

Subject: *Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) overview*

Background

The Jay Report in August 2014 highlighted that Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Rotherham had been happening on a massive scale over many years. It also highlighted grave concerns about the level of response as local agencies in Rotherham had dismissed concerns or put in place an inadequate response. As a result, the government informed all Local Safeguarding Children Boards that there would be an Independent Statutory Inspection in relation to CSE.

Locally, in light of the Jay Report, a report was presented to full council in October 2014 to outline the position (at the time) of CSE in Kirklees and the ongoing work in response to this issue. Following this report to council, the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel was formed with a similar function to a Scrutiny panel.

The Member Panel has strong governance arrangements, cross-party representation and a clear purpose:

- To oversee local developments in CSE
- For members to satisfy themselves, as corporate parents, that local arrangements are sufficiently robust
- To ensure that Panel members give appropriate updates to their political groups

Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board

Tackling the very complex challenge of CSE is a key priority of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board. The Board has a comprehensive seven-point strategy, with each point underpinned by an action plan. The Kirklees strategy reflects the work taking place nationally.

The strategy aims to:

- Develop preventative services which reduce risk and raise awareness of CSE amongst children, young people, parents, carers and communities
- Support families and communities who are dealing with the consequences of CSE
- Develop community resilience to the potentially divisive and damaging impact of CSE on Kirklees and its constituent members
- To safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people who may have been or may be sexually exploited and to ensure that they are properly supported in the course of and after criminal proceedings
- Offer support and therapeutic services to survivors of CSE
- To successfully prosecute those who perpetrate or facilitate CSE and enable the delivery of effective interventions to reduce the risk of further offending by perpetrators of CSE
- Limit the opportunities for potential and convicted perpetrators to abuse children and young people

The seven-point strategy remains the focus of the KSCB and has recently been reviewed. High on the KSCB agenda is the progression of the action plan linked to meeting the objectives of the seven-point plan.

Development of the CSE team/response in Kirklees

Close working across partner agencies is integral to responding to CSE.

The Kirklees Integrated Hub is based within Dewsbury Police Station and consists of a social care team manager, two deputy managers, four social workers, three police officers, one full-time and one part-time voluntary sector workers from Barnardo's and one business support worker. In addition, four Targeted Youth Support Workers recently joined the Hub, three of whom complete direct work with families around identification of CSE and parenting work. The fourth worker specialises in working with children and young people who are known to use substances and alcohol. A new Detective Sergeant joined the team in May 2016 with a strong focus on developing a 'Mapping Matrix' – the purpose of which is to identify connections between actual or potential perpetrators of CSE, potential victims who have not already been identified and local areas where young people may be targeted by adults.

Intelligence is shared between all members of the Hub in relation to any new or updated information and intelligence. This has increased communication between agencies, leading to increased awareness of CSE within Kirklees and a proactive approach to identifying risk.

The Missing From Home Co-ordinator attends these meetings twice weekly to ensure there are no delays in the sharing of information relating to children reported missing from home and their return interviews – intelligence from such interviews may lead to appropriate lines of enquiry or the recognition of a need for further assessment to determine whether CSE is a factor.

In December 2015, Kirklees took part in a Peer Review to consider the quality of social work assessment and practice in relation to CSE. The review highlighted a number of strengths and also made recommendations for future practice. The recommendations have either been completed or are ongoing at a time when there are changes to the management structure.

In addition, all cases allocated to the CSE Team were audited in June 2016. This activity identified areas for further development, including some which mirrored the findings of the Peer Review. The progress and quality of the work completed within the CSE Team will be subject to ongoing review under the direction of the Kirklees QA framework.

The recently formed leadership team across children's social care has a strong focus on CSE and on ensuring the local strategic plan is implemented by a workforce with the skills, knowledge, infrastructure and specialist tools to address one of society's biggest challenges. A thorough audit has provided the current baseline for improvement. Whilst there are positive foundations, there is more to do and a further Peer Review is being considered. Ongoing audit activity will review the quality of work going forward as dictated by the Kirklees QA Framework.

Developments within the CSE team, including the appointment of the team manager and the continued oversight by senior management, has led to:

- Increased management oversight of assessments, leading to plans focused on the reduction of risk
- Increased communication and links with partner and external agencies in relation to

sharing intelligence and raising awareness of CSE

- Strategy meetings taking place in accordance with statutory guidance and the institution of S47 enquiries where appropriate
- Increased focus on therapeutic work with children who are known to have been or are experiencing CSE
- Identification of a training programme for staff within Kirklees and recognition of the need to deliver training programmes to partner agencies – a plan for the implementation of this remains in view
- Collaborative working with the police has led to ‘Operation Tendersea’ (43 arrests of alleged perpetrators of historical victims of CSE)
- Appropriate safeguarding procedures where the individuals identified in Operation Tendersea are in close contact with children
- Collaborative working with the police in respect of legacy cases and recognition of the need to develop a planned approach for the transition from child to adulthood (young adults aged 18 – 25 years)

Via a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI), there will be a comparison in October 2016 of Kirklees’ CSE strategy and service provision alongside those of other districts. The findings of the JTAI will contribute to further development of the strategic and operational response.

A recent police led initiative, ‘Operation Trackville’, commenced 1st September 2016 and will run approximately 6 weekly for the foreseeable future. The operation is designed to increase knowledge and awareness of matters relating to CSE, including advising how to share intelligence. The message is to convey Kirklees’ commitment to tackling CSE to the general public. In doing so, agencies such as taxi companies and local businesses that may come into contact with CSE indicators are targeted.

Another function of the operation is to engage with young people by advising them how to obtain specialist support and guidance in an informal environment.

It is expected that Kirklees Children and Young People Services will soon be visited by Ofsted under the Single Inspection Framework. This inspection will look into many aspects of local practice, including in relation to CSE. With our commitment to constantly develop services, we will consider initiating a Peer Review of any service area which is raised as a concern by the inspection team. A decision will be made after the outcomes of the inspection are known.

The risk of exploitation is much higher when children go missing, or are placed in care outside the local authority with responsibility for them. In Kirklees we are working towards a more proactive and seamless approach to working with the police and the Missing from Home Co-ordinator. The Targeted Youth Service ensures all children who are reported missing are offered a return interview and we are looking to further develop the Missing from Home Policy.

Children with learning difficulties are another particularly vulnerable target group. Through the commissioning strategy, we will need to consider how to further protect this target group.

A CSE commissioning strategy was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2016, the outcome of which was that there should be a commitment to lobbying for resources. Further work in respect of identifying necessary resources, and also lobbying for funding for children at risk of CSE and for adult survivors of CSE up to the age of 25 years, is in view.

Goddard Review and focus on residential homes

As a result of numerous inquiries into child abuse across a number of organisations nationally, the government announced in February 2015 that a statutory inquiry would take place into child sexual abuse in residential placements. The inquiry is independent of government and was initially led by New Zealand judge Lowell Goddard. It is now led by Professor Alexis Jay.

The inquiry is investigating whether public bodies and other non-state institutions have taken seriously their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse in England and Wales. It aims to identify institutional failings and, where they are found to exist, to demand accountability. The inquiry aims to support victims and survivors in sharing their experience of sexual abuse and to make practical recommendations to ensure that children are given the care and protection they need.

South West Yorkshire Partnership have produced a briefing report which they have agreed to share with partner agencies. The Kirklees CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel is mindful of this inquiry.

Joint approach to tackling historical allegations

In March 2016 West Yorkshire Police presented a confidential briefing to the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel in relation to CSE investigations. Children's Services are currently undertaking audits of each identified CSE case and, for those identified as potential victims of CSE, a plan is agreed for how best to approach each individual and for the support and/or intervention to be offered.

Actions and progress to date:

- The KSCB has developed a step by step guide for professionals to follow where there are concerns relating to CSE
- High on the KSCB agenda is the progression of the action plan linked to meeting the objectives the seven-point strategy
- Whilst professional attention has been given to CSE, it is recognised that services would benefit from more collaborative working. The development of the MACSE (Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation) monthly meeting, due to commence in September 2016, will replace the current CSE Operational Group. The MACSE will ensure clear lines of accountability are identified for operational matters
- At each MACSE meeting all medium and high risk cases will be discussed, leading to focused work to reduce risk to children and lead to conviction of perpetrators
- Up to 10 low risk cases will be discussed in a weekly Hub team briefing to ensure appropriate attention is given to focussing specialist attention where it is needed
- As a result of increased awareness of CSE in Kirklees and an improved response to management of children and young people who are reported missing, the police have recognised the need for an appropriate data analyst – increasing strategic knowledge and planning for the development of services; increased operational activity/ accountability in reducing risk of CSE; supporting victims; raising awareness; and identifying perpetrators
- A commissioning strategy for 'CSE Victims and at Risk Individuals' has been devised to

learn from victims and commission services to meet the identified therapeutic needs of children and adult survivors. Lobbying for funding remains in view

- Strengthened links between MARAC has led to early identification of children and young people at risk of CSE
- More stable representation of partner agencies in the CSE work stream facilitates the development of actions which feed into effective planning
- Development of a programme of training by the CSE specialist Hub to be delivered to all statutory and voluntary agencies to raise awareness of CSE issues and promote the notion of 'The more we know the more we see'
- Recognition of the need for specialist external training for all CSE staff in the team
- Seven CSE training sessions will be offered to Adult Services staff between 20th September 2016 and 11th October 2016
- A recent change of team manager in the CSE Hub leading to improved management oversight and workforce supervision
- Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF) process implemented in August 2016
- A CSE indicator tool has recently been agreed by the service manager and will be used by all practitioners across Children's Services when completing a CSE Risk Assessment
- Recognition of the need to replace the Operational CSE Group with a MACSE group. A multi-agency strategy will be developed to raise awareness of CSE issues by targeting the night-time economy, for example hotels, local businesses and taxi firms, informed by national findings. Named workers will also build community links, including with places of worship, to raise awareness
- CSE work stream to develop a mandatory CSE training programme for all voluntary and statutory agencies
- MACSE to develop a cohesive disruption strategy to minimise opportunities for perpetrators to groom and exploit vulnerable children and young people
- A perpetrator offending intervention programme is to be developed as a result of problem profiling
- 'Operation Tendersea', the joint operation between the police and Children's Services, led to the arrests of 43 alleged perpetrators in relation to historical CSE allegations
- Risk assessments have been undertaken in respect of the perpetrators, with the appropriate intervention put in place
- The commissioning of 12 performances of 'Chelsea's Choice', showing the impact of CSE on a young person, is to be shown across 10 local secondary schools in October 2016. The percentage of children considered to be at risk of CSE may rise as a result of increased awareness leading to referrals from various agencies and others within the community. Additionally, it is anticipated there may be some further lines of enquiry resulting as historical victims gain insight into their own experience
- KSCB, along with other members of the West Yorkshire Consortium, has agreed the need to consider the quality of the current CSE risk assessment tool

Recommendations.

- Strong team approach is needed to develop team morale with an emphasis on peer mentoring and communication within the CSE Hub
- Continue improving management oversight of case work
- Develop communication with partner agencies to increase links between victims,

locations and areas

- A transparency of governance to be developed with each partner agency to ensure there is a cohesive approach and clear lines of accountability to victims and survivors of CSE, ensuring agencies are in a position to hold each other to account
- Increase signposting to, and accessibility of, therapeutic services to support victims of CSE
- A system by which feedback from service users can be gathered to be developed thus leading to excellent service planning and delivery as the Kirklees CSE provision evolves
- Develop transition arrangements for young people who have experienced CSE as they move to adulthood
- Develop cohesive police-led disruption strategy aimed at minimising opportunities for perceived perpetrators to identify and groom vulnerable children and young people
- Ensure the strategy developed by the CSE work stream is more closely linked to CSE operational good practice, working directly with young people to meet key objectives
- Continued development of a learning culture, supporting quality of practice and appropriate interventions for young people at risk or victims of CSE
- Identify and develop an appropriate therapeutic service to ensure the national agenda of supporting adult survivors of CSE is addressed

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