

10 March 2015		ITEM: 5
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Child Sexual Exploitation – Update		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non key	
Report of: Andrew Carter		
Accountable Head of Service: Andrew Carter		
Accountable Director: Carmel Littleton. Director of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the Children's Social Care, CSE Action Plan previously presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11.11.14.

This report also provides an update on current actions taken by Children's Social Care in response to the Ofsted Thematic Inspection - The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 This report has been requested by the Committee and is for the purpose of updating the committee on progress against the CSE Action Plan.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Please see the attached report presented to the 11.11.14 Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 Since the publication of the Jay Report, Ofsted have published the outcome of their thematic review of CSE – The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it? (17.11.14)

2.3 The Ofsted Thematic makes the following key findings:

2.3.1 Strategic leadership

- full responsibilities to prevent child sexual exploitation, to protect victims and to pursue and prosecute the perpetrators are not being met
- the pace to meet statutory duties is too slow
- local arrangements are poorly informed by local issues and self-assessment do not link up with other local strategic plans
- specific training - is of good quality but it is not always reaching those that need it most

2.3.2 Performance management

- local authorities are not collecting or sharing with their partners the information they need in order to have an accurate picture of the full extent of child sexual exploitation in their area
- not all local authorities and LSCBs evaluate how effectively they are managing child sexual exploitation cases

2.3.3 Findings from practice

- formal child protection procedures are not always followed
- screening and assessment tools are not well or consistently used
- plans are not robust: CIN are poor; child protection and looked-after children plans vary in quality; no contingency plan in place if the initial plan was not successful
- plans for CIN are not routinely reviewed
- management oversight is not strong enough to ensure cases are always being properly progressed or monitored in line with the plan
- a dedicated child sexual exploitation team does not always ensure that children receive an improved service

2.3.4 Disrupting and prosecuting perpetrators

- full range of powers to disrupt and prosecute perpetrators are not being used

2.3.5 Missing children

- too many children do not have a return interview following a missing episode

- not cross-referencing CSE information with frequently absent from school even when the correct protocols are used, too many children still go missing

2.4.1 The Ofsted Thematic made the following recommendations for local authorities

- improve management oversight of assessments, plans and case review arrangements
- every child returning from a missing episode is given a return interview; set of standards; information centrally collated
- schools and the local authority cross-reference absence information with risk assessments for individual children and young people
- establish a targeted preventative and self-protection programme on child sexual exploitation for looked after children

2.4.2 Local authorities and partners:

- develop and publish a CSE action plan; progress should be regularly shared with strategic boards and senior leaders
- proactive sharing of information and intelligence
- consider using child sexual exploitation assessment tools
- have sufficient therapeutic support available
- experiences of victims and families should inform strategies and plans
- enable professionals to build stable, trusting and lasting relationships with children and young people
- effectiveness of local schools in raising awareness

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 In response to the Ofsted recommendations we have:

3.1.1 Improved management oversight of assessments, plans and case review arrangements

3.1.2 A review of all current cases of suspected CSE and medium to high risks of CSE is ongoing as set out in the previous report to committee on 11.11.15. The review will look back at cases up to 5 years previous to 2014.

3.1.3 A dedicated Senior Social Worker for CSE cases is being recruited to strengthen our assessment, planning and review arrangements.

3.2 Every child returning from a missing episode is given a return interview; set of standards; information centrally collated

3.2.1 'Returning interviews' have been commissioned from Open Door and all young people are offered independent interviews.

3.3 Schools and the local authority cross-reference absence information with risk assessments for individual children and young people

3.3.1 Children missing education are closely monitored by Children's Services. A weekly report is provided to the DCS and monitored to ensure that children are in appropriate educational provision and safeguarded. Children missing education are considered at the Children Missing Panel where there are additional concerns about their welfare.

3.4 Establish a targeted preventative and self-protection programme on child sexual exploitation for looked after children

3.4.1 We are consulting with partners to develop an appropriate programme and aim to launch this from April 2015.

3.5 Local authorities and partners:

3.5.1 Develop and publish a CSE action plan; progress should be regularly shared with strategic boards and senior leaders. A local CSE Action Plan and revised Strategy CSE are in place.

3.5.2 Proactive sharing of information and intelligence

Clear information sharing procedures are in place and supported by the MASH. A review of the MASH is currently underway and will assess the effectiveness of information sharing with recommendations for improvements.

3.5.3 Consider using child sexual exploitation assessment tools

Child Sexual Exploitation risk assessment toolkits are in place and their use is being monitored. Children identified as a medium to high risk are referred to the Missing & CSE Panel.

3.5.4 Have sufficient therapeutic support available

Targeted & effective support for victims is available from SERICC.

3.5.5 Experiences of victims and families should inform strategies and plans

We are working with families and voluntary organisations to ensure that our strategies and plans are informed by the experiences of victims and their families.

3.5.6 Enable professionals to build stable, trusting and lasting relationships with children and young people

We continue to promote and develop relationship based social work and direct work with children and young people to allow meaningful relationships.

3.5.7 Effectiveness of local schools in raising awareness

Extensive e-safety and awareness raising campaigns have and continue to be undertaken with schools.

4. **Reasons for Recommendation**

4.1 To continually review and ensure the effectiveness of local responses to CSE.

5. **Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 N/A

6. **Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

To be effective strategies to disrupt and prevent CSE must incorporate the full functions of the Council and its partners.

7. **Implications**

7.1 **Financial**

Implications verified by **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager

There are no specific financial implications to this report. The recruitment of a specialist Social Worker will be financed from existing resources.

7.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Principal Solicitor Children's Safeguarding

This report is for information only and there are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development and Equalities Manager

CSE procedures must equally protect boys (young men) and girls (young women) and respond appropriately to their needs based on their racial, religious, cultural, linguistic, sexual orientation or other needs.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

There are no other implications to this report.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

**Ofsted Thematic Report on CSE
11.11.14 Overview and Scrutiny Report on CSE 'Responses to the Jay Report'.
CSE Action Plan**

9. Appendices to the report

- **Ofsted Thematic Report on CSE**
- **11.11.14 Overview and Scrutiny Report on CSE 'Responses to the Jay Report'.**
- **CSE Action Plan**

Report Author:

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