

**29<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Agenda Item: 8**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES**

### **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE): MID-YEAR UPDATE 2018/19**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. Further to the annual report to Committee in September 2018, child sexual exploitation remains a priority area 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.

#### **Information**

2. The Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City cross-authority group (CSECAG) chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector for public protection provides oversight of work to address child sexual exploitation in the locality. The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Partnership (NSP) requires assurances that work is effectively addressing CSE in Nottinghamshire and currently receive a quarterly report of statistical information and an annual report.

#### **Key CSE data findings: Midway year Children's Social Care data (April – December 2018)**

	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>April – Dec 2018</b>
<b>Total children identified as potentially at risk of CSE (new and open cases)</b>	433	525	<b>433</b>
<b>New Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) referrals re CSE</b>	263	324	<b>261</b>
<b>CSE Risk Assessments completed</b>	335	439	<b>284</b>
<b>Children considered at CSE Strategy Meetings</b>	82	108	<b>40</b>
<b>Peak age range</b>	14-15	15 - 16	<b>14-17</b>

3. Nottinghamshire Police publish an annual CSE Problem Profile based on information from the Police and Children's Social Care which provides information on the scale and nature

of child sexual exploitation in Nottinghamshire (City and County). The most current profile was produced in October 2018 and this has now been circulated to CSECAG members for consideration.

4. According to the Police Problem Profile, 152 CSE related crimes were recorded by the Police in the whole year of 2018 in Nottinghamshire County. The current profile identifies that online CSE continues to be the prevalent form of CSE in Nottinghamshire County which is perpetrated predominantly by white males aged 17-20 yrs against predominantly white females aged 15-17 yrs. The key applications being used to perpetrate online exploitation continues to be Facebook but others of note are Snapchat and Instagram. Other applications identified as in use include: Bigo, Whatsapp, Musical.ly (now known as Tik Tok), Omegle, Google Hangouts, Video Call, One Night, KIK, Chat Avenue and Skype. It is also noted that a number of children were groomed via their Playstation/X-box. It is important that parents and carers are aware of these newly emerging social media platforms so that they can remain alert to the dangers of these compelling forums for children which have the opportunity to prey on their vulnerabilities. The details in the Police Problem Profile have been shared with partner agencies to ensure that awareness is being raised widely around these issues.
5. It remains the case that there are no identified organised crime groups in Nottinghamshire which are responsible for sexually exploiting children, however, there are a number of children in Nottinghamshire who have been sexually exploited by individuals either directly or on-line. Partner agencies are working closely to safeguard these children, disrupt any further activity and support victims. Police intelligence and partnership working has led to the recent arrests of a number of individuals in Nottingham City considered to be involved in an organised crime group. Several Nottinghamshire children have been linked to this group but not directly involved. The Police, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County partners have worked together to discuss victims and perpetrators identified by this operation for the purpose of arresting suspects and supporting victims.
6. Work continues in Nottinghamshire to address the threat of CSE through a range of measures to prevent CSE, protect children who are at risk of or experiencing CSE and provide support to those children who have been harmed. There are clear policies and procedures in place to address this issue and practices are now being seen to be embedded within Children's Social Care, schools and partner agencies. A Nottinghamshire representative also meets with a regional group to share initiatives and resources as well as ensuring that there are consistencies across the East Midlands in approach and response.

## **CSE Prevention**

7. The Tackling Emerging Threats to Children (TETC) team is continuing to raise the profile of the risk of CSE in schools across Nottinghamshire. It is positive that this work is now making more of an impact in primary schools rather than solely in secondary schools, particularly as children are exposed to social media from an early age. The TETC team has moved to a model of 'co-production' with pupils rather than participating in school assemblies which allows greater opportunity for meaningful dialogue about consent, friendships, healthy relationships and abuse.

8. The TETC team offers all schools in Nottinghamshire safeguarding support, guidance and resources. For those schools who take up this offer of support, the TETC team has commissioned a production by 'Total Insight' which provides workshops and performances to year 9 groups and their parents/carers to raise awareness of CSE as well as other emerging threats to children including County Lines, Child Criminal Exploitation, knife crime and youth violence and mental health issues. Not all schools have accepted this offer of support and the team continues to raise their profile across the County.
9. An agenda item for CSECAG over the last couple of years has been to raise the profile of young boys being at risk of CSE. Data sets do not necessarily identify this as a priority issue but research by Barnardo's has identified that this is an unreported and unidentified issue by parents and professionals. It is therefore encouraging that the Children Society has been successful with a recent bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner for funding to work cross authority with young boys considered to be at risk of CSE.
10. In regards to staff training, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Training is offered on a rolling program throughout the year which is delivered in partnership by Strategic Safeguarding, TECT, Police SEIU (Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit) and IMARA colleagues.
11. Work continues with the seven borough and district safeguarding and licensing leads in Nottinghamshire to raise awareness with licenced premises and taxi drivers about the threat of CSE and there has been recent involvement with the Security Industry Association to consider initiatives to extend this work to the night time economy.

## **CSE Protection**

12. Nottinghamshire's Pathway to Provision sets out a tiered response to assessing and protecting children at risk of abuse or neglect. The Family Service will work with children and families to address a range of vulnerabilities including parenting and family dysfunction which is often a vulnerability factor present for children exposed to CSE. The Family Service will also work with children identified as at low risk of CSE.
13. If a threshold is met for Children's Social Care intervention then more intensive work will be undertaken with the child and their family to protect them from the CSE risks identified. CSE risk assessments are completed for all children considered to be at risk of CSE. CSE strategy meetings are held when a child has been sexually exploited or there is evidence of a child being at risk of being sexually exploited and there may be an ongoing Police investigation. The Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel continues to meet monthly to review the children known to Children's Social Care and the Police who are at the highest risk of CSE and to think more strategically about ways to tackle any persistent challenges for children, including the disruption and prosecution of perpetrators.
14. The Concerns Network continues to meet bi-monthly to discuss referrals to Operation Striver. This is a proactive group made up of a wide range of statutory and non-statutory services that is able to raise awareness of suspected threats to children and locations of concern in Nottinghamshire. The presence of the Police CSE disruption team has provided a much more dynamic response to the concerns raised over the last year. The CSE disruption team has been active since April 2017 and its impact has been notable. The team consists of a Special Sergeant and four Special Constables. The team act quickly on

intelligence received from Police Public Protection Units and partner agencies with excellent results. The team work smartly to disrupt CSE by warning suspected perpetrators, serving child abduction warning notices (CAWN), implementing arrests, raising awareness with licensed premises where concerns are raised and assisting in the closure of establishments that are facilitating the activity of CSE. The CSE disruption team has recently served a CSE warning notice on a Nottingham City hotel which enforces a number of actions including mandatory training for staff and permission for PNC (Police National Computer) checks to be completed on any guest or employee.

### **Provision of support for children who have been sexually exploited**

15. The Children's Society is commissioned by Nottinghamshire Children's Social Care and Public Health to provide both focused support to children and their families affected by CSE (Safe Choices) and a therapeutic service to those children most traumatised by CSE (Safe Time).
16. Nottinghamshire Sexual Violence and Support Services provide a support service for children who have been raped or sexually assaulted. The East Midlands Children and Young People Sexual Assault Service (EMCYPAS) is based at the Queen's Medical Centre and offer comprehensive services from initial medical examination through to follow-up care, therapeutic support and support through court procedures. Nottinghamshire's CSE procedures require that any child requiring a S47 forensic medical examination must be arranged through this service.

### **Other Options Considered**

17. No other options have been considered.

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

18. Child sexual exploitation is a 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 Partnership 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 an annual report for 2018-19 in June 2019 on the work to address the threat of child sexual exploitation in Nottinghamshire.

**Laurence Jones**  
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## **Constitutional Comments (LW 10/04/19)**

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

## **Financial Comments (SAS 11/04/19)**

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 2018 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 17 September 2018

Children Missing from Home and Care update report 2019 - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

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

All.

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