

TACKLING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN SLOUGH – AN UPDATE

Meeting	Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
Date	Wednesday 16 March 2016
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the plans to develop a multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) team in Slough. In addition, this report sets out the newly revised draft CSE Strategy and Action Plan for delivering on improvements to tackling CSE in Slough.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee note the progress made in the review of CSE and to support the proposal to tackle CSE in Slough through the development of a multi-agency CSE team to enable an effective and robust response.
- 2.2 That the Committee note the revised draft CSE Strategy and Action Plan and the new draft Missing Children Strategy and Action plan. These plans are in draft and are to be finalised by the LSCB.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION UPDATE

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is update the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the establishment of a multi-agency CSE team to enable a more robust response to CSE, trafficking and missing children.

The CSE multi-agency team will provide the following:

- A single point of contact for all CSE concerns – linked to a robust and effective MASH/Front door service.
 - Timely response to all children reported missing as well as robust monitoring of absences.
 - Timely provision of effective support for all children;
 - who have been reported absent or missing and intelligence sharing with police in order for the disruption of CSE in Slough to be more effective
 - where trafficking has been highlighted as a concern
 - where gang involvement has been highlighted as a concern
 - Ensuring guidance is provided to staff around CSE issues and ensure that the risk management plans are reflected in the children's individual plans.
 - Regular auditing and CSE self-assessment.
- 1.2 The interim CSE Co-ordinator has also led the development of a refreshed CSE Strategy and Action Plan. These have been presented to the CSE subgroup of the LSCB on the 2nd March. The strategy sets out the priorities for 2015-17 and the action plan details both timescales and responsible agencies for progressing the plans. The draft Missing Children Strategy and Action Plans are attached as appendix 3 and 4 for information. We have set a deadline of 8th March for members of the sub group to reply with any final amendments. The draft will then go to the SLSCB on 17th March.

2 Background

- 2.1 Slough Childrens Services Trust identified as an early priority that there was an urgent need to significantly improve the response to CSE and missing children in Slough. A fulltime CSE Co-ordinator was appointed by the Trust and funded by the Safer Slough Partnership until the end of December 2015 when the funding came to an end. The Trust has continued to fund this post but this is a temporary arrangement and is due to finish at the end of March 2016.
- 2.2 On the 11 February 2016 the LSCB Executive agreed and committed to the establishment of a new multi agency CSE team for Slough. This was

a model that had been successful in Oxfordshire and known as the Kingfisher model. The LSCB have agreed:

- Thames Valley Police will lead this project, which will cover a two year period as a minimum.
- The Trust will fund a CSE and Missing Lead Manager post to manage the team.
- The Trust will contribute and fund two social workers to specialise in CSE within the team.
- The Young People's service, Slough Borough Council will second a CSE Youth Worker.
- Health services will be explored to assist the team including access to sexual health staff resources and school nursing services.
- Links with Education Attendance Officers to be strengthened to ensure that attendance information as education status of all children at risk of CSE is shared and reviewed on a regular basis.

2.3 Drawing on Council resources and Safer Slough Partnership funding, the Council has agreed to recruit a CSE coordinator with effect from 1st April 2016. This appointment will be for a minimum of 2 years and the recruitment process is to begin imminently. The Council and the Trust have agreed to jointly fund the interim CSE coordinator whilst the recruitment process is underway. This is a separate role from the CSE and Missing lead manager role. The CSE coordinator will provide strategic leadership and support and coordinate the delivery of the CSE strategy and action plan

3 Current Arrangements

3.1 From 26 October 2015, the Trust implemented return home interviews for young people who have been reported missing or absent. All children reported missing from Slough now receive an independent return home interview undertaken by Young People's Services. There is however a gap in the service provided i.e.:

- 1:1 work is not always completed with children to address the missing/ absent occurrences – particularly where it is not clear whether this is linked to CSE, gang involvement or trafficking.
- Completion of return home interviews for children placed out of borough are currently completed by social workers who are not always in a position to undertake these in a timely way and are not independent (a requirement of statutory guidance). The Trust has commissioned the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) to address this gap and this should be available in the new financial year.
- Where CSE concerns have been raised about children placed out of borough, there is currently no service providing 1:1 work with the children. Again NYAS will provide for this group of children and work alongside the CSE team.

3.4 The CSE multi-agency team will ensure that all return home interviews

for children in Slough and Looked after Children (LAC) placed out of borough are completed. Where CSE has been identified as a concern, CSE risk indicator tools will be completed and the case presented to Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (SERAC) panel or panels in respective local authorities where the children are placed.

- 3.5 The LSCB Sub-Group has overseen the review of the CSE Strategy and Action Plan as well as development of the Missing Strategy and Action Plan (appendix 3 and 4). These are due to be presented before the LSCB Executive on 21 April 2016.

4 Benefits of the CSE Multi-Agency Team

- 4.1
- Creating a single point of contact for all CSE concerns to enable increased transparency and consistence in responding to concerns.
 - The use and harnessing of existing resources within the Trust and the Borough Council without significantly altering the existing staffing structure.
 - Improved outcomes for children.
 - Improved seamless transition and continuity of support and help to children at risk of CSE.
 - Timely CSE risk assessments (evidencing clear level and nature of risk) completed alongside social work staff.
 - Timely intervention where CSE concerns have been identified for children and their families.
 - Completion of evidence based CSE risk indicator tools and intelligence shared with police to increase disruption chances.
 - Where return home interviews have highlighted concerns, 1:1 work completed with children to reduce missing / absence incidents – this includes children placed out of borough and children not open to Slough Children’s Services Trust.
 - Improved recording and management information reports.
 - Timely presentation of cases at SERAC panels and improved profiling of CSE problem to ensure that models of CSE, patterns and trends are clear in Slough.
 - Regular audits to measure impact and highlight areas of improvement in order to reduce prevalence of CSE in Slough.

4.2 Risks and other considerations to be made

- There is further work to be done around supporting survivors of CSE and identifying the most effective way to secure therapeutic interventions. The CSE Co-ordinator will work with agencies in particular Community and Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and voluntary agencies such as Barnardo’s who offer a specialist therapeutic service to assess what is required in Slough.
- The recent Ofsted has set out the need for agencies in Slough to provide a better response to CSE as a shared priority. It is clear

that all agencies are under a great deal of budgetary pressures but this is an area that if agencies work together can make a real difference to children and young people in Slough.

5 Project Management Approach

A formal project management approach will be adopted to increase visibility of the CSE work and the decision making process. This means the project will be managed against a clear documented project plan; there will be a communications plan to ensure all stakeholders are kept up to date and a shared and open risk and issues log. The Project Board will meet and agree to review and sign off key deliverables and approve progression to the next stage of the project. This project will run for 18 months subject to review. The project structure will be very flexible to ensure the relevant resources are brought together when they are needed. The evaluation will focus on impact of CSE project Team and inform a longer term sustainable model. This will include monitoring individual children, impact on outcomes and reduce risk.

6 Report conclusions

- 6.1 The establishment of a specialist multi-agency CSE team in Slough demonstrates agencies' commitment to ensuring our most vulnerable children and young people are protected. It also sends out a clear message that Slough will not tolerate such abuse and that perpetrators will be sought out and prosecuted.

8 Appendices

- 8.1
- Appendix 1 CSE Strategy and Action Plan (draft)
 - Appendix 2 LSCB CSE Action Plan (draft)
 - Appendix 3 Missing Strategy (draft)
 - Appendix 4 Missing Action plan (draft)