

**Social Care Services Board**  
**Friday 2 September 2016**  
**Child Sexual Exploitation**

**Purpose of report:**

To provide the Social Care Services Board with an update of the work being carried out by Children Schools and Families (CSF) and together with partners to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Surrey.

**Introduction:**

1. This update follows the Ofsted report of June 2015 and a CSE Peer Challenge, and the criticisms made of the response of Surrey County Council and partners in tackling the threat of CSE and providing protection and support to children deemed as at risk of CSE.
2. The report will provide an outline as to how Surrey County Council is working with partners to improve its work protecting children, raising awareness and disrupting offenders and suspected perpetrators.

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

**Scope of CSE in Surrey:**

3. In conjunction with Surrey Police, Surrey CSF has been working to ensure that there is an accurate picture of the numbers of children at risk or suffering from CSE. We have developed and have a reliable list of the numbers both currently and previously at risk of CSE. This is a constantly changing number, as we become more confident and skilled at identifying children and needs to be regularly updated. At the time of writing, Surrey partners are working to protect and support 154 children identified as at risk of CSE; of whom 17 are deemed to be at high risk. 25 of these children are in the care of the local authority.
4. In addition, Surrey's CSF is working closely with partners, including colleagues in the Borough and Districts, to identify potential perpetrators of CSE. The Missing and Exploited Children's Conference (MAECC), which meets monthly, reviews the disruption work being carried out with perpetrators, or suspected perpetrators.

5. A performance management framework is currently being developed by the SSCB for CSE and missing children. A range of different measures from across partners will be included to help gain a full picture.

### **CSE Peer Challenge:**

6. Surrey CSF, Surrey Police, Guildford and Waverley NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) (as the lead CCG for children) and Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB) commissioned a Peer Challenge through the Local Government Association (LGA) in order to review progress in Surrey and advise on improvement work. The Peer Challenge team highlighted that a key strength is the commitment of key partners to tackling CSE in Surrey and made a number of important recommendations for the service, SSCB and partnership as a whole to continue its improvement journey. Crucially the Peer Challenge identified several key areas of work necessary to take forward:
  - Review the SSCB CSE Strategy and Action Plan
  - Review the role of the MAECC in order to make it more effective in its oversight and quality assurance role
  - Provide greater evidence of how the voice of the child is used in the development of services to protect them.
  - Identify better ways to engage the wider community in combating CSE, specifically work with Borough and Districts, faith and voluntary sector organisations
  - Build upon the work that has been carried out on our CSE data set, by finding better ways to cross reference with other vulnerable children.

### **Current Activity:**

7. As a consequence of this there are currently a number of significant areas of work being carried out by CSF and in partnership with the SSCB:
  - Engagement with Borough and District Councils to enhance the robustness and rigour in the granting of licenses to taxi drivers and premises. This includes: additional advice and guidance being inserted into licensing policies; new directives to CSF staff on vetting and endorsing of license applications; development with the SSCB of a specific training programme for taxi firms and agreement that this will become mandatory for all new applicants.
  - Reviewing the Online Safety Strategy and updating this in line with findings from audits.

- Awareness raising and training offer to children with the development of a module on CSE for schools to adopt in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) classes. This forms part of a strand of work to increase the engagement with children and voice of the child in the development of service response.
- A review has been carried out into the MAECC following the recently commissioned CSE Peer Challenge. The report is due within the next two weeks and will provide some key recommendations regarding how we can continue to improve the monitoring and management of children at risk of CSE.
- The recruitment of specialist CSE Social Workers and Family Support Workers to each area who will provide expert advice to staff, coordinate the response particularly in cases of 'Complex Abuse' and skill up the wider workforce through regular workshops and area briefings.

### **Support to victims:**

8. Surrey County Council is currently providing support to all children deemed as at risk of CSE. This is delivered through Children's Services and the Youth Support Service (YSS). All children will have a key worker in one of these services. Those at the highest risk are subject to Child Protection Plans and there are services in place to support parents in protecting their children. Where it is not possible to protect children in their own homes, Children's Services provide alternative accommodation, including in the most serious cases in specialist placements.
9. Children's Services and YSS have been proactive in improving the understanding of CSE in the county and ensuring that the workforce is equipped to identify when children may be at risk of CSE early and intervene. The CSE operating protocols have been reviewed and revised using best practice examples from local authorities deemed to be excellent. In addition, the CSE Risk Assessment Tool has been updated in conjunction with SSCB partners.
10. Through YSS, young people who are at risk and/or involved in and/or survivors of CSE are supported through the Sliding Doors Project. The aim of Sliding Doors, a 12 week programme, is to assist young females to address the issues that underlie sexual exploitation in order to help them develop strategies to keep themselves safe and avoid risk taking behaviour. It helps children to understand healthy and unhealthy relationships and be aware of the risk factors that can result in them being vulnerable to CSE. Sliding Doors has or is currently supporting over 20 young people at risk and/or involved in and/or survivors of CSE since April 2016. These

programmes run throughout the year with more scheduled during the autumn 2016 and beyond.

11. Therapeutic responses to support children who have experienced CSE are also available through the STARS (CAMHS) service and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre. Ensuring a bespoke response for victims who have been sexually exploited will feature in the commissioning intentions within the CSE Action Plan.

#### **Conclusions:**

12. Surrey CSF has made steady progress since the publication of the Ofsted report and now has a far clearer understanding of the nature of the threat of CSE in the county than previously. The CSE Peer Review provides further focus on specific improvements within the service and with partners; particularly with prioritising key actions for the SSCB action plan, engaging with a wider network of partners and ensuring the voice of the child is strong in our work with children and families.

#### **Recommendations:**

13. That the Social Care Services Board support the recommendations of the CSE Peer Challenge Team as part of our continuous improvement strategy and response to CSE.

#### **Next steps:**

14. To update as part of the development of the refreshed Children's Improvement Plan, the CSF CSE Action Plan. The refreshed Children's Improvement Plan is being published at the end of September 2016.
15. Update and approve the SSCB CSE Action Plan
16. Review the CSE Problem Profile by October 2016. In addition, provide a report to the Sexual Exploitation and Assault Management Board showing the impact of intervention on outcomes for children.
17. Carry out a consultation with children who have been victims of CSE to inform our service provision in the next three months.

**Report contact:** Kevin Peers, Interim Assistant Director for Children's Services

**Contact details:**

Tel: 01372 832422

Email: [Kevin.peers@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.peers@surreycc.gov.uk)

**Sources/background papers:**

This page is intentionally left blank