

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SAFEGUARDING MEMBER PANEL

Friday 4 November 2016

Present: Cllrs Marchington (Chair), Holmes, Bellamy (observer)

In attendance: Carly Speechley, Assistant Director (Family Support & Child Protection)
Chris Porter, Health Development Officer
Matthew Holland, Head of Children's Trust Management and Development
Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

Apologies: Cllr Ahmed, Allison, Hill

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

In the absence of Cllr Hill, the Panel elected Cllr Marchington as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

The Panel considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2016.

AGREED:-

(1) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

(2) That, in the absence of Cllr Hill, the Panel elected Cllr Marchington as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2 CSE Victim and At Risk Individuals Strategy

The Panel considered an update on the CSE Victim and At Risk Individuals Strategy following implementation, and welcomed Chris Porter and Matthew Holland to the meeting.

Chris Porter advised that the CSE Victim and At Risk Individuals Commissioning Strategy for Kirklees was approved at the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2016. Work had been on going to develop responses and conditions that meet the needs identified in the Strategy. The Strategy was owned by the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board (KSCB) CSE workstream, which covered a broad range of related issues. This multi-agency workstream was chaired by the Police and reports were submitted to the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board on a quarterly basis.

Chris Porter explained that the Strategy had increased the Council's understanding of the path towards exploitation and introduced the concept of pre-cursors and what was likely to be going on in the lives of potential victims. The work of the Strategy found that many of the routes into CSE were driven by low self-esteem and a lack of emotional support in the relationships of the potential victim.

The Panel noted the overview of recommendations within the Strategy.

Understanding Risks

Chris Porter advised the Panel that in Kirklees they have also moved forward on some of the original recommendations from the Strategy, such as understanding risks. The Panel was advised that the Council had modified local risk scoring tools to reflect the new understanding and were constantly looking to evolve the West Yorkshire Risk Assessment Tool, to both simplify it and incorporate the new thinking. This means that professionals were more aware of the up and down stream impact of exploitation, children who previously would have not been considered at risk now fall within the view of the CSE hub.

Chris Porter advised the Panel that the work on the West Yorkshire Risk Tool would mean the administrative burden of completing an onerous assessment was replaced by a simple risk scoring list. It was the responsibility of CSE professionals in the hub to complete a full assessment of needs and issues. The Panel noted that it remained the responsibility of all partner agencies to report all CSE concerns to Children's Services by way of a referral. Further development and training was under way to promote partner agencies understanding of CSE.

Carly Speechley advised that Sarah Perry had provided a copy of the guide for practitioners on assessing a child for CSE and this had been shared with the Panel. Carly Speechley further explained that the Council was not confident that everybody who was at risk of CSE was being referred to the CSE Team and a lot of work was being undertaken around raising awareness.

The Panel agreed to receive a joint presentation from the Police (Osman Khan) and Chris Porter from Kirklees to look at the CSE Action Plan and the impact on children. The Panel agreed that it would be useful to look at a number of anonymous CSE cases as part of this discussion, so that the Panel could see the process, understand and measure the impact on the child and which partners and agencies were involved at the different stages of the case.

Cllr Holmes commented that the management information circulated with the agenda showed that a high number of referrals were being made by Education. Carly Speechley advised that a lot of improvements had been made in relation to referrals from Education. Cllr Holmes advised that School Heads did not always attend the Children's Trust Meetings and their attendance was important given the number of CSE referrals made by Education. The Panel agreed to invite Janet Tolley (Virtual School Head Teacher) to be part of the joint presentation on the CSE Action Plan.

Therapeutic Interventions

Chris Porter advised the panel that the Council had made significant progress in the therapeutic offer to those affected by CSE. A large amount of detail regarding the needs of those affected by CSE had been included in the CAMHS Transformation Plan, which was highly rated in terms of understanding the issue and the proposed changes to services that the council will make based on that understanding. Officers commissioned a short term solution to fill a gap in provision, but have now commissioned a Specialist Team to support the explicit therapeutic needs of those affected by CSE and other vulnerabilities. This meant that CSE victims risk managed through the CSE Hub have rapid access to a

bespoke package of care, be that psychological support or specialist foster and residential care.

Chris Porter explained that the strategy had looked at CSE recognition as many of the victims of CSE did not see themselves as victims and the support to these people was essential. Mathew Holland advised that national research indicated that there was a high number of people who did not see themselves as victims of CSE. Chris Porter went on to explain that children and young people perceived as being victims of CSE were being referred to CAMHS.

The Panel noted that more dialogue was required with victims so that they could start their CSE victim journey early and be led down the road to recovery. Chris Porter advised that the staff in the CSE Hub were the key officers undertaking this work on a case by case basis and would involve other family members where appropriate and dependant on the circumstances.

Sexual Health Guidance

Chris Porter advised the Panel that the strategy had embedded the understanding of risk and possible routes into CSE within the specification of the Council's Sexual Services Contract. The new contract also had prevention outcomes within it, so as Sexual Health Services were the place a victim presented they were now better able to prevent further harm, and support victims using that service. The Council was looking to develop the emotional side of sexual counselling health alongside the more clinical response, this was currently being explored. This means professionals were becoming much more aware of the likely issues surrounding those affected by CSE, and the response victims get from sexual health professionals takes much better account of the range of issues around CSE, not just the presenting issue of sexual health.

Carly Speechley advised that there was scope to develop sexual health counselling within Kirklees that would look at safe relationships and safe sex and that this was being explored.

The Panel was informed that Kirklees did not currently collect data that showed the sexual health of CSE victims eg STD's or pregnancy. Carly Speechley explained that there had been instances of pregnancy reported in CSE victims, but that the numbers had been low.

Sexual Education in Schools

The Panel raised concerns regarding the fact that all schools did not undertake the sexual health talk with children and felt that this was an important role for schools to facilitate. Carly Speechley further explained that whether or not schools would provide sexual health and relationship education, did depend on the nature of the school and what the parents were prepared to tolerate.

The Panel noted that Cllr Ahmed in his role as a non-councillor was responsible for working with and supporting vulnerable children who could be at risk, for example, substance misuse, CSE, etc..

Carly Speechley advised the Panel that their comments and concerns on sexual education within schools would be fed into the CSE Strategy and Action Plan.

The Relationship Role

Chris Porter advised the Panel that in order to promote and encourage positive working relationships with CSE practitioners, each child or young person who was assessed to be at high or medium risk of CSE has an allocated CSE Hub Social Worker and a CSE Hub Police Officer. The Panel was advised that a CSE Hub Engagement Officer was allocated to those that were deemed to be at low risk. This meant that those supported by the Hub had a single worker they could build a trusting relationship with.

Chris Porter advised on a number of other areas that were currently being explored and these were:-

- Relationship rebuilding – where a grooming process of a CSE victim has affected their relationships with friends and family, officers were looking at how to work this through with the victim to help them to reconnect;
- Victim Recognition – Officers were looking at how the interview process could be improved when children go missing so that it was not a Counselling Session; skills need to be developed by the people undertaking the interviews so that they can help the child or young person to begin their journey to recovery.

Matthew Holland advised the Panel that officers from Kirklees were meeting with the Fostering Leads from across West Yorkshire and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to share ideas and challenges on the issue of foster care and explore areas where lessons could be learnt. The Panel was advised that officers were looking at the 'Mocking Bird' fostering approach, which had been shown to be a successful way to improve outcomes for looked after children. The Panel was advised that Leeds had been carrying out a small scale pilot of this type of foster care and the results had been very successful. Matthew Holland advised that officers would like to share the Mocking Bird fostering approach across the region for all the West Yorkshire Local Authorities and that the PCC was taking the lead on this issue.

AGREED:-

- (1) That Chris Porter and Matthew Holland be thanked for attending the meeting.
- (2) That the update on the CSE Victims and At Risk Individual Strategy be noted.
- (3) That the comments and concerns made by the Panel on sexual education within schools be fed into the CSE Strategy and Action Plan.
- (4) That the Panel visit the CSE Hub in Dewsbury – date to be determined.
- (5) That the Panel receive a joint presentation on the CSE Action Plan from the West Yorkshire Police and Kirklees Children's Services, to include CSE case studies that will allow the Panel to understand the process and measure the impact on the child – date to be determined.

3. Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care

The Panel considered a verbal update on the emerging themes of the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care, particularly in relation to CSE.

Carly Speechley advised the Panel that Kirklees would receive a draft of the Ofsted Inspection report for factual accuracy checking, the comments of which would need to be returned by the 11th November 2016. The Panel was advised

that the Council will receive a pre-published report on the 23rd November 2016, at which time staff would be briefed. The Ofsted report will go public on the 25th November 2016 on Ofsted's website.

Carly Speechley advised that Ofsted had looked at CSE data and some open cases in the CSE hub and had met with staff in the team and partners regarding the CSE Action Plan. Carly Speechley further explained that feedback from Ofsted indicated that Inspectors could see from the partnership, governance and scrutiny arrangements that the work on CSE was a clear priority for Kirklees Council and significant investment had been made. The Inspection Team had indicated that they had seen positive work ongoing within the CSE Hub, but had raised concerns with regard to the need to more quickly identify children at risk of CSE. The Inspection had also looked at children at risk in the looked after children cohort.

The Panel agreed to receive a report in January 2017 that explained the comparison with other West Yorkshire Local Authorities on their Ofsted Inspections of Children's Services and what lessons could be learnt. The Panel agreed that the report should include more detailed feedback on the Ofsted Inspection following the publication of the report at the end of November.

AGREED:-

- (1) That the update on the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care be noted.
- (2) That the Panel receive a report outlining comparison against other West Yorkshire Local Authorities on their Ofsted inspections and areas of learning for Kirklees.

4. Update on key National and Local issues

The Panel considered a verbal update on the key national and local issues in relation to CSE.

The Panel noted the Statement by the Chair of the Jay Inquiry (dated the 7th October 2016), which was attached to the agenda. The Statement advised that the Chair of the Independent Inquiry in to Child Sexual Abuse had set out the strategy to ensure that the Inquiry met its remit to recommend measures to better protect children in the future. Professor Jay set out 4 thematic strands that would be the focus of work and recommendations across all the institutions that the Inquiry was examining.

Carly Speechley advised the Panel that very little progress had been made on the Inquiry following a number of resignations and changing focus of work. The Panel was informed that the Inquiry would not take the usual route for meeting timescales and would be complete by 2020.

AGREED:-

- (1) That the update on key national and local issues in relation to CSE be noted.

5. CSE Management Information

The Panel considered an update on CSE Management Information.

Carly Speechley advised the Panel that there had been a reduction in the percentage that had gone from referral to having an 'at risk' classification. The

number of 'at risk' classifications started in the month had been lower since June 2016, while the number of contacts was on the increasing, all be it very volatile, trend.

The Panel was informed that the numbers at risk of CSE were still too low and that significant work was being undertaken to improve these figures. The Panel was advised that the number of CSE contacts received per month by ethnicity in July 2016 had increased due to the work of Operation Tendersea.

Carly Speechley advised that the new software being installed within Children's Services, Liquidlogic, should be implemented in July 2017. The Panel was advised that configuration workshops were currently taking place with Practitioners and Managers looking at how the system will work in practice.

The Panel welcomed the improvements that had been made to the Management Information and narrative provided. The Panel agreed that it would be useful to undertake a comparison of the data on an annual basis to look at any impacts and improvements that have been made.

AGREED:-

- (1) That the CSE Management Information be noted.
- (2) That the Panel consider an annual comparison of the CSE Management Information early in 2017 and look at any impacts and improvements that had been made.

6. CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel Agenda Plan for 2016/17

The Panel considered the agenda plan for the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel for 2016/17.

The Panel agreed to consider the following issues:-

- Joint presentation on CSE Action Plan by West Yorkshire Police and Kirklees to include CSE case studies – date to be determined;
- Visit by Panel to CSE Hub in Dewsbury – date to be determined.

AGREED:-

- (1) That the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel Agenda Plan for 2016/17 be noted and updated as agreed.

7. Date of next meeting

AGREED:-

- (1) That the date of the next meeting of the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel be held on Friday 2nd December 2016 at 10.30 am till 12.30 pm in the Meeting Room 1, Huddersfield Town Hall.