



Derby City Council

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND SKILLS  
SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD  
16 October 2023**

# ITEM 07

Report sponsor: Suanne Lim, Director of Early  
Help & Children's Safeguarding  
Report author: Mandy MacDonald CE Lead

## **Children Related Exploitation**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Children and Young People and Skills Scrutiny Review Board on children who have been referred for Child Exploitation (CE) meetings. The report and supporting PowerPoint will provide a thematic overview of the types of exploitation identified, level of risk and diversity/identity and gender breakdown of cases referred for child exploitation meetings. The data is provided through review of information held on the local authority electronic children's systems.

The report also provides Scrutiny Review Board with an overview of the partnership work and campaign and awareness work.

A full report outlining issues relating to all Children at Risk of Exploitation is provided to the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership annually and can be shared in early 2024.

### **Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 Report to be considered by the Children and Young People and Skills Scrutiny Review Board, to support their understanding of the partnership work on child exploitation.
- 2.2 Board members to consider the offer of updated child exploitation training.

### **Reason(s)**

- 3.1 To ensure children are identified and safeguarded where exploitation risks are highlighted. To show the work of the partnership to reduce the risk of exploitation for all children and to highlight the partnership offer to educate, support, and protect them.

### **Supporting information**

#### **Summary of Partnership Work**

- 4.1 This report focuses on children who are referred for independently chaired meetings, due to concerns about child exploitation. The report and PowerPoint provide a

thematic overview of numbers referred and discusses the support provided and partnership initiatives to safeguard. The highlights are:

- Every child referred to due to exploitation receives specialist support from specialist Child Exploitation (CE) contracted services, a social worker, and key partners from a range of agencies.
- Research and good practice updates are sent monthly to all managers, containing resources to educate staff, parents, children, and the wider partnership about any emerging trends nationally.
- A cross border, multi-agency audit of criminal exploitation has been completed hosted by the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (DDSCP). This highlighted good practice in the multi-agency use of CE tools and assessments. This audit highlighted a need for better understanding of the numbers of children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities referred who are at risk of exploitation. This is now being considered through Exploited and Vulnerable Young People (EVYP) Subgroup of the DDSCP.
- Operation Keep safe was conducted with Derbyshire Police and CE Leads. This focussed on test purchases in hotels, using police cadets. It is an extension of the 'Say Something If You See Something' Campaign. Concerns were highlighted about hotel safeguarding practice and as a result, partners have offered training and awareness to the hotel sector. The campaign will broaden to other licensed persons or premises later in the year.
- The Children's Society campaign #lookcloser was supported and our police and community safety teams and CRE lead provided information and posters to local businesses throughout April. This campaign was adopted regionally through the CE Regional Leads meeting.
- Online abuse training has been delivered virtually in short 1 hour sessions across Derby and Derbyshire and has been accessed by children's home staff.
- The modern slavery training has been updated and embedded into the generic CE course.

- 4.2 Children in care as a cohort benefit from wide ranging support, from their allocated social workers, specialist workers from local authority contracted CE support services and independent reviewing officers. Each home has a safer neighbourhood officer attached to it. Information about risk to children is shared via Operation Liberty forms and the homes share these intelligence forms regularly. This supports officers to build an intelligence picture and to direct resources to mitigate risks. Operationally, the risk of exploitation is managed via regular reviews, which are independently chaired by child protection or team managers depending on the level of risk to the child.

- 4.3 Children continue to be encouraged to attend their meetings to share their wishes and feelings and to shape the plans which the network group put in place to protect them. The more a child is involved from the outset, the better the outcome and they then feel they have some control, understanding and say over actions to safeguard them. They do not always agree or relate to the safeguarding plan but feel included and listened to.
- 4.4 There has been significant change to the structure of strategic boards which oversee CE service delivery and other DDSCP priorities. As such, work is underway to agree governance and focus for priorities moving forward, which reduces duplication of work. The review will aim to improve communication and planning between the range of subgroups and boards across the partnership. Following a development day in July 2023, the relationship and governance arrangements between the Exploitation and Vulnerable Young Peoples (EVYP) subgroup of the Safeguarding Children Partnership and Serious and Organised Crime and Exploitation groups have been clarified to support effective delivery in this area of work. This will ensure effective safeguarding, communication, shared priorities and positive impact for children and families.
- 4.5 Contracted services, Catch 22 and Safe and Sound, provide specialist support to children who meet a low – high risk threshold. Children are also supported by keyworkers, parents, and a range of partners in the varied settings they engage with. Welfare, protection, and disruption plans are managed and monitored through network or core groups and independent oversight provided by a team manager (medium risk). High risk cases have independent reviews chaired by a Child Protection Manager. The Serious and Organised Crime and Exploitation Tactical Subgroup (SocEx), have oversight of high risk cases and place based risks. These are also considered in the Serious Youth Violence tactical subgroup and problem management plans created where necessary. Disruption, pursue and prosecution strategies are also created through the SocEx tactical meetings.

Work to improve disruption plans has been embedded through training and independent advice. This includes the introduction of specific plans that focus on welfare and prevention. Welfare approaches would focus on prevention work, such as awareness raising and protection of children through early help, social care and partnership support. These strands involve agencies working with and directly supporting the child and family. Disruption and Pursue approaches are often carried out by agencies who are not directly working with the child. They focus on persons, places, community or online spaces that pose a risk to children (disruption, pursue and prosecution strategies). This includes the police, probation, licensing, community safety, environmental health, fire safety dept, housing etc.

These arrangements can structure, support and help the partnership to coordinate work to tackle harms within and outside the home (contextual concerns). The 5 P's plans (Prevention, Protection, Pursue, Prosecution and Partnership) is based on the Serious Youth Violence Strategy (2018) and has been adopted regionally as good practice.

- 4.6 CRE training has been updated with partners and there are now podcasts and self-directed learning packs online for delegates to access. These provide a basic understanding of exploitation, a grounding for new workers prior to the course.

The podcasts cover a range of exploitation models including online safety, modern slavery and the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation and contextual safeguarding/placed based risk. The changes reflect research and learning within the independent inquiry into child's sexual abuse (IICSA <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/>) and the children exploitation practice principles <https://tce.researchinpractice.org.uk/>

Thus far, the course has been evaluated positively by all participants for content, delivery, and usefulness. Further training and workshops are planned between September 2023 and April 2024.

Free training events have been launched to ensure practitioners use the cyber choices toolkit when working with children. The sessions are offered from August 23 to October 23, to support practitioners identify and respond, when interest in IT becomes a concern and puts children at risk of committing cybercrime. Recent figures show that 61% of hackers start hacking before the age of 16 and 1 in 4 teenagers have engaged in cyber-crime (IWF 2022) in many cases without even knowing it.

## **Public/stakeholder engagement**

- 5.1 As noted above, there is good stakeholder engagement from statutory services, education, health, and voluntary sector agencies. Children and parents are encouraged to provide feedback and evaluations of meetings or training they attend.

### **Stakeholder engagement**

- Three meetings to update the training and podcasts
- Three partnership meetings chaired by the DDSCP to audit cases of criminal exploitation
- Contracted services have continued to hold events with children and parents and run a parent's peer support group.
- Children have the opportunity of a pre meeting with the chair or to attend the meeting in person. They are also entitled to advocate support and independent advocates are allocated to obtain a child's wishes and feelings in child protection conferences.
- Catch 22 contracted service have been asked to provide support through awareness work, to children's homes and schools.
- The stakeholder engagement to consider the EVYP priorities is planned for the 19 July 23 and an update the CE procedures is planned for January 24
- Partnership meetings to progress the work of the Say Something if you See Something campaign (Operation Keep safe) continues, the next stage begins in August where hotel managers are invited to a training event and then in October further test purchases are planned. Later in the year this work will extend to taxis and takeaways.
- The Tackling Child Exploitation principles have been embedded in training for social care and partners and stakeholders are asked to embed these into their own policy/strategies.

The work of the local authority and its partners supports a better understanding of risk to children, it tackles emerging trends at the soonest opportunity and encourages participation of children, parents, and partners to combat exploitation.

## Other options

6.1 None.

## Financial and value for money issues

7.1 None directly arising from this report

## Legal implications

8.1 None directly arising from this report.

## Climate implications

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

## Other significant implications

10. None directly arising from this report.

1

## The following people have approved this report:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
<b>Legal</b>	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal & Insurance Services	
<b>Finance</b>	Janice Hadfield, Head of Finance	
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help & Children's Social Care	6 October 2023
<b>Report sponsor</b>		
<b>Other(s)</b>		