

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee – 26th September 2017

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire, to include progress against the CSAF Action Plan and information regarding Revenge Porn & Sexting

Recommendation

1. Members are recommended to receive the progress report which explains how the County Council is working with its partners in respect of child sexual exploitation (CSE). This report has been produced at the request of the Staffordshire's Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee and provides an update on the progress made since the report to the Committee on 16th January 2017. The Committee is asked to review future reports on a six monthly basis.

Report of Cllr Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

2. The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee should read the information set out in this progress report to provide them with a clear understanding of the developments made in this area. This will provide an opportunity to provide and promote robust member scrutiny of this activity, provide a transparent, public account of the work of partners, identify areas of good progress, and highlight key areas in need of further development via the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Child Sexual Abuse Forum (CSAF) which is held accountable by their respective Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB).

Report

Background

3. This issue has been discussed at the Committee meetings since December 2014. CSE continues to be a priority for Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (hereafter known as the SSCB) and its partners under their Child Sexual Abuse strategic priority. The Committee has previously requested quarterly updates to ensure that actions are being progressed. Please refer to previous reports for information on actions already reported to the Committee.

Work Progressed by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)

The Child Sexual Abuse Forum (CSAF)

4. Both Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LSCBs have child sexual abuse (CSA) as one of their priorities until 2018. The Child Sexual Abuse Forum (CSAF) was established by both LSCBs and their partners to share information, to coordinate and drive the work of sexual abuse and to hold agencies to account for promoting effective local working together arrangements.
5. Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LSCBs continue to have quarterly joint CSAF meetings to oversee service developments in this area. To date there have been eleven CSAF meetings which have taken place between 27th January 2015 and 11th July 2017. Stoke-on-Trent City Council took over the Chairing role from Staffordshire Police in January 2016.
6. A CSE coordinator for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was initially appointed in June 2015 and was funded by the Office for Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for two years. This post became vacant from the end of July 2016 until January 2017, when a new CSE coordinator for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was appointed. The CSE Coordinator post which was advertised amongst safeguarding partners. This temporary post is funded by the OPCC for twelve months and is hosted by Stoke-on-Trent City Council, with a matrix management arrangement in place with other key partners.
7. Staffordshire Children's Social Care recently engaged in a Pilot 'Inspection of Children's Social Care Services'. The report from this inspection is awaiting final sign off. However, we can share that the Inspectorate identified that strategic and operational work to manage CSE is effective and timely Staffordshire.
8. Work on tackling Child Sexual Abuse is established in Staffordshire and safeguarding children continues to be a priority.

CSE Action Plan

9. Since its conception in January 2015, the Child Sexual Abuse Forum (CSAF) has continued to drive forward the work surrounding CSE (including missing children) through the delivery of its CSE action plan. The joint CSE Action Plan falls into the following four areas:
 - a. Prepare - Providing strong leadership, effective systems and working with partners to tackle CSE
 - b. Prevent - Raising awareness of CSE among young people, parents, carers and potential perpetrators
 - c. Protect – Safeguarding young people and supporting professionals
 - d. Pursue - Disrupting, arresting and prosecuting CSE offenders.
10. A review of the CSE Action Plan has been undertaken by the CSE Coordinator in consultation with partners and was presented to the CSAF on 25th April 2017.

The revised action plan has been extended to encompass 2017-2020 and it is aligned with the requirements set out in the CSE Strategy.

11. The following information highlights the progress made by CSAF since members last received a report in January 2017.

Other forms of Child Sexual Abuse

12. Whilst the CSAF was established in response to the emerging profile of CSE, partner agencies wanted to ensure that we had safe arrangements for all children at risk of sexual abuse however this abuse might take place. Having completed a mapping exercise about governance, it has been agreed that CSAF will focus on CSE and intra-familial child sexual abuse. With the publication of the Government's 'Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020' in May 2016) it has been proposed that the governance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage should reside with the newly formed Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Domestic Abuse Commissioning and Development Board. One meeting of the Board has been held to date and it has been agreed that a scoping exercise will be undertaken in respect of delivery of the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.
13. The Chair of CSAF is writing to the Chair of the Joint Domestic Abuse Commissioning Group detailing the need for CSAF to seek assurance that child sexual abuse within these areas would be appropriately managed and any relevant inter-agency issues escalated to CSAF.
14. In the interim a Joint LSCB FGM Policy and Procedure had been updated, ratified by the Board partnerships, widely disseminated to frontline staff and embedded into local inter-agency training. This has been supplemented by a recent Joint LSCB Briefing about FGM to help frontline staff to recognise and respond to children at risk of FGM. Please see Appendix 2 to view this document.
15. The need for a Safeguarding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was previously identified by the SSCB and has now been in development across the county and city; this assessment includes data and information relating to CSE and FGM during 2015-2016.
16. The Government's review of local children safeguarding boards (LSCB's) by Alan Wood has recommended wide-ranging reforms to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which will have an impact on the way that local authorities, police and health partners work together. It is expected that new statutory guidance on local inter-agency arrangements will be published by the end of 2017 and this may impact on our current CSAF arrangements.
17. The Joint LSCB Child Sexual Abuse Strategy was ratified by the respective Safeguarding Children Boards in June 2016 and is publically available on the SSCB website.

CSE Outcomes Framework

18. The CSE Outcomes Framework is now being implemented across Staffordshire, overseen by the Strategic CSE Coordinator; with data collation, analysis and reporting coordinated by the Families First Business Improvement and Development Team.
19. Due to the complexity involved in the implementation of the Framework, a decision was made by the CSE Outcome Framework Steering Group and the Safeguarding Children Boards to pilot some aspects of the Framework within particular areas in Staffordshire for a five month period (April 16 – August 16). East Staffordshire (Burton), Staffordshire Moorlands and Stoke-on-Trent (all localities) were chosen as the designated pilot areas. Willingness to participate, interest shown in CSE as well as the use of data and intelligence identifying greater prevalence of CSE in these localities were some of the reasons why these areas were chosen. A trial dataset has been produced and reported back to the CSE Outcomes Framework Steering Group covering the period March 2016 – April 2017. Collation and analysis of the data highlighted differentiations in data recording across organisations; a sub group was created and has met to clarify required datasets and reporting mechanisms.
20. A data officer has now been appointed to collate and report upon the CSE Outcomes Framework; the successful candidate will commence their post 07th August 2017 for a 12 month period.
21. The Child Sexual Abuse Strategy was signed off at the both Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent LSCBs in June 2016 and is published on the respective LSCB websites Collation of a dataset covering quarters 1 and 2 of the year 2017/2018 is now underway, to be reported upon November 2017.

Risk Factor Matrix

22. The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CSE risk factor matrix and associated guidance notes have been reviewed and revised by a multi-agency task and finish group representative of both local authorities. Utilising feedback from professionals the tool has been re designed to better reflect local risk indicators and allow more concise information to be presented to CSE Panels and those managing risk reduction interventions.
23. The revised risk assessment tool and associated guidance notes will be utilised across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent from 01st September 2017; continuing to support the assessment and identification of CSE concerns and evidence risk reduction actions.
24. There have been a series of multi-agency briefings delivered about the use of the new tool and its associated guidance notes. These have been well attended, with the revised documents receiving positive feedback from practitioners.
25. The tools aim to assist professionals in determining the right help at the right time for children at risk of or involved in CSE. The planned 'go live' date for these

revised documents was 16th May. After a six month pilot of this tool the Risk Factor Matrix has been revised to incorporate practitioner and partner agency feedback. The tools act to assist professionals in determining the right help at the right time for children at risk of or involved in CSE. The completed risk factor matrix, from the 01st September 2017 acts as a direct referral into the newly commissioned CSE and Missing service, Catch22. The tools will be launched with a planned review date of 01st March 2018.

Communications

26. A comprehensive and effective communications campaign ('Know about CSE') was implemented across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent from October 2015 to April 2016. The evaluation of this campaign was reviewed by members in January 2017.
27. Whilst evidence suggests that the original campaign continues to have an impact on awareness of child sexual exploitation and understanding of the 'warning signs', research has highlighted two areas of concern – the impact of 'grooming parties' and young people's understanding of consent. A comprehensive consultation with 200 young people ('What Works from a Young Person's Perspective' – The Children's Voice/ SCVYS) evidenced the alarmingly high number of young people that do not understand grooming, are not able to recognise risk whilst at parties and do not have the 'tools' to keep themselves safe.
28. Based on a comprehensive business case developed by partner communications teams, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have financed a campaign that will:
 - a. challenge young people's attitudes regards parties and help them to stay safe if they do attend
 - b. support and encourage parents to talk to their children about staying safe at parties by ensuring they have the right information at the right time
 - c. continue to impact on young people's perception that sexting is normal and to update their understanding as to the new laws
 - d. improve young people's understanding of what constitutes consent.
29. A range of new materials are currently in development (in collaboration with key schools) that will be first used across ten pilot schools and academies in the autumn term, followed by a full roll-out across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent in the spring terms.
30. The campaign will utilise new 'immersive' 360 degree/ Smart phone technology to develop a virtual-reality video that will engage young people in ways never before possible and help them to analyse the risks of a party in a safe and supportive environment.
31. The communications teams are also developing an activity plan of ongoing communications activity that will continue the 'drip feed' of information about CSE to relevant audiences.

32. See Appendix 1 for a summary of the campaign approach which was presented to and endorsed by CSAF earlier this year.

Workforce and development

33. During April 2016- March 2017 98 professionals have been trained over two days through the SSCB Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Training (4 events and 1 additional session due to demand) . Since April 2017 to date the end of June 2017 28 professionals have been trained and 40 more professionals are expected to be trained on the two day Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Training.
34. Virtual College and Pace (Parents against Child Sexual Exploitation) have provided everyone with free access to an e-learning module – Keeping them Safe – Protecting Children from Child Sexual Exploitation. We have put this course on our platform for everyone to access for free and 121 people have accessed this course so far.
35. The following offers some evidence of the impact this training has had on practitioners working with children and their families:

“We now discuss safeguarding issues on the agenda at every staff meeting. I feel more confident in challenging our way of thinking with other professionals. This has resulted in more male pupils being assessed against the CSE matrix.”

“The information provided when undertaking the training enabled me to identify a number of young people accessing our service as being at potential risk of CSE and I have accessed our CSE lead and information from the intranet to pursue this matter.”

“Been able to identify that the young person was at risk of CSE and put actions into place on their CP Plan and have become the CSE Champion for the team and also attend the CSE Panel meetings for our area.”

Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE)

36. A number of partners have recognised a gap in the local co-ordination and delivery of P and S H E in schools and other educational establishments., particularly around vulnerabilities such as child sexual abuse, youth violence, prevent, fire safety, road safety, substance misuse, healthy relationships and sexual health.
37. Additionally, whilst there are some examples of good practice in this work area across the county, it was felt that delivery / provision is currently inconsistent. There is no single agreed approach or tools used across the city and county, with some schools receiving regular input from external agencies and others less frequently.
38. In other areas of the country agencies have agreed a joint strategic approach concerning this agenda. There are examples of education tools and resources

being developed and adopted to cover all vulnerabilities with an agreed resource being made available to support its introduction, ongoing use and evaluation.

39. A county-wide strategic group, initially met to help provide some direction concerning a consistent local education safeguarding approach. A county wide task and finish group has also met to scope all work currently undertaken around the vulnerability areas, to help to understand what information is currently provided to children and young people and to identify any gaps or duplication.
40. Feedback from Staffordshire's Voice Project suggests that children and young people want resources that they can relate to and are interactive.
41. With this in mind Staffordshire OPCC has agreed to fund a dedicated post for a year to take this work forward. It will be hosted by Staffordshire County Council and will look to understand the spread and scope of the current provision; the resources being used; ascertain teacher views with a view to agreeing local resources / a toolkit; and seek to understand what related support is required to assist implementation and on-going delivery. The job description for this post is currently being drafted.

Sexting

42. Sexting is defined as images or videos generated by children under the age of 18, of children under the age of 18 that are of a sexual nature or are indecent. It refers to sending and receiving, naked pictures or nudes, underwear shots, sexual or 'dirty pictures', nude text messages or videos. They can be sent from a friend, boyfriend, and girlfriend, someone that has been met online, over text or instant messenger.
43. Most young people do not see anything wrong with sexting but it's illegal and has a number of consequences. It is sexual exploitation and can lead to more serious implications. It is worrying that so many young people think it's a normal part of a relationship and that they don't realise it is a criminal offence. Under British law it is legal to have sex aged 16, but it is illegal and a serious criminal offence to take, hold, share or distribute 'indecent' photos of anyone aged under 18.
44. It is the responsibility of every parent or carer and professional to understand sexting themselves and to help young people to be aware of the risks. As a result of this emerging risk we have produced a webpage for anyone to access on the SSCB website and on the Knowaboutcse.co.uk website. These webpages contain a number of resources that can be used to help family members and professionals to explain the implications of sexting. However, the SSCB partnership are aware that sexting is becoming a massive issue that children and young people are facing locally and it is becoming an increasing area of concern.
45. The National Crime Agency recently reported that child protection officers are investigating an average of one case involving sexting every day. The College of Policing published guidance for police officers responding to cases where young people are producing and sharing sexual images of themselves or others (sexting) in November 2016. This advice relates to where young people are voluntarily

creating and sharing images with each other. It advises police forces to use the recently introduced 'outcome 21' recording code to record that a crime has been committed, but that it is not considered to be in the public interest to take criminal action against the people involved. The aim of this is to help to provide a proportionate response to sexting, to reduce stigma and reduce the risk of criminalising children and young people.

For the Whole World to See

46. In addition, the 'Say No to Sexting' campaign (implemented as part of the wider 'Know About CSE' campaign) was implemented and was successful in reducing the number of young people who believe that sexting is a normal and part of a healthy relationship. The approach to impacting on sexting in Staffordshire was recognised nationally when John Wood, joint Chair of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent safeguarding children board, presented the approach at a national conference.
47. Burton and South Derbyshire College worked with the SSCB to produce a short film that would raise young people's awareness of sexting. Young people at the college were asked to produce a film that would appeal to young people from year 7 to year 11, to highlight what sexting actually was, the implications of sending indecent images to other people and that it is an illegal practice. The final version of the film was shared in December 2015 and has been extremely well received by professionals and young people with over 2,100 visitors during the 'Say No to Sexting' campaign alone; it has also been requested nationally. To view the SSCB sexting webpage please go to: www.staffsscb.org.uk/Training/Learning-resources/Sexting.
48. A new Joint LSCB '*Responding to Sexting (Youth Produced Sexual Imagery): Guidance for Professionals*' is also in the final stages of development. This document was sent to a wide range of professionals including Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in education establishments and the Youth Offending Services to help to ensure that it provides the right advice and gives professionals the confidence to respond effectively to sexting situations. The final document is scheduled to be disseminated to frontline practitioners in September.
49. Following the dissemination the above information and Risk Factor matrix in September, a review of existing sexting materials targeting young people will be undertaken. This review will identify whether existing materials are effective in enabling young people to understand the new laws around sexting and further impact on the zeitgeist that it is 'normal.' New content will be developed by the Communications teams as appropriate and will be rolled out across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Learning and improvement

50. A series of Joint Targeted Area Inspections and Local Authority Targeted Inspections by Ofsted focusing on child sexual exploitation and children missing from home school or education took place in 2016. Ofsted's thematic report '*Time to Listen- a joined up response to child sexual exploitation and missing children*'

details findings from the inspections and was published in September 2016. An Executive Summary of this report was shared across the LSCB partnerships.

51. As a result of the Ofsted thematic learning it was acknowledged that further work needed to be done to help practitioners to understand the role of CSAF. As a result a 'One minute guide' in relation to CSE and CSAF was developed and disseminated to frontline managers and practitioners.

An update of the work progressed by Staffordshire Police

52. There are now two Staffordshire Police teams responding to the issue of CSE:
 - a. The On-street Child Exploitation Team; and
 - b. The On-line Child Sexual Exploitation Team (working as Operation Safenet)
53. Funding for Preventing CSE Team concluded in March 2017 and this team is no longer in existence. However, starting on 1st September 2017, Catch 22 will be providing lower level CSE Prevent interventions as well as dealing with all missing children return interviews (which were formerly undertaken by Base 58).

Operation Safenet

54. The team is comprised of a Detective Sergeant, seven Detective Constables and an Investigative Officer and tackles all aspects of online abuse. Operation Safenet (On-line Child Sexual Exploitation) is a team of officers who are both proactive and reactive in dealing with on line child sexual exploitation. The team proactively targets groups or individuals who are seeking to distribute indecent images of children and those who are grooming children online in order to meet them to commit further sexual offences. The team work closely with regional, national and international law enforcement agencies sharing intelligence to safeguard victims and bring offenders to justice.

On Street Child Exploitation Team (CET)

55. The on street CSE investigative team comprises of a Detective Inspector, two Detective Sergeants, eleven Detective Constables and an Investigative Officer. Two social workers (from each authority) are attached to the team. With effect from 11th September 2017 the team will be working Monday to Friday 8am – 4pm so as to maximise partnership working in CSE cases.

Abduction Notices

56. There have been 69 abduction notices issued to individuals harbouring children in Staffordshire between April 2016 and March 2017.
57. These can be a useful deterrent for both young people and adults harbouring a child. Consideration is always given to this approach during risk management strategy meetings (missing meetings). This information is now being shared with children's services. The table below breaks this information down monthly:

Date	Notices issued
Apr – 16	12
May – 16	7
Jun – 16	11
Jul – 16	5
Aug – 16	0
Sep – 16	5
Oct - 16	0
Nov – 16	6
Dec – 16	14
Jan – 17	2
Feb – 17	6
Mar – 17	1

Joint Operations

58. Operation Linear and Operation Shade have now concluded and a multi-agency debrief has been held by Staffordshire police. A Joint Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Scoping panel meeting was held in October 2016 to consider multi-agency learning from nineteen of the children involved in the two police operations. The meeting was well attended by partner agencies and learning was immediately identified and shared. The terms of reference for this review were subsequently agreed and a respected independent reviewer was appointed to lead on this review; quality input is also being provided by a Professor of Young People and Public Policy at the University of Bedfordshire. It is envisaged that the review will be concluded by November 2017.
59. Work to coordinate the revision of the Joint LSCB Organised and Complex Child Abuse Investigation policy and procedure is in progress. This document incorporates learning arising from the scoping panel and from the management of the investigation and parallel proceedings, to help improve the coordination of any further inter-agency complex abuse incident. A Joint LSCB Consent briefing was also developed as part of the learning process, to help practitioners to have a greater understanding about CSE and consent. Please see Appendix 3 to view this briefing document.
60. As previously reported, in November 2016 after twelve weeks of evidence, the trial of four men charged with a total of twenty-three offences concluded. Three men were convicted of sexual offences against four girls and one was cleared by the jury. A Jury at Stafford Crown Court heard how the girls, aged between 14 and 16, were all abused between 2012 and 2015. The three men were subsequently sentenced to periods of imprisonment of 10 years, 33 months and 16 months respectively.
61. All SSCB partners and Staffordshire County Council members were advised of the outcome of the court case on the day the trial concluded.

An update on the work progressed by Families First

62. Multi-agency CSE Panels continue to be chaired by the county managers from the specialist safeguarding service and continue to operate in the following areas on a bi-monthly basis:
 - a. Newcastle/Moorlands
 - b. Stafford/South Staffs/Cannock
 - c. East Staffs (Burton/Utttoxeter)
 - d. Tamworth/Lichfield
63. The panel have had their second annual review and it was felt that the panels continue to offer an environment whereby the Incidence of CSE for each given district can be discussed and further disrupted with a multi-agency response from partner agencies. Work in this area has seen rapid development over the last twelve months and the response of partner agencies has been enormously important to these developments and the progress that has been made.
64. In order to manage the increasing numbers, the efficiency and effectiveness of the panels this was considered as part of the second annual review. Recommendations were made and agreed by the multi-agency group including ensuring there is management oversight from the panels chairs whereby children who have been presented to panel on 3 consecutive occasions with no reduction of risk to be reviewed by the county managers.
65. Further emphasis has been placed on ensuring that the Risk Factor Matrix for CSE is completed and regularly reviewed as part of the child's current plan and that there is team manager oversight of this. It was recognised that we needed to improve compliance with this, this being a contributing factor as to why the form has now been reviewed.
66. The annual internal CSE data report has now been completed and this has been shared with CSAF and SSCB and it has highlighted that there has been a 66% increase in the number of children referred to the panels.
67. The number of children discussed at panel from April 2016 to March 2017 has been 221, 90% females and 10% boys with the youngest child referred to panel being 10 years old and higher representation of 12 and 13 year olds. It is acknowledged that the age being referred is younger however it is felt that this is due to the fact that identification and awareness amongst the public and professionals has improved.
68. There was 81% identified as being from the family home however, some young people do move on into a care setting from this percentage but the majority of young people discussed are from a family home.
69. The annual internal data report has also identified that that the busiest panels are Newcastle/ Moorlands and Lichfield and Tamworth.

70. Panels remain well attended and additional partner agencies have started to attend and are proving critical in supporting locality information. Following each district CSE panel information continues to be shared with all Families First Staff and partner agencies that has been gathered at the panel regarding areas that young people are known to congregate where CSE is a concern, substance and alcohol misuse occurs, anti-social behaviour and known safer areas where they may also congregate.
71. It is still felt that this locality knowledge will assist practitioners in becoming more adept at spotting the signs. Positive feedback continues to be received and has been provided from both practitioners internally and external partner agencies and as a result of this information is being shared. It is recognised that whilst the panel consider disruption techniques of CSE that there needs to be a collective multi-agency approach to continue to develop this further, such as utilising Civil Injunctions more.
72. Staffordshire have now started the second annual review of the CSE Panels which seeks feedback from partners as part of this process. The findings from this review will then also feedback to partners and the quarterly Strategic CSE Action Plan will continue to identify gaps and further develop the CSE Panel Process; this is underpinned by the internal operational CSE action plan. Both of these plans sit under the SSCB CSE action plan that is being coordinated by the Staffs/ Stoke Coordinator.
73. Staffordshire's CSE Coordinator continues to attend the Stoke-on-Trent CSE Panel and the Stoke CSE Social Worker attends the Newcastle and Moorlands CSE Panel in order to ensure that cross borders issues are identified and shared. We continue to share information with other Local Authority CSE Coordinator equivalent regarding Staffordshire children placed out of area and any locality knowledge and hotspots we become aware of to support the disruption of CSE in other areas. The panel also discuss any Out of County Looked after Children placed in Staffordshire we become aware of and ensure their allocated worker are invited to attend or share information.
74. A strategy was developed to consider post 18 young people known to Families First felt to be at risk of sexual exploitation. It has been identified to further develop CSE support for this age group and at present they will continue to be discussed at CSE panels in order to continue gathering victim/offender/location details. We will also link this to the Vulnerability Hubs as appropriate.
75. There is a process in place whereby the Gangs and Youth Violence Coordinator is cited regarding all children referred to panels and an invite extended to attend where possible.
76. The Voice Project is leading on capturing the voice of child through consultation with young people. This consultation is being delivered through a tiered approach with a wide range of young people who may be affected by CSE from prevention and raising awareness, through to those vulnerable young people who are most at risk of becoming victims of CSE. Initial consultation completed has been with

young people at the universal needs level and aims to understand and capture the voice of the child around interventions, prevention and awareness raising in CSE.

77. The CSE panels continue to cross reference cases with consideration of referral being made to the National Referral Mechanism under the Modern Day Slavery Legislation. There has been progress in the widening the understanding of trafficking as an aspect of CSE which faces young people within Staffordshire and consequently, referrals have now been made with the local authority as a first responder seeking advice and guidance from the Modern Day Slavery lead at Staffordshire Police. A separate update for the Modern Slavery scrutiny report has been provided. A good practice guide was developed for practitioners in order to promote the awareness of the duty to refer to the NRM and how to refer.
78. Steve Hewitt, Missing Education Officer is now cross referencing young people who are discussed at CSE panel with children missing education.
79. CAMHS are also now a panel member for three of our district panels now; requests have been made for this attendance to be considered at the North and Stafford panels and this is currently being considered. There is increasing support from CAMHS to contribute to the CSE panels and this will continue to be developed.
80. The FF CSE Co-ordinator and Education Safeguarding Lead propose to deliver further CSE education and awareness workshops to Designated Safeguarding Leads across the county for Primary, Middle and Secondary Education. These workshops aim to provide further awareness of CSE, consent, safeguarding advice and the local process surrounding the CSE Panels.
81. The Strategic Lead for Specialist Safeguarding and FF CSE Co-ordinator are also involved in the regional CSE strategic governance group (SGG) in response to the Regional problem profile and contribute to the action plan which supports this with partners.
82. The CSE Coordinator continues to attend the YOS re-offending panel that takes places on a monthly basis in order to cross reference children who are felt to be at risk of CSE in Staffordshire.
83. The FF CSE Co-ordinator continues to attend both the Operational and Strategic Missing Overview Boards, the Strategic Overview Board is also attended by the Specialist Safeguarding Development Manager; strengthening links between missing children CSE abductions and trafficking.
84. The Strategic Lead for Specialist Safeguarding and FF CSE Co-ordinator are also involved in the regional CSE strategic governance group (SGG) in response to the Regional problem profile and contribute to the action plan which supports this with partners.
85. The FF CSE Co-ordinator continues to attend the Staffordshire Police CSE Force Working Group on a monthly basis where there is a discussion regarding the overview of CSE Panels, themes and wider issues pertaining to CSE.

86. The Families First CSE Action plan has been further progressed, largely within expected timescales. It is now proposed that this will be reviewed on a quarterly basis rather than monthly.
87. A tracker continues to be used for teams to complete which includes all low, medium and high risk cases. This will be completed by teams bi-monthly in line with collating cases to be referred to CSE Panel.
88. The County Manager for Specialist Safeguarding Service continues to attend strategic meetings regarding gangs, youth violence and vulnerability and also chairs the CSE panel.
89. Agreement was given by the County Manager for Responsive Services to ensure that the FF CSE co-ordinator and Specialist Safeguarding Manager is copied into all referrals whereby CSE is an identified risk indicator. This will allow for further oversight of decision making at the front door and offers the advice and support of the FF CSE Co-ordinator as a single point of contact.
90. Learning from recent joint investigations with Staffordshire Police into cases of CSE has been progressed with Families First practitioners as part of the learning and development schedule.
91. A DIP sample audit has been completed to ensure that the CSE RFM and CSE panel minutes are recorded on files.
92. A CSE referral pathway flow chart is being developed by the FF CSE coordinator in order to ensure further compliance with the panel and also to raise awareness and support practitioners attending with a focus.

Update on work progressed by Commissioning Services

93. From 1 September 2017, national charity and social business Catch 22 started to deliver a new service that will tackle child sexual exploitation and missing children through a range of early work and targeted support with children, young people and families. The contract for the service has been commissioned by Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; it has been awarded following a detailed competitive procurement exercise over a number of months.
94. The service will cover Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire and will co-locate/hot desk in local authority and partnership buildings where possible to allow close working between agencies and make use of the space and resources available
95. The new service will deliver:
 - a. Early intervention support for young people and their families assessed as low risk, to help increase their resilience and prevent needs from escalating

- b. A relationship based approach where the professional who has the best relationship with the child will be supported by the service to deliver the work (this approach will be predominantly with low level cases)
 - c. Targeted support for children, young people and their families assessed as medium and high risk, to support them to change their behaviours and increase protective factors
 - d. Return interviews of missing children and young people in line with DfE Statutory Guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care. The interview will focus on early prevention, intervention and targeted support in order to protect children and young people from the consequences of going missing.
96. The service will replace current services run by Brighter Futures and Families First. The current service arrangements we have in place will remain until the go live date of 1st September 2017. This consists of:
- a. The CSE support service pilot delivered by Brighter Futures operating in Newcastle, Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford. The pilot service provides support for Staffordshire children aged 11- 18 years (this does not include out of area children/young people placed in the above Staffordshire districts)
 - b. The missing children and young people support service pilot delivered by Brighter Futures operating in Newcastle, Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford. The pilot service conducts return interviews for all missing and absent children and young people aged 11 – 18 years living in the above Staffordshire districts (this includes out of area children/young people placed in the above Staffordshire districts)
 - c. The missing support service delivered by Families First operating in South Staffordshire, Cannock, East Staffordshire, Tamworth and Lichfield. The service conducts return interviews for all missing children and young people up to 18 years and those aged under 11 years in Newcastle, Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford (including out of area children/young people placed in Staffordshire).

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Support Service Pilot

97. The Child Sexual Exploitation support service called Base 58 (delivered by Brighter Futures) provides specialist support to children and young people at risk of or involved in sexual exploitation. The service delivers one to one support in partnership with the young person and also works closely with partners in order to reduce risk and improve outcomes.
98. Over the last quarter (January – March 2017) the CSE service has regularly supported 36 young people please see the below breakdown (please note there were no Staffordshire LAC supported during the quarter):

	Stafford	Staffordshire Moorlands	Newcastle	Total
Regularly supported	7	12	17	36
Level of risk:				

High	3	8	8	19
Medium	3	4	6	13
Low (Risk score reduced to low during the support programme)	1	0	3	4

99. A number of outcomes have been achieved during the last quarter as a result of the support offered this has included:

- a. Improved engagement in education, employment and training
- b. Reduction in missing episodes
- c. Improvements in resilience and positive choices
- d. Reduction in risk taking behaviour
- e. Increased awareness of grooming and exploitation

100. The service has also provided regular advice and support to professionals and family members in relation to CSE.

Missing Children and Young People Support Service Pilot

101. The Missing Children and Young People Service (delivered by Brighter Futures) conducts independent return interviews for those children/young people that have been missing or absent. The return interview provides an opportunity to uncover information that can help protect the child/young person from going missing again and from the risks they may have been exposed to whilst missing.

102. Over the last quarter (January – March 2017) the missing service completed 190 return interviews for missing/absent children and young people. Of those 26 children/young people were Staffordshire LAC and 67 children/young people were in the care of another local authority placed in Staffordshire. Please see the below district breakdown:

	Stafford	Staffordshire Moorlands	Newcastle	Total
No. of missing and absent episodes	102	77	58	237
No. of completed interviews	75	71	44	190
No. of individuals	56	50	41	147
No. of repeat children	24	16	11	51
No. in care of SCC	13	5	8	26
No. in care of other LA	23	34	10	67

Families First Missing Data	
Summary by Placement Type (episodes)	Q4
Independent Children's Homes	164

Home (recorded SW)	76
Home (recorded LST)	103
Foster carer not staffs	17
Foster carer	14
Supported accommodation	29
Family and Friends	0
External placed	3
Local Authority Children's Homes	12
Totals	418

Top 10 Locations (episodes)	Q4	Total
Stafford	54	194
Biddulph	42	191
Tamworth	39	188
Rugeley	33	165
Newcastle	40	154
Burton	27	133
Leek	11	120
Cannock	34	95
Buxton	11	58
Lichfield	9	57

Q4

% of all return interviews completed	78%
% from Other Local Authorities	31%

Q4

Episodes	418
Children	219

103. Data captured by Families First for Missing episodes (not including absences) show there were 418 episodes, relating to 219 children in quarter 4.
104. During quarter 4 on average 78% interviews were completed.
105. 39% of all missing episodes in quarter 4 were from Independent Children's Homes with a further 43% of episodes reported from Home (25% LSTs and 18% Social Worker at the time of the missing episode).

106. Stafford and Biddulph are the most prominent locations where children and young people go missing from in 2016/17. During quarter 4, the most likely reason given for going missing continues to be 'with friends'
107. The most predominant reason for going missing during the last quarter was 'stayed out longer than they should' this was followed by 'problems in care'.
108. The CSE Joint Commissioning Group has oversight of the CSE and missing pilot support service and the contract in place, membership of this group includes Staffordshire County Council, Stoke on Trent City Council, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner and Public Health.

North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Group

109. Each GP practice has a lead GP for Safeguarding Children and young people who receive bespoke training that includes CSE. In addition we deliver half protected learning time training twice a year for all clinical GP practice staff. One is general safeguarding (which includes elements of CSE) and the other themed. Themed training continues as above when CSE will be delivered in depth by our Named GP and a police officer from the CSE team.
110. The GP practices receive a fortnightly newsletter where we send safeguarding updates and information and twice yearly a safeguarding newsletter that gives for example case study examples. An audit takes place twice yearly to ascertain in levels of training and to see how learning has embedded. The guidance and information is sent out and GPs have access to specific safeguarding support daily. The named GP also delivers up to date safeguarding to the out of hours GP service.

Update on CSE and Licensing

111. A task and finish group was set under the remit of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Responsible Bodies Group to develop a coherent policy in relation to licensing issues and strengthening current arrangements and ensuring a consistent and effective approach to licensing particularly of taxi drivers/private hire drivers in relation to safeguarding.
112. As the Committee will recall the practices and procedures for licensing authorities in Stoke and Staffordshire were approved by the Chief Executives Group on 3rd March 2016.
113. Work has been ongoing through the SSRBG to monitor implementation of the practices and procedures. Ultimately it is a matter for each authority to ensure that they are implementing the practices and procedures, however regular queries have been made to ensure that there is progress against the implementation. It is important to note that a great deal of work has been going on by each authority to implement the practices and procedures.
114. As the Committee will recall the practices and procedures broke into three key areas: a) intelligence b) training of staff/public/trade and c) licensing

procedures/rules (including enforcement). These break down to 17 specific actions. The update below focuses on the key actions. The current position is as follows:

a. Intelligence

- i. Additional checks through application questions – 5 out of 9 authorities have completed this, 4 of the others are nearing completion.
- ii. Additional requirements on disclosing/sharing information - 6 out of 9 authorities have completed this, 3 of the others are nearing completion.
- iii. Requirement that taxis/private hire operators keeping complaint logs – 6 out of 9 authorities have completed this, 3 of the others are nearing completion.

b. Mandatory Training

- i. Training of staff and Committee members on CSE/Safeguarding – all have completed or have nearly completed this and will have done by the time of the Committee meeting.
- ii. Mandatory training of trade on CSE/Safeguarding – this is the area where, in particular, a great deal of work has taken place in recent months.

115. As the Committee will recall the Councils cannot *require* drivers to attend the training until the policies have altered and a mandatory requirement has been brought in. An internal audit planned later in the year will aim to identify how many taxi drivers have completed the training as well as the impact this has had.

116. Alteration of the policies is a detailed process that takes some time; nevertheless the authorities have all pushed voluntary training, until the policies have been amended. This is in progress and will also be completed later this year.

Staffordshire County Council Disclosure and Barring Service Audit

117. An internal audit of safer recruitment practices relating specifically to taxi contractors Passenger Assistants and members of staff who have access to the Public Sector Network (PSN) was undertaken as part of Staffordshire County Council's Strategic Internal Audit Plan process. The Public Sector Network (PSN) connects all public bodies onto one Network and guidance from Cabinet requires all those who have full access to the PSN to undergo Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and appropriate safe recruitment checks. These checks also apply to Staffordshire County Council contracts with third parties, including all taxi and PCV firm contracts for the carriage of children from home to school. Please note that the audit validated the original points which were identified by the Transport Team in 2014 and were already either being addressed, or plans were in place for action across summer 2016.

118. All taxi firms are required to adhere to the revised safeguarding requirements and policy with conditions of contract adjusted to reflect the safeguarding and DBS

changes. Taxi driver badges are only issued following a standard DBS disclosure, although the process for drivers is the responsibility of each District Licencing Authority and not under the control of the County Council. Passenger Assistants, however, were controlled at County Council level and the County maintains control of the DBS check process and maintains a database of approved Passenger Assistants.

119. The objective of the review was to provide assurance that the procedures for safer recruitment checks for PSN users are robust and that any decision taken to limit safer recruitment checks to only those with full access to the PSN network is appropriate.
120. The final audit report was published on 22nd April 2016, which coincided with the commencement of the introduction of the revised safeguarding and DBS requirements and found that further work was still required to be assured that drivers are subject to adequate safeguarding checks. The following strengths and areas for improvement have been identified to help reinforce current licensing and safeguarding controls:

Identified Strengths

121. A Task and Finish Group consisting of representatives from the County Council and Local Licensing Authorities has been established since July 2015. The group meets regularly to discuss how safeguarding improvements can be made in relation to local licensing arrangements for taxi/private hire.
122. The County Council has met the requirements imposed by the Government relating to PSN user access.
123. The Transport department has its own database of passenger assistants operating across the whole County and the database is used by compliance teams to ensure contractor teams on the ground are meeting some contractual requirements through unannounced audits.
124. County Council Compliance Officers (for Transport) undertake audits of taxi and PCV operators to ensure that only approved drivers are used on County Council contracts. There is only limited resource to undertake audits; however the team aim to visit each SEN and mainstream school at least once every academic year. Furthermore, ad hoc checks are also carried out in response to complaints or issues, for example if schools report that drivers and/or passenger assistants are not wearing their badges or ID. Last academic year, SCC carried out audits on 21 SEN schools and 16 other mainstream schools. SEN schools represent 90% of the pupils who are transported and supported by the passenger assistants.
125. There is a clear process in place for identifying new employees who require access to the PSN and for ensuring that they undergo appropriate safer recruitment checks.
126. Relevant staff members have received training specifically in relation to safeguarding in transport.

Areas for Improvement

127. In our last report we identified areas for improvement as the committee can recall, and as you can see all of these areas have been addressed and implemented through the DBS plan. These areas were initially identified and documented in 2014 and have been addressed through the revised DBS and Safeguarding plan, procedures, training and policy, which was planned and delivered in 2016 and has now been embedded as business as usual. The revisions cover all contracted personnel involved in the delivery and management of “regulated activity”, i.e. drivers, passenger assistants and depot staff. The revised arrangements also covers Transport Team members engaged in planning “regulated activity”.
128. There were inconsistent practices in applying DBS checks amongst Local Licensing Authorities as identified and documented in 2014. These have been addressed through the revised DBS and Safeguarding Plan, procedures, training and policy which was delivered in 2016 and is now ongoing as a business as usual activity. All identified inconsistent practices in the DBS checking and approval processes within licencing of PCV, Private Hire and taxi licencing, have been addressed through the revised enhanced DBS checks, accredited training, sign up to the DBS Update Service and the appeals process. The whole process is now carried out within the Council’s Transport Team.
129. In total 2,700 applications were received to work on the Council’s regulated activity home to school contracts. Of these 550 individuals were identified with DBS traces which resulted in all being interviewed and 103 applicants were deemed to be unsuitable to work on the Council’s contracts.
130. More than 110 half day mandatory and Level 1 accredited safeguarding training sessions have now been delivered. This helps to ensure that all contracted personnel comply with the revised processes and are consistently assessed against the revised Council Transport criteria. In-house functional responsibility is key to the delivery of the revised processes and in addressing identified gaps; providing greater assurance to children, young people, their parents or carers and the Council. It also provides contracted personnel with the skill sets to identify and effectively respond to any CSE concerns.
131. Insufficient DBS checks were previously placed upon drivers of PCVs. These have been addressed as per the revised DBS plan as above and addressed as detailed in paragraphs 117, 118 and 122. No PCV drivers will be permitted to drive on Staffordshire contracts unless they are compliant with the Council’s processes. Individual operating companies will no longer determine the suitability of PCV drivers for contracted “regulated activity” work.
132. Framework contract contractors may not have applied safeguarding checks consistently. Previously on the framework contract held with various taxi contractors, the contractor had to complete their own safeguarding checks i.e. undertake safeguarding training for their staff or undertake a DBS check. This has been comprehensively addressed as set out above. No Taxi or Private Hire drivers are permitted to drive on Staffordshire contracts unless they have been

through and are compliant with the Council's processes. Individual operating companies no longer determine the suitability of taxi or private hire drivers for contracted "regulated activity" work.

133. There was not confidence amongst the Transport Team that checks were being applied in full or consistently for all contractors, particularly over smaller contractors. These have now been addressed as part of the revised DBS Plan set out above.
134. When re-tendering taxi contracts in 2015 disclosures were not provided in a manner which could be incorporated into contract conditions and therefore contracts were let without all safeguarding conditions being comprehensively set out. Gaps in disclosures have been addressed as per the revised DBS Plan detailed in previous paragraphs through sustainability assessments, revised DBS criteria, consistent application of this criteria, accredited training and sign up to the DBS Update Service.
135. Inconsistent practices for applying DBS checks for drivers of different vehicles were also previously evident. These have also been addressed as part of the revised DBS Plan and as set out above.
136. Safeguarding updates were typically held with the owners of the contractor organisations and it was expected that the contractors then passed on information to their staff and drivers. It was not clear whether the information in these updates was being adequately passed onto drivers, therefore greater steps have been made to help ensure training has been undertaken and understood by all contracted personnel, via class based and e-learning courses. These have been addressed via the revised DBS Plan and supplemented by continuous monitoring through the DBS Update Service, contract compliance systems checks and the delivery of the Council's accredited training programme.
137. An action plan to address the recommended areas in need of further development has been delivered. The complete action plan and associated policies and procedures going forward will be subject to monitoring, review and adjustment as required. The Transport Policy, including the suitability assessment criteria, is currently being revised based on 2016 and 2017 learning.

Link to Strategic Plan – Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity – Papers have previously been discussed at Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee on 16th January 2017, 12th December 2016, 8th June 2016, 18th January 2016, 6th October 2015, 10th June 2015, 9th March 2015, 15th December 2014.

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Appendices/Background papers

Update on work to address Child Sexual Exploitation (16th January 2017)

Update on work to address Child Sexual Exploitation (8th June 2016)

Update on work to address Child Sexual Exploitation (18th January 2015)

Update on work addressing Child Sexual Exploitation (6th October 2015)

Update on work addressing Child Sexual Exploitation (10th June 2015)

Update on work to address Child Sexual Exploitation (9th March 2015)

Child Sexual Exploitation (15th December 2014)

Appendix A - Child Sexual Exploitation Communications Campaign- Summary Report 2017

Appendix B - Joint LSCB Briefing on Female Genital Mutilation – July 2017

Appendix C - Joint LSCB Briefing on CSE and Consent – January 2017