



Report to Children Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee on 11th December 2017

Report of: Gail Gibbons – CEO Sheffield Futures

Subject: Sexual Exploitation Service Annual Report 2016-2017

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Summary:

The work of the Sheffield Child Sexual Exploitation Service and Alexi project is identified in the attached Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service (SSES) Annual Report for the period 2016 -17. Key elements of the report identify the service user population for the period and key achievements which impact positively on young people accessing the service. The report also identifies key priorities for 2017 – 18.

Type of item:

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	✓
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Receive the Annual Report and note its content
- Comment on and/or seek clarification on any issues raised

Background Papers:

Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service Annual Report 2016-2017

Category of Report: OPEN

These reports are provided to enable discussion on:

- Progress, achievements and challenges in 2016/17
- Overview of work 2017/18
- Priority areas for 2018/19

Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service

Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service (SSES) is a co-located Multi-Agency Service responsible for tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Sheffield. The service works with children and young people experiencing or who are at risk of sexual exploitation who are age 18 and under, and some over 18s dependent on need.

Over the past year the service has continued to grow and work more holistically to support children and young people who are being exploited and to prevent young people from being exploited where they are presenting with CSE risk factors. Whilst we are making headway in relation to early identification of CSE, it remains everybody's responsibility to ensure that they understand the signs of child sexual abuse and to be aware of the referral pathways to safeguard these children and young people, many of whom are vulnerable and have a range of complexities.

In February 2017, The Government introduced new guidance for practitioners working with victims of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and published the following revised definition:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. (Child Sexual Exploitation - Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation, DfE 2017)

Service User Profile 16/17

A total of **141** referrals received between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017

- A slight increase of 3.7% on the 2015/16 total of 136
- 43.3% were allocated to the Sexual Exploitation Service, 36.2% were allocated to Community Youth Teams for CSE early intervention/prevention work; a slight drop compared to 2015/16 where 42.6% were allocated
- 20.5% were allocated to group work with the Sexual Exploitation Service; were already being supported by another agency or they moved out of city (where they were referred on to the local CSE service wherever possible).
- The main referrers into Social Care Screening for CSE are Social Care 48%, Police 20%, School or College 17%, MAST 6%. The remaining 9% were from Health, Parent/Carer, NSPCC, Empower and Protect Project and Community Youth Team
- **Age** - the peak age of referrals is 16 with 30% of the total; the peak age in 2015/16 was exactly the same, age 16 and 30% of the total. The notable changes are age 14 where the referrals have increased by 8% on last year and age 18-19 where the numbers have fallen by almost half. Age 17 has also seen a fall of 5% on last year.

- **Gender** - 98% were for females. In 2015/16 the total females was 92% so a slight increase in 2016/17
- **Ethnicity** - the majority of the referrals are White British with 77% of the total referral. There are no significant changes to 2015/16.
- **Area** - there has been a slight change in referrals in the North and East areas of the city compared to 2015/16, a 7% increase in the North and a 7% fall in the East
- **LAC** - Of the 141 referrals in 2016/17, 9% are LAC compared to 14% in 2015/16. A larger proportion of these were living in residential care than in the previous year.
- Multiple risks and concerns were identified from the initial referral. Just below 70% have E-Safety concerns, 22% have used drugs and alcohol and 12% have been subject to domestic violence, however, a young person can have multiple identified risks
- The indicators are not indicative, they are just the concerns picked out from an initial referral; only on completion of a full assessment will it become apparent the true risks/concerns at which point the appropriate service and support package will be put in place

Key Achievements in 16/17

- 973 professionals have been trained across the city to recognise the signs of CSE, this is 111 more than the previous year.
- 1587 young people have participated in education sessions aimed at teaching young people about the risks of CSE and how to help themselves and/or their friends if they believe they are in an exploitative situation.
- 127 parents have accessed parents sessions aimed at providing them with information to keep their children and communities safe from the harm caused by CSE, and how to seek help and support
- Embedded an NHS Nurse into the multi-agency delivery model which ensures that every young person coming into the service is assessed to identify any unmet health need, which includes physical health, sexual health and mental health and unmet/undiagnosed learning disabilities, speech and language need etc.
- The CSE social workers are now based in the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub 2 days per week to help build knowledge and skills around CSE screening and assessment across the Hub to ensure that young people's needs and risks are identified consistently.
- The service hosted a SSCB social work research post, to understand the complexity of transition for young people with CSE. This project completed with a report ratified by both the adult and children's safeguarding boards with recommendations to improve practice across children and adults services.

Developments in 2017/18

- Sheffield CSE Hub & Spoke Project is one of 15 national Hubs, based within voluntary services and funded by the CSE Funders Alliance. The Sheffield Hub is part of a unique model with hubs in Derby and Cambridgeshire to shape best practice in involving young people's voices in CSE policy, service design and delivery. This project will end in March 2018, and it's anticipated that the learning from this will be shared nationally to improve CSE practice around the country.

- Following on from the Transitions Project, Sheffield Futures have secured a Transitions Worker for 6 months to pilot some of the key ways of working identified in the report. The post is working well in the service, creating capacity to work dynamically to ensure young people can navigate services effectively and are not further adversely impacted by their abusive experiences.
- The SSES service will co-locate with the Missing Children Team - based in Youth Justice Service (YJS). This will ensure that the SSES service and other partners – specifically South Yorkshire Police, social care, health and YJS, are working together robustly to keep children safe, in line with best practice nationally. These services will be based on Floor 2 of Star House.
- Sheffield Futures have secured a dedicated training resource from SSCB and are developing a city wide training framework which will ensure that training across the city is targeted, needs led and relevant for each professional group.

Priorities for 18/19

- Roll out the training framework and plan for and respond to training need across the city.
- Secure funding for the Transitions Worker and continue to develop a robust approach to helping young adults with historical CSE and recent CSE experiences navigate and engage with adult services
- Develop pathways with other services and set out key ambitions for children and young people that come into the SSES service – not only will the service keep them safe and reduce harm, it will ensure that they are encouraged into positive destinations as a longer term protective factor.
- Integrate the Missing Children Team and SSES to ensure that the city provides a robust safeguarding approach to children and young people with multiple risk factors and vulnerabilities.
- Work with the SSCB to further develop an ‘adolescent contextual safeguarding’ approach to protecting children and young people within their social spaces and wider community as well as their family environment.