

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 26th June 2017
Report of: Kate Rose, Head of Service for Safeguarding Children and Families
Subject/Title: Response Report on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Task & Finish Group Recommendations
Portfolio Holder: Councillor George Hayes

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress in respect of the task and finish group on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and outlines how Cheshire East Council is addressing the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report presented to Cabinet in January 2017.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That this report is presented to Members to note the response to the recommendations of the Children and Families Task and Finish Group Report. Where appropriate, sign off those recommendations completed and delegate responsibility for incomplete actions to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny committee to oversee.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To update Members on the progress and action planned against the recommendations of the Children and Families Task and Finish group.

4 Wards and Local Ward Members Affected

- 4.1 All Wards.

5 Background and Options

- 5.1 In June 2015, the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee gave consideration to the interim report on CSE, led by Cllr Phil Hoyland. This had covered the strategic work of the Council and partners in tackling the key priorities in Cheshire East. It became clear to Members that some areas of joint working required more focus and a second task and finish group was

established to consider and test the application of the strategies and policies by reviewing real cases and practice.

5.2 The original terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group were:

- To seek assurances about the Council's safeguarding arrangements in relation to CSE, including:
 - The quality and impact of referral, assessment and planning.
 - The effectiveness of direct work with children and families and of services to support children who experience CSE.
 - The level of awareness among professional staff, including their willingness and effectiveness to listen and receive feedback from children and young people.
 - The arrangements to protect care leavers who are at risk of or who have been sexually exploited.
 - What is known about the authority culture in terms of:
 - Listening to children, hearing what they say and acting appropriately
 - Hearing from staff at the frontline and engaging with what they say
 - Elected member engagement with the local community
 - The quality of work with partners to disrupt offenders or preventative work
 - Children and families' views on the service they have received
- To advise the Cabinet and the Council's partners on any improvements that are considered appropriate to local arrangements and
- To raise awareness of CSE across the whole community of Cheshire East.

5.4 The Group presented their final report and recommendations to Cabinet in January 2017 and the recommendations were accepted.

6.0 Details of progress against the recommendations are detailed below.

Recommendations

1. That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Health in conjunction with Licensing Committee be requested to take up at regional and national level this group's concerns regarding the current licensing arrangements for private hire and hackney carriage drivers, which the group consider to be unsatisfactory. The group is of the view that the government should consider introducing a uniform set of licence conditions across all local authorities to ensure that the standard required by an individual to obtain a licence is the same irrespective of where the application is made. In addition, the group believes that consideration should be given to the introduction of measures to require authorities to share/publish information relating to applications that have been refused to prevent the continuation of the current situation which

allows an applicant, who may have had an application for a licence refused by one authority, to subsequently obtain a licence elsewhere.

2. In conjunction with the recommendation above, the Council's five Members of Parliament be requested to take up this matter with HM Government to urge it to review current arrangements with a view to tightening up licensing conditions so that there is a uniform minimum standard across the whole country.
3. That the Council's Licensing manager be requested to report to the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress made to date to improve information sharing with other local authorities, the police and other agencies on licensing applications for Hackney carriage and Private Hire drivers.
4. That representatives from the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Education Welfare Service be linked to the Integrated Team. These valuable additions to the team should close potential gaps in the current arrangements, as the PRU and welfare services sometimes come across children who may be missing from education but not necessarily missing from home.
5. That consideration be given to re-locating the CES Integrated Team from its current location at Sandbach House, where there are presently nine staff working in cramped conditions in one room, to a building that will enable the whole team to be located on one floor in the same building; this to encourage better communication at an informal level which was considered to be a big part of the success of arrangements at the previous location at Dalton House Middlewich.
6. That in recognising the strong police commitment to CSE, the integrated team and wider support, Cheshire Police be asked to continue with and to improve working arrangements with the integrated team, in particular to consider putting in place arrangements for greater involvement of Police Crime Support Officers (PCSOs).
7. That in the interests of consistency, the current accommodation arrangements that exist at Macclesfield Town Hall in respect of CSE conferences, which includes a separate ante room/break out area for young people to retire to, be replicated at Delamere House, Crewe.
8. That the Director of Education be requested to report to the Schools Forum on the impact on Education support services of the withdrawal of Education Support Grant in the Autumn of 2017.

The progress against the recommendations is set out and RAG rated below:

Recommendations from Over-view and Scrutiny Task and Finish group on CSE

Recommendation	Lead Officer	Action	Date	Improved Outcome for children / young people	RAG
1. That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Health in conjunction with Licensing Committee be requested to take up at regional and national level this group's concerns regarding the current licensing arrangements for private hire and hackney carriage drivers, which the group consider to be unsatisfactory. The group is of the view that the government should consider introducing a uniform set of licence conditions across all local authorities to ensure that the standard required by an individual to obtain a licence is the same irrespective of where the application is made. In addition, the group believes that consideration should be given to the introduction of measures to require authorities to share/publish information relating to	Steph Cordon Head of Service	<p>A further letter is being drafted to send to central Government lobbying on this issue. Cheshire East Council has signed up to an information sharing agreement with Cheshire Police and is encouraging other areas cross border to adopt this practice and to provide more sharing of information – see below.</p> <p>UPDATE: This is underway, but due to the calling of the general election, this will not be progressed until after the election.</p>	<p>May 2017</p> <p>Revised to July 2017</p>	Children, young people and vulnerable adults will be better protected by equivalent safeguarding standards for private hire and hackney carriage drivers across Local Authority boundaries.	

applications that have been refused to prevent the continuation of the current situation which allows an applicant, who may have had an application for a licence refused by one authority, to subsequently obtain a licence elsewhere.					
2. In conjunction with the recommendation above, the Council's five Members of Parliament be requested to take up this matter with HM Government to urge it to review current arrangements with a view to tightening up licensing conditions so that there is a uniform minimum standard across the whole country.	Steph Cordon Head of Service	Letter to be drafted and sent to 5 Members of Parliament UPDATE: This is underway, but due to the calling of the general election, this will not be progressed until after the election.	May 2017 Revised to July 2017	Current legal loopholes will be challenged to promote the safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults.	
3. That the Council's Licensing manager be requested to report to the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress made to date to improve information sharing with other local authorities, the police and other agencies on licensing applications for Hackney carriage and Private Hire drivers.	Kim Evans Head of Service	The relationships with partner agencies remain positive across the Cheshire footprint. Cheshire East Council has signed up to an information sharing agreement with Cheshire Police and is encouraging other areas cross border to adopt this practice and to provide more sharing of information. The calling of the general election has made it necessary to postpone any action taken at a national level. As soon as there is an opportunity to do this the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	July 2017	Children, young people and vulnerable adults will be safer through preventing inappropriate adults from driving taxi's through the sharing of relevant information across licensing authorities	

		will be updated.			
4. That representatives from the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Education Welfare Service be linked to the Integrated Team. These valuable additions to the team should close potential gaps in the current arrangements, as the PRU and welfare services sometimes come across children who may be missing from education but not necessarily missing from home.	Gemma Hambrook Head of Service	Arrangements are in place for EWS to operate a rota system to have a presence within the front door. There will be a review and redesign of the Children Missing Out On Education (CMOOE) meeting to ensure that pupils attending the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) who are not accessing full time or suitable provision are monitored. A dedicated Education Welfare Support (EWS) link for the PRU is in place. New links with the CSE team and EWS have been established to ensure that accurate and timely education attendance information is made available on the CSE tracker. Although this link is new, early indications of a positive impact are evident. This will however need to be embedded to provide accurate feedback.	June 2017	Children and young people will be better safeguarded through effective information sharing that identifies vulnerabilities	
5. That consideration be given to re-locating the CES Integrated Team from its current location at Sandbach House, where there are presently nine staff working in cramped conditions in one room, to a building that will enable the whole team to be	Jacque Simms Head of Service	Jacque Sims has met with Denise Griffiths and who has suggested the possibility of a secure location at Delamere House, Crewe. A consultation is currently out with the whole team to look at the reconfiguration for an improved service at the front door. A meeting has been with the manager to look	May 2017	More integrated working relationships and information sharing and planning for our vulnerable children and young people will be more holistic and therefore improve decision making, intervention and outcomes for them.	

located on one floor in the same building; this to encourage better communication at an informal level which was considered to be a big part of the success of arrangements at the previous location at Dalton House Middlewich.		at how the MFH/CSE integrated team will dovetail with these arrangements. The move to any new accommodation will ensure that all agencies are appropriately positioned to maximise effective working.			
6. That in recognising the strong police commitment to CSE, the integrated team and wider support, Cheshire Police be asked to continue with and to improve working arrangements with the integrated team, in particular to consider putting in place arrangements for greater involvement of Police Crime Support Officers (PCSOs).	Pete Shore Cheshire Constabulary	Within Local Policing Units (x 8 across Cheshire) Child Sexual Exploitation is prioritised and considered together with priority threat risk and harm matters at "Fast tac" meetings every two weeks. During these meetings intelligence is shared and gaps are identified to ensure that the threats can be addressed and minimised. Police Community Support Officers act as the eyes and ears of local policing and a key role within each of the LPUs following this process is the deployment of PCSOs. Where locations and individuals are identified as having potential for involvement in CSE activity, PCSOs are deployed to those areas at the relevant times to gather and report local intelligence enabling safeguarding activity to be taken.	April 2017	Integrated working across agencies promotes better outcomes for children and young people involved in crime or at the edge of crime	
7. That in the interests of consistency, the current accommodation	Kate Rose Head of Service	Discussions have been held with Denise Griffiths, and the current use of the spaces/offices in Delamere	June 2017	Effective engagement with children and young people who are affected by CSE, requires they are enabled to	

arrangements that exist at Macclesfield Town Hall in respect of CSE conferences, which includes a separate ante room/break out area for young people to retire to, be replicated at Delamere House Crewe.		House are being reviewed. This review is still at an early stage, however a conference provision comparable to that in Macclesfield will be actively sought.		actively participate in the plans to safeguard them. This will provide an environment to support this, ensuring better outcomes for those children and young people.	
8. That the Director of Education be requested to report to the Schools Forum on the impact on Education support services of the withdrawal of Education Support Grant in the Autumn of 2017.	Jacky Forster	A report has been to school forum to highlight the statutory functions delivered through the Education Support Grant. Schools forum agreed to contribute £15 per pupil to the Education Support Grant for 2017/18 to deliver the statutory services. Regular reporting to schools forum will continue.	April 2017	Children will be identified and safeguarded at the earliest opportunity where the need is identified within education provision.	

7.0 Contact Information

The contact details for this report are as follows:

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