



Report to Children Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee on 3rd April 2017

Report of: Gail Gibbons – CEO Sheffield Futures

Subject: Sexual Exploitation Service Annual Report 2015 -16

Author of Report: Janine Dalley, Senior Programme Manager, Sheffield Futures

Summary:

The work of the Sheffield Child Sexual Exploitation Service and Alexi project is identified in the attached report for the period 2015/16. Ongoing work and future priorities are identified including how the service supports vulnerable young people through a multi-agency approach and how the wider children's workforce is being supported to recognise and respond to child exploitation to safeguard children and young people.

Type of item:

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Receive the Annual Report and note its content
- Comment on and/or seek clarification on any issues raised

Background Papers:

- Sexual Exploitation Service Annual Report 2015-16 – Appendix A

Category of Report: OPEN

These reports are provided to enable discussion on:

- § Progress, achievements and challenges in 2015-16
 - § Overview of work 2016/17
 - § Priority areas for 2017/18
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Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service

The Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service (SSES) is a co-located, multi-agency service responsible for tackling sexual exploitation in Sheffield. The service is based at Star House – the central office for Sheffield Futures. The service comprises of Sheffield Futures youth workers, management and administrative support staff, South Yorkshire Police Officers (including missing persons co-ordinators), Sheffield City Council social workers, a family support worker, a specialist nurse, and the Alexi Project. The service is operationally managed by Sheffield Futures.

The service works to address sexual exploitation on five key principals: prevention, protection, pursuit, prosecution and participation, which is underpinned by good partnership work across a range of statutory and voluntary agencies, with multi agency governance structures reporting to the SSCB.

The current SSES has continued to operate and develop in the same way, as commended by the independent review conducted in 2014.

“It is clear from this multi-agency assessment that Sheffield’s partnership approach to Child Sexual Exploitation is meeting standards to deliver effective services, and in many instances is at the forefront of best practice. This work has taken a thorough look at how services designed to respond to Child Sexual Exploitation are currently delivered across Sheffield and we have found that practice already incorporates the recommendations from the Jay report, and has done so for some time.

Kathryn Houghton, Independent Consultant, 2014

Service User Profile 15/16

- A total of **136** referrals received between 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016. This is a huge reduction on the previous year’s numbers of 255. The key reason for this reduction in the referral process being channelled through social care screening, as this reduced the number of inappropriate referrals coming into the service, and ensures that resources are targeted where needed.
- 44.9% were allocated to the specialist Protection Team workers within SSES
- 42.6% were allocated to Community Youth Teams for CSE prevention work
- 5.1% were already being supported by other services, with support from SSES; these include NSPCC, Golddigger and Safe@Last
- 7.4% Other include moved out of city, refused a service or there were no issues (No Further Action, NFA)
- The peak age of referrals is age 16 with 30.1% of the total followed by aged 15 24.3%
- Of the 136 referrals, 19 (14%) are Looked After Children. Of the 19: 63.2% in Foster Care
- Of the 136 referrals this year, 91.9% were for females
- 67% were White British background, with 30% from BME backgrounds.

Key Achievements in 15/16

- Pieces of Me 2, which is a poetry book written by victims and survivors of CSE was launched and short film showcased. This work is powerful, and supports professionals to understand exploitation but also supports young people to recognise exploitative situations.
- CSE Action Plan following independent review signed off, which drives the work forward, focussing on the 5 key principles, and ensuring continuous improvement for service users.

- CSE Participation Group supported to meet with Karen Bradley MP on three occasions to influence national policy and empower the young women to feel heard
- Witness care workshops delivered at NSPCC national conference, as well as delivery at a range of other conferences including the National Working Group (NWG)
- Alexi (Hub & Spoke) Project overachieving on training targets, in Barnsley and Doncaster, ensuring the good practice in Sheffield helps to support services in other areas.
- Implementation of new referral process through social care screening, embedding CSE into safeguarding structures, making sure that wider needs, risks and vulnerabilities are assessed holistically and reducing inappropriate referrals
- 862 Professionals working directly with young people in Sheffield have received Introductory training in preventing CSE and a further 187 have gone on to receive Advanced training.

Developments in 2016/17

- Sheffield CSE Hub & Spoke Project is one of 15 national Hubs, based within voluntary services and funded by the CSE Funders Alliance. The Sheffield Hub is part of a unique model with hubs in Derby and Cambridgeshire to shape best practice in involving young people's voices in CSE policy, service design and delivery.
- A new multi-agency operational meeting has been introduced which is attended by a variety of agencies including Licensing and Housing. There has been an increase in intelligence submitted by the SES workers which has contributed to identifying hot spots and perpetrators. These matters are addressed in the meeting and a multi-agency response to tackling the issues are formulated, with warrants being executed and arrests made.
- The Specialist Nurse attached to the service means that all young people identified as being at high risk, are given a health assessment and can be referred quickly to other services such as sexual health or the Child Assessment Unit.
- New to the SSES is a research based transition worker, funded by the SSCB. The remit is to map transition services and systems across adults and children's services to ensure that young people who are victims of sexual exploitation, are supported through these pathways and not disadvantaged further because of their adverse experiences.

Priorities for 17/18

- The SESS social workers work with screening social workers at Moorfoot two days a week as part of the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub. This will support capacity building within the Hub, ensuring that safeguarding screening processes, robustly capture CSE risk across the city.
- The CSE Operational group will develop a workforce training framework, using best practice from around the country, to ensure that we have a targeted approach to training in the city. We will increase the training capacity within the service to ensure a more coordinated approach.
- The updated Friend or Foe resource group work programme with a one day 'Train the Trainers' will be rolled out across South Yorkshire to increase the skills of professionals working with vulnerable young people.

- We will undertake an audit of Looked After Children who accessed SSES, to enable us to specifically understand and plan for their needs.
- The SSES team will be trained in Asset Plus, the assessment tool used by CYT and YJS, and supported by the Misunderstood Project (University of Bedfordshire) to make sure that young people's needs and vulnerabilities are assessed holistically, identifying strengths and risks.
- Integrate the Missing Young People Service and SSES to ensure that the city provides a robust safeguarding approach to children and young people with multiple risk factors and vulnerabilities.
- Work with the SSCB to further develop an 'adolescent contextual safeguarding' approach to protecting children and young people within their social spaces and wider community as well as their family environment.

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