

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> August, 2014</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>RLSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan 12 Month Annual Report</b> <i>Appendix A – CSE Annual Report 2013/14</i>  <i>(All Wards)</i>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People’s Services</b>

**5. Summary**

This report provides a summary of some of the key achievements in the first year of the CSE Strategy against each of the seven strategic objectives and provides the next steps for 2014-15.

**6. Recommendations**

- **For Cabinet to note progress 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.

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 action plan is structured under six strategic objectives aligned to the three CSE Priorities of 'Prevent, 'Protect' and 'Pursue' plus one strategic objective of 'Leadership' which is cross cutting across all three priorities.

The content within the action plan has continued to evolve and develop over the year in response to emerging local needs, national research and outcomes from independent reviews and inspections.

The attached report provides cabinet with details of the partnerships achievements against the seven strategic objectives in the first year of the strategy incorporating case studies, areas of developed good practice and data. Details are also given of planned next steps for 2014/15.

Please note when reviewing the data tables contained within the report caution be taken when considering the direction of travel. There have been significant changes in practice and recording procedures over the course of the year as part of the service development and improvement programme. Therefore some statistics, although similar in definition, will not be 'like for like' comparisons.

The Independent Inquiry of historic CSE in Rotherham commissioned by the RMBC Chief Executive is drawing to its conclusion and will be published in September.

In addition, we are awaiting the report from the recent HMIC child protection inspection of South Yorkshire Police, which incorporated the follow-up of the 2013 thematic CSE review.

Once published the findings from both these reports and associated recommendations will be incorporated into the multi-agency delivery action plan as appropriate

To aid Members the executive summary of the report has been extracted and included below.

## Executive Summary of Achievements and Next Steps for 2014/15

Strong leadership and clear governance is at the heart of our multi-agency approach, and over the course of this last year we have made significant progress to strengthen how we work together. This is at the very heart of the achievements set out in this report.

Additional resources have been invested in our multi-agency CSE team which now includes staff from health, voluntary and community sector agencies and a Police data analyst.

Information sharing and data management across agencies has been key. Through our working groups we are able to share intelligence about our community, identify risks and opportunities in a way which was previously difficult.

This includes a robust performance monitoring system which takes account of work across organisations – allowing us to understand and demonstrate the impact and outcome of our partnership approach, and identify areas for future improvement.

This strong foundation has laid the foundation for progress against our three priorities: **Prevent**, **Protect** and **Pursue**.

### Prevent

The exploitation of children is a devastating feature of communities up and down the country – but together we are making it more difficult for offenders to be able to abuse young people in this way.

We are building a Borough-wide ‘eyes and ears’ approach – educating our communities, and our staff, to recognise the signs of CSE, and how to report it.

One example outlined in the following pages shows we have doubled the number of people taking part in CSE training and awareness-raising – including almost 3,500 staff, councillors, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and members of the public.

Extensive work has also been carried out directly with our young people, to empower them to recognise the signs and risks of CSE.

### Protect

We have streamlined processes across agencies to allow us to better identify and safeguard children who are at risk of CSE. This includes common tools for staff to assess their concerns about a young person and understand what

course of action they must take and the implementation of a South Yorkshire-wide risk assessment tool.

Some of the case studies that follow demonstrate the impact that these system improvements are having on frontline child protection in Rotherham and the difference they are making to people's lives.

## **Pursue**

We are working together to identify offenders, to disrupt and stop their activity – and ultimately bring them to justice.

Through our working groups, a monthly CSE tactical assessment is shared with all partners to highlight and act upon local intelligence, risks and ongoing operations.

The number of staff dedicated to this work in the CSE team has increased, to allow an improved analysis and tracking of the data which can ultimately lead to the disruption of CSE activity, and prosecution of the perpetrators.

A number of high profile prosecutions over the course of the year is testament to this work, and serves to show the community that this kind of abuse does not and will not remain hidden, or unpunished, in Rotherham.

## **Next Steps for 2014/15**

Much has been achieved in the first year of this strategy, but we will not be complacent and will continue to work towards a service which operates across agencies and without boundaries to protect our young people against CSE. At the time of writing we are awaiting the outcome of the independent inquiry into historic CSE cases, commissioned by Rotherham Borough Council's Chief Executive. Together with other local, regional and national reviews, this will further inform the development of our multi-agency approach.

Central to these developments is the creation of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (known as a MASH). Due to be launched in August 2014, the co-located service will bring together key officers to not only tackle CSE, but also domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and the wider safeguarding children agenda.

In addition, we will build stronger links with local communities, including EU migrants. We will review our procedures to make sure looked after children placed outside our area are protected in line with our local plans.

We will also ensure that our young people are listened to and are developing a participation strategy to ensure their voice helps shape their own support and informs our future improvements.

We will carry out research to better understand the motivations of offenders, and we will continue to raise awareness as part of the South Yorkshire-wide 'Say Something If You See Something' campaign, while developing ways of communicating that specifically benefit our communities here in Rotherham.

## 8. Finance

### Summary of Direct Costs of Partner Financial Contributions in support of CSE Services in Rotherham

Services with identifiable direct costs	ACTUAL 2013/14	PROPOSED 2014/15
Rotherham MBC - Child Sexual Exploitation Team	274	276
Rotherham MBC - Integrated Youth Support Service*	810	759
South Yorkshire Police*	1,190	1,305
Rotherham Foundation Trust	2	-
Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber (RDASH) NHS Foundation Trust*	-	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,276</b>	<b>2,352</b>

*\*These costs are a best estimate of the direct cost and proposed costs of services directly supporting Rotherham CSE*

### Other Indirect Contributions in support of CSE Service for which it is not possible to determine exact costs as they are part of a wider team and service

Rotherham Hospital Foundation Trust	<p>Assessing all elements of potential risks posed to children/young people who access SARC or Children's ISVA services and putting preventative actions in place as a result. There is representation and commitment from the Trust at both the CSE Sub Group and Multi Agency Operational Managers Group.</p> <p>SARC Operational staff work closely with the CSE Team and the Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor is a member of the Group Assessment and Progress meetings where discussions are held on high risk cases and any cases where there are concerns that the level of risk is increasing.</p>
NHS England	<p>NHS England does not offer direct financial support to Local Safeguarding Boards, but does offer other forms of support. NHS England is well represented and involved within the CSE and children's safeguarding agenda both locally and regionally. The Director of Nursing &amp; Quality is the health representative on the SY CSE Group, the Assistant Director of Nursing represents NHS England on the CSE Sub Group and the Patient Experience Manager represents NHS England on RSCB.</p> <p>In addition the South Yorkshire &amp; Bassetlaw Safeguarding Forum which brings together Designated Nurses/ Dr's and CSE is a standing agenda item for this meeting.</p> <p>The above involvement ensures an increased awareness in relation to CSE issues and enables the messages to get out to frontline staff. It is also a vehicle for carrying out pieces of work across the SY footprint and sharing good practice.</p>

<p>NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)</p>	<p>NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is committed to supporting the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) agenda from the perspective of a commissioner of health services. Rotherham CCG includes CSE within its contracts with providers, embedded within the training requirements of the safeguarding standards, which are monitored via the contract review process. Senior CCG staff have attended multi-agency CSE awareness sessions and a SYP event. The CCG Chief Nurse attends the CSE sub group and the CCG Head of Safeguarding attends the CSE Silver Group. The CCG Chief Nurse, Head of Safeguarding and Named GPs attend the Rotherham Safeguarding Boards (RLSCB &amp; RSAB).</p> <p>The CCG together with other safeguarding professional across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw have developed a GP Safeguarding Vulnerable People Policy which has been circulated to GP practices, this includes the Child Sexual Exploitation Warning Signs Vulnerabilities Check List.</p> <p>During May 2014 Rotherham CCG organised and facilitated an away day for all Rotherham senior safeguarding professionals, the CSE action plan was updated as part of this event and a short term, task and finish group set up to identify health service gaps in relation to CSE. In November 2014 a Protected Learning Time event for GP practice staff is dedicated to safeguarding and includes CSE as one of the topics to be covered. Rotherham CCG, together with NHS England and other safeguarding professional across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, are facilitating a National CSE event in September 2014.</p>
---	---

## 9. Risks and Uncertainties

CSE, has had extensive 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, HIMC have undertaken a follow-up inspection to their recent thematic CSE review of South Yorkshire Police and we await the findings.

The Independent Inquiry of historic CSE in Rotherham commissioned by RMBC's Chief Executive is nearing completion however the findings will not be published until September.

## 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 South Yorkshire 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)
- HMIC 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, 18th September and 5<sup>th</sup> February
- LGA publication, June 2013 'How councils are raising awareness of child sexual exploitation'
- RLSCB CSE Strategy 2013-2016

### **Contact Name:**

Joyce Thacker, Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services, RMBC  
[Joyce.thacker@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Joyce.thacker@rotherham.gov.uk)

Jason Harwin, Chief Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police  
[jason.harwin@southyorks.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jason.harwin@southyorks.pnn.police.uk)