

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

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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

1. To note the progress made in the Implementation of the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and future plans.

INFORMATION

1. Background

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.

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.

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the media exposure of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) which has heightened awareness of the issue amongst statutory agencies as well as amongst members of the public. Serious Case Reviews have looked at the way that certain cases have been handled by the responsible authorities elsewhere in the country. This has highlighted the need for all organisations to look at their practices and procedures and, most importantly, to use the lessons learnt to inform the further development of our joint work on child sexual exploitation.

A London Borough of Hillingdon CSE Strategy has since been developed with and signed off by the Hillingdon Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) to ensure that the 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

A CSE Action Plan has been incorporated into the CSE Strategy based around the 3Ps model: Prevention, Protection and Prosecution. This Action Plan identifies the work that will need to be progressed and clearly highlights all responsibilities that have been agreed by the partner agencies. The Action Plan also includes a requirement to ensure that appropriate pathways and therapeutic support are available for those young people at risk of CSE.

New systems have been implemented to ensure CSE concerns can be registered and monitored. Information gathered in the community about CSE and statistical information provided by partners is now being recorded centrally. It is recognised that this database of information will need to be built upon to record a range of different data sets such as information in relation to sexual health, police prosecutions and children that go missing from school.

As part of scrutiny and further oversight children and young people known to be at risk of CSE are tracked and reviewed at the monthly Multi-Agency Professionals Meeting (MAP). MAP is chaired by the Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance and attended by all partners. New cases are referred to the panel through the CSE Prevention Manager. Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Meetings (MASE) are convened monthly and chaired by local Borough Police at a rank not below Inspector. MASE is the driver for agreeing the appropriate operational activity to tackle CSE threats, linking in with other areas and providing information to inform problem profiles and Hillingdon Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

The LSCB has established a multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation sub-group, which will include other relevant areas of concern such as missing, trafficked, Female Genital

Mutilation (FGM), radicalisation and serious youth violence and drug related children/young people to coordinate and monitor the delivery of an annual action plan with key partners. A number of key agencies including the Police, Children's Services, Education, Health, the voluntary sector and the Youth Offending Service are represented. Its key functions are:

- Scope the scale of the problem within Hillingdon by collecting and monitoring local data
- Share responsibility among members for the coordination and delivery of the CSE action plan
- Report to LSCB on progress, highlighting any specific barriers or areas of risk in implementing action plan
- Raise awareness of sexual exploitation, missing, trafficked and gang related children/young people within agencies and communities
- Encourage the reporting of concerns about sexual exploitation, missing, trafficked and gang related children/young people
- Support the identification of training and awareness needs
- Disseminate guidance and examples of good practice across sector

3. Progress to Date

Prevention

The CSE Strategy and Action Plan were launched on 15 June 2015, as part of the prevention key action. 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.

CSE awareness training has been delivered to the following professionals:

- **Children's Social Care** - Service Managers, Team managers, social workers, youth workers, residential managers and staff, foster carers, Child Protection Chairs and Independent Reviewing Officers, Early Intervention Team, Key Working Service and Youth Offending Service
- **Health** - Hospital Trustee Board members, midwives, paediatric consultants, A&E paediatric consultants and nurses, minor injuries unit, sexual health clinical staff, diabetic consultants, senior nursing staff, school nurses
- **Education** - Head Teachers conference, child protection leads
- **Metropolitan Police** - Borough CID and MASH
- **Housing** - housing officers
- **Community workshops** - female residents of LBH

- **Councillors** at Members Development Day

Over the last eight months approximately 700 professionals, 30 female residents and Councillors have received CSE awareness training by the CSE Prevention Manager. A corporate membership with the National Working Group (NWG) has been commissioned for all CSC staff who works directly with children and young people.

'Chelsea's Choice' theatre production has been commissioned and is available for bookings for all Secondary Schools, year 10 (see point 4 for detail).

Progress continues to be made nationally with regard to including CSE within the PHSE curriculum in order to engage with children and young people to raise awareness.

Increased awareness of CSE with regard to the night time economy is being progressed by the Borough Metropolitan Police.

Missing child/young person from home/care policy continues to be embedded into practice. An update on missing children/young people policy was delivered to the Corporate Parenting Board. Feedback was positive.

Continued support, advice and monitoring is provided to CSC staff and other professionals regarding CSE, missing, trafficked, serious youth violence and FGM, by the CSE Prevention Manager.

IT will be adding FGM, serious youth violence and radicalisation to the contact drop down of gathering information in order to ensure safeguarding and risk assessment of information is appropriately managed. This will also inform data performance of subject areas of concern relating to the CSE strategy.

Protection

The CSE Operating Protocol 2014 has been disseminated to all professionals to aid risk assessing of children and young people at risk of CSE. A review took place in March 2015 and the updated version has been sent to all professionals.

Cross border safeguarding of children and young people at risk of CSE is monitored by a Team Manager and has the oversight of MAP/MASE monthly panel meeting.

Oversight and scrutiny at the MAP/MASE monthly meetings promotes the safeguarding of children and young people who are suffering and or at risk of CSE.

The CSE Prevention Manager works closely with UK Border Force and has been present during operations at Heathrow tracking children and young people at risk of CSE, FGM and trafficking.

Prosecution

A pre-trial plan is in place for any child or young person who has to attend a CSE Trial. This plan also includes support to family and Children Social Care staff.

As part of working together the Metropolitan Police continue to use their disruption tactics against subjects of concern/perpetrators who pose a risk to children/young people where there is a concern of CSE.

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

Significant progress has been made in the Prevention, Protection and Prosecution key actions of the CSE Strategy. LSCB has ensured that the tools to aid professionals in risk assessing a children or young people who may be at risk of CSE are effective, following the guidance of the CSE Prevention Manager.

4. Next Steps

- A CSE training programme for 2015/16 has been developed which includes awareness raising for young people and their parents/carers in secondary schools, special educational needs schools and pupil referral units through 'Chelsea's Choice'. 'Chelsea's Choice' is a hard-hitting applied theatre production that has proven highly successful in raising awareness of the issues surrounding Child Sexual Exploitation. The play is followed by a Q&A/plenary session exploring the issues raised.
- Operation Makesafe is an initiative to identify potential victims of Child Sexual Exploitation with the assistance of business owners/premises where CSE has historically taken place. This will include hotels, taxi, fast food restaurants, and licensed premises. This is not an exhaustive list.
- CSE awareness training is provided to staff at these premises in relation to the warning signs for CSE and what actions should be taken if they are concerned about a child's safety or concerned about suspicious behaviour or activity on their premises.
- If concerned the business community are encouraged to ring 101 and quote Operation Makesafe where they will receive an appropriate police response. The Local Safeguarding Board has signed up to this initiative and it is due to be launched in the coming weeks.

- A female Met Police officer has been appointed to the CSE role based in MASH. The Police officer will be undertaking mainly office based operational tasks and some initial home visits to potential victims of CSE.
- Assurance meetings with LSCB have taken place regarding other subject areas of concern which include FGM, trafficked and radicalisation.
- Six weekly meetings will continue regarding the growing concern of drugs and serious youth violence in Hillingdon and outside of the borough.
- Annual programme to support CSE awareness Day on 18 March 2016.
- CSE champions in Children's' Social Care (CSC), Early Intervention and partner agencies.
- Data performance for CSE within CSC has been collated from the point of contact. In the past 12 months, 80 contacts have been received where a CSE concern has been raised.
- A CSE audit is due to be sent to all partner agencies to complete within a set timescale. LSCB are leading in gathering all the information from the audit.

5. Suggested Committee Activity

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