

18 September 2017**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL
WORK****CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) AND CHILDREN MISSING FROM
HOME AND CARE: ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17****Purpose of the Report**

1. Elected Members from all political parties in Nottinghamshire requested an annual report to the Children and Young People Committee following high profile enquiries into child sexual exploitation and missing children in a number of local authorities. 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. The Jay report requires scrutiny and governance in place to oversee arrangements to address the risks of child sexual exploitation. The purpose of this report is therefore to provide the Children and Young People's Committee with an overview of the work currently in place to address the threat of child sexual exploitation in Nottinghamshire and children missing from home or care.
2. The report also seeks approval for the Committee to receive quarterly performance data, to be included in the quarterly performance reports to this Committee, and an annual report providing an overview of the work to address the threat of child sexual exploitation in Nottinghamshire and children missing from home or care.

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

3. Child sexual exploitation and children missing from home and care continue to 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. Oversight of missing children is through the County Missing Children Steering group. Statistical information for both service areas is reported to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) on a quarterly basis and annual overview reports are also provided.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Profile of CSE in Nottinghamshire

4. A problem profile was published by the Police in March 2017 which featured a combination of Police and Children's Social Care 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. However, all agencies remain vigilant that organised CSE could well be a hidden or an emerging threat. CSE has certainly become an increasing concern due to the opportunistic on-line grooming of children in Nottinghamshire which is predominantly perpetrated by white British males aged between 18-30 years.
5. According to Police recording of sexual offences perpetrated against children (under 18 years), white British females aged 14-15 years 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 (Years 5 & 6) to raise awareness of the dangers of on-line grooming.

Partnership Working

6. The joint children's social care and police led Concerns Network (Operation Striver) continues to run on a bi-monthly basis within the County to share local intelligence regarding any emerging hot spot locations and perpetrators of child sexual exploitation. This is a pro-active approach to the early identification of issues of child sexual exploitation that may be emerging in Nottinghamshire in order to disrupt its occurrence. Members of this group are operational staff within Children's Social Care, Police Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit, District Councils, The Children's Society, Children Missing Officers, operational staff within the Early Help Unit, Tackling Emerging Threats to Children team, Residential Social Work staff, sexual health services and private fostering agency lead for CSE.
7. 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 where a victim has been identified as a high risk of child sexual exploitation. The panel also consider the profiles of identified perpetrators of CSE within Nottinghamshire and work together to disrupt their activities which may include, for example, Police Orders, housing actions, increased social work visits or increased monitoring by neighbourhood wardens and local policing teams. Key panel members include senior management representation from Children's Social Care, Police, Health services including sexual health, Children's Society, Safeguarding Lead for the District Councils and Education services.
8. Work with the seven district council safeguarding leads and licensing colleagues has 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 persons 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, has begun but is still at an early stage.

9. A safeguarding representative for the district councils attends the MASE and 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.
10. 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.

Work to prevent child sexual exploitation

11. There has been an increase in activities which focus upon the prevention of child sexual exploitation both to children at risk of CSE and for educating all children about the risks of 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.
12. 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.
13. 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, 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.
14. In recognition of the need to raise school staff confidence and improve knowledge and training in schools for a wide range of safeguarding issues including CSE, the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children (TETC) team has been established. The TETC team includes three Universal Support Consultant posts who provide 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 Child & Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS).

15. The TETC team will be focusing upon raising awareness of the dangers of on-line grooming with Years 5 & 6 for 2017/18 and 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 Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum.

Targeted and specialist support for children who are at risk of, or have been sexually exploited

16. In regards to more targeted support, there are 4.5 Development Workers who are split across the three localities within Nottinghamshire 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.
17. Where a threshold has been met for more formal Children's Social Care involvement, Social Workers complete CSE risk assessments with children who have been identified as at risk of, or have been sexually exploited. Any subsequent work will be co-ordinated to address these risks which can include a CSE strategy meeting which will be attended by Children's Social Care, Police, The Children's Society and Health and Educational services.
18. A specialist support service continues to be provided by The Children's Society. 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 direct support to children and young people, 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 with an age range of 10 to 17 years; 75% being aged 14 to 17 years. 7 referrals have been made for males.
19. Nottinghamshire County Council and the Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group jointly commissioned The Children's Society contract from 1st July 2016 to deliver a service called 'Safe Time' for 3 years which provides specific and targeted therapeutic support to children on a short to medium term basis as part of their recovery. The therapeutic service focuses on children who have been sexually abused but not solely sexually exploited. 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).

Training for professionals

20. The cross-authority multi-agency training strategy supported four face to face multi-agency training events during 2016/17 to 194 delegates, building on extensive previous years training. Three more training events have been scheduled for 2017/18 via the NSCB. Key messages about child sexual exploitation are also included in the NSCB 'What's New in Safeguarding' training which is delivered regularly every 2-3 months. 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.

Children who go missing from home and care

21. In November 2016, the College of Policing issued revised authorised professional practice (APP) guidance following a critical report by an all-party parliamentary group (APPG) looking at the issue of children missing from home and care. The main change is that the 'absence' definition is being replaced by 'missing – no apparent risk'. The NSCB joint protocol is currently being updated to reflect these changes but there are no significant changes as both Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire County/Nottingham City Children's Social Care's responses are robust, which is not necessarily the case in all areas, as noted by the APPG report.
22. The strategic and operational partnership between the Police and Children's Social Care has continued to embed as changes in the structure and operation of the Missing Persons Team continue to develop, particularly around more strategic safeguarding type issues. The Police are now working as one combined City and County team albeit that the co-ordinators operate from a City and County base.
23. The NSCB/Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board children missing from home and care joint protocol is currently being revised by Nottinghamshire County, Nottingham City and the Police and this is a theme which has been incorporated within the procedures to ensure that missing notifications from the Police are sent promptly to Children's Social Care, regardless of the level of risk applied.
24. An NSCB audit was completed during 2016/17 and a draft report has been submitted to the NSCB Audit Sub-Group for approval. There were many positive messages emerging from the audit as well as opportunities for improvement, particularly around evidencing an impact on children who continue to go missing. From the findings this impact is most likely to be achieved by robust and consistent attention to the quality of the relationship between the worker and the child in undertaking the return interview and assessing and analysing what it is at the core of why the child is going missing. It was identified that what is then important is for there to be a co-ordinated and sufficient expert response to children's needs.
25. Multi-agency training has been scheduled by the NSCB for January and March 2018 which will disseminate the learning of the 2016/17 audit and provide an update on the newly completed cross authority practice guidance. The training will focus upon improved practice for completing return interviews and better multi-agency working to identify risks to children who go missing.

Key data findings

26. The key data findings since the last report to the Children and Young People's Committee for 2016/17 are as follows:

Children potentially at risk of sexual exploitation

27. It is evident, and positive, that agencies are increasingly identifying where children 'may' be at risk of child sexual exploitation i.e. 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 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (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.
 - work to prevent CSE has increased 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.
28. To date, there is no information to indicate that any children were the subject of organised or group sexual exploitation.

Children Missing from Home and Care

29. In 2016/17:
- there were 2646 notifications received about 987 individuals; this is a reduction from 2015/16 data. The number of both episodes and individuals had begun to stabilise towards the end of the year (this includes data about Looked After Children from another Local Authority (OLA LAC))
 - the gender of male / female ratio with regard to episodes is about 48% Female to 52% Male. This is a change from last year's 55% Female and 45% Male where the evidence was that girls go missing more frequently than boys. This indicates that there has been an improvement in the frequency of girls going missing

- 68% of individuals went missing from home, 16% from the Council's care and 14% OLA LAC. The proportion of LAC is an increase from 2015/16
 - the age range of children going missing remains at 13 -17 years old with the peak at 15 years
 - return interviews were completed in 72% of cases for children missing from home and for 51% of those LAC which is a decrease although a further 19% were given advice. A small number of return interviews were not attempted but this has improved
 - OLA compliance continues to be an issue although the Family Service has now introduced a sold service
 - 313 multi-agency meetings were requested of which 234 (75%) were recorded complete: these are similar figures to the previous year
 - 69% of missing notifications were sent from the Police to Children's Social Care within 24 hours and a further 27% within 72 hours. For absence notifications however only 46% of notifications were sent within 24 hours. With respect to absences, this is an improvement and better than the Police target of 5 days but the longer term aim is to achieve consistency across both definitions (24 hours) which is necessary for a timely response.
30. The reasons for children going missing have remained similar with key issues linked to boundaries, parental relationship, siblings and other key areas such as boyfriend/girlfriend or school based issues. Drug and alcohol concerns as well as mental health issues have also featured as a problem. Risks related to going missing remain to be sexual exploitation, associating with adults who may pose a risk and offending behaviour.

Key priorities for 2017/18

31. 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.
32. The key priorities for 2017/18 are:

Child sexual exploitation

- 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 and 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 is 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.

Missing

- revise the cross-authority missing children from home and care protocol
- reduce the number of children going missing, including through early intervention and education in cases where children go missing repeatedly
- reduce the risk of harm caused to those who go missing, including through a tailored risk based response and ensuring agencies work together to find children as quickly as possible
- participation: consider how to establish feedback on the return interview process and more generally ensure their voice is heard
- provide multi-agency training for 2017/18 for both new staff or as a refresher
- improve effectiveness of work with other local authority looked after children placed in Nottinghamshire
- further improve the number of return interviews completed and sent back to the Children Missing Officer.

Other Options Considered

33. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

34. To agree the arrangements for the Committee to receive performance data and information on this work in future.

Statutory and Policy Implications

35. 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 Committee:

- 1) notes the overview of the work currently in place to address the threat of child sexual exploitation in Nottinghamshire and children missing from home or care.
- 2) agrees to receive quarterly performance data, to be included in the quarterly performance reports to this Committee, and an annual report providing an overview of the work to address the threat of child sexual exploitation in Nottinghamshire and children missing from home or care.

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 05/09/17)

36. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SAS 04/09/17)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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