identify and age.

## SUSPECTS/OFFENDERS



**100%**  
**Male (17)**

**30 of 49 occurrences have no  
named suspect (65%)**

- All of the named suspects/offenders were male. The ages ranged from 13 to 39, with an average of 22 years old at the time of the offence.
- Notably, 6 of the 17 named suspects/offenders were U18 years of age at the time of the offence, indicating peer to peer CSE.

## OUTCOMES



**Unresolved -  
38% (19)**



**Other agency has  
investigation  
primacy - 8% (4)**

- The majority (70%) of these crimes had either the outcome of unresolved or had no identified suspect.



**No suspect  
identified -  
32% (16)**



**Named suspect –  
investigation not  
in public interest  
- 6% (3)**

- This highlights the evidential difficulty in investigating and prosecuting offenders of online CSE.

## ISSUES

- There is increased force awareness of 'young people' sharing CAM (child abuse material) over social media. This is not always done because the 'offender' has a 'sexual interest in children' but because the young person is unaware of the law and is sharing them as a 'joke' or 'out of disgust'. This could be combated through advising children during school visits of the law around CAM and CSE.
- Northamptonshire Police have a limited number of staff to examine the devices seized at warrants or during the course of investigations. Resulting in a significant backlog in seized equipment that is waiting to be examined. Technological advancements exacerbate this as devices are given greater memory capacity.
- There is disparity in how the investigations are scored, due to different criteria being used, dependant upon the department origin of the investigation. Consideration for limiting the number of 'scoring' Inspectors or using a more rigid scoring system.

**Recommendation:** Continue to engage with national media and parliament regarding the necessity of information sharing with popular social media platforms to aid investigations that sit below Grade 1 offences (murder).



**40% OFFLINE ONLY** (No online element - 45 of 112)



**42% Stranger related** (19 of 45)



**40% Non Recent Reports** (18 of 45)

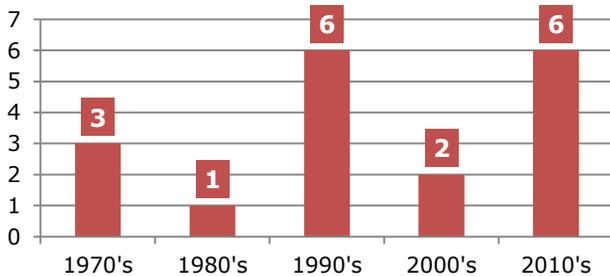


**1 Family Related**

45 of the total CSE offences analysed had no online element to the offending (40%). 42% of these crimes were stranger related and family relations were not a prominent factor with only 1 instance reported.

**Non recent reporting** - 18 of these crimes were non recent reports occurring 6 months or more prior to the reported date to Police. When compared to CSE with an online element where the delay in reporting is minimal, this CSE category has the highest proportion of reports of this kind.

### Non recent reporting by decade



Crimes with an end date in the 1990's and the current decade (most recent took place in July 2018) account for the highest proportion of non-recent reports.

The average number of years between the victim's age at the time of offence and their age today is 22 years, the shortest delay is 2 years and the longest 59 years.

Victims who have waited over a decade to report their victimisation to the Police have been reviewed in order to establish any reasons for the delay in reporting:-

- **Identified via Police investigations/operations** - 5 occasions
- **Known associate made CSAE reports to police** - 2 occasions
- **Unknown reason** - 2 occasions
- **Contacted police after watching Crimewatch about child abuse** - 1 occasion
- **Suspect contacted victim triggering report to police** - 1 occasion
- **Victim only felt ready to report CSE following the death of the suspect** - 1 occasion

This research has identified that police operations into historic sexual abuse have resulted in the identification and accounts/investigative support of victims.

### Top Location Types:-



**38% Suspect's Address** (17 of 45)



**13% unknown** (6 of 45)



**11% Public Place** (5 of 45)

The majority (38%) of offline only CSE occurred at the suspect's home address indicating that sexual offending is more likely to take place in a private, undisturbed setting. Only 5 occurred in a public place, namely parks or in the street.

Hotels featured on 3 occasions, only 1 occurrence specified the hotel name as the location. These crimes occurred in the North East and Central areas of Northampton and South Northamptonshire.

**Intelligence Gap:** There is an intelligence gap surrounding the type of premises for 5 occurrences, identifying a data quality issue with regards to any location based themes.

## Exploitation Method:-



Offline CSE showed evidence of more varied exploitation methods than online related exploitation, with a larger selection of substances or material items being used to entice victims.

**Intelligence Gap:** There is a degree of uncertainty with 10 occurrences with limited information being recorded to establish what approaches have been adopted to facilitate offending or establish trust between the suspect and the victim.

Alcohol and drugs account for the highest known methods. It is not always identifiable whether these substances are being provided to exploit or control victims; however it is clear that the child's vulnerability is increased whilst under the influence.

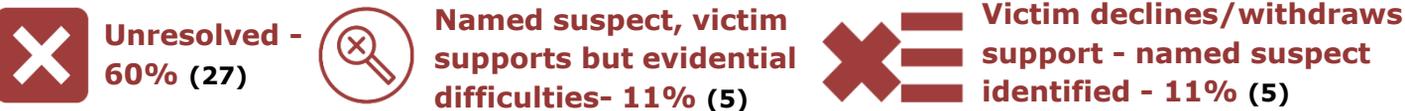
Below are examples of actual cases in Northamptonshire to illustrate how such substances have been used by the suspect/offender to exploit children into conducting sexual activity:-

14 and 15 year old females go missing from their care home. They meet a group of unknown older males who take them to an unknown address. The girls are given alcohol and cigarettes. Sexual offence takes place and they are given cash for a taxi home.

Victim is aged 17 and a looked after child. 24 year old suspect forces victim to have sex with unknown males to pay off a debt and she has been forced to sell drugs for him. The offending takes place in hotels.

14 year old female goes missing and attends a male associate's address where she is given cannabis to the point that she is "high". Victim discloses sexual activity with multiple males. Named suspects are aged 15 to 16 and one is a confirmed gang member.

## Top Outcomes: -



The majority of crimes have an unresolved outcome category (60%), followed by evidential difficulties and withdrawal of victim support despite a suspect being identified. The remaining outcomes include victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender, offender is deceased and investigation complete with no suspect identified. Only 1 crime resulted with a charge.

This highlights the evidential challenges often faced when investigating CSE crimes and difficulties with victim support.

## Victim Profile :-



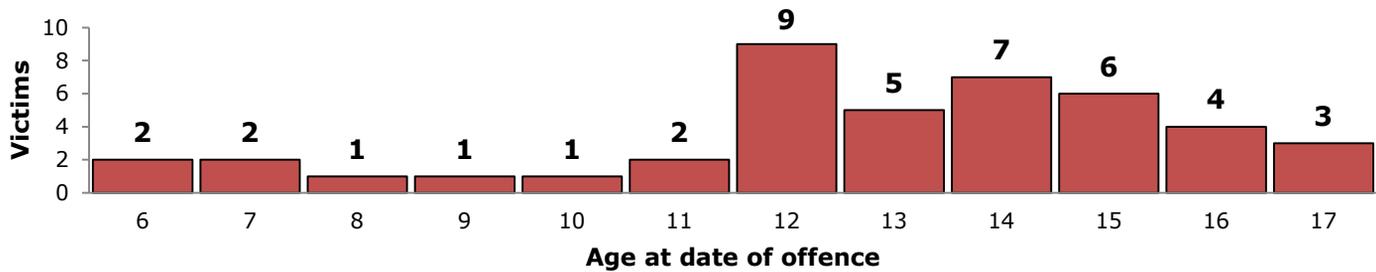
**72% Female (31)**



**23% Male (10)**



**4% Not Stated (2)**



Ethnicity	Vol.	%
1. White - North European	33	77%
0. Unknown	5	12%
3. Black	4	9%
4. Asian	1	2%
	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>

The most predominate gender of offline CSE victims is female, accounting for 72% of the total. 2 of the victims had no gender recorded.

White North European is the most dominant ethnicity, however 5 of the victims had no ethnicity type recorded, indicating data gaps.

The average age of victimisation is 12 years, this is also the peak age within the dataset, followed by 14 and 15 years of age.

Interestingly, when split by gender there is a difference between targeted age.

	Female	Male
<b>Youngest Age</b>	9	6
<b>Oldest Age</b>	17	14
<b>Average Age</b>	13	10
<b>Peak Age</b>	12, 14 & 15	12

Male victims accounted for the youngest ages (6 & 7 years) with no further victimisation until the ages 12 to 14 years of age.

All of the male victims reported non recent CSE, indicating that no U18 males have reported offline CSE during the period. In contrast, reporting from female victims started at 9 years of age continuing up to 17 years of age. Only 7 victims reported non recent crimes.

**Intelligence Gap:** Is there a significant under reporting of offline CSE with male victims

## Suspect Profile:-



Males account for 88% of the identified suspects and only 5 female suspects were identified. Almost a quarter of crimes have no named suspects identified. White North European is the most prominent ethnicity (78%), followed by Black (13%).

Age ranges from 12 to 79 with an average of 29 years of age. Offending is most prominent between ages 30 to 39 and 18 to 24.

8 named suspects were aged under 18 at the time of the crime, indicating peer to peer CSE. 2 of these relate to non recent reports. There is no consistent approach used to exploit victims however the following examples illustrate instances of this kind:-

- 12 year old male inappropriately touches 12 year old female (uses threats)
- 3x males aged 14 and 15 provide 14 year old missing female with drugs. Victim discloses sexual activity with multiple males (one male is a confirmed gang member).
- 16 year old male uses pressure/persistence to inappropriately touch victim from the age 12 to 15.
- 17 year old male gives 16 year old victim alcohol, once she is intoxicated he rapes her.



**16% ONLINE TO OFFLINE MEET** (18 of 112)



**1 Non Recent Report**



**79% Stranger related** (14 of 18)

18 of the total CSE offences analysed had been initiated online and resulted in actual or attempted offline contact (16% of total CSE). 49% of these crimes were stranger related and non recent reporting was not a prominent factor with only 1 instance reported.

**Top Location Types:-**



**44% Suspect's Address**  
(8 of 18)



**28% unknown**  
(5 of 18)



**22% Public Place**  
(4 of 18)

The majority (44%) of online to offline CSE occurred at the suspect's home address. There is an intelligence gap for 28% of crimes, with the location of the offline meet unknown. 4 crimes occurred in the public place namely a cemetery, an underpass, a country park and playing fields.

**Top 3 Apps/Websites utilised:-**



**Snapchat 8 crimes**



**Facebook 5 crimes**



**Instagram 3 crimes**

Snapchat, Facebook and Instagram were the most prominently utilised apps/websites, mirroring the top 3 for online only CSE. Other emerging applications featuring in crimes include the gaming platforms of Xbox Live and PS4 as well as the chat forums of WhatsApp, Chat Avenue and KIK.

A CSAE social media library has been produced by the West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit. It details 195 individual websites or applications split by the below categories:-

Content Sharing	Dating	Gaming	Messaging
44	44	31	76

The vast scale of possible avenues for offenders to exploit social media to initiate or facilitate CSAE illustrates the huge challenge posed to Police when investigating such offences.

**Exploitation Method:-**



**Pressure/Persistence**  
- 8 instances



**Alcohol- 4 instances**



**Gifts - 3 instances**



**Drugs - 3 instances**



**Ambiguity - 2 instances**

Pressure or persistence is the most common exploitation methods utilised by offenders. This is followed by methods seen in the offline only CSE data where physical items or substances have been used to assist with gain trust or facilitating an offence (alcohol, drugs, gifts, cash and ice cream).

The exploitation method was unclear for 2 of the analysed crimes.

## Victim Profile:-



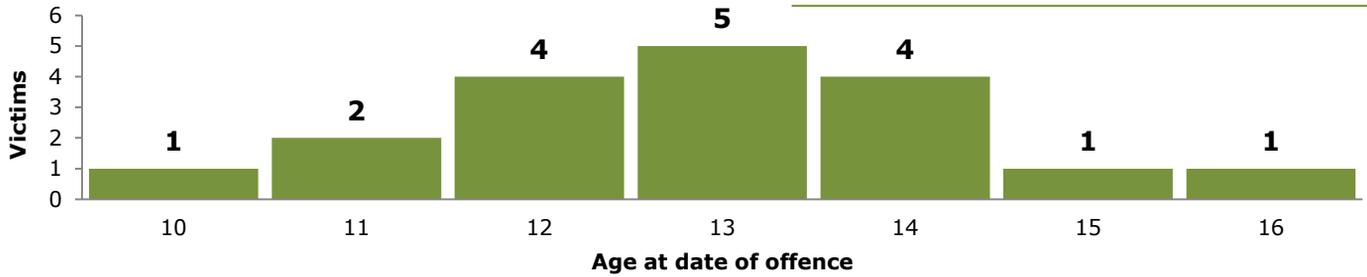
88% Female (16)



6% Male (1)



6% Not Stated (1)

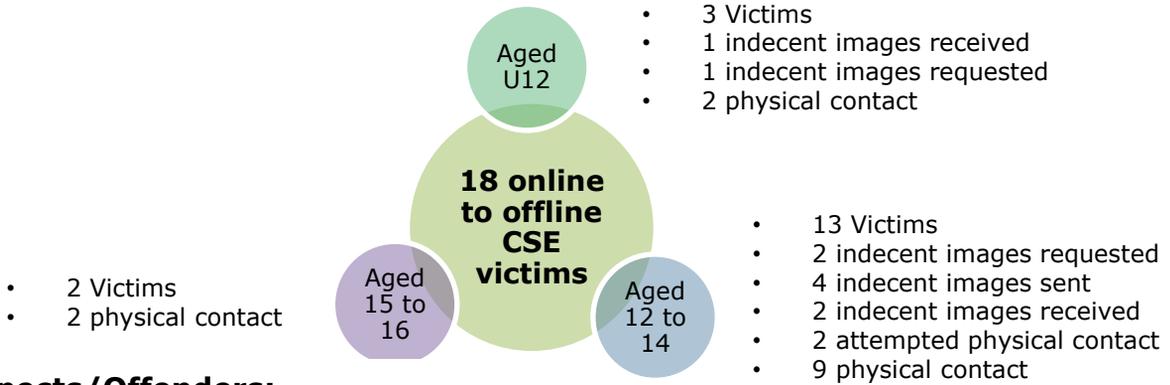


Ethnicity	Vol.	%
1. White - North European	14	78%
0. Unknown	3	17%
3. Black	1	6%
	<b>18</b>	<b>100%</b>

The most predominate gender of online to offline CSE victims is female, accounting for 88% of the total. Of the remaining victims, 1 is male and the other's gender is unknown.

White North European is the most common ethnicity, however 3 of the victims had no ethnicity type recorded, indicating data quality issues.

The average age of victimisation is 13 years, this is also the peak age within the dataset, followed by 12 and 14 years of age. The image below details the nature of CSE by age group:-



## Suspects/Offenders:-



100% Male (14)

3 of 18 occurrences have no named suspect (17%)

All of the named suspects are male and only 3 crimes have no named suspect identified, illustrating a much better success rate for identification than the online and offline only CSE.

White North European is the most prominent ethnicity (71%, 10 individuals), followed by Black (14%, 2 individuals) and unknown (14%, 2 individuals).

Age ranged from 17 to 70 with an average of 29 years of age. Offending is most prominent between late teens and mid 20's. 2 the named suspects were aged under 18 at the time of the offence.

## Outcomes: -



Unresolved - 78% (14)



Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified- 11% (2)



Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender- 6% (1)



Charged - 6% (1)

The majority of crimes have an unresolved outcome category (78%), followed by the victim declining support despite a named suspect being identified (11%, 2). Only 1 crime resulted with a charge.

# MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Three victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking have been identified within the dataset. Two of which, were trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Below is a breakdown of victims and suspects/offenders;

Victims	Suspects/Offenders	Circumstances
17 year old Vietnamese male.	Unknown	Clandestine lorry drop. The victim was debt bonded and was expected to pay off the debt in a nail bar.
14 year old UK national female who is a regular missing person. Victim has flags for drug use and has been aggrieved in numerous prior sexual offences.	22 y/o UK national male with warnings for mental disorder and suicidal and intelligence subject for grooming. 22 y/o UK national male with warnings for self harm.	Contact initiated over Facebook and Instagram, followed by face to face contact made, resulting in the victim being plied with alcohol on one occasion, then sexually assaulted.
16 year old UK national female who has previously been intelligence subject of protecting vulnerable persons due to family environment.	39 y/o UK national registered sex offender.	Contact established over Instagram whereby suspect lies to victim about age. This is followed by the suspect transporting the victim and friend to a country park. Presence of exchange of gifts.

A potentially missed MSHT crime has been identified which has been recorded as Child Abuse and Indecent Images, concerning a 17 y/o UK national female has been forced into performing sexual acts to pay off a drug debt.

**Recommendation:** Potential officer training gap highlighted with regards to identifying soft indicators of sexual exploitation in under 18's .

# INTELLIGENCE

Due to the nature of CSE, measuring crime levels will not provide an accurate picture of the scale of CSE in Northamptonshire. It is therefore vital to supplement this data with other sources, such as intelligence logs, to provide a more complete picture.

Between 1st October 2017 – 30th September 2018 a total 23,717 non confidential intelligence logs were submitted. 96 intelligence logs are linked to sexual offences against children in Northampton. Of these, 36 indicated a risk of CSE (37%). This means that only 0.4% of intelligences relates to CSA and 0.2% to CSE.

Analysing intelligence logs for the purposes of creating a locality profile is not straight forward, as often there is no location linked to a log or specific details are not given by the source. When a location was not clear, further information was sought from the intelligence details. Thematic analysis of the intelligence logs highlights a number of locations potentially linked to CSE. The following list is order of frequency each location is identified within the 36 logs of that included the location details;

<b>Online</b> (12)		Online platforms - Instagram (2), Snapchat (1) Facebook(1), Collar Space(1), KIK(1), Grindr (1), Video Conferencing (1), Chat Avenue (1), Porn X website (1) and generic social media (1) being used as methods and locations of child sexual exploitation.
<b>Suspect's Home</b> (6)		The suspect's/offender's home address was identified as being one of the key locations used as the location of exploitation. Suspect's home addresses were located : (1) out of force, (2) East Northants, (1) Daventry, (1) South Northants, (1) Wellingborough.
<b>School</b> (2)		Wrenn Academy, Wellingborough
<b>Fast Food</b> (2)		Sam's Chicken, Wellingborough
<b>OOF</b> (2)		Belmont Hotel, Hagley Road, Birmingham and an unspecified location out of the country.
<b>Public</b> (2)		Wellingborough Town Centre Tattoo parlour located in Wellingborough (exact location unknown)
<b>Brothel</b> (1)		Luton and Milton Keynes flats used as place of exploitation for young girls (brothel)

There is no intelligence around care homes identified within the dataset. Intelligence shows that vulnerable children are attending the home address of potential perpetrators either by themselves, or as part of a group. Wrenn Academy in Wellingborough was identified as having numerous female pupils who have RISE workers, these pupils are reported to regularly attend Sam's Chicken.

**Intelligence Gap:** There is a key intelligence gap around the prevalence of children in care homes who are at risk of CSE.

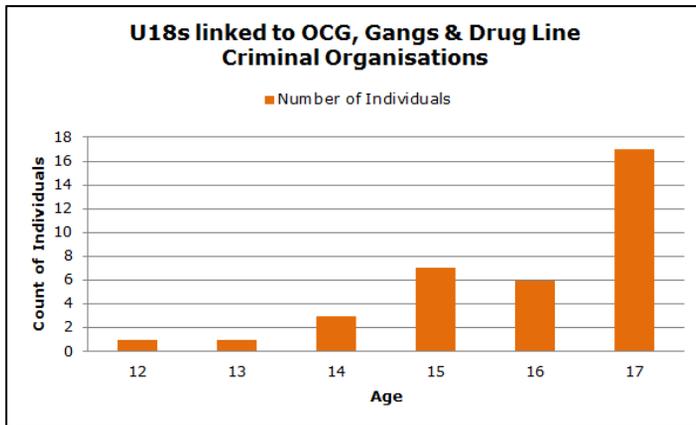
The intelligence occurrences that had an unknown location of the sexual exploitation were comprised of the following themes:

- Detailing of offender and their actions
- Historic
- Concern for potential victims who are believed to be exploited and show indicators of CSE. 17



## USE OF CHILDREN IN GANGS

During October 2018, Northamptonshire Police launched the **Serious Crime Matrix (SCM)**, a methodology used to risk assess the County's identified street gangs, drug lines, Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and the individual gang members/criminal associates within these criminal groups. These mapped SCM groups and nominals have been utilised as a basis to determine any gang/drug line/organised crime links with the CSE data utilised for this report.



There are currently 45 recognised gang/drug line criminal groups or Organised Crime Groups operating within Northamptonshire. 12 of these groups (26.7%) have associates/members who are aged under 18.

35 members/associates are aged under 18, equating to 11.3% of total individuals linked to these groups. The youngest is aged 12 years with membership levels increasing as age rises (peak at 17 years of age).

8 of the under 18's have active flags for Child Protection Plan and Child at Risk. None of the young persons have active CSE flags. Only 2 of the nominals are female, both are aged 15 and intelligence suggests they are linked to drug dealing and have been sexually exploited.

Furthermore, of Northamptonshire Police AIM cohort, a very small proportion is female offenders. This falls in line with national trends who have identified that females make up less than 10 percent of gang members, Despite this they face the highest rates of victim-offender overlap. There is currently an intelligence gap around female gang members.

From January/February 2019, AIM will be running the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV), that will focus on prevention, intervention and enforcement of gang members and potential gang members.

**Recommendation:** 12 month review of CIRV after launch date, to assess outcome, impact and best practise in supporting female gang members who have been victims of CSE.

The involvement of children is typical for 2 gangs and one County Line who often use under 18's to carry and supply drugs to users. A number have also known to possess weapons and have been linked to violence or robbery offending. This is an avenue for young members to be accepted by elders and progress up the hierarchy of the gang. Nationally, the below factors are recognised as types of sexual exploitation in gangs:-

### TYPES OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION WITHIN GANGS<sup>5</sup>

1. Being pressured into having sex, with one or more people, sometimes under the threat of a weapon
2. Having sex in return for goods, status or protection – often misguided
3. Rape by an individual or group
4. Sex used to pay for goods such as drugs or alcohol.
5. Being used to 'set up' other young men in a rival gang.
6. Having sex with more than one gang member to become part of the gang.
7. Being used to disrespect a rival gang member
8. Being photographed or filmed and the images distributed via social media, like Facebook. or through phone messaging.

<sup>5</sup> The International Centre: researching child sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking, University of Bedfordshire (February 2017)

Due to Northamptonshire's transportation links, it is recognised that OCGs and drug lines may be exploiting young persons in this way. As a consequence such children will be missing persons in their originating Force area. Difficulties currently exist in ascertaining the scale of this threat/risk within the County, which is a consequence of incompatible missing persons recording systems across Force areas.

In addition, several Northamptonshire drug line/gangs have YouTube channels and use social media to stream music videos depicting and glamorising their lifestyle particularly in relation to drugs, weapons and firearms. It could be inferred that such videos are used as a tool to recruit members.

### Links with CSAE dataset:-

Only 1 named suspect is also a recognised gang member (15 year old male). The crime in question involved a 14 year old missing person who attends a male associate's address where she is given cannabis. Victim discloses sexual activity with multiple males.

Despite there being minimal direct links to gang/drug line/OCG membership, a number of indirect links were identified. For suspects, associating has been taking place with known gang or OCG members [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. 2 of the suspects are siblings and have been connected with a number several members of Section 3 gang based in [REDACTED]. These individuals are aged between 14 and 23 years of age.

CSE victims have indirect links to gangs/drug lines/OCGs via familial or relationships (partner/ex partner). The groups linked are [REDACTED] and the County Line, [REDACTED] based in [REDACTED]. In addition, there was one instance of a 16 year old female who went missing in London with a 15 year old female member of [REDACTED] based in [REDACTED] (County Line).

**Recommendation:** Conduct a review on CSE suspects with indirect links to gangs/OCGs/drug lines and establish whether they should be reclassified as members.



### Use of Hotels:-

A report on County Lines<sup>6</sup>, produced by the NCA in 2017, highlighted the use of accommodation other than cuckooed residential addresses by drug lines as an emerging trend. This includes serviced apartments, budget hotels and caravan parks; with rooms often being paid for in cash. It was inferred that this could be a move from traditional cuckooing to conduct their criminal business.

This trend has been evidenced in the County, where gang members have been arrested operating within hotels located in [REDACTED]. Further work needs to be conducted to assess whether other lines operating with Northamptonshire are utilising similar tactics.

Within the CSE dataset, hotels were recorded as locations targeted by suspects/offenders to facilitate CSE, indicating they are a potential CSE crime attractor. All 3 victims reside in care homes (Looked After Children) and were exploited with cash, drugs or alcohol. 1 child was forced to have sex with adult males for payment of a debt and it was suggested that she may also be used to sell drugs.

The RISE (Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation) team are involved in Hotel Watch, a scheme designed to see hotel partners and local authorities sharing information in order to tackle CSE. This has been piloted in South Northants and involves raising awareness of CSE in all areas of a hotel. To date, one hotel in [REDACTED] has been identified which has links to drugs and an open RISE case.

<sup>6</sup> National Crime Agency (NCA) County Lines Violence, Exploitation & Drug Supply 2017 (November 2017)



## CHILDREN AND KNIFE CRIME

In June 2018, Northamptonshire Police produced a Knife Crime Profile which included an assessment of the proportion of Under 18 year olds linked to knife crime and knife possession (data period January 2017 to April 2018).

**Knife possession links to CSE:** 16 of the suspects/offenders have active flags for CSE, Child Protection Plan and Child at Risk. This equates to 4% of all knife possession and 14% of all U18 suspects.

Only 2 of the nominals are female (aged 13 and 15 at the time of offence) and are also named victims within the CSE dataset.

*The first female is now aged 15, has warning markers for self-harm, mental disorder and currently resides in a care home. Police records indicate that she is being exploited by older men with money and alcohol for sexual favours which were also filmed for additional payment. Additionally, concerns have been raised after discovering a number of unknown numbers on her phone and risky behaviour.*

*The second female, is aged 15 and a known missing person. She has disclosed that during 1 missing episode she had sexual intercourse with several males after being provided with cannabis. 1 of these males is linked as a gang member. Victim is unwilling to support the Police investigation.*

Only 1 suspect from the CSAE dataset is also a suspect for knife possession. This individual is linked to a known gang and is suspected of exploiting a female with drugs in exchange for sexual activity.

**Knife crime links to CSE:** 33 of the suspects/offenders of knife crime have active flags for CSE, Child Protection Plan and Child at Risk. This equates to 4% of all knife crime and 19% of all U18 suspects.

20 of the knife crime victims have active flags for CSE, Child Protection Plan and Child at Risk (2% of all victims and 15% of U18 victims).

**Knife crime links to CSE dataset:** The individuals within the knife crime dataset have been crosschecked against those within the CSE data. The following links were identified:-

- 3 of the CSE victims were also suspects/offenders of knife crime
- 1 of the CSE victims was also a victim of knife crime
- 1 of the CSE suspects was also a suspect/offender of knife crime
- 2 of the CSE suspects were also victims of knife crime

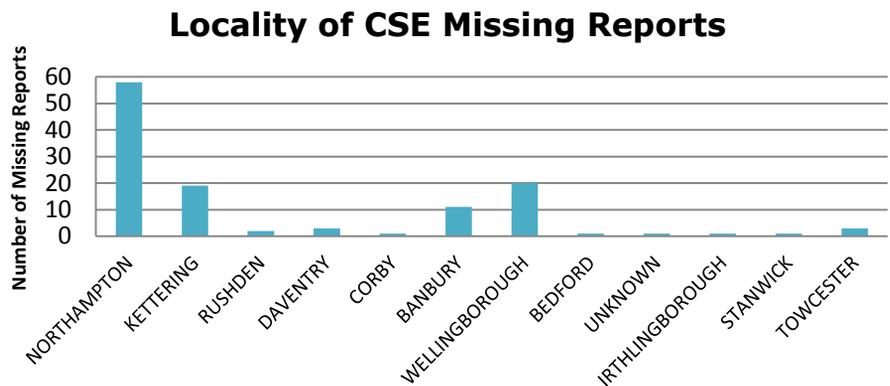
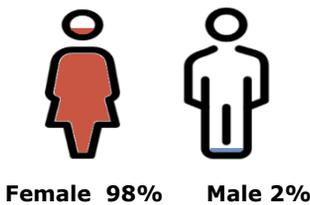
**Intelligence Gap:** The reasons as to why these individuals are committing knife crime is unknown i.e. through choice or being exploited into carrying/using a knife.

# MISSING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Children and young individuals going missing can be an early indicator of child sexual exploitation, with frequent missing episodes being identified as increasing the risk of harm. However going missing, even when it is frequently, does not necessarily mean that a child is being sexually exploited. CSE is a complex crime and requires a multifaceted approach to tackle it. Between the 1st September 2017 – 31st August 2018 there were 1352 under 18 missing reports, with 122 of those occurrences giving a reason for the missing incident inclusive of Sexual Exploitation .

Sexual Exploitation was given as a reason for going missing most commonly by **16 years olds, followed by 14 year olds**. Seven individuals stated sexual exploitation coupled with being gang related as a reason; these individuals resided in Northampton predominantly but also Kettering and Rushden. Over 1/3 of episodes mentioning Sexual exploitation also reported drugs/alcohol as a reason also. Only ten of the 122 under 18 individuals who were reported missing with reasons inclusive of sexual exploitation, were found within the crime dataset.



The above graphs and infographics are based on 122 missing persons reports with 67 children and young individuals. Nineteen of these children and young people have gone missing on multiple occasions between 1st September 2017 – 31st August 2018. Some of which have been reported missing from multiple locations. Below is a breakdown of the missing episodes.

### MISSING EPISODES

**Of the 67 children and young people:**

- A large proportion (27) of the children and young people had previously been reported missing between 1-5 times.

**Of the 10 victims of CSE crime who have been reported missing:**

- The number of times these victims were reported missing ranged from 1 – 35.
- Two of the victims had 35 missing episodes.

#### Number of Missing Episodes

Number of Missing Episodes	Percentage
1 to 5	40%
5 to 10	15%
10 to 15	18%
15 to 30	15%
30+	12%

**Caveat;** The number of missing episodes is taken from a snapshot in time taken on the 5th September 2018.

## EARLY INTERVENTION

Northamptonshire Police have an Early Intervention (EI) team that work closely with Early help and school inclusion, with the aim of helping to provide aid to "troubled families" and, ultimately, reduce present and future harm and police demand. Currently on NICHE we do not hold school exclusion data. However, between 1st October 2017 – 30th September 2018, there have been 91 U18 nominals who have been a subject of EI.

Within the county, the schools with the highest fixed exclusion rates (36-39%) are non mainstream schools located in Corby , Northampton and the South and West of the County.

In October 2017, it was identified by Northamptonshire County Council and Northamptonshire Police that 82.7% of 156 top suspects aged between 18-24, had at least 1 fixed term exclusion. Persistent disruptive behaviour and verbal abuse and threatening behaviour towards an adult being were the two reasons main reasons for exclusion.

## OFFENDING BACKGROUND

Arguably, due to the environment that offenders are exposed to, the risk of offending individuals either having been a victim or becoming a victim of crime increases. Within the dataset\* it was shown that;

- 21% (23 out of 110) of the victims of CSE had previously been missing
- 28% (31 out of 110) were repeat victims of CSE
- 54% (59 out of 110) of the victims had not committed any offences
- 46% of the victims were the suspect/offender in 1 or more offences
- 14% (15 out of 110) of the victims had been referred or were open to rise
- 4 out of the 6 offenders had previous sexual offences where they were suspected or convicted, the offenders were suspected of more than one previous sexual offence with one offender being suspected of 31 sexual offences.
- 1 of the offenders had been a victim of sexual offences.
- All of the offenders had an offending history which included various offences.

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\* 2 of the 112 CSE crimes were recorded as having Crown court as the victim.

## VULNERABILITY TABLE

NICHE was used to identify CSE victims and suspects who possess factors that increase their risk of repeat victimisation/offending. The below table is comprised of the individuals who were identified as having factors across the board that made them more susceptible to being exploited.

Name	Age	Male/ Female	CSE	Referred to RISE/Risk of CSE	History of Offending /Suspect	Knife possession flag	Missing Episodes	MSHT	Serious and Organised Crime or Gang Links
<b>Individual 1 (Victim)</b>	15	F	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Individual 2 (Suspect)</b>	16	M	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
<b>Individual 3 (Victim)</b>	12	F	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y
<b>Individual 4 (Victim)</b>	14	F	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
<b>Individual 5 (Victim)</b>	18	F	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
<b>Individual 6 (Victim)</b>	16	F	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y
<b>Individual 7 (Victim)</b>	16	F	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y

### Case Study - Individual 1

Individual 1 is a 15 year old female who at the time of being victimised was 14 years old. She is regularly reported as a missing person and has a offending history with crimes ranging from ASB to threatening an individual with a knife.

On missing episodes, individual 1 has reported that she has engaged in sexual activity with numerous older males, some of which have links to OCGs.

Social services have previously been involved with the individuals family, with individual 1 being recorded as having aggressive outbursts within the family home and causing criminal damage.