



Haringey Council

Report for:	Corporate Parent Advisory Committee	Item Number:	8 December 2014
Title:	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)		
Report Authorised by:	Jon Abbey, Interim Director		
Lead Officer:	Gill Gibson, Assistant Director, Quality Assurance, Early Help and Prevention		
Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Information		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

This briefing provides members of the Corporate Parent Advisory Committee with an overview of child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Haringey, and specifically:

- the nature of the issue;
- our current response;
- OfSTED findings on the issue; and
- further planned work by LSCB and Children's Services to strengthen our response.

2. Cabinet Member introduction

NA



3. Background information

What is CSE?

The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person) receive 'something' (e.g. food, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Current Context

The level of national focus on the complex issue of CSE has increased significantly since scrutiny of both Rochdale and Rotherham situations. Haringey is engaged in a number of wider processes to strengthen and streamline the response to CSE in light of the learning from these cases.

The nature of the issue in Haringey

A baseline assessment report (see attached) was completed on 17 October 2014 to provide an overview of the current scale and prevalence of known CSE in Haringey (See appendix A).

4. What is the current response to CSE in Haringey?

For Children's Services, the identification of CSE is embedded in 'business as usual'. Referrals are made to children's services from a wide range of partners – including schools, health, police and other agencies. Screening and, where appropriate, assessment take place in the First Response service that includes the Multi Agency Information Sharing Hub (MASH).

In Haringey the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) model is utilised to enable a more strategic partnership approach – sharing information on a case by case basis where CSE is identified as a factor. The MASE meeting provides an opportunity for the identified CSE leads for each agency to come together to:

- review progress of cases and ensure action is being taken;
- identify trends and problem locations, taking appropriate action to address issues;
- consider cross-border issues and co-ordinate with other boroughs;
- ensure that LAC at risk of CSE, and placed away from Haringey, are being protected by agencies in that area.

There is a CSE team within the Metropolitan Police working within the Pan London Approach, launched earlier this year to work across 32 London Boroughs. This team links with the local MASE, bringing a Pan-London co-ordinated response in addition to local intelligence and actions.

For cases referred to Children's Services, the response to CSE in practice is:



- i) where there is significant risk of harm and the threshold for Child Protection is met, there is a multi-agency strategy meeting to plan an investigation which may lead to an initial child protection conference and a CP plan. Where CSE emerges as a factor, the case will also be referred to the MASE; and
- ii) for cases that do not meet the threshold for Child Protection, where CSE emerges as a factor, the case is referred to MASE (currently via Quality Assurance service) with the purpose of multi-agency risk sharing and development of an action plan to address the issues raised across three levels of risk.

5. OFSTED Findings

In Haringey, the inspection of Children's Services in July 2014 led to a number of recommendations underlining the need to strengthen our response to CSE, in summary:

- better identifying the risk of CSE in assessments;
- reviewing risks posed to looked after children in response to changing age and stage of life; and
- the need to better shape and target our responses to groups of 'hard to reach' young people – including those involved in the criminal justice system – to improve their life chances.

OFSTED provided two recommendations for the LSCB related to CSE:

- to review the CSE multi-agency guidance to incorporate a link to girls and gangs work;
- to accelerate plans to develop and agree the CSE strategy.

An OFSTED thematic inspection on CSE is underway across a number of authorities (not Haringey). We will reflect on the findings from this and incorporate learning into our plans in due course.



6. Further Planned Work

LSCB Task and Finish Group

The Haringey LSCB considered the response to CSE at a meeting in September 2014 – in light of learning from the Rotherham Case. A multi-agency task and finish group has been commissioned to examine the current systems and processes in place to respond to CSE, support the victims of CSE and to promote prevention of CSE.

The questions to be considered by this group are:

- what are we seeking to achieve?
- what is the scale and scope of the issue in Haringey?
- what is our operational response – is it robust and is it the right response / what are the gaps?
- how do we ensure staff across all agencies have awareness and training around the issue?
- do we have an effective approach to prevention? and
- what are the next steps?

As part of this work, Children's Services and Police are jointly examining and refining the data collected and will ensure that this is regularly updated – including Children Missing (care, education and home).

Wider processes and activity (beyond individual cases) going on at a community level via Community Safety will also be picked up under this group – with a focus on awareness and prevention.

Following the work of the task and finish group it is intended to finalise the strategy and practice guidance at the LSCB meeting in January 2015.

Other Planned Work Locally

CSE is a clear area of focus for Children's Services and partners and there is a range of activity to understand and focus our collective response to the issue. These are summarised below:

- (i) The Council has recognised the need to strengthen the way it currently works with CSE. A bid to the DfE Innovation Fund was not successful; however, we are considering whether to take forward elements of the proposal for a new model building on the current MASE system.
- (ii) A decision, made by the previous DCS, to transfer the oversight of CSE internally between two services, is currently under review to ensure that it is robust and remains fit for purpose.



- (iii) The LSCB has commissioned training for practitioners on CSE and the first course 'Tools for working with Child Sexual Exploitation' will be delivered on 18 November 2014. The Annual Safeguarding Campaign in February 2015 will focus on CSE and training.

- (iv) We are considering the need to commission an independent CSE audit and review to assess our current position and provide further rigour. This report would be a stronger baseline from which to inform the writing of the strategy and delivery plan.

Other Planned Work Nationally

- (i) In addition to this locally-driven work, the London Safeguarding Children Board in conjunction with London Association of Directors of Children's Services has set up a peer review process to better understand CSE across London and to share emerging practice. Haringey has been paired with LB Lambeth, and work is underway to review our current position against OFSTED guidance. This work will inform and be informed by the LSCB task and finish group. A report will also be collated based on the findings across London early in 2015.

- (ii) There is a briefing for London directors and assistant directors of children services on child sexual exploitation on Thursday 22nd January 2015 – including feedback from the OFSTED thematic reviews.

7. Conclusions

Although there is much work across the Council and beyond regarding CSE it does not appear robust in terms of a unified approach with other agencies that is well understood across the partnership and in the community. This may also mean that referral numbers are not accurate and that the support provided is not as timely and effective as it could be. In addition, it is not clear whether the current approach provides strong 'preventative' response to CSE e.g. schools.

The LSCB Task and Finish Group is providing multi-agency focus, bringing together the thinking and a plethora of not always aligned activity. The strategy and implementation plan that will follow will go some way to ensure a more cohesive and co-ordinated approach across the system to this complex issue. We will then need to monitor and measure the effectiveness of our actions on outcomes for this vulnerable group of young people.