

Improving Lives Select Commission July 4, 2017

Title: CSE Post Abuse Services Update

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Mel Meggs, Deputy Strategic Director Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

Jo Smith, Head of Strategic Commissioning, Children and Young People's Services

Ward(s) Affected

All

1 Background

- 1.1 An update report is requested to ascertain the current position of RMBC in relation to the provision of Post Abuse Support in Rotherham.
- 1.2 In the wake of the Jay Report in October 2014 and the Casey report 2015 a number of Voluntary and Community Sector organisations with experience of working with people affected by CSE were commissioned to ensure that support would be available to any individual coming forward with disclosure of such issues.
- 1.3 The organisations commissioned are GROW, Rotherham RISE (Previously Rotherham Women's Refuge), Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service (RACS) formerly Women's Counselling Service, Swinton Lock (short term until June 2017), These organisations offer a suite of services which are reflective of need across the service user group (**Appendix 1 CSE Post Abuse Support Services Update**)
- 1.4 It must be recognised that the support offered is needs led and therefore dictated by the individual/family accessing it. Whilst we are actively encouraging people to come forward we recognise that it can take months or years of support and therapy before the individual is ready to take this step. Post disclosure support and therapy can again take months and years before that individual can move on with their lives.
- 1.5 Support is taking many different forms: case studies include families who have needed to relocate where support for things such as organising the logistics of relocation, settling children into new schools and changing utilities has been needed. Others have required more therapeutic intervention, counselling, group work and art therapy.
- 1.6 There are three shared CSE priorities from the Rotherham JSNA which are reflected in the services currently offered;

PREVENT children becoming victims of CSE through education and awareness raising and assuring local communities that agencies take the issue seriously.

PROTECT children and safeguard them from risk of harm from CSE.

PURSUE the perpetrators of CSE and ensure appropriate multi-agency plans are in place to support victims and to enable them to safely disclose the abuse and provide the evidence to prosecute offenders.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 The needs analysis 2015 undertaken by Public Health colleagues describes a breadth of support needs ranging from 'hand holding', practical support through to high level mental health intervention. This range is reflected in the suite of services now on offer. The analysis included voice and influence of individuals and groups taking into account the experiences of those who had previously been failed by the system.
- 2.2 To ensure that all communities with the Borough had a voice in the development of services Salford University were commissioned to work with a number of VCS organisations to capture their thoughts, ideas and experience post Casey and Jay Reports.
- 2.3 The Salford Report along with the Needs Analysis and other voice and influence work has helped to shape the CSE services now in place and being commissioned.
- 2.4 All Commissioned Post Abuse Services are required to include voice and influence elements to their support and this is monitored alongside other outcome monitoring arrangements. **Please find Service User Feedback (Appendix 2)**

3. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 3.1 Children and young people have access to a range of post abuse support services in accordance with individual need.
- 3.2 Vulnerable adults who have experienced child sexual exploitation and family members affected by the exploitation has access to a range of post abuse support services in accordance with individual need.

4. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 4.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken when developing the Service Specification.

5 Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

- 5.1 Partners and other directorates, where appropriate have been consulted as part of the development of the service specification.
- 5.2 Partners and other Directorates are aware of the services available.

6 Risks and Mitigation

- 6.1 There is a risk that due to past failings that the services may not be accessed due to issues of mistrust. This risk was partially mitigated through tendering the services and ensuring delivery through trusted voluntary and community sector organisations within the borough. As convictions have been secured and awareness of support services has been raised referrals into post abuse support services has increased. It would appear that confidence in RMBC

and Police is increasing in parallel with access to post abuse support.

- 6.2 There is a risk that as Police Operations emerge support going through the legal process and post court proceedings may exceed capacity. There is flexibility within the service specification to mitigate this risk.
- 6.3 Support will need to evolve in accordance with need and demand. There is flexibility within the service specification and monitoring arrangements

Background Papers

Post Abuse Support Service Specification

CSE Needs Analysis 2015

Salford Report 2015

Children's and Young People's Service Improvement Plan, 2015

RMBC Corporate Plan 2015 – 2018

Child Sexual Exploitation: The Way Forward 2015 – 2018

Rotherham JSNA 2016

Rotherham Borough Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2018

Rotherham's Improvement Plan: *A Fresh Start*

Child Sexual Exploitation Delivery Plan

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1: CSE Post Abuse Services Update 2017

Appendix 2: Service User feedback

Exempt from the Press and Public

No