

19 March 2018**Agenda Item: 14****REPORT OF THE INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND
RESOURCES****CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) AND CHILDREN MISSING FROM
HOME AND CARE: SIX-MONTHLY UPDATE 2017/18.****Purpose of the Report**

1. Further to the Annual Report to Committee in September 2017, child sexual exploitation and missing children remain priority areas both nationally and locally. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the work currently in place to address the threat of child sexual exploitation in Nottinghamshire and children missing from home or care.

Information**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

2. The Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City cross-authority group (CSECAG) chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector for public protection provides oversight of work relating to child sexual exploitation work. A quarterly report of statistical information and an annual overview report is provided to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB).
3. As reported in September 2017 the scale or nature of CSE in Nottinghamshire as described in the March 2017 CSE Problem Profile remains unaltered. There continue to be higher levels of opportunistic on-line grooming of children perpetrated, predominantly by white British males aged between 18 and 30 years. While there is no evidence of organised or gang related CSE in the County, agencies remain vigilant to this possibility. Using the information provided by the Police CSE Problem Profile the CSECAG is in the early stages of planning a focus on those areas of the County that have seen increased rates of CSE while maintaining vigilance throughout the County.
4. The Concerns Network (Operation Striver) continues to meet bi-monthly to share information relating to potential CSE locations and perpetrators. This information provides operational staff with local intelligence that may be relevant to CSE risks in their locality. Members include operational staff from Children's Social Care, Police Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit, District Councils, The Children's Society, Children Missing Officers, Early Help Unit, Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team, Residential Social Work staff, sexual health services and a private fostering agency.

5. The Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel first met in March 2017 and has become more established in this period. Those children and young people deemed at high risk of child sexual exploitation and those identified as perpetrators of CSE are considered monthly in a multi-agency forum to ensure interventions are robust and effective. The meetings are attended by senior management from Children's Social Care, Police, Health services including sexual health, Children's Society, Safeguarding Lead for the District Councils and the Safeguarding Children in Education Officer.
6. Work continues with the seven Borough and District safeguarding and licensing leads and an audit is planned of the awareness training undertaken with taxi drivers. Funding has been secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide similar awareness training to staff in licensed premises across the County and it is hoped this training will be launched in April 2018.
7. A range of CSE services, addressing the areas of prevention, intervention and therapeutic involvement, are available to identified children and young people in Nottinghamshire:
 - The Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team is working with schools raising awareness of on-line grooming, identifying healthy and unhealthy relationships and consent across all age groups. Work is underway with children and young people to co-produce resources that will be put on the schools' portal. Collaborate Digital, a media production company, is working with staff and students at special schools and other identified schools focusing on consent; this will culminate in a Social Media Challenge with the winning entry being professionally produced and broadcast
 - The Pintsize Theatre group are delivering LUVU2 to secondary schools and have offered an adapted production to primary schools. The NSPCC, New Roots Housing and York St John University are delivering the performance and workshop of 'It's Not Okay' to secondary schools in the north of the County
 - The Family Service and Children's Social Care continue to undertake preventive and keeping safe work with children and their parents/carers
 - The Children's Society is commissioned by Children's Social Care to provide both focused support to children and their families and a therapeutic service to those children most traumatised by CSE.
8. An NSCB Multi-agency Audit of CSE is in progress and will report to the NSCB in June 2018.

Key data findings

9. Between April and December 2017 424 children were identified as potentially vulnerable to CSE. This figures represent a combination of cases directly referred due to CSE concerns and those referred for other reasons (e.g. missing) where a vulnerability to CSE has been identified. This is showing an increase on the previous year but it remains lower than the 2015/16 figure. Although clearly this is a large number, it is positive that Nottinghamshire agencies are alert to the possibility of CSE occurring. However, following assessment, a much smaller number are seen to require multi agency intervention coordinated by a strategy meeting. During the same period multi-agency CSE strategy

meetings were convened for 86 individual children. This is an increase on multi-agency CSE strategy meetings held in 2016/17. An increase should not be seen as negative as increased identification and reporting is key in tackling sexual exploitation.

10. As of January 2018, the Police Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit had 42 open investigations involving County children. Of these investigations, 12 related to grooming by a single person online or by device only with no physical contact. 30 investigations involve physical contact with one or more alleged perpetrator, this could be an adult or older young person and involve sexualised contact of an exploitative nature. There were no reported cases of group or gang related CSE.

Missing

11. Children Missing from Home and Care remains co-ordinated through the County Multi-agency Steering Group. A quarterly report of statistical information and an annual overview report is provided to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) and this is summarised in the chart below. The Children Missing from Home and Care Joint Procedures have been revised to reflect the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) changed definition of 'absent' to 'missing - no apparent risk' and these should be ratified by the Steering Group in March 2018. The figures below are combined numbers of individuals categorised by the police as missing and missing –no apparent risk:

Children Missing from home and care				
	2016/17	2017/18 Q1	2017/18 Q2	2017/18 Q3
Children missing from home	705	229	222	211
NCC Children missing from care	163	65	64	58
Other Local Authority Children missing from care	145	45	39	45
Return Interviews completed/ attempted	1126	294	303	302

12. Within the figures is a wide range of circumstances for the young people involved. In quarter 3 approximately 43% were assessed by the police as 'no apparent risk'. The average age of young people missing is 15-17years with a 60/40% split between boys and girls.
The year end figures for 2016/17 show 50% were found in less than 4 hours and approximately 88% found in 24 hours; the average time missing being just over 11 hours. A smaller group of young people go missing repeatedly and are subject to closer scrutiny as detailed below.
13. The 'Multiple Missing and Hot Spots Meeting', chaired by the Police, continues to meet monthly to consider those children who are repeatedly absent or missing and the locations children go missing from. The aim is to reduce the incidence of missing and the risks posed. It remains a challenge to engage with other local authorities who place Looked

After Children with private providers in Nottinghamshire; attempts are being made to improve this. A paid for service is on offer to those local authorities placing Looked After Children in Nottinghamshire; while take up is currently low, efforts are being made to promote the service.

14. Multi-agency Missing training has been scheduled by the NSCB for April and May 2018, and this will serve to introduce the updated Children Missing from Home and Care Joint Procedures and reinforce staff awareness.
15. Return interviews will normally be attempted for all children who go missing more than once in a 90 day period or following one occasion where specific risks or vulnerabilities are identified.
16. The number of return interviews completed or attempted remains stable across the three quarters of 2017/18 and is on track to remain consistent with 2016/17 numbers. Latest figures show 75% completed in required timescales. 100% overall completion is very difficult to achieve as older children may refuse or parents, where children are living at home, may equally decline the service particularly where we are not already involved. The most common reasons given by the young people for going missing were resistance to boundaries being put in place by carers or overall relationship problems.

Other Options Considered

17. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children are of significant concern to the public and Elected Members. The recommendation is made to ensure that the Committee has an opportunity to direct further work in any areas of ongoing concern.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, 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, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

20. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Crime and Disorder Implications

21. The Local Authority works closely with Nottinghamshire Police and other investigative and enforcement agencies in order to monitor and respond to the issues raised in this report.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

22. Regular updates are made to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board and its sub-groups with regard to this agenda.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) identifies any actions it requires in relation to the issues contained in the report.
- 2) agrees to receive a full annual report for 2017-18 in the next six months.

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Constitutional Comments (EP 22/02/18)

23. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 21/02/18)

24. 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 and Children Missing from Home and Care annual report 2017 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 September 2017

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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