



To:

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 10 December 2014

Subject:

Briefing note on Child Sexual Exploitation

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To provide information on the local context and approaches to Child Sexual Exploitation in Coventry including:
- Background, context and definition of Child Sexual Exploitation
 - A description of the proposed Child Sexual Exploitation team including its makeup, role and function
 - Local processes and procedures
 - How referrals will be identified
 - How the team fits into the existing structure
 - What data is available locally, how robust it is and how it is being used

2 Recommendations

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee to note the progress to date and to identify any further recommendations / action for the Cabinet Member.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a national issue which requires a multi-agency response. The key publications are highlighted below with links.

LGIU summary of Jay Report in Rotherham <http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/child-sexual-exploitation-in-rotherham-alexis-jay-report/>

CLG Select Committee Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmcomloc/648/648.pdf>

Ofsted Report

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/t/The%20sexual%20exploitation%20of%20children%20it%20couldn%E2%80%99t%20happen%20here%2C%20could%20it.pdf>

3.2 Recommendations of the OFSTED thematic inspection have also been considered:

- It is proposed that the 30 current 'live' CSE cases will be reviewed independently to ensure that all these have been correctly assessed, and effective safety plans are in place.
- All young people who are missing from home and care are currently subject to return home interviews undertaken by the Integrated Youth Support Service and from December interviews for LAC young people will be undertaken by Barnados as an independent agency
- The CSE team manager will ensure a review of the missing process in line with Ofsted recommendations

4 National definition of child sexual exploitation: (National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People, 2008)

- 4.1 "The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person/s) receive something as a result of performing, or having others perform on them, sexual acts. This may include food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts, money or affection.
- 4.2 Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition (for example, persuasion to post sexual images on line, or on mobile phones) and with no immediate payment or gain.
- 4.3 In all cases, those exploiting the child or young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic resources."

5 Local context:

- 5.1 The Police Public Protection Unit (PPU) has re-organised under Service Transformation and now has a specific CSE Central Team based in Birmingham. This team is tasked to target high risk offenders. Locally the Child Abuse Team manages investigations of CSE and works closely with the Local Policing Unit (LPU) in targeting perpetrators and identifying risk locations. CSE is currently a Force priority and is discussed at daily tasking meetings where Neighbourhood and Response Teams are tasked in high risk locations.
- 5.2 A regional problem profile is currently being produced which will further inform our local understanding and approaches.
- 5.3 In January 2015, Coventry will be the first City in the region to commence a multi-agency Perpetrator Forum where CSE offenders will be case managed. Coventry was also the first City to develop CSE and Children's Missing Operational Group (CMOG) which was highlighted as an area of good practice during the Ofsted inspection. This is a Case Management Forum for victims/potential victims of CSE and has been seen as best practice and replicated across the region.

6 Coventry's response

- 6.1 A dedicated multi-disciplinary team is being established to respond to and oversee child sexual exploitation in Coventry. This team will comprise of the following staff:
- 1 Service Manager who will also be responsible for the management of the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

- 2 Qualified Social Workers
- 2 Children & Family Workers
- 1 x Police rep Sergeant
- 2 x Specialist CSE Youth Workers from Integrated Youth Support Service and 1 detached Youth Worker.
- Links to Community Safety Team via Child sexual violence and DVA Co-ordinator
- 1 Business Service Support Officer

6.2 Discussions are also taking place with the Clinical Commissioning Group regarding a health representative.

6.3 The team will be co-located alongside the MASH and the Referral and Assessment Service on the third floor of Christ Church House.

7 Role and function of the team

7.1 The team will provide a central point of contact for all professionals and develop a centre of expertise re CSE for the city. The team will receive and review all CSE risk assessments and link with the MASH discussions where appropriate. The team will generate the agenda for Children Missing Operational Group (CMOG), ensure a presence at meetings and contribute to the development of effective child safety plans. The current arrangements for the Children Missing Operational group (CMOG) are due to be reviewed in line with expected revised regional guidance, and links will be made between CMOG and children missing from school group.

7.2 A member from the team will attend all individual and complex strategy meetings where CSE is a concern. Social Workers will be trained to undertake 'Achieving Best Evidence' (ABE) interviews to assist with joint investigations with Police in complex and organised cases. In addition, the team will develop methodologies of direct interventions and advise practitioners across early help and social care. They will deliver direct interventions to young people and families affected by CSE and provide support to other case holders. The team will be required to provide a critical lens on children homes and placements.

7.3 They will support victims through Police investigations and at Court and will assist with collection, collation and analysis of information and data to inform problem profiling and strategy planning. Finally they will assist with awareness raising and training on CSE across the city.

7.4 In addition, all youth workers in Integrated Youth Support Services have been trained on 'signs and symptoms' for CSE and targeted detached work takes place in identified problem locations. Young people identified as at risk receive intensive one to one support from a specialist youth worker, as part of a safety plan.

7.5 Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre provides post abuse counselling for young victims, and support services need to be developed and reviewed as the extent of need becomes clear. At present there is a need identified for specialist therapeutic support.

7.6 Within the CSE Delivery Plan there is a comprehensive training plan with specific focus on different communities and those who may be particularly vulnerable.

8 Processes and Procedures

- 8.1 Processes and procedures are currently being developed. These will take into account best practice from other areas and reflect learning from the Jay Report and Communities and Local Government Committee.
- 8.2 The team will act as a point of triage, receiving the completed risk assessments and notifications out of hours, and coordinating the appropriate response based on the current early help and safeguarding processes. Referrals will come from front line practitioners in all agencies across the City and may be identified through other forums.

9 How the team fits in existing structures

- 9.1 The team will be co-located within RAS and MASH in Christchurch House, where Integrated Youth Support Service and Community Safety are also based. They will support workers both in early help and social care, and will have active links with CAF Co-ordinators and Safeguarding. The team will sit within Children's Social Care.

10 What data is available locally?

- 10.1 Since July 25th 2014, 80 children who have missing/CSE concerns have been discussed at CMOG triage; of these 57 have progressed for full multi-agency discussion at CMOG.
- 10.2 A local database is under development within the Safeguarding Service which identifies all young people known or suspected to be affected by CSE currently. Information is being collated on connections between young people, named adults and locations to assist the problem profiling and responses. There are currently 30 girls on this data base and a number of hotspot areas have been highlighted.
- 10.3 The CSE delivery plan contains a range of actions including the need for a robust problem CSE profile. The Leader of the Council, along with regional partners, Local Authorities, have signed up to the regional framework for CSE "See me, Hear me" and Coventry's Delivery plan reflects the key principles of the framework, as well as taking into account key learning from Rotherham. Coventry has recently launched a trial of an agreed risk assessment tool for all new cases identified, and existing cases are being reviewed.

11 CSE and Missing Delivery/Action Plan

- 11.1 The Coventry CSE and Missing Delivery/Action Plan were endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board in October 2014. This will be presented to Cabinet Member in December/January. Delivery of the actions within the plan will be overseen by the CSE Strategic Working Group and report to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Yolanda Corden
Assistant Director
024 7683 1901