

Title of Report:	Child Sexual Exploitation
Report to be considered by:	The Health and Wellbeing Board
Date of Meeting:	30 th July 2015

Purpose of Report:

Whilst the Local Safeguarding Children Board has primary strategic governance in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) this paper is intended to outline priorities in relation to CSE locally, and the needs of the young people involved and highlight the progress being made in addressing these concerns

Recommended Action:

To note the developments in relation to CSE and the improved quality of information from our reprofiling which ensures we focus our approach accordingly.

To endorse and support the progress being made and the partnerships commitment to strengthening the effectiveness of our work in relation to CSE.

To assist in the heightening of awareness to the concerns of CSE and the importance of a co-ordinated and robust response.

<i>When decisions of the Health and Wellbeing Board impact on the finances or general operation of the Council, recommendations of the Board must be referred up to the Executive for final determination and decision.</i>		
Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council's Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes		Yes	No x
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:				
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality. In this instance please give details of how the item impacts upon the equality streams under the executive report section as outlined.				

Health and Wellbeing Board Chairman details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Graham Jones – Tel 07767 690228
E-mail Address:	gjones@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Dr Mac Heath
Job Title:	Head of Children & Families Services
Tel. No.:	01635 519735
E-mail Address:	Mheath@westberks.gov.uk

DRAFT

Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2014 Ofsted carried out a national thematic inspection of agency responses to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) called “The sexual exploitation of children; it couldn’t happen here could it?”. This outlined the range of high profile investigations and criminal trials in a number of towns and cities including Rotherham, Rochdale, Derby and Oxford. This inspection highlighted the extent of the challenge and:
- the dangers of agency complacency,
 - refusals to accept that there could be a problem locally,
 - not listening to and believing children and young people,
 - a lack of coordinated and robust action against perpetrators.
- 1.2 West Berkshire is committed to ensuring that there is a strong multi-agency partnership which effectively works to safeguard children and young people who are being abused and those at risk of being exploited. We are committed to learning from other areas, but also to understanding the nature and prevalence of CSE locally. We are committed to supporting children to reduce the likelihood of them being involved in CSE, but also to ensuring that the risks of them being involved are identified, information is shared between agencies and action is taken to protect the child and disrupt or prosecute the perpetrators.
- 1.3 The LSCB’s vision is that every child and young person in West Berkshire grows up safe from maltreatment, neglect and crime. We know from our profiling of victims of CSE that they are some of the most vulnerable young people in our communities. As such they are one of the five strategic priorities for the West Berkshire LSCB with a commitment to ensuring that the detailed action plan associated with our draft strategy is progressed robustly. This warrants the Health and Wellbeing Board being strongly sighted on the developments in our responses to CSE and being able to contribute accordingly.
- 1.4 There is a national government and inspectorate expectation that all Joint Strategic Needs Assessments include information about the prevalence of CSE, identification and needs of high risk groups. This has been a priority for us and we have now completed a reprofiling of the group of young people who are considered at risk of, or are victims of CSE.
- 1.5 This paper outlines:
- the definition of CSE
 - the national picture
 - our Local Profile of Victims
 - our priorities for action

2. DEFINITION

- 2.1 The following definition of CSE is set out in the Statutory Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Young People from Child Sexual Exploitation 2009:

“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.” DCSF 2009

- 2.2 Children involved in any form of sexual exploitation must be treated as the victims of abuse and their needs carefully assessed and responded to.

3. NATIONAL PICTURE

- 3.1 What is clear is that CSE can happen anywhere and any child or young person may be at risk regardless of their family background and circumstance. However, there are strong links between children involved in sexual exploitation and other behaviours such as going missing from home or care, bullying, self-harm, teenage pregnancy, truancy and substance misuse.
- 3.2 Research evidence suggests that perpetrators of CSE are typically white males, with the next largest group being from a minority ethnic background. Ofsted emphasise that stereotypical assumptions about the ethnic identity of exploiters and victims of CSE should be avoided, but that the issue of race, if it relates to CSE, should be tackled as an absolute priority.
- 3.3 Forms of sexual exploitation range from situations where sex is exchanged for attention, drugs or alcohol, gifts, etc. to serious organised crime and child trafficking. Perpetrators seek to establish power over victims, increasing the dependence of victims on their abusers. Technology and social media is increasingly used either to record abuse or as a medium, through which children are to groomed.
- 3.4 A key message from Ofsted (2014) is that “Senior leaders and elected members in local authorities and across partnerships have to show the political and moral courage to confront and tackle child sexual exploitation wherever and however it occurs”.

4. LOCAL PROFILE

- 4.1 Understanding our local profile in relation to CSE is essential to ensure our strategy relates to local issues, but also to inform the JSNA and commissioning priorities. A CSE multi-agency Operational Group considers all young people referred and determines their risk level.
- 4.2 Our profiling of young people considered by the Operational group has informed us that:

- Within 2014-2015, 38 young people were considered to be at risk from CSE; all but one were female
- This age range was from 13-17 years, but with 52% aged 15 or 16 years
- 18 of the 38 were considered to be at medium or high risk of CSE. They were all White British apart from one who was “White Other”

4.3 Of those who were assessed as being medium or high risk:

- The young people lived across West Berkshire and attended the range of schools although were overrepresented in Pupil Referral Units
- All were known to Children’s Social Care before being referred to the CSE Operational Group and following engagement with the CSE Operational Group, 11 of the young people were looked after, three became subject to Child Protection Plans. Seven of the Looked After Children were placed out of area
- Out of the 38 young people profiled, 78% had been reported missing, 72% were known to CAMHs and 55% had self-harmed
- 61% were known to the Youth Offending Team
- 55% had experience domestic abuse and the same proportion having a substance misusing parent. 61% had experienced neglect in their childhood. (This replicated locally the findings from the work in Rotherham, where over 1,400 children were sexually exploited 1997-2013, has evidenced the link between victims of CSE and the ‘Toxic Trio’, domestic violence, parental mental ill-health and parental substance misuse)
- The majority of CSE offending in West Berkshire is lone offending, often through on-line grooming, with drugs and alcohol often playing a part in the abuse’. Links between the use of Mephedrone and CSE have been noted.
- In terms of outcomes in 13 of the 18 cases the CSE risk level reduced during the period of intervention providing early evidence that the progress of the CSE approach in West Berkshire is beginning to show it’s effectiveness is proving effective.

4.4 It is difficult to make comparisons on this information with the previous years prior to the CSE Operational Group coming into existence summer 2013, so with no full previous year of comparative data. However, the following outlines a snapshot of the numbers of young people being considered by the CSE Operational Group in 2014 and 2015.

Risk Level	February 2014	March 2015
High	7	2
Medium	0	2
Low	11	6
Total	18	10

5. NEXT STEPS AND PRIORITIES

5.1 A CSE Strategic Group, a sub-group of the LSCB has over-sight of activity in relation to CSE and reports into the LSCB. The recent Ofsted inspection report on children’s Services in March 2015, recognised that this group is well attended and is effectively monitoring partnership activity. The inspectorate also noted that our CSE action plan contains relevant actions related to the key areas. These are:

- **Prevention:** to raise awareness and understanding of CSE in order to prevent children from becoming victims
- **Identification:** to ensure those at risk of CSE or being exploited are identified so we can safeguard and support them and prevent further harm
- **Support:** to ensure that victims of CSE receive the support they need at the right time, in the right way and for as long as needed to aid their recovery
- **Disruption and Prosecution:** to ensure that we work together to bring offenders to justice and disrupt behaviour, whilst ensuring that children and young people are not subject to further risk and harm.

5.2 Our emerging strategic priorities, subject to endorsement of the draft CSE Strategy (See Appendix A) from the LSCB are to:

- ensure that CSE and the needs of this high risk group are included in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- ensure that we understand that our services commissioned for children include necessary services for those being sexually exploited
- gather feedback from children to ensure our services meet their needs and strategic development takes account of their feedback
- ensure strong links with the Domestic Abuse strategy and work on raising awareness of unhealthy relationships
- ensure this work links with the LSCB work related to the 'Toxic Trio'; domestic abuse, parental substance misuse and mental ill health is given the strong link from our profiling.
- reprofile every two years to allow us to understand and analyse patterns and trends
- agree how to resource the coordination of our work on CSE
- ensure we take account of further national developments and our strategic and operational development takes account of best practice

6. Equalities

6.1 This item is not relevant to equality.

Appendices

Appendix A – Achievements & Priorities for 2015-2017

APPENDIX A

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017

Our work and action plan focuses on five key areas:

- **Strategy Development:** to ensure that developments relating to CSE are coordinated across agencies and link with other relevant plans and strategies
- **Prevention:** to raise awareness and understanding of Child Sexual Exploitation in order to prevent children from becoming victims
- **Identification:** to ensure those at risk of CSE or being exploited are identified so we can safeguard and support them and prevent further harm
- **Support:** to ensure that victims of CSE receive the support they need at the right time, in the right way and for as long as needed to aid their recovery
- **Disruption and Prosecution:** to ensure that we work together to bring offenders to justice and disrupt their behaviour, whilst ensuring that children and young people are not subject to further risk and harm.

Strategy and Development

Achievements

- A CSE Strategy Group, a sub-group of the LSCB has led on the development of the strategy and provides regular reports to the LSCB, and through the chair to the Safer Communities Partnership. It will continue to lead on monitoring progress against the action plan and providing an annual report to the LSCB
- Stronger links have been established with Public Health, with a Health and Well-being in Schools post being funded by Public Health and with a strong focus on CSE
- We have profiled the characteristics of children being exploited or at risk of being exploited, and we are using this information to inform this strategy
- We have ensured that the CSE agenda is strongly linked with the missing from care and home agenda and the missing from school agenda
- Challenge event? Or below
- We have included information about children at risk of CSE in our LSCB data set to enable ongoing monitoring of prevalence in our area.

Priorities 2015-2017

- We will ensure that CSE and the needs of this high risk group are included in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- We will ensure that we understand that our services commissioned for children include necessary services for those being sexually exploited
- We will gather feedback from young people to ensure our services for children meet their needs and their views inform our strategic development
- We will ensure strong links with the Domestic Abuse strategy and work on raising awareness of unhealthy relationships
- We will ensure this work links with the LSCB work related to the 'Toxic Trio', domestic abuse, parental substance misuse and mental ill health given the strong link from our profiling.
- We will agree how to resource coordination of our work on CSE
- We will ensure we take account of further national developments to inform our local best practice development

Prevention

Achievements

- In 2014 Police and Children's Services delivered training to licensed premises, hotels and local businesses identified as CSE hotspots to alert them to issues related to CSE
- In 2015 we have held two multi-agency Awareness Raising Events, led by Thames Valley Police, again providing a range of information about CSE to the public and businesses. Social media – twitter, facebook and you tube- were used to support and provide greater reach
- We have developed a postcard "3 Top Tips to Keep Yourself Safe" launched at the CSE Awareness day in June 2015
- The Safer Schools Officer has visited 24 secondary schools to deliver education about sexting and CSE
- The play 'Chelsea's Choice' was made available to all secondary schools to raise awareness amongst year x pupils about CSE
- We have filmed one school's play about CSE and are disseminating this to other schools

Priorities

- We will further develop awareness raising and preventive education to equip children and young people with the skills they need to make safe and healthy choices and to avoid situations which put them at risk of child sexual exploitation
- We will ensure children and young people know who they can turn to if they are worried, need advice or support
- We will raise awareness amongst parents and carers so they are aware of the risks, understand the patterns of abuse and where to access advice and support
- We will further raise awareness in communities including hotels, taxi drivers and other businesses
- We will ensure the children's workforce, including foster carers and residential staff are trained to understand risk factors associated with CSE and how to respond

Identification

Achievements

- We have developed our service for missing children and ensured return interviews are carried out. We have included missing children on the agenda of the CSE Operational Group ensuring operational linkages between the two agenda
- Members of the CSE Operational group increasingly act as CSE 'Champions', supporting others in their areas in identifying CSE
- The terms of reference for the Operational group have been reviewed and agreed. A CSE specific Information Sharing Protocol has also been agreed.
- We have made training available to staff in the Children's Workforce through an e learning package, although this needs further development
- All police officers have received individual training in relation to CSE through on line packages and a video programme involving a victim and parent involved in Operation Bullfinch
- TVP provided training to Children's Social Care staff in relation to how to provide intelligence
- We have an agreed Framework for responding to CSE and an agreed CSE Information Sharing Agreement

Priorities

- We will clarify the CSE training available across the Children's Workforce and monitor access to it. We will ensure more specialist training is available to staff working with vulnerable children, and those who provide interventions and support to them.
- All agencies will report on the numbers of staff trained at the level appropriate to their role
- We will disseminate information about what a professional should do In West Berkshire if he/she believes a child is at risk of CSE
- We will audit to ensure that CSE screening tools are completed in a timely way
- We will ensure that a CSE screening tool is completed for any looked after child who goes missing
- We will develop peer mentors to be able to raise awareness of CSE in schools
- We will include information about children identified as at risk of CSE in our LSCB dataset to monitor prevalence
- We will continue to try and engage young people who are under-represented in those referred e.g. boys

Support

Achievements

- Our CSE operational Group, established in summer 2013 is an effective forum for information-sharing and ensuring plans are in place for those at risk of CSE
- A Youth Outreach Contraception and Sexual Health Nurse attends the Operational group and takes referrals and engages with young people considered by the group
- We have completed a multi-agency audit in relation to CSE and implemented the resultant action plan
- We have ensured strong links between the Sexual Harm Intervention Programme for young people who display sexually harmful behavior and the CSE Operational group

Priorities 2015-2016

- We will ensure that young people receive the support they need and will conduct an annual multi-agency audit to ensure this is the case
- We will ensure that actions in relation to addressing CSE are incorporated into Child in Need, child Protection and Looked After Children's Plans
- We will ensure that a robust approach is taken to children placed out of area who may be at risk of CSE
- We will ensure that our commissioned services include appropriate services for victims of CSE
- We will develop with practitioners a list of resources for them to access in working with young people who may be sexually exploited

Disruption and Prosecution of Perpetrators

Achievements

- TV Police have introduced an intelligence form for partners to clarify routes for providing intelligence and information
- The SHIP (Sexual Harm Intervention Programme for young people) Steering Group ensures linkages with the CSE operational group and ensures that a young person's harmful sexual behavior as it relates to CSE is addressed appropriately

- NEED MORE – MEETING LINDSEY FINCH ON RETURN

Priorities 2015-2016

- We will ensure that information about the location of incidences of CSE and information about perpetrators of the abuse of West Berkshire young people is available to inform future strategic development
- We will identify suspected perpetrators and reduce dependency on victims' statements through information sharing, local intelligence, surveillance and proactive joint operations
- We will proactively use legislation and powers to prevent CSE, such as Child Abduction Notices, Risk of Sexual Harm Orders, Sexual Offences Prevention Orders etc.
- We will work closely with the Crown Prosecution service to secure convictions
- We will ensure that effective support is provided to young victims and witnesses
- Taxis and hotels
- Where there is intelligence on locations, a disruption plan will be developed and deployed