

Proposal of the Development of a Risk and Vulnerability Team



Reporting Period	April 2018
Report of	CSE and Missing
Report to	Corporate Parenting Board
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The overall vision of the service will be to reduce the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and episodes of children missing from home and care. The aim is to provide a flexible and responsive service that will be tailored to the needs and wishes of the young person and their family and practice will be based on a Whole Family, Child Centred and Relationship Based approach.

In the month of February 2018 there were 125 children referred to social care due to missing episodes, all of which will have been offered a missing return interview. There are currently 72 children who have been referred to the gang prevention team who are believed to be associated with or at risk of gang affiliation.

There are approximately 90 children (this fluctuates between 75 and 90 in any month) who have been assessed as at risk from sexual exploitation. The risk levels vary from low to medium risk.

There are clear links between CSE, Missing and CCE and a more joint approach is required in order to address these issues, prevent and reduce risks. In order to enable these developments to be successful consideration of increased strategic and operational capacity is necessary, to ensure an effective multi-agency and focused approach.

In order to safeguard all children and young people from sexual and criminal exploitation in Kirklees and reduce incidents of children being missing from home or care it is critical that the partnership capacity and early help response is increased by way of development of a multi-agency risk and vulnerability team areas of development should include -

- Establishing a safe space where young people can share their concerns with professionals who will listen to them. The focus should not only be on the child

but a whole family approach is often required therefore services should be offered to parents to give them insight and an appreciation of the effects of trauma

- providing specialist counselling services or have a clear pathway on how to ensure children's emotional needs are addressed and are offered therapeutic services
- delivering positive activities to empower, build self-esteem and confidence such as sport, music, arts and volunteering
- improving the way local organisations work together to support the most vulnerable young people who are at risk from CSE, Missing and CCE
- working with children who repeatedly go missing to ensure that they are kept safe and well not only offering missing return interviews but offering interventions that will reduce missing episodes and risk
- Auditing multi agency practice, provision and response for the purposes of practice improvement
- Contribution to developing high standards of practice, to assist with training and awareness raising to social work teams, professional agencies, third sector and voluntary agencies.

The emphasis of work required to drive forward a strategic and operational response to effectively tackle child sexual exploitation, in line with the identified key priorities and challenges, these being

- Develop our ability to identify areas of concern / “hotspots” within Kirklees
- Develop the CSE/Missing multi-agency operational hub
- Increase awareness, responsiveness, performance management, and quality assurance of cluster and early help based responses to low risk CSE/Missing
- Improve quality and analysis in the CSE/Missing Risk matrix and consistency in its use
- Identify and implement strategies for working with hard to reach communities, and with those children and young people whose vulnerability to CSE/Missing is hidden.

Purpose of the Development of Risk and Vulnerability Team

In order to safeguard all children and young people from sexual and criminal exploitation in Kirklees and reduce incidents of children being missing from home or care it is critical that the partnership capacity and early help response is increased by way of development of a multi-agency risk and vulnerability team.

However, in order to enable these developments to be successful consideration of increased strategic and operational capacity is necessary, to ensure an effective multi-agency and focused approach. This forward planning is particularly important to build upon the achievements to date in regards to the work undertaken by the CSE and Missing team whilst also recognising the requirement to respond

strategically and in line with legislation and statutory guidance to the emerging safeguarding issues that are associated with child sexual exploitation and more predominately with children missing from home or care and from the view of universal services, child trafficking and criminal exploitation.

Service provision in response to Missing

The service will provide missing from home and care return home interview that will take place within 72 hours of the child returning home subject to a timely referral of the data relating to the child's details.

The interview will be an opportunity to hear from the child and to understand the risks and issues faced by the child while missing. Help the child feel safe and understand that they have options to prevent repeat instances of them running away, explore the push and pull factors as well as any risk factors. This should include discussing with the child or young person;

- The frequency of the child's missing episodes
- Whether the child has been hurt or harmed
- The child's risk of sexual exploitation or trafficking
- Any involvement the child may have had in criminal activity or substance misuse
- Whether the child has had any contact with people who pose a risk to children
- Any on-going risk factors that may impact on the child going missing again; either at home or away.

If the worker undertaking the return home interview has concerns for the child's welfare and/or safety, a referral must be made to children's social care. Where a child has no case worker the missing worker will identify support networks and actively refer the child on.

The service may undertake case work sessions but only for a short period of time with the aim of sign posting into supportive services. Short term case work may where appropriate involve supporting families and or carers.

Service provision in response CSE

Kirklees CSE team has undertaken considerable work to ensure that children and young people are better safeguarded from sexual exploitation; however the complexities of child sexual exploitation mean that it is not a straightforward challenge to address or one that can be dealt with quickly or by a single agency. The emphasis now is to maintain the impetus to drive forward strategic and operational developments to effectively tackle child sexual exploitation in line with the identified key priorities and challenges, these being;

- To increase awareness, knowledge and process to identify areas of concern / "hotspots" within Kirklees and enhance our intelligence sufficiently to accurately identify taxi firms/hotels/other business of concern and agree best disruption tactics

- Increase awareness, responsiveness, performance management, and quality assurance of early help based responses to CSE and improve the quality and analysis in the CSE Risk matrix and consistency in its use
- Identify and implement strategies for working with hard to reach communities, and with those children and young people whose vulnerability to CSE is hidden.