

Committee:	Date:
Safeguarding Sub Committee	19 February 2015
Subject: Update on Child Sexual Exploitation	Public
Report of: Director of Community & Children's Services	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>This report updates Members on the work being undertaken in the City of London to address issues in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).</p> <p>It reports the development of a City of London CSE Action Plan and the establishment of the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) group. It also reports the completion of a peer review with the London Borough of Camden and includes the self-assessment conducted for the process.</p> <p>The report confirms that to date there have been no reported cases of CSE in the City of London or involving any of the City's children. The report also highlights that while the City of London's work in respect of CSE is driven by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board CSE Strategy, the City's best interests are served by adopting a City of London specific Action Plan, the implementation of which will be overseen by the MASE group.</p> <p>Just under half of the actions of that Action Plan have been fully completed with the remainder underway.</p> <p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

Background

1. Since the publication of the Jay Report into CSE in Rotherham, significant efforts have been made at national, regional and local level to ensure that safeguarding systems and arrangements are fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of vulnerable children and their families.
2. The City of London has been represented on the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) CSE Working Group for over 12

months. This group has been developing a CHSCB CSE Strategy. The final version of this strategy will be formally signed off in early 2015. However, much work has been taken forward in terms of awareness raising and training across Hackney and the City of London.

3. In October, the Association of London Directors of Children Services (ALDCS) and the London Safeguarding Children Board tasked London partnerships to carry out peer reviews of their CSE arrangements before the end of 2014.
4. This report updates Members on the findings from the self-assessment, which is attached to this report under the heading 'Tackling the Challenge of Child Sexual Exploitation in London' (Appendix 1). This report also provides further information regarding the City of London CSE Action Plan (Appendix 2) and the establishment of a City of London Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) forum.

Current Position

5. During November and December, representatives from the City of London Police, Community and Children Services, City Gateway (Youth Services providers) and the CHSCB, carried out self-assessments of their CSE arrangements. These formed the basis of the City of London partnership self-assessment submission to Camden.
6. A peer review meeting took place on the 15 December 2014 to provide challenge of the City's draft self-assessment and identify common issues experienced by both Camden and the City. A final version of the City's self-assessment was submitted to the ALDCS following this review.
7. During this process of self-assessment the City of London partners recognised the need to establish a City of London specific CSE Action Plan, which would help to realise the ambitions set out in the CSE Strategy, but would be City of London specific. Prior to this, all CSE work had been framed in the context of City and Hackney together, which did not allow for the distinct profiles that each area has in respect of CSE.
8. The Action Plan sets out a number of sought outcomes against the 5 priority areas that the draft CSE Strategy covers;
 - a. Knowing Our problem, Knowing Our Response
 - b. Strong Leadership
 - c. Prevention and Early Intervention
 - d. Protection and Support
 - e. Disruption and Prosecution
9. Each of these outcomes has been rag rated either red (not started), amber (underway) or green (completed). None of the outcomes have been rag rated red.
10. The self-assessment exercise confirmed that no children resident in the City of London have been identified as being at risk of, or experiencing CSE. A recent deep dive review of all open cases to Children Social Care identified

two young people with potentially increased CSE vulnerability factors. However, there was no evidence to indicate that they had been subject of CSE. Work continues with these young people to minimise further any risk factors.

11. The awareness and approach within the City Police is supported by a CSE protocol, CSE Fast Track Actions guidance, CSE Warning Signs guidance and a police CSE Action Plan. In addition to this, the City of London has established a MASE group, which is co-chaired by the City of London Police and the Children Social Care service.
12. The first meeting took place in December 2014 where membership and Terms of Reference were agreed. This forum will enhance data sharing and the use of soft intelligence indicators to identify CSE risk that will ensure those at risk come to notice. It will also provide a specific focus on those identified as most vulnerable. The City Police will produce a problem profile in relation to CSE which will be presented to the next MASE meeting in early 2015.
13. The work of the MASE will be reported into the CHSCB CSE Working Group and the City of London Safeguarding Children Sub Committee.
14. As well as establishing a local MASE, other themes that emerged from the self-assessment and peer review which will be taken forward as part of the MASE and CHSCB CSE Working Group include;
 - a. Cross boundary issues including information sharing with neighbouring boroughs in respect of the movement of young people. While the City of London does not have any known local gang activity, community based intelligence suggests that there might be some gangs that come in and out of the City. Sharing intelligence with relevant local authorities will be key to adopting a successful regional approach to tackling CSE.
 - b. Camden and City of London both have major transport hubs. The peer review noted the importance of engaging British Transport Police and TfL in developing regional approaches to identifying vulnerable children in these locations.
 - c. The night time economy for some London local authorities will present a unique set of challenges which will need to be addressed at a regional as well as local level. City of London and Camden both have significant night time economies. Police intelligence is shared via the Police National Database and force intelligence bureau. The City police will share information with teams in other boroughs on a case specific basis.
15. Over the course of the next three months, further work is to be undertaken at a local and regional level to maximise safeguarding arrangements. The CSE Strategy will be formally signed off, the MASE meetings will be fully operational working to agreed Terms of Reference and at a regional level the police and local authorities will be collating the findings from the London wide peer reviews to support a regional response.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

The work of Community and Children's Services, City of London Police and our partners in respect of CSE supports our communities, makes the City safer and helps the City to continue to provide modern, efficient and high quality local services.

Conclusion

16. This report has provided an update on the findings of the recent self-assessment and the City of London specific Action Plan. Whilst there have been no reported cases of CSE in respect of City of London children, the partnership has prioritised the need to ensure robust local systems are in place to be able to support early identification and response to any potential concerns or issues that might arise. The work will be overseen via the MASE and the Safeguarding Sub Committee.

Appendices

- Appendix 1– Tackling the Challenge of Child Sexual Exploitation in London: City of London self assessment
- Appendix 2 - City of London CSE Action Plan.

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