

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18th June 2015

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES - A. JARRETT

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

SECTION B – MATTER FOR INFORMATION

1. SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL TO ASSESS PROGRESS IN PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

1.1. Purpose of Report

To inform the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee of the outcome of the child sexual exploitation (CSE) assessment tool completed by Children and Young People Services in conjunction with representatives from Health, Education and Police.

1.2. Background

Members of the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee have received several reports on Safeguarding and asked for an inquiry to be undertaken to ensure there are effective strategies in place to protect children from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot.

The inquiry will focus on the following areas:

- How does Neath Port Talbot assess itself in protecting children from sexual exploitation?
- Are improvements required, if so, how are they going to be implemented?
- What strategies are in place in Neath Port Talbot to address CSE?
- What monitoring processes are in place?

The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board (WBSCB) has adopted the Bedfordshire “self-assessment tool” to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation and provide a check list of what is required to be done to develop/further improve an effective strategy to address the issue locally.

The tool has been completed with partner agencies in Neath Port Talbot and highlights the areas where we are performing well and what requires further improvement.

1.3. **List of Background Papers**

Appendix 1 - University Of Bedfordshire “Self-Assessment Tool”
June 2015

1.4. **Officer Contact**

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What’s Going On To Safeguard Children And Young People From Sexual Exploitation? (CSE)

A Self-Assessment Checklist - (Children And Young People Services, Health, Education And Police – Neath Port Talbot) – June 2015

In 2009 the government published guidance on *Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation*. This was supplementary to *Working Together* and was directed at Local Children Safeguarding Boards and all agencies with practitioners who come into contact with children and young people and who therefore have a role to play in the identification and support of young people who may be at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation, and the disruption and prosecution of their abusers.

The way that the guidance has been implemented in local areas has been the subject of a 2 year Comic Relief funded research project, carried out by the International Centre for the Study of Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Young People at the University of Bedfordshire. During the course of that project, which involved over 100 interviews with practitioners, the research team was asked many times for a ‘check list’ of what is required to be done to develop an effective strategy to address child sexual exploitation. This Self-Assessment document has been produced to meet that need. Each element is included in the research report but is drawn together here for ease of use. Under each heading, relating to the sections of the research report and each element of a child sexual exploitation strategy, outcomes are set out for assessment:

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A - In place, fully achieved

B - Under development, or partially achieved

C - Yet to be addressed, or at a very early stage of development.

The document also provides a column to record evidence of how the outcome is being achieved.

The document is for local use as a tool for LSCBs and partner agencies to assess progress and to focus on future activity.

Further information is contained in the guidance on *Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation* (2009), available from the Department for Education, and in the full research report, *What's Going On to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation* (2011) available as a pdf from www.beds.ac.uk/research/iasr

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Coordinating A Multi-Agency Approach

Outcome	A	B	C	How this is achieved/is planned to be achieved
<p>The LSCB has fully signed up to the 5 principles underpinning a CSE strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shared responsibility • An integrated approach • A proactive approach • A child-centred approach and support for parents and carers • Recognising criminality 		√		Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board (WBSCB) has recently developed a CSE Strategy sub group and a Data Collection Group to monitor CSE activity across the region and respond to any gaps in services/interventions; Lead agencies are represented on these groups. The 5 principles will underpin the Western Bay Strategy.
The LSCB supports a sub group to drive work forward to tackle child sexual exploitation	√			The LSCB has recently set up a multi-agency CSE Strategy sub-group.
All key agencies are represented at the sub group, lead professionals identified and the expectations of each agency clearly understood	√			Board members have nominated representatives who sit on this group. Members of the Board have also confirmed details of their lead professionals and arrangements for ensuring staff within their organisation understand their responsibilities.
Child sexual exploitation is championed at the highest level in partner agencies		√		CSE is of high priority in member agencies and is reported/discussed in internal safeguarding committees/forums. Further work is planned to promote the role of the Lead/Champion within the Education Department and individual schools.

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Outcome	A	B	C	How this is achieved/is planned to be achieved
An up to date and specific child sexual exploitation protocol has been agreed and disseminated, focussing on identification, engagement, disruption and prosecution	√			Agencies adhere to the All Wales Protocol - 'Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children Who are at Risk of Sexual Exploitation (2013). This has been disseminated widely to all appropriate staff who can also access training on its application.
The CSE protocol is aligned with other relevant strategies e.g. with regard to missing children	√			As above
There is a coordinator in post whose function is recognised in the local area so that referral routes for concerns are widely understood		√		Organisations have identified a 'lead professional' in line with the CSE protocol. Plans to further raise awareness of their role are underway within Health, Education and Leisure settings.

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Recognising Child Sexual Exploitation

Outcome	A	B	C	How this is achieved/planned to be achieved
A scoping exercise has been conducted focussing on victims, perpetrators and locations		√		An audit tool has been implemented by the Board which provides collated monthly case updates from partner agencies and is reported to the WBS CB. Work is underway to establish a mechanism for including 'location' data.
Key agencies work with a range of other organisations to reduce the risks of child sexual exploitation, according to local need	√			Child sexual exploitation strategy meetings are well attended by statutory agencies in addition to representatives from other organisations involved with the child or young person(s) being discussed. There is a demonstrable commitment to reducing risk and undertaking action aimed at affecting change.
All practitioners working with children and young people have the requisite skills and knowledge to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation		√		Statutory agencies (Social Services, Police, Health and Education) have provided awareness raising training at a basic level. The WBS CB have supported the establishment of a pool of trainers to cascade multi-agency sessions across the region to ensure training is available to a wider audience.

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Outcome	A	B	C	How this is achieved/planned to be achieved
Through training and awareness raising, all local practitioners working with children and young people are aware of the risk factors, including local factors, for child sexual exploitation		√		The training referred to above will cover these factors.
There is a programme in place to raise awareness with parents and carers		√		There is no formal programme in place at present. Posters are displayed in some health and education settings aimed at raising awareness.
The community is aware of the risks of child sexual exploitation and where to report concerns locally		√		As above
In all cases of children and young people going missing the risk of sexual exploitation is specifically considered.	√			Children reported as missing (MISPERS) are managed in daily meetings by the Police and CSE is always considered; MISPERS are also reviewed daily by a MISPER coordinator who works from the Police public protection unit (PPU) offices. The MISPER coordinator is key to CSE matters and will undertake the return interviews in relation to those identified as being at risk of CSE along with Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU) officers. Multi-agency training also refers specifically to the relevance of missing episodes as a risk factor.

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Outcome	A	B	C	How this is achieved/planned to be achieved
Children and young people who have been victims of child abuse or witnessed domestic violence are monitored to minimise the risk of sexual exploitation	√			PPN's and MARAC highlight those children at risk of domestic violence in households. PPN's are risk assessed daily by police and information shared with relevant partners. High Risk DV victims are managed via MARAC, involving a number of key agencies including Health, Education, Social Services .In circumstances whereby children have experienced these situations, and have been referred to Children services as a result, there would be a multi-agency Child in Need Plan / Child Protection Plan in place. If a particular Health or Education professional is working with the child / young person this would be considered and routinely monitored as a potential issue.
Preventative work is regularly delivered with children and young people at particular risk, and with their parents/carers	√			Looked after children's health teams across ABMU HB discuss the risks of CSE with every child during their health assessment. Age appropriate discussion is held, including a discussion with carers and parents to raise awareness as part of a holistic health promotion intervention. All strategy meetings held under the CSE protocol consider whether a referral to specialist services is required for individual children.
Preventative strategies are delivered in a way that is accessible to young people and their families, regardless of gender and community			√	There is no preventative strategy in place and families cannot self-refer to the SERAF service.

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Supporting Young People and Their Families

Outcome	A	B	C	How this is achieved/planned to be achieved
There is a programme in place to raise awareness of CSE with children and young people		√		Some schools, sometimes in conjunction with Police Liaison Officers, deliver awareness raising with pupils but a consistent approach/package is yet to be established
Services are fully accessible to all young people who may need them, regardless of gender, ethnicity or any other characteristic		√		Children and Young People Services facilitate attendance at the SERAF service which is flexible and accessible; Within Sexual health services, an 'open access' policy is operated which enables those attending clinic to do so without an appointment in an area most convenient to them. Language translators would be made available wherever possible across all areas of the HB for children / young people if required; The youth service provides a relationship advice drop in service for all young people aged 14 – 25 years; the school based counselling service is also accessible to all pupils aged 11years and above.
Services are flexible to meet the needs of both young children and adolescents		√		As above. There are also midwives employed by the 'Flying Start Initiative' within the Health Board who are appointed to work specifically with pregnant young people. There is a suite in Singleton Hospital specifically designed and dedicated for performing child protection medicals which would include sexual abuse/ exploitation cases. The Community Paediatricians undertake these medicals with the aid of a School Health Nurse and both would have a full awareness of CSE
Children and young people attend Strategy Meetings and care pathways are discussed and explained				N/A – this is not consistent with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

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Outcome	A	B	C	How this is achieved/planned to be achieved
Parents and carers attend strategy meetings and care pathways are discussed and explained				As above
Transition arrangements are in place for young people reaching the age of 18 and still in need of services	√			There are Transition Protocols/Pathways in place across the Health Board and within Social Services for young people reaching the age of 18 years that are still in need of services.
Where parents and carers are not implicated in child sexual exploitation, access to support is available		√		The SARC and ISVA service provide support when cases trigger Police enquiries. The SERAF service will have some contact with parents but do not undertake direct work with them at present.
Feedback from service users is taken into account in the development/review of those services		√		Victims of crime surveys are conducted by South Wales Police; there are patient/public feedback forums across various disciplines within the Health Board that could be utilised should such a service be developed; Children and Young Peoples Services are launching service user feedback mechanisms.
A process has been developed for professionals to meet and agree a plan as soon as concerns have been recognised	√			All statutory agencies follow the All Wales Protocol and would refer accordingly any concerns to Social Services. In response to an invitation to a CSE strategy meeting the relevant professional would attend and share information and would be part of the planning process for the young person.
A wide range of services are available to respond to the needs of children and young people at risk of, or experiencing, sexual exploitation	√			There is a wide range of support available to victims e.g. Youth Service, LAC Health and Education teams, School Health Nursing, CAMHS, Substance Misuse services, Schools, Social Services and Police. For specialist support cases are referred to the SERAF service by Children and Young People Services as required.

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Identifying, investigating, disrupting and prosecuting abusers

Outcome	A	B	C	How this is achieved/planned to be achieved
All local practitioners working with children and young people recognise that those at risk of, or experiencing, sexual exploitation suffer significant harm and should not be regarded as displaying bad or criminal behaviour	√			This principal is conveyed during any CSE/ Safeguarding training sessions across all professions.
Cases are managed in a way that supports the gathering of evidence	√			All Health, Social Services and Education professionals involved with cases would ensure that all information is shared appropriately with Police in order to ensure all evidence is gathered. Gathering evidence is part of the fundamental role of investigators, from 1st officer at scene adopting the 'Golden Hour' principles through to Senior Investigating Officers managing serious and complex crime
Proactive investigation of location 'hot spots' and to identify potential abusers is undertaken	√			CSE forms part of the south Wales Police Force Delivery Plan and daily management meetings. Location hot spots are managed locally by sectors targeted via intelligence led policing - Weymarkers, ir3 management, patrol strategies and intelligence bulletins.

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Outcome	A	B	C	How this is achieved/planned to be achieved
All agencies in direct contact with children and young people understand how to record information for evidential purposes		√		All Health professionals adhere to ABMU Record Keeping policy with regards recording of information for evidential purposes, together with guidance contained within ABMU Safeguarding Children Policies/ and relevant professional guidelines. The subject of record keeping for the purpose of evidential gathering of information is covered within HB Level 2 and 3 Safeguarding Children Training which is accessible by all HB/primary care staff .This is also covered in recording training for practitioners within Children and Young People’s Services. Further work is required within Education.
Action is taken promptly to disrupt child sexual exploitation, involving all relevant agencies	√			Strategy meetings consider, in depth, actions that can be taken by everyone to disrupt situations giving cause for concern. The Police ensure pro-active measures are adopted and early intervention tactics are used. This would range from an early arrest with bail conditions imposed through to the serving of abduction notices which have proved to be an excellent intervention tool.
Prosecutions are pursued wherever possible to prevent re-offending	√			Prosecutions are pursued wherever possible by the police.
Investigative methods have been developed to minimise the reliance on the evidence of the child or young person who is the victim of child sexual exploitation	√			During the course of investigations police gather wide ranging evidence including forensic, mobile data, witness testimony, CCTV, medical findings etc .

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Outcome	A	B	C	How this is achieved/planned to be achieved
Where criminal proceedings take place against exploiters, access to special measures is requested where appropriate	√			Yes this is always considered as part of investigative action planning and during liaison with CPS.
Arrangements are in place to support young people and their families throughout any investigation and court proceedings	√			Professionals involved with individual cases offer support in line with their roles. Specialist support is primarily provided by Police and includes SARC, ISVA, Victim support, early Court visits. Experienced SOLO trained CAIU Investigators .
Parents, carers and young witnesses are kept informed of progress at all stages	√			Police investigators ensure victims are kept updated and supervisors intrusively monitor this. All contact is recorded on investigative logs (OEL'S) so a full audit trail is held.
Arrangements are in place to support young people after any court proceedings have concluded to minimise the risk of re-victimisation	√			Cases are subject to regular review under the auspices of the CSE protocol and services would only cease if it is agreed by professionals that issues have been addressed and risks reduced.

Collecting And Managing Data

Outcome	A	B	C	How this is achieved/planned to be achieved
The LSCB coordinates a data collection system to monitor the nature and prevalence of child sexual exploitation locally, and to assess outcomes for children and young people		√		An audit tool has been implemented by the Board which provides collated monthly case updates from partner agencies and is reported to the SCB. Work is underway to establish a mechanism for including 'location' data.
The LSCB contributes to a national snapshot to be coordinated annually by CEOP				N/A in Wales.