

**Report of the:
Children, Young People and Education
Scrutiny Committee**

**A scrutiny inquiry to assess
progress in protecting children
from sexual exploitation in Neath
Port Talbot**

July 2015



Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

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PURPOSE

A report on the findings of the One Day Scrutiny Inquiry to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot. The report provides a summary of the information received and Members of the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee that attended the Inquiry have made several recommendations which are listed in the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scrutiny Members undertook a One Day Inquiry to consider information provided by different Council Services and relevant partners to ensure there are effective steps being taken to protect children from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot.

Each organisation had a 30 minute slot to discuss their view of preventing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Neath Port Talbot and Members asked questions in relation to their role and progress within their departments and organisations. The discussions with officers and partners were very beneficial in assisting Members to understand the current position in Neath Port Talbot and how different organisations are working together. A summary of the discussions with each organisation and department is included within the report.

The Group felt that there were some effective measures in place to protect children and young people from CSE. Overall there is good partnership working and effective communication and a multi-agency approach is adopted. In some areas the Group felt that communication could be improved. It was the Groups view that appropriate information and training was not penetrating all partner organisations to the same extent, this was of particular concern for large organisations. The Group have made several recommendations to further enhance the work that has been undertaken already.

BACKGROUND

Members of the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee had received several reports on Safeguarding and had asked for an inquiry to be undertaken to ensure that effective steps are being taken to protect children from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot. Scrutiny Members requested a one day inquiry to be held outside of the main Committee Cycle of meetings to consider information provided by different Council Services and relevant partners in relation to this matter.

A Local Safeguarding Children Board is a statutory body and is part of a wider strategy for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board has been developed to build safeguarding arrangements across Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend. Its main functions are to provide challenge and assurance that all agencies concerned are individually and collectively meeting their duties to safeguard children and young people and promote their wellbeing. Protecting children and young people from CSE is an example of this work.

The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board has adopted the University of Bedfordshire “self-assessment tool” to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation and provides a check list of what is required to be done to further develop an effective strategy to address the issue locally. The tool has been completed by Children and Young People Services in collaboration with representatives from Health, Education and Police from a Neath Port Talbot perspective and highlights the areas that are performing well and what requires further improvement. At the meeting of the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee, held on 18th June 2015, Members received the report on the self-assessment tool. After receiving this information the Committee agreed that the tool would form the basis for the Inquiry Day.

The Inquiry focussed 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?

RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall Members were reassured that there are some effective systems in place to protect children and young people from CSE in Neath Port Talbot. The Group have made the following recommendations to the Western Bay Safeguarding Children's Board, Council departments and other partner organisations to help strengthen the process.

The Group recommends that:

All Organisations

1. The Children Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee to commend the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board and all organisations involved for the substantive work that has already been undertaken up to the time of the Inquiry to address protecting children from CSE and the audit work that had been undertaken within Neath Port Talbot, which has been robust.
2. Progress against the University of Bedfordshire self-assessment toolkit to be reported back to the Children Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee in six months.
3. Communication to be improved between the Licensing Department, Children and Young People Services and the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board.

Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board

4. For all organisations that are part of the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board to be monitored by the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board to ensure CSE Awareness Raising Training, procedures and information are cascaded down to frontline staff within a timescale set by the Board. In particular the larger organisations such as the Health Board and Police.
5. The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board to be encouraged to have a mechanism in place to have an overview of all CSE training and schemes of work that is undertaken by organisations who are members of the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board, not just the CSE Awareness Raising Sessions.

6. The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board to continue with CSE Awareness Raising Sessions and for there to be a priority list of officers to attend.
7. The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board to assess if more trainers could be trained in CSE Awareness Raising Sessions to increase the capacity of the training available.
8. The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board to promote who are the representatives that sit on the Board from different organisations.

Human Resources Training Department

9. Improvements are made to sharing information on what CSE training has been undertaken across all departments of the Council and to be co-ordinated centrally by the Human Resources Training Department.

Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Services

10. Neath Port Talbot's Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Services to have a more co-ordinated and consistent approach to CSE Awareness Raising and better mapping of what work has been undertaken, future priorities identified and a specific officer identified to oversee this.
11. The Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee to receive a report highlighting the consistent approach that will be taken across schools in Neath Port Talbot in light of the production of the toolkit from Welsh Government.
12. School Governors to be encouraged to attend CSE Awareness Raising Sessions and the governor in each school with responsibility for safeguarding to attend as a minimum.

Democratic Services

13. CSE Awareness Raising Sessions to be made available for all Elected Members in Neath Port Talbot in due course.

Licensing Department

14. Licensing Officers to attend the CSE Awareness Raising Sessions.

15. The Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee to endorse the approach of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot's Licensing Department regarding the training of taxi drivers in relation to CSE.

Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Board

16. The report to be formally presented to the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Board.

Additional Observations:

Several issues were raised that were outside the remit of the review and have been highlighted in this section.

- Further consideration to be given to a leaflet to be developed to be provided to applicants for licences on raising awareness of safeguarding issues.
- Workforce information for Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning and Children and Young People Services to be circulated to the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee, including staff retention and managing vacancies.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The following Members of the CYPE Scrutiny Committee took part in the inquiry:

- Cllr A. R. Lockyer (Chairman)
- Cllr H. N. James (Vice Chairman)
- Cllr A. Carter
- Cllr Mrs J. Dudley
- Cllr P. Greenaway
- Cllr R. G. Jones
- Cllr Mrs S. Paddison
- Cllr A. L. Thomas
- Cllr Mrs L. G. Williams

The departments and partner organisations that gave evidence to the Inquiry were:

- Children and Young People's Services
- Training Department
- Education Service
- Director of Social Services, Health and Housing and Chair of Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board
- ABMU Health Board
- SERAF Service, Barnardo's
- Youth Offending Team
- South Wales Police
- Licensing Department

Each organisation had a 30 minute slot to discuss their view of CSE in Neath Port Talbot and Members asked questions in relation to their role and progress within their departments and organisations. Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) were invited to contribute as the umbrella organisation for the voluntary sector in Neath Port Talbot. They do not deliver services directly in preventing CSE so did not attend the day but informed Members that when the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board prioritised this area they made use of the training available and their child protection procedures were changed accordingly. Voluntary organisations in Neath Port Talbot are independent and CVS provides them with relevant information where possible.

The discussions with officers and partners were very beneficial in assisting Members understanding of the current position in Neath Port Talbot and how different organisations are working together and a summary of the key points has been summarised below.

Children and Young People Services

It was highlighted that there was clear communication with partners and strong relationships both strategically and operationally. It was noted that the Self-Assessment Tool is a strategic document and is useful at that level to take forward this priority area. It helps to structure the approach of professionals. The toolkit is a marking point in time and in some areas Neath Port Talbot is performing well and there are some areas that could be improved. Early intervention was a key factor.

Officers provided further information from an operational perspective and gave some case examples that demonstrated some of the dilemmas that services faced in protecting young people. Members were also provided with an insight into what was included in CSE and the themes. It was noted that the focus in Neath Port Talbot has been on awareness raising with partner organisations and communities.

The Group was assured that overall there was commitment from partner organisations and cases are continually tracked. Any drift in actions being completed on time is challenged and agencies work well together. There is a low rate of CSE cases in the area, however, preventative work has to continue. It was noted that on occasion there is disagreement amongst partners on how to manage cases, which is a good situation as it provides challenge to ensure that all the options are considered before a final decision is agreed. Social Workers often get criticised when incidents of CSE occur and having robust systems and challenge provides them with the support they need. It was also noted that there should be better communication with some departments who have not traditionally been involved in the CSE preventative agenda, for example, Licensing Department.

One of the main tactics undertaken in the area is to disrupt potential situations and breaking patterns to prevent children and young people becoming more vulnerable and situations escalating. One example of an effective approach is the use of Abduction Notices. It was highlighted that another important aspect was raising the self-esteem of children and young people and this has resulted in some successful outcomes. Looked After Children are particularly vulnerable as their self-esteem will already be affected by being removed from their families. Good Foster Carers play a key role as they can make a real difference in boosting self-esteem and recognising achievements. It was noted that other external factors affecting children can make them more vulnerable to CSE such as substance misuse, including legal highs.

Members were reassured that partner organisations were committed to the CSE safeguarding agenda and appropriate systems were in place to protect vulnerable children and young people, particularly those in the care of the Council. There also seemed to be sufficient challenge between partners to ensure the best outcomes for children and young people were achieved. The Group would like to see communication strengthened in some areas, for example with the Licensing Department.

Training Department

The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board was successful in a bid to South Wales Police to develop a train the trainer programme for CSE awareness raising. This has resulted in a pool of trainers across partner organisations that are able to deliver half day sessions and there is an agreement across the organisations to provide venues to hold the training. The philosophy was to train officers with expertise in this area and to target early intervention across all sectors. It was noted that this is an investment programme that has been effective and almost 700 people have attended this training to date. It was highlighted that a CSE Awareness Raising Session had been held for Members of Children Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Board and the Corporate Parenting Panel. The Members that had attended reflected on how useful the session had been and that they would recommend all Members attend a session.

The Training Department has a detailed overview of the number of Awareness Raising Sessions that have been held and who had attended from across the different organisations. Training feedback is evaluated and attendees' knowledge of the subject area at the beginning and the end is tested. The next steps will be to evaluate the impact of the training in 6 months. It was noted that the quality and outcomes of the training will be evaluated and reported back to the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board.

It was highlighted that some organisations may run their own internal training and there was no overall record of what training was undertaken by partners. For example, the Police run their own training and the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board would not be aware of how many had attended or the level. Some departments within the Council also have their own training and therefore some staff would not be required to attend the Awareness Raising Sessions, but this information is not gathered centrally for the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board. It was noted that Children's Services staff would have attended different levels of training due to the nature of their work so they would not necessarily have been on the Awareness Raising Sessions but they would have received appropriate training. The benefits of multiagency training were recognised as it provides opportunities for partners to share their experiences and learning and offers a fresh perspective.

There is a mix of officers from different departments within the Council who had attended Awareness Raising Sessions and it was discussed that

some departments would benefit from more officers being trained, such as: licensing, transport, One Stop Shop and parks and gardens. It was also noted that it was not clear if School Governors had attended the sessions. It was highlighted that under the grant conditions a fee could not be charged for the training, however, a cancellation fee was charged to encourage attendance.

Members were pleased to see that there is an expansive awareness raising in place and felt that the train the trainer programme had maximised the use of the grant from South Wales Police. The Group would like to see the Awareness Raising Sessions continue and if possible expanded. Members would recommend that the training is offered to school governors and in particular those governors with responsibility for safeguarding. In addition, the Group would like all Elected Members to have the opportunity to attend a session. An area for improvement would be for the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board to have an overview of all CSE training that was undertaken by partner organisations.

Education Services

The Group was informed that every school has a designated member of staff for safeguarding and there is an overall lead in Education Services. All designated persons attend the CSE Awareness Raising Sessions and their role is to cascade this information to staff in their school. There are three slides included in governors training that cover CSE and safeguarding. It was noted that the Awareness Raising Sessions had been offered to governors, however, it was unknown how many had taken up this training and whether any designated safeguarding governors had done so.

The Youth Service regularly delivers separate CSE training to its staff. However, it was noted that other areas within the Education Leisure and Lifelong Learning Department had not yet received any training. There is high demand for places on the sessions and there are waiting lists. It was suggested that more trainers in this area would increase the capacity. It was highlighted that staff in some departments should be prioritised, such as libraries, parks and leisure centre staff, as these are all places where children and young people congregate. It was noted that it was not clear whether staff at libraries that were now run by community organisations would be offered the training.

It was noted that CSE awareness raising for pupils is undertaken in all schools through Personal and Social Education (PSE) lessons and the

Relationship Advice Drop in Service (RADS) and it is adequate. Generally children and young people are engaged in the sessions, but the most vulnerable are often the ones that show less interest and may require more targeted sessions. It was highlighted that there is not a consistent or co-ordinated approach across schools in the County Borough and other Local Authorities have more co-ordinated approaches and deliver consistent packages. It was highlighted that Welsh Government had been working with Barnardo's to develop a toolkit for schools to deliver more effective packages and the Service would be awaiting the outcome of this work before putting a more consistent approach in place. It is anticipated that the pack will be available in the autumn. There has been some discussion on what age the awareness raising should start from and the information being age relevant. Having a consistent package will make it easier to evaluate its effectiveness.

The Group noted that in considering the information they received during this session and presentations to the Scrutiny Committee there had been considerable work undertaken in Safeguarding. However, it was felt that a more co-ordinated approach was required within Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Services. Also improving the sharing of information on what training has been undertaken across all departments of the Council and to be co-ordinated centrally by the Human Resources Training Department.

Director of Social Services, Health and Housing and Chair of the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board

The Group was provided with an overview of the actions that had been taken over the last two years, which included internal audits of the processes in place to safeguard against CSE within the Council. In particular for Looked After Children and those who are placed outside the County Borough, as they can be more vulnerable. The results of this work demonstrated that there was good performance in this area in Neath Port Talbot. The other two Local Authorities within the Western Bay area had been encouraged to undertake similar audits.

The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board has taken a strategic approach to this area and the Board's role is to identify and target weaknesses and support strengths. All partners on the Board have to be held to account and ensure there is a dynamic approach. It was noted that action by the Board has resulted in a more sophisticated approach being undertaken and there is better collation of data. The Board agreed that all three areas would adopt the University of Bedfordshire self-assessment

tool to evaluate where they were at that point in time in relation to CSE. It was highlighted that all organisations need to ensure that the relevant information is cascaded down to the relevant areas and in particular to frontline staff. There is co-ordinated approach to sharing information, however, there was still room for some improvement to ensure that all resources were being used effectively. It was noted that organisations had different commitments and ways of undertaking actions.

It was highlighted that the most effective tool against CSE was detection and disruption. It was recognised that the focus had been prevention and there was some work to be done in improving services for victims. The usefulness of the train the trainer programme for CSE Awareness Raising was highlighted and the multiagency approach has been successful. It was noted that the sessions run cannot meet the current demand.

Members were reassured that saving targets for the Social Services, Health and Housing Directorate would not affect this area of work. It was highlighted that responsibility for this area was ultimately with the senior officers and directors of the organisations involved. It was noted that Neath Port Talbot was in a good position, but it was important not to be complacent. One of the main functions for the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board is to ensure standards are met in all areas.

The Group noted that the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board had undertaken extensive work in this area and that an overall effective strategic approach was in place. There are still some areas that require further strengthening.

Barnardo's

The Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (SERAF) and Service were explained to Members and it was noted that SERAF was the name of the framework and service. It was highlighted that the SERAF Framework is embedded in the all Wales Protocol.

It was explained that Barnardo's has a Service Level Agreement with Neath Port Talbot Council that consists of three strands: policy and influencing, advice and guidance and direct work with young people. The Service tries to personalise and tailor packages to meet the needs of the individual child or young person. Barnardo's SERAF Programme is funded through a combination of Service Level Agreements and spot purchasing of services with Local Authorities. It was highlighted that Service Level Agreements were more effective than spot purchasing as it

allows more planning and results in the Service being able to respond to referrals more effectively. The strength of multi-agency working was recognised. It was noted that there can be weaknesses in communication between agencies and it was not consistent in all Local Authority areas. However, it was highlighted that it was better in Neath Port Talbot than in other areas and further demonstrated the advantage of having a Service Level Agreement.

It was confirmed that Barnardo's is working with Welsh Government to develop an education and training programme for children and young people to be used by schools. The pack has been developed and it is anticipated that it will be ready to be used for the new academic year in September. It will be a free resource and there will be two versions aimed at different age ranges.

It was noted that young people and families could not self-refer to the SERAF programme and it was asked whether the Service thought self-referral would be useful and if the Service would have the capacity to deal with this. It was explained that the Service worked with children and young people who were at significant risk and the children had to be known to Children's Services to reach the threshold to access the programme. Therefore, Children's Services was the front door to accessing SERAF Services and self-referral would not work.

It was explained how the Service helps young people and that workers spend time building up trust with the young person and undertake different pieces of work to help explain what has happened. The young people are vulnerable and often have low self-esteem and attachment issues, which makes them more susceptible to unhealthy relationships. There was discussion over preventative measures and an outline of other projects. It was highlighted that trauma has an impact as well as environmental aspects. It was noted that there had been a 30% increase in cases referred to SERAF in the last financial year. There has also been an increase in the level of risk and more complex work is required with the young people.

It was noted that Barnardo's was in the process of developing a contract with South Wales Police to assist with interviewing and follow up work with young people who have gone missing.

The Group felt that the service being delivered by Barnardo's was effective and the organisation was very knowledgeable. Members felt

confident in the expertise of the officers and the way the service was working with partners.

ABMU Health Board

It was highlighted that the Health Board is a large organisation that works across a wide area. It was explained that there was a Safeguarding Committee and any relevant information was disseminated by this Committee. It was highlighted that that each Health Board area shares information on best practice. It was noted that there was a new all Wales tool for CSE assessment specifically for Health and was based on the SERAF assessment.

A programme of training sessions was being developed for staff was based on the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board Awareness Raising Sessions which had been adapted to make it more relevant to Health. It was highlighted that CSE Awareness Raising Training was at an early stage and not fully rolled out in the Health Board. For example, sexual health workers have received this training but it had not been rolled out to accident and emergency staff. However, all staff would follow child protection procedures.

It was queried how information was shared with GPs and Dentists. It was explained that there were officers with a specific remit to work with the primary care sector. It was highlighted that it is a challenge getting staff released from practices to attend training. Every GP and Dentist Practice has a lead person for safeguarding who is responsible for cascading information to all staff. There is also a multi-agency Primary Care Forum. It was noted that there was better engagement with GPs and more consistency recently.

From the Health Board's perspective the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board is working well and there is good partnership working. It was identified that the disseminating information can be a challenge and ensuring that frontline staff received the relevant training. Some concern was expressed over how information was filtered through the organisation and the training of frontline staff.

Members noted that the Risk Assessment being developed for Health was different to the SERAF assessment that was standardised and used by other organisations. The Group had concerns that CSE awareness raising and relevant training was reaching frontline staff in a timely manner.

Youth Offending Team

Members were informed of the work of the Youth Offending Team and their role in safeguarding young people from CSE. The Team is a multidisciplinary team and the teams across the Western Bay area have been amalgamated. A big part of the role of the team is to prevent offending and re-offending. The majority of referrals are made via the Police and courts and includes young people who are at risk of offending. A holistic view is taken which includes taking account the background of the young people and areas of risk. It was noted that the focus on CSE has been on the radar for the last few years and activities have been undertaken to address this and other related safeguarding areas. There are procedures in place within the team to assess vulnerability and risk of CSE.

It was highlighted that issues, such as substance misuse, peer pressure and young people accessing properties unsupervised, increases the risk of CSE. Preventative actions, such as Abduction Orders, have helped to address this. It was queried if mental health problems increased the vulnerability of young people. It was confirmed that this was the case and it was positive that a senior Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) nurse was part of the Team. This ensures that young people known to the Team have access to this support if required.

It was highlighted that the Youth Justice Board follows up cases to establish if there were incidents of re-offending both pre and post 18 years old. It was noted that where possible the Team works with parents and families to provide alternative strategies to manage young people's behaviour to complement the work undertaken with the young people.

The Anti-social Behaviour Team engages with the Youth Offending Team, which provides them with useful information from the community. It was noted that the level of reporting of incidents of anti-social behaviour has dropped recently.

The Group was pleased that there was a CAMHS nurse as part of the team. The Youth Offending Team seemed to be working well with partners to address CSE concerns that arose.

South Wales Police

The Group was informed of the areas covered by the Public Protection Unit and that the department has increased in size, which highlights the

priority given to these areas. It was noted that the workload had increased but it was not all related to CSE. The referral unit is where all enquiries are received and the information gathered is assessed to decide on the appropriate response. Relevant information is shared with partners, such as Health and Children's Services. There is a Conference Team that attends different meetings to ensure continuity of officers and a more structured and consistent approach to cases.

It was noted that the Western Bay area is made up of diverse communities and it was queried if there were different issues affecting different localities. It was highlighted that this was not really the case. The importance of early intervention and the work that was undertaken was outlined. Actions such as Abduction Orders were identified as being a useful preventative tool and in the majority of cases it has a significant impact. It also provides the Police with the power of arrest if these orders are broken.

It was highlighted that the systems in enhancing this work have improved and have expanded in the last 18 months. For example, hotspots for potential activity were being identified and targeted. It was noted that there are a number of audit tools in place to quality assure the work of the Unit. There are also good working relationships with partners and healthy challenge between professionals. It was highlighted that information is shared securely between partners, where appropriate. However, it was identified that some partners rely on the Police IT systems as they do not have their own robust systems in place and it has to be ensured that things do not get missed as a consequence. It was asked if there was an increase in the number of cases of CSE and it was explained that it was hard to say. It has come more to the forefront and there is increased awareness which has resulted in reporting of more incidents.

The Group felt that overall the Police was working well with partners to undertake preventative work in CSE. In light of inspection reports and the information received as part of the Inquiry the Group is pleased that work is being undertaken with Barnardo's to assist with interviewing and follow up work with young people who regularly go missing. As identified previously the Group has concerns that adequate steps are being taken by large organisations to ensure that appropriate information is being cascaded to relevant frontline staff in a timely manner.

Licensing Department

The Licensing Department is responsible for a number of functions and their priority is safeguarding the public. Areas covered include licensing taxi drivers, pubs and clubs, ice cream vendors, street traders and tattoo parlours.

Taxi licensing was identified as one of the high risk areas, as they often carry vulnerable members of the public. It was noted that they have enhanced DBS checks. The Group was informed that Licensing Officers had attended a seminar on CSE, which included some examples of good practice taking place in other Local Authorities. The Licensing Department has started to consider taxi drivers attending CSE Awareness Raising Sessions and mechanisms for how they can report any suspicions of CSE. It was highlighted that there is scope for taxi drivers to play a role in being the “eyes and ears” in the community to report concerns. It was noted that this could be made mandatory training for all taxi drivers and for it to be made part of the license conditions as they were renewed. Taxi drivers have not yet been approached regarding these potential proposals, as the views of safeguarding professionals were being sought. The Licensing Departments in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot were looking to take forward this work and the Group were supportive of this initiative. It was further queried if there was scope for other areas to receive CSE awareness training, such as door staff. It was explained that this could be considered in the future but one area at a time had to be addressed. The success of such initiatives could then be evaluated.

The issues around legal highs were discussed and it was highlighted that the Licensing Department had no powers in this area at the moment.

It was noted that the All Wales Licensing Expert Panel has formally registered its concerns in relation to the changes to the recent Notifiable Occupations Scheme for hackney carriage and private hire drivers. The Notifiable Occupations Scheme was withdrawn in April 2015 and now relies instead on ‘Common Law Police Disclosure’ (CLPD). Under the old scheme Licensing Departments received notifications in respect of licensed drivers upon arrest, charge and conviction of relevant offences. The CLPD should ensure that this information is still passed to Licensing Departments, however, in practice there appears to have been a dramatic reduction in the receipt of notifications. The Panel has written to the Welsh Local Government Association and have asked for their concerns to be raised with the Chief Police Officer or Commissioner for each force in Wales to ensure that the necessary information required by licensing

authorities will continue to be provided at the point of arrest, to enable them to put measures in place to mitigate the risk to public safety immediately.

It was noted that an area for improvement would be to improve communication between the Licensing Department and Children's Services in regards to safeguarding. Members also suggested that a development of a safeguarding factsheet to be provided to all applicants for a license.

The Group were supportive of the proposals being put forward to train taxi drivers and they were also supportive of the representations made to the Chief Police Officers or Commissioners from the All Wales Licensing Expert Panel.

SCRUTINY INQUIRY SCOPING DOCUMENT

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| Title | A scrutiny inquiry to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot |
| Reasons for undertaking Inquiry | Members of the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee have received several reports on Safeguarding and had asked for an inquiry to be undertaken to ensure there are effective steps being taken to protect children from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot. |
| Key Questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 arrangements are in place in Neath Port Talbot to address child sexual exploitation? • What monitoring processes are in place? • Do Elected Members receive appropriate information and training? |
| Intended Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Members to have a clear understanding of the arrangements in place in Neath Port Talbot in protecting children from sexual exploitation. • The Children and Young People Education Scrutiny Committee to have assurance that there are effective multiagency arrangements in place across Neath Port Talbot. • To establish what monitoring information and training Elected Members should receive. • Any recommendations from the Inquiry to be made to the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Board. |
| Background Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Inspection of Safeguarding and Care Planning of Looked After Children and Care Leavers who exhibit vulnerable or risky behaviours (CSSIW, Jan 2015) • University of Bedfordshire ‘Self-Assessment tool’ to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation • Welsh Government – Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation Supplementary Guidance to Safeguarding Children (January 2011) • Internal Audit – Safeguarding Children – Children who go missing and children at risk of sexual exploitation |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Safeguarding Children and Families in Neath Port Talbot to the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Board on 12th February 2015. • All Wales protocol – Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are at risk of abuse through sexual exploitation. |
| Member Involvement | Members of CYPE Scrutiny Committee |
| Officer Support | Catherine Gadd – Democratic Services Laura Kinsey – Children and Young People Services |
| List of potential key officers, stakeholders, partners or other agencies to involve | <p><u>Internal</u></p> <p>Children and Young People Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Social Services, Health and Housing and Chair of the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board • Head of Children and Young People Services • Principal Officer for Safeguarding Quality Assurance and Independent Reviewing <p>Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Participation • Transformation Manager • Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Officer <p>Human Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and Development Officer (Children’s Services) <p>Licensing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing Principal Officer <p><u>External</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wales Police • AMBU Health Board • Western Bay Youth Offending Team Manager • Barnardo’s – SERAF Project • NPT CVS |
| Timeframe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th June 2015 (date subject to approval at the annual meeting) - Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Board to receive the completed University of Bedfordshire ‘Self- Assessment tool’ to assess progress in protecting children from sexual for |

Appendix 2

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| | <p>Neath Port Talbot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrutiny inquiry to be held on Tuesday 30th June 2015. Recommendations to be reported to CYPE.• Progress against the 'Self-Assessment tool to be reported back to CYPE in December 2015. |
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University of Bedfordshire 'Self-Assessment tool' To Assess Progress in Protecting Children From Sexual Exploitation

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 |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| The LSCB has fully signed up to the 5 principles underpinning a CSE strategy: 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 WBSCB. 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 WBSCB 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 |

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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. |