

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION - UPDATE REPORT

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REASON FOR ITEM

This report provides an update of the progress made in the implementation of the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

To note the progress made in the Implementation of the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and future plans since the last update to the Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee in October 2015.

INFORMATION

1. Background

- 1.1 The sexual exploitation of children and young people is a form of child sexual abuse. The following description of child sexual exploitation has been supplied in the guidance provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families:

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g., food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

- 1.2 Sexual exploitation results in children and young people suffering harm, and causes significant damage to their physical and mental health. Some young people may be supported to recover whilst others may suffer serious life-long impairments which may, on occasion, lead to their death, for example through suicide or murder.
- 1.3 A London Borough of Hillingdon CSE Strategy was developed with and signed off by the Hillingdon Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) to ensure that the

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individual agencies work effectively together to prevent CSE, intervene early when risks are identified, help, protect and support children who are being exploited and determinedly pursue the perpetrators. The CSE Strategy was launched to Children's Social Care and partner agencies on 15 June 2015. The Strategy aims to build on the pro-active multi-agency work which is already undertaken in Hillingdon by providing a framework for all professionals working with children and young people in the Borough to deliver a programme designed to raise awareness of CSE in age appropriate ways and provide them with the appropriate life skills in order to prevent them becoming involved in sexual exploitation.

2. Overview and progress

2.1 Since the update to this Committee in October 2015 two pieces of CSE audit and review have been undertaken. In February 2016 Internal Audit (IA) undertook an assurance audit of Child Sexual Exploitation. In April 2016 Hillingdon completed a second peer review with the same London Local Authority who completed the peer review at the end of 2014.

2.2 The overall IA assurance rating was reasonable in relation to governance arrangements for CSE.

2.3 The internal audit assurance levels and definitions are as follows:

Assurance Level	Definition
Substantial	There is a good level of assurance over the management of the key risks to the Council objectives. The control environment is robust with no major weaknesses in design or operation. There is positive assurance that objectives will be achieved.
Reasonable	There is a reasonable level of assurance over the management of the key risks to the Council objectives. The control environment is in need of some improvement in either design or operation. There is a misalignment of the level of residual risk to the objectives and the designated risk appetite. There remains some risk that objectives will not be achieved.
Limited	There is a limited level of assurance over the management of the key risks to the Council objectives. The control environment has significant weaknesses in either design and/or operation. The level of residual risk to the objectives is not aligned to the relevant risk appetite. There is a significant risk that objectives will not be achieved.
No	There is no assurance to be derived from the management of key risks to Council objectives. There is an absence of several key elements of the control environment in design and/or operation. There are extensive improvements to be made. There is a substantial variance between the risk appetite and the residual risk to objectives. There is a high

risk that objectives will not be achieved.
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2.4 The audit executive summary noted:

- That significant work has been undertaken to improve CSE Prevention within the Borough, particularly through the appointment of the CSE Prevention Manager who has played an active role in the development of the CSE agenda. A Hillingdon Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) CSE Prevention and Intervention Strategy has been created during 2015, which is in line with the Pan London CSE Operating Protocol, which included an action plan. The strategy and action plan have been signed up to by the multiple agencies, with efforts being made to implement and follow up on actions assigned.
- A noteworthy amount of effort has also been put into developing multi agency stakeholder awareness and reporting of CSE cases. However, we feel that this could be brought together with further operational guidance to ensure that all relevant staff, including social workers and team managers, are aware of their roles, responsibilities and obligations in relation to CSE.
- We also note that Multi Agency Planning (MAP) and Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) groups have been formed, as per the Pan London CSE Operating Protocol, with regular meetings taking place to discuss operational and strategic actions to be taken. We did note however that attendance at some meetings has not been as consistent as desired and feel that the CSE agenda needs to be embedded further within the day-to-day activities of the social worker and team managers.
- Efforts have also been made to develop intelligence through the development of Protocol (Electronic data system) to ensure data is able to be recorded, however further work is required in order gather intelligence in order to assist effective decision making. Our audit testing did identify that there was no Information Sharing Protocol in place between partner agencies which needs to be developed to assist in safe, effective and appropriate information sharing. We also noted that intelligence is being developed through close working with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), police representation and mapping exercises which help to provide a better understanding of the profile of CSE within the Borough.

2.5 All the recommendations from the IA have been progressed and implemented which include:

- A more comprehensive Victim Support Policy which contains post-trial support for victims
- A CSE process document has been developed and is given to all workers in their induction and through ongoing CSE training

- The new local DCI attends all MASE meetings as well as Police colleagues from the MASH, MISPER unit and Central CSE unit
- The MASE Terms of Reference have been updated to include named roles and substitutes to attend in the absence of key members
- A Hillingdon Information Sharing Protocol has been developed from Working Together and Pan London guidance
- A 'drop-down' and specific CSE risk assessments are live on LCS. Data can now be pulled from Protocol
- Reporting is addressed at the CSE sub-group reporting into the LSCB Operational Board

2.6 In October 2015, the London Safeguarding Board and ALDCS agreed to undertake a formal review of progress around CSE in the capital. In Hillingdon a Peer Review was completed in April 2016 this was undertaken by the same London Local Authority who undertook the first CSE Peer Review in Hillingdon in September 2014. The review included case file audits and a self-assessment using the Ofsted Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) framework.

2.7 The Hillingdon JTAI self-assessment identified the following good practice developments:

- Hillingdon has created a SCE resource pack which is sent out to professionals
- The CSE Prevention Manager delivers Introduction to CSE training throughout the year and attends various locations to deliver training in order to raised awareness in the borough and meet service need
- Mapping exercise of young people at risk or involved in serious youth violence and their vulnerabilities and the links to victims of CSE locally was noted as good practice

2.8 The Peer Review noted that there had been good progress made since the last review in raising awareness of CSE in the borough and that a lot of effort has been directed to multi-agency training with the intention of strengthening the multi-agency response to safeguarding children at risk of CSE.

2.9 Further notable improvements include:

- Designated Detective Sergeant and Constable in the MASH which has enabled a prompt response to CSE level 1 concerns
- Operational working together between partner agencies has improved significantly
- A Children/Young people's profile template supports social workers to update the MASE panel. Allocated social workers and their managers present cases to MASE
- The CSE Prevention Manager delivers Introduction to CSE training throughout the year to all agencies and attends various locations to deliver training in order to raise awareness
- Hillingdon has created a CSE resource pack which is sent out to professionals

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3. Progress to Date

3.1 Prevention

The CSE Strategy has been disseminated to all key partner agencies and uploaded to the LSCB website. All professionals have access to the CSE Risk Assessment and there is a clear referral pathway to Children's Social Care.

A CSE training support session has been provided to parents/carers and the young person known to be at risk of CSE. This way of creative working by the CSE Manager has evidenced that the working relationship with the parents/carers and the young person raises awareness, supports safeguarding as well as enhancing engagement with professionals.

CSE training continues to be delivered to multi-agency partners. The in house CSE training is delivered on a rolling programme via the LSCB throughout the year. Bespoke CSE Training is also delivered in order to meet the service needs of an agency and/or the client group.

Since the last report a further 350 professionals have been trained in CSE. The CSE training is updated regularly and now includes information and advice regarding perpetrator behaviours.

Data from contacts received into MASH, relating to CSE, FGM, Serious Youth Violence, Radicalisation, Missing and Trafficked is now being collected.

This data supports building and understanding of the local CSE profile. The current local profile is peer on peer abuse. This information has been shared with the Early Intervention Team who are able to provide a number of targeted programmes and support for children/young people and their families

3.2 Protection

The CSE Operating Protocol is currently being updated by a London wide task and finish group under the auspices of the London Safeguarding Children's Board and a revised version should be ready early 2017.

The pilot of six weekly Multi-agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel meetings, as oppose to 4 weekly, has begun. During the six weeks the CSE Manager reviews actions and supports practitioners to prepare and present their case. Feedback is positive. Panel members of MASE are in full agreement to meet during the six weeks if an urgent matter regarding a young person arose. The six week interval is to provide sufficient time for meaningful intervention which includes disruption tactics by Police colleagues.

3.3 Prosecution

The pre-trial plan for a child/young person and their family has been updated and now includes an post-trial plan of continued support.

Information from previous prosecutions is disseminated to Senior Managers, with an expectation to share with staff as part of learning and development.

4. Suggested Committee Activity

To note the work being undertaken to implement the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy
The Committee may wish to seek further updates in relation to progress made.