

16th September 2016

Agenda Item: 2

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) AND CHILDREN MISSING FROM HOME AND CARE: ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Children's Trust on the progress of child sexual exploitation and children missing from home and care work within Nottinghamshire following the last report in September 2015.

Information and Advice

Strategic Partnerships and Governance

2. Child sexual exploitation and missing from home and care work continue to both 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 and missing children is through the County steering group. Information on both areas are reported to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board on a quarterly basis.

Child Sexual Exploitation

3. A further Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board multi-agency child sexual exploitation audit was completed during 2015/16. The conclusion was that compared to the previous year's audit there were improvements across all key areas of identification, response, intervention and engagement and a reduction in levels of risk. The conclusion was that awareness, knowledge and responses to child sexual exploitation are more embedded and again reinforced that holding a multi-agency strategy meeting linked to better outcomes.
4. The joint children's social care and police led Concerns Network (Operation Striver) is now in place within the County with the aim of sharing intelligence at the earliest opportunity between agencies relating to the possibility of child sexual exploitation. Intelligence may relate to locations of concern or suspicious activity by individuals or vehicles for example. Work has been undertaken to promote this resulting in 25 notifications during the year.
5. A communications strategy has also been developed to support and promote a cross authority, multi-agency approach to this issue.

6. The cross-authority multi-agency training strategy supported three face to face multi-agency training events during 2015/16 to 148 delegates, building on extensive previous years training. The core e-learning programme has continued to be promoted and a further 1,298 courses have been completed. The cross-authority group also promoted another annual conference.
7. As part of the prevention strand to tackling child sexual exploitation in 2015/16 we re-commissioned the Pintsize Theatre to tour with LUVU2 the specially commissioned play and workshop. There were 77 performances in total covering 41 schools and in addition some children's homes, professionals' only performances and two alternative education providers. The tour reached 7,112 pupils, 426 professionals and 26 parents and carers; in total 7,564 people. It has still been a challenge to engage with some faith schools, alternative and independent education providers as well as some foster carers and looked after children but we are taking steps to promote this again this year. The feedback from professionals and children was again very positive and further funding has been agreed for 2016/17. A further initiative has been commissioned for younger pupils (Years 6/7/8) which will involve them researching key messages about sexting (sharing sexual images through mobiles) and then developing a radio commercial. There is the potential to access 479 schools across the City and County with this enterprise.
8. Children's Social Care have led on the wider aspects of providing a more specialist service to schools which covers sexual exploitation as part of a wider brief about threats to children. When fully in place this will improve universal support to schools and pupils across lesson planning, workshops for staff, pupils, parents and carers. Early help support for schools to provide advice on individual cases is also available.
9. Specialist support to children who have been exploited or are at risk of exploitation was provided to 6 children by the NSPCC and Barnardo's worked with 44 children during the year. The Council funded the expansion of the Barnardo's service and by the end of 2015/16 three workers were in place. The service has now been re-commissioned and The Children's Society hold the contract as of 1 July 2016. The service has been extended to a wider cohort of children including care leavers and those children who need to be supported through a court process as well as supporting parents to safeguard their children. It will also, for the first time, provide therapeutic support to children on a short to medium term as part of a child's recovery. This second part of the service is funded by a Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group partnership.
10. Links to the seven district council safeguarding leads and licensing colleagues have continued and by the end of 2016 nearly 4,000 taxi drivers will have been trained by police and district council colleagues on child sexual exploitation and more general vulnerable person's safeguarding issues. A county wide policy on recruitment has also been adopted. Work to consider how to engage with the wider business communities, ie hotels and pubs, began during 2015/16 and is in its early stages.

Children who go Missing from home and care

11. A Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board audit of missing children work will be completed during late 2016/17. The police are currently re-structuring their functions to enable consistent practice across the City and County which will hopefully lead to further improvements. An additional Children Missing Officer (CMO) post was recruited to within

Children's Social Care during October 2015 to assist with the increased work load resulting from the changes to police definitions of missing.

12. Two Safeguarding Children Board missing from home and care multi-agency training events are being held during 2016/17.

Key data findings

13. The key data findings for 2015/16 are as follows:

Children potentially at risk of sexual exploitation

It is evident, and positive, that agencies are increasingly identifying where children 'may' be at risk of child sexual exploitation i.e. that is 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. As can be noted below the type of concern that is investigated by the police is split between face to face contact and no physical contact via on-line means.

- ❖ 501 individual children were identified as potentially being at risk through children's social care processes
 - Recognition has increased year on year and we are doing more to support children.
- ❖ 122 children were discussed at an initial CSE strategy meeting
 - 90% female,10% male.
 - Peak age 13-16 years old
- ❖ Police information confirmed that 69 cases were open to the police during 2015/16.
 - Risk level 1 (exploitation involving single perpetrator on-line): 32 cases / 46%.
 - Risk level 2 (exploitation involving physical contact/individual) 37 cases/ 54%.
 - There has been an increase in face to face exploitation cases.
 - There is no information to indicate that any children were the subject of organised or group sexual exploitation during this year.

Children Missing from Home and Care (2015/16)

14. The revised definitions of children who go missing continued to have a significant impact on the data for 2015/16 which was the first full year using the new system. That information has been compared to the 2013/14 data which pre-dates the new definitions.

Individual children who go missing	Home	% increase between dates	Notts Care	% increase between dates	Other Local Authority Care	% increase between 13/14 and 15/16
2013/14	538		124		78	
2015/16	701	30%	176	42%	138	77%

- ❖ 1015 individual children went missing from home and local authority care during 2015/16.
- ❖ The peak age of children going missing from home and care during 2015/16 was 13-17 years old.
- ❖ Of these individuals 45% were boys and 55% girls. Girls go missing more frequently than boys.
 - The frequency that children have gone missing has increased during 2015/16 which is likely to be related to improved reporting to and recording by the police.
 - The number of children going missing from home and care only once is approximately two thirds.
 - The numbers of children going missing more than five times has increased from 63 children (9%) in 2013/14 to 125 children (13%) in 2015/16.
 - Children who go missing from care go missing more frequently with the average amount of times rising from 3 to 4.9. For missing from home the average remained the same at 1.6.
- ❖ The majority of all children (home and care) return within 4 hours (61% home: 39% care) and certainly within 8 hours (74% home: 51% care). Looked after children go missing for longer periods of time.
- ❖ Despite the increased demand 77% of children missing from home had a return interview completed, 7% refused to engage but advice was given, 5% refused. Of looked after children 60% had a return interviews completed, a further 14% of children wouldn't engage but advice was provided and 8% of children refused to engage. Looked after children are often more difficult to engage, particularly if they go missed frequently. These figures are considered positive.
- ❖ The timeliness of return interviews (within 72 hours) has continued to improve and was 77% for Quarter 4. A further 9% were completed by 5 days and by 10 days 94% were completed. This is also considered to be positive as there are often challenges associated with completing the return interview.
- ❖ Other Local Authority Looked After Children compliance with completing return interviews continues to be an issue although the Family Service offered a service in some cases to support other local authorities and will be introducing a sold service imminently. The issue has also been raised through regional meetings and on a case by case basis.
- ❖ During 2015/16 290 multi-agency meetings were requested of which 223 or 77% were recorded complete. The majority were for children reported missing on more than 3 occasions (155) but for 61 children where they have been missing for 72 hours. Increasingly we are requesting and recording a review meeting due to ongoing missing episodes (71).
- ❖ The reasons for going missing have remained similar with key issues linked to arguments around boundaries, parental relationships, sibling difficulties and other key areas such as boyfriend/girlfriend problems 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 sexual exploitation, associating with adults who may pose a risk and increased likelihood of offending behaviour.

Key priorities for 2016/17

15. Nottinghamshire continues to have robust multi-agency arrangements in place for responding both operationally and strategically to children who go missing who are being exploited or at risk of exploitation although there is still room for ongoing improvement.
16. The key priorities for 2016/17 are set out below and may be added to as new priorities emerge.

Child sexual exploitation

- ❖ Continue to develop the data set for reporting to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board.
- ❖ Continue to build a local profile of child sexual exploitation.
- ❖ Continue to develop the communication strategy.
- ❖ Establish if a multi-agency MASE is required and viable within the County.
- ❖ To monitor the training of taxi drivers and develop engagement with licensing and other businesses

Missing

- ❖ Deliver planned Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Board training and utilise other opportunities to promote good practice messages i.e. attend team meetings.
- ❖ Complete a Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board multi-agency audit to evaluate current practice and compare to the previous audit.
- ❖ Ensure the voice of the children who go missing is listened to.
- ❖ Ensuring connectivity to schools on the broader Children Missing Education (CME) agenda.
- ❖ Continue to improve intelligence sharing with the police.

Other Options Considered

17. As this report is for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. The Children's Trust should continue to have scrutiny and oversight of the developments to further develop the response to child sexual exploitation and children missing from home and care within Nottinghamshire.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. 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 only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, 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:

- 1) progress made regarding developments in the response to child sexual exploitation and missing children within Nottinghamshire is noted

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Terri Johnson
Service Manager, Safeguarding Children (Strategic)
T: 0115 9773921
E: terri.johnson@nottscc.gov.uk