



Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

Corporate Director of Children's Services

March 2016

Child Sexual Exploitation

Throughout March the Department for Education has been running a national campaign about child abuse and neglect to encourage the public to report their concerns and tackle the barriers that stop people taking action if they see a child being abused. Research for this campaign has shown that if people feel they are part of their community's response to child abuse and neglect, this encourages them to report.

To coincide with the national work we ran our own CSE Awareness Campaign Week (14th – 18th March) through; social media campaigns, an inter-agency National CSE Awareness Day, inviting people to make their own personal pledge to raise awareness of CSE (#HelpingHands) and working with communities alongside local charity NWG Network which runs the [Stop CSE Website](#). All campaign communications have been signposting towards a single point of contact for Nottingham - [Children & Families Direct](#)

East Midlands Child Sexual Exploitation Framework

Across the East Midlands a local authority regional framework is being developed, to be agreed by all 9 Corporate Directors for Children's Services, Lead Members and Children's Safeguarding Board Chairs. The aim of the East Midlands Child Sexual Exploitation Framework is to raise standards, promote good practice and improve the quality and consistency of service delivery across the region.

The development of the framework has been informed by reference to the key questions considered by Ofsted during their thematic inspection of CSE 'the sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?' (Ofsted 2014) in addition to the NWG summary of recommendations from a range of reports, inquiries, serious case reviews and research. The framework is based on work undertaken by the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) in developing the 'See Me Hear Me Framework' following their inquiry into CSE in gangs and groups (OCC 2013). The See Me, Hear Me Framework sets out the functions, processes and a proposed structure that will assist in the safeguarding of children from CSE. Each of these functions and processes when brought together forms a comprehensive response to CSE. The overarching aim of the framework is that CSE is responded to as a child protection and safeguarding issue as per Working Together guidance on CSE (DCSF 2009).

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

As you may be aware, there is an ongoing Police operation in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire that is focused on historical abuse. Nottinghamshire Police launched this operation in 2011, which has so far looked at over 100 allegations, some of which have been of sexual abuse.

In March 2015 the National Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse was established by the Government in order to make recommendations to ensure the best possible protection for children in future. The Inquiry, known as The Goddard Inquiry, has identified 13 investigations that it will pursue and in

November it was announced that one of these would focus on children in the care of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council.

I have now had the opportunity to meet with those who are leading the Inquiry locally, and have provided them with the initial information that they have asked for, which was mainly information about policies, procedures and processes, which was what I had anticipated from the information which is published on the Inquiry website. I anticipate that further requests will be made as the Inquiry moves forward and will keep you informed about future developments.

The inquiry website is <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/>

Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Inspection

From May, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission will inspect local areas' responsibilities to children and young people with SEND. The inspection assesses how effectively local areas fulfil their responsibilities towards children and young people and those who have special educational needs. They will do this by:

- assessing how well the local area identifies children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- evaluating how effectively the local area meets the needs and improves the outcomes of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- using a wide range of information to evaluate how effectively the local area fulfils its responsibilities
- talking to children and young people, and their parents and carers, and local partners, including nurseries, schools, colleges and specialist services

Inspectors will assess how SEND services are being delivered through the wide range of partners in the local area, including nurseries, schools, further education colleges, and through health and care services. The majority of statutory duties in relation to SEND rest at a local area level, predominantly with local authorities but now also with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). It will be the performance of local partners and settings which will underpin the successful delivery of the reforms set out in Part 3 of The Children and Families Act 2014. The Act strengthens local authorities' key duties in respect of children and young people with SEND across the 0-25 age range, regardless of where they are educated. It places duties on health and education settings to use their best endeavours to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND; and requires local authorities and other listed bodies to have regard to the statutory guidance set out in the SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 years.

The Health and Wellbeing Board have accountability/responsibility around:

1. Ensuring a joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) of the current and future needs of the whole local population is developed. The JSNA will form the basis of NHS and local authorities' own commissioning plans, across health, social care, public health and children's services. This is likely to include specific needs of children and young people with SEN or disabilities.
2. Ensuring that the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board includes at least one local elected councillor, as well as a representative of the

local Health watch organisation. It must also include the local DCS, Director of Adult Social Services (DASS), and a senior CCG representative and the Director of Public Health.

Further information can be found in the DfE published SEND reforms inspection Accountability Framework guide (March 2015)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416347/Accountability_Publication.pdf

Children's Social Care Reform – A Vision for Change

As mentioned in my January newsletter, Nicky Morgan MP made a speech on 14th January, outlining a number of announcements about the Government's programme of social work reform. Alongside this speech, the Department for Education have set out their vision for children's social care reform. The paper sets out 3 areas where the government intends to drive change: people and leadership; practice and systems; and governance and accountability. To read this over-arching vision paper, you can visit this [website](#).

The government has committed to publish a full children's social care strategy in the coming months, and of course I will share more details with you about this once it is available.

Prevent – A Safeguarding Issue?

Prevent is part of the government's approach to counter-terrorism. It's often confused by the press and others with the whole of counter-terrorism, but the government view is that protecting children and young people from radicalisation and extremism is a safeguarding issue. That is also the view in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, where the management of Prevent sits under the City Safeguarding Children Board. New legislation in 2015 placed a duty on all public bodies for staff to be trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism, and be aware of available programmes and how to refer to Channel, the multi-agency panel that supports referrals. Training about Prevent will be woven into safeguarding training over time, but in the short-term you are encouraged to do the short e-learning course that can be accessed as described in the "New Year, New Skills" article above. Also, if you would like someone to come to a managers meeting or other briefing opportunity, contact Steve Harrison (details below) to discuss this. This is a developing area of work and more detailed guidance and training opportunities will be made available in due course. In the meantime if you have concerns about an individual, speak to your manager in the first instance.

Before any decision to make a referral, contact: **Nottinghamshire Police Prevent Team** prevent@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk or call 101 and ask for Nottinghamshire's Prevent Team who can advise you. If you want to discuss Prevent arrangements, including training or other general queries, contact Steve Harrison, Cohesion, Community Protection steve.harrison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or 0115 8765512.

Shared plan to improve schools in Nottingham

A 10-year plan to help drive up standards in schools across Nottingham has been set out by the Education Improvement Board.

Led by Sir David Greenaway, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Nottingham, the Board will work with schools and academies on four priorities:

1. **Smoother transition** for pupils moving from primary to secondary school
2. Raising standards in **Maths**
3. Improving levels of **English**
4. **Attracting** new teachers to the city and **retaining** those already working here

People were asked to have their say on the plans. Two thirds (66%) agreed with the Board's vision – and many supported the priority areas: Maths (79% agreed), transition (78% agreed) and teacher retention and recruitment (87% agreed).

Improving standards of English has been added as a priority as a result of feedback from teachers, parents and the wider public in the consultation in November and December. Action plans are now being drawn up with schools and academies. You can find out more about the Board's work at www.nottinghamschools.org

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(March 2016)