



## **Child Practice Review Action Plan**

## **Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Children Board**

## **Extended Child Practice Review**

**Re: C&V RSCB 02/2014**

<b>1: Recommendations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding the tendering process for Out of County Placements and whether there is a choice/making the right choice</li> <li>The importance of effective transfer of information when a child is placed out of area and there are concerns in relation to being vulnerable to sexual exploitation</li> <li>Review the single point of contact for referrals of Out of County Placements.</li> </ul>					
<b>Action: Multi-agency Panels from both the placing and receiving area ensure out-of-county placements meet children's needs and respond to identified risks</b>		<b>Agency/ Agencies</b>	<b>How progress and achievement will be measured</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Background</b>					
<p>The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Part 6): Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Wales) Regulations 2015 (CPPCR)  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2015/1818/pdfs/wsi_20151818_mi.pdf">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2015/1818/pdfs/wsi_20151818_mi.pdf</a>  and accompanying Code of Practice  <a href="http://gov.wales/docs/phhs/publications/160106pt6en.pdf">http://gov.wales/docs/phhs/publications/160106pt6en.pdf</a>  clearly set out the process for placing children out of county, including the need for a panel consisting of representatives from a number of service areas in both the placing and receiving Authorities (paras 183 – 201 apply, with additional guidance regarding emergency placements in paras 202 – 205).</p> <p>Learning from this case suggests where there are concerns around Child Sexual Exploitation, Police representatives from both the placing and receiving areas should also be involved in the Panel</p>		Children's Services, Education, Health, Police	The relevant Children's Services Operational Managers/Principal Officers will report on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of Panels held regarding out of county placements</li> <li>Number fully compliant with Regulations/Code of Practice</li> <li>Number of cases where Police have been involved following the identification of concerns around CSE</li> <li>Number of cases where escalation to Chief Executives of the Local Authority and Health Boards has been required (Code of Practice identifies this should occur where agreement of a placement cannot be reached (para 197)</li> </ul>	Operational Manager, Specialist Services (Cardiff); Principal Officer, (Vale)	

<b>2: Recommendation:</b> Review the role of the Missing Persons Co-ordinator				
<b>Action: South Wales Police review the role of the Missing Persons Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Agency/ Agencies</b>	<b>How progress and achievement will be measured</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Background:</b>				
Consideration should be given to reviewing the roles and responsibilities of the four Missing Persons Co-ordinator across South Wales Police and it is recommended that this is done through discussion with other Welsh and English Forces and the College of Policing to ensure a more corporate approach and to have an understanding of the different levels of interventions/processes in the respective areas.	South Wales Police	A review report presented to the RSCB at November 2016 Executive and Main Board meetings.  <b>Jan 2019 update:</b> A permanent full time Missing persons Team (South Wales Police) is now in place based at Cardiff Bay Police Station who deal with Missing Persons and CSE cases. The team work closely with Cardiff Council MASH officers.	TBC	Nov 2016

<b>3: Recommendation:</b> The importance of following through with assessments when concerns have been raised about the possibility of (sexual) exploitation					
<b>Action: Ensure compliance with the All Wales Protocol for Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children who are at Risk of Abuse through Sexual Exploitation</b>		<b>Agency/ Agencies</b>	<b>How progress and achievement will be measured</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Background</b>					
<p>In all cases where there are concerns around Child Sexual Exploitation, the All Wales Protocol for Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children who are at Risk of Abuse through Sexual Exploitation <a href="http://gov.wales/docs/phhs/publications/160106pt6en.pdf">http://gov.wales/docs/phhs/publications/160106pt6en.pdf</a> must be followed.</p> <p>Current and ongoing RSCB, Children's Services and Welsh Government activity around training and awareness raising should ensure this matter is addressed</p>		All	<p>Data collected via the Welsh Government CSE data pilot/ongoing data collection.</p> <p><b>Jan 2019 update:</b> Following the pilot activity referred to above, a wider Cardiff and Vale CSE Strategy was developed. This has now progressed to include Exploitation in all its forms, including Criminal Exploitation and Radicalisation, and to include Adults and Children. There has been regular and diverse training and awareness across all partners since this report. Cardiff now also has a dedicated social work team; Strategic Partnerships &amp; Safeguarding-Think Safe who support children at risk of Exploitation</p>	RSCB Business Unit	At each Exec/Main Board meeting

<b>4: Recommendation:</b> Risk assessing giving a young vulnerable person a mobile phone				
<b>Action: Develop and distribute an advisory note to highlight need for risk assessment regarding the provision of mobile phones and other technology as rewards</b>	<b>Agency/ Agencies</b>	<b>How progress and achievement will be measured</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Background</b>				
Written, comprehensive risk assessments should be undertaken when considering providing children and young people, especially those identified as having risks and vulnerabilities to CSE, with 'rewards' that may contribute to their vulnerability or increase potential risks. These could include: mobile phones, access to other technology (e.g. tablets, internet) and off-site trips	Children's Services, residential settings	Children's Services to develop and distribute an advisory notice for Children's Services staff , foster carers and staff and management of residential provision to raise awareness of potential risks  <b>Jan 2019 update:</b> In Cardiff, individual risk assessments are undertaken for each child, and a decision is made as to what use of mobile phones can be agreed. On occasions, Cardiff Council have purchased 'pay as you go' phones for children to ensure they can be contacted when out in the community, and when on occasions they may have absconded or have been reported as missing. The use of mobile phones are not seen as 'rewarding' the child, but essential in order to keep them safe.	Debbie Martin-Jones (Cardiff) Ann Williams (Vale)	

<b>5: Recommendation:</b> Keeping family members who are considered as significant to the child appropriately informed of plans when they do not hold parental responsibility				
<b>Action: Develop and distribute an advisory note, and related pro-forma in relation to sharing information with 'significant adults' who do not have Parental Responsibility</b>	<b>Agency/ Agencies</b>	<b>How progress and achievement will be measured</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Background</b>				

<p>In line with the duty in the Social Services and Well-being Act to “have due regard to Part 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)”, if requested by a child, and unless to do so could prove to be not in their best interests, a written agreement should be produced and agreed with adults who although not having Parental Responsibility (PR) are deemed as ‘significant’ by the child, to allow them to receive information on the child’s progress. This information may be limited due to legal requirements.</p>	<p>Children’s Services, IROs</p>	<p>Children’s Services to develop an advisory note for Social Workers and IROs.</p> <p>Children’s Services to develop a pro-forma written agreement for use with significant adults who do not have PR as to the content, timing, etc., of information they are able to receive</p> <p><b>Jan 2019 update:</b> The new Care and Support Plans and related IRO documentation sets out who is important to the child. Information from the new Care and Support plans and IRO reporting now include the following questions and prompts/hints for staff:</p> <p><i>When will I have contact with my family and other important people? (Hint – This must include parents and anyone with PR and brothers or sisters (or step brothers or sisters) who are also looked after but not placed with the child)</i></p> <p><i>People who are not allowed to see or speak to me at the moment or who I do not want to see or speak to at this time?</i></p>	<p>Operational Manager, Specialist Services (Cardiff); Principal Officer, (Vale)</p>	<p>By Nov 2016</p>
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<b>6: Recommendation:</b> Independent de-briefs (return interviews) with regard to children who go missing and are identified as being vulnerable to CSE.				
<b>Action: Ensure children and young people are provided with an independent de-brief after missing episodes and where they are identified as being vulnerable to CSE</b>	<b>Agency/ Agencies</b>	<b>How progress and achievement will be measured</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Background</b>				
An embedded Barnardos worker is now in place to conduct return interviews for children who go missing and are identified as being vulnerable to CSE.	South wales Police, Barnardos	<b>Jan 2019 update:</b> Following the initial pilot arrangements referred to the in the review report 2016 above, the post is now in place on a permanent basis and works closely with the Missing Persons team and the MASH in Cardiff bay Police Station		By Nov 2016



<b>7: Recommendation:</b> Making use of 21st century technology				
<b>Action: Children's Services to consider the use of 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to assist with compliance with multi-agency panels for out of county placements (as per Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Wales) Regulations 2015 )</b>	<b>Agency/ Agencies</b>	<b>How progress and achievement will be measured</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Background</b>				
As noted in the Code of Practice relating to Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being Act (para 194) <a href="http://gov.wales/docs/phhs/publications/160106pt6en.pdf">http://gov.wales/docs/phhs/publications/160106pt6en.pdf</a> the use of video or tele-conferencing should be considered to support the requirements for Panel to be convened consisting of staff from agencies in both the placing and receiving local authority areas. The use of this technology could also be considered (subject to the agreement of the child or young person) as an approach to support their engagement and participation in decision making	Children's Services, Education, Health, Police	<b>Jan 2019 Update:</b> Discussions have commenced with regard to sourcing an app, which can be used to engage further with young people. Discussions are at an early stage but we are optimistic about the development. In terms of other '21 <sup>st</sup> century technology', there is more that could be done. Telephone conferencing is not as widespread as it should be. There is a facility at County Hall, but this is not yet available at Hafan Gobaith or at the citywide hubs. Similarly, Skype is only available on work computers to contact other professionals in the council and consideration should be given to making it available to contact young people/other professionals. WhatsApp is popular among young people and it would be positive if this could be installed on work mobiles as this also allows video calling, which many young people do like to use.	Operational Manager, Specialist Services (Cardiff); Principal Officer, (Vale)	By Nov 2016

<b>8: Recommendation: Strengthen approaches to supporting placement stability</b>				
<b>Action: Strengthen approaches to supporting placement stability by ensuring effective actions identified from anti-disruption meetings are widely shared</b>	<b>Agency/ Agencies</b>	<b>How progress and achievement will be measured</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Background</b>				

<p>This recommendation relates to an observed pattern of repeated placement breakdowns, which appeared to follow relatively minor incidents. The Panel were of the view that had timely, focused, additional support been available for carers, it may have been possible to maintain the placement, removing the need for an out of county residential placement.</p> <p>For the year 2014/15, across Wales, the % of Looked After Children experiencing more than 2 moves in the year was 20%, and more than 3 moves 9%. The figures for the Vale were 16% and 7% respectively, and for Cardiff 24% and 11% respectively. Whilst all of these moves would not have been due to placement breakdown, clearly placement stability is a desired outcome where possible</p>	<p>Children's Services, Education, Health, Police</p>	<p>Progress report from Children's Services noting successful approaches to supporting placements where placement breakdown has been identified as a risk</p> <p><b>Jan 2019 Update:</b> The relevant section that outlines the responsibility is as follows: <i>5.15 (page 13) When a Child Returns Parents, police, social worker and anyone else informed that the child was missing should be informed of their return. On finding a child, it is important to clarify any immediate safety and / or welfare needs and take all reasonable steps to address these. It is important to give the child the opportunity to talk about their experiences as well as to ascertain why they ran away. This interview/de-brief should take place as soon as possible but at least within 3 working days. It should be determined and agreed as to who is the most appropriate person to talk to the child. This could be a police officer or social worker but where local agreement exists, a suitable independent person should be utilised.</i></p> <p>The link to this protocol is included on our council CIS system.</p>	<p>Operational Manager, Specialist Services (Cardiff); Principal Officer, (Vale)</p>	<p>By Nov 2016</p>
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<b>9: Recommendation:</b> Review of the All Wales Protocol for Missing Children				
<b>Action: RSCB to request review of the All Wales Protocol for Missing Children</b>	<b>Agency/ Agencies</b>	<b>How progress and achievement will be measured</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Background</b>				
<p>The RSCB to write to the All Wales Child Protection Procedures Review Group to request a review and potential re-draft, especially relating to the issue that the All Wales Protocol for Missing Children is not prescriptive around whose responsibility it is to ensure that a missing child is interviewed and/ or offered an independent interview following his/her return unlike the procedures in England. This can lead to confusion especially with the cross border issues with missing children.</p>	RSCB	<p>Response from AWCPPRG</p> <p><b>Jan 2019 update:</b> 5 All Wales Draft Practice Guides have been shared nationally by Welsh Government. These guides are due to be approved imminently, and it has been agreed that there will be clear links between these guides and the new revised All Wales Protection Procedures for Children and Adults which are due to be in place by September 2019. The guides are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding children missing from home or care.</li> <li>• Safeguarding children from child criminal exploitation (CCE).</li> <li>• Safeguarding children where there are concerns about harmful sexual behaviour.</li> <li>• Safeguarding children who are home educated.</li> <li>• Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked.</li> </ul>	RSCB Chair, RSCB Business Manager	By June 2016