Public Petitions Committee
Tackling child sexual exploitation in Scotland

Written Submission from Kingdom Abuse Survivors Project

What are the most common types of CSE your organisation has witnessed in your service users?

*Abuse by known adult (including familial)* Abuse when in care; exploitation by peer or adult gangs/ rings or groups.

In the last 3 years or so, how many cases of CSE involving your service users have you known or strongly suspected?

*Given that we work with adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse all of our clients have experienced historic sexual exploitation – we support approximately 380 survivors of child sexual abuse per year.*

What are the main routes or pathways through which the young people you work with have become involved in CSE?

*Familial. Friend of family. Professional carer or trusted adult (teacher/ scout leader etc). Usually initiated through grooming behaviour – child is befreind and then groomed to the point that they feel they are complicit and cannot tell.*

Could you give an example of good practice you have witnessed through multi-agency working?

*We are active members of Fife Domestic and Sexual Abuse partnership – through this information sharing and highlighting challenges can be addressed as a collective – agencies are less defensive and the openness has positive impact on client’s experiences.*

Could you give an example of unhelpful practice you have witnessed through multi-agency working (or lack of it)?

*N/A*

What changes would be most helpful in preventing young people getting involved in CSE and in helping them escape it?

*Educating children about the potential for CSE to help them avoid situations that may lead into it.*
*Providing signposting of services that can support those children who are already involved in CSE.*
*Educating all staff / personnel who work with children to be open to the signs that a child is at risk and to enable them to feel confident to sensitively seek disclosures and create opportunities for disclosure. Consistently our clients tell us that they tried...*
to tell someone what was happening to them when they were a child and they were not believed. Those that did not have the courage to tell share with us that they would will someone to notice that things were not right with them and to ask them about it but often no-one did. Shame and feelings of responsibility seem to be the biggest stumbling block to telling so these are the main areas that need to be addressed.