

18 January 2016**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) AND CHILDREN MISSING FROM
HOME AND CARE: SIX-MONTHLY UPDATE 2015/16****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Children and Young People's Committee on the progress of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and children missing from home and care work within Nottinghamshire.

Information and Advice**Strategic Partnerships, Governance and Service Provision**

2. Ofsted considered work in relation to both CSE and children going missing from home and care during the inspection of Nottinghamshire County Council and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) in 2015. As Members will be aware the outcome of the inspection was 'Good'. This finding gave some confidence that the multi-agency arrangements in place were sound and providing a good foundation for continued improvement.
3. CSE continues to be a high profile safeguarding children area of work with overall governance via a cross-authority multi-agency group which is now chaired by a detective chief inspector. The terms of reference, membership and work plan for that group have all been refreshed. Missing Children work continues to be co-ordinated via a County multi-agency steering group.
4. CSE and missing children information is reported to the NSCB on a quarterly basis.
5. An NSCB audit on CSE is being planned for early 2016 which will enable some comparison to the 2014/15 audit. It is likely that a further missing children audit will be conducted during 2016/17.
6. The temporary CSE co-ordinator (0.5fte) has now been in post for a year. An evaluation of the role has been completed and consideration is being given to how to take this forward. An additional Children Missing Officer took up post in October to support the work around children missing from home, care and education.
7. The County has now established a CSE concerns network (Operation Striver) which has been publicised through all partner agencies of the NSCB. The aim of network meetings is

to share low level intelligence. A multi-agency risk assessment tool is also due to be published.

8. As part of the strategy to engage young people and raise their awareness of CSE, Pintsize Theatre has now begun their 2015/16 autumn/winter tour and the majority of secondary schools have signed up to this although there is a significant minority that have not. The plan is also to ensure that appropriately aged looked after children, foster carers and residential workers can also access the performance and workshop.
9. In tackling CSE from a much broader and holistic perspective, strategic work has also been ongoing to develop and build on universal support to schools, targeted support and specialist support. Funding from the Schools Forum has been agreed to support this. As part of the specialist support the current provider is increasing their project workers to three members of staff and the re-commissioning of this provision is ongoing. A fourth strand of the work (recovery support) is being considered by the NHS clinical commissioning group (CCG).
10. Safeguarding partnership work and links with the district councils have been strengthened across a number of areas of work. This includes the area of the licencing of taxis and all of the district councils have signed up to training their taxi drivers on CSE. This work will be extended to engaging with the wider business community, for example the licensing and education of hotels, off-licences, fast food outlets etc.

Key data findings

11. The key data findings for 2015/16 Quarters 1 and 2 are as follows:

CSE

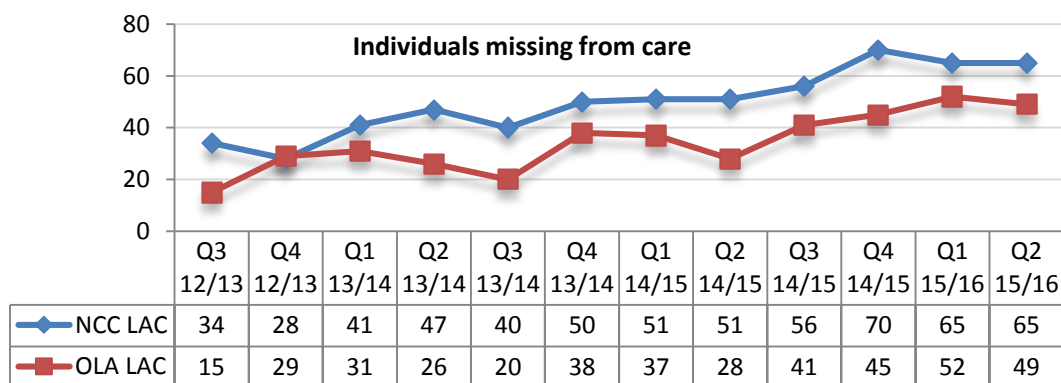
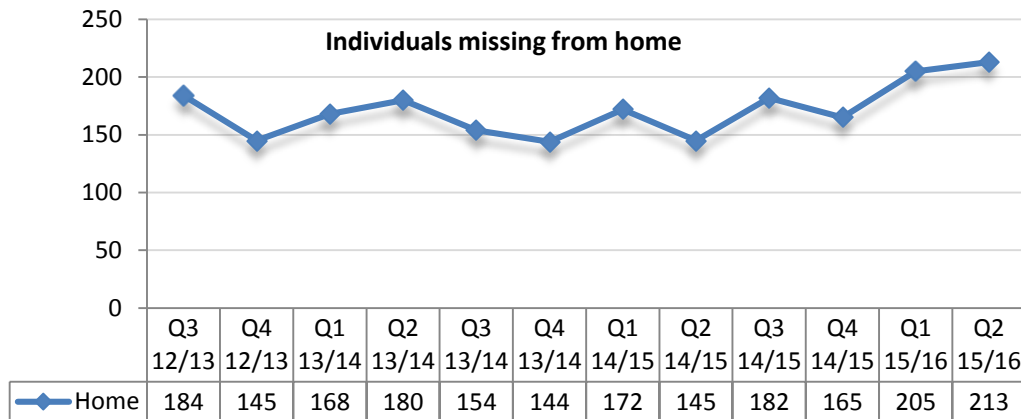
Flags for CSE with Children's Social care			
Episode Type	2014/15	2015/16 Q1	2015/16 Q2
MASH episode	249	117	107
Initial assessment	116	64	60
Core assessment	31	4	11
ICPC		10	28
RCPC		14	8
LAC review	57	18	17
Missing episodes	94	41	52
Strategy meeting	87	31	31
Total Children	269	220	230

12. It is evident that agencies are identifying where children 'may' be at risk of CSE i.e. that is they are showing indicators of being exploited. Not all of these children will have been exploited. As can be noted during this time there were initial multi-agency strategy meetings in relation to 62 individual children which indicates a more serious level of concern.
13. As of November 2015 the police had 26 open investigations relating to County based children. Of these, 14 related to level 1 concerns which is potential exploitation involving a

single person grooming via communication online or by device only – no physical contact. Twelve cases related to level 2 concerns which is exploitation involving physical contact. There are no reported cases involving organised groups or gangs at this time.

Missing

14. The number of missing episodes remains high although in terms of individual children there does seem to be some stabilisation for children missing from care. The number of children missing from home remains higher than previously noted.



15. The percentage of return interviews completed or attempted for Nottinghamshire children has remained high (85%) despite the increase in those required. The majority (69%) are also completed within 72 hours of the request.
16. There remains a challenge to engage with other local authorities where they place looked after children with private providers within Nottinghamshire; strategies to improve this are being explored.
17. As with all other local authorities, agencies continue to try and evidence a reduction in risk and missing events in the face of higher numbers of notifications than in recent years. There are a small number of children who go missing prolifically who are monitored through individual multi-agency meetings as well as through an overarching multi-agency meeting.

Other Options Considered

18. As this report is for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

19. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) progress made regarding developments in the response to child sexual exploitation and missing children within Nottinghamshire is noted
- 2) a further report be provided to the Children & Young People's Committee in six months.

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Constitutional Comments

21. As the report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 16/12/15)

22. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Children Missing from Home and Care annual report 2014-15 – report to Children & Young People’s Committee on 13 July 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0753