

CYP SELECT COMMITTEE		
Report Title	Child Sexual Exploitation Update	
Key Decision	No	Item No.
Ward	All	
Contributors	Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People Director Children's Social Care	
Class	Part 1	Date: 13 July 2017

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report is an update on the current understanding, work and issues in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation/ Peer on Peer abuse within the Borough.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the paper and agree further updates

3 Policy Context

- 3.1 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is one of the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board's (LSCB) and the Lewisham Children and Young People's Plan key priorities. The 17/18 Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan identifies Peer on Peer abuse (under 25 year old) and gender based violence as key priorities under the broader priority of all violence.

4 Overview

- 4.1 Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is one of the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board's (LSCB) and the Lewisham Children and Young People's Plan key priorities. It is one of the 3 priorities of the Lewisham Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy. The 16/17 Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan identifies Peer on Peer abuse (under 25 year old) and Violence Against Women and Girls as 2 of its 4 priorities.

- 4.2 Child Sexual exploitation is defined as the as:

"...a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology."Dfe February 2017.

- 4.3 The Lewisham Safeguarding Children's Board has overall responsibility for ensuring there is a coordinated, multi-agency response to children at risk of sexual exploitation, going missing or being exploited and/ or trafficked. A subgroup of the LSCB, the MET (Missing, Exploited and Trafficked) Board, has been established to provide strategic oversight of missing, exploited and trafficked children. Two other boards report to this group, a tactical group which meets monthly and a weekly operational group reviewing individual children and young people for whom there are MET concerns and holding these within a single list of children/young people at risk with regard to with features of CSE, Missing and Serious Youth Violence.
- 4.4 The MET Board has accountability for delivery of the MET strategy that has previously been presented to Select Committee.
- 4.5 Based on the single list between January – June 2017 there were 25 cases referred with a CSE concern to the MET, some of these will be young people repeat concerns as well as newly identified. Of these 3 are RAG rated as a High concern. Thirteen of these children/young people were ages 9-14, with the remainder being 15 and above. Of those on the single list there is a correlation for many between CSE and serious youth violence. The report below outlines partnership activity and developments since the last Select Committee to address identified need.

5 Update from last Select Committee

- 5.1 The previous Select Committee presentation regarding Child Sexual Exploitation identified the following areas for further update:
- Completion of the peer on peer abuse analysis and assessment.
 - Work with Safer London and MsUnderstood Partnership, to further understand the local issues and embed a wide scale training and delivery in relation to Peer on peer abuse.
 - Developed the revised delivery new structures and joint planning agenda.
 - Reviewed the Greenwich University research on CSE models and how Lewisham's 'Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (MET) approach may shape the London wide model.
 - Development of Lewisham MET response

6 Peer on peer abuse analysis and assessment

- 6.1 In March 16, the Safer Lewisham Partnership prioritised Peer on Peer abuse of under 25 year olds based on its annual strategic needs assessment and emerging trends where greater consideration of complex adolescents was required. The Borough recognised the separate focus on areas such as Serious Youth Violence, Child Sexual Exploitation, Domestic Abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour but was

keen to understand if there were any cross overs, similar risk indicators and any learning to be shared in considering young people as complex adolescents and not labelled, often negatively as Looked After Children, Young Offender or Victim of crime.

6.2 The following areas were considered as requiring partnership commitment for focus:

- A full understanding about the issues of Peer on Peer abuse in Lewisham across the whole children's economy.
- Commitment to supporting the Trauma Informed Approach in our collective response to this client group.
- A universal programme for schools covering all aspects of peer on peer abuse.
- Continued development of the work of the MET (Missing, Exploited and trafficked) and the Serious Youth Violence Prevention Panel.
- Review of all partners assessments and consideration of contextual/environmental risks.
- Partnership commitment to considering contextual risks in all the work on Peer on Peer Abuse.
- Mapping of peer groups and drugs markets as it impacts in Lewisham.
- Support training for all practitioners along with on line briefings to support ongoing knowledge building and information sharing.
- Building on a community trauma informed approach/ restorative approach/building network of Trusted Adults within communities.
- In order to effectively raise awareness of issues facing young people online this social media gap must be closed to the greatest degree possible, without this facilitators and educators lack credibility when addressing the issue from the perspective of young people.
- Many young people expressed surprise to learn of the permanence and long-term effects of information which is put online. Effective education may include using case studies of people adversely affected by the release of private information online.
- Ensure the 5 key messages developed by young people are shared and used proactively to support this agenda.

7 Work with Safer London and MsUnderstood partnership to further understand the local issues and embed a wide scale training and delivery in relation to Peer on peer abuse. Review the new structures and joint agenda.

7.1 The recent audit of our CSE approach was undertaken by the University of Bedfordshire. The following areas were highlighted:

- The MET process and Serious Youth Violence prevention Panel was seen as a strength. With the Frequency people connected to understand what is going on and the changing nature of the problems. There was recognition that the peer on peer abuse

and its different forms and different responses were clear and had the link up for adolescent risk

- There was comment about the language used by practitioners with positive reflection. The chairing of meetings was recognised as strong, balancing sympathetic approaches to professional approaches.
- It was noted that Professionals really care about the young people and really know the cases. There was Drive and commitment in senior management and clear agreement to ensure the contextual engagement agenda was developed going forward
- “It is evident from the Single List, which weekly monitors cases where young people have been identified as Missing, Trafficked, CSE that there is some level of cross over with those involved in Serious Youth Violence.”
- Young people identified within the Missing, Exploited and trafficked Cohort (which includes CSE) spoke about their experiences.

7.2 Following a Peer on Peer abuse Conference in Lewisham held in February 2017 the following themes and lines of enquiry were identified and discussed:

- The definition of abuse is still considered as an adult on a child and not in the context of peer on peer abuse.
- Group dynamics are underestimated – do we fully understand those who are the leaders / followers/ the trauma caused within the group etc. It is often not perceived as serious.
- The relationship between public and social spaces – harmful attitudes are Present, the behaviour becomes normalised and parents/ practitioners can't protect them.
- Early responses to victimisation is critical to dealing with peer groups.
- Peer influences are very powerful and important – these can and should be positive factors. Are there safe spaces?
- How do current assessment forms enable assessing peer dynamics.
- Is there a joint partnership approach to dealing with contextual risk.
- Programmes and projects within the community should not be duplicating what social workers do – it should not be focused solely on the outcome for individuals but the outcome for the community.
- Disruption at all angles is essential; we have to change the situation not just the young person. It's critical to not just displace the people. The importance of the notion of a safe environment is important in bringing long term change.
- These new challenges need new approaches. The workforce need leadership buy in and giving permission to deliver in this new way and inclusion of a trauma informed approach.
- Trauma is not being able to put language to something which is addressed through fear, shame or injustice.

- Highly stressed professionals do not lend themselves to working positively for traumatised people.
- How services are presented is important.
- Building a trustworthy relationship for a child is imperative.

7.3 Given these findings it is important to consider whether:

- Our response to peer-on-peer abuse is focused.
- Our assessments of risk and interventions with young people, recognise that individual experiences do not cause the abuse that they experience, but may be used by others who have power over them.
- A focus on individual risk factors is resulting in some young people being under-identified by services or multi-agency partnership.
- Environmental influences are sufficiently accounted for in both risk assessments and interventions – do we intervene with contexts or just individuals?
- There is confidence in your understanding of consent, and recognise the ways in which environments, contexts and relationships can limit the safe choices available to young people.
- Our interventions attempt to control young people's choices or open up safer choices for them to consider.

7.4 A self-assessment/ evaluation of the MET processes is being undertaken, this will consider the weekly mapping and monitoring of the children on the single list and the monthly trend analysis and oversight of the strategic MET group as well as interdependencies with other panels. Learning will be incorporated into the MET Strategy and Plan.

8 Greenwich University Research

8.1 This work has concluded with some recommendations made in relation to Domestic Abuse. These will help shape further multi agency developments in our collective response to Domestic Abuse.

9 Development of Lewisham MET Response

9.1 The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) was commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) of Bromley, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark to undertake a mapping exercise across their boroughs relating to child sexual abuse (CSA) and child sexual exploitation (CSE).

9.2 This exercise undertook the following:

- map current therapeutic provision;
- identify gaps in mental health and therapeutic services;
- develop a directory of services of specialist organisations working with survivors of CSA and CSE;

- estimated prevalence of CSA and CSE; and, building on this information,
- review of assumptions for staffing levels should a Child House be developed in London for the South East sector.

9.3 This work is ongoing and London wide developments are in train.

10 Missing Children/Young people Response

10.1 As part of our Ofsted Improvement plan we have further strengthened our response to young people who go missing from home or care. St Christopher's, a specialist voluntary sector organisation, have been commissioned to provide return interviews for missing young people and also provide follow up independent support work as required. For the first quarter December to February 2017 the service worked with 33 young people who had been referred due to missing issues. Of these children 15 were looked after. The most common reason for going missing was staying with friends (6 young people) but more concerning reasons were also apparent such as County Lines involvement (4 young people.).

10.2 We are receiving both monthly and quarterly reports from St Christopher's and are working with them to further enhance their reach and the qualitative analysis of data from their engagement of young people.

11 Christine Christie Service User Journey CSE - Department of Health CSAE Research Project

11.1 This research is focussed on young women who have experienced CSE and/or serious intimate partner violence. The researcher is interviewing the young women about her experience, interviewing the professional who acted as keyworker and undertaking a file audit together with the professional. This work is due to report back in the autumn. Other London boroughs are also engaged with this work, which will allow us a Lewisham perspective as well as comparator opportunity.

12 CSE Awareness Day

12.1 CSE national awareness day was on 18 March 2017. In Lewisham the partnership held a number of different activities spanning across two weeks, these included:

- A stall at Lewisham shopping centre – Police and Safer London Foundation handing out leaflets and talking to members of the public to raise awareness.
- Workshops at Lewisham library, aiming to raise awareness with parents (NSPCC, Police, Safer London Foundation).
- Primary and secondary school assembly briefings (Safer London Foundation).
- Information disseminated via Headteacher's mailing & 'parent mail'.

- Social media – daily tweets by LSCB, Police, Lewisham council.
- 'if you see it , say it' – targeting taxis, licenced premises, hotels.
- Police briefings for neighbourhood officers.
- Briefings to care homes in the borough (CSC & Police).
- Workshops at Youth Clubs.
- Displays in Sexual Health Clinics.
- LSCB multi-agency briefing for professionals.

13 E-Safety

- 13.1 A borough wide E-Safety policy has been drafted and will be presented for endorsement at the next Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board. This is an emerging area of significant risk and concern and a comprehensive approach including wide scale education on the issues and risks is required.
- 13.2 A refresh of the Dataset has been agreed to include more qualitative indicators as much as quantitative measures.

14 Next Steps

- 14.1 There are a number of areas that are being reviewed and developed and further updates will be provided to select committee on progress. These include:
- Department of Health case review
 - Refreshed data set and analysis
 - E-safety policy
 - Implementation and adoption of the recommendations from the peer on peer abuse report and Bedfordshire University's Review.

15 Financial Implications

- 15.1 The work described in this paper is intended to be delivered within existing budget allocation.

16 Legal & Human Rights Implications

- 16.1 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.
- 16.2 These statutory duties amongst others feed into the Council's Children and Young People Agenda.

17 Equalities Implications

- 17.1 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.

18 Crime and Disorder Implications

- 18.1 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.

19 Environmental Implications

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

20 Background Documents and Originator

- 20.1 Peer on Peer Abuse – March 17 (Appendix A).
- 20.2 For further information on this report please contact Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney Head of Crime Reduction & Supporting People, Directorate for Community Services on 0208 314 9569 and Stephen Kitchman, Director Children’s Social Care on 0208 314 8678.