

15th March 2021**Agenda Item: 11****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. The last report to Committee was provided on 15th July 2019.

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, Online-safety & Behaviour 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, the Coping with Risky Behaviours (CRB) service, and the Education Improvement Adviser (SEND). The TETC Team Manager reports directly to the Group Manager, Psychology Services, who in turn reports directly to the Service Director, Education, Learning & Skills (ELS).
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 caseloads as any high risk children would be supported by other case holding services. The team's current remit includes:
 - radicalisation and extremism
 - equality, hate crime and prejudice
 - female genital mutilation (FGM)

- forced marriage and honour based abuse
 - child sexual exploitation (CSE)
 - harmful sexual behaviour
 - child criminal exploitation (CCE) including “County Lines”
 - online safety and behaviour
 - anti-bullying and peer on peer abuse
 - youth violence (including knife crime)
 - substance misuse
 - risk taking behaviour (including thrill-seeking and anti-social activity)
 - obesity and body image
 - mental health
 - relationships, sex and health education (RSHE).
5. Although team members have specialist knowledge, the aim of the team is to develop capacity and resilience across the children’s workforce, building confidence and the necessary skills and understanding to deal with often complex and highly sensitive issues. Using a strengths-based approach, the team supports others to develop practices which enable practitioners to recognise risk and harm at the earliest opportunity. The team’s practice is based on relationship-based and contextual safeguarding frameworks and the principles of partnership working, collaboration and co-production.
 6. The TETC team works closely with a range of partners including the police, healthy families team, primary mental health team (CAMHS), fire service, district council community safety teams, voluntary and charity sector (including The Children’s Society and NSPCC), youth service, youth justice, family service and social care, as well as across teams in the Education, Learning and Skills Division.
 7. Despite the impact of Covid 19 and the periods of lockdown, the team has adapted well and continued to deliver more than 85% of its service offer to schools as outlined in **Appendix A** to this report. The team’s online presence has grown significantly with updated and new pages being added to the TETC and safeguarding pages on the Schools Portal, and content shared via the team’s monthly digital newsletter.
 8. The process of delivering training invites participants to raise questions and provide comments through the use of the chat function online. Since the TETC team has been delivering training online and using this function, only positive evaluative comments have been received, e.g. “very interesting, knowledgeable and thought-provoking...”, “real-life case-studies and examples linked to what’s relevant in a secondary school...”, “training like this is needed for schools as it enables us to stay up-to-date and current....much appreciated.”
 9. Measuring the impact of the work of the TETC team is problematic for two reasons: firstly, with a stated aim to reduce risks for children, it is difficult to measure what has not happened. Secondly, the TETC team’s work is necessarily collaborative, so any reduction in, for example knife crime, would be attributable to more than the TETC team alone. It is also true that in the area of safeguarding figures showing a growing number of children found to be at risk could be an indication of improvement as much as an indication of regression.

10. The TETC team has a presence in Nottinghamshire's schools which enables it to actively promote other services, including those commissioned by Public Health, e.g. the Health for Teens and Health for Kids websites, KOOTH, ABL and Active Notts. As a trusted partner, schools know that services and resources recommended by the TETC team are of good quality and evidence-based. At a time when it is easy to access resources online, this 'quality assurance' function of the TETC team is important for schools, and thereby for the wellbeing of children.
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. Since the last report the SCIEO has:
 - carried out three external safeguarding reviews (none of these schools are now deemed as of concern regarding their safeguarding practices)
 - provided general safeguarding training to 533 school staff and educational professionals
 - enabled 242 Designated Safeguarding Leads to access regular network meetings (in future DSL network events will be run online meaning that greater numbers will be able to take part and benefit) and
 - provided guidance around general safeguarding enquiries to more than 179 settings.
12. Safeguarding practices in school continue to be supported by the TETC team through the development of model policies, audit tools, guidance documents, as well as the dissemination of key learning from serious case reviews and reports from the Children's Commissioner and other national bodies. All schools are regularly contacted directly with safeguarding updates and information.
13. Members of the TETC team support the Council's strategic approach to the various "threat" agendas through, for example working closely with the Violence Reduction Unit, the Mental Health in Schools Trailblazer, and School Wellbeing Recovery programme, the Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation Steering Group, the FGM cross-authority group, as well as playing a key role in developing and delivering multi-agency training for the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Children's Workforce development team. Currently, a member of the TETC team is working with Public Health colleagues to manage support to schools as part of the Council's Covid response.
14. 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 raised by schools and by other children's services. The team is currently working on producing district data profiles which will enable schools and other professionals working within particular localities to have a better understanding of what it is like to live in the communities they serve and the issues facing young people in their daily lives. Using health and crime data, this will also support schools in setting their curriculum intention when prioritising what needs to be taught as part of the revised statutory Relationships & Health Education (primary) and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (secondary).

15. The extensive work undertaken to support schools in preparing for the statutory implementation of RSHE has provided schools with access to a range of age-appropriate resources. Several schools have sought support for black students and parents who have found the murder of George Floyd and subsequent events traumatising. For example, over the last two terms the TETC team has had significant involvement with a number of schools where allegations of racism have been made. The team was able to support finding resolutions, and simultaneously work with the schools to develop resources which other schools in the future will be able to benefit from.
16. 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. The team has responded to more than 39 OQCs/ complex complaints to governors or other bodies during this reporting period and supported the Council's response to a number of Freedom of Information requests on sensitive topics. The team has also worked closely with the Corporate Communications team to support the promotion of positive news stories which enhance the reputation of the Council, including a social media campaign in support of key workers and their children.

Other Options Considered

17. No other options considered

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. 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

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.

Crime and Disorder Implications

20. The work of the team supports a multi-agency approach to some key crime and disorder agendas, including but not exclusive to: knife crime and youth violence, anti-social behaviour, child sexual exploitation; child criminal exploitation; radicalisation & extremism; hate crime; FGM; forced marriage and honour based abuse; and drugs. 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 criminal activity.

Data Protection and Information Governance

21. The team is not a case holding service and consultations are conducted anonymously. As such no personal data is held about specific individuals. Any resources or training content developed through the team's co-production work is also anonymised so no individual can be identified.

Financial Implications

22. The total cost of the TETC team is £365,330. The cost of the three School Health Hub Co-ordinator posts and the CSE Co-ordinator post is £192,561 and will be funded by Public Health until 31st March 2022. The cost of the remaining posts is £172,769 and will be contained within the Education, Learning & Skills staffing budget.
23. The work of the TETC team is best thought of as providing a universal service for the benefit of all Nottinghamshire children and young people regardless of where they are being educated. In this sense the TETC team fulfils a key role of the Local Authority to champion the safety, health and wellbeing of all Nottinghamshire's children. In providing this service it is important that charging for the service does not get in the way of schools, professionals and other organisations from seeking the advice guidance and access to the resources which the TETC makes universally available. The exceptions to this are where the TETC team is asked to carry out work, e.g. training or external safeguarding reviews, which a school might reasonably commission and pay for from another source, or do for themselves. In these circumstances the TETC team charge a daily rate roughly comparable to what is charged by other teams in Psychology Services. Over the reporting period July 2019 to December 2020 the income generated for this work totalled £15,699. The source of this income was £2,175 from Academies and £13,525 from maintained schools.

Human Rights Implications

24. The team seeks to support those working with children to uphold their rights by keeping them safe from exploitation and other forms of abuse and harm.

Implications in relation to the NHS Constitution

25. The team works to promote the physical and mental health of children and young people, with a focus on prevention and early intervention.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

26. Many aspects of the TETC team's focused work requires a conscious consideration of all the protected characteristics. The team is proactively co-ordinating working groups to develop anti-racist practice and trans inclusivity, as well as planned activity in respect of boys' emotional health and wellbeing and positive masculinity. Part of the team's remit is to address gender based violence, as well as challenge stereotypes which may result in young people not being identified as at risk of harm (for example boys at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation). Schools are supported to understand and fulfil their legal duties in relation to the general duty of the Public Sector Equality Duty, including advancing equality, fostering

positive relations between people with different characteristics, and tackling discrimination, harassment and victimisation. This is done through training and the provision of quality assured resources and intervention programmes.

Smarter Working Implications

27. The TETC team has made full use of the available technology to ensure effective service delivery during the current pandemic and will continue to work smartly moving forward.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

28. The TETC team's work is entirely focused on safeguarding vulnerable children and young people and some aspects of the work also relate to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults (for example, women who have undergone FGM; those who are subject to exploitation by criminal gangs).

Implications for Service Users

29. Although the TETC team does not work directly with individual young people and families, a core principle of the team's work is to ensure their voices inform policy and practice. Co-production work ensures the lived experiences of vulnerable children and parents/carers guides all aspects of both the team's work and that of our partners.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

30. The team makes best use of digital platforms and technology and is able to deliver much of the service offer remotely thus limiting its impact on the environment.

RECOMMENDATION/S

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.

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Constitutional Comments (AK 25/01/21)

31. This report falls within the remit of Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 27/01/21)

32. The total cost of the TETC team is £365,330. The cost of the three School Health Hub Co-ordinator posts and the CSE Co-ordinator post is £192,561 and will be funded by Public Health until 31st March 2023. The cost of the remaining posts is £172,769 and will be contained within the Education, Learning & Skills staffing budget of £8.028m.

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.

[Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 15th July 2019](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

C1440