

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

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| 1. | Meeting: | Cabinet |
| 2. | Date: | 5th February 2014 |
| 3. | Title: | RLSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan 9 Month Progress Report <i>Appendix A – CSE Action Plan on a Page</i> <i>Appendix B – Recommendations of CSE Reviews with links to action plan</i> <i>(All Wards)</i> |
| 4. | Directorate: | Children and Young People’s Services |

5. Summary

This report highlights the achievements made in the first nine months of the CSE Strategy and Action plan and the next steps across its three key priorities of Prevent, Protect and Pursue.

6. Recommendations

- **For cabinet to note progress and endorse the further development areas**
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7. Proposals and Details

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

In November Cabinet received a six month progress report on the delivery of the plan. This report provides cabinet details further progress achieved in the following quarter (September – December 2013). During this time a number of local independent reviews have now been completed and the Office of the Children's Commissioner's final report into CSE was published. The associated reports outlined a number of recommendations and areas for improvement for local, regional and national services. Details of the recommendations with identified links to Rotherham's current CSE action plan is provided in Appendix B. These findings will help the CSE Sub-Group review and refresh the strategy and action plan for 2014-15 to ensure it is fit for purpose and delivers improved services and outcomes for children, young people and their families.

To aid Members and for reference the 'plan on a page' version of the CSE action plan is provided in Appendix A.

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

Since the last report three independent reviews of Rotherham CSE services have been published;

- HMIC Review of South Yorkshire Police Response to CSE
- Barnardo's Rotherham Practice Review
- Rotherham Local Safeguarding Board Chair Review of Response to CSE

In addition the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups final national report was published in November.

Each of these reports includes a number of recommendations and highlight areas for improvement. These are detailed in Appendix B, however key themes emerging across the reviews for Rotherham include;

- Clarity and communication of governance
- Further strengthening performance management arrangements
- Reviewing team resources, structures and location
- Increased use of intelligence and analysis to aid pursuit of offenders
- Improving communication with staff and the community

These reports have been welcomed by the RLSCB Sub-group who will be utilising the recommendations to inform and shape the 2014 CSE strategy and action plan review in February.

The Rotherham LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Group (formerly the Gold Group) and multi-agency Operational Managers group are now well established, driving the delivery of the CSE action plan and taking remedial action on any areas of concern or slippage against timescales. In his recent report Steve Ashley (Independent Chair of Rotherham's LSCB) stated that 'progress made in Rotherham up to 2013 is remarkable'.

The Rotherham reviews also all commented on the passion, determination, commitment and enthusiasm of both front-line staff and senior managers across agencies to eradicate CSE.

Next Steps

As mentioned above a review of the annual review of the CSE strategy and associated action plan will begin in February.

However partners are not waiting for the strategy and action plan review to be completed and work to address these areas and other recommendations has already begun.

This includes the agreement by partners to create a central Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (known as a MASH) for children and young people. This will involve moving the CSE Team, other Public Protection Unit officers, voluntary and community service colleagues, and social services Contact and Referral Team to Riverside this will allow improved joint working not only for CSE but also for Domestic Abuse, anti-social behaviour and the wider safeguarding children agenda. In addition front facing work with young people will be held at Eric Manns. This will be major step forward for Rotherham but due to the number and variety of agencies the project will be very complex to achieve. It is envisaged that this will be fully completed September 2014. A separate report on the MASH development will be brought to Cabinet in the near future.

In addition the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police has confirmed that all the HMIC recommendations have already been addressed. The Police and Crime Commissioner has also outlined improvements to be made at a force wide level including amalgamating the force CSE team and historic review team to increase flexibility to respond to CSE issues in the county. The PCC will also fund an additional police Child Protection Officer in Rotherham and there will be an increase in detective constables in the District Investigation Offices to enhance resilience and capacity to manage workloads.

The Independent Inquiry of historic CSE in Rotherham commissioned by the RMBC Chief Executive has begun however the findings will not be published until June.

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

In the last quarter a total of 707 partnership staff, business representatives, parish councillors and young people have attended CSE training workshops taking the total for this financial year to 1560. In addition, this year our Integrated Youth Support Service have undertaken informal curriculum sessions on CSE and related issues with 3209 young people.

The CSE Sub-Group have been fortunate to see an early demonstration and be consulted on the new National Working Group (NWG) e-learning package for CSE. This will be used both locally and nationally as a universal training package available to staff who need an awareness and understanding of CSE to enable them to identify those at risk and make referrals, but aren't necessarily working directly with children and young people. A local rollout programme is currently being agreed whilst the NWG finalised the product.

As detailed in the previous report, to ensure the more specialist training reaches all staff who work directly with Children and Young People a 'Train the Trainer' approach was agreed by the CSE Sub-Group. These trainers were trained in November and are cascading the training in their organisation. Further support is planned to utilise this resource pool and support their further development.

Rotherham Healthy Schools PSHCE scheme of work for primaries has now been updated to include age appropriate CSE materials and was launched in the Autumn term at PSHE leads meeting.

CSE is incorporated within the training for school safeguarding leads and additional specific sessions have been held for school safeguarding leads and school governors during the last school term.

Next Steps

The RLSCB Learning and Improvement Sub-group are currently working on finalising the arrangements for roll out of the NWG e-learning package and developing a CSE training programme for 2014/15 and longer term.

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

All organisations are now working towards the joint South Yorkshire Communication Strategy and a specific multi-agency group is in place to oversee it's delivery.

As detailed within previous reports 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 house, and in October we held a CSE awareness workshop their staff.

Next Steps

The South Yorkshire CSE launch which will run parallel to the national 'Say something if you see something' campaign, is to be held at New York Stadium on the 4th February and is expected to be well attended by colleagues from across the partnership. The event will launch a poster, billboard and leaflet campaign aimed at raising awareness amongst communities and other stakeholders.

| Data Summary - PREVENT | | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---|
| MEASURE | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | | Direction of Travel since Sept Rpt |
| | | Upto Sept | Upto Dec | |
| Numbers attending training and/or awareness raising Events | | | | |
| Police Supervising Officers trained in CSE | 110 | 0 | 0 | →0 |
| Ward Members trained in CSE | 45 | 15 | 15 | →0 |
| Senior Managers trained in CSE | 19 | 0 | 0 | →0 |
| Staff undertaken multi-agency training on CSE | 171 | 48 | 48 | →0 |
| Multi-agency staff trained on the lessons learned from the Child 'S' Serious Case Review | 175 | 17 | 54 | ↑37 |
| Ward Members attended 'one off' Local Government Yorkshire and the Humber conference | 36 | 0 | 0 | →0 |
| Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators trained | - | 24 | 24 | →0 |
| Parish Councillors trained | - | 11 | 11 | →0 |
| RMBC - CYPS Staff | - | 0 | 30 | ↑30 |
| NHS Rotherham / TRFT (Hospital) | - | 0 | 25 | ↑25 |

Data Summary - PREVENT

| MEASURE | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | | Direction of Travel since Sept Rpt |
|--|----------------------|-----------|----------|------------------------------------|
| | | Upto Sept | Upto Dec | |
| Schools Staff and Governors | - | 0 | 25 | ↑25 |
| Voluntary or independent organisations | - | 0 | 9 | ↑9 |
| Health Other | - | 0 | 1 | ↑1 |
| RMBC Other | - | 0 | 1 | ↑1 |
| Local Business representatives | - | 0 | 6 | ↑6 |
| TOTAL | 556 | 115 | 232 | ↑97 |
| Number attending 'Train the Trainer' courses | 0 | 0 | 8 | ↑8 |
| CSE Team - Training and awareness of Children and Young People | | | | |
| Number of under 18 college or 6th Form students engaged in CSE awareness raising | - | 40 | 156 | ↑116 |
| Number of secondary schools engaged in CSE awareness raising with pupils | 13 | 15 | 16 | All schools reached |
| Number of pupils involved in CSE awareness raising (through the above schools) | 911 | 887 | 1320 | ↑433 |
| IYSS Awareness Raising via Informal Curriculum sessions | | | | |
| Number of sessions with young people on 'Relationships' | <i>Not collected</i> | - | 2207 | New |
| Number of sessions with young people on 'Sexual Health' | <i>Not collected</i> | - | 750 | New |
| Number of sessions with young people on 'CSE' | <i>Not collected</i> | - | 252 | New |
| Youth Start attendances by young people for; | | | | |
| Sexual Health | <i>Not collected</i> | - | 1005 | New |
| Sex and Relationship Education | <i>Not collected</i> | - | 1173 | New |

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 Nurse Practitioner has now joined the CSE Team. This post is funded by Public Health but given professional line management by Rotherham Hospital Foundation Trust. The role will enable better sharing of information on children who present concerns and high level risk factors.

Barnardo's have funded four satellite workers, one in each South Yorkshire CSE Teams. These workers contribute to existing CSE provision through a combination of individual casework and awareness, with specific focus on encouraging access to support for those who are reluctant to engage with statutory services and/or those who do not perceive themselves to be at risk.

Rotherham's worker joined our team in November and currently has a caseload of 10 young people (capped by Barnardo's at 12) whose risk level ranges from low through to high. It is still early days but the worker has managed to engage well with most of the young people open to her ensuring that these young people access support services. Two particular successes are:

- The worker has managed to meet weekly with a 'high risk' young person who would not engage with any other service. Following engagement the Young Person began to re-engage in education at a PRU after months of little to no education in mainstream school.
- After encouraging and supporting one young person to attend health appointments she has now been diagnosed with a serious underlying health need that has up until now gone unrecognised and may have contributed to the identified concerns and vulnerabilities for the young person.

Following revised national guidelines and policies the local procedure for children missing from home, care and education has been redrafted and is currently being consulted on

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.

There have been 57 new contacts into the social care CSE team this quarter taking the total for the year to 123

Next Steps

Following its trial, the review of the regional CSE risk assessment tool has been piloted across South Yorkshire is still ongoing. Following the trial some issues need addressing to ensure its effectiveness and suitability for young people's needs. This review cannot be completed locally in isolation as it is a regional tool however it continues to be used until the new model is developed.

A key development for 2014 will be the specific Young Persons Participation Strategy for CSE. This project will be supported by the Integrated Youth Support Service and will commence at the end of January and will be 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

As reported previously 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 CSE Sub-Group have been reassured that support for victims and witnesses is in place during court procedures. For all child witnesses technology to allow evidence in chief to be given by video recorded interview and further evidence by live video link is available and the legal presumption is that this will be used. The Young Witness Service in South Yorkshire arrange pre court visits and explain what special measures are available and have now arranged that demonstrations of the equipment at court can be given on all court familiarisation visits to reduce the anxiety of using unfamiliar equipment and increase confidence. Special measures and other will continue to be reviewed and improved to ensure effectiveness in line with National Guidelines.

All officers across various roles within the police (e.g. operational, PCSOs and call handlers) have received training on CSE and the importance of supporting victims and witnesses of any age.

The children and young people number of cases being supported by the social care section of the CSE team at the end of December was 93. 45 of these cases are led directly by a team member, 7 are with the parenting officer and 38 are involvements with open cases supporting their established social worker.

At the end of November the number of open joint investigations had increased to 30 with the total for the year reaching 115.

The number of reported incidents of runaways between April and December 2013 was 282, (average of 31.3 per month), and involved 97 children. This is an increase on the previous year which averaged at 28.1 incidents 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. They also provide an emergency bed for homeless young people and awareness raising with primary school children through their Crucial Crew project. To ensure this wide range of support is captured RMBC Performance and Quality team are worked with Safe@Last to further develop their suite of performance data. At the end of October had received 230 referrals relating to 87 children.

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

The impact of CSE can be long term and affect many life outcomes resulting in a disproportionate number being involved with statutory services later on in life. The Sub-group are now working with partners in health to commission the development and delivery of a package of long term recovery support for victims following prosecution.

The Police Young People's Partnership Officers (PYPPO) are embedded within the IYSS locality teams and work closely with them and schools around crime and disorder. Through this work they build up positive relationships with young people that assist in reporting and making statements. The police and IYSS are currently reviewing the role of the PYPPO to further strengthen joint working arrangements this will conclude February 2014.

Data Summary - PROTECT

| MEASURE | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | | Direction of Travel since Sept Rpt |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | Upto Sept | Upto Dec | |
| CSE Team | | | | |
| Cases currently open to social care CSE Team | 69 | 82 | 45 | <i>Not comparable following data developments also included parenting and involvements</i> |
| Number of the above who are boys | - | 7 | 3 | ↓4 |
| Cases open to CSE Team parenting officer | - | - | 7 | New |
| Number of other open cases the CSE Team also co-work or support | Was included in open cases | - | 38 | New |
| Joint investigations | 38 (total) | 57 (running total) 28 (currently open) | 115 (running total) 30 (currently open) <i>Nov figures</i> | ↑58 ↑2 |
| Number of contacts made to social services regarding CSE | 437 | 66 | 124 | ↑58 |
| Number of children the above contacts relate to | 212 | 60 | 113 | ↑53 |
| Number of contacts leading to a referral | 129 | 49 | 70 | ↑39 |
| Number of children the above referrals relate to | 119 | 48 | 69 | ↑19 |
| Number of Initial Assessments completed by the CSE Team | 13 | 41 | 53 | ↑12 |
| Number of Core Assessments completed by the CSE Team | 4 | 17 | 28 | ↑11 |
| Number of police referrals into the PPU | 114 | 60 | 90 <i>As at end of Nov</i> | ↑30 |
| Barnardo's | | | | |
| Number of cases currently open to Barnardo's outreach work (Rotherham only) | - | - | 10 | New |
| Runaways | | | | |
| Number of reported incidences of children running away from home or care | 339 | 95 | 282 | ↑107 |
| Number of children the above runaway incidences relate to | 121 | 43 | 97 | ↑54 |
| Safe@Last | | | | |
| Referrals to Safe@Last | - | 182 | 230 | ↑48 |

Data Summary - PROTECT

| MEASURE | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | | Direction of Travel since Sept Rpt |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | Upto Sept | Upto Dec | |
| | | | <i>end of Oct</i> | |
| Number of children in the above referrals to Safe@Last | - | 77 | 87 <i>end of Oct</i> | ↑26 |
| Return interviews following 'runaway' | - | 26 | 36 <i>end of Oct</i> | ↑10 |
| Safe@last follow up visits | - | 143 | 166 <i>end of Oct</i> | ↑23 |
| Number of children involved in the above follow up visits | - | 25 | 39 <i>end of Oct</i> | ↑14 |
| GROW | | | | |
| GROW INVOLVE project (started June 2013) | Projects were not running in 2012/13 | | | |
| Young People referred to the project | | 5 | 12 | ↑7 |
| Families referred to the project | | 6 | 9 | ↑3 |
| GROW AWARE project (now concluded - data relates to April-June 13) | | | | |
| Young People referred to the project | | 6 | 6 | Not applicable project ceased in June |
| Families referred to the project | | 6 | 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. Further to the review of police intelligence and development of a new associated framework reported at last quarter, the police have clarified their internal referral routes and have processes in place for recording and assessing all intelligence.

There has been an increase in staffing resources within the CSE team including the recruitment of two CSE police analysts for South Yorkshire. One of which is dedicated to Rotherham and sits within the CSE Team this will enable an improved analysis of intelligence to help partners further understand the problem profile and 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).

As previously reported to members in addition to case level work 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:

New since last report;-

- Operation Coral – Investigation into CSE related prostitution. Relatively new operation which is at the intelligence gathering stage.
- Operation Clasp - Intelligence received that girls were being taken to a small local Hotel and being exploited. Police held two nights of observations followed by the execution of a warrant. All rooms searched and intelligence was gained. The owner has been interviewed under caution and further enquiries ongoing
- Operation Guardhouse – Child trafficking case involving a Rotherham child this is being led by Nottinghamshire police

Update on operations already reported;-

- Operation K ALPHABET –8 suspects charged with 71 offences against children. 2 individuals have 42 and 21 charges between them. Update; Case currently at Sheffield Crown Court.

- Operation Klan –two Doncaster men on remand for a range of offences. A number of victims identified, some of whom are from Rotherham. Update; Perpretrators have given guilty pleas at court, currently awaiting sentencing.
- Operation Clover – Still ongoing. This is a joint investigation linked to the recent story in the Times and allegations of abuse from 1994 to 2005
- Operation Carriage – operation targeting Prom season and concerns around ensuring child safeguarding. Update: Working with legal to identify appropriate action against any businesses of concern

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.

A small sub-group has been formed to develop force-wide tactical options and toolkit around the disruption of offenders.

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

Achievements

As mention within 'Leadership' the independent inquiry commissioned by RMBC to review the previous ways of working and outcomes of CSE cases which were open between 1997 to January 2013 is now underway the findings are expected to be published in June.

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. In this quarter there have been 1 further attrition activity and 7 abduction notices served taking the total for the year so far to 7 and 27 respectively, compared to 3 and 28 for the whole of 2012/13.

Over this year there have been 20 interviews under caution. There are currently 10 individuals on police bail, 2 on remand and 11 cases pending court.

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.

| Data Summary - PURSUE | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---|
| MEASURE | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | | Direction of Travel since Sept Rpt |
| | | Upto Sept | Upto Dec | |
| Number of attrition activities | 3 | 3 | 7 | ↑ 4 |
| Number of abduction notices | 28 | 20 | 27 | ↑7 |
| Interviews under arrest | Not captured | - | 20 | New measure |
| Individuals currently on police bail | - | 6 | 10 | ↑4 |
| Individuals currently on remand | - | 2 | 2 | →0 |
| Cases pending court | - | 10 | 11 | ↑1 |
| Number of convictions | - | 1 | 2 | ↑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

Due to the very nature of CSE, and its emotive nature, there has been national media attention. Rotherham has featured in this from both positive and negative perspectives.

Ofsted have introduced a new framework for inspection. There will be a strand of this inspection looking at CSE. In addition, HMC will be undertaking a follow-up inspection to their recent thematic CSE review of South Yorkshire Police be reviewed.

The Independent Inquiry of historic CSE in Rotherham commissioned by the RMBC Chief Executive has begun however the findings will not be published until June.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Keeping children and young people safe and therefore the eradication of CSE is one of the highest priorities in the key strategies of the Council, the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children's Board (RLSCB), the Safer Rotherham Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

There remains no national performance framework for CSE. In its absence the local 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.

If new government guidance on the collection of data relating to CSE it 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

- RLSCB Chair Review of Rotherham's response to CSE (December 2013)
- OCC Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups Final Report (November 2013)
- Barnardo's Rotherham Practice Review (November 2013)
- HMC Review of South Yorkshire Police Response to CSE 2013
- RLSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan 6 Month Progress Report (presented to members 6th November)
- Reports to Cabinet on 28th June, 3rd July and 18th September
- Members briefing on 4th July.
- LGA publication, June 2013 'How councils are raising awareness of child sexual exploitation'
- RLSCB CSE Strategy 2013-2016

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