

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee**

**7 April 2016**

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

#### **Matter for Monitoring**

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

#### **Progress against the recommendations from the Scrutiny Inquiry to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee with a progress update on the recommendations from the Scrutiny Inquiry that was undertaken to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation (CSE) in Neath Port Talbot.

#### **Background**

2. Members of the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee had received several reports on Safeguarding and undertook an Inquiry to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot. The Inquiry was held outside the main Committee Cycle of meetings and considered information provided by different Council Services and relevant partners in relation to this matter.

3. The report from the Inquiry was formally endorsed by the Committee on 2 September 2015 and it was agreed that progress against the recommendations would be reported back to the Committee in six months.
4. The Chairperson wrote to the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board (WBSCB) and Council departments to whom recommendations were addressed drawing their attention to the report and requesting that they:
  - Provided an indication that they accepted the recommendations addressed to them.
  - Provided a response to the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee informing them of what actions would be taken and within what timescales.
  - Confirm any relevant actions had been included in strategic and business plans for the organisations.
5. This action was completed and positive responses were received from all departments. The responses are included in Appendix One.

## **Progress against the recommendations**

### **All Organisations**

6. Recommendation: 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.
7. Progress: Further work has since been undertaken.
8. Recommendation: 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.
9. Progress: Prior to these recommendations the WBSCB was working towards achieving A rate status against the University of Bedfordshire Self Assessment Tool for CSE. A report is attached as Appendix

Two, which was submitted to WBSCB in January 2016 which provided a position statement, gap analysis and RAG status recommendations. More recently all Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales have been issued with a National CSE action plan from Welsh Government. At the Board meeting on 21 March 2016 the Board received a further paper on CSE action plan and its connections with the agreed actions within the Bedfordshire assessment tool. This paper is also attached as Appendix Three.

10. Recommendation: Communication to be improved between the Licensing Department, Children and Young People Services and the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board.
11. Progress: Communication between the Licensing Section and the Children and Young People Services has improved, however, further improvements can still be made, particularly with data sharing. The Principal Licensing Officer will be meeting with the Principal Officer for Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Independent Reviewing in Children and Young People Services to discuss their role as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003. This is to ensure appropriate procedures are in place to involve Licensing at an early stage when information is received regarding licensed premises and persons.

### **Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board**

12. Recommendations: 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.
13. Recommendation: 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.
14. Recommendation: 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.

15. Recommendation: 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.
16. Recommendation: The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board to promote who are the representatives that sit on the Board from different organisations.
17. Progress: The National CSE Action plan is now embedded into the WBSCB Strategic Priorities for completion over the next 12 months. Actions required within the plan are similar in theme to the recommendations made to Board by Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee but have more depth in their requirements and allow for a consistent approach across Wales and so in many ways supersedes the Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations. In addition, a further report will be presented to Board for decision on how to pursue a bigger more equitable pool of accredited trainers to deliver CSE awareness raising training with the intention of reaching over 3600 staff across the region throughout 2016/17.

### **Human Resources Training Department**

18. Recommendation: 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.
19. Progress: It was confirmed that the Human Resources Training and Development Team already had processes in place to collate training information in relation to Social Services, Health & Housing, Environment, Chief Executive's and Finance & Corporate Services, and to report on this information. This includes training provided in relation to CSE.
20. Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Directorate did not provide training information to the Human Resources Training and Development Team and this has been addressed. Arrangements have been made with the Education Leisure and Lifelong Learning Safeguarding Officer to establish a mechanism for providing information on training taking place in the Directorate in relation to CSE. The Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Safeguarding Officer commenced this training in January and information is being

provided to the Corporate Learning, Training and Development Team in relation to this training. If Members require data in relation to the training provided then this will be provided.

### **Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Services**

21. Recommendation: 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.
22. Recommendation: 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.
23. Recommendation: 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.
24. Progress: Awareness raising staff - Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) awareness raising sessions are being delivered by the Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Officer (C&VASO) to all designated child protection persons (DCPPs), there are 78 DCPPs across the Education Directorate, using the package developed by the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board (WBSCB).
25. The sessions have been held to date:
  - 7 January 2016 – Primary schools
  - 5 February 2016 – Primary schools
  - 12 February – Primary schools
  - 29 February 2016 – Comprehensive schools
  - 9 March 2016 – Youth Service
26. A further session is to be held on 9 April 2016 as a mixed mop up session. From the 9 April 2016, 100% of (78) DCPPs will have received CSE awareness training via the WBSCB training programme. Broken down as follows:

27. Attendance:

- 58 attended sessions run by C&VASO
- 10 are left to attend on 9 April 2016
- 10 attended training run by the WBSCB in 2014/15
- In addition, the sessions were offered to school governors and 10 governors have attended. Eight members of the youth service have also attended the training sessions.

28. The WBSCB resource has been shared with all DCPPs with the clear instruction that they are responsible for ensuring CSE awareness is cascaded to ALL staff within their school/setting; with attendance sheets and evaluation forms completed and to be passed to C&VASO. It is not practicable for all staff to receive the full 3 hour package; so it has been agreed that DCPPs will deliver the package to nominated persons inside school, for example, pastoral support team, heads of year, and that these individuals will then be responsible for cascading awareness within their section. The main messages to be covered are – recognition, response and reporting.

29. Evaluation forms and attendance sheets will allow the Service to track the quality of the sessions and identify areas of non-attendance. It has been agreed that these forms be returned to and retained by the Local Authority Training Department.

30. CSE Awareness raising pupils - Barnardo's Cymru Seraf Service in partnership with Welsh Government has produced a resource to educate and safeguard young people to stay safe and prevent child sexual exploitation. This package is designed to supplement and strengthen the support provided to education services in statutory safeguarding guidance Keeping Learners Safe 2015. This resource was developed by young people as part of ongoing work by the Barnardo's Cymru Seraf Service; 'Hidden' and 'What's Happening Frankie?' which are both set in Wales and based on real life stories. Showing these films to young people gives them the opportunity to witness the different stages of the grooming process. The discussions which follow enable young people to better understand the impact sexual exploitation has upon young people & explore ways of keeping safe.

31. The resource has been produced in digital format and is accessible through the all-Wales digital learning platform Hwb. The pack includes two lesson plans and extension activities which can be used within Sex and Relationship Education (SRE). It is suitable for ages 14 to 18 years old and will be included in the SRE resource to be used across our comprehensive schools, delivered by the SRE lead at Key Stage 4.
32. Awareness raising activity - In addition to the awareness raising outlined above, Education Services have a team of 26 Peer Reviewers whose role it is to undertake safeguarding health checks in our schools on a three year rolling basis. As part of these visits activity against the WBSCB's key priorities is measured; one of these priorities being CSE. Peer reviewers provide comment upon the quality of awareness raising, knowledge and activity within the school; this information is collected via staff and pupil interviews and from observations of visual information and leaflets around the school.
33. Actions for the future - C&VASO and the Senior Youth and Community Officer in the Youth Service (SRE Lead) to deliver a SRE awareness course to safeguarding governors in the near future. The aim of this session will be to appraise governors about the SRE framework being implemented across schools.
34. The C&VASO will continue to liaise with Children and Young People's services regarding delivery of CSE awareness raising to non school based areas, such as, transport, licensing, chaperones and leisure staff.

### **Democratic Services**

35. Recommendation: CSE Awareness Raising Sessions to be made available for all Elected Members in Neath Port Talbot in due course.
36. Progress: This recommendation has been completed. Prior to the Inquiry Report an awareness raising session was held in December 2014 for Members of the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet Board and the Corporate Parenting Panel. Following the work and the recommendation of the Committee, Democratic Services and Human Resources Training Department worked together to arrange a further two sessions which

were made available to all Elected Members. These sessions were held on:

- 9am, Thursday 21 January 2016, in Port Talbot Civic Centre
- 3pm, Thursday 4 February 2016, in Neath Civic Centre

37. The sessions were held at different times of day and in two alternate venues to maximise Members opportunities to attend. In total 27 Members attended the three sessions overall. Members that attended the sessions received a certificate of attendance and completed evaluation forms. The training was well received by Members that attended and there were 18 completed evaluation forms. A summary of the feedback from Members is outlined below:

- Average rate of awareness of child sexual exploitation before the event - 5.8 out of 10
- Average rate of awareness of child sexual exploitation after the event- 8.8 out of 10
- Average overall rating of the value of the session- 9.1 out of 10
- Average rating of the skills and knowledge of the trainer- 9.4 out of 10

38. The recommendations for other sections that included information and updates to be reported back to the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee have been scheduled into the Forward Work Programme by Democratic Services.

### **Licensing Department**

39. Recommendation: Licensing Officers to attend the CSE Awareness Raising Sessions.
40. Progress: Licensing Officers are attending a safeguarding awareness raising session (to include CSE) on the 12 April 2016.
41. Recommendation: 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.



42. Progress: Various discussions and meetings have taken place to try and progress safeguarding training for taxi drivers. A meeting took place between relevant departments in Neath Port Talbot Council and Swansea Council on 8 February and real progress is now being made on this. Training is going to be carried out across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot and it is hoped that the first sessions will begin in May/June, with sessions being held in the Guildhall, Swansea and the Quays, Briton Ferry. Initially the training will have to be voluntary, but it is intended to seek imposing conditions on taxi driver licences in order to make the training mandatory in the future. Neath Port Talbot Training Department have been asked to consider the training materials and slides prior to its commencement.

### **Additional Observations:**

43. Recommendation: Further consideration to be given to a leaflet to be developed to be provided to applicants for licences on raising awareness of safeguarding issues.
44. Progress: A factsheet on safeguarding is being produced which will be included in the new driver application pack, for potential applicants to read prior to sitting the knowledge test. The knowledge test can then include multiple choice questions surrounding the broader safeguarding issues including CSE.
45. Recommendation: 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.
46. Progress: The Committee received regular information on the workforce for Children and Young People Services due to the measures that were implemented during the time the Service was in Serious Concerns Protocol. There have been workforce changes in the Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Directorate and a report will be requested in the new Civic Year.

### **Financial Impact**

47. There are no financial implications within this report.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

48. As part of the reporting arrangements an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010, which included an action plan. The EIA indicated that there would be a positive or neutral impact on protected characteristics as the recommendations would assist with strengthening arrangements and processes that were already in place. An update against this action plan is included in Appendix Four. All actions have been completed.

## **Workforce Impacts**

49. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

## **Legal Impacts**

50. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

## **Risk Management**

51. There are no risk management issues associated with this report. However, the Committee recognise that there are risks if effective processes are not in place to protect children from CSE in Neath Port Talbot.

## **Consultation**

52. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **Recommendations**

53. That the report be noted.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

54. Not applicable.

## **Implementation of Decision**

55. Not applicable.

## **Appendices**

56. Appendix One - Response letters from the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board, Council departments and other agencies to whom recommendations were addressed
57. Appendix Two - Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board Position Statement and Gap Analysis National CSE Action Plan/Bedfordshire Risk Assessment Action Plan
58. Appendix Three - Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board Policy Procedure and Practice Management Group Report: Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment and Position
59. Appendix Four - Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan Update

## **List of Background Papers**

60. Scrutiny Inquiry to Assess Progress in Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation in Neath Port Talbot Report - Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee on 4 September 2015.

## **Officer Contact**

61. Catherine Gadd

Democratic Services

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

01639 763118

[c.gadd@npt.gov.uk](mailto:c.gadd@npt.gov.uk)