

**Name of meeting:** Children's Scrutiny Panel  
**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
**Title of report:** Exploitation Strategy Update

### Purpose of report

The purpose of the Report is to provide Childrens Scrutiny Panel with an update of the work of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership relating to the Child Exploitation Strategy.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	NA
Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a>	NA
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	NA
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Mel Meggs
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	NA
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	NA
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	Cllr V Kendrick Children's Portfolio

**Electoral wards affected: All**

**Ward councillors consulted: No**

**Public or private: Public**

**(Have you considered GDPR?)**

Yes GDPR has been considered. The information in this report does not identify any individuals.

## 1. Summary

Child Exploitation partnership work, development and progress is overseen by the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership Exploitation Strategic and Operational groups. Early in 2020 the terms of reference and membership for both groups were reviewed. The review of the Operational group identified a lead person for each of the 4 strands of the operational action plan; these are Prevent, Prepare, Protect, and Pursue.

The Safeguarding Partnership Operational group action plan was revised in March to enable the Strategic group to be better informed and identify the most effective routes to resolving any identified problems. Covid-19 has impacted on the Operational group having in depth understanding of the more recent work and progress achieved across the whole of the partnership; however as services resume the ability to capture and coordinate the work, and share information across the partnership will recover.

The Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Strategy 2019 -2021 was launched earlier this year; it provides the strategic framework to develop and strengthen our response in the identification, assessment and intervention with children, and young people, through the implementation of a contextual safeguarding approach. The approach provides an understanding of, and response to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It extends the focus of support and intervention from the individual child and their family to their wider social context; working with young people, families, organisations, services, communities and others to increase the ability of parents, carers, communities and services to prevent and protect.

<http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/v17-2020-07-02-Kirklees-Exploitation-Strategy.pdf>

The approach has been adopted by the Children's Services Risk and Vulnerabilities team and is central to the Youth Engagement Service which is currently being developed. A Youth Engagement Service Partnership Event was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, in which progress achieved to date with regards to development of the service was shared. The central focus of the strategy and the Youth Engagement service is to ensure that children and young people receive meaningful, trusted adult the support, at the right time, available to them from a wide range of individuals and services in a variety of contexts, to ensure young people are able to engage with services when they need them.

### **Current Picture and Next Steps**

The development of the Children's Services Risk and Vulnerabilities team, which operates with partnership involvement in the Front door of Children's Social Care has enabled a more coordinated approach and delivery of services to children vulnerable to, at risk of exploitation and their families. All child exploitation and children missing from home or care cases are discussed daily in the multi-agency meetings and further explored and actioned at weekly Exploitation Screening Panels. Alongside these MACE meetings (multi agency Child Exploitation Meetings are embedded) and work is ongoing to further develop partnership information sharing pathways. The multi-agency approach to safeguarding children vulnerable to, at risk of exploitation will be further strengthened through the implementation of the Youth Engagement Service (YES)

The Youth Engagement Service (YES) is currently in development; the service will involve the co-location of the Risk and Vulnerabilities team, the Youth Intervention

team and the Youth Offending team; along with partner agencies. The aim of the delivery model is to enhance the recognition of vulnerability and risk, the allocation of resources and coordinate support and intervention in timely and effective way, by adopting the principle of identifying the right person/agency/service and the 'right person' with the skills and ability, to make a significant difference to the lives of children and young person vulnerable to, at risk of exploitation.

The relevant services (including Early Support and Youth work) are currently developing the associated policy and procedures; during Covid-19 lockdown period the Risk and Vulnerabilities team and the Youth Intervention team resources have been pooled to provide combined support around Exploitation which has enabled services to pilot a version of Youth Engagement Service.

Kirklees has a significant number of non-recent CSE enquiries and there is an active commitment to support survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation. Individual survivors identified through Police enquiries are offered support via appointed specific workers within Children and Adult services. Multi agency Survivor Pathway Bespoke meetings are held on a regular basis weekly basis, with attendance adapted to the specific support required by survivor; commissioning for Therapeutic counselling has been approved.

The Survivor's pathway has been informed by recent Children's Social Care Child Sexual Exploitation audit activity which has highlighted the requirement to develop clear transition pathways for older children who require support and intervention from adult services beyond the age of 18. To explore this further, the Children's Safeguarding Partnership is proposing to undertake a Thematic review of Child Sexual Exploitation. The purpose of the Thematic Review will be to determine whether there are any patterns in the lived experiences of the children who were sexually exploited and in their adulthoods, with the aim to learn from children's experiences and the impact on them as adults; to inform service provision, further our knowledge of child sexual exploitation, the local context and to shape cross partnership collaboration, in order to improve services for young people and survivors. The proposal is for the review to commence in September 2020. The learning will be disseminated across the partnership.

The Kirklees Children Missing from Home or Care procedures have been recently been reviewed and updated; and are with the Partnership for consultation. These have been developed in line with national work relating to Reporting a Child in Care Missing/ Levels of Intervention Model initiative which Kirklees is actively involved with. Additionally, the West Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Consortium Child Exploitation Protocol has been revised and is out for consultation; Kirklees has been instrumental in this work.

As of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020, there were 47 children and young people known to the Children's Social Care Risk and Vulnerabilities team identified as vulnerable to, or at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation ( assessed as low, medium or high risk), 40 children or young people vulnerable to, or at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and 9 identified as risk of, vulnerable to, both.

Intelligence and information relating to Child Exploitation is submitted via the partnership portal to West Yorkshire Police, with Kirklees partners actively sharing information. In addition, a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) quarterly document is produced by Police which focuses on Victim, Location, Subject and shared with partners; this is being developed to incorporate Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and wider child exploitation and vulnerability. Work to develop a West Yorkshire Problem

Profile is being coordinated by the Police Crime Commissioner's office and the West Yorkshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership Risk and Vulnerabilities group.

## 2. **Information required to take a decision**

To consider information provided and progress against the Exploitation Strategy

## 3. **Implications for the Council**

### 3.1 **Working with People**

Not applicable

### 3.2 **Working with Partners**

The following areas are highlighted areas of challenge in the KSCP Operational Exploitation action plan.

- Development and implementation of a coordinated partnership engagement programme with businesses and communities to identify locations of concern, effectively safeguard children, and prevent, divert or prosecute those who seek to facilitate and /or perpetrate exploitation. Whilst work is undoubtedly ongoing, coordination, reporting and coordination of activity is a challenge, which limits broad understanding of the impact of activity.
- Capturing the progress and challenges of the breadth of the work which sits under the umbrella of the Child Exploitation, together with the links to other areas of vulnerability and risk, i.e. Child Modern Day Slavery. To improve multi-agency partnership oversight and grip there is a proposal to form additional partnership subgroups under the current KSCP Exploitation Operational and Strategic groups. This will require active contribution from across the partnership at an increased number of subgroups.
- Achieving assurance that practitioner knowledge and understanding of the complexities of Child Exploitation and the contextual safeguarding approach. During 'living with Covid' how best to deliver learning and development opportunities and achieve the required assurance will require a robust and coordinated partnership approach; to provide assurance that children and young people vulnerable to, at risk of exploitation are being identified, and the partnership has an informed understanding of the problem profile, to enable the effective targeting of resources and service delivery.
- The advancement of a robust partnership analytical product is recognised as required to strengthen an intelligence led engagement plan and inform service delivery and development.

### 3.3 **Place Based Working**

Not applicable

**3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

Not applicable

**3.5 Improving Outcomes for Children**

This information is provided at the request of Children Scrutiny Panel to monitor the progress of the Strategy relating to children and young people at risk of Exploitation.

**3.6 Reducing demand of services**

Not applicable

**3.7 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Not applicable

**4. Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable

**5. Next steps**

A report will be presented to future meetings of the Children's Scrutiny Panel.

**6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report be noted.

**7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

**8. Contact officer**

Sara Miles, Head of Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

**9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Previous reports to the Children's Scrutiny Panel.

**10. Service Director responsible**

Elaine McShane, Service Director (Child Protection and Family Support)