

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Response to Child Sexual Exploitation Scrutiny Report Recommendations

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 6 September 2016

Cabinet Member: Councillor Mrs Beer

CMT Member: Carole Burgoyne (Strategic Director for People)

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Ref:

Key Decision: No

Part: I

Purpose of the report:

This report is a briefing that sets out the recommendations made in the in the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Scrutiny report. It provides an update on work undertaken to address CSE across the Council, including commissioning plans. It also contains an update on work being undertaken across the multi-agency partnership led by the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) in relation to the recommendations. Finally, where the recommendations involve other agencies or bodies such as Barnardo's or the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, this report explains how responses to the recommendations will be secured.

The Corporate Plan 2016 - 19:

The report is consistent with the values and objectives within the Caring section of the Corporate Plan.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land:

This report explains how any resource implications and commissioning requirements from the recommendations will be considered via the Children's Partnership System Design group.

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

In addressing recommendations aimed at reducing the risk of CSE, the report details actions that will impact on-

- Community Safety (due regard to preventing crime and disorder: CSE is an umbrella term which covers a range of criminal offenses. Disruption activity also impacts on other related criminal activity such as supply of controlled drugs and anti-social behavior)

- Health and Safety (any health and safety implications; addressing CSE impacts on a range of health and safety issues for young people, including teenage pregnancies, sexual health, substance misuse)
- Risk Management (to identify any risk management issues; CSE poses a significant risk to individual young people. Failure to respond appropriately to CSE would pose a significant reputational risk to the council)

Equality and Diversity

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken?

This report provides an update on the recommendations from the CSE Scrutiny report. This report seeks endorsement of the recommendations, and none of them have any direct impact on protected characteristics.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

Cabinet are recommended to endorse the recommendations made in the CSE Scrutiny report and note progress in this area of work both within the council and across the partnership.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Published work / information:

Child Sexual Exploitation: Co-Operative Scrutiny Review 2016

Background papers:

None

Sign off: 22 August 2016

Fin	djn16 17.21	Leg	DVS2 6307	Mon Off	DVS2 6307	HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? PFH briefing booked 1/9/16													

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The commitment to ensuring that all children and young people are safeguarded from all aspects of child sexual abuse, including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) remains high across the council, and partner agencies in Plymouth.

1.2 This CSE Scrutiny Report sets out specific recommendations to ensure effective partnership working and that all aspects of risk in relation to CSE are effectively assessed and addressed at a public awareness level and on an individual basis where appropriate.

1.3 This briefing outlines both the corporate and partnership arrangements already in place and how necessary additional responses will be addressed.

2.0 PCC CSE Up-date, Including Commissioning Plans (relevant to Recommendations 1, 5, 7, 8)

1. Agreed that the members were assured that strategies and action plans are in place to tackle child exploitation in Plymouth. It was felt however that the CSE implementation plan required refinement and should return to scrutiny in the future.

5. Agreed that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Co-operative Commissioning should explore how more robust and resilient services for victims of CSE should be developed in partnership with other statutory agencies and nonstatutory agencies already proving services. This will be subject to scrutiny in the future.

7. Agreed to recommend to the Cabinet with responsibility for Co-operative Commissioning that Voluntary and Community Sector organisations delivering support for those subject to Child Sexual Exploitation in the city are invited to join System Design groups supporting the four Integrated Commissioning Strategies.

8. Agreed to recommend to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Co-operative Commissioning that consideration is given to formally commissioning a Child Sexual Exploitation service which would include and appropriate step-down service.

2.1 There remains council-wide commitment to preventing CSE and protecting children and young people at risk. This ranges from detailed training and guidance for social care staff to agreed licencing arrangements for taxi drivers including ensuring that their attendance at appropriate CSE training is a condition of their license.

2.2 The Children Young People and Families(CYPFS) and Learning and Communities services continue to ensure that appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place, including:

- Appropriate arrangements for children missing education.
- Proposals to improve arrangements for children missing from home and from care, through the transformation programme.
- CYPFS CSE action plan informed by the peer review in November 2015 and monitored at monthly management meetings.

- Ensuring that appropriate quality assurance audits have been undertaken in relation to CSE and sexually harmful behaviour.
- Contribution to the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board Child Exploitation sub group.

2.3 At a strategic commissioning and system level, the local needs analysis highlights the fact that children vulnerable to CSE are often the victims of childhood trauma. In order to meet this need a range of service improvements could be made by a more integrated response to need.

- To address this the children's partnership System Design Group has been established involving social care, PCC targeted support services, drug and alcohol services, third sector partners and CAMHS.
- A task and finish work stream has been initiated to review our response to trauma recovery, including CSE, as one of the key priorities to re-shape our service model across existing resources.
- In addition, we have bid to the Innovations Fund to secure additional resources to ensure an earlier and more integrated response to need, that both prevents exploitation and responds more rapidly, developing a robust Trauma Recovery Model that could be replicated across other areas.
- If this bid is unsuccessful, a commissioning plan for vulnerable children and young people is in development which will seek create a new model of delivery to prioritise resources to meet need. This may not achieve change at the same pace as if our bid is successful.

2.4 The preferred model, as outlined in the Integrated Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People, has cross party agreement and aims to form a collaboration with our VCS and Health partners to create an integrated model of care for vulnerable children and young people. This will include a clear pathway and support offer for those vulnerable to and experiencing CSE.

3.0 Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Board (PSCB) and CSE (Relevant to Recommendations 1, 2)

1. Agreed that the members were assured that strategies and action plans are in place to tackle child exploitation in Plymouth. It was felt however that the CSE implementation plan required refinement and should return to scrutiny in the future.

2. Agreed that the Plymouth Safeguarding Board should be promoted as the lead body with regards to Child Sexual Exploitation.

3.1 The PSCB strategic and operational Child Exploitation sub-groups provide citywide leadership around CSE and feed into and are informed by the Peninsular CSE Strategic group.

3.1.2 The strategic sub-group has asked all member agencies to provide them with assurance that plans are in place to tackle CSE. A number of agencies were able to provide copies of their CSE plans (those agencies that did not have specific CSE plans referred to CSE within their wider safeguarding plans) and those who have not yet provided plans are subject to challenge by the PSCB.

3.1.3 The CSE action plan is now more refined, with a move to more focused priorities and themed discussions in the sub group. These include:- awareness raising, professionals training, data capture, voice of the child and family, prosecution, Child Protection response and disruption, black ethnic and minority and hard to reach communities.

3.1.4 The CSE 'tool-kit' has been shared in operational sub group (MACSE) meetings and the disruption techniques and sharing of information are well utilised to keep young people safe. A new screening tool has been developed to identify if a full NWG assessment is necessary and data management systems are underway to help to track those young people at risk of CSE.

3.1.5 Following guidance relating to the Joint Themed Area Inspection, the PSCB led a dry run of the joint response to notification of an inspection. The theme was CSE and for this a review of CSE in Plymouth was undertaken in March 2016. This has highlighted strengths and areas for development. This review was co-ordinated by Barnardos and the areas for development have been included in the sub-group work plan.

3.2 PSCB CSE Training (Relevant to Recommendation 3)

3. Agreed that the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board should promote CSE training more widely and review its pricing structure to allow small community groups with limited resources to undertake this training. This would be subject to a report at a future scrutiny meeting.

3.2.1 The PSCB promote their courses widely on line through their website and through PSCB agency representatives. They now have a link through the Octopus Project, who disseminate all the training information directly out to the voluntary sector. An impact on practice survey is undertaken 3 months after attendance on the CSE course. This shows that 100% of respondents reported it improved their knowledge and skills in working with CSE. The course receives high levels of positive feedback with some examples below:

'This training was one of the best courses that I have attended in years, it was presented to a very high standard, a good pace and by facilitator who had extensive knowledge. I was really impressed and it has really helped me gain a good insight to CSE.'

'I do work directly with perpetrators of CSE and the training has given me a better understanding of what CSE is and what it looks like in real situations. This knowledge will improve my offence analysis in these cases as well as inform risk assessment and risk management.'

3.2.2 Two [free] best practice briefings took place in January 2016, highlighting the particular needs of boys and young men at risk of CSE. These reached over 100 colleagues from both the statutory and voluntary sectors.

3.2.3 In addition the PSCB also worked with the Adult Safeguarding Children Board and Plymouth City Council to develop and run taxi-driver training. A successful pilot led to the training being rolled out, with to date over 300 drivers already trained. The next phase is the introduction of the workshop being made mandatory for all 1300 drivers to attend.

3.2.4 Understanding Child Sexual Exploitation Training - 8 courses have been run from July 2015 to present (July 2016) with a total attendance of 183. This course carries a standard cost of £75 regardless of the size of agency. Cost of training is subject to regular review as part of the annual PSCB training plan.

3.3 PSCB CSE communications plan (Relevant to Recommendations 2 & 4)

2. Agreed that the Plymouth Safeguarding Board should be promoted as the lead body with regards to Child Sexual Exploitation.

4. Agreed to recommend to the Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Board that a comprehensive and wide ranging communications plan should be developed in relation to CSE. In particular this should include a high profile awareness raising campaign in which all partner agencies should play a key part and should be particularly focused at General Practitioners and Schools.

3.3.1 Communications and awareness raising have been considered at specific themed sessions of the strategic MACSE, and the Corporate Communications Officer attended to advise. This has informed the PSCB CSE action plan.

3.3.2 A CSE Awareness Day was promoted by the PSCB to all agencies.

3.3.3 A CSE Conference is being arranged for professionals across the City in conjunction with the PSCB training department, Plymouth University and Barnardos.

3.3.4 A CSE resource of information/resources is held on the PSCB website for all agencies to access and is regularly updated with new research and information.

3.3.5 The PSCB has tasked the newly formed education reference group to review the quality of awareness raising activity in schools and report back on next steps.

3.3.6 The PSCB has promoted a NHS CSE pocket Guide, which has been distributed to all acute and community trusts in Plymouth and Devon as well as every GP and practice nurse receiving a copy. An electronic version is available and has gone out to main NHS providers, dentists and pharmacists. This is now going to be explored with the education reference group to see if a similar guide can be adopted for schools.

3.3.7 The PSCB promoted the Cold Truth work between Barnardos and Effervescent. This was an excellent example of a creative piece of consultation which then spread the message to the community through the art show held in their gallery. The sub group is now undertaking some work on how the voice of the child could be used to inform future developments such as a '10 wishes' for CSE or an annual conference for young people.

4.0 Scrutiny Arrangements (Relevant to Recommendations 6, 11)

6. Agreed to recommend to the Co-operative Scrutiny Board that the Scrutiny Panel responsible for Children's services will receive regular updates from the Local Safeguarding Children's Board to include the annual report and specific updates on progress in tackling CSE.

11. Agreed that the Scrutiny Panel with responsibility for children and young people will receive the quarterly report written by Barnardos' on their BASE service.

4.1 The recommendation to request quarterly updates from the PSCB regarding tackling CSE to be presented to the Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be raised at the PSCB Exec in September.

4.2 The report has been discussed with Barnardo's and the agency is aware that the Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee will request updates on the BASE service.

5.0 Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (Relevant to Recommendations 9, 10)

9. Agreed to recommend to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner that consideration is given to the further development of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Plymouth to ensure that young people in Plymouth who have been subject of CSE are able to receive the appropriate support without having to visit Truro or Exeter.

10. Agreed to recommend to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner that they consider how through partnership an advocacy service can be developed to support CSE victims akin to an IDVA used in domestic abuse cases.

5.1 Assistant Director, to write to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, sharing the report and drawing attention to the relevant recommendations.