

Meeting: Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

Date: 21 March 2016

Title: Child Sexual Exploitation update

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Service: Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides the Committee with an overview of the current local picture in relation to work being undertaken with respect to child sexual exploitation (CSE). It further updates the Committee following the report on the 16th November 2015 which described the national picture and how this was impacting on North Tyneside.

The report will set out local activity at 3 levels:

- What we are doing in relation to individual cases
- What we are doing across the Council
- What we are doing through wider partnership working

2. Recommendations

The Committee is requested to consider the report, offer comment and advise of any recommendations for consideration.

3. Information

3.1 What we are doing in relation to individual cases

3.2 Work is ongoing with Social Work Teams in North Tyneside to further develop Risk Assessments in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation. This is with a view to ensuring information is holistic and detailed with regard to the risks and needs for a Young Person.

3.3 There are currently approximately 20 young people in North Tyneside identified as being at risk of child sexual exploitation.

3.4 SCARPA is the predominant service accessed currently for Young People and provides support and intervention in respect of healthy and safe relationships, and the issues of Child Sexual Exploitation. Work is undertaken on a one to one basis and SCARPA have recently begun some group sessions with local education providers. SCARPA run advice surgeries and workshops on a fortnightly basis with social care staff on engaging young people who are at risk, internet safety and responses to going missing. There is capacity within this work to

engage young people from the age of 10 into adulthood. This is of significant benefit and value with regard to transition work into adulthood.

- 3.5 A practitioner toolbox has been developed providing tools and interventions for social workers engaging in direct work with young people and an audit of care plans for young people at risk of CSE has identified the needs for specific work for each young person. A safeguarding action plan and agreement has been developed to implement with parents and carers with a view to pinpointing key areas of risk and strategies to manage such risk.

4. What we are doing across the Council

- 4.1 The CSE contact group has concluded its work. The final self assessment report is being completed and the actions identified are either being addressed at individual service level or, for the majority, are being included in the LSCB multi agency sexual exploitation action plan. This plan will be signed off by the LSCB in due course and will guide our partnership working.
- 4.2 The recommendations of the CSE study are being taken forward, for example through the annual constitution review.
- 4.3 Members will receive training on CSE as part of induction for new members and in future as part of the ongoing training programme. This is resourced by HR.
- 4.4 In relation to the communications strategy the children's missing persons lead is working with the nominated officer from the Head of Corporate Strategy and a representative from Adult Services to deliver this recommendation. An audit has been undertaken of what is currently available to raise awareness of CSE and any gaps identified. A young people's group has been consulted on poster design and suggestions shared.
- 4.5 Draft materials are being reviewed on 9th March with a view to this being shared in internal publications to tie in with CSE awareness day 18th March. We have also produced a North Tyneside poster and accompanying leaflet which is currently with printers, again to be launched to coincide with CSE awareness day.

5. What we are doing through wider partnership working

- 5.1 North Tyneside continues to work as part of Operation Sanctuary and the social work secondment has been in place since September 2015.
- 5.2 Bright Futures young women's project work within Operation Sanctuary and are attending schools providing support and education in relation to a range of vulnerabilities. They are beginning work in John Spence and we are discussing delivering into Moorbridge and PALS.
- 5.3 As mentioned above the sexual exploitation joint sub group of the safeguarding boards for adults and children and the Safer North Tyneside Partnership is now established and will drive the joint sexual exploitation action plan.
- 5.4 Changing Lives have been able to find accommodation in Whitley Bay but will bear a possible venue in Battle Hill in mind for the future.

6. Appendices

None.