

## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – JANUARY 2017

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Safeguarding Children and Young People from Child Sexual Exploitation	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Helen Blackman – Director, Children’s Integrated Services	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
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<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>		
<b>Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)</b>		
<b>Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:</b>		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector		<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture		<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b>		
<p>Continued development of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) action plan that includes training for staff, parents, carers, and the community. Awareness raising for children and young people and information sharing where there are worries around possible CSE.</p> <p>Continued development of multiagency sexual exploitation group (MASE).</p> <p>Working within the guidelines of the Regional Standards.</p> <p>CSE co-ordinator appointed who also manages the Missing Children’s Team.</p>		
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
<b>1</b>	To note the performance in the current action plan.	
<b>2</b>	To note proposed future developments.	

## **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition.

The Corporate Parenting Board received an update in this area in February 2016, specifically on;

- The Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel
- The CSE Coordinators role
- The CSE Cross Authority Group
- The Regional Standards

- 1.2 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 Local Arrangements**

In Nottingham City we have had for many years a robust framework of policy procedure and practice in relation to CSE. This was further strengthened in August 2015 through the development of a Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation panel (MASE), chaired by the Director of Children's Integrated Services and is attended by local agencies. The purpose of the group is to track children at risk of CSE, and collate information relating to possible perpetrators and adults of concern as well as locations. The panel is held monthly and ensures that all members have a 'picture' of what is happening in Nottingham City in relation to CSE.

Nottingham City has also played a key role, both operationally and politically to develop regional standards. These were initially the focus of a regional event in October 2015. There was a further annual meeting in November 2016 to look at the progress that has been made. There were clear areas of development and improvement made by Local Authorities in the region and the regional CSE leads group will continue to take this work forward.

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, and authorises all return interviews across the city which enables swift identification and intervention for any young people at risk of CSE.

In addition the Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Group [CSECAG] is a sub-group of the Nottingham Safeguarding Children Board and has continued to meet at least bi-monthly to progress the child sexual exploitation strategy. CSECAG are accountable to the Safeguarding Children's Boards at both the City and the County, to provide a strategic overview of inter-agency working and its impact on the prevention and protection of children sexually exploited, or at risk of sexual exploitation. The work plan has 4 strands, which are continually reviewed. It was agreed that 'Recovery' will be added as a strand in the updated work plan; this is in the process of being done. The current strands consist of:

- **Prepare** – strong leadership, effective systems and partnership working to tackle CSE
- **Prevent** – raising awareness of CSE
- **Protect** – safeguarding vulnerable children and support victims, families and professionals who seek to reduce CSE
- **Pursue** – disrupting and prosecuting offenders ensuring a victim centred approach

In Nottingham we also have The Concerns Network Meeting (CNM) which offers staff the opportunity to share emerging 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 2016 issue of the Home Office Bulletin as best practice.

## 2.2 Activity since the previous report

### **Prepare**

In February 2016 we conducted a workshop in partnership with the NSPCC called 'Have Your Say' with 7 young people who had been involved in CSE. They came together to give their views about services. The findings from the workshop have been shared at the MASE panel and will assist with future planning of work and how interventions are delivered with individual children and groups.

A procedural flow chart has been developed and will be disseminated to all agencies, both statutory and voluntary, across the city. This will ensure a coherent approach to identifying CSE and gives clear guidance on what to do.

The NCSCB has recently worked with the Children in Care Council to develop an E Safety strategy which contains information about trusted sources of information for parents/carers and young people,

The CSECAG has developed a multi-agency communication strategy, enabling a co-ordinated response to raising awareness and supporting events and campaigns, sharing best practice and evaluating success. This has been agreed by both the City and the County.

We are currently working with colleagues in Community Protection to ensure effective information sharing and plan to strengthen this by exploring how information from MASE can be shared in the Joint Tasking that takes place between Community Protection and the Police.

### **Prevent – raising awareness of CSE**

There has been continued training and awareness raising for staff, carers and young people including the voluntary and community sectors. The cross-authority multi-agency training strategy supported three face to face multi-agency training events during 2015/16 to 148 delegates, building on extensive previous years' training. The core e-learning programme has continued to be promoted and a further 1,298 courses have been completed

Other activities aimed at staff have included

- A range of activities linked to the national day of action in March 2016. This culminated in an event showcasing local work, which was opened by the Lead Member
- Briefings for Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools
- Briefing events for GPs and other health professionals
- 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.
- 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.

Further CSE training has been delivered via 'Broken Dreams' to 797 professional and volunteer staff across the City, including teaching assistants in schools, colleges, PCSOs, security staff, foster carers and hospital staff, and those working with children in the community and in residential care

Operation Make Safe continues and training has been delivered to Hotels, Ice Stadium, Taxi Firms and Public Houses across Nottingham. This will continue, with the addition of developing safeguarding leads within each sector. Nottingham City is the only Local Authority that has worked alongside the Security Industry Authority to develop and deliver specific CSE training to private security staff to enable them to become further 'eyes and the ears' in the community. This has led to private companies starting to identify safeguarding leads within their firms to act as a single point of contact for other employees

In addition, training has been undertaken with 15 hotels this year within Nottingham City and 2,030 taxi drivers have undertaken safeguarding training as part of their licence application process to date. Work is nearing completion to further strengthen this by introducing a test, which drivers must pass in order to re-new their licence

Work has continued 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.

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. To date this academic year 16 city funded performances have been booked with a further 8 additional independently funded performances. We also plan to contact each school who has not commissioned a performance to ask them to confirm what they are doing with their pupils to highlight the potential risks of CSE.

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.

**Protect** – safeguarding vulnerable children and support victims, families and professionals who seek to reduce CSE

The CSE risk assessment toolkit has recently been updated in partnership with Nottinghamshire to ensure there is a robust assessment which will address cross boundary issues. This toolkit is also going to replace the current risk assessment which Nottinghamshire Police use so that all relevant agencies are working to the same agenda. As a Local Authority we have identified further risk factors (for example siblings who may have been involved in CSE) and these elements have now been added to the toolkit. It is 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.

Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) continue to chair strategy meetings where there are concerns regarding CSE risk. For most part these meetings are chaired by the Principle Manager of the IRO team to ensure continuity. The CSE Coordinator will also attend a high percentage of these meetings. Before any strategy meeting the allocated worker is requested to complete a CSE risk assessment toolkit which will highlight the risk factors. 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 and the CSE risk assessment toolkit have been uploaded onto the electronic recording system 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.

The NSPCC project 'Protect & Respect' continues to work with young people in order to disrupt and protect from sexual harm. The CSE Coordinator works closely with the NSPCC specialist Team Manager from Protect and Respect to ensure the service is being accessed by relevant children and young people. To date the full Protect and Respect programme has been delivered to 32 young people in the last

8 months.

(April – end of November), 6 more cases are to be allocated before the end of December. There have been referrals for 50 young people for 1-1 work into the service (April – 7<sup>th</sup> Dec) and CSE group work has been completed with 50 young people who are vulnerable to CSE (April – Dec). Protect and Respect have also provided consultation to 20 local authority staff & private staff working in residential care, TFST and social workers on direct practice in supporting young people involved in CSE.

**Pursue** – disrupting and prosecuting offenders ensuring a victim centred approach

Discussions take place at the MASE in relation to possible perpetrators and adults of concern. This has assisted with the development of a database of information relating to offenders and potential offenders. It assists with mapping issues across the city and supports professionals in understanding/identifying what leads people to offend in this way. In addition this has supported the identification of links between offenders and the possibility of young people being trafficked across the city and wider. This information is shared with members of the panel and each agency will do individual checks on any named adult and share information they hold.

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. This panel is chaired by the CSE Coordinator. Nottingham City have also taken 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.

Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs) 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 via 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. From January 2015 to date there have been 80 CAWNs issued by Nottinghamshire police, of these 22 relate to Nottingham City children (these were issued to 20 adults residing in the city and 2 adults residing in the county).

The Missing Children's Team is also influential in identifying cases of concern and highlighting such cases within Social Care.

**Future Actions:**

The next steps will include the following:

- 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 group in progressing agreed regional standards
- Working with regional Local Authorities to provide more robust reporting of children who go missing from and in other areas.

### **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 None.

### **4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

4.1 The CSE Coordinator Post is funded by the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board until July 2017. Discussions are underway to secure funding beyond this point.

### **5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)**

5.1 None.

### **6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)**

6.1 None.

### **7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Not needed as the report does not contain proposals or financial assessments.

### **8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

8.1 None.

### **9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

9.1 None.