

**Progress to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention
February 2017**

**R1. A CSE Referral Pathway be developed, which will set out clear and concise route of end-to-end care for those referred into the Council. This Pathway could also be used as a tool across a range of activities to promote a clear, consistent message across all practitioners, partners and the wider community.
(Supported by Key Finding KF3)**

The Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Committee reported on the then new arrangements in place to deal with CSE concerns. These arrangements are now embedded in Children's Services practice and is ensuring the effective, multi-agency management of CSE cases.

**R2. An Officer at Operational Manager or above be made responsible for CSE, and their job description to include a range of responsibilities including raising awareness of CSE across the Council, playing a role in making strategic linkages, pooling resources, linking with the LSCB on strategic issues, reporting to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees and ensuring that systems for referral, support and rehabilitation within the Council are fit for purpose.
(Supported by Key Finding KF2)**

As part of the Council's overall budget proposals for 2017/18, the Directorate's CSE-related financial pressure bid has now been agreed by full Council. This enables a CSE prevention team to be established under the leadership of a CSE Lead Manager (at Operational Manager 2). The Directorate will begin immediately to recruit to these posts.

**R.3 After 12 months of operation, a survey be carried out amongst all partners and practitioners to gauge the effectiveness of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Cardiff and also improvements in partnership working and information sharing.
(Supported by Key Findings KF8 – KF11)**

**R4. Members would like to commend the work carried out to date by the CSE Lead Manager and CSE Coordinator and that our thanks and the thanks of the many witnesses who took part in the Inquiry be passed on to them. It is also recommended that these posts be made permanent.
(Supported by Key Findings KF12, KF13)**

See above

R5. That Children's Services review the way that it deals with incoming CSE referrals as detailed in KF15. This is to meet the commitment required by the National Action Plan to "support the identification of CSE and enable a timely range of appropriate responses".

(Supported by Key Findings KF14, KF15)]

As reported by Cabinet to Scrutiny Committee the management of cases where there is a CSE concern have been reviewed and new arrangements put in place. These arrangements are now embedded within Children's Services practice. The service continues to take a proactive, preventive approach to abuse through sexual exploitation in recognition of the profound and lasting effect it has on children and their families. The management of all referrals where there is a CSE concern continues to be overseen by the CSE Lead Manager ensuring consistency across the service.

The CSE Multi Agency Strategy Meeting process has been embedded in practice. Staff within Children's Services and our partner agencies are aware of their distinct roles and the expectation to work proactive as a cohesive team to prevent abuse and support recovery.

R6. Ongoing training be given to social workers to ensure that consistent, professional, timely advice is given to everyone who makes a referral to Children's Services. Linked to this, wider training outside of the organisation (particularly to schools) should form part of the wider training programme to empower individuals and organisations to intervene at lower levels and therefore assist in reducing the number of referrals being made via the CAP Desk.

(Supported by Key Findings KF16, KF17)

A list of agencies who have received training from the CSE lead Manager and/or CSE Coordinator is attached at Appendix one. A similarly diverse training schedule is planned for the coming year. The team remain responsive to requests from any agency to provide training.

The CSE Professional Interest Group (PING) is very well established. It meets quarterly with around 60 professionals working across the City in organisations like Police, Education, Schools, Health, Youth Offending Service, Mental Health, Housing, Probation and Third Sector in attendance. The group continues to spread good practice, share expertise and promote a strong sense that everyone is working together to tackle CSE in Cardiff.

R7. A strategic, coordinated awareness raising and training programme be developed with input from all partners. Whilst it is acknowledged that the CSE Lead Manager and CSE Coordinator are currently engaged in CSE training with social workers and practitioners, further work needs to be planned, developed and implemented. This should include the coordination of current materials that could be used as part of the programme. The programme should include mechanisms for delivering a large scale campaign across the City, and also more targeted awareness raising and training to include vulnerable groups,

community groups, schools' training, those engaged in the night-time economy, foster carers, staff in children's homes and those engaged in providing council services via the commissioning and procurement process.

(Supported by Key Findings KF17, KF28-30, KF31-34)

Work has taken place with schools, youth service and third sector organisations to deliver CSE awareness raising sessions in schools, youth work settings, supported accommodation and residential children's homes. This work is ongoing. For example the CSE Prevention Team is currently working with St Teilo's school to develop a group work programme for boys. The aim of the group is to:

- Raise awareness around healthy relationships, rights and responsibilities
- Promote safe social media use
- Educate around consent, peer pressure and power
- Educate around sex, pornography and healthy relationships
- Challenge myths around boundaries in relationships
- Help keep boys safe and empower them to seek help

This programme will begin with students in St Teilos' next term. Subject to evaluation and review, it is hoped that the programme will be rolled out across schools in the coming year.

The booklet '*CSE – a Guide for Parents*' is presently being translated and will be printed for circulation to agencies across Cardiff working with vulnerable families.

The resource pack for professionals '*CSE – a practitioner's toolkit*' has been written and circulated widely within Children's Services and via the CSE PING. It is being used across agencies to support direct work with children to raise their awareness of CSE and reduce risks.

A targeted campaign to raise awareness of parents, carers, professionals and communities is being planned and will begin in with the public in Summer 2017. This will include the use of published materials, social media and pop up road shows under the banner '*Not in our City, Not to our Children*'.

The CSE Prevention team is working with the Families First team to ensure that the forthcoming round of funding will include CSE awareness work with families as a standard expectation.

R8. It is also recommended that a programme of campaigns for children and young people is developed by young people, to included PSHE teaching materials, social media, development of apps, etc. The wording of all material should be very carefully considered not to stereotype victims, and materials should also pay particular attention to boys and young men who were identified as a particular "hidden" group.

(Supported by Key Findings KF17, KF28-30, KF31-34)

The resource pack for professionals makes good use of materials already designed by children and young people including comic strip leaflets, videos and apps.

Work is underway to strengthen the voice of children in the response to CSE in Cardiff. An example of this is the Young People's Conference, hosted by Children's Services, which will be taking place on 16th March 2017.

Each school has been invited to nominate up to three children to attend the conference and throughout the day participants will take part in activities and workshops which will raise their awareness around child sexual exploitation including how children can look out for dangerous adults, spot when their peers may be in danger, call for help and keep themselves and their friends safe.

The conference will be delivered in partnership with voluntary sector organisations like Barnardo's, NSPCC, Safer Wales and YMCA who are key providers of CSE prevention services in the City and experts in their fields.

By the end of the day participants will be trained as CSE Prevention Ambassadors for their schools. Following the conference the CSE Prevention team will work with the Ambassadors and schools to hold events in each school/ cluster of schools where the Ambassadors will educate their peers.

This event aims to promote the idea that empowering children and raising their awareness to prevent CSE is how we keep children safe. It will also demonstrate how statutory and voluntary sector agencies are working closely together to this end.

R9. That the LEA (Local Education Authority) conduct a risk assessment of those not in mainstream education, and that the results of this risk assessment be reported to the C&V LSCB and to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee. Members were particularly concerned about the potential risks inherent in children undertaking alternative curriculum and home schooling. Whilst it is recognised that the LEA does not have statutory responsibility to account for those children and young people, an idea of the scale of the issue and potential "risks" should be assessed.

(Supported by Key Findings KF18-19)

The CSE Team is working closely with the newly appointed Education Safeguarding Officer both to deliver training to education staff and to meet the needs of individual children in specific circumstances. This work will continue to develop.

R10. It is also recommended that the Education Department play an active role in the awareness raising and training programme for schools. The proactive and positive work undertaken by Willows High School and St. Teilo's High School should be included within the programme.

(Supported by Key Findings KF20-22)

Please see R.7, R.8 and R.9 above.

R11. It is recommended that a report on the restructure of the CAMHS service be factored into the work programme of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee for consideration at a future date.

(Supported by Key Findings KF24-25)

R12. Whilst it is recognised that the LSCB is not accountable to the Council, it is recommended that the Cabinet requests that C&V LSCB make a commitment to report to Cabinet and the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee on progress towards achieving the All Wales National Action Plan, and commit to submitting, for information annually, progress against the Multi Agency CSE Strategy.

(Supported by Key Findings KF 5 – KF7)

Cardiff and Vale LSCB has re-established the CSE Strategic Group. The CSE Lead Manager is a member of that group which meets quarterly. The group will receive reports on the implementation of the All Wales National Plan and CSE Prevention Strategy.

R13. It is also recommended that the LSCB should review whether the current governance structure enabled robust scrutiny of the organisation and consider the need for an independent Chair.

(Supported by Key Finding KF7)

This was responded to in Cabinet Member correspondence CM33619