

Summary Sheet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 5 March 2019

Report Title

Barnardo's ReachOut service update and Barnardo's ReachOut Final Evaluation Report.

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jon Stonehouse, Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services

Report Author

Sean Hill, Acting Strategic Commissioning Manager, Children and Young People's Service

Wards Affected

All

Summary

Barnardo's ReachOut project was established in Rotherham under a 3 year partnership funding agreement between Barnardo's, the KPMG Foundation, Department for Education, Communities and Local Government and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. The project is an innovative outreach service that strives to support and protect children and young people in Rotherham who are at risk of CSE. The key areas of work for the project are:

- Preventative educations in schools and other settings, primarily delivering the healthy relationships education package 'Real Love Rocks';
- Targeted outreach to young people at risk;
- Direct Support to individual young people and their parents.

The ReachOut Service began delivery in January 2016 and therefore has been operational for just over 3 years.

A Barnardo's ReachOut Service update report was presented to the Improving Lives Select Commission on the 5th June 2018 and as a result a further report was requested to include the following:

1. A further update to be submitted including the University of Bedfordshire and DMSS's full independent evaluation of the project.
2. Details of discussions with the Young Inspectors with a view to them carrying our work on the areas the project's profile and awareness were not as good as others or where the engagement with schools had not been as effective.
3. Details of discussions with the Assistant Director for Schools with regard to including information about the service within the schools' newsletter / bulletin.

This report presents an update of the key areas of service delivery, a summary of the full independent evaluation report, and the responses to the recommendations made at the Improving lives Select Commission on the 5th June 2018.

In addition this report also sets out plans for ongoing service delivery and the widening of ReachOut's remit to include early intervention, prevention and support for children and young people in Rotherham who are at risk of other forms of exploitation such as Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) or County Lines.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Barnardo's ReachOut Final Evaluation Report

Appendix 2 – Barnardo's Real Love Rocks Train the Trainer Offer

Appendix 3 – Home Office County Lines Guidance

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Barnardo's ReachOut service update and full independent evaluation report.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Barnardo's ReachOut Service update and the independent evaluation report be noted.
- 1.2 That a further update is presented in 6 months' time to report on progress, particularly regarding the widened remit of the service.

2. Background

Summary of the Barnardo's ReachOut Final Evaluation Report

ReachOut is a preventative child sexual exploitation (CSE) project established in 2016 under a partnership funding agreement between Barnardo's, the KPMG Foundation, Department for Education, Communities and Local Government and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC). An independent evaluation was commissioned from the University of Bedfordshire and DMSS Research both to evaluate the impact of the project and to provide ongoing learning and feedback.

There have been three main strands of work undertaken by ReachOut in order to achieve its aims:

- Outreach work to raise awareness and provide support to children and young people in their communities
- Healthy relationship education in schools and other settings
- Direct support for children and young people identified as at risk of CSE

These have operated at three levels of prevention: universal, including outreach at community events such as Rotherham Pride, helping to convey the message that CSE is relevant to everyone; primary prevention, including education work in schools reaching over 2000 children and young people; targeted prevention with groups and communities identified as potentially more vulnerable to CSE as well as direct work with 336 individual children and young people.

Over the course of the three years, evaluators have carried out interviews with ReachOut staff and managers and representatives from external agencies; observed sessions of delivery; interviewed samples of young people and parents; analysed feedback questionnaires from school students and staff; reviewed project monitoring and samples of case records.

Key Findings

2.1 Outreach Work

ReachOut has reached over 10,000 people across Rotherham with information about CSE prevention. As part of its universal outreach, the project has been involved in numerous community events. More targeted outreach has included

work alongside the police and Early Help and training for adults who may have a preventive role such as taxi drivers and the Fire Service. One of ReachOut's most sustained outreach initiatives has been with the Roma community which has successfully demonstrated the benefits of long term, community-based work and the relationships which ensue.

2.2 Healthy Relationship education in schools and other settings

Every secondary school in Rotherham has had some engagement with ReachOut, with some being very active partners. Around half of all primary schools have also received input. ReachOut started its programme of healthy relationship education in schools in 2016 using the Barnardo's resource 'Real Love Rocks'. In years 2 and 3 there has been a stronger emphasis on capacity building for school staff via a train the trainer programme and bespoke support based on schools' identified needs.

Feedback collected from over 1000 students and 50 school staff clearly indicates that the Real Love Rocks programme achieves its learning outcomes for a high proportion of participants. School staffs were in 100% agreement that:

- sessions were well planned and organised
- materials were appropriate for the children's age and stage
- workers interacted well with the children
- Real Love Rocks was relevant to all children involved in the sessions

In year 2, a 'train the trainer' programme was introduced to help embed the delivery of RLR by schools themselves. Participant feedback on the courses has been very positive and a follow up e-survey of participants provided early indications that this may be an effective approach to spreading and embedding healthy relationship education into Rotherham schools.

2.3 Direct work with Children and Young People

Between the 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2018 ReachOut received a total of 336 referrals for individual children and young people. 49% of referrals came from Social Care, with a further 16% from Early Help and 19% from Education. Referrals have been received for children and young people attending every secondary education provision in Rotherham, an indication of good cross-city / town reach.

90% of those referred were girls and young women. Ages ranged from 8 to 20 years with the majority (77%) being aged between 12 and 15 years.

49 (14%) of those referred were recorded as having a disability. In nine cases this was a physical disability; 23 young people were recorded as having a learning disability and 12 an autistic spectrum disorder.

Referrals were frequently triggered by concerns over young people's safety on-line. However, the vast majority of ReachOut's young peoples have had a range underlying issues that might heighten their potential vulnerability to CSE,

including family difficulties, mental health issues, prior abuse and problematic peer relationships.

Worker assessments suggest that the project has successfully increased young people's ability to recognise exploitative behaviour, particularly when this occurs on the internet and reduced their level of risk of exploitation. Specific outcomes recorded at case closure indicated positive changes that had been facilitated by the intervention. These included:

- Improved self-esteem
- Better relationship with parent
- Adopted appropriate privacy settings
- Improved behaviour at school
- Started a new, age appropriate, relationship
- Facebook/internet use dramatically reduced
- Having a new peer group
- Understanding own emotions better

Feedback from young people and parents/carers has been extremely positive about the quality of relationships with ReachOut staff and the support they have received. All the young people we interviewed were able to give clear and specific accounts of the CSE related knowledge and understanding they had gained.

For most young people it was the relationship with a specific worker and the practical, reliable, holistic support they had received that had made the greatest impression on them.

Parents and foster carers interviewed had also valued their own relationships with ReachOut workers and felt that the support they themselves had received had been crucial in changing young people's trajectories.

2.4 Partnership Working

In order to contribute to the core aim of building a culture of trust across agencies in Rotherham, ReachOut has placed great emphasis on partnership working. Good relationships with both statutory and voluntary sector partners established in year 1 were sustained and strengthened. Highlights of successful partnerships include extensive joint working with Early Help and the Evolve team, the collaboration with the Clifton Learning Partnership and other agencies in Eastwood and the successful development of the Voice and Influence Partnership. Evaluation interviews with partner agencies have consistently elicited positive feedback.

Good partnership working is widely recognised as a vital component of effective development and delivery of services to children and families. When the ReachOut project started in 2016, the CSE inquiries and media coverage had taken its toll on inter-agency relationships. While many organisations and individuals have played an important role in building better partnership working, ReachOut, as a new preventative project established with an explicit commitment to collaboration appears to have contributed to creating a more positive multi-agency culture.

2.5 Voice and Influence

There is a shared commitment across Rotherham to ensure that children and young people have a voice. Listening to children and young people is fundamental to improved services, stronger communities and, of course, better safeguarding.

The Voice and Influence partnership involves a wide range of agencies across Rotherham. ReachOut helped to fund developmental work by the Children, Young People and Families Consortium to create the Different but Equal Board, made up of young people from different communities, backgrounds and interests to represent the voice of Rotherham young people. In 2017 an event was planned and organised by the Different but Equal Board and attended by 150 young people. This was followed by a launch of a film of the event and a host of new approaches to involving young people in influencing policies and strategies, recruiting staff and developing more meaningful processes for consultation using a good practice template.

These developments demonstrate what is possible when young peoples' involvement is taken seriously. The experience of involvement was described as having made a huge difference to individuals, growth of confidence, friendships and skills: but of equal importance, it set the tone for young people's participation in Rotherham.

Partnership has been the key word for these developments with ReachOut playing a valued role. One interviewee stated '*None of this would have happened without the ReachOut*'.

2.6 Project Achievements

Over the past three years ReachOut has worked with a wide range of partners across Rotherham's statutory and voluntary sectors. Alongside the efforts of many other agencies in Rotherham, its collaborative approach has been identified as making a valuable contribution to re-building a culture of trust in the city.

ReachOut has reached thousands of children and young people through its outreach and preventative education activities – raising awareness of CSE and promoting healthy relationships based on equality and choice. These activities have been positively received by young people and there is evidence that their knowledge and understanding has been increased. Most Rotherham schools have welcomed the input, and many have embraced the idea that healthy relationship education is part of their 'core business'.

Over 330 vulnerable children and young people have been provided with direct support by the project. There is good evidence that this support has successfully raised their awareness, confidence and self-esteem. Given the

immediate risk that had prompted some referrals, it is likely that sexual abuse and exploitation may well have been the outcome without ReachOut's intervention.

2.7 What has been learned?

ReachOut has developed a model of CSE preventative work that operates at all three levels of prevention and takes a 'whole city' approach. The three stranded approach of community outreach, school-based preventative education and direct support to children and young people has been confirmed to be a generally effective strategy. It has been important to keep the balance of these strands under review to maximise the best use of resources, but there is wide agreement among stakeholders that all three elements have been important.

ReachOut offers important lessons about the detail of what works: how to take account of what matters to community groups, schools and families to maximise their engagement. ReachOut has demonstrated that effective intervention with vulnerable young people depends primarily on building warm, respectful relationships based on listening, understanding, appreciating and believing in them. They have 'modelled' such relationships in their outreach, education and direct support work across the city, and teachers, parents, foster carers, social workers and young people themselves have recognised the significance of these relationships in boosting young people's confidence and aspirations.

3. Young Inspectors suggestions around increasing Primary School Engagement with the Real Love Rocks Train the Trainer offer.

The Young Inspectors were approached for ideas and suggestions as to how they might help in increasing primary school engagement with the Real Love Rocks Train the Trainer offer. Suggestions include:

- Collating statements from schools who have received the training to use with peers to promote the benefits of the training.
- Promote the training on social media encouraging families and pupils to discuss with their teachers.
- Consider innovative ways of delivering the training using games for example and filming the training to share with other schools
- Consider an e-learning or virtual learning package that could be shared with schools.

These suggestions will be considered in the ongoing promotion of the Real Love Rocks training offer and further awareness raising activity.

4. Promotion of the Train the Trainer offer via the School's Bulletin

In an effort to raise the awareness of the Real Love Rocks offer and increase the number of primary schools taking up this train the trainer opportunity, discussions with the Director of Education and Skills and the school improvement service have resulted in the inclusion of a regular article in the Rotherham Schools Bulletin. The article includes a detailed description of the

offer including why the programme was developed, who it is for, and the available dates of the training. Please see **Appendix 2**. This promotion of the programme has resulted in an increased uptake with an additional 20 primary schools attending between October 2018 and February 2019. Almost 50% of primary schools have now engaged, with plans to continue to promote additional dates going forward.

5. ReachOut's widened remit.

RMBC, CYPS Commissioning, in Partnership with Barnardo's were successful in their bid for £1m funding from the Home Office's Trusted Relationship Fund. RMBC are 1 of only 11 successful Local Authorities who were awarded a share of £13m fund to develop preventative and early intervention outreach services to address the issue of child criminal exploitation and abuse. The strength of Rotherham's partnership bid and proposed approach resulted in the Home Office Minister launching the fund in Rotherham.

The Government's definition of County Lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. A more detailed description is available in the Home Office's County Lines Guidance. Please see **Appendix 3**.

This funding, combined with a continued strategic and financial commitment from CYPS and Barnardo's, will enable the ReachOut team to widen their remit to include young people at the risk of Child Criminal Exploitation or County Lines. Barnardo's are building strong links with the Youth Offending Team, and through research and connections with providers, who have a proven track record in delivering services for this cohort of young people, are further developing their assessment indicators to include the risks and vulnerabilities attributed to this exploitation.

The terms of reference for the multi-agency ReachOut Board are being revised to reflect this widened remit and ensure that appropriate representatives from RMBC, Health, the Police and the voluntary and community sector are present.

6. Accountable Officer(s)

Approvals Obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance & Inclusion	Jenny Lingrell	14 th February 2019
Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services	Jon Stonehouse	14 th February 2019

Report Author: Sean Hill, Acting Strategic Commissioning Manager, Children and Young People's Service

This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-

<http://modern.gov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>