

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

23 MARCH 2018

LSCSB UPDATE: CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides an update on the development of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Multi-agency CSE team, and the deployment and progress of the Strategic Partnership Development Fund (SPDF CSE Project)

Background

2. The previous update report to the LSCSB was presented in February 2017. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a strategic priority for Leicestershire County Council. The joint LLR CSE, Missing and Trafficked Strategy and Action Plan sets out how Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) will take action to safeguard and protect children at risk of CSE, trafficking or going missing from care, home or education. This is governed through the monthly CSE, Missing and Trafficked Operations Group which reports to the CSE, Missing and Trafficked Executive Board.
3. The Multi-agency CSE team was developed after Operation Fedora (2013), a criminal investigation that resulted in the first successful CSE related prosecution in Leicestershire where six men were jailed for the exploitation of a sixteen year old girl. The success of this case prompted a more integrated partnership approach which resulted in Leicestershire County Council staff co-locating in a police station with the CSE investigation team, the missing from home team and the paedophile online investigation team. The team received funding from a growth bid in June 2015 which enabled the appointment of an LLR CSE Co-ordinator. In October 2015 a joint partnership bid by the Leicestershire and Rutland LSCB and Leicester LSCB was submitted to the Strategic Partnership Development Fund of the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The bid supported by the CSE Executive Group was aimed at funding provision in relation to CSE. The bid of £1.23 million was endorsed in full at the Strategic Partnership Board on 29th October 2015.
4. The 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 supported both one-off and non-recurring projects as well as extending existing projects and good practice. This included the continuation of the CSE Coordinator post to develop, plan, execute, monitor and end the individual work streams within the SPDF CSE Project.

Leicestershire County Council is the lead organisation responsible for managing and coordinating the implementation of the project.

5. Leicestershire County Council's vision is to create a strong, multi-agency and child centred service to:
 - i) Prevent CSE and stop existing CSE from continuing;
 - i) Protect those at risk or victims of CSE;
 - ii) Pursue and disrupt the perpetrators of CSE;
 - iii) Prosecute offenders.

6. The service has been successful in producing an environment that encourages collaborative information sharing, and combined risk assessment resulting in live time activity jointly led by DI Helen Schofield and Service Manager, Donna Smalley.

7. As well as Senior Practitioners and CSE Officers, the operational and investigative response has been bolstered through the SPDF CSE Project through recruitment of:
 - i) Two CSE Health Nurses (significance has been the ability to place flags on children's health records where they are identified as high or medium risk of CSE. This has proven essential in particularly when children attend out of hour's emergency health care, integrated sexual health services and CAMHS);
 - ii) CSE Analyst (this post is hosted by the Leicestershire Police and is critical to the collection of data, interpretation of the local picture and targeting of resources);
 - iii) A Forensic Psychologist (this post has supported the psychological profiling of children and young people and risky persons)

8. Prevention through awareness raising of CSE has been supported by the SPDF CSE Project through the following work streams:
 - i) Parenting Coordinator and CSE Prevention Officer;
 - ii) Four CSE Outreach Workers (2FTE);
 - iii) School Prevention Activity (raising awareness with primary and secondary school children);
 - iv) CEASE (Commitment to Eradicate Sexual Abuse and Exploitations)
 - v) Faith and Communities CSE Champion Service (Engage ME);
 - vi) Warning Zone;
 - vii) CSE Communications and Engagement Officer (working across LLR& Northamptonshire Police) who is raising professional and public awareness in relation to both national and local campaigns.

9. CEASE developed and promoted Kayleigh's Love Story (CEASE). Across LLR 50 children have made disclosures as a direct result of Kayleigh's Love Story.

10. The Parenting Coordinator and CSE Prevention Officer have worked with existing parenting support services (statutory and non-statutory) to support the development of resources to allow them to raise awareness of CSE and support parents already affected. This service has forged links with some of our most vulnerable groups such as those with Special Educational Needs (SEN).
11. Warning Zone (SPDF CSE Project) has continued to have an impact on children and young people's use of the social, digital media. For example, of 160 children who visited Warning Zone 52% said they would change their privacy settings and that they would check their contacts.
12. Training has also been delivered to primary and secondary schools through an external provider *Safe and Sound*. The offer includes 'train the trainer' which will allow staff to disseminate the learning in their own schools.
13. The CSE Outreach Service is raising awareness with grass roots organisations and engaging sports leads. The service has raised awareness with children through youth groups in community settings e.g. Focus Charity, Kingfisher Youth Centre, boys group at Warning Zone, Active Choice Program and Young Carers groups. Outreach has also engaged with practitioners and/or organisations such as public health promoters, Burger King, leisure centres, libraries, Sorrel Youth Café, Haymarket Bus Station, Taxi Licencing in Charnwood and independent children's homes. User feedback:

"I never thought about why children behave like that, now I know there can be a reason like this" (Burger King staff).

"It gave me more information on what to look out for and no matter how insignificant it may seem, always try and think more about things and the situation, not taking things at face value" (Shires Oakham).

"Boys can be raped too" "People can lie about themselves; I will change my setting to private" (children and young people comments).

14. The Faith and Communities CSE Champion Service (engage ME) should support an increase in referrals from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities and faith groups and develop trust between BME communities and statutory agencies.
15. The Multi-agency CSE team holds daily, weekly and monthly joint partnership meetings where information and intelligence is shared and targeted responses support real time investigations and disruption. Monthly performance strategic meetings are held to inform the targeting of resources by analysing partners' data to improve the collective understanding of both victim and perpetrator profiles, trends and themes in local areas.
16. The approach has highlighted that these complex investigations require a more unconventional proactive partnership response. The earlier identification of risk, including the pursuit of risky persons (a risky adult or peer is somebody who either presents a direct risk to the child or intentionally facilitates contact

between the child and a risky adult or peer) provides opportunities for earlier disruption and prevention work. A dedicated victim liaison team developed by the police and social care ensures a victim centred approach throughout the judicial process and the recovery of victims. This means that the team are confident that they are able to evidence that they are moving beyond ‘the Rotherham Model’; they know the CSE profile based on live inter-agency problem profiling and the importance of making case connections including the patterns of perpetrator and victims. It is clear where hotspots are, and targeted preventative work (risk and resilience) is undertaken where there is heightened vulnerability, enabling the team to intervene in harmful social spaces (usually outside the family home).

17. The hidden nature and complexity of child sexual exploitation means children and young people affected often do not know that they are being abused and may return to their abuser repeatedly during the course of the Multi-agency CSE team’s involvement. Recovery is not a linear or quick process and success requires skilled staff that recognise the complexity, behaviours and feelings of sexually exploited children and young people. Staff must manage ongoing risk and support the children through consistent involvement to help them recognise that they are being exploited, without attributing blame or responsibility. This approach is informed by what children and young people tell us:
 - i) Pay attention, notice me and ask me questions;
 - ii) Go at my pace; don’t pressure or push, but stick with me;
 - ii) Don’t judge or blame me;
 - iv) Let me know that you genuinely care;
 - iv) Focus on my strengths and opportunities as well as risks;
 - v) Manage my personal information with care and be honest;
 - vi) Work with me not for me;
 - vii) Help me make sense of what’s happened;
 - ix) Find ways to offer consistent support;
 - x) Think about the ‘whole me’, my other needs and my family/carers.

Notable developments and challenges

18. The Multi-agency CSE team has hosted multi-agency professionals meetings and briefing sessions for both Leicester and Leicestershire workforces in regard to complex cases, and investigations into networks of abuse. This service is available to all Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council. It has created an environment for multiple professionals to share information and intelligence, and specific expertise, particularly around mental health, psychological impact of trauma; and develop strategic assessments to inform planning, define roles and manage expectations in complicated situations for children and families.
19. The weekly intelligence meetings are now supported by representation from the Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB). The relaunch of the information sharing form at the end of November and subsequent promotion across education, health and

the community safety partnership has reaped rewards. The development of partner intelligence has led to two investigations and created enforcement opportunities for the police which social care staff has supported. After the tactical response, Outreach Workers supported by local PCSO's have visited schools, churches, youth groups and voluntary groups to raise both public confidence and create a culture where CSE and drug exploitation is everyone's business and if you "Spot the signs" you can, with discretion, refer through the information sharing form.

20. The monthly intelligence meeting supported by the CSE Analyst continues to interrogate our collective data. This focuses on high risk cases, exceptional reporting and profiling victims, risky people and locations. The data is beginning to enrich. The identification of educational referrals has recently provided opportunities for both Leicester and Leicestershire to identify two secondary schools in each authority; where intelligence suggests both sexual and drug exploitation is occurring. An integrated partnership package will provide extra police visibility, police patrols and mapping to identify primary victims, witnesses, perpetrators and associations. Appropriate safeguarding packages will then be identified for individual children.
21. The LLR CSE Service Manager continues to represent the Multi-agency CSE team at the Knife Crime & Urban Street Gang (USG) & Organised Crime Groups (OCG) Steering Group. I have recently promoted the co-opting of safeguarding leads representing LLR. We are also joined by a safeguarding lead from probation, who will also contribute to the monthly intelligence meeting. In January 2018 the statutory partners who attend the group reviewed the top ten knife carrying nominals. Recommendations are then made to inform planning and intervention for the young people; also identifying locations for potential intervention. The partnerships are contributing to the development of the knife crime and USG protocol and are collaborating on developing a tactical options kit.
22. Links have been developed with the Regional CSE Co-ordinator, LLR has contributed to the National Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation Prevention Strategy that provides a benchmark for the regional strategies to refer to. The national strategy has oversight from the steering group, which includes representatives from Home Office, NWG, Barnardo's, Victim Support, The Children's Society, NCA, Centre of Expertise, NHS, Lucy Faithfull Foundation, NSPCC, Ofsted and academics who are experts in this field.

Performance information – CSE

23. The number of CSE referrals in Leicestershire continues to increase. The majority of the referrals relate to females, with boys at 25%. The most prevalent age range in Leicestershire is 13-16 years.
24. The online model remains a key method used by risky persons to contact children and young people. The 'party model' remains dominant in respect of the perceived exchange model; drugs, alcohol are offered to disinhibit, create a

dependency and reliance. Some children report enjoying the excitement of drug taking and impulsive decision making. The majority do not seek out risky situations.

25. Leicestershire continues to work with children with multiple health issues. This can relate to sexual health, poor mental health, including self-harm, anxiety, eating disorders and alcohol and substance misuse. Through the SPDF CSE project the CSE nurses continue to raise awareness with our health colleagues from a variety of universal community based disciplines. The amount of children referred onto health services for support and recovery has doubled recently with some children accessing more than one specialist service. The CSE nurses attend a number of professionals' meetings in relation to individual children subject to missing and exploitation, providing specialist assessments, health chronologies and signposting to recovery services.

Missing

26. Leicestershire (Q2 2017/18) reports a 20% reduction in missing episodes. This cohort includes our looked after children, children residing at home and out of area children placed in Leicestershire. This is partly attributed to some of our most prolific missing children leaving our area and also owing to the effectiveness of the Listening Support Service which offers independent return interviews.
27. An escalation process led by the director has had success in encouraging effective cross border communication and out of force collaboration to safeguard children.
28. In Leicestershire there are thirty five independent children's homes, each is allocated a Multi-agency CSE team CSE Officer who acts as a trainer, consultant and at times an independent visitor to children placed away from home and their local community.
29. In September 2017, alongside Leicestershire police and the Leicestershire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), we hosted a restorative justice day. The Multi-agency CSE & Missing from Home team took this opportunity to reinforce the use of our safeguarding processes, including the sharing of intelligence through the Information Sharing Form; and as a priority encourage prompt notification and sharing of information about children placed in our area.

Future plans

- i. Police and Leicestershire County Council, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council will continue to develop the response to missing children. Refine intelligence sharing processes to identify risk, threat of harm and themes.
- ii. Improve the analysis of information and determine the impact of our return interview service.

- iii. In relation to the SPDF CSE project, the CSE coordinator working in conjunction with the OPCC:
- iv. Undertake evaluation; extracting outcomes, impact and the difference we have made to safeguarding children.
- v. Identify future opportunities and recommendations aligned to the SPB/PCC priorities and report to the CSE Executive Group.
- vi. Plan exit strategies, as work streams conclude, identifying sufficiency within the workforce to mainstream CSE/missing identification. Identify potential gaps in service provision especially where this may directly impact on children, families and increase risk to children and families.
- vii. Strengthen our response to both sexual and drug exploitation alongside groups, gangs and county lines. Referrals for boys demonstrate similar vulnerabilities to girls such as mental health issues and substance misuse. Forthcoming campaigns include the launch of “Brecks Last Game” in June 2018 targeting online social network and gaming platforms.
- viii. Continued focus and awareness around online risks.
- ix. Campaign aimed at the night time economy, licensed premise’s and taxi drivers is underway in planning.
- x. Integration of the co-located Multi-agency CSE team.

Key issues for the partnership

- 31. The end of some or all of the SPDF project work streams and consequent depletion of resources.

Recommendations for the board

- 32. To note the contents of the report.

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