

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

8TH JUNE 2016

LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD'S (LSCB) JOINT CSE, TRAFFICKING AND MISSING SUBGROUP

1.0 Introduction

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) has national and local prominence following the Savile Inquiry and events in Rochdale, Oxfordshire and Rotherham. The government has elevated the issue to the level of a national threat and established a national inquiry chaired by Justice Lowell Goddard. CSE is a regional and local threat. This is evidenced locally through high profile cases across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland in the last 2 years and also demonstrated in the Leicestershire Police problem profile for CSE, Missing from Home and POLIT (using 2014-15 data) that highlights a number of threat and risk areas. Tackling CSE is a priority of the Councils, Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), and the Strategic Partnership Board (SPB).

2.0 Subgroup Progress

- 2.1 Progress against the Subgroup action plan was reviewed on 15th December 2015. Although significant progress has been made a number of key priority areas remain and have been factored into joint LSCB business priorities identified for 2016-17.
- 2.2 A development day took place on 23rd February 2016 to focus on development and delivery of the business plan for 2016-17. The aims of the day also included a review of membership of the Subgroup. Bina Parmar from the National Working Group (for Sexually Exploited Children) was invited to help inform the discussion.
- 2.3 It was agreed that the terms of reference of the Subgroup should be revised with the aim of reducing core membership. The draft revised terms of reference was shared with the CSE Executive Group on 31st May 2016. The revised membership is planned to take effect at the next Subgroup meeting on 14th June 2016.
- 2.4 It was identified that the Subgroup has successfully achieved the joint LSCB objective of increasing and broadening membership within the overall agenda and this remains key. In order to build on progress to date and maintain the active participation of current members it is proposed that:

- At meetings the Subgroup will continue to focus on themes where wider members will be invited to provide specialist input – for example in 2015-16 thematic meetings covered licensing and schools
- A number of shadow groups linked to joint LSCB business priorities will be maintained (existing priorities) or established (new priorities) and wider involvement will be encouraged
- Shadow group leads will report their progress to the Subgroup
- Communication between the Subgroup, shadow groups and wider membership will be enhanced or established as required

2.5 As proposed at the Development Day the shadow groups are as follows:

1. Health CSE group (Existing group – lead Julie Quincey, Designated Nurse Safeguarding, Leicester City CCG)
2. CSE Communications group (Existing group – lead Katie Pegg, Comms lead, Leicestershire County Council)
3. Evaluating safeguarding effectiveness: key focus - SPDF CSE Project (Will be evaluated through the SPDF CSE Project with support of the LSCB SEGs)
4. Developing our response to online CSE (New group – lead to be agreed)
5. Developing our approach to risky persons offenders and serious and organised crime groups (New group – lead to be agreed)
6. Broadening the partnership to include faith groups and communities (New group – proposed lead Bally Raju, LLR CSE Coordinator)

2.6 A number of the above priorities cut across proposed 2016-17 Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) priorities due to be finalised at the SPB Executive on 19th May 2016. These include Serious and Organised Crime and Cybercrime. CSE is a current SPB priority and is proposed to remain a priority.

2.7 The Subgroup chair is in the process of revising the existing action plan taking into account the revised LSCB business priorities. The draft revision will be presented to Subgroup on 14th June 2016.

2.8 An update paper proposing the strengthening of governance arrangements across the LLR partnership in relation to current CSE and non-recent abuse was presented to the CSE Executive Group on 31st May 2016.

2.9 As the breadth, depth and scope of CSE related activity continues to increase the revision to the existing CSE governance and relationship chart has been developed to incorporate the development of the SPDF CSE Project Board and proposes a multi-agency CSE team board is established. It is proposed that the CSE Communications Group will lead on coordinating all CSE related media and communication issues. The proposals are aimed at giving additional clarity to the Subgroup in relation to its role and function within the agenda whilst also ensuring that activity and interdependencies across the partnership are effectively coordinated, enhanced and strengthened.

3.0 Faith and Community Leaders CSE Seminar

- 3.1 On 3rd March 2016 a seminar was held with over 60 Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) faith and community leaders with the aim of raising awareness of CSE and gaining joint engagement and involvement in future developments including taking forward funding arising from the SPDF CSE bid (please see 4.4 below). A next steps meeting is planned involving partners and a number of key faith and community stakeholders by the end of June 2016.

4.0 LLR CSE Coordinator and SPDF CSE Project

- 4.1 The LLR CSE Coordinator was appointed by the two LSCBs in June 2015. A number of key priorities were identified by the LSCBs for the post holder:

- Supporting the implementation of the local action plan
- Ensuring protocols, policies and procedures are up to date and effective
- Co-ordinating partnership activity with the aim of creating an accurate and up to date multi-agency CSE problem profile
- Monitoring the effectiveness of practice, to protect and support children and young people at risk of CSE and make recommendations for improvement
- Effective information sharing between partners and at a local level

- 4.2 Progress has been made on a number of the identified priorities:

- A policies and procedures working group has been established with the aim of making relevant updates by the end of summer 2016;
- A local authority data set has been established and key information is emerging. It has resulted in improved profiling of victims and those at risk of CSE and risky persons and peers. The appointment of a multi-agency intelligence analyst through the SPDF CSE Project (see below) will bolster this area of work and support the development of a comprehensive multi-agency data set;
- Children and young people at risk of or subjected to CSE will be flagged on the health records of front line health services by 1st June 2016;
- CSE Risk Assessment Tools are not completed by frontline police officers, however the Vulnerable Children's Report has now been adapted to include a CSE checklist for frontline officers - this will commence on 1st June 2016.

- 4.3 CSE Coordinator capacity to take forward the above priorities has been reduced since the CSE Coordinator was nominated as the project manager to implement the bid arising from the Strategic Partnership Development Fund (SPDF). From June 2016 the CSE Coordinator will be funded through the SPDF CSE Project (for 2 years). The role of the CSE Coordinator outlined in the bid is to:

- Provide scrutiny, oversight and ownership for each of the OPCC funded projects, including the effective financial management of each project and oversight of delivery of the projects.

- 4.4 On 29th October 2015 a joint LSCB partnership bid of £1.23 million aimed at funding provision over the next two financial years was endorsed by the SPB. The SPDF CSE bid encompassed a range of initiatives to build capacity, capability and improve the effectiveness of the partnership in preventing, identifying and tackling CSE. The funding is planned to cover both one-off and non-recurring projects as well as extending existing projects and good practice. In addition, it will provide a temporary increase in structures and staffing with the aim of achieving an evidenced 'step change' in outcomes. The business case reflected the strategic themes of the Police and Crime Plan and the strategic priorities of the LLR LSCB CSE, Trafficking and Missing Subgroup. Implementation of the bid intends to deliver a number of Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) priorities. There are 13 separate projects within this under the themes of:
- Partnership
 - Prevention
 - Perpetrator
 - Communications
- 4.5 A programme management approach has been established for delivery of the bid led by Leicestershire County Council. As part of the agreed governance arrangements, a project board has been established involving the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and partner agencies. The inaugural meeting took place on 26th May 2016. As described above the CSE Coordinator is the nominated project manager and responsible for overseeing implementation and delivery of the work-streams within the SPDF CSE Project. The project board chair (Victor Cook) reports to the CSE Executive Group.
- 4.6 Leicestershire Police and the OPCC have provided additional support and expertise to help move forward the project during its earliest stages. Progress has been made in relation to initiating the majority of the projects including identifying work-stream leads and partner agencies releasing operational resources to support the effective delivery of each work-stream.
- 4.7 The aim is to ensure all 13 projects are either initiated or underway by the end of June 2016. Currently, the following work-streams have been completed: Warning Zone; CEASE; CSE Coordinator and Project Support Officer; Intelligence Analyst; Multi-agency Public Support Arrangement; Digital Media Investigators and CSE Nurses have been completed. The CSE Nurses will be joining the multi-agency CSE team early July 2016.
- 4.8 The launch of one of the work-streams, CEASE (Commitment to Eradicate Abuse and Sexual Exploitation), took place on Friday 5th February 2016 at the King Power Stadium. Phase 2 of CEASE includes the launch of an educational film focusing on e-Safety.
- 4.9 Progress has been made with the OPCC and other partners to ensure sufficient resources are in place within the SPDF CSE Project to both

establish and maintain the project and continue to meet other priorities such as those identified by the LSCBs for the CSE Coordinator. However ensuring the various work-streams within the project are being fully initiated and delivered has required considerable time and commitment by the CSE Coordinator. This has impacted on the delivery of other key priorities identified by the LSCBs. This impact may reduce as the various work-streams are up and running.

5.0 Multi-agency CSE team

- 5.1 The multi-agency CSE team currently comprises of managers and officers from Leicestershire Police and Leicestershire County Council, and a forensic psychologist. Rutland County Council and Leicester City Council's contribution is currently virtual. As outlined in point 4.7 above, two health specialists are due to join shortly. A return interview worker from Barnardos, funded by the OPCC, is also part of the team. Leicester City Council has committed to provide a full contribution to the team by the summer. The intention is to develop an LLR-wide approach.
- 5.2 The purpose of the multi-agency CSE team is to identify and take action to safeguard and protect children at risk of CSE, or who are being sexually exploited (online or in the real world), trafficked or have gone missing or run away. The team provides a victim centred approach combining criminal investigation, safeguarding and educational programmes.
- 5.3 Individual members of the Leicestershire County Council's CSE team have nominated localities to ensure links are made with local schools, independent children's homes, neighbourhood police areas, community safety partnerships and joint action groups (JAGs). This enables the monitoring of concerns and two way flow of sharing information and intelligence. For example the CSE team, Youth Offending Service, East Midlands Serious and Organised Crime Unit and a county JAG collaborated together, and with a range of agencies and local businesses, to successfully disrupt a situation where a number of children and young people in a locality were involved in criminality, anti-social behaviour and drug taking; some were frequently going missing and at risk of CSE.
- 5.4 Co-location with Leicestershire Police has led to much better information sharing and more effective action in a greater number of CSE related cases. Working in a more joined up way has allowed the sharing of relevant intelligence and improved coordination of responses. This has already resulted in an improved ability to disrupt and prosecute perpetrators and provide early intervention to reduce harm and promote wellbeing. In addition it is clear that co-location has improved the timeliness of joint decision-making about cases of concern, it has assisted in a greater understanding of the respective roles played by Leicestershire County Council's staff and police staff, and it has significantly assisted in the development of the collective understanding of those at risk of CSE. Earlier intervention in relation to concerns has resulted in the profile of the cases in relation to the level of harm dealt with by the team changing since its inception.

- 5.5 The numbers of CSE referrals continue to rise. The increase highlights greater professional and public awareness following national media attention and success of the local 'Spot the Signs' awareness raising campaign. This has translated into an increasing number of joint investigations and operations with the police. The team continues to coordinate the response to a number of high profile and cross boundary investigations.
- 5.6 The CSE team is currently coordinating Leicestershire County Council's response to police operations, including complex operations spanning local, regional and national areas, collaborating with a number of police forces. One operation has involved working closely with West Midlands Police – the investigation has culminated in successful prosecutions. The team has collaborated with Staffordshire Police in relation to an operation with national links. Joint investigations are increasingly resulting in successful disruption activity and prosecutions being achieved where the specialist work by the CSE Team with children and young people is resulting in earlier disclosure.
- 5.7 Raising the profile of the work of the team continues to be a priority so that Leicestershire residents and bodies such as schools can continue to 'spot the signs' and make referrals if they have concerns.

6.0 Regional Development

6.1 A regional CSE framework, encompassing a range of regional principles and standards, has been finalised and endorsed by the regional ADCS group. It was agreed that the final process for ratification and sign off would be through each LA and by DCSs, lead members and LSCB chairs. Once this process has been completed a regional CSE leads group will be established (Victor Cook has been nominated as chair). Governance will be provided via a regional CSE oversight group. The ADCS group has identified 4 key priorities for the regional CSE leads group:

- Develop an audit tool to enable LSCBs to benchmark against the regional framework and undertake the audit process
- Establish a peer review programme focusing on CSE
- Establish a regional media campaign
- Develop a regional data set and problem profile

Decisions required by the Board

1. The Board note the contents of the report and progress made to date.
2. The Board notes the approach to continue to increase and widen partner involvement in the agenda.
3. The Board notes the proposals to strengthen local governance arrangements.

Officer to Contact

Victor Cook
Strategic Lead CSE and Complex Abuse

Leicestershire County Council
Chair of the Subgroup

Victor.Cook@leics.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank