

<b>Children and Young People Select Committee</b>			
Report Title	Child Sexual Exploitation Update		
Key Decision	No		Item No.5
Ward	All		
Contributors	Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People Director of Children's Social Care.		
Class	Part 1	Date: 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2016	

### 1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report is an update on the current work undertaken and issues in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Lewisham.

### 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note the paper and agree further updates on areas outlined in this paper with particular reference to:
- Peer on Peer Abuse report and local assessment profile of CSE
  - Review of MASH
  - Early Help Strategy
  - Online dangers / grooming

### 3. **Overview**

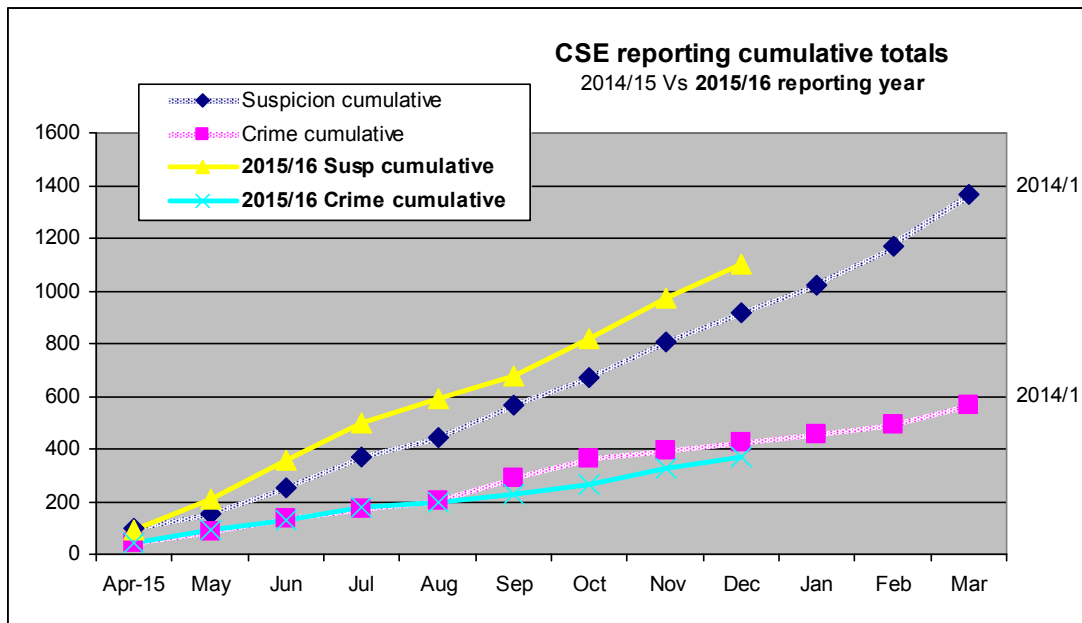
- 3.1 There has been significant work undertaken in the past year in relation to CSE including:
- Improved communication to help all agencies understand the issues and risk indicators.
  - Improved systems and multi-agency work in relation to individual cases when identified
  - Some recognition of the trends, however this is still limited as it is in relation to Victims. There is very little information about perpetrators of exploitation due to lack of victims sharing this information for police to progress appropriate action.
- 3.2 The Ofsted Inspection in October/November 2015 identified that while there was some good work, partners needed to “take action to improve information and intelligence sharing across partners regarding children at risk of sexual exploitation and/or going missing and to use this to improve prevention and disruption activity”. Action to address this is set out in the Ofsted Action Plan elsewhere on this agenda.

### 3.3 Data:

For the period of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 following police figures are of note:

	Suspicion	Crime	Int/Disruption	Detection
Lewisham	53	21	34	6

These figures are similar to other South East London Boroughs and numbers have been incrementally increasing over time.



### 3.4 Individual casework

3.4.1 Where referrals are made through a Merlin (a child coming to notice by police) the information would be shared and reviewed across partner agencies using the Lewisham MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) hosted within Children's Social Care. Agency information is shared to enable agreement about appropriate service intervention. The Partnership have adopted a 'Single List approach,' which uses a number of filters to identify those potentially at risk of or being a victim of Child Sexual Exploitation. (Appendix B) - (Linked to Recommendation 1 Jay Report). Improved IT solutions are required to enable better data analysis and inputting which is being considered.

3.4.2 Currently the data from the single list suggests the following:

- 95% are females
- females missing from home and care are at risk of CSE, including being engaged with older teenagers or men, often gang affiliates whom they believe to be their boyfriend; being given money, gifts, telephones and affection for engagement in sexual activity.

- males are involved with gangs, taking and possible dealing in drugs and 'county lines' serious youth violence and anti-social behaviour. They may also be at risk of various forms of exploitation themselves, including being groomed to engage peers in this activity
- Those children at risk of CSE have ranged from 13 to 17 years. The majority of children at risk of CSE continue to be aged between 14 and 15 years.
- 56% in Jan 16 were Black/ Mixed ethnicity
- The number of children looked after as a result of exploitation has increased over recent months. In these cases it has not been possible to keep these children safe within their family and it has become necessary for them to be looked after often outside of London in remote locations. Those children at risk of CSE who are looked after, are regularly monitored by their IRO. Risk factors are incorporated into decisions at reviews, as is required by legislation and guidance. Further work is necessary to understand the long term outcomes for these children when they return to their home environment/borough. A 6 borough Local Authority group has now been set up to develop stronger working links and information sharing. (Linked to Recommendation 3 Jay Report )

### 3.5 **Other Interventions:**

#### 3.5.1 MASE – Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation group

This was set up following the lessons learnt from the Rotherham Sexual grooming and exploitation cases in 2012. Lewisham piloted the process for London and the Standard Operating procedure now adopted by the Met for the whole of London was based on Lewisham's model. The MASE primary role is to identify trends/ themes/ links between victims and offenders. There has been some clear concerns about the functionality of this group and this was reviewed and changes agreed in August 15; this is being further reviewed in light of the Lewisham Ofsted inspection published 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

#### 3.5.2 Youth MARAC / Serious Youth Violence

This has been in place in the Borough since 2009 and was set up to support young victims of serious youth violence. Prior to the issues of CSE being brought into the forefront, cases of CSE would be referred to the Youth MARAC for a multi-agency assessment and agreement of interventions to support young people. This provision is still in place to support individual cases and is key to supporting victims through any Criminal Justice processes. (linked to recommendation 5 – Jay report)

#### 3.5.3 Operation Make Safe

A police led operation to look at and tackle issues around Hotels, Bed and Breakfast establishments and taxi companies. This initiative was

launched last year and remains ongoing. We have been advised and police are satisfied that TFL have visited all Taxi firms in Lewisham.

### 3.5.3 Highlighting risk indicators and programmes delivered in schools

As part of a wider concern about exploitation of children, all Head Teachers have been reissued a document outlining risk indicators, what to do, where to get support and advice. This is continuously refreshed and reiterated. Wide scale training, including for schools, is in place and has been rolled out across all agencies. This includes training from Safer London Foundation; where we have benefitted from a CSE advocate working with the Borough. (linked to recommendation 9 – Jay report).

### 3.5.4 *Safer London Foundation:*

This is commissioned by the Home Office. The early intervention group work programme from years 8 and/or 9 is creative, interactive and flexible. Over the course of 10 weeks, the group programme aims to provide the participants with the skills and awareness to make informed decisions and to give them practical tools to enable them to stay safe, understand their behaviour and potentially change it in the long term. Sessions focus on topics including healthy relationships, risk management and consent, gangs and crime and self-esteem and aspirations. In addition to the 10 week programme the service offers drop down (one-off) sessions for whole school year groups on consent and healthy relationships.

### 3.5.5 *Tender Arts:*

Commissioned by London Councils to deliver to one primary school in every borough in London. The Healthy Relationships Primary Schools Project is a two day project with one form of Year 6 students (approx 25-30 students) who will become Ambassadors for healthy relationships within their school.

Their aim is to help students develop skills for building healthy and respectful relationships, through open, creative workshops that explore the healthy and unhealthy aspects of friendships, empowering students to consider their attitudes and behaviour in an age appropriate way. The culmination of the two day project is a presentation, where students can share their knowledge to their peers from year 4, 5 and 6 (approx 180 students), with the support of two facilitators.

The project can also include a 1 hour CPD accredited Staff INSET training session for 20 or more staff, enabling them to become more confident around these issues and the safeguarding practice surrounding these topics.

### 3.5.6 *SafeDate:*

This Project has an emphasis on Domestic Violence, covering young people's own relationships, including LGBT relationships, and also

parental and familial violence. Hate Crime and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) issues feature, including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage. The issues are approached sensitively to encourage young people to seek help whether as victim, perpetrator, witness or friend.

#### 3.5.7 *Rape Crisis Centre:*

Deliver sessions in schools around London in relation to Consent, self-esteem and trust. This is a 6 weekly programme and is funded by the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC.)

#### 3.5.8 *On line Grooming:*

Lewisham coordinated the "Lewisham Conversation about on line dangers " in Oct 15. This work engaged with 10 schools within the Conversation, and all schools across the borough in relation to a survey. This work is in its infancy, but is of greatest concern in relation to risks it presents to young people. The Conversation was captured through graphic arts and will be used in schools across Lewisham to continue the conversation.

#### 3.5.9 *Multi Agency Training*

The LSCB has rolled out multi agency training across all professionals and agencies. There will also be a launch of the CSE Strategy which will ensure full outreach of the document and encourage more agencies to be aware and involved. The Launch of the new VAWG service in April 15 has ensured this agenda and support is considered alongside wider aspects of VAWG.

### 3.6 **Multi Agency working**

Police have dedicated resources focussed on CSE. These officers work to a single Chief Inspector which links together officers across Gangs and serious violence, Youth Offending, Missing Person, Integrated Offender Management and Sexual offenders. This has enabled improved information sharing and identification of trends.

There is a dedicated CSE Senior social worker who alongside the borough's dedicated missing officer focus on the issue of CSE for individuals.

(linked into recommendation 7 – Jay Report).

The following website is an example of support services available Nationally that would be shared with partners :

<http://www.itsnotokay.co.uk>

### 4. **OFSTED Inspection of Services for Children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers:**

4.1 The Ofsted inspection was published on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The report identified that the Local authority response to children who go missing

and those at risk of child sexual exploitation, although inconsistent is protecting children and young people. One of the 9 recommendations for improvement, relates specifically to CSE, noting that the Local Authority should -

*“Take action to improve information and intelligence sharing across partners regarding children at risk of sexual exploitation and/or going missing and use this to improve prevention and disruption activity.”*

This corresponds with Ofsted’s recommendations to the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board that strategic co-ordination of CSE work requires greater connectivity. Equally Ofsted concluded that work to address the needs of children who go missing from home or care needed greater analysis and focus on collation of information.

There is a clear and on-going role for the LSCB in relation to the partnerships delivery and strategic oversight of children at risk of CSE or who go missing. A CSE sub group has been in place since 2015 and this provides regular updates to the LSCB o its work to deliver the CSE action plan (see Appendix A) In line with the Ofsted judgements this Board is being revised with new Terms of Reference and Membership. (linked to recommendation 11 Jay report) and the plan will be updated accordingly.

## **5. Next Steps considerations**

- 5.1 The review of governance arrangements for CSE will focus on operational delivery to improve the way children’s social care, the CSE team and integrated youth and support services should work better together to ensure that children affected by CSE are well supported and offered an appropriate range of preventive services, that analysis is taking place within the MASE group to identify trends, themes and hotspots in this area and that the strategic CSE group in turn acts on this intelligence delivering best practice to ensure this group of young people are protected and future harm minimised.
- 5.2 The Borough is undertaking a Local Assessment Profile of CSE (similar to the one completed in Dec 15 for Serious Youth Violence). This is based on work developed by Carlene Firmin, a leading academic and practitioner in the field. Carlene will be working with the Borough to help consider the individual issues of CSE as well as considering the linked aspects of Peer on Peer abuse (CSE, Serious Youth Violence and Domestic abuse of young people).  
<http://www.msunderstood.org.uk/assets/templates/msunderstood/style/documents/MSUPB02.pdf>
- 5.3 A review of Early Help has been initiated via a multi-agency Early Help Board to develop a strategy to ensure Early intervention is delivered in line with our aspirations for children in Lewisham. This will focus on workforce development, Common Assessment Framework and Team

around the Child processes, development of the MASH and Children's Social care Referral & Assessment Team.

- 5.4 Improving Prosecutions and/ or Preventative Orders - CSE is categorised into Level 1, 2 and 3. Borough Officers deal with Level 1. These are basically suspicions of CSE from 3rd parties (partners).
- 5.5 Obtaining prevention Orders including Grooming Orders is difficult without comprehensive intelligence and named individuals are not provided for police to pursue. The review of MASH that is currently being undertaken will help to ensure the correct early checks are conducted and timely strategies are employed to address need in this area.
- 5.6 Reviewing the range of interventions for victims, assessing impact, effectiveness, self-reporting by service users, service users involvement in design and changes to any interventions.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The work described in this paper is intended to be within existing budget envelopes. It is also dependent on some external funding sources e.g. MOPAC.

## **7. Legal & Human Rights Implications**

- 7.1 The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on the local authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to the combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 7.2 These statutory duties amongst others feed into the Council's Children and Young People Agenda.

## **8. Equalities Implications**

- 8.1 Developing safe and secure communities is central to the work of the Council as a whole. The CSE agenda focuses on all young people at risk of exploitation with a significant number being female and under 16.

## **9. Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 9.1 Section 17 places a duty on partners to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in their area. The level of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken in the day-to-day of local bodies and organisations. The responsible authorities are required to provide a range of services in their community from policing, fire protection, planning, consumer and environmental protection, transport and highways. They each have a key statutory role in providing these services and, in carrying out their core activities,

can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area.

## **10. Environmental Implications**

- 10.1 Key decisions made which may have environmental implications will be consulted about all agreed activity before proceeding.

For further information on this report please contact Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney Head of Crime Reduction & Supporting People, Directorate for Community Services on 020 8 314 9569 and Stephen Kitchman, Director Children's Social Care on 0208 314 8678





**Management Oversight DMT**

CSE young people at risk single list

