

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

3 July 2017

Subject: Wiltshire Council CSE Action Plan update

Cabinet member: Councillor Laura Mayes – Children’s Services

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary

Wiltshire’s approach to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has been focussed on three key themes which are set out in Pan Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and Swindon Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy: Prevent Protect and Pursue. WSCB is responsible for co-ordinating an effective multi-agency response to child sexual exploitation and for monitoring Wiltshire’s strategy.

The Cabinet meeting of 19 July 2016 requested this update with regard to the key themes of the WSCB CSE Strategy, the CSE Action Plan and on progress made since July 2016.

Proposal

That Cabinet note the progress made against the CSE action plan since 19 July 2016

Reason for Proposal

- Wiltshire Council has a zero-tolerance approach to CSE and has treated CSE as a high priority
- By maintaining oversight of the CSE Action Plan at the highest level, the Council can ensure that CSE remains a priority.

Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director

Wiltshire Council

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Purpose of Report

1. To provide Cabinet with a review of developments and progress with the Council’s CSE Action Plan in relation to the Key Themes: Prevent, Protect and Pursue

Relevance to the Council’s Business Plan

2. The Wiltshire Council response to child sexual exploitation links to the Council’s business plan 2013 to 2017 key priorities 4 and 5; ‘To protect those who are most vulnerable’.
 - Provide opportunities for every child and young person to improve their attainment and skills so they can achieve their full potential
 - Continue to improve our safeguarding services to protect the most vulnerable in our Communities
3. The objectives are stated in Outcome 6 of the Council’s Business Plan; to reduce levels of crime and to reduce the number of families with complex needs by ensuring prevention of abuse and protection of vulnerable children and young people

Main Considerations for the Council

4. In March 2015, the government announced that the sexual abuse of children is a National Threat. Failure to take comprehensive action to tackle CSE will leave children and young people at risk. Monitoring of the plan’s implementation needs to be at the most senior level to ensure that actions are effective in protecting and supporting children.

Background

5. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is child sexual abuse and it is a crime. It involves children and young people being tricked, forced or manipulated into sexual activity (this can be physical and/or virtual abuse) in exchange for something. This may be money, alcohol, drugs, gifts or accommodation – or

less tangible goods such as affection or status. CSE can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition.

6. CSE is not new. However, a number of high-profile cases such as in Rotherham, Rochdale, Oxford and Bristol have focused the attention of the Government, the media and agencies involved in the safeguarding of children on CSE, and the need to do more to protect children and young people at risk.
7. Wiltshire Council's Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Action Plan was first presented to Cabinet on 19th May 2015 and progress reports presented on 15 March and 19 July 2016.
8. This report will provide an update of progress made against the CSE action plan since 19 July 2016.

Prevent (the abuse from happening)

9. Throughout 2016, Area Boards meetings received a briefing about CSE. CSE presentations and Missing Children briefings have been delivered to several professional groups across the council and key stakeholder agencies. The WSCB has delivered awareness level CSE training to 145 professionals in the last financial year. Following a series of briefings to Multi Agency Forums (MAFs) in 2015 a further round of briefing is scheduled for 2017 to provide an update and maintain awareness of CSE.
10. All staff in the SEND service have received CSE Awareness Training focusing on the outcomes and recommendations of *'Unprotected, Overprotected: Meeting the needs of young people with learning disabilities who experience, or are at risk of, sexual exploitation'* (Barnardos, 2015). The training highlights the particular vulnerabilities of children with SEND to CSE and includes include guidance on the use on of a CSE Screening Tool.
11. The West of England CSE Victim Support Project provided Wiltshire Council 20 days advanced CSE practitioner training in: Working with Parents of CSE Victims, Legal Processes and SEND. 271 professionals attended. A further 20 Professionals have received 'train the trainer' with the advanced CSE practitioner training and a delivery programme is being discussed with WSCB for 2017/18 utilising these staff.
12. During November 2016 a four-week tour of the drama production 'Chelsea's Choice' was jointly commissioned by the Council and WASSH. The play was booked by the majority of secondary schools, all Wiltshire College campuses and some community events including a performance in County Hall
13. The 2017 Awareness Day on 18 March 2017 generated interest nationally and for local media which promoted further awareness in the community of the problem and the council's response with having a specialist CSE (Emerald) team.

14. The Wiltshire Council Website has a regularly updated CSE area with pages and resources designed for a range of audiences; children and young people, the public and professionals.
15. To support the prevention and early identification of children vulnerable to CSE, the operational model of the specialist CSE Team (Emerald Team) is configured to provide advice, guidance and information for professionals in contact with children at lower risk of CSE, who do not require specialist intervention, but would benefit from educative programmes.
16. It is well evidenced that children who run away from home/care are particularly vulnerable and can be an indicator of CSE. Wiltshire Police refer all children reported missing to Emerald Team Missing Children Coordinators who assess the child's needs and risks from the referral and background information. From this, children are offered a Return Interview (RI) to talk with them about the reasons for running away; the information garnered is used to inform the child's plan to keep them safe.
17. In 2016/17, 1360 missing incidents involving 513 children were referred to Emerald Team. In 84% of the incidents a RI was offered of which 39% were accepted by and completed with the child. Those children frequently reported missing are tracked through Quarterly reporting (see below), assessed using the CSE Screen and allocated to a specialist Emerald Team CSE worker if required.
18. Quarterly Missing Children reports with collated information from missing children referrals provide analysis of themes and patterns to inform tactics, strategy and planning. The reports are provided to WSCB, the Corporate Parenting Panel and MASCE

Protect (young people who are victims or at risk of sexual exploitation)

19. Operational Children's Services (OCS) hosts, in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the specialist multi agency CSE Emerald Team. The team comprises of specialist Social Workers, Adolescent Support Worker, CSE & Missing Children Coordinators who are co-located with Police CSE Investigators, Police Missing Person and CSE Coordinators. A Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Family Therapist is also placed in the Emerald Team who also supports the Children in Care teams; a logical link as looked after children (LAC) are a group at heightened risk of CSE. Emerald Team has virtual partners with designated staff from the Family Intervention Service, Health Promotion and Looked After Children (LAC) Nurses
20. Since becoming operational in November 2015 the Emerald Team has successfully intervened with victims of CSE removing them from abuse or where this has not been possible with providing services that reduce risks and promote protective factors. To date 97 children have or are being supported by Emerald Team Specialist Workers; at the time of writing the Emerald Team case load is 38 indicating that 59 children have been protected or removed from abuse in the last 17 months.

21. Over the last two years OCS has worked in partnership with The West of England Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Victim Identification and Support Service. The initiative has been part funded and overseen by The Home Office Policing Innovation Fund, The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Wiltshire Council. The Senior Responsible Officer's final report states of Wiltshire:

21.1. 'A key legacy of the West of England Service is a children's workforce with a much-enhanced awareness of forms of CSE occurring locally, the indicators of when a child might be at risk of or being targeted for CSE and how to respond when there are concerns. It includes hundreds of victims of CSE now better placed to survive and overcome the damage that they have sustained as a result of that victimisation'.

21.2. 'Providing specialist and dedicated CSE support as part of generic Children's Services teams ensures that CSE is not regarded as a 'separate' issue within the lives of children affected; that responses managing CSE are well coordinated with other work being done with those children, most of whom are well understood to have pre-existing vulnerabilities'.

(Dave McCallum, Senior Responsible Officer, West of England CSE Victim Identification and Support Service: 12 April 2017)

22. Managers from partner agencies provide operational oversight with monthly Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) meetings. The purpose of the MASCE is to test, check and challenge that all the relevant agencies are involved and working together effectively to protect children and take necessary action against the abuser. The agencies represented in MACSE are:

Police (including Police Analyst/Intelligence Development), Emerald Team, Health, CAMHS, Public Health, Early Help (including Education Welfare, YOT and Prevention Project), Children's Social Care, Child Protection Conferencing & Reviewing Service and Motiv8 (young people's substance misuse service)

23. Allied to the MASCE is a RAG rated tracker which monitors the efficacy of multi-agency working and actions set to make improvements.

24. A CSE screening tool which promotes professional judgement (individual and organisational) is central to the operational model and practice approach. (The CSE Screen also supports decision making in MACSE meetings and with profiling the nature of the threat of CSE in Wiltshire to inform strategy). Using the CSE Screen, victims and children at heightened risk of CSE are regularly and effectively monitored to ensure intervention is purposeful, responsive to risk and outcome focussed. The CSE Screen includes information about the victim's associates including peer networks and perpetrator information which is vital for proactive analysis and mapping to identify other children in need of protection.

25. A recent audit indicated that children affected by CSE could be identified sooner with more effective use of the CSE Screen in Early Help services and with groups of children (eg. LAC and SEND) known to be more vulnerable to CSE. An improvement plan to identify and respond more quickly in Early Help has been developed and under the auspices of Wiltshire Children Safeguarding Board a task group is researching what action is required to better safeguard more vulnerable children with diverse needs from CSE.

Pursue (Perpetrator prosecution and disruption)

26. Working together with dedicated CSE Police, the CSE Specialist Workers have made major contributions to pursuing and disrupting perpetrators providing external controls which have served to safeguard individual children and prevent others being groomed and abused. Emerald Team have also forged effective working relationships with key agencies who have regulatory powers which can be deployed to disrupt perpetrators where prosecution is not yet possible. At the time of writing, 12 perpetrators are identified and subject to disruption tactics, police investigation or monitoring coordinated through MACSE. A further 14 perpetrators have been closed to MASCE since May 2016 having been effectively dealt with by prosecution or their behaviour disrupted by various means including council and housing society injunctions, Sexual Risk Order and Bail.

Overview & Scrutiny Engagement

27. The Children's Select Committee established a Child Sexual Exploitation task group between April 2015 and September 2016.

The task group initially focused on scrutinising and developing the "prevent" strand of the Wiltshire Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan. The remit of the task group broadened to cover monitoring the implementation of the action plan and how effectively Wiltshire Council raises awareness of child sexual exploitation, including the delivery of training and clarity of roles across the organisation.

A final report of the task group was endorsed by the [Children's Select Committee on 6th December 2016](#) and an executive response to the recommendations within the report was received by the [committee on 31st January 2017](#).

Safeguarding Implications

28. Safeguarding young people is the primary outcome of the CSE action plan.

Public Health Implications

29. There are no further public health implications arising from the report

Procurement Implications

30. There are no obvious procurement implications to this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal (detailing conclusions identified from Equality Analysis, sections 4 and 5)

31. There are no specific equalities impacts arising from this update

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

32. There are no Environmental or Climate Change implications related to this action plan update.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

33. No decision required.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

34. No decision required.

Financial Implications

35. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

36. As this report is for noting there are no direct legal implications. However as a failure to take comprehensive action to tackle CSE will leave children and young people at risk this report does assist the Council to fulfil its statutory duties to safeguard the vulnerable by providing senior member oversight of the Wiltshire Council's Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Action Plan.

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3 July 2017

Background Papers

None