The Children’s Society’s written submission to the Education Committee

Introduction and summary of key messages

The Children’s Society is a leading charity committed to improving the lives of thousands of children and young people every year. We work across the country with the most disadvantaged children through our specialist services and children’s centres. Our direct work with vulnerable groups including disabled children, children in or leaving care, refugee, migrant and trafficked children, allows us to listen to the most vulnerable children and put their voices at the centre of our work.

We run 11 projects supporting young people in care and 13 specialist projects working with children who run away or go missing and/or are at risk or victims of sexual exploitation. We also run services that deliver emotional support, psychological interventions and counselling for children who have experienced domestic abuse and/or sexual exploitation. Many of the children we support are very vulnerable young people who have come into contact with child and family social workers on numerous occasions. Our services also support older teenagers at risk of homelessness.

We welcome this inquiry into the Government’s approach to children’s social work reforms. In light of recent high profile cases relating to wide-scale child sex exploitation and child deaths, the proposals to reform children’s social care are timely. However, both the memorandum and the ‘Children’s Social Care Reform: A vision for change’ document produced by the Department for Education require a detailed consideration. We would particularly like to draw attention to what these proposals will mean for the voluntary sector and their role in multi-agency working.

It is vitally important that children and young people receive social care support of the highest standard. Support should be consistent and adequate to help them stay safe, develop and flourish. We believe that the key objective for any change in social care or child protection provision should be achieving better outcomes for children tailored around each child’s individual needs. At the heart of these reforms should be improving the outcomes of children and young people receiving help from social care services by ensuring stability and consistency of services, tailored around each child’s individual needs. We know through our local relationships with social workers that there is great work being done in some areas and this should not be overlooked.

Our response is centred around the three main priorities for the Government: improving the skills and capacity of the social work workforce; raising the bar on quality, innovation and efficiency in practice; and establishing a framework of leaner, robust governance and accountability which does not tolerate failure. The final section looks at the impact of local authority funding cuts on children’s social care.
Key messages

- As part of the proposed changes to the social work knowledge and skills framework, we believe an action plan should be developed to ensure it is fully implemented and appropriately monitored.
- The attitudes of social workers, particularly towards older adolescents who display challenging behaviours, should be addressed through knowledge and training about adolescent development.
- We believe children and young people should be consulted in decisions about their care arrangements, particularly when changes may impact on their experiences of social care.
- Knowledge about children’s rights is essential and should be the core of social work practice.
- The needs of vulnerable groups of children and young people should be understood by all social workers and any service that is developed should strongly consider these needs.
- Through adequate training, social workers need to understand adolescent neglect as we believe currently this group of children are at risk of not receiving the support they need due to the mistaken beliefs that they are sufficiently resilient to cope independently with problems in their lives and for social care to develop evidence informed responses.
- More needs to be done to support social workers own well-being and resilience. As part of their training, child and family social workers should be taught how to monitor their resilience and wellbeing and they should have a clear understanding of how they can receive help, if they need it.
- We are concerned about what multi-agency working with the voluntary sector in the future will look like. We believe the reforms to children’s social care should review how effective social care services work with the voluntary sector in multi-agency settings.
- We are concerned about potential changes to LSCB and how they work the voluntary sector and other multi-agency forums. All Boards should ensure that at least one voluntary partner is involved in case audits, Serious Case Reviews and other evaluation of their work as standard.
- Funding reductions to local authority budgets have significantly impacted on early interventions services and our recent research shows that further reductions are expected in the coming years. These services are crucial in addressing the mild to moderate needs of children and families, preventing their problems from escalating.

1. Improving the skills and capacity of the social work workforce at all levels

1.1. Last year, we welcomed and submitted evidence to the Government’s consultation into the Knowledge and Skills for Child and Family Social Work; our response can be accessed here. We overall welcome the final Knowledge and Skills statement issues by the Chief Social Worker, Isabelle Trowler. However, while the statement sets of the high level requirements expected from social workers, there is a need for a more detailed guidance. Below we have set out the key areas that we believe still need to be further embedded into the competency requirements of social workers as well as the reform process generally. We see social work as a profession of lifelong learning and therefore supporting social workers in their professional development should be a priority that continues beyond the reform.

1.2. The memorandum as well as the Children’s social care reform: a vision for change document currently lacks any reference to how the proposed training and knowledge requirements will be monitored and evaluated to assess the effectiveness, especially on how the knowledge is expected to be applied to practice. Our qualified practitioners who have formerly worked as social workers tell us that at the time of their training the social work courses tend to be to theoretically focussed and that they often did not have time to exercise the skills they were able to apply to practice.

Recommendation: The committee should seek further information about how the new knowledge and skills expected of social workers will be monitored and evaluated, particularly on how knowledge applies to practice. More specifically, we believe an action plan should be developed to ensure these changes are fully implemented and appropriately monitored.

Social work knowledge and changes in attitudes

1.3. Our research shows that alongside a lack of knowledge, attitudes of professionals including social workers attitudes towards teenagers prevent effective responses to this age group. 16 and 17 year olds by law can give consent to sexual relationships and may often believe that they have given consent as
they have agreed to have an alcoholic drink or because they are not able to recognise exploitative relationships due to their earlier experience of abuse and neglect. The reform presents an opportunity for Government to address this through quality training and supervision.

**Recommendation:** *As part of improving the skills of social workers, the Government should ensure that training specifically focusses on the impact of abuse and neglect on teenagers and responses to trauma, will lead to improvements in attitudes that are needed and will enable social workers to challenge other professionals.*

**Recommendation:** *The Government should strengthen the definition of Child Sexual Exploitation so to make it clear that a young person age 16 and 17 whose freedom or capacity to consent is impaired through coercion, threats, drug or alcohol or additional vulnerabilities they may have, is sexually exploited, even though otherwise they can give consent to sexual activity.*

**Quotes practitioners qualified as social workers working for The Children’s Society:**

“Training is about good practice: reflection, analysis and resilience. In practice, social workers don’t have time or support to implement this”.

“Social work course was too theoretical, does not prepare for a practical role. Should focus more on direct work skills. It is too focussed on legislation and theory”.

“Degree did not prepare a lot as there was a lot of theory. Need more practical training (e.g. in case recording) and case studies/scenarios to help visualise what it is like to go into someone’s home”.

“Skills needed for this sector include being non-judgmental, assertive, analytically minded (this is not stressed enough), care about outcome, robust, strong, not take things personally”.

“Social workers don’t have time to exercise skills- tests would not be accurate assessment of how they are as professionals”.

**Children’s participation in decision-making**

1.4. In order to ensure a child’s rights are observed and protected it is critical that children and young people can meaningfully participate in the decisions being made about their lives. The Children’s Society has made a core commitment, in all of its work, to listen to the voices of children and young people. We welcome the inclusion of communication and participation on children and young people as set out in the Chief Social Worker’s Knowledge and Skills statement.

Social workers should be able to listen to the concerns of children of any age – from birth to age 18. This will involve different techniques for different age groups.

Too often Serious Case Reviews persistently have demonstrated that, listening to children’s voices and hearing their concerns could have prevented tragedies. The reform should be used as an opportunity to strengthen provisions so that children and young people’s worries and concerns are really listened to.

- **Children’s rights at the core of social work practice**

1.5. Increasingly social work is seen to be about safeguarding children and managing the risks to their wellbeing. Keeping children safe is a serious undertaking, but the focus on risk is eclipsing the basic principle behind social work. Social work should be about protection but should also seek recovery for children to help them overcome experiences of trauma. The UN convention on the rights of the child 1989 should be the foundational document for modern social work with children and families. The convention goes much further than a narrow focus on protecting children and includes various additional rights centring on participation in society and the provision of important needs like education and shelter.
1.6. Social work is a provision that the state has put in place for the most vulnerable children and families in order to protect them from harm but there has never been enough focus on how social work can allow children and their families to fully participate in education, the economy or wider society. Knowledge of the UN convention on the rights of the child should be the starting point for any person wishing to train as a child and family social worker. We strongly believe that a child and family social worker should be able to explain and critically evaluate their role in ensuring that a child’s rights are upheld.

1.7. Too often children struggle to be heard. Social workers should facilitate participation within their day to day work, but they should also be aware that sometimes they will need to speak on a child’s behalf, if that child’s voice is to be heard by other adults. Child and Family Social workers need to recognise their role as advocates, and to be able to put it into practise. They should also be able to identify circumstances where they might not be the best advocate and a third party would be better placed to help.

**Recommendation:** Social workers should, through sufficient training, understand the role of children and young people’s participation in decisions made about their care and the importance of ensuring children understand why certain decision have been made. This is vital to ensuring the best outcomes for children, enabling them to develop positive relationships with their social worker.

**Recommendation:** Family social workers should be able to use a variety of techniques to facilitate participation that is meaningful, meets the communication needs of a child and allows the child or young person to exercise genuine and informed choice over their lives. They should always be able to demonstrate that children’s voices were given equal consideration to those of adults.

**Recommendation:** Within the role of child and family social work, there should be an explicit mention of the responsibility of each social worker ensuring that the rights of the child, as stated in the UN Convention on the rights of the child 1989, are upheld.

**Recommendation:** Some children who have complex communication needs or who do not feel that they have a good relationship with their social workers will require the support of an independent advocate to help them communicate their wishes and feelings. Social workers need to know about children’s right to be supported by an independent advocate and ensure that children can access this support as needed.

**Recommendation:** Social workers need to be champions for the young people they work with securing them access to the best possible services and help. This should be done from a position where they are informed about the wishes and desires of the child after having listened carefully to their needs first hand.

The needs of vulnerable groups of children and young people

1.8. The reforms should strongly consider the needs of specific groups of children and young people, such as: young migrants, young people at risk of trafficking or sexual exploitation, children who go missing and young carers. 3.7 million children live in families in poverty, which has an impact on parenting and child development. Social workers must understand the vulnerabilities and risk factors present in the lives of these children to help identify their needs and respond appropriately.

We welcome the focus on transitions as being a key part of effective direct work in the social work Knowledge and Skills Statement. It is important that those vulnerable young people who are transitioning between care arrangements as well as those exiting the care system are adequately prepared, consulted and supported during the process.

Our recommendations for the social care needs of vulnerable groups are as follows:

**Recommendation:** In order for social workers to better understand the complex needs of children who are newly arrived in this country we recommend that they have a basic understanding of the asylum and
immigration system through training. Child and family social workers to have a good knowledge of the national immigration system, the asylum process and related laws must be included so that social workers can effectively deal with the consequences of the system on the child.

Recommendation: Child and Family social workers have a responsibility, as local authority employees, to act as first responders in countering serious crimes like human trafficking. There should be the inclusion of a provision requiring knowledge of the signs of trafficking and how to make effective and appropriate referrals. This should cover issues of children trafficked into UK for the purposes of exploitation as well as children, including British children, being trafficked within the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

Recommendation: Child and family social workers should be expected to have both sympathetic understanding of issues like sexual exploitation but also to be able to challenge other professionals for their prejudices and lack of understanding.

Recommendation: Children and family social workers should be able to spot the warning signs when children go missing, understand the underlying drivers and know the best ways of responding to their needs to prevent further episodes.

Recommendation: Child and family social workers should be able to increase the financial power of the families they work with through a focus on financial literacy and inclusion and by being able to work with families to improve benefit take up. This could be achieved through closer partnership with local advice agencies like Citizens Advice Bureau.

Recommendation: Young carers often do not receive the support they deserve. There should be a specific mention of the potential role of children as carers. By the end of their first year, child and family social workers should be able to recognise when a child is being called upon to perform the duties of a carer, assess whether or not they can cope in this role and put in place effective strategies to help families build their own resilient coping strategy for poor adult health including supporting them to access adult social care services.

Recommendation: Any new structures or services that are developed as a result of this reform should strongly consider and be designed to meet the needs of the vulnerable groups described above.

Recommendation: Social workers working with adults affected by alcohol and substance misuse should also identify and address the needs of children in the family.

Understanding child and adolescent development

1.9. We agree that social workers need to have good understanding of child development and knowledge of impact neglect and abuse has on children depending on their age, family history and other circumstances. We strongly urge for the inclusion of adolescent development and neglect, as we believe currently this group of children are at risk of not receiving the support they need due to the mistaken beliefs that they are sufficiently resilient to cope independently with problems in their lives.

1.10. Our research study, Safeguarding Young People, conducted with the University of York and the NSPCC, found that professionals often perceive adolescents to be less at risk of harm than younger children (and sometimes believed that they put ‘themselves at risk’). Professionals also thought that adolescents were more able to cope with the effects of maltreatment – that they developed resilience by default as they became older (a misunderstanding of the concept if resilience). They also falsely believed that teenagers were more likely to remove themselves from abusive situations. These misperceptions can result in significant safeguarding issues and risk for young people because professionals wrongly believing that adolescents can cope without help.

1.11. Furthermore, Thornberry et al. found, persistent maltreatment during adolescence has ‘stronger and more consistent negative consequences…than maltreatment experienced only in childhood.’ These effects include criminal behaviour, mental health problems, substance misuse and health-risking
behaviours. So not only is there a safeguarding risk, but the consequences of adolescent neglect for the young person in question, and society, are long-term and entrenched.

**Recommendation:** We believe that all assessments and training for social workers should incorporate adolescent development, particularly the impact of neglect on adolescents. Currently this group of children are at serious risk of not receiving the protection they need due to the mistaken belief that they are more resilient and able to cope with the issues in their lives.

2. Creating working environments for them in which quality, innovation and efficiency are key to developing the very best work with children and families

*Quotes practitioners qualified as social workers working for The Children’s Society:*

“Too many innovations and none are seen through. This is overwhelming for the social workers and confusing for families”

“There are some examples of innovation, but too busy and financially restricted. Even with core services there are massive cutbacks in what they are expected to do”

“Social workers need more time to sit around the table and think of new ideas for engaging with families”

**Social workers own well-being and resilience**

2.1. Children’s social work vacancies in England have risen by 27% in the year between 2014 and 2015 according to the latest Department for Education data. On average there were 15 children in need per social worker in 2015. On average a children’s social worker takes one day off due to sickness every month. It is clear that children’s social work is a demanding field to work in and that staff face enormous challenges both in terms of workload and the emotional resilience required. Social workers often work with some of the most vulnerable children and families on very difficult and complex issues that can affect their own emotional well-being.

2.2. Healthy social workers, with an appropriate workload and the job satisfaction associated with low turnover rates would be better placed to deliver the care and support that children and families need. As such we would encourage a focus the importance of the emotional resilience of child and family social workers. Social workers should know how to monitor their resilience and wellbeing and they should have a clear understanding of how they can receive help, if they need it.

2.3. We welcome the acknowledgment in the memorandum of the workload of social workers. It is an important element that contributes to the quality of the practice and work environment. The reform seeks to address this by improving the confidence and training of social workers but it is crucial that caseloads are regularly reviewed to ensure social workers are working on an appropriate number of cases that are varied.

**Recommendation:** Child and family social work is an extremely difficult job and in order to be professionals, social workers must be aware of their own resilience and well-being. Child and family social workers should be able to recognise when they might be struggling emotionally and be able to seek support from the appropriate sources. As part of their training, child and family social workers should be taught how to monitor their resilience and wellbeing and they should have a clear understanding of how they can receive help, if they need it.
Maintaining consistency for children and families during these reforms

2.4. It is paramount that the progress and outcomes of children and families being supported by social care services are not disrupted during this reform process. It can take time for social workers to build a relationship centred on trust with very vulnerable children and families, we are concerned that any changes may affect existing relationships.

Recommendation: *Children and families receiving support from social care services should be consulted and kept informed about changes that will have an impact on the interventions they receive. In addition, appropriate levels of support should be available to children and families if and when changes are implemented.*

3. Streamlining governance and accountability, so that both are leaner and more robust, better able to identify problems and put them right

Multi-agency working with other local agencies

3.1. We welcome references to effective multi-agency working in the Knowledge and Skills Statement as a significant step forward in embedding multi-agency working within the social care system. In our work we come across two challenges, time and again, that we would include within the statement explicitly.

3.2. Too often when child and family social workers are making decisions they are doing so without a complete picture of the child in question. Child and family social workers must be aware of what data other agencies collect about children and young people and about the most effective strategies for ensuring that this data is safely and securely shared between organisations.

3.3. In order for this to happen it is crucial that child and family social workers also know how other agencies work, to a significant degree of detail. As such, the statement should be expanded on to set out how social workers should have working knowledge of agencies like the police, housing services, job centre, NHS bodies, schools and local charities, to name just five. We feel that, in order to ensure the “…effective working relationships…throughout multi-agency partnerships and public bodies, including the family courts”xii, child and family social workers must know more about these agencies and this must be made explicit by the statement.

- Working together with the voluntary sector

3.4. We know from our direct work with the most vulnerable children that some young people struggle to build relationships with staff at statutory agencies either because of their previous negative experiences of engaging with those agencies or because they fear getting into trouble. Voluntary sector organisations play an important role in providing a bridge between the young person and statutory services by developing trusting relationships with young people. Voluntary services can also help children’s social care and other services to develop practice that is more responsive to the needs of a child. A key part of this information sharing, though it is very important that young people have a clear understanding of how and what information will be shared with other local agencies.

3.5. Apart from the aspiration to recruit charities to help deliver innovative services, the memorandum on social work reform contains no reference to how the new systems and pilots will work with and learn from the voluntary sector. We are concerned that any new structure or governance process introduced may impact on how social care services work with voluntary sector organisations, particularly in the case of early intervention.

Recommendation: *Social workers should be taught the procedures and policies of partner agencies and the most effective strategies to ensure that data is shared.*

Recommendation: *We believe the reforms to children’s social care should review how effective social workers work with the voluntary sector in gathering, mapping and sharing appropriate information about*
children and young people. Any changes introduced as a result of the reform should strongly consider the working relationship between social care services and the voluntary sector.

The current review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)
3.6. The Children’s Society has recently submitted written evidence to Alan Wood to feed into his review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards. This review is being undertaken as part of the reform with the view to improve governance and accountability. Our response to the review was informed by our recent report ‘Everybody’s Business’ which examines the different ways in our specialist projects supporting children and young people at risk of, or experiencing, child sexual exploitation (CSE) work with 17 different safeguarding boards across England. We also included evidence based on our direct experience working with LSCBs delivering training and participation work.

Improving the role and functions of LSCBs:

The role of the voluntary sector in LSCBs
3.7. We strongly believe that for a Safeguarding Board to effectively tackle the issue of safeguarding children, and in particular sexual exploitation, they must engage with the voluntary organisations in their area. Voluntary agencies – being separated to a degree from the statutory safeguarding functions of local agencies – are able to fulfil a ‘critical friend’ role to Safeguarding Boards and provide a unique perspective because of their non-statutory status.

Recommendation: We strongly believe that for a Safeguarding Board to effectively tackle safeguarding concerns such as sexual exploitation, they must engage with the voluntary organisations in their area which support victims. In addition, to be as effective as possible, our projects require a good working relationship with local professionals and agencies, which Safeguarding Boards are well placed to facilitate

Information sharing
3.8. Timely and comprehensive information sharing between Safeguarding Boards and their partners is vital to building a comprehensive picture of the nature and scale of child protection issues such as sexual exploitation in any area. The majority of our projects reported that they did have information sharing agreements with key agencies in their local area. Commonly, these took the form of MASH agreements though, rather than agreements at the Safeguarding Board level.

3.9. There are significant differences though in relation to how much information sharing is happening at the local level and what issues the areas are addressing. For example, in three areas where we have projects we are also involved in CSE problem profiling on behalf of the Safeguarding Board, and in one area we have provided an in-depth profiling report on missing to the Safeguarding Board.

Recommendation: Safeguarding Boards should ensure that all information sharing protocols reference appropriate with voluntary organisations working with vulnerable children, not just statutory agencies. Commissioners should consider whether it is appropriate to ensure that regular information sharing is part of the contract requirements for voluntary organisations delivering services on behalf of the local authority.

LSCBs and multi-agency working
3.10. In our view formal multiagency arrangements are important for keeping children safe. Safeguarding Boards have an important role in ensuring that agencies in their area are working in a joined up way, not just through the Board itself but through other groups, such as Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

3.11. We have many good practice examples where an effective safeguarding response was ensured due to excellent working relationships between staff in different agencies. While we believe that it is of
critical importance to encourage staff in different agencies to work well together on an individual level, effective formal multiagency arrangements retain consistency and prevent poor practice when staff change and help ensure an effective safeguarding approaches to all children in the area.

3.12. Looking beyond Safeguarding Boards themselves, generally all of our projects told us they enjoyed good working relationships with local partners. For example, all projects that we spoke to stated that they worked with named CSE lead professionals in statutory agencies, including the police and children’s social services. Our practitioners did note there were some agencies they found harder to engage with – including CAMHS services, Youth Offending Teams, housing and health - but this varied from area to area, and there were no agencies that were consistently difficult to engage.

3.13. In addition, our practitioners raised the importance of Safeguarding Children Boards ensuring they have established links with other boards in the area, including Health and Wellbeing Boards and Safeguarding Adults Boards.

Recommendation: Safeguarding Boards should ensure they review whether joint working is taking place across a range of forums, and where local agencies are failing to do so, they should take a lead in bringing agencies and professionals together and facilitating joint working.

Recommendation: Safeguarding Boards should ensure that all information sharing protocols involve voluntary organisations working with vulnerable children, not just statutory agencies. Commissioners should consider whether it is appropriate to ensure that regular information sharing is part of the contract requirements for voluntary organisations delivering services on behalf of the local authority.

Recommendation: Safeguarding boards should proactively monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of joint working not just between Board partners, but across a range of forums, such as Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs, as well as between individual statutory agencies and voluntary organisations.

Recommendation: Safeguarding Boards should look beyond the board members and sub-group members, and ensure they are actively and regularly engaging frontline staff, including those from voluntary agencies. This is an opportunity both to seek practical feedback on safeguarding arrangements from the front-line, and also to engage staff and help ensure high-level strategic plans filter down to the front line.

LSCB population and funding
3.14. Our Everybody’s Business report considers the funding of Safeguarding Boards and whether the contributions from local partner agencies reflect the level of need in an area. We compared the income of each Board against the number of children and young people in the area (aged 0-19 years-old). For the 32 boards we reviewed, that ranges from under 30,000 young people for a small coastal town to nearly 330,000 for a large sub-urban county area. This huge range in itself raises questions about how effectively and consistently a single safeguarding board can serve such differing population levels.

3.15. While the average funding for an LSCB per young person in the area covered is £3 per year, the variation in these areas is huge, ranging from £6.95 per young person in one Northern metropolitan borough to just £0.81 per young person in one large county area. Analysis of the budgets of the 17 boards we work with demonstrates that there is no critical thinking underlying budget allocations. Whilst they do according to the number of children in the local area, budgets do not increase in relation to local deprivation or the level of safeguarding needs.

Recommendation: The Government should consult with Safeguarding Boards and their partners to develop a funding formula. This follows a 2007 recommendation made by the Government after consultation with stakeholders.
**Recommendation:** Given the political importance this government has attached to child protection, particularly around safeguarding against child sexual exploitation, the government should consider establishing a ‘top-up fund’ for those Safeguarding Boards which experience particularly high levels of need.

**New joint targeted area inspections**

3.16. We welcome the newly rolled out our Joint Targeted Area Inspections and believe that the needs of vulnerable groups we have set out above as well as joint working with the voluntary sector should be reviewed as part of these inspections.

**The impact on children’s social care of reductions in funding to local authorities and other employers of social workers**

3.17. The Government’s memorandum states that “It is too early to predict the impact of the Spending Review on individual local authorities and that there was no significant correlation between spend and effectiveness”. In their response to the Spending Review, the Association of Directors of Children’s Services expressed concerns about the funding cuts placing local authorities under further pressure with many at risk no longer having the resources needed to provide vital care for children and families.\(^{xv}\)

3.18. Our latest joint report *Losing in the Long Run*\(^{xvi}\) published in collaboration with Action for Children and National Children’s Bureau questions the sustainability of further cuts and examines the amount of money central government is giving to local authorities for early intervention services. Our analysis finds that Government funding for early help services is expected to be cut by 71%, from more than £3.2 billion to less than £1 billion, between 2010 and 2020, leaving children and families without the early support that often stops their problems spiralling out of control. Children’s centres, teenage pregnancy support, short breaks for disabled children, information and advice for young people and family support are among some of the vital services that are affected by the cuts. Without early help, the needs of vulnerable children and young people may escalate to the point the need an intervention from social care services.

**Recommendation:** Once the Revenue Support Grant is phased out, the Government should introduce an additional early intervention top up to ensure local authorities are able to continue to deliver quality early intervention services.

**Recommendation:** Local authorities should prioritise resources raised through business rate growth for early intervention services, using local needs assessments and open consultation with local residents.
References:


iii Rees, et al. Safeguarding young people: Responding to young people aged 11 to 17 who are maltreated. https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/research_docs/Safeguarding%20Young%20People%20-%20Responding%20to%20Young%20People%20aged%2011%20to%2017%20who%20are%20maltreated_0.pdf


xi The Children’s Society. 2015. Everybody’s Business - How we work with Local Safeguarding Children Boards to tackle child sexual exploitation.

xii Figures for the number of young people are taken from the 2011 Census population statistics on 0-19 year olds by local authority area.

