

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Children's Select Committee**

**26 January 2016**

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#### **Interim report of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Task Group**

##### **Purpose**

1. To present the work undertaken by the CSE task group to date.
2. It is hoped that the final report of the task group will be presented to the committee at its March or May meeting, however as the committee had agreed the establishment of the task group over a year ago the task group was keen to update the committee on its work to date and to seek endorsement of its planned work.

##### **Background**

3. The government issued specific guidance to Local Authorities about CSE through the department of Children, Schools & Families in November 2009 with the publication of supplementary guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, 2006).
4. Following a number of high profile cases and investigations culminating with Alexis Jay's Independent Inquiry into CSE in Rotherham 1997 – 2013, published August 2014, the Prime Minister announced in March 2015 that CSE was a National Threat requiring the Police and LAs to prioritise tackling CSE. Media interest nationally and locally has been intense.
5. Wiltshire Council in partnership with agencies under the auspices of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board have responded with a strategic plan: Prevent, Protect and Pursue to monitor how CSE is collectively tackled in Wiltshire through the delivery of services to children and their families. Such delivery is monitored by the council's CSE plan.
6. CSE was defined as follows by the UK National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People (NWG) and that definition has been used in statutory guidance for England.

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

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post

sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

7. It was resolved by the Children's Select Committee on 14 October 2014 that a CSE Task Group would be established.
8. Following a meeting between the chair and vice-chair of the Children's Select Committee and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services it was announced at the committee meeting on 28 January 2015 that the task group would initially focus on the Prevent strand of the CSE action plan's 'Prevent, Protect, Pursue' themes.
9. The Prevent strand would involve investigating how the council and partners were raising awareness of CSE across the county and the impact this was having. Some key groups suggested included:
  - School;
  - Taxi drivers;
  - Letting agents;
  - Parents / Carers;
  - Parents / Carers of those with SEND;
  - Looked after Children;
  - It was also felt that the take-up and impact of CSE training delivered by the council should be considered by the task group.
10. It was also agreed that the task group would start its work by receiving a comprehensive briefing on all the CSE work being undertaken, this took place on 7 April 2015.
11. One of the three priorities in the Council's Business Plan 2013-13 is "to protect those who are most vulnerable" and as part of Outcome 6 "People are as protected from harm as possible and feel safe" the plan recognises that "combating child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a significant national priority".

## Membership

12. The task group comprises the following membership:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Cllr Jacqui Lay    | Chair of the Task Group   |
| Cllr Pat Aves      | Wiltshire Councillor (joined 01 October 2015)                         |
| Mr Ken Brough      | Primary Parent Governor Representative on Children's Select Committee |
| Miss Sarah Busby   | Teacher Representative on Children's Select Committee                 |
| Cllr Mary Champion | Wiltshire Councillor  |
| Cllr Anna Cuthbert | Wiltshire Councillor (joined 15 June 2015)                            |
| Cllr David Jenkins | Wiltshire Councillor  |

## Terms of Reference

13. Following the consideration at the Children Select Committee on 14 April 2015 the following terms of reference were approved:

(1) To scrutinise Wiltshire Council's programme to prevent and tackle CSE in Wiltshire as set out in the council's CSE Action Plan, with an initial focus on the 'Prevent' strand of the CSE action plan's 'Prevent, Protect, Pursue' themes;

(2) To monitor the implementation of Wiltshire Council's CSE Action Plan taking into consideration national priorities and actions;

(3) To scrutinise how, and monitor how well, Wiltshire Council is raising awareness of CSE across Wiltshire;

(4) To scrutinise the quality, range, suitability and availability of training in CSE delivered by the council.  
To monitor the efficiency of the training including the take up of the training and measurable outcomes;

(5) To scrutinise and monitor the understanding and clarity of the roles and responsibilities of services and members across the council, as well as council partners, in preventing and tackling CSE in Wiltshire;

(6) To scrutinise and monitor the council's engagement of young people and schools (both primary and secondary) in preventing and tackling CSE in Wiltshire as set out in the council's Action Plan.

## Evidence gathering

14. The task group has received written and/or verbal evidence from the following witnesses:

### Wiltshire Council witnesses

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children's Services  
 Cllr Alan MacRae, Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding  
 Blair Keltie, Service Manager CSE & Missing Children  
 Julie Upson, Manager of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board

### Other Witnesses

Superintendent Craig Holden, Head of Public Protection Wiltshire Police and Chair of WSCB CSE and Missing sub-group

### Other evidence gathering

Feedback questionnaire on Chelsea's Choice play from six schools through Wiltshire Association of Secondary and Special School Headteachers (WASSH)  
 Feedback from chairs of Area Board on the CSE presentation to area boards  
 Council's CSE action plan  
 Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) CSE action plan  
 LGA - Tackling child sexual exploitation - A resource pack for councils

## Work to date

15. The task group agreed its forward work programme as shown below:

| Date of meetings | Item / topic   | Details  |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>2015</b>      |  |  |
| 07 April         | Training   |  |
| 23 April         | Scoping  |  |
| 15 Jun           | Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and Wiltshire Council - CSE | The aim of the meeting is for the task group to consider the following:<br>a. The role and membership of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB);<br>Page 3<br>b. The work undertaken by the WSCB regarding CSE;<br>c. The WSCB's CSE action plan;<br>d. The relationship between the WSCB and the council and their respective CSE action plans. |
| 20 July          | Engagement with Young People and schools                                 | Update the task group on work undertaken by the Corporate Parenting Panel on CSE.<br>Feedback from schools on Chelsea's Choice.  |
|                  | CSE action plan  | Members of the task group are invited to focus on the  |

| Date of meetings | Item / topic                                     | Details   |
|------------------|--|---|
|                  |  | actions for which the completion date has been reached (shown in red) to ensure that the plan is being implemented in a timely manner.  |
| 01 October       | Future work of the task group and Interim Report | The aim of this meeting is for the task group to review its work to date and agree the areas of work the task group wants to focus on in the future.<br>The task group will need to identify any witnesses to invite to meetings, what information it will need to receive on each topic, the frequency of future meetings.   |
| 05 November      | Action plans                                     | Review the council's action plan to ensure that the actions, outcomes and success measures are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound)  |
|                  | Interim report meeting                           | To consider what information should be included in the interim report.  |
| 10 December      | Communication / raising awareness                | Follow a case from start to finish through the different teams at Wiltshire Council.<br>Aim = to check communication to public and members of staff to ensure that they know how to report suspicions.<br><br>To consider the format of the information to be given to Area Boards (Area Board chairmen to be contacted prior to the meeting for their suggestions / input).<br><br>To consider the information to be provided by the council (a shorter version of the LGA's pack for councillor, "credit card sized" guide, leaflets, branding / strapline, etc.) and who the council should be "targeting" and how these groups can be approached. |
| <b>2016</b>      |  |   |
| 22 January       | Training   | Establish who the council has a responsibility to train.<br><br>What training is already available, what training should be offered (format, content, frequency)<br><br>How to ensure take up / attendance, consideration to be given to making the training compulsory.  |
|                  | Communication / raising awareness                | To receive any supplementary information from the Service Manager who was unfortunately unable to attend the December meeting.  |
| 18 February      | OFSTED report                                    | Receive an update on actions taken by the council following the OFSTED report.  |
|                  | Clarity of role and responsibility               | To scrutinise and monitor the understanding and clarity of the roles and responsibilities of services and members across the council, as well as council partners, in preventing and tackling CSE in Wiltshire.   |
|                  | Action plan                                      | Monitor implementation of the council's action plan   |

| Date of meetings | Item / topic             | Details   |
|------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 2 March          | Schools and Young People | To be informed of the PHSE program for schools (primary and secondary).<br><br>To consider how the council can include CSE consideration in its activities (link area board grant applications, planning applications, etc.).<br>Feedback from the Calne Area Board "Unfair Funfair" (8 December 2015). |
| 17 March         | Final report meeting     | For the task group to review the work it has undertaken and agree the information to be included in the final report  |

## Key findings

16. The task group aligned the topics of its meetings with its terms of reference (ToR) therefore its key findings are shown below in relation to its ToR.
17. The task group started its work by looking into the relationship and roles of the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB), a multi-agency partnership that holds its partners to account about the extent to which children and young people are kept safe, and the council with regards to CSE at its meeting on 15 June. The Manager of the Board welcomed the task group's involvement.
18. More information on the role of the WSCB can be found on its [website](#).

### **Wiltshire Council's programme to prevent and tackle CSE in Wiltshire (ToR 1)**

19. On 5 November 2015 the task group reviewed the council's action plan to ensure that the actions and success measures were as SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound).
20. The task group resolved as follows.

The following was suggested as a way to make it easier for officers to update the action plan and accurately reflect the actions taken:

- a) Avoid the use of acronyms;
- b) Add a column on the action plan to cross-reference with the WSCB's action plan;
- c) Add Blue in the RAG-rating to indicate actions that have been completed;
- d) To put the columns on action and success measure next to each other;
- e) To include a number in the success measure where appropriate (rather than state "a number of...");
- f) Include details of where the information can be found for the success measure (e.g. name of the report, etc.).

It was suggested that the following should be added:

- a) Information at the start of the plan to clarify that each partner was responsible for its own action plan;

- b) For the action on communication to include other media (twitter, facebook, etc.);
- c) For the action on communication to include raising awareness of successful disruption and prosecution;
- d) For the action on training to include the training that has been offered to staff and councillors;
- e) For action 9.2 to include the additional text “mainstream and SEND schools have appropriate PHSE provisions suitable for all their pupils”.

It was also agreed that the following would be useful as a complement to the action plan:

Quarterly activity reports to show the actions taken over the past 12 months for the milestones on the action plan. These reports would need to include targets (e.g. 90% of staff trained on CSE within 2 months of joining the council) and would be presented to the Children’s Select Committee and the Safeguarding Children and Young People panel.

### **Implementation of Wiltshire Council’s CSE Action Plan (ToR 2)**

- 21. The task group reviewed the council’s CSE action plan at its meeting on 20 July with a focus on the actions for which the completion date has been reached to ensure that the plan was being implemented in a timely manner.
- 22. The task group would review the further implementation of the council’s CSE action plan at its February meeting.

### **Raising Awareness (ToR 3)**

- 23. The task group focused its meeting on 10 December on communication and raising awareness.
- 24. Unfortunately the Service Manager was unable to attend the December meeting, for reasons outside of his control; therefore the topic will be explored further at the task group meeting on 22 January 2016.

### **Training (ToR 4)**

- 25. The task group will consider training with regards to CSE at its meeting in January.

### **Clarity of roles and responsibilities (ToR 5)**

- 26. The task group will consider the clarity of roles and responsibility at its February meeting.

### **Engagement of young people and schools (ToR 6)**

- 27. Sarah Busby, on behalf of the task group, circulated a questionnaire to a number of schools seeking their feedback on the Chelsea’s Choice play.

28. The task group reviewed that information as well as the feedback that had already been received by the council at its meeting on 20 July. Unfortunately it was not possible for members of the Children in Care Council to attend the meeting of the task group; therefore the task group will explore the engagement of young people and schools again at its March meeting which will be scheduled to ensure that young people representatives can attend.
29. The task group engaged with the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel on this issue and the task group considered the work undertaken by the panel on CSE.

### **Conclusion**

30. Based on the evidence it has considered so far the task group had not identified any areas of concerns in the work the council has undertaken with regards to the prevent strand of its CSE action plan.

### **Recommendations**

31. That the committee notes this interim report and the proposed future work for the task group.

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### **Cllr Jacqui Lay, Chairman of the Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group**

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**Appendices** None

**Background documents** None