

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET**

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>2. Date:</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>
<b>3. Title:</b>	<b>RLSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan 6 Month Progress Report</b>
<b>4. Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services</b>

**5. Summary:**

Keeping children and young people safe and therefore the eradication of CSE is one of the highest priorities of the Council, the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children's Board (RLSCB), the Safer Rotherham Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Working together in partnership and with our local communities is key if we are to improve our collective response to this dreadful form of child abuse.

Rotherham's Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy is a three year plan published in April 2013 accompanied by a multi-agency delivery action plan.

This report highlights the achievements made in the first six months of the plan and the next steps across the three key priorities of Prevent, Protect and Pursue.

**6. Recommendations:**

- **For Cabinet to note the progress made and endorse the further development areas**

## 7. Proposals and Details:

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is recognised nationally as one of the most important challenges facing agencies today. It has a serious long term and lasting impact on every aspect of a child or young person's life including their health, physical and emotional wellbeing, educational attainment, personal safety, relationships, and future life opportunities.

As previously reported to members there are several on-going reviews and enquiries to examine historical allegations of abuse and various aspects of the effectiveness of current arrangements. [At the time of this report being written although some of these reviews are complete we are still awaiting the publication of the findings]. Following the publication of their new inspection framework for local authorities, we are also aware that Ofsted will incorporate specific CSE lines of enquiry within future inspections that will begin from November.

The partnership are working to a single multi-agency strategy and accompanying action plan which was published by the RLSCB in April. Following the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) report in June the delivery action plan was then refreshed to ensure all relevant HASC recommendations were incorporated.

The Delivery Action Plan now contains seven strategic actions aligned to the three CSE Priorities of 'Prevent, 'Protect' and 'Pursue' plus one strategic action which is cross cutting across all three. [A plan on a page version of the action plan is provided in **Appendix A**]. The details within the plan will continue to develop over time to ensure they are focused on current issues and will incorporate the findings of any current or future reviews, enquiries and inspections.

This following provides Members with a summary of achievements since the publication of the strategy and next steps for developments against each of the action plans strategic actions. In addition a data summary table is provided for each of the priorities to compare data for 2012/13 and the first six months of 2013/14.

## **LEADERSHIP**

**Cross Cutting across Prevent, Protect and Pursue**

**Strategic Action 1: We will improve the clarity of governance and strengthen leadership arrangements to ensure an effective multi-agency response to CSE**

### **Achievements**

Governance arrangements have been clarified and further strengthened by engagement of key agencies, partners and lay membership. The Rotherham LSCB has devolved its strategic responsibilities to a specific Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Group (formerly the Gold Group) which now has multi-agency representation from all key partners. This is further supported by a multi-agency Operational Managers group (known as Silver Group).

There are now regular reports to Cabinet and briefings to all members.

Performance management arrangements are now in place and a quality audit tool has been drafted with regular updates to the CSE Sub-group and full Safeguarding Board. These will continue to be refined and developed alongside services and the action plan.

Barnardo's completed their independent practice review at the end of September. In their verbal feedback consultants stated that they had seen some outstanding practice and good partnership work developing. They felt that there was evidence of "really passionate committed people keen to get it right for Rotherham".

### **Next Steps**

An information sharing protocol is already in place and data is shared securely. Further development work will be undertaken to reduce barriers and increase staff confidence in appropriate data sharing and it ensure it is done as efficiently as possible.

Following the Barnardo's review there has been a CSE diagnostic lead by the Rotherham LSCB Chair in October. Once the Barnardo's final report is published and the findings of the diagnostic are known the CSE Action Plan will be reviewed against recommendations and updated to ensure we address and deliver any new areas for improvement.

## **PREVENT**

Making it more difficult to exploit children

**Strategic Action 2: We will deliver an effective co-ordinated training, community and schools awareness programme through a multi-agency "Learning, Development and Awareness Strategy"**

### **Achievements**

CSE training and awareness programme has been delivered to key staff and young people for a number of years. Since April 2012 over 2500 staff, councillors, young people, neighbourhood watch co-ordinators and members of the public attended a training or awareness event. Work is now underway to ensure that this awareness is available to all staff with more specialised training available for those working direct with the children and young people. We aim to build a boroughwide 'Eyes and Ears' approach so that as many members of staff across the partnership, the public and young people know the signs, risks and reporting methods for CSE.

All but three ward members have attended CSE awareness raising. So far this year 11 parish councillors have also attended with a further event planned for July 2014.

The Healthy Schools Teams have worked with PSHE leads in primary and secondary schools to develop a range of materials and resources to educate young people on CSE. These resources have been updated to ensure that they are appropriate for the wider age range of 10 and 16 years.

Last year our CSE team worked with 13 of our 16 secondary schools reaching 911 pupils through awareness workshops. By the end of this year all schools will have been engaged, in the first six months of 2013/14 we have already reached 887 pupils. In addition to this we are also working with all the pupil referral units, including the Rowan Centre (education provision for young mums) and also working with relevant special schools and colleges.

Further support is provided through the Integrated Youth Support Service who offer young people in high risk groups the opportunity to access one to one support, group work and a wide range of developmental learning opportunities and positive activities.

### **Next Steps**

Training numbers so far for staff for 2013/14 are low in comparison to 2012/13. However we will be utilising the National Working Group (NWG) CSE e-learning package across the partnership to ensure we have a good quality and consistent awareness package available for all staff and therefore significantly increase the training figures. Unfortunately the NWG have informed us that the release of their e-

learning package has been delayed until December 2013 but we still aim for the rollout to be completed by March 2014.

In addition due to the scale of the learning programme needed to reach all staff who work with directly with Children and Young People a 'Train the Trainer' programme will be rolled out across all agencies. Names have been provided by partners and the Trainer workshop will be held before the end of the year.

The Sub-group aims to make better use of online and social technologies to engage with as many members of the public and young people as possible. This is being developed through the South Yorkshire wide CSE Communication Strategy.

**Strategic Action 3: We will develop a Multi-agency Media/Communication strategy to ensure consistent and accurate messages are shared with all, in support of public awareness and improved confidence in delivery**

## **Achievements**

A joint South Yorkshire Communication Strategy has been drafted and is out for consultation with Sub-Group Members. It was presented at the Police Crime Commissioners Forum in October.

A dedicated and more focused briefing site has been developed for Police staff and is managed and maintained by their intelligence department.

Leaflets have been designed for Parents/Carers and for Children and Young People. This have been distributed at Rotherham Show and other Community Events and are also available to download on the RMBC and Safeguarding Board websites.

The Rotherham Advertiser, Rother FM and Hallam FM are all engaged in our media campaign to raise awareness across the borough.

Strategies are in place to work across wider multi-agency partnerships including businesses, social landlords and communities. In particular significant work has been undertaken to build relationships and awareness with local hotels and guest houses including letter and leaflet mail outs and personalised visits to the larger chains by the Safeguarding Board Business Manager and Police. One hotel offered its facilities to host a group CSE awareness workshop for hotel and guest house staff which was held in October.

In addition all leisure, hospitality and retail businesses are to be invited to an event in November supported by the National Working Group as part of their 'Say something if you see something' campaign.

## **Next Steps**

Work has started with key community groups including an event with 24 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and a workshop for School Governors in

October. Other key individuals and networks within local communities have been identified (for example faith groups, LGBT and migrant families), and engagement with these groups will be in line with the joint Communication Strategy.

<b>Data Summary - PREVENT</b>		
<b>MEASURE</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14 (First 6 months)</b>
Numbers attending training and/or awareness raising Events		
Police Supervising Officers trained in CSE	110	-
Ward Members trained in CSE	45	15
Senior Managers trained in CSE	19	-
Staff undertaken multi-agency training on CSE	171	48
Multi-agency staff trained on the lessons learned from the Child 'S' Serious Case Review	175	17
Ward Members attended 'one off' Local Government Yorkshire and the Humber conference	36	Not applicable 'one off event'
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators trained	-	24
Parish Councillors trained	-	11
Number of under 18 college students engaged in CSE awareness raising	-	40
Number of secondary schools engaged in CSE awareness raising with pupils	13	15
Number of pupils involved in CSE awareness raising (through the above schools)	911	887

*The contents of the data and performances will continue to be developed and therefore measures may change/expand in the future.*

## **PROTECT**

Identifying and safeguarding children who are at risk

**Strategic Action 4: We will ensure single and multi-agency processes and procedures are effective, efficient and fit for purpose to support the protection of children and young people from the risks and impact of CSE**

### **Achievements**

The Multi Agency CSE Team has now expanded to include the Voluntary and Community sector and Health services. GROW delivering a project “INVOLVE” support package to families and young women up to the age of 25 who are victims of CSE. Public Health have funded a nurse to work with young people and advise the CSE team on health issues and pathways.

A regional CSE risk assessment tool has been piloted across South Yorkshire. Following the trial some issues need addressing to ensure its effectiveness and suitability for young people’s needs.

Following revised national guidelines and policies the local procedure for children missing from home, care and education has been redrafted and will be taken for approval to the sub-group in November. Part of this redrafting will include recognition of issues and risks of CSE.

Relationships have been strengthened with Victim Support and the local Licensing Board. Victim Support are part of the CSE Sub-Group membership and actively involved in the action plan and the Licensing Manager now attends the Operational Managers Group (Silver Group) to ensure concerns and intelligence is shared and influences licensing decisions.

### **Next Steps**

Further work needs to be done on the review of pathways between agencies to ensure they are clear and understood by staff outside the specialist CSE team. In addition systems across key agencies will undergo development to ensure victims of CSE and those at risk of CSE can be identified and monitored to ensure successful outcomes and service improvement. The expansion of the team and the redeveloped Operational Managers Group will help facilitate and drive this forward.

Children’s views are captured through assessments and plans. However the Sub-Group are keen to insure that our children and young people have voice and influence on service development. We want to listen to young people and their families to ensure their voice helps shape our future service improvements. Therefore a Young Persons Participation Strategy is to be developed supported by the Integrated Youth Support Service.

## **Strategic Action 5: We will ensure there is effective protection, support and guidance for victims and potential victims of Child Sexual Exploitation**

### **Achievements**

The social care 'front door' process and support specifically for CSE has been clarified and strengthened. Any child who is referred to, or already involved with, Children's Social Care Services and is at potential risk of CSE undergoes a screening process using a bespoke CSE checklist. Where issues are identified the specialised CSE Team will then lead on the assessment for new cases or, if the child is already has social care involvement and is allocated to another key team, they will advise and if needed work with their current social worker to ensure child receives appropriate support.

The number of social care cases being led by the CSE Team has risen from 69 at the end of March 2013 to 82 at the end of September, representing a 19% increase in direct caseload. Seven of these are boys. This does not include cases held by other agencies such as social care or Barnardo's.

The total number of joint investigations have also increased from 38 at the end of March 2013 to 57 at the end of September a 50% increase on the previous year in the first six months of this year.

Children and young people running away from home or care is a growing issue. These children and young people are at high risk of CSE. The number of incidents of runaways recorded between April and August 2013 was 123, (average of 24.6 per month), and involved 56 children. In the whole of 2012/13 this was 339, (28.3 per month) and involved 121 children.

Safe@Last are commissioned to deliver return to home interviews with young people to try identify and address the reason for the run-away incident and educate the young person on the potential risks they face. Their data and monitoring systems are still in development however the current year they have received 182 referrals relating to 77 children. RMBC Performance and Quality team are to work with Safe@Last to support them in developing their systems to ensure good data quality.

It's important that Looked after Child (LAC) in placements outside of the local area are not disadvantaged or placed at more risk than other children. Therefore the subject of CSE and risk of run-away is included in the referral form and initial placement agreement to inform the placement search criteria.

In September an EU/New Arrival Family Induction Day event had a number of family learning topics including parental supervision and exploitation. The CSE Team have also delivered a workshop on CSE for Roma girls in conjunction with a local school.

In August Victim Support launched a new initiative to provide independent and confidential services to young witnesses and victims of crime. The enhanced service

is funded through the PCC and provides young people and their families support before, during and after trial so they can give the best evidence in court.

## Next Steps

Specific Safety Plans are to be introduced as a new local requirement for any LAC who is identified as at risk of CSE. [This will be in addition to their on-going care plans which are already a requirement for all children in care.]

Compliance with the regional White Rose monitoring framework for commissioned LAC placements is a requirement across our commissioned placements and includes CSE and runaways. This information is to be analysed as part of the developing performance management framework.

Police Young People's Partnership Officers (PYPPPO) are to work with IYSS officers to help strengthen the first point of contact with police and ensure it is young person friendly to encourage reporting of crime and making statements.

The local procedure for children missing from home, care and education is being revised in response to the publication of a number of recent national guidelines and reports, this will be available by the end of December 2013.

<b>Data Summary - PROTECT</b>		
<b>MEASURE</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14 (First 6 months)</b>
Cases open to social care CSE Team	69	82
Number of the above who are boys	-	7
Cases open to parenting team linked to CSE	-	74
Joint investigations	38 (total)	57 (running total) 28 (currently open)
Number of contacts made to social services regarding CSE	437	66
Number of children the above contacts relate to	212	60
Number of contacts leading to a referral	129	49
Number of children the above referrals relate to	119	48
Number of Initial Assessments completed by the CSE Team	13	41
Number of Core Assessments completed by the CSE Team	4	17
Number of police referrals into the PPU	114	60
Number of reported incidences of children running away from home or care	339	123 (at end Aug)
Number of children the above runaway incidences relate to	121	56
Referrals to Safe@Last	-	182
Number of children in the above referrals to Safe@Last	-	77

## Data Summary - PROTECT

MEASURE	2012/13	2013/14 (First 6 months)
Return interviews following 'runaway'	-	26
Safe@last follow up visits	-	143
Number of children involved in the above follow up visits	-	25
GROW INVOLVE project (started June 2013)	Projects were not running in 2012/13	
Young People referred to the project		5
Young People engaged in the project		5
Young People currently receiving support		5
Families referred to the project		6
Families engaged in the project		4
Families currently receiving support		3
GROW AWARE project (now concluded - data relates to April-June 13)		
Young People referred to the project		6
Young People engaged in the project		6
Total number of Young People who received support		13
Families referred to the project		6
Families engaged in the project		6
Total number of Families who received support		6

*The contents of the data and performances will continue to be developed and therefore measures may change/expand in the future.*

## **PURSUE**

Identifying offenders, disrupting and stopping their activity

### **Strategic Action 6: We will proactively identify and disrupt places of CSE activity**

#### **Achievements**

On-going improvements and developments in information and intelligence gathering are enabling Police and the CSE Team to respond quickly and appropriately. The Police intelligence system has been reviewed and a new framework is in place which is linked to Police staff briefing systems.

A specific CSE police analyst for South Yorkshire has been recruited and is currently based at Headquarters. This role will work strategically across the four areas but will also deliver specific local needs analysis projects to support the identification of needs, impact and outcomes for young people in relation to CSE. This will then feed into the RMBC Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and the police lead Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA).

Operation 'Stay Safe' has been delivered through joint working between the Police and Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS) .

Our Safer Rotherham Partnership is fully focussed on CSE and this is reflected through meetings and activities of all of its priority groups and governance structure including the Joint Action Group, Neighbourhood Action Groups, Safer Neighbourhood Team Briefings, Crime & Community Tasking meetings and the Reducing Crime, Reducing Harm and Domestic Abuse priority groups. During the partnerships planning and execution of tactical crime and Anti-Social Behaviour reduction operations the potential is maximised for obtaining evidence of CSE and if so, taking swift and affective action is always a consideration. Close reporting lines exist between operational partners, the multi-agency Vulnerable Persons Unit and the CSE Team based at Maltby Police Station.

#### **Next Steps**

Work has started on establishing a process for appropriate information currently held in other systems to be included within Police systems to further enrich intelligence. This is subject to and awaiting a force level decision.

## **Strategic Action 7: We will ensure perpetrators are brought to justice**

### **Achievements**

In September an independent inquiry was commissioned by RMBC to review the previous ways of working and outcomes of CSE cases which were open between 1997 to January 2013. It is hoped that the partnership can learn from the findings of the review and to further inform service development and improvement. Any resulting recommendations and lessons learnt will be built into the existing action plan.

A variety of criminal intervention techniques are successfully used to cease CSE activity and potential activity as early as possible before it escalates into serious harm for the young person. The use of these techniques are on the increase. So far this year there have been 3 attrition activities and 20 abduction notices, compared to 3 and 28 respectively for the whole of 2012/13.

All perpetrators in custody and in the community who are under the supervision of the Probation Services have a robust risk Management Plan.

There has been one conviction since April, a local Teaching Assistant. He pleaded guilty to charges of sexual activity with a child between 2011 and 2012, three counts of making indecent images, two counts of sexual activity with a child while in a position of trust, and two of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity. He pleaded guilty at court and received 3 years he must sign the sex offenders' register and is banned from working with children.

As previously reported to members (on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013) Rotherham Police are also involved in a number of on-going live operations, some of which are being led by neighbouring authorities. A summary of these operations is shared below; however further details of live investigations are confidential:

- Operation K ALPHABET – 16 month long intelligence led investigation, reported in the Advertiser. 8 suspects charged with 71 offences against children. 2 individuals have 42 and 21 charges between them
- Operation Carriage – operation targeting Prom season and concerns around ensuring child safeguarding
- Operation Klan – two Doncaster men on remand for a range of offences. A number of victims identified, some of whom are from Rotherham
- Operation Clover – this is a joint investigation linked to the recent story in the Times and allegations of abuse from 1994 to 2005
- 4 cases on police bail at the moment
- 2 cases pending court, one being charged for 40 offences including rape, sexual activity with a child; the other being charged with two rapes of a child under 13 years

## Next Steps

In October 2013 it was confirmed the Police Analyst promised from the additional resource identified by the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner would be based in Rotherham. The PCC was keen to see how effective the analyst role was as part of the CSE team in Rotherham before rolling out force wide.

We continue to see our main offender profile to be single offenders.

There will be a refresh of the full problem profile in November which will inform the CSE Sub-Group and action of the Operational Managers Group and their teams.

Probation Service have started a local offender profile and exploration is underway to identify funding for a full research project to understand the motivation and behaviour of perpetrators and to identify common indicators of persons likely to commit CSE.

<b>Data Summary - PURSUE</b>		
<b>MEASURE</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14 (First 6 months)</b>
Number of attrition activities	3	3
Number of abduction notices	28	20
Individuals currently on police bail	-	6
Individuals currently on remand	-	2
Cases pending court	-	10
Number of convictions	-	1

*The contents of the data and performances will continue to be developed and therefore measures may change/expand in the future.*

**8. Finance:**

The CSE team total budgeted expenditure for 2013/14 is £274,086. This is funded by £45,208 Designated Schools Grant, £50,000 Police Crime Commissioner and £178,878 Revenue.

**9. Risks and Uncertainties:**

Ofsted are bringing in a new framework for inspection which will go live from November this year. There will be a strand of this inspection looking at CSE. In addition, HIMC are undertaking thematic CSE reviews of police forces and the Police and Crime Commissioner had asked that South Yorkshire Police be reviewed. This took place at the end of September and the report will be available by the end of the year.

**10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:**

The multi-agency Performance Framework which accompanies the CSE Strategy and Action Plan will continue to develop to ensure that accurate, timely and meaningful information about key aspects of CSE and safeguarding children and young people is collated and used to inform practice. New government guidance on the collection of data relating to CSE is anticipated and will be incorporated in the performance data; which will be presented to members as part of the regular updates on performance.

**11. Background Papers and Consultation:**

- Reports to Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> September
- Members briefing on 4<sup>th</sup> July.
- LGA publication, June 2013 'How councils are raising awareness of child sexual exploitation'
- RLSCB CSE Strategy 2013-2016

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