



Committee and Date

People Overview Committee

9<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Item

Public

## CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

**Responsible Officer: Jeanette Hill, Service Manager COMPASS and Assessment and Dot Johnson, CSE Co-Ordinator**

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### 1. Summary

Following the recent media reports of the conviction of seven men in Telford for sexual offences against teenage girls, the chair of the people overview committee has requested that the committee scrutinise arrangements to tackle CSE in Shropshire.

This report provides an overview of Shropshire's arrangements currently in place to tackle CSE.

### 2. Recommendations

Scrutiny Panel to note the information.

## REPORT

### 3. Structure & Governance.

The role of Shropshire's Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB) is to coordinate local work safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure the effectiveness of what the member organisations do individually and collectively.

The Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board has a number of sub-groups that coordinates this work, including the CSE and Missing subgroup which meets 4 x a year (quarterly). **Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation** (HM Government 2009) sets out the roles, responsibilities and duties of different organisations in relation to CSE. This includes the role that the LSCB plays in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the work of all agencies in addressing CSE. Whilst the Local

Safeguarding Children Board does not manage or deliver the services in response to /CSE (this is the duty of the constituent members/ partners of the board), this group has been established to have oversight and to seek assurance that there is an effective response to CSE and other associated risks by partner agencies responsible for the management and delivery of services in Shropshire. By associated risks we mean those areas that have been identified as having significant links with risk of CSE:

- Children missing from home and care
- E safety.

Terms of reference for the group:

- Ensure that there is a clear strategy/ action plan that puts the essential elements in place for an effective multi agency response to CSE.
- Review the strategy/ action plan regularly to ensure that it is being progressed.
- Ensure that operational guidelines and pathways for managing cases of CSE/ risk of CSE are in place and adhered to
- Receive regular information from CSE Panel and other sources regarding:
  - Numbers of referrals of children and young people victims of CSE
  - Numbers of referrals of children and young people deemed to be at risk of CSE
  - Perpetrators of CSE and convictions
  - Related factors including disruption activity, hot spots etc.
  - Information relating to children who go missing and return interviews
  - Services to support children and young people who have experienced trauma through CSE
  - Be assured that work to address CSE is informed by the views and experience of children and parents.
  - Awareness raising and training activity about CSE in relation to CH&YP; parents; professionals and the wider community
  - The group should also receive any information or intelligence in relation to cases and risk of E safety, and resources to address this.
- The group should Identify and raise any issues in relation to gaps in services for recognising and responding to CSE; services for victims of CSE;
- Be assured that awareness raising and training is taking place at an appropriate level with: children and young people; parents / carers; professionals; wider community; relevant sections of the business community
- The group should ensure connection with related issues such as E safety (children can be exploited on line); missing from education; missing from home or care
- Take account of national findings and developments relating to CSE for consideration of SSCB
- To be assured that all possible disruption activities and interventions are employed as appropriate.

- Recognise and share best practice in protecting children from exploitation

The group will provide an annual report to the SSCB (and report more regularly as required) regarding progress; achievements; risk areas and further development as a part of the SSCB annual report.

### **Representation and outcomes.**

The Shropshire Safeguarding Childrens Board (SSCB) and the statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) as governance groups, hold to account the CSE and Missing Sub-group chaired by Chief Insp Sarah Chaloner.

The breadth of the partnership is extensive and reflects senior level authority to influence the strategy, action plan and hold partners to account for delivery. Representation by all agencies is consistent. Dedicated membership includes;

- *(Chair) Chief Inspector – Vulnerability and Local Policing, West Mercia Police.*
- (Vice chair) Service Manager, Compass / Children`s Assessment Team
- *Head of Youth Offending Service*
- Designated Nurse, CCG
- Senior Practitioner, Targeted Youth
- PSHE Curriculum advisor
- Lead Public Protection Officer, Shropshire Council
- Shropshire Council, CSE & Missing Operations Lead
- Schools representative
- Education Access Service
- Drug Action Team Leader
- Nurse Specialist, Shropshire Community Health Trust
- Safeguarding & Welfare Lead, Shrewsbury Colleges Group
- Shropshire Council Learning & Development Lead
- Independent Reviewing Officer
- CAMHS
- Registered Manager, Care Home
- Sexual Health Commissioner
- Named Nurse, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
- SSCB Business Manager
- SSCB Training Officer

The work of the sub-group is influenced by four strategic priorities. These cover;

Priority 1: Leadership and governance

Priority 2: Prevention and early intervention

Priority 3: Protection and support

Priority 4: Pursue and prosecute.

Work to date over the last twelve months has included revised pathways ensuring routes into the service are clear and proportionate. Awareness raising to support the local and professional community in identifying and responding to CSE. The county has also hosted a regional workshop led by the Children's Society and the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) to increase awareness of CSE and its correlation with County Lines criminality, Honour based violence, Human Trafficking and the National Referral Mechanism.

Commissioned work has taken place to build upon the 'See it, say it' initiative within the night time economy further raising awareness of CSE amongst taxi drivers, transport hubs and the hospitality industry.

Building on the 'Empower' programme to educate youngsters at risk of CSE the sub group has worked with Early Help to develop and deliver a programme aimed at boys and young men to challenge the attitudes and behaviour that underpin sexual abuse and exploitation.

The proactive and close working relationship we have built up with the significant numbers of private provider and specialist CSE care homes has allowed us to share care plans and police intelligence to inform pre prepared trigger plans that set in motion steps to secure the earliest recovery of the child / young person and target those who perpetrate and facilitate this risk. Consequently missing episodes continue to see a downward trend. One example of this relationship in action followed some extensive work with care home staff who took the un-usual steps to physically restrain one 15 year old female from getting into a car with a male who was attempting to facilitate her arrangements to run away. This one act of safeguarding, where a worker stepped outside of restraint policy, allowed this young lady to feel protected and safe such that some days later she disclosed a catalogue of abuse and exploitation that was previously unknown.

Catch 22, a specialist provider of CSE out-reach work have just been commissioned to undertake independent return home interviews for externally placed looked after youngsters. A specialist worker will be based within Compass and will work flexibly to extend this support to Shropshire's most frequent and vulnerable missing children. This will not only further safeguard these youngsters but will provide them with a voice, and will help close a gap in intelligence. It is worthy of note that this level of support and intervention in Cheshire helped to reduce missing episodes by half.

One of the most significant developments in this area is the creating of 9 CSE locality meetings across the county which has integrated processes, engaging professionals and tasking interventions at street level, sharing real time information on youngsters, perpetrators, hot-spots and civil and police powers to target criminality and reduce vulnerability.

### ***The prevalence of CSE in Shropshire.***

Since the launch of the revised CSE strategy (1<sup>st</sup> April 2017) a CSE tracker has been developed which captures a range of information including:

- Childs name
- Ethnicity

- Gender
- Dob
- Age
- Home postcode
- Date of referral
- Location of exploitation/town
- Referrers details
- Type of offending i.e group/lone
- School
- Perpetrator
- Associates
- Social care status
- Harboursing from education
- CAWN
- Education status
- Missing from home/care
- Unreported missing
- School exclusions
- Sexually harmful behaviour
- Online use
- Drugs/alcohol
- Self harm
- NRM made/accepted
- Successful prosecutions
- Mental health

On receipt of CSE referrals, the information is captured and recorded on the CSE tracker. A weekly triage is held to discuss any new referrals that have been received, and to agree the risk level is appropriately identified and that individual cases are being responded to at the right level. Any updated referrals that have been submitted to demonstrate a reduction or increase of risk are also discussed. The CSE tracker is updated to reflect the current risk level for every child that is referred into safeguarding for CSE. Triage is carried out by Social Care CSE Operational Lead and representatives from West Mercia Police CSE team. Triage allows us to share information, to receive and give updates on current cases and investigations, and to have an overview of the CSE picture in Shropshire and the effectiveness of the work that is being carried out with the families, to address the risks for their child.

As at **16.04.18** CSE was an identified risk for 67 children (15 of these being OLAC – out of area Looked after children), 6 are male and the remainder are female. The breakdown of the risk levels as follows:

Being exploited: 0

High: 15 (4 of these being OLAC) – of these 4 are managed on CP plans and 2 are managed on CIN plans and the others are currently being assessed by the assessment team.

Medium: 27 (3 of these being OLAC)

Low: 25 children (8 of these being OLAC)

All children who are identified at risk of CSE are tracked to ensure that the risk level is being appropriately managed and that the work being carried out with these children is effective and reducing the risk. All the children identified at a risk level medium and above have allocated social workers (Shropshire children) and their risk addressed either through Children in Need plans or Child Protection plans.

CSE panel - A monthly panel is held to discuss, at a strategic level the picture of CSE in Shropshire. A monthly update is presented to demonstrate the levels of referrals for that month, where they are being referred from and the nature and themes being identified. Discussion is held to acknowledge any information received in relation to newly identified perpetrators and where they are operating and who they are linked to, either perpetrator or victims? Updates on known or new hotspots identified in the county as being used for exploitation and how we can disrupt this. If a new referral has been received for a Shropshire child who is identified at high risk or being exploited, that case will be discussed from a strategic perspective to consider the implications for us strategically. What activities do we have concerns about, who we have concerns about and how, as a multi-agency panel our individual service area can work together to tackle and address the risks for Shropshire? The CSE panel comprises of managers and safeguarding leads from a variety of agencies, including:

#### **Core Panel Members:**

Senior Manager, Children Social Care – Chair  
 Police CSE Team – DS Mark Hill – Vice Chair  
 Named Nurse Safeguarding - Julie Harris \ Liz Watson Community Health Trust  
 Named Nurse Safeguarding SATH  
 Education Access, Christine Kerry  
 Phil Shakesheff \ Adam Vanner– Harm Assessment Unit  
 Jeanette Hill - Service Manager Children Social Care  
 Dot Johnson – CSE Lead Children Social Care  
 Emma Harding - Youth Offending Service  
 Jill Pugh \ Susanna Redondo – CAMHS  
 Jo M Cox – Targeted Youth Support \ Early Help  
 Sonya Jones - Drug and Alcohol Services  
 Representative from Sexual Health Service  
 Representative from Public Health

#### ***See attached a blank report as an example of the information shared within a report***

Police intelligence forms can also provide partners with information/intelligence around concerns of CSE, this in the first instance are shared with the Harm Assessment Unit (police) who enter the intelligence on the police data base and then the form is passed to Children's Social Care for consideration of the information. These again are shared at the CSE monthly panel.

Locality meetings – these are convened in response to specific locality issues which may pertain to low number of referrals in a particular area/agency, or specific known activity in an area that would benefit from a wider front line discussion to identify possible victims/perpetrators of CSE. Over the past 12 months we have held 9 locality meetings as follows:

- Ludlow school 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – 11 practitioners attended
- Cleobury Mortimer 21<sup>st</sup> July – 15 practitioners attended
- Marches School – 27<sup>th</sup> July – 9 practitioners attended
- Thomas Adams School – 22<sup>nd</sup> September – 24 practitioners attended
- Grove School – 12<sup>th</sup> October – 27 practitioners attended
- Lakelands School – 21<sup>st</sup> November – 17 practitioners attended
- TMBSS – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – 21 practitioners attended
- Meole Brace school – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – 12 practitioners attended
- Sundorne school – 21<sup>st</sup> March – 15 practitioners

This equates to 9 schools/localities, with over 150 practitioners in attendance and in excess of 100 children discussed in regard to CSE/CCE issues, indicating a multi agency approach to identifying and sharing information to safeguard children. Clear actions have been identified through the course of these locality meetings, which was highlighted in the recent OFSTED inspection findings.

18<sup>th</sup> July 2017 a CSE practice briefing was co-delivered to the targeted audience of SYA, strengthening families, Young Farmers, and Scouts, to raise awareness of CSE, inform and educate around Shropshire's CSE strategy and how to refer/share concerns. Promotion of SSCB training.

### **Shropshire's profile of perpetrators:**

Shropshire's CSE profile tends to be the 'Boyfriend' model, or friend of a friend of older sibling, On-line relationship, and issues around social media accounts, we have not, to date, identified any organised gang related CSE. From data and intelligence it is clear that there is a strong link between substance misuse and CSE. Drug use and its use as a tool to engage children into sexual activity remains the number one theme in referrals in Shropshire.

A number of actions have been implemented to address this theme including:

- Representative from Shropshire Recovery (Young Addactions) now attends CSE monthly panel and will be invited to attend Locality Meetings.
- Missing intervention meetings where substance misuse is a feature will ensure invite to Young Addactions is made.
- The Operational CSE lead for Children's Social Care will attend any strategy meeting whereby CSE is a feature.

There has been a most recent SSCB multi agency audit around CSE held on 19th November 2017. Findings from this audit include:

Good practice identified:

- Tenacity from agencies in pursuing support for young people experiencing CSE including education and school nurses.
- Good practice from substance misuse services when involved.

- CSE Risk assessments are embedded within the partnership and carried out.
- Better CSE working since the revision of the CSE Pathway.
- The multi-agency partnership are clearly able to recognise CSE concerns and there is evidence that they have taken steps to address this.
- Good monitoring from the police noted.

#### Areas for improvement:

- CSE/single assessments carried out during the school holidays will not contain vital information from schools. They should be contacted before the case is closed to ensure that there are no further concerns.
- Agencies expressed confusion as to when children's services are asking them to gain consent for referrals. It was felt that this could be defined more clearly. It has been confirmed with the Compass service manager when this expectation, in that consent is not required for s47.
- Better exploration of possible CSE in same sex relationships.
- Need to be able to deliver effective support to victims of CSE which provides enduring support and builds trusting relationships with appropriately trained workers.

#### ***Our strategy for tackling CSE in Shropshire.***

- The process for dealing with children who go missing is taken from a regional West Mercia wide protocol but the pro-active work alluded to earlier in understanding the background, significant history, push/pull factors, intelligence and risk relevant to each child is captured either prior to placement if cared for or as a result of the first missing episode. Our missing person co-ordinator ensures that police systems hold all relevant warning makers on young people (eg suicidal, escape, CSE etc) and that professional conversations take place to inform a trigger plan of critical steps and where relevant a skeletal missing person's record is pre populated. These steps ensure that parents, carers and all professionals uphold their responsibilities to collectively reduce the risk of a young person from going missing. A police safe and well check, return home interview and then de-brief takes place between agencies. Where necessary a strategy meeting is called where frequency / trigger points are hit. This process initiates greater scrutiny and problem solving with more senior managers. There were 216 missing episodes for Looked After children (Shropshire) in the past 12 months (this does not equate to 216 children as some children will have repeat missing episodes).



- The night time economy in Shropshire has increased by 20% in the last year and it is well understood that drugs and alcohol are risk factors. Young Solutions has been commissioned by the OPCC to build on the 'See it say it' training and working with the Business Improvement District (BID) further training will take place with licencees, hotel staff, taxi drivers and staff from transport hubs.

In addition Shrewsbury Pubwatch has been provided with training by West Mercia Police in CSE, Prevent C.T and associated offences.

“Ask for Angela” is a scheme up and running in Shrewsbury where awareness amongst young women is raised via social media to ask door / bar staff for Angela if they feel concerned or vulnerable.

Several high profile operations within the evening night time economy have taken place to prevent CSE in Shrewsbury. Consequently perpetrators from Telford have been disrupted and dispersed from U18 events at Buttermarket. Photographs and intelligence is shared between premises via DISC (equivalent of a business facebook group). Team Shrewsbury have increased presence of Street Pastors / Street Ambassadors and next step will see the deployment of Club Angels for inside late night premises (Buttermarket, Fever).

- Shropshire’s CSE strategy was revised (based on recommendations from an independent review undertaken by Liz Murphy) and launched in April 2017, the Strategy is for the period 2016 – 2018. The CSE strategy and its accompanying action plan have been produced to take stock of the current approaches to tackling CSE across Shropshire; outline the type of approach that agencies envisage taking to address CSE in the future; and illustrate the steps that will be taken to realise our strategic vision.

The overarching aim of the strategy is to promote a culture whereby nobody tolerates or ignores CSE; and where both professionals and communities in Shropshire understand what is required to identify, prevent and protect children and young people from CSE and bring perpetrators to account and that they do so successfully.

Accompanying the launch of the revised CSE strategy, multi agency training has been rolled out across the county. A revised risk assessment pathway and tool was launched, moving away from a tick box scoring assessment to one that is much more multi agency focused, is inclusive of the parents and young person and more analytical in it’s approach. The Terms of Reference for CSE panel were also revised in line with this new approach and the role of panel now is gather intelligence, to inform Shropshire’s CSE profile and enable better detection, assessment and disruption from a multi agency perspective, rather than focusing on case management of individual cases (as had previously been the case).

Local data is used to inform a revised CSE Strategy and action plan which is being monitored by the CSE sub-group. A CSE scorecard has been developed to measure performance. This focuses on a range of matters including the identification of agencies that are making low levels of, or no CSE referrals at all.

The CSE Scorecard and action plan has recently been reviewed by the Chair of the SSCB, CSE/Missing sub group and Lisa Charles. The revisions have been to have more of focus on outcomes.

The subgroup reviews progress against the action plan every quarter to maintain momentum, keep interventions relevant and un-block hurdles.

A new website, Tell Someone, has been developed across West Mercia by the police and regional LSCBs to raise awareness of CSE amongst professionals, parents and carers and children and young people.

### ***How the council and its partners respond to individual cases of CSE***

- The role of the CSE panel is explained above, this is the monthly multi agency meeting that is held to discuss emerging themes and intelligence from the new CSE referrals received for that monthly and for all individual case presentations where there is medium and high risk identified. The past 12 months there have been 24 (HIGH RISK) cases presented to CSE panel.
- As discussed earlier in this report, the council receives reports of suspected CSE through the CSE risk assessment that is then triaged on a weekly basis between police and social care with input from education (to identify children missing education) and also through police intelligence forms. Members of public/parents etc contact FPOC (first point of contact) or EDT with concerns and any young person who may be showing signs of risk or vulnerability will be passed to a Targeted Youth Worker or Early Help Social Worker who will identify an appropriate professional to complete the CSE risk assessment, unless there are concerns of significant harm in which case the child protection procedures are initiated.

### **OFSTED reflections**

We have had some very positive feedback following the recent OFSTED inspection in regard to management of CSE and children who go missing, key highlights include:

- Children who go missing from home or are at risk of child sexual exploitation are identified quickly by effective partnership working in Compass, and receive a timely assessment.
- Specialist workers are allocated promptly with swift completion of return home interviews and child sexual exploitation risk screening tools.
- Once needs are identified, children and families are offered a range of services.
- Cases are reviewed regularly at well-attended monthly panels with clear actions to reduce risks for children.
- Rigorous arrangements trace children who go missing from education.

- Multi-agency partners respond appropriately to children who experience risks associated with offending, misusing drugs or alcohol, being sexually exploited or going missing.
- Effective plans help to reduce the risk of harm or actual harm for the vast majority of these vulnerable children.
- Children receive timely return home interviews when they have been missing.
- The local authority has undertaken significant work to safeguard children at risk of child sexual exploitation, built on well-established strategic and operational relationships with partners such as West Mercia police. This has enabled rigorous responses to safeguard children and young people who go missing or who are at risk of sexual exploitation. A recently formed task and finish group is scoping work to align gangs, missing children and county line vulnerabilities linked to the child sexual abuse strategic group.

***Training and awareness raising we provide to practitioners and to our partners.***

There continues to be a robust training schedule in place, including single agency and multi-agency training delivered across Shropshire, open to all partners. CSE is a topic covered in the induction of all new staff and throughout Safeguarding training. Specialist training is delivered for those in specialist roles, for example social work staff to ensure they have the right skills and knowledge to carry out their duties.

Developing Practice Training Module – Child Sexual Exploitation  
Course Aim:

To explore the issues surrounding child sexual exploitation and enable professionals to know how to respond locally.

Course Objectives:

- To increase awareness of the key issues of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Be able to identify different models and stages of grooming
- Know how to respond to concerns of Child Sexual Exploitation locally
- To consider your own agencies response to help safeguard children and young people against CSE and help support those who have been sexually exploited.

71 professionals attended 2017/18

CSE 2.5 hour briefing:

Familiarise with the new West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures.  
Familiarise with the revised multi-agency guidance on Threshold Criteria

Increase working knowledge of the revised Child Sexual Exploitation Pathway and Risk Assessment Tool.

223 professionals attended -2017/18

The ROCU and The Children's Society delivered workshop to all professionals across West Mercia who work with children and young people to improve their knowledge and understanding of child sexual exploitation with a focus on:

Criminal Exploitation: County lines, drug running, trafficking and gangs

Vulnerability: Missing young people; mental health and complex needs; marginalised groups of young people (BME, boys and young men, LGBTQ, refugee and migrants). The workshop will also focus on [b]sharing and reporting intelligence, legislation and safeguarding through a short case study.

The Learning Outcomes for this event are:

1. Increased awareness of CSE and wider exploitation with a focus on criminal exploitation
2. Understanding of how to share intelligence and identified concerns in relation to CSE
3. Understanding of the regional picture of county lines and CSE
4. Increased recognition and understanding of vulnerabilities faced by children and young people especially within early adulthood
5. Evaluating missing information and recognising the different elements of CSE and wider exploitation that may be difficult to recognise especially within hard to reach/engage groups

Workshop was in February 2018 100 delegates attended and booked on through SSCB booking system.

From October 17 to March 18 there were 71 drivers and operators that were trained in safeguarding children training which includes awareness of CSE and trafficking.

Schools have access to E-Safety resources and CSE subgroup was updated in September 2017 of the E-safety proposals. Graham Moore has been chairing a small group around the On-line survey. The initial meeting was to scope out the questions, and involve young people around their thoughts, the risks and perceptions of e-safety. There had been an invite sent out to attend the 'Digital Romance' research event on 2nd November 2017, to include a presentation on young people's perceptions and understanding of risk. The proposal for the SSCB is to look at funding the resources to undertake the E-safety survey.

The other element was around what Shropshire's profile is. There was a podcast with young people on Monday 25th September 2017 around grooming.

Empower, a two day 'keep safe' programme for young people at risk of CSE, continues to run with sessions taking place every six to eight weeks. The sessions can be hard hitting and evaluations have indicated a greater understanding of risks following the sessions. A group for young men identified as being potential perpetrators of CSE is being piloted in a North School.

We will also continue to raise awareness across the community and with specific nighttime industries that need to be alert to CSE i.e. hotels and taxi firms.

***Current work streams and areas of priority:***

1. Children placed at a distance – we have held a series of meetings with internal staff and police colleagues looking at the processes when children are placed outside of Shropshire, recognising they are especially vulnerable, we have draft a process to be finalised and embedded in practice (Manager's briefing planned 20.04.18) we have also started to develop a database of all children placed outside of Shropshire, identifying key professionals in the host authority and relevant police authority so that information sharing can be more robust at the earliest point possible.
2. Transitions – we need to further develop our transition pathways for young people identified as being at risk of CSE and what happens when they turn 18 years and need to move into adult services. Steve Baguley is undertaking a piece of work on behalf of the NWG the national CSE Response Unit and is currently supporting our work in this area and will be delivering a briefing to managers on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

(NB This will include the following: Impact on Children and Vulnerable Adults, Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community and other Consultation)

There is a risk associated with CSE and is therefore a continued risk for vulnerable children and young people in Shropshire.

**4. Financial Implications**

This is an update report and so has no financial implications.

**5. Background**

This update report is the latest in a regular series of updates on CSE for Scrutiny Committee.

**6. Additional Information**

None.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

Presentation on CSE to Young People's Scrutiny Committee 24 June 2015

Update on CSE to Young People's Scrutiny Committee 1 February 2017

Update on CSE to Young People's Scrutiny Committee 29 November 2017

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Cllr Nick Bardsley

**Local Member**

All members

**Appendices**

Appendix A: Blank Monthly Reporting Template