

**17 September 2018****Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND  
RESOURCES****CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND CHILDREN MISSING FROM HOME  
AND CARE: ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18****Purpose of the Report**

1. Elected Members requested an annual report to the Children and Young People's Committee following high profile enquiries into child sexual exploitation and missing children in a number of local authorities. Child sexual exploitation remains a national priority following the recent court case in Huddersfield, the Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation Newcastle and the earlier Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation conducted by Alexis Jay in Rotherham in August 2014. The Jay report recommends corporate scrutiny and governance in place to oversee arrangements to address the risks of child sexual exploitation. This report provides the Children and Young People's Committee with an overview of the 2017/18 year and of current work to address child sexual exploitation and children missing from home and care and in Nottinghamshire.
2. The report seeks approval for the Committee to receive quarterly performance data, to be included in the quarterly performance reports to this Committee, and further six-monthly reports providing an overview of the work to address the threat of child sexual exploitation in Nottinghamshire and children missing from home or care.

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

3. Child sexual exploitation (CSE) and children missing from home and care continue to be high priority areas of work across agencies including the local authority in Nottinghamshire. The Child Sexual Exploitation Cross Authority Group (CSECAG), chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector (Public Protection), oversees CSE work in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City. Work concerning Children Missing from Home and Care is overseen by the County Missing Children Steering Group. Both groups report into Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB). Statistical information for both service areas is reported quarterly and annually to the NSCB.

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

4. Nottinghamshire Police publish an annual Problem Profile, based on information from the Police and Children's Social Care, that provides information on the scale and nature of Child Sexual Exploitation in Nottinghamshire. A refreshed Problem Profile is expected in

the autumn this year. The current profile, as reported to Committee in March 2018, showed that the majority of CSE was opportunistic on-line grooming of children perpetrated predominantly by white British males aged between 18 and 30 years. More recent information indicates there may be a shift towards a greater number of reports of potential offences involving direct contact with individuals. There has also been some recent evidence of the involvement of loosely connected individuals and these matters are currently under investigation. This data will be validated by the police and incorporated into the renewed problem profile. Committee will be updated accordingly in the next six monthly report. All agencies remain alert to the possibility of more organised abuse arising in Nottinghamshire and our collective responses remain robust. Some key data is shown below:

	2016/17	2017/18
<b>Total children identified as potentially at risk of CSE</b> <sup>*</sup> (new and open cases)	433	525
<b>New Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) referrals re CSE</b>	263	324
<b>CSE Risk Assessments completed</b>	335	439
<b>Children considered at CSE Strategy Meetings</b>	82	108
* Peak age range	14 – 15	15 - 16
<b>Children monitored at MASE</b>	N/A	65

5. In 2017/18, 525 individual children were identified by Children's Social Care as potentially being at risk of CSE. This is an increase on 2016/17 and while this could be seen as a concern, in the context of increasing national attention to the subject, it is thought to confirm the level of public and professional awareness of CSE as a potential risk to children. Of these, 324 children were new referrals to the MASH and 201 were existing open cases. During the same period 439 CSE risk assessments were completed leading to 108 strategy meetings being held to ensure investigations were co-ordinated and disruption, intervention and support was agreed on a multi-agency basis.
6. The Police maintain a database of Nottinghamshire children who have experienced or are vulnerable to CSE, and regular meetings are held to cross-reference the Police and Children's Social Care records, ensuring the database is appropriately updated. This allows professionals to review any patterns outside of the timescales of the official problem profile. Under-identification and reporting of male victims, minority groups and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) young people are some of the challenges identified. A sub-group of the cross-authority group has been tasked to identify specific actions in relation to this area and will report back to the next meeting of cross-authority group.
7. Under the governance of the strategic groups outlined in **paragraph 3** a number of partnerships operate in Nottinghamshire. The Concerns Network jointly led by Children's Social Care and the Police, continues to meet regularly to share reports and intelligence

sent to the Police. This local intelligence relating to potential CSE locations and perpetrators is relayed to operational staff to utilise in their local practice. Members include operational staff from Children's Social Care, Police Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit, District Councils, the voluntary sector, The Children's Society, Children Missing Officers, Early Help Unit, Tackling Emerging Threats to Children (TETC) Team, Residential Social Work staff, sexual health services and a private fostering agency. 54 local intelligence reports and a further 52 pieces of police intelligence were shared at the meetings held in 2017/18.

8. The **Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel**, MASE, has been running for 18 months. It is attended monthly by senior management representatives from Children's Social Care, Police, Health services including sexual health, The Children's Society, Safeguarding Lead for the District Councils and Education services. The Panel considers those children on the Police database deemed at high risk of CSE, those identified as perpetrators of exploitation and places of concern. This ensures interventions are coordinated, robust and effective. In 2017/18 there were 65 children reviewed at MASE until the CSE risk reduced and/or appropriate services were in place.
9. The **CSE and Licensing Group** consisting of the County Council safeguarding leads and the seven Borough and District councils meets bi-monthly. These meetings are well established and enable partners to develop a multi-agency approach to the continuing concerns about CSE across Nottinghamshire. The group has worked together successfully to ensure the vast majority of current taxi drivers across Nottinghamshire are trained to recognise and respond to all vulnerable passengers with a particular emphasis on CSE. Mandatory safeguarding training is in place for new and renewal licences. The imminent launch of a national database for those taxi drivers disqualified will assist in ensuring those drivers are not employed in other areas. More recently the group has agreed similar training for licensed premises and this training is underway and is delivered jointly with Police licensing colleagues. The same regulations (as apply to taxi drivers) do not apply to this group. Given the difficulties in requiring this group to attend training, plans are in place for information leaflets to be delivered to the premises by Licensing officers and Environmental Health officers in the course of their work, to encourage training and ensure the messages about CSE are disseminated appropriately.
10. There are a number of initiatives underway to educate children and young people about the risks of CSE. These include:
  - The Pintsize Theatre group delivering 50 performances of "LUVU2" to secondary schools and "Abigail's Story" to primary schools across the County.
  - The NSPCC, New Roots Housing and York St John University delivering the performance and workshop of 'It's Not Okay' in the north of the County. This reached 1,500 older teenagers in an interactive performance looking at grooming and exploitation.
  - The Police funded "Collaborate Digital" ran workshops on consent with pupils from special schools across Nottinghamshire and the City, inviting them to develop and enter a radio advert competition.
  - The TECT team has worked with children in selected primary and secondary schools to develop raps, poems and resources to address issues of online safety, harmful sexual behaviour and exploitation for use in schools.

11. Children's Social Care continues to undertake preventive and keeping safe work with children and their parents/carers who meet the threshold for Social Care involvement. Social Workers complete CSE risk assessments with the identified children, subsequent work is co-ordinated to address these risks and can include CSE Strategy Meetings attended by Children's Social Care, Police, Health, Education Services and The Children's Society. The Family Service also undertakes preventive and keeping safe work with those children not meeting the threshold for Social Care involvement.
12. The Children's Society remains the service commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council to provide both focused support to children and their families to those children most traumatised by sexual abuse including CSE. During 2017/18 they worked with 82 children and parents. The East Midlands Children and Young People's Sexual Assault Service launched recently and will provide medical care and assessment to those children who have been sexually assaulted and access to the Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advisors who offer support and advocacy. The Children's Society service will be available to provide therapeutic support to these children.
13. The NSCB considered the findings of an audit in June 2018 seeking to understand how well the Local Authority and partner agencies were undertaking their duties to prevent and respond to CSE through early identification of concerns and appropriate intervention to safeguard and protect children. Agencies were found to be confident in identifying CSE and ensuring participation of children and parents/carers in the majority of cases. There were examples seen of good practice in response and actions to address CSE, however areas for improvement were identified including in the consistency of response across the Authority. Work is nearing completion to revise cross-authority procedures to provide greater clarity of expectations and provide additional helpful guidance to staff with a view to strengthening practice. This revised guidance will feed into planned multi agency training.
14. Three NSCB one day training events using a revised programme were delivered to 139 delegates in 2017/18. The events were rated largely good and very well attended, a further three events have been scheduled for 2018/19. The 2017/18 quarterly NSCB What's New in Safeguarding included a CSE Update and screened the Leicestershire Police's production '*Kayleigh's love story*'. The core e-learning programme continues to be promoted and a further 515 courses have been accessed. The CSE cross-authority group also promoted CSE awareness across the Local Authority offices in the week leading up to the National CSE Awareness Day in March.

### **Children Missing from Home and Care**

15. Children Missing from Home and Care is co-ordinated by a Multi-Agency Steering group. A revised Missing from Home joint protocol has been completed and agreed by both County and City Safeguarding Children's Boards. Associated multi-agency training took place in April and May and was delivered by the Children Missing Officers and Police colleagues and evaluated positively.
16. The monthly multi agency Multiple Missing and Hotspots meeting considers and reviews those children who have been missing repeatedly to ensure all services are working to reducing the missing episodes. Addressing missing episodes of looked after children placed by other local authorities (OLAs) in to Nottinghamshire remains a challenge with a

limited uptake of the paid for service offered by Nottinghamshire for “return interviews” to investigate the circumstances in which these young people have gone missing. Work continues regionally and with specific authorities to address this.

17. As can be seen from the data below the total notifications of all children missing from home and care, including other local authorities, in 2017/18 has reduced slightly on 2016/17, as has the number of individuals this relates to. Spikes were seen in July and October but numbers remained relatively stable towards the end of the year. Boys continue to go missing more than girls; the age range of children going missing remains between 13 -17 years old with the peak at 15 years. 275 multi-agency meetings were requested of which 184 were recorded complete, this is a reduction on 2016/17.

	2016/17	2017/18
<b>Total notifications of Missing and Missing – no apparent risk*</b>	2662	2461
<b>*relating to individuals</b>	994	951
<b>*ratio males to females</b>	52:48	54:45
<b>*age range</b>	14 – 17	13 – 17
	Validated post year end 2016/17	
<b>Children missing from home</b>	705	695
<b>NCC Children missing from care</b>	163	140
<b>Other Local Authority Children missing from care</b>	145	119
<b>% Return Interviews required</b>	82	77
<b>% Return Interviews completed</b>	52	59
<b>% Multi-agency meetings required (275 total)</b>	12	11
<b>% Multi-agency meetings completed (184 total)</b>	74	67

18. 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. As previously reported to Committee, 100% completion of return interviews is very difficult to achieve as older children may refuse or parents may decline the service particularly where professional services are not already involved. Although there has been an increase in completed return interviews, it remains a priority to further increase the completion rate. A drop in the number of subsequent multi agency meetings held is an area receiving renewed management attention. Parenting issues, relationships with parents and peers and mental health issues remain the most frequent underlying reasons for going missing from home and care.

## **Key priorities for 2018-19**

19. The nature of these areas of work necessitates continuing development of effective partnership activity, refinement of processes and procedures and continued monitoring of local; intelligence. Our priorities for the coming year will be to:
- Continue to collaborate with the Police and partner agencies to produce an updated multi-agency problem profile of CSE in Nottinghamshire. This will inform ongoing work to identify and address CSE at the earliest opportunity.
  - Through CSECAG, work to highlight and address CSE in boys and minority groups.
  - Revise the CSE multi-agency procedures to ensure clarity of the process, following the findings of the CSE Audit.
  - To further refine the operation of and develop reporting from the MASE
  - To continue to work with County Licensing Officers to engage and train licensed premises in identifying and responding to CSE and vulnerability.
  - Develop early intervention strategies that will reduce the numbers of missing children having multiple missing occurrences.
  - Increase the quality of Return Interviews by supporting professionals to engage children in the process.
  - Build on existing close multi-agency relationships to further improve information sharing at the earliest opportunity to ensure children are found quickly.
  - Address Missing OLA through developing regional protocols and effective working arrangements with those local authorities who most use Nottinghamshire to place children.

## **Other Options Considered**

20. No other options have been considered

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

21. Agree future arrangements for the Committee to receive performance data and information on this work.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

22. 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**

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

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Committee:

- 1) agrees to receive quarterly performance data included in the quarterly performance reports to the Committee
- 2) agrees to receive six-monthly reports to provide an overview of the work to address the threat of Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care in Nottinghamshire.

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### **Constitutional Comments (LM 29/08/18)**

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

### **Financial Comments (SAS 29/08/18)**

25. 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.

None.

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

All.

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