



I am lodging an inquiry under the Freedom of Information Act regarding your response to Child Sexual Exploitation as a local authority. Below are 10 questions regarding this.

1. Does the council have a standalone Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) strategy? If so, please provide a copy of the most recent version.

Childrens Safeguarding partnership has a draft Complex safeguarding strategy – due for sign off and publication in July. there is a GM Complex Safeguarding Strategy 24-27 . There is no stand alone CSE strategy.
2. Does the council have any other strategies to tackle other forms of child exploitation? For clarity the primary focus of the strategy should be child exploitation, not included as part of wider safeguarding strategies.

As above - there is GM Complex Safeguarding Strategy 24-27 and draft Wigan Children's Safeguarding Board Complex Safeguarding Strategy 25-28
3. Has the local authority undertaken any evaluation or impact assessment of any child exploitation strategy or services in the past 3 years? If so, please provide a copy of any relevant reports.

Yes – Wigan complex safeguarding partnership has been subject to a Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding Hub Peer Review (not yet published). Also, GM Independent Child Sexual Exploitation Review.
4. Are elected members given briefings or oversight of the council's work on child exploitation? (e.g. briefings, training sessions, regular reports at committee or scrutiny meetings?)

Yes – presented an overview of developments in relation to complex safeguarding at Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee in March 2025.
5. Please provide a copy of any current multi-agency protocol or partnership agreement relating to child exploitation (including CSE, criminal exploitation, trafficking, or online harm).

[Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding Strategy 2024-27](#). This is the current document as stated above the local strategy is due for sign off. There are no other protocols or partnership agreements.
6. Please provide membership by organisation and frequency of meetings for the multi-agency partnership for child exploitation.

Quarterly. Wigan Safeguarding Children Partnership, Wigan Council – early help, children's social care, education, community safety, adult services, housing, GMP, probation, GM Mental Health Trust, Locala (sexual health), GM ICB, WWL Health Trust, GMCA.

7. Does the local authority undertake regular audits of child exploitation cases (including CSE)? If so, please provide:

- a. The number of audits carried out in the last 12 months
- b. The key findings from these audits
- c. Any improvement actions identified and their current status?

Yes

- a. In-depth case file audits are completed monthly; eight have been completed in the last six months. In addition, regular thematic dip-sampling is undertaken to focus on specific areas of practice in relation to CSE (i.e. missing).
- b. Most children are afforded a good service which is effective in keeping them safe from harm.
- c. Development of extended early help offer – underway. Awareness raising & training for partnership – underway.

8. What specific services or interventions does the local authority provide or commission to prevent child exploitation?

Multi-agency complex safeguarding team comprising of social workers, support workers, missing from home workers, police, health. In addition to this Wigan are involved in GMP led partnership perpetrator and location disruption meetings. All this activity and the strategy is overseen by the multi-agency Complex Safeguarding Strategic Group which in turn reports into the Wigan Safeguarding Children's Executive.

9. How many children were referred to early help or preventative services due to risk of exploitation in the last 12 months? Please provide the number of:

Our Safeguarding Team deal with all areas of prevention & victim support.

- a. Children identified as at risk of CSE in the last 12 months
- b. Children identified as victims of CSE in the last 12 months
- c. Children identified as at risk of other forms of exploitation (e.g. criminal exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking)
- d. Children identified as victims of other forms of exploitation (e.g. criminal exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking)

- a. 66
- b. 22
- c. 65
- d. 7

10. What was the total budget allocated to child exploitation work (including prevention and victim support) in the previous three financial years (22/23, 23/24, 24/25)?

Our budget for this area combines all such specialist support and budget values are as follows

Financial Year	Budget
2022/23	£1,333,042
2023/24	£1,507,966
2024/25	£1,545,209