

Meeting: Community Safety Partnership

Date: 17th June 2015

Report Title: Governance arrangements – Child Sexual Exploitation

Report of: Zina Etheridge, Deputy Chief Executive, Haringey Council

Purpose

This report is intended to update and canvass views of the Community Safety Partnership

Summary

At the meeting of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) on 19 March 2015, the Deputy Chief Executive (DCE) presented a report on the findings of the Jay and Casey Reports into the failings of Rotherham Council to deal with Child Sexual Exploitation. This report from the DCE reflected on the Jay and Casey key lessons, particularly from a Haringey perspective.

The Casey report suggests around 20 points on which we need to assure ourselves of where we are, which fall into broadly 5 areas: specific issues around child sexual exploitation (CSE); issues relating to Children's Services; licensing; partnership working; and leadership, culture and corporate practice across the Council.

There are a number of partnerships that could potentially hold the accountability for our work in tackling CSE. The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the CSP on how this might work in practice and how other partners will be kept updated.

Legal/Financial Implications

N/A

Recommendations

It is recommended that the LSCB are accountable for the CSE Strategy and Action Plan.

The CSP, Violence Against Women and Girls Group (VAWG), and Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) all have an obvious interest in the issue. Given the multi-agency nature of the MASE it is considered that these boards have appropriate representation there. Therefore it is proposed:

- that members of the MASE with links to either the VAWG, HWB or

CSP act as the link to these bodies, providing them with timely updates on pertinent work.

- that the CSP, VAWG and HWB are provided with an annual written update from the senior officer responsible for CSE in Haringey
- that the minutes of any discussions around CSE at the LSCB will be shared with members of the CSP, VAWG and HWB.

It is also recommended that the CSP receives a regular update on the CSE Strategy and Action Plan and that any questions or information raised at either the CSP or the HWB will be reported back to the LSCB and the MASE simultaneously so that any response or action takes place in good time.

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Background

Haringey Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Meeting (MASE) and Governance arrangements

The purpose of the MASE is to produce and develop a detailed strategic overview of the CSE profile for the borough of Haringey and to coordinate tactical responses and approach to CSE between partner agencies.

The Pan-London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol, which was agreed in February 2014, sets out the arrangements for the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Meeting, commonly referred to as the MASE. There are a number of CSE models in existence. Haringey is affiliated to the London Safeguarding Children Board and broadly adopts the CSE model contained in the London Child Protection Procedures which is enhanced by the Pan-London Protocol.

MASE Meetings are not intended to replace guidance provided in the London Safeguarding Child Board Procedures or replace any established referral or assessment process. The MASE provides a strategic forum to share information and intelligence and to give an opportunity for the CSE Leads for each agency to come together and:

- Review progress of cases and ensure action is being taken by agencies
- Identify trends and problem locations to ensure that they are dealt with
- Look at cross border issues and ensure a co-ordinated approach
- Ensure looked after children placed out of borough and at risk of CSE are protected by agencies where they are located

In addition to the MASE, the Pan-London Protocol also sets out expectations for a Multi-Agency Panel (MAP). MAPs manage identified cases of CSE to ensure all relevant information is shared. MAPs also ensure that cross borough arrangements are established for LAC placed out of borough. Maintaining an overview of the MAPs will ensure that key themes, issues and trends are identified and referred for consideration by the MASE.

Although the Pan-London Protocol allows for MAP and MASE meetings to be merged these meetings are convened separately in Haringey in order to ensure that operational casework details and the strategic considerations are given sufficient oversight and attention in their own right. The Haringey MASE has recently undergone a short review to ensure that it is in line with the Pan-London Protocol.