

Local Members' Interest
N/A

## **Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

### **Update on Work to Address Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Staffordshire**

#### **Recommendation/s**

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 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The Committee is asked to review future reports on a six monthly basis.

#### **Report of the 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 Safeguarding Children Boards.

#### **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. There have now been eight CSAF meetings which have taken place on 27th January 2015, 12th March, 7th July, 13th October, 26th January 2016, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 19<sup>th</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Stoke-on-Trent City Council took over the Charing role from Staffordshire Police in January 2016.
6. A CSE coordinator for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was appointed in June 2015. The post is funded by the Office for Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for two years and the OPCC also funds consultancy for a CSE Performance outcomes framework and analysis. The CSE Co-ordinator post has been vacant since 22nd July 2016 and has been re-advertised, offering a twelve month secondment to a suitably experienced person from one of the safeguarding partner agencies. Interviews have been held and it is hoped that the successful candidate can commence their post by January 2017.
7. Work on tackling Child Sexual Abuse is established in Staffordshire and safeguarding children continues to be a priority. There are a number of more recent work strands specifically relating to child sexual exploitation, such as the Staffordshire Police Preventing CSE team which is fully operational and the piloting of the CSE outcomes framework.

### **CSE Action Plan**

8. 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.
9. The following information highlights the progress made by CSAF since members last received a report in January 2016.

### **Other forms of Child Sexual Abuse**

10. Whilst CSAF was established in response to the emerging profile of CSE, partner agencies wanted to ensure that we had safe local arrangements for all children at risk of sexual abuse however this abuse might take place. CSAF therefore expanded its remit to consider all forms of sexual abuse and further highlighted the following areas for specific focus:

- a. Missing children / CSE
  - b. Children who are trafficked
  - c. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
  - d. Honour-based violence
  - e. Forced marriage
  - f. Intra-familial abuse
  - g. Youth violence
11. Scoping of the various streams took place in task and finish groups and the governance around them have now been agreed. Both CSE and intra-familial child sexual abuse will remain directly accountable to the CSAF.
  12. This work has reinforced the requirement for a Safeguarding Children Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and highlighted differences in demand and services. Some common themes have been identified across all task groups, for example the need to raise awareness of different types of abuse with children, young people, parents and carers, with practitioners who work with children, young people and families, as well as the general public. The JSNA work is currently under development.
  13. The Government's review of local children safeguarding boards (LSCB's) by Alan Wood has recommended wide-ranging reforms to multi-safeguarding arrangements, which will have an impact on the way that local authorities, police and health partners work together. It is expected that the government's response will be published before the autumn 2017.

### **CSE Outcomes framework**

14. The Office and the Police and Crime Commissioner commissioned Chanon Consultancy (Christine Christie) to develop a CSE Outcome Framework for Staffordshire.
15. 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.
16. The findings of, and recommendations from, the pilot have been incorporated into a report which will be taken to the Child Sexual Abuse Forum in January 2017 where a decision will be taken regarding next steps.
17. 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.

## Risk Factor Matrix

18. The Derbyshire CSE risk factor matrix tool has now been reviewed in line with a recommendation from the independent Chanon review of CSE and Missing Services, best practice from the CSE National Working Group and practitioner views gathered from social workers through regular consultations and learning from CSE multi-agency panels. The tool was updated by a task and finish group involving both Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire practitioners/managers and signed off by CSAF in October 2015 following consultation with partners.
19. The new risk assessment tool is now in use and informs the assessment of children and young people where there is a concern about child sexual exploitation.
20. There have been a series of briefings about the use of the new tool and the use of a suite of documents has been agreed across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and includes the following revised documents:
  - a. Policy/procedure
  - b. CSE Risk Factor Matrix Guidance Notes
  - c. CSE Risk Factor Matrix
  - d. Staffordshire Police Information Report Form
21. 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 it has been agreed that the Risk Factor Matrix will be revised to incorporate practitioner and partner agency feedback. Work regarding this has begun and should be completed by the end of January 2017.

## Communications

22. A Child Sexual Exploitation Campaign was delivered from October 2015 to April 2016 that capitalised on Safer Internet Day and CSE Awareness Day. There were three parts to the campaign:
  - a. **'Professionals' campaign-** To raise awareness and understanding of CSE, the associated warning signs, sexting and associated risks among all relevant professions and partner agencies to support a proactive approach to identify CSE, safeguard the child and ensure all allegations are investigated.
  - b. **'Say no to sexting'** – A campaign developed as a result of internet safety research with young people. Sexting was discovered as the main digital and online risk factor. The campaign group worked with young people to design a simple solution to tackle perceptions and the likelihood of repeat sexting.
  - c. **'Know About CSE'** – A campaign to raise general public, parents and young persons' awareness of the signs of CSE, how to report concerns and to increase reporting. In addition, to support young people to know what is and what is not a safe and healthy relationship, and to recognise targeting and grooming.

23. A website [www.knowaboutcse.co.uk](http://www.knowaboutcse.co.uk) has been developed to help young people, parents and carers, and practitioners to access information on being targeted and groomed, spotting the signs of CSE and reporting concerns. A particular emphasis was placed on changing the mind set of young people with regards to sexting being 'Ok' through the 'Say No to Sexting' campaign.
24. The six month campaign has used social media (Email; Facebook; Twitter) and has been had a significant reach across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The campaign's partnership with schools across the city and county has meant that parents have been contacted directly with information about resources related to CSE, including the website.
25. The full evaluation report was reported to the Child Sexual Abuse Forum in July 2016. The key headlines are:
- 87% of professionals in Stoke-on-Trent are now confident about spotting the warning signs of a child being sexually exploited (an increase of over 27%)
  - 14% increase in the number of parents who feel confident in recognising the signs of CSE.
  - 17% increase in number of parents who feel confident about how to report CSE concerns.
  - Our joint communications approach has been recognised nationally as our Safeguarding Children Board Chair was invited to speak at a Capita conference on Preventing CSE, in London on 29 June 2016 after organisers had become aware of the media coverage of 'Say No to Sexting' campaign.
26. In Staffordshire, the number of contacts made to the council number recognised as being from members of the public also increased significantly when comparing the campaign period to the same month last year. **103 calls were received in March 2016 versus 43 in March 2015.** Although there is a general upward trend this year, calls received in the campaign period were significantly higher when compared to the month before (86) and the month afterward (67). The Police have seen a 12% increase in recorded CSE related sexual offences over the course of the campaign period. This indicates that this campaign exceeded its target of increasing reports of potential CSE from members of the public by 3%. See the Appendices for the full report.

### **Workforce and development**

27. During April 2015- March 2016 69 professionals were trained over two days through the SSCB Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Training. Since April 2016 to date the end of November 2016 60 professionals have been trained and 40 more professionals are expected to be trained on the two day Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Training. The following offers some evidence of the impact this training has had on practitioners working with children and their families:

*"The course improved my knowledge on CSE and the warning signs to be aware of in young people's behaviour, I will be able to take this into practice and hopefully be able to identify young people at risk. Also hope to be able to use the*

*information in our teaching sessions to young people to make them more aware and keep themselves safe.”*

*“It’s helped me to improve my early identification of signs of CSE, my knowledge of support available and my confidence to challenge agencies on the risk levels.”*

*“I know have a greater understanding of what to consider when looking for grooming and how to consider boys who may also be groomed.”*

## **Personal, social, health and economic education (PHSE)**

28. Joint mapping of work on a range of safeguarding children themes including CSE, missing and youth violence is continuing to help deliver a co-ordinated approach to workforce development and programme delivery in schools across the city and county. An initial scope of what current resources education establishments use and what they wish to receive support in accessing is being undertaken to inform future planning.
29. A CSE Education Strategy is also scheduled to be developed with the engagement of school staff, parents and carers; this will include a focus on the welfare and safety needs of children and young people with disabilities.

## **Learning and improvement**

30. 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 the first half of 2016. These took place nationally up until July 2016. Multi-agency inspection planning meetings were held to help the wider partnership to self-evaluate against this inspection framework. The self-assessment helped to evidence the significant amount of work that is being collectively driven forward in Staffordshire; the inspection meetings also promoted more efficient working together collaboration in coordinating local strategic and operational improvements.
31. The deep dive focus of these inspections has from September 2016 changed to domestic abuse. Ofsted’s report *‘Time to Listen- a joined up response to child sexual exploitation and missing children’* details findings from the CSE thematic inspection and was published in September 2016. The report highlights the key role of leadership in tackling CSE and states that, *“...the quality of leadership is one of the most important factors in providing consistently good services to children and young people who need help and protection.”* Leaders are advised need to:
  - a. Have a good understanding of the local profile of child sexual exploitation and of children’s experiences.
  - b. Have a good understanding and oversight of frontline practice, including relative strengths and weaknesses and knowledge of what good practice looks like.
  - c. Be committed to providing staff with the time and resources, skills and knowledge to be able to engage children effectively.

## **Report on Chelsea's Choice**

32. As part of the SSCB's role in preventing abuse and neglect the Board have considered activities to raise awareness of sexual exploitation and healthy relationships. During September 2013 to January 2015 the SSCB have either funded or part-funded the Chelsea's Choice drama production into Staffordshire schools and children homes. Chelsea Choice was also delivered to Staffordshire County Council members.
33. The Chelsea's Choice drama production 2015/2016 was seen by 70 schools, 100 professionals from the Royal Stoke Hospital and council members also saw the production in 27 January 2016. The questionnaire completed after the event showed that 67% of pupils said that they would now do something differently as a result of watching the drama. As a result of the drama several young people made disclosures or spoke out about behaviour/activities causing them concern. All of the concerns were appropriately referred for further investigation.
34. The SSCB spent some considerable time exploring the way forward in terms of future funding for dramas such as Chelsea's Choice and have concluded that whilst it remains a priority for our Board, work to explore other funding options is necessary due to the SSCB's own budgetary constraints.
35. It is imperative that work to engage and inform children and young people across all education establishments and local children's homes about how to stay safe and where to access help continues. Discussions with the OPCC, Community Safety Partnerships and members were held but unfortunately no further funding could be provided. This was reported to the Committee in June 2016.
36. Education establishments have recently been requested as part of a recent section 175 / 157 education safeguarding audit, to provide information to evidence what safeguarding inputs are currently delivered to their pupils. Further work is required to analysis this qualitative information due to the volume of responses received. Early analysis from the 381 responses received indicate that although more needs to be done, around half of educational establishments have accessed Child Exploitation & Online Protection and the majority have accessed LSCB CSE training. The majority of staff have received CSE training/briefings group in accordance with statutory guidance.
37. The Safeguarding Education Lead is in the process of identifying what areas for development are required by education establishments as a result of this report information.

## **Staffordshire Police**

38. There are three Police teams responding to the issue of CSE:
  - a. Preventing CSE Team
  - b. On-street Child Exploitation Team
  - c. On-line Child Exploitation Team (working on Operation Safenet)

39. Funding for Preventing CSE concludes in March 2017; however there are plans in place to have a multi themed early intervention team for vulnerability, formed post March 2017.

### **The Preventing CSE Team:**

40. The team has a focus on working with children, families and communities on preventing CSE, including prevention work in relation to potential offenders. The team of eight officers is now in place. The following provides an update on the work being undertaken:
- a. The team have continued to work with the LPT and IOM to deliver targeted CSE inputs to parents with children at schools in the Moorlands which have may have been affected by recent gang activity.
  - b. The team have begun rolling out Kayleigh's Love Story to schools and professionals, which is supporting Staffordshire Police's CyberSafe campaign.
  - c. We are introducing our CSE winter awareness campaign for parents and children with radio ads and shopping centre stands.
  - d. CSE/internet safety inputs to transferees which included local trends and Staffordshire approach to tackling the issue.
  - e. The continued work of general deliveries to young people and parents following on from reported incidents or local authority referrals.

### **Operation Safenet**

41. The team is comprised of a Detective Sergeant and six officers 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)**

42. The on street CSE investigative team comprises of an Inspector, two Sergeants, ten police officers, two Investigative Officers and two social workers who are attached to the team. The team work seven days a week, within a shift pattern to offer optimum cover to this growing area of child abuse.

### **Abduction Notices**

43. There have been 19 abduction notices issued to individuals harbouring children in Staffordshire between June 2016 and November 2016. 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.
44. The table below breaks this information down monthly:



Staffordshire		
Date	Month	Number of Notices by Date of Issue
1 <sup>st</sup> June - 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2016	June	9
	July	4
	Aug	0
	Sept	3
	Oct	0
	<b>Nov</b>	<b>4</b>

## Joint Operations

45. Operation Linear and Operation Shade have now concluded and a multi-agency debrief is to be held. 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 the two police operations. The meeting was well attended by partner agencies and learning was immediately identified. The minutes are currently with the LSCBs Independent Chair for a decision about next steps in relation to how multi-agency learning is now reviewed in greater depth.
46. 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 have been subsequently sentenced to periods of imprisonment ranging from 10 years, 33 months and 16 months.
47. There was media reporting and Staffordshire Police spoke about the case to the press to highlight the bravery of the girl's throughout the investigation and court process. It was acknowledged that the most important factor during the investigation was to safeguard the girls who were victims of horrific offences; the police advised that people who come forward with disclosures of sexual abuse would be supported.
48. The case was an extremely sensitive and complex process and a tremendous amount of resource and dedication was provided by a wide range of safeguarding colleagues in support of the victims. Staffordshire Police said they are,
- “...committed to tackling child sexual exploitation and we have a number of dedicated teams that work with partners and the county Safeguarding Board to prevent and raise awareness of this type of crime. We continue to work with partners to prevent child sexual exploitation and, when needed, take positive action against this type of offence.”
49. 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**

50. A Families First CSE Co-ordinator is now in post on a permanent basis.
51. 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/Uttoxeter)
  - d. Tamworth/Lichfield
52. Agencies attending panel has continued to grow and is being reviewed. There has been an increase in young people referred to panel and this is therefore having an impact on the length and efficiency of panels. Initial thoughts are underway in putting forward proposals of how best to manage this as a multi-agency collective.
53. At the August 2016 Panels, 99 young people were discussed. Cannock/South staffs/Stafford Districts Panel was the busiest district with 27 young people discussed; Newcastle Moorlands Districts had 26 young people discussed with Tamworth/Lichfield Districts also having 26 cases discussed. There were 20 young people discussed at the East Staffordshire CSE Panel. 94% were female and 6% were males, a decrease for males since the last round of CSE panels in June 2016 where there was 11% discussed for males. It is positive that Staffordshire continue to identify males that are at risk of child sexual exploitation given the National concern regarding under reporting of males.
54. 38% young people were identified as Children in Need, 23% had an Early Help Assessment, 25% are looked after children and 14% are subject to a child protection plan.
55. Panels remain well attended and additional partner agencies have started to attend and are proving critical in supporting the development of local problem profiles. Following each district CSE panel information is now 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.
56. It is felt that this locality knowledge will assist practitioners in becoming more adept at spotting the signs. Positive feedback has been provided from both practitioners internally and external partner agencies and as a result of this information being shared at panels this has resulted in the vulnerability police hubs monitoring the areas of concern.
57. 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 Strategic Action Plan to identify gaps and further develop the CSE Panel Process.

58. Staffordshire CSE coordinator now attends 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.
59. The Gangs and Youth Violence coordinator also attends the panel to ensure the CSE panel is cross referenced with the ongoing work with Gangs and youth violence.
60. The FF CSE Co-ordinator was supported by the Children's Voice Project in completing a workshop with young males known to the Staffordshire Youth Offending Service to gain wider understanding of the current context of CSE locally. This workshop sought views of the young people around a wide range of vulnerabilities for young people including social media use, substance use, social and peer networks, offending behaviour, missing and consent when considering CSE and its impact. The findings of this consultation will be used to further explore under reporting on young males and CSE throughout the CSE Strategic Action Plan.
61. The FF CSE Co-ordinator and Safeguarding Development Manager have also delivered a workshop to the Throughcare Teams as part of their development day to further widen understanding of CSE and highlight the roles of multi-agency working to address prosecution, protection, prevention and disruption of CSE.
62. The CSE panels now 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.
63. Steve Hewitt, Missing Education Officer is now cross referencing young people who are discussed at CSE panel with children missing education.
64. CAMHS are also now a panel member for two of our district panels in the East of the County, requests have been made for this attendance to be considered at the North and Stafford panels and this is currently being considered.
65. Sexual Health Service is now attending as a panel member for the Newcastle & Moorlands panel.
66. Teen Spirit is now also panel members for the East of the County and they provide direct work with young people regarding CSE and healthy relationships.
67. The FF CSE Co-ordinator and Education Safeguarding Lead delivered CSE education and awareness workshops to Designated Safeguarding Leads across the county for Primary, Middle and Secondary Education. These workshops

provided further awareness of CSE, consent, safeguarding advice and the local process surrounding the CSE Panels.

68. Specialist Safeguarding Manager attending the Dudley Pursue and Disrupt Conference coordinated by the West Midlands CSE Coordinator in order to share best practice and an essential toolkit regarding disruption techniques.
69. 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.
70. The CSE Coordinator has begun attending 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.
71. 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 and CSE.
72. 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.
73. 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.
74. 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.
75. The FF CSE co-ordinator attended the Supported Accommodation Market Engagement Event in March 2016 to raise further awareness of CSE and to provide a point of contact for them. The FF CSE Co-ordinator has also sought permission to attend the Northern Providers Forums from 2017.
76. 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.
77. The County Manager for Specialist Safeguarding Service continues to attend strategic meetings regarding gangs, youth violence and vulnerability and also chairs the CSE panel.
78. Agreement was given by the County Manager for Responsive Services to ensure that the FF CSE co-ordinator 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.

79. Learning from recent joint investigations with Staffordshire Police into cases of CSE will be progressed with Families First practitioners in January 2017 as part of the learning and development schedule.

### **North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Group**

80. 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. The next themed training is in November 2016 when CSE will be delivered in depth by our Named GP and a police officer from the CSE team.
81. 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 work progressed by commissioning**

82. The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and missing children young people service tender is live, the closing date is 21 February 2017. The tender evaluations and interviews will take place during March 2017. The service will have a three month mobilisation period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 with a go live date of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.
83. The current arrangements we have in place will remain until the go live date of 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

84. The contracts for the current service delivery are about to be extended to align with the above tender timeframe.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Support Service Pilot**

85. 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.

86. Over the last quarter (July – September 2016) the CSE service has regularly supported 35 young people please see the below breakdown:

	<b>Stafford</b>	<b>Staffordshire Moorlands</b>	<b>Newcastle</b>	<b>Total</b>
Regularly supported	9	11	15	35
Level of risk:				
High	0	1	1	2
Medium	9	8	9	26
Low (Risk score reduced to low during the support programme)	0	2	5	7
Staffordshire LAC	0	1	0	1

87. 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
- d. Reduction in risk taking behaviour
- e. Increased awareness of grooming and exploitation

92. 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**

93. 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 be exposed to whilst missing.

94. Over the last quarter (July – September 2016) the missing service completed 244 return interviews for 177 missing/absent children and young people. Of those 45 children/young people were Staffordshire LAC and 73 children/young people were in the care of another local authority placed in Staffordshire. Please see the below district breakdown:

	<b>Stafford</b>	<b>Staffordshire Moorlands</b>	<b>Newcastle</b>	<b>Total</b>
No. of missing and absent episodes	53	193	73	319
No. of completed interviews	31	163	50	244
No. of individuals	41	95	41	177
No. of repeat children	8	43	8	59
No. in care of SCC	16	17	12	45
No. in care of other LA	6	60	7	73

### Families First

<b>Summary by Placement Type</b>	<b>Jul-16</b>	<b>Aug-16</b>	<b>Sep-16</b>	<b>Total</b>
Indep. Children's Home	56	67	59	182
Home (Social Worker)	19	31	35	85
Home (LST)	28	29	40	97
Foster Carer Not Staffs	5	7	7	19
Foster Carer	6	2	5	13
Supported Accommodation	2	2	2	6
External Placed	0	2	0	2
Local Authority Children's Home	9	14	8	31
Unknown	0	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>436</b>

	<b>Jul-16</b>	<b>Aug-16</b>	<b>Sep-16</b>
% of all return interviews completed	75%	75%	73%
% from Other Local Authorities	35%	33%	31%

	<b>Jul-16</b>	<b>Aug-16</b>	<b>Sep-16</b>	<b>Total</b>
Episodes	125	155	156	436
Children	89	97	101	287

<b>Top 6 Locations</b>	<b>Missing Episodes</b>
Biddulph	61

Tamworth	60
Stafford	47
Leek	44
Rugeley	41
Newcastle	36

95. Data captured by Families First for Missing episodes (not including absences) show there were 436, relating to 287 children in quarter 2.
96. During quarter 2 on average 74% interviews were completed.
97. 42% of children and young people go missing from Independent Children's Homes with another 42% going missing from Home (97 LSTs and 85 have a social worker).
98. Biddulph and Tamworth are the most prominent location of where children and young people go missing from. During quarter 2, the most likely reason given for going missing was 'to be with friends'
99. 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'.
100. 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.

### **Update on CSE and Licensing**

101. 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.
102. 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.
103. 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.
104. 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.

105. 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.

106. 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. For those authorities with large numbers of drivers this takes some time.

- a. Cannock Chase - 90% of drivers have had the training
- b. East Staffordshire – 500 drivers trained so far (this is 90% of their drivers)
- c. Lichfield -100% of drivers have had the training
- d. Newcastle Under Lyme - 60% of drivers (i.e. a total of 585 out of 960 drivers) have had the training
- e. South Staffordshire - 100% of drivers have had the training
- f. Stafford - 60% of drivers have had the training
- g. Stoke - 83% of drivers have had the training
- h. Staffordshire Moorlands – 95% of drivers have had the training
- i. Tamworth – 80% of the drivers have had the training

**c. Updated policies**

- i. Target - *Updated policies on the relevance of convictions to ensure they provide reassurance particularly as regards violence/sexual offences/dishonesty* – as the Committee will recall at the meeting in June, 2 authorities had updated their policies.

ii. That position has changed substantially with 8 of the 9 authorities either having changed the policies (6 have done so) or well down the road towards doing so.

- Cannock Chase - in place
- East Staffordshire - in place
- Lichfield – in place
- Newcastle Under Lyme – review/revision taking place in 2017
- South Staffordshire - in place
- Stafford - due to be adopted in early 2017
- Stoke - in place
- Staffordshire Moorlands – in place
- Tamworth – review in due course

### **Staffordshire County Council Disclosure and Barring Service Audit**

107. 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) has recently been 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 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 which were already either being addressed or plans were in place for action across summer 2016.

108. All taxi firms are required to adhere to a number of safeguarding requirements and these are set out in their conditions of contract. 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. Taxi Passenger Assistants, however, are controlled at County Council level and the County maintains control of the DBS check process and maintains a database of approved Passenger Assistants.

109. 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.

110. The final audit report was published on 22nd April 2016 and found that further work is 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**

111. 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.
112. The County Council has met the requirements imposed by the Government relating to PSN user access.
113. 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.
114. County Council Compliance Officers (for Transport) undertake audits of taxi 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 22 SEN schools (out of approximately 25) and 16 other mainstream schools. SEN schools represent 90% of the pupils who are transported and supported by the passenger assistants.
115. 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.
116. Relevant staff members have received training specifically in relation to safeguarding in transport.

## **Areas for Improvement**

117. 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 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 has been planned and delivered in 2016. The revisions cover all contracted personnel involved in the delivery and management of “regulated activity”, ie, drivers, passenger assistants and depot staff. The revised arrangements also covers Transport team members engaged in planning “regulated activity”
118. There are current inconsistent practices in applying DBS checks amongst Local Licensing Authorities. Identified and documented in 2014, addressed through the revised DBS and Safeguarding plan, procedures, training and policy, which was either delivered or planned for 2016. 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 appeals process. The whole process is now carried out within the Council's Transport team. This ensures that all contracted personnel have to comply with the revised processes and consistently assessed against the revised Council Transport criteria. In-house functional responsibility and delivery is the key to delivery of the revised processes and addressing the identified gaps.

119. Insufficient DBS checks are placed upon drivers of Passenger Carrying Vehicles (PCVs). These have been addressed as per the revised DBS plan as above and addressed as detailed in points 117 and 118. No PCV drivers will be permitted to drive on Staffordshire contracts unless they have been through and are compliant with the Council's processes. Individual operating companies will no longer determine the suitability of PCV drivers for contracted "regulated activity" work.
120. Framework contract contractors may not be applying safeguarding checks. On the framework contract held with various taxi contractors the contractor must complete their own safeguarding checks i.e. undertake safeguarding training for their staff or undertake a DBS checks. Addressed as per the revised DBS plan as above. These have been addressed as per the revised DBS plan as above and addressed as detailed in points 117 and 118. No Taxi or Private Hire drivers will be permitted to drive on Staffordshire contracts unless they have been through and are compliant with the Council's processes. Individual operating companies will no longer determine the suitability of PCV drivers for contracted "regulated activity" work.
121. There is not confidence amongst the Transport Team that these checks are being applied in full for all contractors, particularly over smaller contractors. These have been addressed as per the revised DBS plan as above and detailed in points 117-120.
122. 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 set out. Gaps in disclosures have been addressed as per the revised DBS plan as detailed in points 117-120.
123. Inconsistent practices for applying DBS checks for drivers of different vehicles are in place. These have been addressed as per the revised DBS plan as above and detailed in points 117-120.
124. Safeguarding updates are typically held with the owners of the contractor organisations and it is expected that the contractors then pass on information to their staff and drivers. It is not clear whether the information in these updates are adequately passed onto drivers therefore greater steps to ensure training is undertaken by all drivers via e-learning courses should be undertaken. These have been addressed as per the revised DBS plan as above, supplemented by continuous monitoring through the DBS Update Service and the delivery of the Council's accredited training programme.

125. An action plan to address the recommended areas in need of further development has been developed. This action plan identifies the officers responsible for progressing the action and timescales for completion and review. The complete action plan and process going forward is being updated and will be forwarded once wholly updated.

**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 18th January 2016, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015, 10th June 2015, 9th March 2015, 15th December 2014 and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

### **Contact Officer**

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### **Appendices/Background papers**

Update on work to address Child Sexual Exploitation (8<sup>th</sup> June 2016)

Update on work to address Child Sexual Exploitation (18<sup>th</sup> January 2015)

Update on work addressing Child Sexual Exploitation (6<sup>th</sup> 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** – CSE Campaign- Final Evaluation Report – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016