

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub Committee	02/05/2018
Subject: Radicalisation and Modern-Day Slavery	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Pat Dixon, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager	

Summary

The report on radicalisation and modern-day slavery reviewed how the City of London was meeting its duty in identifying potential risks in these areas, and how these risks were being mitigated. The focus of the report was on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASCs) who were either children looked after (CLA) or care leavers (CL). In November 2017, audits were carried out on Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) where the children and young people were placed. The focus of these audits was on the training that foster carers received on dealing with radicalisation. The audits were reviewed in conjunction with the risk assessments completed on UASC young people.

The audits identified that all the IFAs were offering core training on dealing with radicalisation as a requirement for foster carers. There was also evidence that there was a direct correlation between the quality of the IFA and the potential risks of radicalisation and modern-day slavery. An area of strength is the level of expertise that the social workers have regarding young people who are UASC and the issues affecting this cohort of young people. An area for development is the template being used to assess the potential risks. This is currently under review and a new template will be developed which offers guidance on the potential vulnerabilities and behaviours of young people and how to effectively respond to them.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Parsons Green bomb trial: teenager 'trained to kill by Isis'.

An Iraqi teenager who planted a bomb on a crowded London tube train previously said he had been trained to kill by Isis, an Old Bailey jury has heard.

Ahmed Hassan is said to have made the admission while claiming asylum in 2016 after arriving in the UK aged 16 on board a lorry via the Channel tunnel, the court in London was told.

Alison Morgan, prosecuting, said Hassan told an immigration official he had been compelled to undergo training with about 1,000 other young people and he had feared members of his family would be killed if he attempted to resist (Cobain, 2018).

2. The above case shows the potential risks around radicalisation in relation to UASC young people. The majority of City of London's CLA population and CL population are UASC, and therefore it is important that the potential risks are known and reduced. The report on radicalisation and modern-day slavery identifies the potential risk factors and demonstrates how the Children and Families team assesses and mitigates these potential risks.

Current Position

3. The City does not provide fostering services and therefore commissions its foster placements and semi-independent living accommodation for CLA and CLs through the Pan London Consortium. This arrangement gives some assurance of the quality and cost of the IFA and semi-independent provision. As part of the quality assurance of these placements used by the City of London, the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager completes audits on how the IFAs are meeting the National Minimal Standards in fostering. These audits are undertaken bi-annually.
4. Audits carried out on these commissioned services in November 2017 focused on the foster carer's understanding of radicalisation and the training they received through their agencies. These audits were reviewed in conjunction with the risk assessments completed by the Children and Families team on UASC who are either CLA or CL, establishing how the City of London meets its responsibilities in assessing the potential risks of radicalisation and modern-day slavery to young people.
5. The report showed that there was a direct correlation between the quality of the IFA and the quality of the foster placement. One young person who was identified as being subject to modern-day slavery was placed with an IFA that was judged as being inadequate in their recent Ofsted Inspection. The young person has now been moved from the placement and the IFA involved is no longer being used by the City of London.
6. The audits completed on the remaining IFAs showed that foster carers received training on dealing with radicalisation as part of their core training. Foster carers also linked into the Local Safeguarding Children Board. This supported their knowledge about safeguarding issues in their area, and was a further training resource.

7. Social workers in the Children and Families Team have developed a level of expertise around young people who are UASC. They know the young people through being involved in residential activities and from the support they offer as allocated social workers. Young people are also encouraged to participate in activities that support their connection to the City of London through the Children in Care Council and residential activities.
8. An area for development is the template used for completing risk assessments. The current form is basic and relies on the expertise of the individual completing the assessment. This leads to inconsistency in the quality of the risk assessment. A new template will be designed that will identify the potential vulnerabilities and behaviours, with a section on how these vulnerabilities and behaviours have been mitigated.

Conclusion

9. The report identified that the IFAs being used by the City of London ensure that their foster carers receive core training on dealing with radicalisation. Where there were concerns about an IFA, there appeared to be an increased risk of the young person being isolated and vulnerable. A factor that mitigates the potential risk of radicalisation and modern-day slavery is the relationship between the young person and their social worker. Social workers have developed a level of expertise around young people who are UASC and the potential risk. In the past, a referral was made to the Prevent Programme when there were concerns around a young person. The team work closely with the designated officer from the City of London Police and act on any potential risks immediately.
10. An area for development is the current risk assessments being used on the electronic recording system, Mosaic. The current risk assessment relies on the social worker's knowledge about the vulnerabilities and behaviours that would be associated with radicalisation and modern-day slavery. This has led to a variance in the quality of the risk assessment being completed. It is also not clear how often these risk assessments should be updated. A clear protocol is needed. This is currently being addressed through the Service Improvement Plan.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Radicalisation and Modern-Day Slavery: How the City of London meets its Duty for Children Looked After and Care Leavers

Pat Dixon

Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager

T: 020 7332 1215

E: pat.dixon@cityoflondon.gov.uk