

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee – 10 July 2018

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire, to include progress against the CSAF Action Plan and information regarding Revenge Porn & Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (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 26th September 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 2021. 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 fourteen CSAF meetings which have taken place between 27th January 2015 and 15th May 2018. Staffordshire County Council took over the Chairing role from Stoke-on-Trent City Council in February 2018.
6. A Joint Strategic 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 Strategic CSE coordinator for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was appointed. The CSE Coordinator post which was advertised amongst safeguarding partners. This temporary post was initially funded by the OPCC for twelve months; in December 2017 the decision was made to extend the post to March 2019. The post is hosted by Stoke-on-Trent City Council, with a matrix management arrangement in place between Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Police and the OPCC.
7. In July and August of 2017, Staffordshire Children's Social Care engaged in a Pilot 'Inspection of Children's Social Care Services'. The Inspectorate identified that strategic and operational work to manage CSE is effective and timely Staffordshire and graded Staffordshire Children's Social Care as "Good" overall.
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. The plan sees actions separated into a yearly trajectory, with each year holding themes, these themes also reflect the pathway of the Four P's detailed above:
 - a. Year 1 – PREPARE - CSE Outcomes Framework, CSE Profiles, Communications
 - b. Year 2 – PREVENT/PROTECT - Education, Expanding Partnerships, Perception and Experience
 - c. Year 3 – PROTECT/PURSUE - Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Civil and Ancillary Orders, Sustainability
11. Whilst themes appertain to a specific year of the plan, it is important to note that work on larger projects within year three has already begun. Actions around Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) are already underway, with progress against these actions sitting with a multi-agency HSB Steering Group chaired by the Stoke-on-Trent Strategic Manager for Integrated Specialist Services. The work of this group is reported into CSAF.
12. In April 2018 an event was held to invite partners from a variety of sectors to complete the NSPCC Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework Audit tool. Completion of the audit is aimed at gaining an understanding of the scope and scale of HSB / HSB related issues experienced by those working with children, the knowledge and confidence of practitioners in delivering interventions and the availability of support for children and families. Full findings from the audit are expected to be available in September 2018.
13. The action plan has seen the creation of a multi-agency CSE communications group chaired by the Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator, aimed at bringing together partner messages around CSE to make most effective use of resources, ensure a continuous stream of CSE and online safety messages and to help further promote the commissioned CSE and Missing Service Catch22 to ensure practitioners are aware of how to make swift referrals. The group has developed a calendar of CSE activity with lead agency rotating amongst the group (Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Staffordshire Police, OPCC and Catch22)
14. The group delivered its first joint campaign over National CSE Awareness Day (18 March 2018). The campaign ran over four days and was led by Catch22, with content contributed towards and shared by all partners. The shared infographics reached over 450,000 social media accounts, was shared by over 10 local partner agencies, over 1000 views of peer champion video, an 800% increase on views of the promoted information and saw 5X higher engagement than any other content shared by Catch22 in 2018, making it the most successful campaign the organisation has seen nationally. Alongside this, there was a marked increase in queries from professionals in the area received by Catch22
15. A review of the Joint LSCB CSE Strategy is currently being undertaken by the Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator in consultation with partners and will be presented to the CSAF on the 20th August 2018. This review is designed to ensure that the strategy acts appropriately upon recommendations from recent inquiries and serious case reviews and aligns with the 2018-2021 SCB priorities.

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

Other forms of Child Sexual Abuse

17. 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 whatever form this abuse may take. Following the completion of a governance mapping exercise it was agreed that CSAF will focus upon CSE and intra-familial child sexual abuse.
18. Following the publication of the Government's 'Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020' (May 2016) it was decided that 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 with all relevant inter-agency issues escalated to CSAF. The board has since developed a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategy and set of delivery plans to underpin its implementation
19. In September 2017 the Joint Safeguarding Board FGM policy was reviewed, the document was published in December 2017 and is available via the safeguarding board website
20. 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.
21. The Government's review of Local Safeguarding Children 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. In 2017 The Children and Social Work Act became law.
22. Sections 16-22 of the bill focus upon local arrangements, provisions within these sections amend the safeguarding provisions in the Children Act 2004 and set out requirements for the safeguarding partners for a LA area in England, to make arrangements the safeguarding partners, and any relevant agencies that they consider appropriate to work together in exercising their functions. The arrangements must include arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in their area. It has however, not been made clear when these provisions come in to force.
23. The Joint LSCB Child Sexual Abuse Strategy was ratified by the respective Safeguarding Children Boards in June 2016, publicly available on the SSCB website the strategy is operational across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

CSE Outcomes Framework

24. The CSE Outcomes Framework is now being implemented across Staffordshire, overseen by the Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator; with data collation, analysis and reporting coordinated by the Families First Business Improvement and Development Team.
25. Due to the complexity involved in the implementation of the Framework, a decision was made that the Outcomes Framework should be implemented via a phased plan. Data from Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Staffordshire Police and Catch22 is currently reported against the framework. Quarter 1 and 2 data for the year 2017/18 was presented to CSAF in February 2018, along with a covering report highlighting challenges, progress and making recommendations for further development.
26. It was agreed by the Outcomes Framework Steering Group in January 2018 that the indicators within the framework should be refined, this process is currently underway, led by the Staffordshire Families First Business Improvement and Development Team.
27. A data officer post funded by the OPCC was recruited to in 2017; with the successful candidate taking post August 2017 for a period of 12 months.

Risk Factor Matrix

28. The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CSE risk factor matrix and associated guidance notes were reviewed and revised in July 2017 by a multi-agency task and finish group representative of both local authorities. Utilising feedback from professionals the matrix was re designed to better reflect children's voices, local risk indicators and to allow more concise information to be presented to CSE Panels and acting as a single point of referral into the commissioned CSE and Missing Service, operated by national organisation Catch22.
29. The revised screening tool and associated guidance notes became operational across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent from the 1st September 2017, supporting the assessment and identification of CSE concerns and evidence risk reduction actions.
30. To support the launch of the revised screening tool and guidance notes a series of multi-agency workshops were delivered by the Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator and the Families First CSE Coordinator. These sessions were well attended by professionals from a variety of agencies and sectors; and received positive feedback on the documents and the simplified referral route into the CSE and Missing Service. Following their success, the workshops were repeated between March and June 2018, all were well attended and received positive feedback.
31. A review of the tools is currently underway with a view release any amended documents 1st Sept 2018. The Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator will lead the review, supported by a multi-agency task and finish group. This group will gather

feedback from frontline practitioners and will also consider feedback gained at the most recent RFM workshops and via CSE Panel review.

Communications

32. 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.
33. 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.
34. 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.
35. A range of new materials have been developed and overseen by a multi-agency steering group chaired by the Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator. The product is being piloted within a school in Stoke-on-Trent over June and July; and is then scheduled to be rolled out as a wider pilot to eleven more schools; eight within Staffordshire, three within Stoke-on-Trent. There will be one pilot school per district within Staffordshire to ensure that feedback is representative of the diversity of child experiences pan Staffordshire. The Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator will seek advice from the Families First CSE Coordinator and Education Safeguarding Lead around selecting schools for whom the product will be of most benefit.
36. The main feature of the campaign and classroom pack is a virtual-reality video utilising 'immersive' 360-degree technology. When viewed using a smart device (smart phone, tablet etc.), the technology allows the child to physically move about a room themselves, viewing on screen what they would be seeing as they moved about the "party" environment depicted. The individual child perspective of this approach allows for more meaningful learning experiences as children initially identify risks most apparent to them; then returning to small groups to discuss and

consider safety planning around these risks. Separated by individual, group and whole class activities the package delivers messages in a variety of learning styles to suit all abilities. This campaign falls under the Prevent and Protect themes of the Joint SCB CSE Action Plan and is led by the Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator.

37. The video and classroom pack will also be complimented by a range of resources aimed at parents and carers; including an e-flyer around holding confident conversations about safety with their children and how to create a safety plan, short clips of the video to allow parents to discuss specific areas with their child and experience what their child has seen and a series of social media messages around signs to look out for and how to report a child missing.

Workforce and development

38. During April 2017- March 2018 156 professionals have been trained over two days through the SSCB Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Training.
39. 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 246 people have accessed this course so far.
40. 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)

41. A number of partners have recognised a gap in the local co-ordination and delivery of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Sex and Relationships education (SRE) 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.

42. 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.
43. 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.
44. In October 2016, the Safer Staffordshire Strategic Board (SSSB) agreed a high-level, pan-Staffordshire, strategic vision for the delivery of vulnerability education in schools and colleges (Enclosure 1). As part of the next steps it was agreed that the respective Local Authorities would pursue the implementation through relevant education officers. Unfortunately, this work has not been progressed, as anticipated.
45. Although a set of overarching pan-Staffordshire principles have been agreed, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are adopting different methodologies to develop this work area.
46. For some time, the Education Safeguarding Lead for Staffordshire, has been working closely with Staffordshire schools (Designated Safeguarding Leads) in relation to PSHE. This includes identifying areas of need, gaps in provision and supporting schools to address these.
47. As part of Section 175/157 Education Act (2002) obligations, schools were consulted with via a Safeguarding Children Education Audit Tool. The Audit findings have been collated and an Education Audit Report has been written (April 2015-March 2016). The report outlines feedback from schools regarding this work area and a recommendation about future work.
48. As a clear picture of PSHE delivery across Staffordshire could not be ascertained, it was agreed that a piece of work was undertaken to scope current provision and delivery to identify gaps and recommendations. This commenced in February 2018 and a draft of the final report has recently been completed. This report will be taken to the Families Strategic Partnership Executive (FPEG) for approval and recommendations regarding next steps agreed. It is likely that this will include the development and implementation of a multi-agency action plan to progress this work.

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (Sexting)

49. Youth produced sexual imagery (sexting) can be defined as images or videos generated by children under the age of 18 that are of a sexual nature or are considered to be indecent. These images may be shared between children and young people and/or

50. The phrase “youth produced sexual imagery” is now used instead of sexting to describe the practice because:
- “Youth produced” includes young people sharing images that they or another young person have created themselves.
 - “Sexual” is clearer than “indecent”. A judgment of whether something is “decent” is both a value judgment and dependent on context.
 - “Imagery” covers both still photos and moving videos
51. Many young people do not see anything wrong with creating and sharing these images; and often consider it to be part of a “normal” relationship; however, it is a crime to take, make, permit to take, distribute, show, possess, possess with intent to distribute or to advertise indecent images of any person below the age of 18. It is important to remember that whilst in UK law a child can legally consent to sex at 16, the law is clear that any indecent images of under 18’s are always classified as illegal material.
52. It is the responsibility of every parent or carer and professional to understand this issue 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 an issue that children and young people are increasingly facing locally and it is becoming an increasing area of concern.
53. In November 2017 police forces in England and Wales released data showing they registered 6,238 sexting offences in 2016/17, a rate of 17 every day. The College of Policing followed these statistics by publishing guidance for police officers responding to cases of young people producing and sharing sexual images of themselves or others (sexting). This advice relates to young people voluntarily creating and sharing images with one another. It advises police forces to use the ‘outcome 21’ recording code to note 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; in 2016/17 police forces in England and Wales recorded over 2000 uses of the outcome.
54. In September 2017 Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Boards published a revised joint guidance document around responding to Youth Produced Sexual Imagery. Available via both Board websites the document applies to all agencies working with children and young people; including (but not limited to) schools, early years settings, youth hubs, libraries, early help and preventative services.

For the Whole World to See

55. 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.

56. 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 has been extremely well received by professionals and young people with over 2,100 visitors during the initial 'Say No to Sexting' campaign; it has also been requested nationally. To view the SSCB sexting webpage please go to: www.staffsscb.org.uk/Training/Learning-resources/Sexting. This content is due for review in December 2018, when a review will be led by the Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator, it is planned that any new materials will be live April 2019.
57. Following the publication of the revised guidance around youth produced sexual imagery, the commissioning of a pan Staffordshire CSE and Missing Service and the revision of the CSE Risk Factor Matrix. A full review of all content held within the Know about CSE website is currently underway. Led by Staffordshire County Council communications team and the Joint Strategic CSE coordinator, the review will assess the efficacy of all materials and content; and will seek children, young people and parents' views to ensure content meets need and is easily accessible.

Learning and improvement

58. 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.
59. 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; this guide is regularly reviewed by the Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator, most recently updated in May 2018 and is available via the SSCB website.
<https://www.staffsscb.org.uk/Aboutus/Priorities-2012-2013/Child-sexual-abuse/Child-sexual-exploitation.aspx>

An update of the work progressed by Staffordshire Police

60. 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)

61. Funding for Preventing CSE Team concluded in March 2017 and this team is no longer in existence. However, as of 1st September 2017, Catch 22 are now providing support and guidance to the wider children's workforce around delivery of lower level CSE prevention interventions as well as dealing with all missing children return interviews (formerly undertaken by Base 58).

Operation Safenet

62. The team is comprised of a Detective Sergeant, six 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. The team also provide the lead for the force around the increasing number of so called "online vigilante" or "paedophile hunter" incidents.

On Street Child Exploitation Team (CET)

63. The on street CSE investigative team comprises of a Detective Inspector, two Detective Sergeants, twelve Detective Constables and an Investigative Officer. Two social workers (from each authority) are attached to the team.

Abduction Notices

64. There have been 68 abduction notices issued to individuals harbouring children in Staffordshire between April 2017 and March 2018.

65. 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:

Year 2017/18	Date	Number of notices
Qtr 1	Apr – 17	5
	May – 17	7
	Jun – 17	2

Qtr 2	Jul – 17	0
	Aug – 17	2
	Sep – 17	5
Qtr 3	Oct - 17	1
	Nov – 17	0
	Dec – 17	2
Qtr 4	Jan – 18	1
	Feb – 18	3
	Mar – 18	0

Joint Operations

66. 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 nationally 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. The learning review is now complete and is due to go to the SCR sub-group for final approval.
67. Work to coordinate the revision of the Joint LSCB Organised and Complex Child Abuse Investigation policy and procedure has been achieved. 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.
68. 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.
69. All SSCB partners and Staffordshire County Council members were advised of the outcome of the court case on the day the trial concluded.
70. More recently the CET were responsible for securing a total period of imprisonment of over eighteen years for four male offenders who offended against four girls who were aged between thirteen and fourteen (at the time) in Burton. Operation Cinnamon was a successful joint operation with Staffordshire County Council Children's Services which drew upon elements of learning that had arisen from the earlier Operation Shade and demonstrated the close and effective relationship between the Police and partner agencies in tackling CSE.

71. Staffordshire Police have taken the decision to create a new county wide team which sees the Child Exploitation Team merge with Child Protection officers (who were previously working within the CID). The team will be re branded as the Child Protection & Exploitation Team. The aspiration of this new unit will be to provide a dedicated and consistent response to child abuse and exploitation across the county led by two Detective Inspectors and a Detective Chief Inspector who have extensive child protection experience. The new team is expected to be up and running by June/July 2018.

An update on the work progressed by Families First

72. 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

73. The panel is currently subject to annual review (the third), which will be completed by the end of April 2018. As part of this review it is important to assess that the panels continue to offer an environment whereby the incidence of CSE for each given district can be discussed and further disrupted using 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.

74. 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. Further work is being undertaken to track this contingency measure and also to consider the number of times cases are re-referred to panel to consider effectiveness of interventions.

75. 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. There has been a clear improvement in compliance with the use of the Risk Factor Matrix and this has been aided by a second round of multi-agency workshops being delivered with support from Catch 22, the CSE commissioned service which to date, have received very positive feedback.

76. The way in which Panel data is collated has been amended to enable a CSE report card to be formulated following each CSE Panel round, which details all of the data alongside locality information (including hotspots and themes/trends;

good practice and any issues for strategic oversight). This is shared internally with senior managers and is also distributed at CSE Panel so partners are able to recognise further areas of activity for local development. In addition to the bi-monthly report card, the annual CSE Data Report is due to be completed to cover April 2017-April 2018.

77. The Six-monthly Data Report (May 2017-October 2017) has been completed and 165 young people were identified as being victims of child sexual exploitation at low, medium or high levels within the panel. This is an increase of 19% (24 young people) compared to the same period last year. The majority, 89% (147) of young people identified as being at risk from child sexual exploitation at the Initial Panel were girls; just under half (80) are 15 and 16-year olds; there has been an increase of twelve-year olds (10 this year compared to six last year) and thirteen-year olds (22 this year compared to 8 last year) being presented at Panels. 18 of the children presented are boys, which is an increase of 4 compared to the same period last year.
78. Data from the CSE panel indicates that most young people, 133 (82%) discussed live in the family home, a further 16 (10%) live in residential placements (6 children from other LAs and 2 Staffordshire Looked After Children placed out of County), 7 live in supported accommodation and 7 are in a foster placements.
79. 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 that has been gathered at the panel continues to be shared with all Families First staff and partner agencies regarding; areas that young people are known to congregate where CSE is a concern, areas where substance and alcohol misuse occurs, areas where anti-social behaviour is common and known safer areas where young people may also congregate. This information sharing extends to inclusion of locality information within the Virtual School Bag which is shared with Schools across Staffordshire.
80. It is still felt that this locality knowledge will assist practitioners in becoming more adept at spotting the signs associated with the risk of CSE. Positive feedback continues to be received from both practitioners internally and external partner agencies as a result of this information being shared. There has been a noted increase in meaningful interventions to tackle disruption as a result of actions agreed by the CSE Panels. It is however noted that the continuing increase in the numbers of cases presented to panel due to increased awareness and identification has meant that the panels have a lot of information to consider, so work is needed to continue to develop this approach further. For example, further utilising Civil Injunctions is a potentially effective means of disrupting CSE and is an activity Panel can advise on.
81. Staffordshire have now completed the third annual review of the CSE Panels, completed by the Families First CSE Coordinator. The review seeks feedback from partners as part of its process. The findings from this review will be shared with partners and used to continue to identify gaps and further develop the CSE Panel process. This activity is underpinned by the CSE Outcomes Framework

which is an objective of the SSCB CSE action plan that is being coordinated by the Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator.

82. The Families First CSE Coordinator continues to attend the Stoke-on-Trent CSE Panel and the Stoke CSE Social Worker will attend the Newcastle and Moorlands CSE Panel where possible in order to ensure that cross borders issues are identified and shared. The Families First CSE Coordinator continues to share information with other Local Authority CSE Coordinators equivalents regarding Staffordshire looked after 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 ensures their allocated worker is invited to attend or share information
83. 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 we need to further develop CSE support for this age group and at present they have continued to be discussed at CSE panels in order to continue gathering victim/offender/location details. This is linked to the Community Safety Hubs as appropriate. It is recognised that children, when they reach 18 do not cease to be vulnerable and as vulnerable adults they can still be sexually exploited.
84. There is a process in place whereby the CSE Panel links to other local district meetings in respect of wider vulnerability issues. This includes the anti-social behaviour meetings, YOS Re-offending panel and links have been made to share information with the Integrated Offender Managers (IOM's) in Staffordshire where issues regarding wider criminal exploitation are recognised.
85. The learning from the complex abuse investigations (Operation Linear and Operation Shade) has been disseminated to Families First practitioners alongside partner agencies, including direct anonymised feedback from one of the victims which has highlighted the need to ensure the child's perspective of investigation when making decisions. This learning has also been shared with workforce development.
86. The CSE panels continue to cross reference cases where consideration of a referral being made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) under the Modern Day Slavery Legislation may be required. There has been progress in extending practitioner's understanding of trafficking as an aspect of CSE which threatens 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.
87. The CSE panels continue to cross reference cases where consideration of a referral being made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) under the Modern Day Slavery Legislation may be required. There has been progress in extending practitioner's understanding of trafficking as an aspect of CSE which threatens

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.

88. ECPAT UK was successful in its application to the Home Office Child Trafficking Protection Fund. This funding enabled ECPAT (alongside their contracted partners) to work with four local authorities (two per year) to improve their overall response to child trafficking. Staffordshire County Council was one of the year 1 authorities to be selected. ECPAT is the lead organisation but they sub-contracted the physical audit to Cordis Bright Ltd. Key activities included; an audit of case files; an audit of policies and procedures; a survey of staff; a 360-degree style survey of partners; youth consultation; bespoke training package; a summary findings report.
89. The purpose of the project is to review how Staffordshire County Council (SCC) manages potential child trafficking cases. The benefits of the project to SCC and to our service users will be that we will receive input into our current practice with regards trafficking concerns. We will also receive expertise in managing and processing trafficking referrals in the most appropriate way based on national research and learning.
90. The panels continue to cross reference children who are missing via the missing coordinator as well as cross referencing children with the missing education officer. This cross-matching data is shared within panels as it is recognised there are clear links between missing from home, missing from education and CSE.
91. CAMHS are now a consistent panel member for all of our district panels. This has been especially informative and it had been recognised as learning from the complex abuse investigations that there is a clear over-representation of CSE victims being known to CAMHS.
92. The Strategic Lead for Specialist Safeguarding, Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator and Families First CSE Coordinator continue to be 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.
93. The Families First CSE Coordinator continues to attend the YOS Re-offending Panel that takes place on a monthly basis in order to cross reference children who offend who are felt to be at risk of CSE in Staffordshire.
94. The Families First CSE Coordinator continues to attend both the operational and strategic Missing Overview Boards. The Strategic Overview Board is also attended by the Specialist Safeguarding Development Manager which strengthens links between missing children, CSE, abductions and trafficking. These LA Officers and the Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator additionally attend meetings with Commissioners and the Catch 22 CSE/Missing service which is operational across the whole of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent.

95. The Families First CSE Coordinator continues to attend the Staffordshire Police CSE/Missing 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.
96. It was agreed that the Families First CSE Action Planning Meetings will now cease as a formalised meeting as the actions in the plan are now business as usual. If meetings are needed for future targeted pieces of work, task and finish groups should be arranged as and when required. An annual meeting will be scheduled to check new actions for year for all interested parties to join and contribute to meeting. Remaining elements of the plan will be monitored by the Families First CSE Coordinator and progress reported up to the Strategic Lead for Safeguarding.
97. 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. Wider partner agencies are also able to refer cases of medium/high risk directly to CSE Panel via the Families First CSE Coordinator.
98. The County Manager for Specialist Safeguarding Service continues to attend strategic meetings regarding gangs, youth violence and vulnerability and also chairs the CSE panel.
99. The Families First CSE Coordinator and Specialist Safeguarding Manager continue to be copied into all referrals whereby CSE is an identified risk indicator. This allows for further oversight of decision making at the front door and provides the advice and support of the FF CSE Co-ordinator as a single point of contact. There has been an increase in referrals to the CSE Panel as a result of this oversight and practitioner support as practitioners are reminded at the early stages of referral of the need to consider use of the Risk Factor Matrix and referral to CSE Panel.
100. 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.
101. Work is ongoing to ensure that the CSE RFM and CSE panel minutes are recorded on files and there is now a client risk indicator saved to each child's file where they have been presented to CSE Panel to highlight past and current CSE concerns. This is in addition to risk indicators being added to files where an individual has been served with a Child Abduction Warning Notice and also if a victim has been linked to an individual where one has been served. Feedback of this is that it has enabled clear connections to be made between victims and offenders.
102. The Families First CSE Coordinator, Specialist Safeguarding Development Manager and Strategic Lead for Safeguarding continue to scrutinise national developments with regards to practice with children who are sexually exploited or

at risk of such and regularly review the internal action plan to ensure our strategy and approaches are informed by contemporary learning.

103. There has now been a successful result obtained in respect of Operation Cinnamon, a joint CSE investigation between Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Police involving children from the East Staffordshire (Burton) area. The investigation originated from a phone call from one of the female victim's father after they had watched an educational CSE video on YouTube and she had disclosed that she had been a victim of abuse. As the investigation progressed, 3 x additional female victims were also identified and jointly visited by both Police and Children's Social Care
104. The 4 victims identified ranged in age from 13-14 years old at the time of the offences and all had attended the same school. It is of note that the school also had students who were siblings to the alleged offenders attending as well as some of the alleged offenders themselves being enrolled at the connected sixth Form college. Staffordshire Police, Social Care and Education have worked closely during the investigation with regular strategy meetings being called. The meetings were chaired by the County Manager for Specialist Safeguarding and also attended by the Families First CSE Coordinator.
105. In addition to this further work is being completed with the school by the FF CSE Co-Ordinator alongside the Commissioned CSE Service to further support children within the school affected by CSE.
106. On the 9th February 2018, after the trial had started, all of the offenders pleaded guilty to 22 counts of sexual offences against children prior to any of the child victims being called to give evidence. In total, the four offenders received custodial sentences totalling 18 years. A full multi-agency de-brief will be co-ordinated and chaired by Staffordshire Police and the learning taken will further inform Targeted CSE work across the county.

Update on work progressed by Commissioning Services

107. As of 1st September 2017, Catch22 has provided the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and missing children service for Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. The service operates across the county and is co-located with multi-agency teams within Staffordshire districts. There are three teams located in the following areas:
 - a. Stoke on Trent
 - b. North Staffordshire and Stafford
 - c. South and East Staffordshire
108. The service provides:
 - 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
109. During the first quarter of delivery the service has also concentrated on building local relationships and raising awareness of the service at a local level. This has been achieved by attending a variety of strategic and operational multi-agency meetings/forums, attending the CSE panels and by also providing presentations to health colleagues at NHS Safeguarding events and as part of the Safeguarding Children Board training events. Five volunteers have successfully been recruited to the service; this will provide additional support and resilience to delivery.

Highlights from the first quarter performance data below:

Missing Service (Staffordshire)

- a. 515 - Missing notifications received
- b. 237 - Number of individuals
- c. 267 - Number of return interviews completed
- d. Associating with friends is the highest factor associated with children and young people going missing

CSE Service (Staffordshire)

- a. 44 - Referrals received
- b. Risk ratings - 7 High risk, 18 medium risk and 23 low risk

110. The CSE Joint Commissioning Group has oversight of the Catch22 contract and related performance data. Membership includes Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, Staffordshire Police, Public Health and the Joint Strategic CSE Coordinator.

Update on CSE and Licensing

111. The Transport and Safeguarding Policy and process were updated in December 2017 and widely distributed to contracted operators.
112. The DBS and safeguarding process was introduced in 2016 for contracted staff working on home to school transport “regulated activity”, the figures below relate to applicants who hold on of the following licences: taxi, private hire vehicle (PHV) or public carriage vehicle (PCV)
- a. Number of DBS applicants – 3287
 - b. Number of SCC trained, approved and badged – 2495
 - c. Applicants with DBS traces – 518

- d. Refusals – 148
- e. Appeals – 39

113. As the select committee will be aware a lot of work has been ongoing with district and borough councils across Staffordshire in terms of training, policy and procedure. At the present time an inter authority audit is ongoing and an update will be provided verbally to the select committee from officers engaged within the audit.

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 26th September 2017, 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 \(26th September 2017\)](#)
[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 \(15th December 2014\)](#)