



Derby City Council

CORPORATE PARENTING SUB BOARD
14 April 2015

ITEM 9

Report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People

Derby's Response to Child Sexual Exploitation

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following publication of the Jay and Casey reports into Child Sexual Abuse in Rotherham, partners involved in the Derby Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy (CSE) have reviewed the reports in relation to activity in Derby, and undertaken a self-assessment against current standards.
- 1.2 Corporate Parenting Board received the annual CSE report at their January meeting and this report gives an update on Derby's position and aims to answer specific questions raised by both of the Rotherham reports.
- 1.3 The Council has updated its guidance on roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children across the whole Council, which reflects both Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 and the Rotherham reports.
- 1.4 To note the recent correspondence from the DfE on 3 March 2015. Isabelle Trowler the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families has asked Directors of Children Services to review assessment and decision making tools in relation to CSE. Also the Prime Minister issued new measures to tackle CSE on the same date which are currently being considered.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Derby cannot be complacent in its response to CSE although we can have a measure of confidence that young people at risk of CSE would be identified and helped, that perpetrators would be identified and investigated, and preventive measures are being put in place.
- 3.2 There is an action plan in place to guide the implementation of the strategy and this has been amended to address the recommendations arising for Derby from the consideration of the issues in Rotherham.
- 3.3 The City Council has been leading the development of a joint commissioning

approach with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Derbyshire County Council. This joint approach has agreed to procure a voluntary sector provider responding to the issue from the reports on Rotherham to have an external challenge.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 History

Derby can evidence historical multi-agency and council activity to respond to children experiencing and at risk of CSE, but this activity was not separately counted or reported until 2011. Young people were responded to as children in need or children at risk of harm; some also came into care and some had secure placements to keep them safe. Like Rotherham, Derby was fortunate to have a specialist voluntary sector organisation Safe and Sound who pioneered work in this area.

4.2 Operations Retriever 2009 and Kern 2010

These were both major Police-led investigations into CSE, involving large numbers of victims and perpetrators:

Operation Retriever – 27 girls, 12 perpetrators in an organised group – 9 convictions

Operation Kern – 15 victims, 14 perpetrators operating individually – 11 convictions

The victims, all girls, ranged in age from 12 to over 18yrs, and were predominantly white/British. The perpetrators, all male, in Retriever were all Asian in origin although not from a single ethnic group, and in Kern the majority were white/British.

A Serious Case Review was conducted into two of the girls in Retriever who were in care (BD09) and multi-agency reviews on each of the other girls were conducted alongside. This revealed poor co-ordination of responses around CSE, and omissions in services such as schools and health, in identifying the risks of CSE and providing support to the girls who had many additional needs and vulnerabilities.

A Learning Review was undertaken in relation to Operation Kern, from the perspective of the Court process. This was highly successful in terms of the convictions but the impact on the witnesses was significant and was perceived as very negative. Recommendations were made around the conduct of such trials which has been taken up nationally.

4.3 Recent developments

In 2010 the City's multi agency CSE strategy was reviewed and some key developments agreed. This resulted in the appointment of a specific manager in 2011 to focus on CSE and a virtual team of managers and key staff to create an operational group, reporting to the Vulnerable Young People sub-group of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board.

The strategy has recently been up-dated jointly with Derbyshire Safeguarding Board, to reflect on-going learning and national guidance and research.

An independent review was undertaken in 2013 to examine progress in CSE developments following serious case review BD09. The findings were positive.

Derby's work in CSE is often quoted as an example of good practice and was referred to very positively in the last Ofsted inspection in the City in 2012. In January 2015, Ofsted visited as a "mutual learning event" and examined Derby's work around CSE. They commended the quality of work with young people at risk and some areas of strategic and preventive work, but highlighted further areas where progress could be made.

4.4 **Current situation in Derby**

During the third quarter of 2014-15, 39 young people were considered at risk of CSE. Of these 39 on 31/12/14, 12 young people were considered high risk, 7 medium; 12 were low risk and/or had ceased to be reviewed as at risk of CSE and for 8 the level was still being assessed. Of these 4 young people were children in care, including 1 in the care of another LA.

4.5 **Significant issues from Rotherham of relevance to Derby**

Derby can evidence a range of practical activity which is taking place and can demonstrate positive outcomes for many of the young people identified as at risk. That is not to say that we have "solved the problem" in Derby – there are perpetrators or potential perpetrators in the city, and a small number of young people who continue to be at risk, despite a multi-agency package of support. No issues have been identified as requiring urgent action, but there are opportunities to give further attention to:

4.6 **Performance reporting and data**

Quarterly, multi-agency performance reports have been produced for DSCB since 2011 and this reliably captures all information about those assessed as medium and high risk. Further auditing is planned for 2015.

4.7 **Ethnicity of suspects and perpetrators**

There was an identifiable race bias in Operation Retriever but not so in more recent cases, however Police and Social Care systems do not allow easy analysis of this and is an area for development

4.8 **Role of Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)**

The Police have a separate CSE unit which is well resourced and pro-active and CSE is high profile and receives significant senior officer attention. The CPS has been sensitive to the needs of victims and witnesses and has been willing to pursue prosecutions. CPS is not directly engaged with the Safeguarding Board or CSE multi-agency group which would be advantageous but regionalisation has made this less likely.

4.9 **Role of Specialist Services**

Safe and Sound Derby is funded by the Council and focuses on engaging young people at risk and early preventive awareness raising work. There are limited identified services to work with sex offenders in Derby; this is relevant to children's and adult's services given the rise in numbers of peer on peer abuse.

4.10 **Multi Agency Teams and Social work threshold**

Many vulnerable young people receive their support by staff in multi-agency teams and they develop effective relationships enabling positive interventions which help to reduce or remove the risk to the young person. Some may require a social work

assessment to contribute to the risk assessment and early identification is required to ensure the response is at the right level.

4.11 Role of schools in preventive work

The Derby strategy identifies a need for schools to incorporate awareness and keep safe activities in their curriculum at both primary and secondary level. Many schools are very proactive around CSE but there is not a comprehensive picture of how schools across the city address this.

4.12 Licensed services – hotels and taxis

The CSE specialist manager provides the safeguarding input into Licensing panel, reviewing premises applications and providing advice. The service is also consulted with regard to taxi drivers and work is underway to agree a Council protocol which is a prudent response given the findings in Rotherham.

4.13 Therapy for victims

Leopold Street Sexual Abuse Service and CAMHS provide therapeutic support and interventions for children and young people. Relevant agencies are working on a combined “behaviour pathway” and self-harm strategy.

4.14 Gangs as a related issue

The relationship between gangs and CSE is debated locally and all professionals need to be aware of the potential connection and respond and refer appropriately.

4.15 Role of elected members

The Lead member for children’s services is a member of DSCB and has the opportunity to see and challenge safeguarding work in this (and other) areas. Training on safeguarding, including CSE, is provided to newly elected members every year and they are also welcome to attend DSCB training. Opportunity to see a production of Chelsea’s Choice has been offered to all Councillors with an interest in children’s services.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Non applicable

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Hazel Lymbery; Director of Specialist Services Andy Smith: Director of Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding Andrew Bunyan - Strategic Director for Children and Young People
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Nina Martin Head of Quality Assurance Nin.martin@derby.gov.uk , Tel:01332 717809 Appendix 1 – Implications
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The work of Derby Safeguarding Children Board is financially supported by partners including the Local Authority

Legal

- 2.1 This demonstrates compliance with statutory responsibilities

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report

IT

- 4.1 None arising from this report

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 Consideration is given to race, gender, culture, sexual orientation, religion, and disability in relation to all these cases

Health and Safety

- 6.1 It is important to be aware of the emotional and psychological impact on staff when a child is subject to CSE. DSCB tries to maintain a culture of reflection and learning, rather than defensiveness and blame

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None arising from this report

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None arising from this report

Risk Management

- 9.1 This is an area of high reputational risk for the Council and partners. Managing risks to children is integral to the work of staff and services in CYP

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The adoption service supports the Councils priorities of
- inspiring start in life

- inspiring start in life by improving educational attainment
- inspiring working life by improving skills and creating jobs