



**Welcome to the fourth edition of this partnership bulletin, aimed at ensuring professionals across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are up-to-date on all aspects of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).**

## New Strategic Lead for CCE

Detective Inspector Helen Schofield has taken the new role of strategic lead for Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR).

Helen will act as co-ordinator across the partnership working with operational leads within LLR to develop a joint strategy and delivery plan in response to CCE.

Child criminal exploitation is increasingly used to describe exploitation where children are involved, and exists in communities everywhere. There are a number of ways the public and agencies can help eradicate this crime by spotting the signs of exploitation.

Helen, who returned from maternity leave in June, previously led the forces multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation team (CSE) team for which Detective Inspector Jenni Heggs now has responsibility for.

Helen will be using her expertise of working within the CSE team to enhance our response to tackling CCE, identifying victims and bringing criminals to justice.



## Home Secretary speaks at NSPCC conference

In June, the then Home Secretary Sajid Javid delivered a speech at the NSPCC's "How Safe are our Children?" conference with focus on the challenges the police face around CSE and CCE.

A link to his speech can be found [here](#).

## Ask Brecks Mum - Live CSE Q&A session

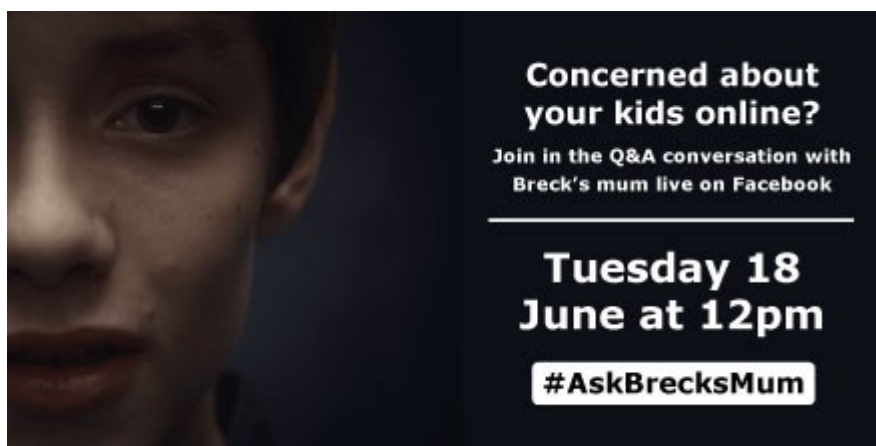
A live question and answer session was held in June on Facebook and Instagram to help offer advice and guidance about Child Sexual Exploitation and how to stay safe online.

The event took place following on from the success of Breck's Last Game, a four-minute film which tells the tragic story of 14-year-old Breck Bednar who was murdered by a man he met on an online gaming site.

Lorin La Fave, Breck's mother, and Donna Smalley, Service Manager at the CSE hub in Wigston, took part in the session and covered topics such as how to spot the signs of CSE and grooming, how to stay safe online, exploitation among boys and how grooming methods can vary and how to get help and support if you're a CSE survivor or the parent of someone who is.

Following the live broadcast, Breck's last Game had an increase of over **315,876** views.

The live video broadcast had a total of 1,795 interactions which includes comments, questions asked, shares, reactions and number of clicks on the live post. The social media sentiment was very positive and comments were very encouraging and supportive.



## LCSB - An Introduction to CSE, Trafficking, Missing and County Lines

Good feedback was received at a course delivered to multi-agency partners last month called 'An **Introduction to Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking, Missing and County Lines**'. The course was delivered as part of the Multi-Agency Training Programme co-ordinated by the LCSB of Leicester and Leicestershire and Rutland. A new re-vamped version with changes made following constructive feedback received, is being delivered on 6 November and in the New Year.

Further details about the course and how to register can be found [here](#) or [here](#)

Please contact [elizabeth.dunn@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.dunn@leicester.gov.uk) for any questions.

## Remote video link enables youngsters to give evidence without having to attend court

Leicestershire Police now has a dedicated remote video link to enable children and young people, including those who have experienced sexual violence, to give evidence without having to attend court.

Based at a discreet location in Leicestershire called the Lighthouse, it will enable both victims and witnesses of crime to provide evidence without having to enter a court room or a court building and is one of a number of measures which will help reduce the anxiety, trauma and stress many people experience when going to court.

Crown Court Judge Nicholas Dean QC visited the Lighthouse in June and commended the force for its efforts to engage young people in an environment bespoke to their needs.

He said: "The Lighthouse is a bright and welcoming facility designed to put youngsters at their ease during what is likely to be a stressful and traumatic time for them."

The remote video link means that youngsters can opt or apply to provide evidence to courts across the country and has already proved successful since it was introduced to Juniper Lodge, a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for those aged 18 and over.



Judge Dean added that he would encourage the use of the Lighthouse and the SARC in all cases here a witness requires the reassurance of giving evidence in a calm environment.

The Lighthouse facility is specifically for those under 18 and has recently been refurbished to a high standard so that it provides a safe, warm, calm and relaxed environment for young people.

It has bespoke interview rooms and waiting areas as well as a place for youngsters to play, furnished with soft toys.

## Taxi driver helps stop potential CSE of teenage girls

Last year as part of our ongoing work to raise awareness of CSE, materials were distributed among taxi drivers, hoteliers and licensed premises across LLR to help their staff recognise the signs of child sexual exploitation.

The recent quick thinking actions of a taxi driver is an further example that this message is working after he called his concerns into police.

In June, a taxi driver picked up two girls, who he believed to be around 15 or 16 years old, from an address in Leicester. During the journey, he became concerned around the content of the girls' conversation which included references to alcohol, sex and drugs.

The driver dropped off the girls at the agreed address where they were met by a man who walked them inside but fearing that the girls were being sexually exploited, the driver called police.

Officers attended the flat and forced entry after entry was refused. Four men were arrested on suspicion of arranging or facilitating a commission of a child sex act and have been released under investigation.

The girls were found at the address and have been spoken to by officers.

People who work in these industries are in a unique position to spot the signs of CSE whether it's a taxi driver who notices all may not be right with passengers in their vehicle, hotel reception staff looking out for unusual bookings or bar staff being alert to a number of indicators and raising the alarm if necessary.

Reports such as this help us build the bigger picture around CSE and praise must be given to the driver for contacting police. He noticed something which didn't seem right with him and he made the right decision by reporting his concerns.

This latest report shows that our message is being listened to and people are helping the police and other agencies in the fight against eradicating CSE.

## ... and finally

### **Have a story to share?**

Thank you reading the fourth edition of the CSE E-Bulletin. Your feedback is welcome, along with any ideas for future editions.

Please forward your suggestions to [Rachel.lynch@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Rachel.lynch@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)