

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Agenda Item: 9**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND  
SKILLS**

**TACKLING EMERGING THREATS TO CHILDREN TEAM**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides an update to Committee regarding the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team (TETC) and asks the Committee to consider whether there are any further actions it requires in relation to the information contained in the report.

**Information**

2. The Tackling Emerging Threats to Children (TETC) team was established in January 2017 and comprises:
  - Team Manager (TETC)
  - Safeguarding Children in Education Officer (SCIEO)
  - Anti-bullying and Cyber-safety Co-ordinator
  - Child Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator
  - Three School Health Hub Co-ordinators (SHHCs).
3. The TETC team sits within the wider Psychology Services group, itself comprising the TETC team, the Virtual School team, the Educational Psychology Service, and the Coping with Risky Behaviours (CRB) service. The TETC Team Manager reports directly to the Group Manager, Psychology Services, who in turn reports directly to the Service Director, Education, Learning & Skills.
4. Acting as a central point of contact for schools and other professionals working across children's services, the TETC team provides support, advice and training in respect of the health, wellbeing and safeguarding agendas. This team does not hold child level cases as any high risk children would be supported by other case holding services. At this time, the team's remit includes:
  - radicalisation and extremism (between January 2017 and July 2019, 1,700 teachers/other children's workforce professionals have received training, and an additional 60 schools have accessed advice/consultations)

- equality, hate crime and prejudice (during the same period 796 staff trained and an additional 167 consultations provided)
- female genital mutilation (FGM) (75 teachers trained and 8 consultations provided)
- forced marriage and honour based abuse (this training is commissioned by Public Health via Equation. Schools signposted accordingly)
- child sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation including “County Lines” (590 teachers/children’s workforce professionals trained and an additional 91 consultations provided). The latter have taken place mainly in 2018/19.
- online safety (810 teachers/education professionals and 109 consultations)
- anti-bullying (487 teachers and educational professionals plus an additional 50 consultations)
- youth violence (including knife crime) (21 consultations following specific incidents in the main during 2018/19 and an additional 60 staff in receipt of seminar session)
- substance misuse (signposting only to Public Health Commissioned Service CGL)
- risk taking behaviour (including transport safety and anti-social activity) (40 teachers/education professionals trained and 21 consultations provided)
- obesity and body image (40+ schools currently accessing commissioned services such as Everyone Health and Active Notts. Primary Mental Health Team (PMHT) provide training on body image)
- mental health. (120 teachers/education professionals trained in addition to training offered by PMHT. As with online safety, mental health is often a feature of consultations under other headings)
- the team has also responded to more than 145 Ofsted Qualifying Complaints; carried out 12 external safeguarding reviews; provided general safeguarding training to 120+ school staff and educational professionals; enabled 720 Designated Safeguarding Leads to access regular network meetings; and provided training and information sessions to 300 governors on the health, wellbeing and safeguarding agendas
- the team has engaged with every special school in Nottinghamshire; 90% of Nottinghamshire secondary schools; and 75% of Nottinghamshire primary schools. In 2018/19, much of this work has been around preparation for the forthcoming changes to Relationships and Relations and Sex Education curriculum which comes into force in 2020, as well as supporting schools and partners with contextual safeguarding as detailed in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 and Working Together.

5. Team members act as a point of contact around their lead areas of specialism and also on a district basis in order to facilitate effective partnership working across each locality. The TETC team works closely with a range of partners including the police, Healthy Families team, fire service, district council community safety teams, voluntary and charity sector (including The Children’s Society and NSPCC), youth service, youth justice and social care.

6. Schools are able to access advice and support through the team’s school portal pages, through consultations and by attending training courses. In addition the team publishes a regular newsletter alerting schools to new resources, services and interventions which have been quality assured by the team. The TETC team actively promotes the services commissioned by Public Health including the Health for Teens and Health for Kids websites, and a range of intervention programmes which focus on improving health and wellbeing. Working at the universal level of the Pathway to Provision, the TETC team supports schools to develop their practice in respect of prevention and the early identification of risk. Much of this is done through consultation and co-production of resources directly with children

and young people, as well as with parents/carers and staff. The TETC team does not, however, carry individual pupil casework responsibilities.

7. The focus of the work of the TETC team is informed by data and intelligence provided by partner agencies such as the police and Public Health, as well as being responsive to incidents or concerns by schools and by other children's services.
8. The TETC team carries a responsibility to monitor emerging threats and needs at both a local and national level in all the areas listed in **paragraph 4**, and to work with others to co-produce resources for schools and other partners to use. For example, schools are facing mandatory changes to the Personal, Social, Health and Economic curriculum and to the Relationship Education and Relationships and Sex Education curriculum, changes which will be subject to inspection by Ofsted from September 2020. The TETC team is working closely with a range of schools who plan to implement the changes a year earlier than required in order to develop robust advice and training which will be rolled out to other schools from September 2019.
9. The TETC team is well-placed to pick up developing concerns in a particular locality. For example, the team is working closely with key partners to identify potential organised criminal exploitation of young people in a particular district. In turn, this work is contributing to a deeper understanding of the preventative work which needs to be undertaken with younger children in this district; it is facilitating meaningful dialogue between schools and support services with regard to how the Council might disrupt or mitigate the risks to children in this area from this particular threat.
10. Members of the TETC team support the Council's strategic approach to the various "threat" agendas through, for example the city/county FGM Steering Group, the Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Group, and the County Criminal Exploitation Group. The team contributes to multi-agency training and the development of new guidance for schools, for example, the forthcoming weapons guidance which has been produced in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police and the Youth Justice Service.
11. The Safeguarding Children in Education Officer (SCIEO) provides support and challenge to schools around safeguarding policy and procedures, and where appropriate carries out external safeguarding reviews. The SCIEO also runs a supportive network for Designated Safeguarding Leads which meets on a half-termly basis. The latter is particularly valued by schools as an effective way of keeping abreast with the increasing complexity of the safeguarding agenda.
12. The TETC team is often required to respond on behalf of the Local Authority, or to inform the response made by members and senior Local Authority officers where complaints are raised about schools' practices in regard to the areas listed in **paragraph 4**. This includes responding to Ofsted Qualifying Complaints.

### **Other Options Considered**

13. No other options have been considered.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

14. Members requested an update on progress in respect of the TETC team's work. The purpose of the report is to ask Committee to consider whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the issues contained within the report. Committee may also wish to consider how it would like to monitor the issues contained within this report.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

15. 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.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

16. The TETC team works to raise awareness of a range of issues which can make young people vulnerable including being drawn into criminal activity or becoming victims of crime. By providing advice, training and support to schools and other professionals across the children's workforce and by engaging young people in co-production of resources and training materials, the TETC team aims to reduce the risk levels of young people being drawn into child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation through organised criminal gangs, substance misuse, radicalisation, and other risk taking and anti-social behaviour.

## **Financial Implications**

17. The total cost of the TETC team is £352,000. The cost of the three School Health Hub Co-ordinator posts is £132,000 and will be funded by Public Health until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The cost of the remaining posts is £220,000 and will be contained within the Education, Learning & Skills staffing budget.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty implications**

18. The TETC team provides support, advice and training in respect of hate crime and tackling all forms of prejudice (including racism, religious intolerance, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia). In doing so the TETC team supports schools to eliminate unlawful victimisation, harassment and discrimination, and foster positive relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, in line with the general duty of the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010.

## **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

19. The TETC team was created to support schools to safeguard children and young people by providing appropriate support and advice and training, including carrying out external safeguarding reviews where required. In addition, the team seeks to support schools to teach children and young people about the range of threats to their safety, health and wellbeing. Working with a range of partners including the police, fire service, community

safety teams and voluntary sector organisations, the TETC team acts as a knowledge, quality assurance and networking hub, raising awareness of the key issues as well as developing confidence amongst staff teams working with children across Nottinghamshire. Using co-production, the team is also empowering children and young people and their parents/carers to have a better understanding of the risks they face and how to protect themselves from existing and emerging threats.

### **Implications for Service Users**

20. Schools across Nottinghamshire have come to value the advice, support and training provided by the team, particularly in respect of safeguarding children and young people. The team's work over the next year will support schools to prepare for the revised expectations around the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) and Relationships Education in primary schools and Relationships and Sex Education curriculum in secondary schools. The team is also well placed to advise other professionals working across children's services, including social workers, youth workers and those in the Family Service with regards to emerging issues and concerns both nationally, regionally and locally.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee:

- 1) considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the issues contained within the report
- 2) considers how it wishes to monitor the issues contained within this report.

**Marion Clay**  
**Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills**  
**Children and Families**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Sarah Lee  
Team Manager, Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team  
T: 0115 8546089  
E: [sarah.lee@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.lee@nottscc.gov.uk)

### **Constitutional Comments (EP 18/06/19)**

21. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required, it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (SH 24/06/19)**

22. The total cost of the TETC team is £352,000. The cost of the three School Health Hub Co-ordinator posts is £132,000 and will be funded by Public Health until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The

cost of the remaining posts is £220,000 and will be contained within the total Education, Learning & Skills staffing budget of £8.208m.

**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.

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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