

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SAFEGUARDING MEMBER PANEL

Thursday 7 April 2016

Present: Councillor E Hill (in the Chair)
Councillors Ahmed, Allison, Holmes, K Pinnock, Bellamy (Observer)

In attendance: Sarah Callaghan, Director for Children and Young People
Nicole Hutchinson, Area Manager for Yorkshire (Children's Society)
Abdou Sidibe, Business Development Lead (Children's Society)
Osman Khan, Superintendent (West Yorkshire Police)
Ian Mottershaw, Detective Inspector (West Yorkshire Police)
Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

Apologies: Carly Speechley and Pauline Martin

1 Minutes of previous meeting

The Panel considered the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 March 2016.

AGREED:-

That the Minutes of the meeting on 3 March be agreed as a correct record.

2 Update Report on Historic CSE Cases (Including Progress) and Prosecution of Perpetrators of CSE

The Panel welcomed Osman Khan, Superintendent (West Yorkshire Police) and Ian Mottershaw, Detective Inspector (West Yorkshire Police) to the meeting and considered an update on historic cases of CSE.

The Panel noted that the West Yorkshire Police had followed the same format of the report on historic CSE cases as previously produced by Ged McManus. The Panel noted that the information within the report provided by the West Yorkshire Police was restricted and could not be shared beyond the Panel.

Legacy Investigations

A legacy investigation was defined by West Yorkshire Police as one where the offence was more than 12 months old and the victim was now aged over 18. There were currently 4 significant legacy investigations taking place within Kirklees and these investigations were supported by a dedicated team of investigators, who were in place following a decision to support this work by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Osman Khan and Ian Mottershaw gave a confidential summary of the significant legacy investigations currently taking place within Kirklees.

The Panel was informed that a lot of work goes into the preparation for interviews with victims and support from other agencies was brought into help. Social care was the first port of call for victims. Ian Mottershaw explained that it was essential to build up a good rapport with the victim and have the right support in place to help them. The Panel were

informed that some victims were able to be strong and resilient and get on with their lives following abuse, however some individuals were badly affected and the abuse would impact them into their young adult life and beyond.

Ian Mottershaw advised the Panel that no male victims were as yet on the historic list of CSE cases.

Ian Mottershaw explained that Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board had commissioned an audit specifically around the experiences of parents and carers of CSE victims when their child has been involved in CSE and what support/guidance was offered and disclosed to them at the time of their experience. The Panel were informed that this work was part of the 7 Point CSE Strategy.

Ian Mottershaw advised the Panel that all investigations were undertaken at the pace of the victim, which is why some cases could be slow in progressing. The Panel were informed that taking evidence from whoever was involved with the child at the time of their abuse was essential as part of the investigations.

The Panel was informed that there was no specific trend in individual circumstances, where and when victims were being targeted and potential opportunities. Ian Mottershaw advised that incidents of CSE do not necessarily happen at the first point of contact. The Panel acknowledged that one of the challenges of investigating historic cases was that people had often moved on and attempts to get back in touch with them could be a challenge.

Osman Khan advised the Panel of the Problem Analysis Triangle:- Victim – Offender – Location and confirmed that the Police will be looking at what it is about victims that attracts the offender.

Ian Mottershaw advised the Panel where victims of historic CSE live out of the area they would not be expected to come to Kirklees, instead the Police would attend a location of the victim's choice to undertake interviews. Ian Mottershaw further explained that it was essential that the Police built up a good relationship with the victim. It was also critical that the right officer undertook the interview and strived for continuity with that victim, ensuring that good relationships were in place. All future contact with the victim would be undertaken through the same officer. Ian Mottershaw further explained that preparation work prior to the interview was crucial in building confidences, to ensure that the victim felt they could share their personal experiences. If the same officer was not always available, every effort would be made to ensure a comfortable transition for the victim.

Osman Khan advised the Panel that all 5 Districts in West Yorkshire now had dedicated CSE Teams and all officers within those Teams had a qualified Detective. If victims requested a female officer then that would be arranged. All officers within the CSE Team had received the proper safeguarding training.

Live Investigations

Osman Khan gave a confidential summary of individual cases currently being investigated in Kirklees. A live investigation was defined where the offence had taken place within the last 12 months and the victim was aged 18 or younger. There were currently 14 live CSE investigations taking place within Kirklees and often these enquiries took many months to complete as they needed to be supported by forensic evidence and telecommunications data which could take significant periods to obtain and interpret. Most suspects were on

bail whilst enquiries continued or charging decisions were awaited from CPS who could take significant periods to review this type of case.

Completed Investigations

The Panel was informed that there was no actual crime of child sexual exploitation, offenders could be charged with a range of offences for example, rape, inciting sexual activity or abduction. Providing accurate figures in relation to the number of CSE related cases had historically been difficult, however, West Yorkshire Police had carried out an audit for the last 2 years to identify CSE related crimes. The national definition of CSE was the sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 “involves exploitive situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (eg. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.”

Osman Khan advised the Panel that over the previous 12 months (March 2015-2016), Kirklees District had recorded 114 CSE related crimes. The Panel was informed that 34 of these crimes had occurred within the last 12 months (live crimes), with the other 80 relating to historic offences. Osman Khan gave a confidential summary of a number of completed investigations. The Panel was informed that West Yorkshire Police were now recording all CSE related crimes, for example a teenage pregnancy is recorded as a crime and, if a Looked after Child goes missing that was also recorded as a CSE related crime.

Sarah Callaghan discussed trend analysis opportunities and comparative data with the Panel and made reference to the Goddard Report regarding institutional abuse and advised that the Council was looking at how prevalent this was within Kirklees.

Osman Khan advised the Panel that Detective Inspector Vanessa Smith had undertaken a Force wide analysis of cybercrime within West Yorkshire and that Kirklees had the highest figures. The Panel were informed that 25% of residents within Kirklees allowed their children to communicate with strangers over computer consoles, for example PlayStation and Xboxes. Osman Khan agreed to bring an update on cybercrime to a future meeting of the Panel.

The Panel were informed that ‘end to end’ encryption was being undertaken to make it more difficult to trace and gather evidence from electronic equipment. The Panel acknowledged that examples of cybercrime today could be different tomorrow due to the pace of development and that the West Yorkshire Police had to continue to explore and monitor this area.

Osman Khan updated the Panel on the “Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO)” which could be placed on suspects enforcing conditions on them and how they could behave. The SHPO gave the Police more powers over the suspect, for example, a suspect could not be near a 16 year old girl or they would be arrested, or that person could not have unsupervised access to children or be outside schools at certain times. The Panel recognised that this Order gave the Police more powers in dealing with an individual and if necessary bring them back into custody to interview and prosecute. Ian Mottershaw went on to explain that suspects could be summoned to the Civil Court and challenged regarding an SHPO and if evidence was provided that they had broken certain conditions, this would be classed as committing an offence called “breach of SHPO”. The individual could receive a custodial sentence without the Police having to prove that a CSE related crime actually took place.

Osman Khan agreed to provide future updates on progress of historic CSE cases, including cybercrime.

AGREED:-

- (1) That Osman Khan and Ian Mottershaw from the West Yorkshire Police be thanked for attending the meeting and that the update on historic CSE cases within Kirklees be noted.
- (2) That the Panel continue to receive future updates and progress on historic CSE cases within the Kirklees District, including cybercrime within Kirklees.

3 Update from Children's Society on the West Yorkshire CSE School Prevention Service

The Panel welcomed Nicole Hutchinson, Area Manager for Yorkshire (Children's Society) and Abdou Sidibe, Business Development Lead (Children's Society) to the meeting and considered an update from the Children's Society on the West Yorkshire CSE School Prevention Service, including potential development of new work in Kirklees schools.

Nicole Hutchinson advised the Panel that the Children's Society West Yorkshire Preventative Programme had been developed in line with the organisations national service model. The Programme aimed to raise awareness about CSE and associated risks, which would help with the early identification of grooming or vulnerability for sexual exploitation and therefore contribute to better responses for children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation, ideally before any abuse took place.

The Panel were informed that the programme offered the following services;

- Targeted group work for children and young people (flexible programme of sessions including topics such as CSE, grooming, online safety, consent and healthy relationships);
- Awareness training for school professionals (bespoke workshop sessions covering topics such as grooming, various 'models' of CSE, risks and indicators and support strategies).

Nicole Hutchinson advised the Panel that the programme was under contract with Calderdale Borough Council, funded through the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and delivered to the 5 Local Authorities within West Yorkshire. Each Local Authority had identified 5 schools within their region which they felt would benefit from the programme. Within Kirklees the identified schools were Colne Valley High, Manor Croft Academy, Westborough High, Upper Batley High and Moor End Academy. The programme to date had been well received by all the schools in the area with 3 schools having received professional training – Manor Croft Academy, Upper Batley High and Colne Valley High. The workshops could be tailored to the school's individual needs and delivered over a 1 hour, 30 minute or 3 hour session.

Feedback

The total number of professionals trained from the schools was 28, who had provided the following feedback:-

- 28 (100%) reported to have improved knowledge of the risks and indicators of CSE;
- 27 (96%) reported to have improved their knowledge of affective strategies to support children and young people;
- 27 (96%) reported to feel better equipped and more confident to support children and young people vulnerable and affected by CSE.

The Panel was informed that to date, Moor End Academy and Manor Croft Academy had received the 6 Young People's Sessions, both reporting positive feedback. Colne Valley was receiving a Young People Session and feedback would be reported at a later date.

Nicole Hutchinson advised that the number of young people who had attended the sessions was 9 and the feedback provided was as follows:-

- 9 (100%) reported to feel better informed by the risks of CSE;
- 9 (100%) reported to feel able to make better choices;
- 0 (0%) had been identified as being at higher risk and referred for more intensive support.

The Panel was informed that the training for the young people had been made more interactive and the use of a DVD had helped the children to learn about consent.

Nicole Hutchinson advised the Panel the feedback in general from all professionals across West Yorkshire, who had been part of the programme, had been very positive. A quarterly report would be submitted to Calderdale at the beginning of May which would include an update on the Programme. The Panel agreed to receive a copy of this report.

Further work in Kirklees and West Yorkshire

Nicole Hutchinson informed the Panel that there had been substantial interest from other schools and services within Kirklees requesting CSE preventative work with staff, young people and parents. One of these schools was Thornhill Community Academy Trust (Dewsbury) and the school had requested that if they were not to be included within the programme, could they receive costing information of the service. The report from the Children's Society outlined the other schools and services from across the region who had requested further preventative work and training.

Nicole Hutchinson explained that The Children's Society's Safe Hands CSE Service covering Calderdale had seen an increase in the number of referrals for support and that as part of the programme evaluation, the Children's Society would request referral numbers to CSE services from all Local Authorities.

The Panel was informed that in relation to boys and young men, there remained an under reporting issue and low referral numbers. The Children's Society was in the process of recruiting a CSE Development and Outreach Worker (marginalised communities specialism) for West Yorkshire for a period of 12 months, who would explore this area further. This area of work would be looked at again in 3-6 months' time to evaluate if referrals from young men or boys had increased.

Nicole Hutchinson confirmed that the Children's Society had funding for the Preventative Project across the 5 West Yorkshire Local Authorities until the end of August and that details on future funding had not been confirmed. Further details were likely to be delayed until after the elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Children's Society advised that they were looking at education and training programmes focussing on safeguarding young people with learning difficulties, from Roma communities, migrants, etc. Councillor Hill advised the Panel that schools within Kirklees were looking at trying to develop their own programmes for vulnerable young people and the Panel agreed that it would be interested in looking at this area further.

Nicole Hutchinson advised that the Children's Society were currently looking at resources and interventions with young people to enable them to develop a tool kit of training that could be adapted for different groups of young people and professionals (including parents and carers) and that further work would be undertaken on this matter over the next few months.

In response to a question regarding the issue of immigration and whether this was showing any concerns, the Panel discussed diverse communities and different cultural beliefs, for example contraception and the age of consent for any form of sexual activity. The Panel agreed that there needed to be more work in terms of education for certain groups within the community on what was not appropriate. Nicole Hutchinson confirmed that the Children's Society was having conversations with partners such as BLAST and meeting with their lead teams in Bradford and Leeds to discuss this issue. The Panel acknowledged that differences in cultural beliefs were a huge challenge in preventing CSE related crime.

Abdou Sidibe advised the Panel that trafficking had increased within West Yorkshire and for people who are seen to have 'no status' there was a danger they could be exploited for sexual favours. The Panel was also informed that the age of consent did not exist within some cultural beliefs, but that when people arrived within the UK the right sort of education and support needed to be provided to help protect them from any form of exploitation.

Nicole Hutchinson circulated a document entitled "A guide to our work in Yorkshire – supporting vulnerable children and young people"

Nicole Hutchinson confirmed that the Children's Society would be keen to continue to work within Kirklees. Councillor Hill and Sarah Callaghan, Director of Children and Young People, agreed to meet with Nicole Hutchinson to discuss future working within Kirklees.

AGREED:-

- (1) That Nicole Hutchinson and Abdou Sidibe are thanked for attending the meeting and that the update from the Children's Society on the West Yorkshire CSE School Prevention Programme, including development of work within Kirklees be noted.
- (2) That Councillor Hill and the Director for Children and Young People continue to work with the Children's Society with regard to future preventative work within Kirklees.
- (3) That the Panel receive a copy of the Children's Society Quarterly Report, which would include an update on the West Yorkshire CSE Schools Preventative Programme.

4 CSE Management Information

The Panel considered an update on CSE Management Information.

AGREED:-

- (1) That the update on Management Information be noted.

5 Review of Work Programme of CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel in 2015/16 and Future Work Programme for 2016/17

The Panel considered a review of the work programme during 2015/16 and discussed the work programme for 2016/17.

The Panel suggested that the future format of reports from the West Yorkshire Police on historic CSE cases be provided in such a format that would allow some information to be shared with the Political Groups.

The Panel agreed that they had covered a good range of areas since the establishment of the Panel in December 2014 and had achieved their specific remit of the Panel as set out in the Terms of Reference.

Members agreed that a cross party challenge on the issues of CSE reduced the risk of complacency and that they were not be in a position where the work of the Panel had come to a conclusion. Members felt that the Panel should continue as long as there was further work for the Panel to undertake and agreed that they would take into account work of Scrutiny and other Committees on the issue of CSE within Kirklees. The Panel agreed that its future focus should be a role of oversight, overview and holding to account.

Sarah Callaghan circulated a flowchart to the Panel entitled 'Objectives – What is the Panel aiming to do' and explained the rationale.

The Panel agreed to look at the following issues within the 2016/17 work programme;-

- Future focus of Panel and Terms of Reference
- Feedback from the OFSTED Thematic report
- L Goddard enquiry and Kirklees response
- Safeguarding within children's residential unit and how Looked After Children are being supported
- Historic CSE cases (progress and updates on investigations) to include cybercrime
- Child sexual exploitation victim and at risk individual strategy – update following implementation
- Trends and opportunities to be further explored with the West Yorkshire Police
- CSE related crime within the home and support to parents and carers
- National context – regular updates on key issues
- Casey report – evaluation and measurement of Kirklees position in terms of impact and what changes and improvements have been made, for example taxi licensing, training in schools, and safeguarding in children's homes.
- Referral rates – Who is making them? What is the profile of victims?

Councillor Hill and Sarah Callaghan, Director of Children and Young People, agreed to work up a future focus and work programme for the Panel and present this to the next meeting in June 2016.

Councillor Hill advised the Panel that the revised Whistleblowing Policy would be submitted to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on 22 April 2016 to seek approval on the changes to the Policy and the recommendations from the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel.

AGREED:-

(1) That the work programme of the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel for 2015/16 be noted.

(2) That Councillor Hill and the Director of Children and Young People draft a proposal on the future focus of the Panel, including agenda items for the 2016/17 municipal year and present to the Panel in June 2016 for consideration.

6 Date of next meeting

The Panel considered future dates of meetings in the 2016/17 municipal year.

AGREED:-

(1) The Panel agreed to the dates for future meetings in the 2016/17 municipal year which were as follows:-

2nd June 2016

7th July 2016

5th August 2016

2nd September 2016

7th October 2016

4th November 2016

2nd December 2016

6th January 2017

3rd February 2017

3rd March 2017

7th April 2017

All meetings to be held in Meeting Room 1, Huddersfield Town Hall at 10.30am till 12.30pm