

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 1st February 2016

Title of paper:	Safeguarding Children and Young People from Child Sexual Exploitation	
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Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	11 January 2016	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
Cutting unemployment by a quarter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City		<input type="checkbox"/>
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre		<input type="checkbox"/>
Help keep your energy bills down		<input type="checkbox"/>
Good access to public transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham has a good mix of housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events		<input type="checkbox"/>
Support early intervention activities		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
Continued development of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) action plan that includes training for staff and carers, awareness raising for young people and information sharing where there are worries around possible CSE.		
Development of multiagency sexual exploitation group [MASE].		
CSE co-ordinator appointed.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	That the Board notes the performance in the current action plan.	
2	That the Board notes proposed future developments.	

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 The Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Group [CSECAG] is a sub-group of the Nottingham Safeguarding Children Board and has continued to meet bi-monthly to progress the child sexual exploitation strategy. This group is chaired by Nottinghamshire Police. The work plan has 4 strands, which are currently under reviewed. It has been agreed that 'Recovery' will be added as a stranding in the updated work plan. The current strands consist of:

- **Prevention and response**
- **Safeguarding and protection**
- **Public confidence**
- **Bringing offenders to justice:**

1.2 In addition to the work completed under CSECAG, Nottingham City Children's Social care has developed a Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation panel, chaired by the Director of Children's Social Care and Vulnerable Children and Families. The purpose of the group is to track children at risk of CSE, and collate information relating to perpetrators and locations/hot spots. From January 2016, this group will meet monthly. Prior to this point, the group had met fortnightly.

1.3 This report will inform the Board of the actions to-date, particularly in relation to raising awareness and building a workforce confident and competent in recognising CSE risks and will highlight areas for future development. The proposals noted in this report ensure that children at risk of CSE are identified and supported to reduce risks, and that other children and young people, both those in local authority care and the wider community have access to awareness raising opportunities.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 The Corporate Parenting Board received an update in this area in January 2015, specifically on;

- Advice available on the Council's website where young people or individuals have been harmed in the past.
- The Concerns Network.

This report provides a clear strategic overview of the actions being undertaken to safeguard children, including children in care, from sexual exploitation.

In addition Nottingham City has worked with the regional Tier 2 management and CSE leads to develop regional standards. These were showcased at a regional event in October 2015, attended by Elected Members with lead responsibility for children and families, Family Court Judges, Corporate Directors of Children's social care, Senior Health safeguarding colleagues, CAF/CASS, Police and Crown Prosecution Service. The Regional CSE leads group will continue to take this work forward.

2.2 There has been continued training and awareness raising for staff, carers and young people. This has included briefing events for GPs and other health professionals, in addition to specific CSE training delivered to Magistrates who sit in the Youth Courts to assist with the recognition of CSE and presenting behaviours, which may lead to victims of CSE being criminalised.

Work has continued within the voluntary and community sectors with events in December 2014 and March 2015.

The post of CSE Co-ordinator was appointed to in September 2015. The CSE Co-ordinator takes the operational lead in driving practice and learning, as well as developing the operational responses to the work plan. In addition, the CSE Co-ordinator manages the Missing Children's Team, which will enable swift identification and intervention for any young people at risk of CSE.

2.3 Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Group (CSECAG) has continued to meet bi-monthly to progress the child exploitation strategy. At the time of writing this report, the work plan is being reviewed. The work plan has four strands:

2.4 Prevention and Response:

2.5 There have been a number of training sessions for professionals and carers, and the theatre production LUVU2 has been rolled out to schools, colleges, alternative provisions as well as young people in care, community and youth centres. There will be further sessions this academic year and there has been a good response from City schools.

There has been a steady increase in the number of schools accessing this performance. In 2013 – **12** city schools performances were completed, this increased to **17** performances in 2014/15. For this current academic year **32** performances are projected.

In addition training has been undertaken with **7** hotels, covering **29** staff and to date **682** taxi drivers as part of their licence requirements.

2.6 The Concerns Network Meeting (CNM) continues to offer staff the opportunity to share low level concerns/worries about a child/adult with a view to preventing or disrupting any risks of sexual exploitation. It also collects intelligence relating to specific localities of interest. The CNM has grown in attendance and includes managers from Children's Care Homes, local youth centres, and representatives from the Missing Children's Team, Youth Offending Team, NSPCC, Health, Police, Social Care and Priority Families, Housing, Taxi Licensing and the voluntary sector. This network was highlighted in the September 2015 issue of the Home Office Bulletin as best practice.

2.7 Lunchtime seminars have been delivered by a social care Service Manager and a colleague from the NSPCC. The seminars enable staff members to discuss concerns relating to specific cases, share good practice and raise their awareness of issues related to CSE and sexual harm.

2.8 Safeguarding and Protection:

2.9 Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) continue to chair strategy meetings where there are concerns regarding CSE risk. From these meetings the data monitoring tool is completed and the information from this is added to the police held data base CARoSE (Children At Risk of Sexual Exploitation). This information is shared monthly with social care to ensure that both agencies are

aware of the same children and young people and that there are appropriate plans in place.

The data monitoring tool has been uploaded onto the electronic recording system care first and will be migrated onto Liquid Logic. By recording the information in this way it will allow the authority to collate information regarding CSE in a more meaningful and useable manner, and for that information to be used both operationally and in strategic planning.

2.10 A Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel has been developed to ensure that all children and young people currently open on the CARoSE database are discussed, ensuring safeguarding procedures are being adhered to. MASE is chaired by the Director of Children's Social Care and its members include the Heads of Service for Safeguarding and Extensive Specialists, Service Managers from Social Care, the Strategic Lead for Youth Justice and Family Intervention Services, Head of Early Help Services, Police, Head of Community Protection, Health, Education and the NSPCC.

2.11 Nottingham City Council, along with 9 other Local Authorities have been involved in the Home Office, Department of Local Government and DfE relating to CSE. There have been a number of strands and workshops developed which have informed practice across the country.

2.12 Nottingham City are also taking part in an NSPCC pilot to develop a National Framework for assessing young people who present harmful sexual behaviour. This will enable consistent approaches and interventions in such cases and would assist in the identification of possible future perpetrators.

2.13 NSPCC project 'Protect & Respect' continues to work with young people in order to disrupt and protect from sexual harm. To date 19 young people have accessed this programme for 1:1 support and 49 young people have been part of preventative group work. The CSE Coordinator works closely with the Team Manager from Protect and Respect to ensure the service is being accessed by relevant children and young people.

2.14 The CSE risk assessment tool kit continues to be used by staff to assist in risk management. This tool is shared with the CSE Coordinator so that discussions can take place relating to young people at risk of CSE and safeguarding plans are reviewed. These cases will be reviewed at the MASE panel where appropriate.

2.15 Public Confidence:

2.16 Work has recently begun in working with partners in the voluntary sector in both promoting what action is being taken in the City regarding preventing and investigating CSE as well as developing links with groups that could offer support services. There was an event held in December for members of the voluntary sector. Operation Make Safe has also been initiated and training has been delivered to Hotels, Ice Stadiums, Taxi Firms and Public Houses across Nottingham. This will continue, with the addition of developing safeguarding leads within each sector.

2.17 Letters have recently been issued to parents and children attending City Schools to highlight E-Learning specific to CSE. This tool is available on the Nottingham City and the Nottingham Safeguarding Children's Board websites.

2.20 Bringing Offenders to Justice

2.21 There continues to be improvement in working practices so that investigations of CSE are becoming more robust. This work is reinforced via the training of staff.

The focus of the work is on disruption before abuse occurs – to that end the Concerns Network Meeting continues to play a valuable role, creating the opportunity for professionals to share isolated pieces of information relating to specific localities across the city and in relation to worrying behaviours of either children/young people or adults.

2.22 The Assessment of Sexual Harm Arrangements (ASHA) is a meeting which takes place every three weeks to discuss cases of harmful sexual behaviour perpetrated by children under the age of 18 years. This offers a platform for identifying worrying behaviours and assists with the profiling of potential adult offenders.

2.23 Child Abduction Warning Notices [CAWN] can be issued to specific adults in relation to children perceived to be at risk from that adult. CAWNs are issued by the police, authorised by an inspector or above and prohibit the adult from contact [direct or social media] with the child. If the notice is breached, the police can arrest the adult for child abduction. Breach of this notice can carry up to 7 years imprisonment so they are a good deterrent as most adults comply with the notice. There were 15 issued last year within Nottingham city and currently a further 10 have been issued to date.

2.24 Where there are immediate and established concerns then social care work closely with the police to investigate and safeguard the child or young person concerned. The Missing Children's Team is also influential in identifying cases of concern and highlighting such cases to Social Care.

2.25 Future Actions:

2.26 The next steps will include the following:

- Developing a database of information relating to offenders and potential offenders. This will assist with mapping issues across the city and support professionals in understanding/identifying what leads people to offend in this way. In addition this will assist in the identification of links between offenders and the possibility of young people being trafficked across the city and wider.
- Continue to embed the working practices of the MASE panel to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place.
- Working with regional CSE leads and tier 2 management groups in progressing agreed regional standards

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

N/A

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

5.1 Having a robust CSE strategy and action plan is crucial in the safeguarding of children and young people. For this work plan to be successful it requires ownership and scrutiny at both Corporate Parenting Board, Safeguarding Children Board and Strategic management. Should Nottingham City fail to do so then any investigation of CSE could attract negative media interest that in turn would impact upon the reputation of the Council.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)

No

Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

Due regard should be given to the equality implications identified in the EIA.

7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

N/A