

September 2017**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an overview of the partnership work which is currently in place with regards to child sexual exploitation. Child sexual exploitation is a national priority that has been given a great deal of focus after an Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation by Alexis Jay in Rotherham was produced in August 2014, requiring scrutiny and clear governance arrangements in place to oversee the work to address the risks of child sexual exploitation. The Board was first provided with a report and heard a presentation from Service Director for Youth, Families and Social Work, Steve Edwards in February 2016 who set out Nottinghamshire County Council's response to the threat of child sexual exploitation in the locality.

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

2. Child sexual exploitation continues to be a high priority area. Oversight of child sexual exploitation work remains through the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City cross-authority group chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector for public protection. Information is regularly reported to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board.

Child Sexual Exploitation

3. A Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board multi-agency child sexual exploitation audit was completed during 2015/16. The conclusion was that compared to the previous year's audit there were improvements across all key areas of identification, response, intervention and engagement and a reduction in levels of risk. The conclusion was that awareness, knowledge and responses to child sexual exploitation are more embedded and again reinforced that holding a multi-agency strategy meeting linked to better outcomes. A further audit is scheduled for 2017/18 which will consider the outcomes of multi-agency working.
4. The joint children's social care and police led Concerns Network (Operation Striver) is now in place within the County with the aim of sharing intelligence at the earliest opportunity between agencies relating to the possibility of child sexual exploitation. Intelligence may relate to locations of concern or suspicious activity by individuals or vehicles for example. In addition the County has established a Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel which is a national model providing multi-agency operational scrutiny to individual cases considered to be high risk. Key panel members include Children's Social Care, Police,

Health services including sexual health, Children's Society, Safeguarding Lead for the District Councils and Education.

5. The cross-authority multi-agency training strategy supported three face to face multi-agency training events during 2015/16 to 148 delegates and three similar events as endorsed by the Board in 2016/17 to 194 delegates, building on extensive previous years training. Three more training events have been scheduled for 2017/18 via the NSCB. Delegates who attended the training included Notts Healthcare Trust, Schools & Colleges, Youth Families & Culture, Children's Social Care, Sherwood Forest Hospital Trust, Children's Centres, Adult Social Care, Borough Council's, Police, Voluntary services, CAFCASS, Probation, Fire Service and Nottingham University Hospitals. Key messages about child sexual exploitation are also included in the NSCB 'What's New in Safeguarding' training which is delivered regularly every 2-3mths. The core e-learning programme has continued to be promoted and a further 1,184 courses have been accessed. The cross-authority group also promoted another annual CSE showcase event in March 2017 with a further event planned for 2018.
6. As part of the prevention strand to tackling child sexual exploitation, the County commissioned a Theatre production to deliver performances to secondary school age children which first toured in 2015/16 and again in 2016/17. To date approximately 15,600 Nottinghamshire pupils have had the benefit of seeing the production to raise their awareness of the dangers of on-line grooming and sexual exploitation. In addition, the production has been provided to some children's homes, professionals' only and two alternative education providers. The feedback from professionals and children has been very positive and further funding has been agreed for 2017/18.
7. A further initiative was commissioned in 2016/17 for younger pupils which involved them researching key messages about 'sexting' (sharing sexual images through mobiles) and then developing a radio commercial. The U-create Sexting competition was made available to all primary and secondary schools across the County and City and was aimed at pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8. This highlighted that many schools felt they could be better equipped to deal with the subject although some of the entries were of a very high standard.
8. In recognition of the need to raise staff confidence and improve knowledge, training has been provided via the newly established Tackling Emerging Threats to Children (TETC) team. The TETC team is currently working with primary practitioners to produce lesson plans and curriculum ideas to support other primary teachers to include the issue of 'sexting' in their PSHE curriculum. Similarly, the TETC Co-ordinator is also working with young people and school staff in the County to develop additional CSE resource materials.
9. Police recording of sexual offences perpetrated against children (under 18yrs) continues to indicate that white British females aged 14-15yrs remain at the greater risk of being sexually exploited. However, the cross authority group is exploring the analysis of this data, considering this to be a potential skew and attributable to under-reporting among boys and minority communities. It has been identified that there is a need to develop resources which are more suited to primary and special school learners (Yrs. 5 & 6) to raise awareness of the dangers of on-line grooming and this is an area that the TETC project will be focusing upon for 2017/18.
10. In order to support schools and parents to effectively recognise and respond to emerging threats (including child sexual exploitation) to children and young people, the County Council

has developed four tiers of support for schools, children and their families; this includes universal, targeted and specialist support packages. These are complemented by a recovery support service, funded jointly by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Groups. Support and intervention across these tiers will cover issues such as radicalisation, extremism, female genital mutilation alongside anti-bullying as well as child sexual exploitation, sexting and online safety.

11. A Police problem profile was published in March 2017 which featured a combination of Police and agency data with a view to producing a clear picture in terms of the scale of the nature of CSE in Nottinghamshire. The Police also hold a database of young people vulnerable to CSE and this is regularly cross referenced with children's social care records to ensure that this list is reflective of current issues for children in Nottinghamshire. At this time, there is no data or Police investigation which indicates that organised CSE has a presence in the County. Nevertheless, our approach should be that organised CSE could well be present in the County. CSE has certainly become an increasing concern due to the opportunistic on-line grooming of children which is predominantly perpetrated by white British males aged between 18-30yrs.

Universal Support to Schools

12. Work has been underway to develop a single, unified package of universal support to schools against the risks outlined above. This will allow all schools to access lesson plans, guidance and best practice with regard to emerging threats described above (as well as promoting the overall health and wellbeing of pupils). This work has been in conjunction with ongoing activity within the County Council to develop a Schools Health Hub (SHH), to support schools to improve the health and educational outcomes of their pupils. The TETC team includes three Universal Support Consultant posts which have been established to support this work by providing consultation and advice, access to and development of materials, promoting partnerships with providers, facilitating networks of support between schools and identifying and disseminating good practice. In addition, three Schools Health Coordinators have been appointed, sitting within the TETC team, with established links with the Healthy Family teams and the newly created CAMHS Primary Mental Health worker posts.

Targeted Support:

13. There are 4.5 Development Workers who are split across the three localities and are a point of contact for all schools within their geographical area. These posts focus on support and advice to families and schools with a range of emerging threats to children including child sexual exploitation when concerns do not meet the threshold for formal family service or social care services and attend the CSE Concerns Network meetings.

Specialist Support:

14. A specialist support service for children who are at risk of, or have been sexually exploited has been established. The aim of the service is to support children to move towards a safer and more settled lifestyle and recover from sexual exploitation by:
 - reducing the number of children experiencing CSE in Nottinghamshire through preventative strategies;

- increasing the numbers of children identified at an earlier stage; and
 - increasing the number of children at risk of, or victim to CSE, accessing quality support.
15. The Children's Society hold this contract for a period of 3 years (from 1st July 2016) and is referred to as 'Safe Choices'. The service structure is: Service Manager and three CSE Support Workers. Staff have been able to provide continuity of service, build upon existing relationships with Barnardo's; and continue to be co-located in Nottinghamshire County Council offices. This works well and they provide valuable support and guidance to staff on CSE, attend team meetings and try to attend strategy meetings for Children and Young People prior to referral. Partnership working with Social Workers and Police remains strong with established referral pathways across all the districts. Since July 2016 (up until end of April 2017) 43 referrals, including 3 re referrals were received. The vast majority are female and 7 males with an age range of 10yrs to 17yrs; 75% being aged 14yrs to 17yrs.
16. The service has expanded to work with a wider cohort of children including care leavers and those children who need to be supported through a court process.

Support to victims and survivors:

17. Nottinghamshire County Council and the Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group jointly commissioned the Children Society contract from 1st July 2016 to deliver a service called 'Safe Time' for 3yrs which provides specific and targeted therapeutic support to children on a short to medium term basis as part of their recovery.
18. The therapeutic service focuses on children who have been sexually abused but not solely sexually exploited. This service also now has a full time manager as The Children's Society have invested in a half time post to create a full time post with half of the role as a clinician. There are also two part-time therapists who have recently taken up their posts.
19. The commissioning of the therapeutic recovery support forms part of the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020. The Strategy sets out the local response to *Future in Mind – Promoting, Protecting and Improving our Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing* (Department of Health, 2015).

Work with District Councils

20. Work with the seven district council safeguarding leads and licensing colleagues have continued and by the end of 2016/17 approximately 4,000 taxi drivers received training by police and district council colleagues on child sexual exploitation and more general vulnerable person's safeguarding issues. A county wide policy on the recruitment of taxi drivers has also been adopted which includes mandatory safeguarding training for both new and renewal licences which includes CSE awareness. Work to consider how the district councils can engage with the wider business communities, i.e. hotels and pubs had begun but is still at an early stage due to the challenges posed.
21. A safeguarding representative for the district councils attends the Concerns Network to enable wider partnership working around the County to tackle risks of CSE which allows for more creative responses when seeking to disrupt perpetrators and hotspot locations.

22. As can be seen, a great deal of work has been undertaken across a partnership including the County and District Councils, the Health community and Schools, to address the emerging threats facing children and families in Nottinghamshire.

Key data findings

23. The key data findings since the last report to the Health and Wellbeing Board for 2015/16 and 2016/17 are as follows:

Children potentially at risk of sexual exploitation

24. It is evident, and positive, that agencies are increasingly identifying where children 'may' be at risk of child sexual exploitation i.e. that is they are showing indicators of being exploited. Not all of these children will have been exploited but they may be vulnerable and in need of support to prevent any harm. For those where there was a multi-agency strategy meeting this suggests a higher level of concern. The type of concern that is investigated by the police is split between direct contact and no physical contact via on-line means.
- From 2015/16, 323 individual children were identified as being potentially at risk of child sexual exploitation upon a referral being made to the MASH and 351 CSE risk assessments were completed. In 2016/17, the number of individual children identified as potentially at risk of child sexual exploitation decreased to 263 children though 335 CSE risk assessments were completed.
 - Recognition has increased year on year and more is being done to support children.
 - A pro-active approach is being applied by social workers to complete CSE risk assessments where CSE is suspected. This allows for early indicators of CSE to be addressed whilst those children who are considered at risk of CSE will be subject to CSE strategy meetings for robust co-ordination of investigations and intervention.
 - In 2015/16, 121 children were considered at a child sexual exploitation strategy meeting and in 2016/17, 82 children were considered at a child sexual exploitation strategy meeting.
 - Peak age in 2015/16 was 13 -14 years old
 - Peak age in 2016/17 was 14 -15 years old

25. To date, there is no information to indicate that any children were the subject of organised or group sexual exploitation.

Key priorities for 2017/18

26. Nottinghamshire continues to have robust multi-agency arrangements in place for responding both operationally and strategically to children who go missing and those who are being exploited or at risk of exploitation.
27. The key priorities for Child sexual exploitation 2017/18 are:
- Continue to build a local profile of child sexual exploitation so that we can respond by safeguarding children at the earliest opportunity. Whilst a multi-agency problem profile

has now been developed it is essential that this is maintained. Nottinghamshire Police have agreed to produce an annual profile which incorporates multi-agency data.

- Continue the development of the MASE and the Concerns Network for improved multi-agency working to address risks of CSE to children and to disrupt perpetrators.
- To provide continued early intervention and support to schools via the TETC team with the aim of reaching younger children. An aim of the CSE cross authority group is to ensure that no group of children are overlooked in a 'one size fits all' approach to CSE.
- To monitor the training of taxi drivers and develop engagement with licensing and other businesses to ensure that taxi firms and businesses are aware of child sexual exploitation and their responsibilities to safeguard children and report concerns to the Police and Children's Social Care.

Other Options Considered

28. Consideration was given as to whether the Health and Wellbeing Board needed to receive reports on this area of work because reports also go to the Children and Young People Committee, but it was decided appropriate to report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

29. The Health and Wellbeing Board has valuable insight into this area of work and I would therefore recommend that a further annual report be provided.

Statutory and Policy Implications

30. 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

31. That the Health and Wellbeing Board continues to scrutinise and oversee this important area of partnership work and asks that a report of this nature is brought for the period 2017/18 in the summer of 2018.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Hannah Johnson
Service Manager, Safeguarding Children (Strategic)
T: 0115 854 6351
E: hannah1.johnson@nottsccl.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SLB 25/08/2017)

32. Health and Wellbeing Board is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SS 21/08/2017)

33. 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 annual report 2015-16 – report to Children & Young People’s Committee on 17th October 2016.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.
C0882

See also Chair’s Report:-

- 20. [Child sexual exploitation: prevention and intervention](#)
- 21. [Children’s Commissioner’s Report on Vulnerability](#)
- 23. [How safe are our children? 2017](#)