

## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – JANUARY 2018

<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>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>	That the Board notes the performance in the current action plan.	
<b>2</b>	That the Board notes 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 using technology without the child's immediate recognition.

The Corporate Parenting Board received an update in this area in January 2017, specifically on:

- Development of The Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel
- The Assessment of Sexual Harm Arrangement panel
- Training for staff, parents/carers, children and external professionals
- The development of the risk assessment toolkit specific to CSE

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. These measure contribute to the manifesto commitment to ensure zero tolerance of child sexual exploitation through a public awareness campaign to increase early identification of concerns by a fifth.

## **2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

### **2.1 Local Arrangements**

The report in January 2017 noted that

- 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 attended by various agencies.
- Nottingham City has also played a leading role, both operationally and politically, to develop regional standards. These were initially showcased at a regional event in October 2015. There was a further annual meeting in November 2016 to look at the progress that has been made.
- The post of CSE Co-ordinator was appointed to in September 2015. 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
- The Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Group [CSECAG] is a sub-group of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board and has continued to meet at least bi-monthly to progress the child sexual exploitation strategy. The work plan has four strands, which are continually reviewed. 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 for victims, families and professionals who seek to reduce CSE
  - **Pursue** – disrupting and prosecuting offenders ensuring a victim centred approach
- The Concerns Network Meeting (CNM) offers 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 Residential Children's Homes, Youth Services, the Missing Children's Team, Youth Offending Team, NSPCC, Health, Police, Social Care, 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.

### Activity since the previous report

#### **Prepare**

In January 2017, a new CSE risk assessment toolkit was developed and implemented across the Local Authority and partner agencies. The City CSE Coordinator and the County lead in CSE developed the tool. 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 has enabled a more joined up approach between the city and the county, which has also assisted with identification of possible CSE for Nottinghamshire. Briefings on the comprehensive completion of the tool have taken place with health professionals, education providers, care providers and the voluntary sector to ensure a consistent approach is established between agencies. On completion CSE toolkits are sent to the CSE Coordinator and the Principle Manager for the Independent Reviewing Officers to ensure consistency and to provide specialist oversight. These cases will be considered at strategy meetings and reviewed at the MASE panel where appropriate.

The Cross Authority Group (CSECAG) is currently undergoing a review to make this group of professionals more focused and specific. The work plan is also currently under review.

The Regional Standards are currently being reviewed with a view to streamlining them. CSE leads from the region are meeting bi-monthly to look at what risk assessment toolkits are adopted by each locality and share good practice. This sharing of information should allow the standards to be more streamlined and focused.

We continue to work 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 2017/18 to 110 delegates, with a further 2 training sessions planned in December 2017 and again

in March 2018, a further 52 delegates have booked onto these courses. The core e-learning programme has continued to be promoted and utilised.

Other activities aimed at staff have included

- A range of activities linked to the national day of action in March 2017. This culminated in an event showcasing local work
- Briefings for Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools
- Briefing events for GPs and other health professionals
- CSE awareness session delivered to licenced security staff who operate within Nottingham City Centre
- Specific bespoke training is being delivered to Nottingham City Children's homes to assist with their care of children and young people at risk of CSE
- CSE training was delivered in the Every Colleague Matters event to 48 delegates

Further CSE training has been delivered via 'Broken Dreams' to statutory and volunteer staff across the City, including teaching assistants in schools, colleges, Police Community Support Officers, security staff, foster carers, hospital staff, pharmacies and those working with children in the community and in residential care. A further 786 Children have had various sessions delivered on CSE and keeping safe within Nottingham City Schools and colleges, which have included special schools.

Operation Make Safe was developed by the police in partnership with local authorities to raise awareness of CSE within the business community. This operation continues and training has been delivered to Hotels, the 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 awareness sessions 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, the Local Authority, in partnership with the Police and the Security Industry, developed an information card, which was delivered around Nottingham City Centre in the evening to night time economy staff, including licenced security staff in public houses, clubs, fast food outlets and restaurants.

In addition training has been undertaken with 15 hotels this year within Nottingham City and over 2,000 taxi drivers have undertaken CSE training as part of their licence application process.

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.

A project called U Create was delivered across Nottingham City schools during the end of last year and completed at the beginning of 2017. U Create is a media driven campaign to enable Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire police to engage with young people across the city. Lesson plans and resources were provided to the schools and they then worked with children to develop a radio advert. Children were asked to research and demonstrate their understanding the issue of CSE and online safety through creative writing and the production of the radio advert. The campaign engaged with 478 schools across the city and the county, 29 schools registered to take part and 48 adverts were submitted. A shortlist of seven finalists were encouraged to share their work on social media, these were viewed more than 1,400 times via YouTube. The winning school, Bluecoat, then attended the studios of Global Radio to record their advert and this was broadcast on

Capital FM on National CSE Awareness day (18<sup>th</sup> March 2017) to an estimated audience of 15,000.

Letters were issued in January of this year (post-Christmas) 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. These letters will again be issued in early 2018.

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

Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) continue to chair strategy meetings where there are concerns regarding CSE risks. For most part, the Principle Manager of the IRO team chairs these meetings to ensure consistency. 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 database 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 appropriate plans are 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 them from sexual harm. 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. To date the full Protect and Respect programme has been delivered to 39 young people since January 2017. There have been referrals for 50 young people for 1-1 work into the service and CSE group work has been completed within three schools to full year groups (year 7 and 8 pupils). There have been four group participation events. Three school groups specific to children identified as being particularly vulnerable to CSE. Protect and Respect have also provided training and consultation to 17 local authority staff and private staff working in residential care, Targeted Family Support Team and social workers on direct practice in supporting young people involved in CSE.

RAiSE (Raising Awareness in Sexual Exploitation) is a further project, which is accessed by Nottingham City. This is a programme aimed at children and young people between the ages of 15 and 25 years. The programme is delivered on a one to one basis, although, when appropriate, workshops are considered. To date this project has worked with 22 children and young people under the age of 18 years, delivering 102 sessions.

**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. 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 on a full day every month 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. The CSE Coordinator chairs this panel. 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 would enable consistent approaches and interventions in such cases and would assist in the identification of possible future perpetrators. The ASHA panel has also been highlighted as best practice and members of the panel have been instrumental in assisting other local authorities to set up similar arrangements.

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.

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 groups 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 COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

4.1 The CSE Coordinator Post is funded by the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board.

### **5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT 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 a strategic and political level. 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 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE 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 required as the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

Yes

Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

**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.