

WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

15 March 2017



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

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 was completed in spring 16, and sets out specific recommendations to ensure effective partnership working, and that risk in relation to CSE is 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 provides an update on actions to respond to the recommendations.

2.0 PCC CSE Up-date, Including Commissioning Plans

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 non-statutory agencies already providing 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 Education, Learning and Participation 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, 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.
- The preferred model, as outlined in the Integrated Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People, has partnership 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 includes a clear pathway and support offer for those vulnerable to and experiencing CSE. This has been done with representation on the SDG and Vulnerable Children's System Optimisation Group (SOG) – Barnardos are represented, and other providers such as the NSPCC are invited as appropriate.

2.4 This will be monitored and reviewed through the System Design Group, and the CYPF Transformation Programme, within the Support and Provision Project.

3.0 Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Board (PSCB) and CSE

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 Missing and Child Exploitation sub-groups provide citywide leadership around CSE and feed into and are informed by the Peninsular MACSE 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. Those who have not provided plans have been 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.

3.2 PSCB CSE Training

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.

3.2.3 Understanding Child Sexual Exploitation Training -4 courses have been run from July 2016 to present, with a total attendance of 93 participants. 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.

3.2.4 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.

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

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 This year's CSE Awareness Day will take place on March 17th. The PSCB has worked with partner agencies across the peninsular to promote an awareness campaign around CSE. This will use the NWG toolkit and support the Barnardos "See Something-Say Something" campaign. A media strategy is in place, including a family who are prepared to be interviewed about their experiences.

3.3.3 A very successful CSE Conference was arranged for professionals across the City in November 16, in conjunction with the PSCB training department, Plymouth University and Barnardos. There were national speakers and the feedback was very positive.

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 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.

4.0 Scrutiny Arrangements

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 has been raised at the PSCB Exec.

4.2 The report has been discussed with Barnardos 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 The Assistant Director, has raised these recommendations with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. An advocacy service to support CSE victims has now been set up.

Author: Siobhan Wallace

Job Title: HoS QA and Safeguarding

Department: People: Children Young People and Families

Date: 6.3.17