

ROTHERHAM LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

1.	Meeting:	Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board
2.	Date:	5 th March 2015
3.	Title:	CSE Sub Group Quarterly Update Report
4	Agency/Directorate/Organisation presenting report:	RLSCB – Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group

5. Purpose:
This report presents the work of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Sub Group towards the delivery of the key functions and objectives of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board.

6. Recommendations:
<p>That members of the RLSCB:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the key achievements and challenges of the CSE Sub Group 2. Note the work to refresh the CSE Strategy

7. Progress, Achievements and Impact:
<p>Since the last LSCB the following reports have been published which have had a direct impact on the work of the subgroup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Louse Casey's Corporate Governance Inspection Report on Rotherham Council <p>This follows the publication of the following reports in the previous quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communities and Local Government Committee report – Child Sexual exploitation in Rotherham – Some issues for local government ▪ Ofsted thematic – The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it? ▪ Ofsted inspection of Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham – services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and the effectiveness of the LSCB

Each of these reports has a significant impact on the CSE agenda in Rotherham, as well as wider safeguarding and corporate governance responsibilities. As part of improvement planning, the LSCB has been identified as the lead partnership body to refresh the CSE strategy and action plan, under the leadership of the Independent Chair.

The CSE subgroup meeting on Monday 23rd February was replaced by a CSE Strategy Review meeting, and a draft strategy document was circulated to the group, informed by desktop research on other CSE Strategies across the country, and informed by the inspection reports listed above. The draft was intended to be a starting point which should be revised and adapted to meet the desired outcomes for children and young people. The major differences between the existing approach and the proposed revised approach are as follows:

- Utilising the needs analysis led by Rotherham Public Health to inform the strategy and delivery plan.
- Expansion of the strategic priority from 3 to 5 areas

Participation and Listening

Prevent

Protect

Pursue

Provide Support

These additions would provide clear strategic focus on the gaps identified since the Jay Inquiry and subsequent inspection reports/reviews.

- The membership of the CSE subgroup should be reviewed and revised to ensure that it has agency representatives who have an operational view as well as access to more strategic decision makers. Members felt that – whilst members of the subgroup had all been at a senior level – this limited the discussion and challenge by Board members at the LSCB meetings (as many Board members have also attended the CSE subgroup), and created the impression that CSE had been “hived off”. By having more suitable operational leaders/managers on the CSE subgroup in future, members felt this would place a clearer expectation on executives attending the LSCB to challenge this work area more overtly.
- The role and function of the CSE Silver Group will be reviewed, with fresh operational governance pathways and operational models informing the work agenda of the CSE subgroup.

Obviously the above points are indicative of some of the suggested changes to the first draft, and are subject to change following further consultation.

The strategy is in the process of being updated, and will be circulated as a final draft in early March to the CSE Strategy Review group. Once agreed, this will then inform the structure and format of the CSE action and delivery plan. There will be some actions from the existing delivery plan which will be carried forward into the new action plan, and this is taking place in parallel with the Strategy development. The conclusion of the CSE needs assessment will inform commissioning activity for the partnership, under the auspices of the Health & Wellbeing Board and its associated commissioning plans.

What is clear is that – operationally – there is a high volume of activity in regard to CSE in Rotherham, and the LSCB welcomes the appointment of an interim strategic lead within children’s social care - Lynn McIntosh- who is providing a clear grip of service development and is producing a weekly performance report which is submitted to the Children’s Improvement Board and the Independent Chair. The Interim strategic lead is also leading the review of the role and function of the CSE Silver Group, in conjunction with the responsible SYP Superintendent.

South Yorkshire Police have proposed the development of a sub-regional CSE strategy for all 4 LSCB in the South Yorkshire area, and at a South Yorkshire partnership CSE forum on February 9th, the Strategic Director for Children & Young People’s Services provided Rotherham’s commitment to this approach. However, following discussion with the Independent Chair and the Children’s Commissioner, it has been agreed that the LSCB cannot wait for this sub regional work to start and finish, and Rotherham will therefore progress its own local strategy which will be the foundation for whatever is developed sub regionally.

The LSCB Independent Chair is scheduled to meet with a group of BME community leaders in March 2015 to discuss improved engagement with these communities and the work of the LSCB, particularly in light of the prevalence of concerns around the British Pakistani and Roma communities, and the reported lack of reporting of concerns from within these communities. The Council’s Community Cohesion team have facilitated attendance at this meeting.

The Independent Chair has scheduled monthly meetings with the RMBC CSE Post Abuse Support Coordinator, to ensure that there is a direct link for the voice of victims into the LSCB

8. Objectives not Achieved and Risks:

- The number of recommendations from the variety of inspections needs to be considered and streamlined in order to reduce duplication and simplify the delivery plan, once the revised strategy has been agreed.
- The appointment of Commissioners at RMBC in place of the elected member Cabinet may lead to further revisions to the Council’s preferred approach to responding to CSE, which is a risk to existing planning reported herein

9. Resources:

10. Sources of reference

Communities and Local Government Committee report – Child Sexual exploitation in Rotherham – Some issues for local government

Ofsted thematic – The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn’t happen here, could it?

Ofsted inspection of Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham – services for children in need of

help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and the effectiveness of the LSCB

CSE Sub Group, Terms of Reference and 2013/14 Work Plan and RLSCB Business Plan.

11. Contact Name:

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