

17 October 2016**Agenda Item: 05****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) AND CHILDREN MISSING FROM
HOME AND CARE: ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16****Purpose of the Report**

1. Following enquiries into child sexual exploitation and missing children in Rochdale, Rotherham, Derby City, and Oxford, Elected Members from all political parties in Nottinghamshire expressed their determination to ensure an open and transparent approach to these issues within Nottinghamshire and requested that the Children and Young People's Committee receive an annual report together with a six monthly update report, to ensure that all Committee members are kept up-to-date on work involving child sexual exploitation and children missing from home and care.

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

2. Child sexual exploitation and missing from home and care work continue to both be high priority areas. 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 and missing children is through the County steering group. Information on both areas are reported to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board on a quarterly basis.

Child Sexual Exploitation

3. A further 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.
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. Work has been undertaken to promote this resulting in 25 notifications during the year.

5. 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. The cross-authority group also promoted another annual conference.
6. As part of the prevention strand to tackling child sexual exploitation in 2015/16, the Pintsize Theatre was re-commissioned to tour with LUVU2, the specially commissioned play and workshop. There were 77 performances in total covering 41 schools and in addition some children's homes, professionals only performances and two alternative education providers. The tour reached 7,112 pupils, 426 professionals and 26 parents and carers; in total 7,564 people. It has still been a challenge to engage with some faith schools, alternative and independent education providers as well as some foster carers and looked after children but steps are being taken to promote this again this year. The feedback from professionals and children was again very positive and further funding has been agreed for 2016/17. A further initiative has been commissioned for younger pupils (Years 6/7/8) which will involve them researching key messages about sexting (sharing sexual images through mobiles) and then developing a radio commercial. There is the potential to access 479 schools across the City and County with this enterprise.
7. Children's Social Care has led on the wider aspects of providing a more specialist service to schools which covers sexual exploitation as part of a wider brief about threats to children. When fully in place this will improve universal support to schools and pupils across lesson planning, workshops for staff, pupils, parents and carers. Early help support for schools to provide advice on individual cases is also available.
8. Specialist support to children who have been exploited or are at risk of exploitation was provided to six children by the NSPCC and Barnardo's worked with 44 children during the year. The Council funded the expansion of the Barnardo's service and by the end of 2015/16 three workers were in place. The service has now been re-commissioned and The Children's Society holds the contract as of 1 July 2016. The service has been extended to a wider cohort of children including care leavers and those children who need to be supported through a court process, as well as supporting parents to safeguard their children. It will also, for the first time, provide therapeutic support to children on a short to medium term as part of a child's recovery. This second part of the service is funded by a Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group partnership.
9. Links to the seven district council safeguarding leads and licensing colleagues have continued and by the end of 2016 nearly 4,000 taxi drivers will have been trained by police and district council colleagues on child sexual exploitation and more general vulnerable person's safeguarding issues. A county wide policy on recruitment has also been adopted. Work to consider how to engage with the wider business communities, i.e. hotels and pubs, began during 2015/16 and is in its early stages.

Children who go missing from home and care

10. A Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board audit of missing children work will be completed during late 2016/17. The police are currently re-structuring their functions to enable consistent practice across the City and County which will hopefully lead to further

improvements. An additional Children Missing Officer (CMO) post was recruited to within Children's Social Care during October 2015 to assist with the increased work load resulting from the changes to police definitions of missing.

11. Two Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board missing from home and care multi-agency training events are being held during 2016/17.

Key data findings

12. The key data findings for 2015/16 are as follows:

Children potentially at risk of sexual exploitation

13. 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. As can be noted below the type of concern that is investigated by the police is split between face to face contact and no physical contact via on-line means.
 - ❖ 501 individual children were identified as being potentially at risk of child sexual exploitation
 - Recognition has increased year on year and more is being done to support children.
 - ❖ Of the 501 potentially at risk, 122 children were discussed at a child sexual exploitation strategy meeting
 - 90% female, 10% male.
 - Peak age 13-16 years old
 - ❖ Police information shows that 69 cases were open to the police during 2015/16 as follows.
 - Exploitation involving single perpetrator on-line 32 cases / 46%.
 - Exploitation involving physical contact 37 cases/ 54%.
14. There is no information to indicate that any children were the subject of organised or group sexual exploitation during this year.

Children Missing from Home and Care (2015/16)

15. The revised definitions of children who go missing continued to have a significant impact on the data for 2015/16 which was the first full year using the new system. In 2015/16:
 - ❖ 1,013 individual children went missing from home and local authority care during 2015/16 as follows:
 - 701 children went missing from home
 - 176 children went missing from the care of Nottinghamshire County Council
 - 136 children placed in care in Nottinghamshire by other councils went missing.

- ❖ The majority of all children missing from home and care return within four hours. 74% of children missing from home return within eight hours, compared to 51% of children in care who return within eight hours.
- ❖ The peak age of children going missing from home and care during 2015/16 was 13-17 years old.
- ❖ Of these individuals 45% were boys and 55% girls.
- ❖ The reasons for going missing have remained similar with key issues linked to:
 - arguments around boundaries
 - parental relationships, sibling difficulties
 - boyfriend/girlfriend problems
 - school based issues.
 - drug and alcohol concerns
 - mental health issues.
- ❖ Risks related to going missing include child sexual exploitation, associating with adults who may pose a risk and increased likelihood of offending behaviour.

Key priorities for 2016/17

16. 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.
17. The key priorities for 2016/17 are set out below and may be added to as new priorities emerge.

Child sexual exploitation

- ❖ Continue to develop the data set for reporting to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, to enable us to target hot any “hotspot ”areas
- ❖ Continue to build a local profile of child sexual exploitation so that we can respond to safeguard children at the earliest opportunity
- ❖ 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.

Missing

- ❖ Deliver planned Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board training and utilise other opportunities to promote good practice messages i.e. attend team meetings
- ❖ Complete a Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board multi-agency audit to evaluate current practice and compare to the previous audit
- ❖ Ensure the voice of the children who go missing is listened to
- ❖ Ensuring connectivity to schools on the broader Children Missing Education agenda
- ❖ Continue to improve intelligence sharing with the police.

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 and Young People's Committee in six months.

Steve Edwards

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (TMR 26/09/16)

22. As the report is for noting only, no financial comments are required.

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 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.

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