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| 1. | Meeting: | Improving Lives Select Sommission |
| 2. | Date: | 16th December 2015 |
| 3. | Title: | Update on progress re CSE Multi Agency Risk Management Panel (MARP) |
| 4. | Directorate: | Children's Social Care Services |

5. Summary

5.1 This report summarises progress on the implementation of a MARP in Rotherham.

6. Introduction and Reccomendations

6.1 Commission members are asked to note the developments outlined in this report.

6.2 MARP is a monthly multi agency group with a range of managers present who have sufficient authority to make decisions in respect of their service and, if necessary, act outside traditional or accepted practice. The chair is the Superintendent deputy district policing commander, the deputy chair and staff officer function is provided by an interim Assistant Director from RMBC and business support is also provided by RMBC. MARP consider potential victims, perpetrators, locations and has a small strategic role regarding issues that may influence effective CSE service delivery.

7. VICTIMS

7.1 MARP seeks to improve outcomes for young people believed to be at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) by discussing difficult cases with the allocated social worker and initiating appropriate supportive activity. MARP is not a review process of professional practice or a means of escalation where professionals do not agree. Although by its very nature MARP sometimes strays into these areas of practice, members are increasingly proficient at staying focused on adding value rather than review and critique.

7.2 MARP has met on six occasions plus held a further two extraordinary MARP meetings to solely discuss young people identified through an audit linked to an Ofsted improvement meeting. MARP has reviewed 24 potential victims and feedback from the social workers involved has been generally positive. Examples of where MARP has been able to improve outcomes include: delivering an advocacy response for victims, fast track assertive outreach through Barnardos, intervening in housing prosecution issues, ensuring consistency of worker where current geographical considerations would normally mean a change of worker was required, challenge expulsion decisions and implement third sector support such as summer activities.

8. PERPETRATORS

8.1 Two perpetrators have been considered by MARP and these were individuals where it had not been possible to conduct criminal prosecutions against them but they were considered to pose a risk to children. MARP was able to coordinate multi agency intelligence gathering to support Police applications for Sexual Harm Prevention Orders.

9. LOCATIONS

9.1 MARP has considered four locations: a school, a park, a residential childrens home and a geographical area within Rotherham. On each occasion MARP has initiated activity which has led to either a better understanding of the issue or a reduction in risk relative for that location.

10. STRATEGIC ISSUES

10.1 MARP has considered four strategic issues: MAKESAFE provision, Licencing issues, Intelligence Sharing and Taxis.

11.2 It appears increasingly apparent that whilst useful for MARP to discuss such issues (and has contributed to better practice and outcomes), its real value is in establishing a multi agency commitment to respond to these through other groups or meetings (such as the LSCB CSE sub group).

11. NEXT STEPS

11.1 The group wish to implement a review of MARP and would prefer this to be done through an academic partner. The chair is currently exploring opportunities with appropriate universities.

11.2 Increasing the awareness and engagement with MARP is being taken forward by multi agency briefings currently being conducted at about two per month. These have included professionals from social care, health and education.

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