

Sexual Exploitation is still happening!

To Report Concerns contact:

- Social Services OneCall - 01670 536400
- E-mail Northumbria Police intelligence: forceintelligence@northumbria.pnn.police.uk
- To read the full Report click here:

[Newcastle City Council Joint SCR into Sanctuary](#)

Bradford LSCB Jack SCR

[Main report](#)

Key messages

Sexual exploitation is not restricted to child victims, **vulnerability** is not restricted by age and it is likely that the extensive abuse of vulnerable adults is taking place across the country **unrecognised**.

“if you do not recognise sexual exploitation of children and vulnerable adults in your area, it is because you are not looking hard enough

Background

Operation Sanctuary investigation began in 2014 following a disclosure from a 21 year old woman with a learning disability. Identified 782 potential complainants and 278 victims. Thematic review undertaken in 2015 based on 8 selected cases, both children and adults. Looking at patterns and themes that can be applied to all cases. First review of its kind nationally to identify extent of targeting adults with vulnerabilities.

Vulnerability not age

Victims can be children, young people or adults, male or female. It is the vulnerability (whether that be age, disability, illness, poor life experiences, previous victims of abuse, isolation) of the alleged victim that is important. Perpetrators are skilled at identifying vulnerability and grooming or coercing victims.

Emerging themes

Court process
Committed and determined perpetrators
Need to disrupt perpetrators
Victim focus
Transition
Specialist legal advice
Need for long-term support for victims
Impact of abuse
Trauma informed approach

Local recommendations

Supervision
Communities
Learning Disability/Difficulties
Cross boundary issues
Cultural Attitudes
Adult and Children differences - accommodation, missing
Mental Capacity
Sexual Health services

Police response

Supporting victims

Specialist multi-agency victim team
Trusted individual
Sharing information
Patient and persistent approach
Capturing evidence
Court process and beyond

Partnership disruption

Prevention
Promote awareness
Community engagement
Offender activity

