

“The excellent working relationships Catch22 have established both as part of our integrated child sexual exploitation and missing from home team and on a wider scale has had a significant impact not only on the capacity of frontline workers to keep children safe, but also to facilitate prevention of harm.”

Clare Myring, Integrated Commissioning Manager, Pan Cheshire Missing from Home and Care protocol

Every three minutes a child goes missing from home or care. They could be forced out, fleeing conflict or abuse, or responding to peer pressure or an exploitative relationship.

A CEOP report in 2011 found that 40% of children who experienced sexual exploitation were reported missing from home or care on at least one occasion. This is why Catch22's missing services combine services and support for those at risk of or who are victims of child sexual exploitation (CSE).

To protect identities, images are not specific to Catch22's Missing & CSE service, but are of others involved with Catch22.

Our approach

Catch22 has more than 200 years' experience providing services that help people turn their lives around. We now work across Merseyside, Cheshire and South Yorkshire providing services that support children and young people who are missing and/or victims of sexual exploitation.

Catch22 works with a range of partner agencies including police and children's social care to reduce the risk of CSE and prevent further missing episodes. We have services based within Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs to respond quickly to children's needs and work in a truly integrated approach.

We provide responsive, flexible services that meet the expressed and differing needs of each child or young person as we know this secures their engagement. We deliver interventions supporting the wider family to strengthen 'pull' factors with the provision of preventative, specialist support, awareness raising and training.

Cheshire has seen a **41% reduction in the number of annual reported missing children incidents** since Catch22 began working there in 2012 as part of the Pan Cheshire Missing from Home and Care protocol.

Proven results

Impact data from January 2014 – May 2015:



20-25% of children we work with do not go missing again following a single intervention.



71% of children we work with reported an increase in safety and security



57% of children we work with reported an increase in well being

For more information visit catch-22.org.uk/missing-and-cse

“The response to missing children and young people and those at risk of sexual exploitation is well coordinated and there are clear strategies in place to help these children and young people.”

Cheshire East Ofsted Report, September 2015

Support to prevent missing from home or care episodes from recurring may be in the form of a return to home interview, CSE screening and assessment, followed by interventions which enable young people to reflect upon and recognise the causes, signs and symptoms of CSE. Our key workers build trusting relationships working individually and in groups, providing therapeutic support and signposting to other services. We are responsive to the needs of our young people, we will listen to their story and tailor support to meet their individual needs.

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Using data to inform practice

Catch22 uses a bespoke database for recording and monitoring children and young people who go missing on more than one occasion. This has enabled us to target our resource for those most at risk whilst sharing intelligence with Police across county lines, helping disrupt activity and safeguard children.

We are based in Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs sharing information across statutory services to inform risk and to respond quickly to meet the needs of the child, helping key agencies such as LSCBs and Children's Services to take a pro-active approach to support victims of CSE.

Catch22 has close working links with Troubled Families services to provide support across the whole family and to address their underlying issues, strengthening the family's pull factors whilst reducing risk.

Volunteers

We recruit, train, match and supervise a diverse range of volunteers, including the provision of role models who undertake home visits to best support families.

We identify the needs of families, take account of the development goals of the volunteers and create suitable matches to meet the different needs of the children, young people and their families.

Raising awareness and developing skills

We support workforce development by training social workers and school staff. We also engage Local Authority foster carers and parenting forums and work with parents through schools.

We raise awareness for young people through preventative and targeted workshops and for practitioners we provide bespoke training on the use of Catch22's CSE screening tool. To date, training has been delivered to:

- A&E
- fire and rescue
- social care teams
- schools safeguarding
- Local Authority transportation

Responsive to needs

We operate a flexible, responsive and needs-led service, which includes:

- outreach work to support children disengaged from services
- group work for young men and women to identify risks and support one another
- one-to-one long-term therapeutic interventions
- non-appointment based interventions and out of hours support to be there for children when they need support most.