



## Report to Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

**Report of:** Gail Gibbons – CEO Sheffield Futures

**Subject:** Sexual Exploitation Service Annual Report 2018-2019

**Author of Report:** Dan White, Head of Health and Targeted Services, Sheffield Futures

**Summary:**

The work of the Sheffield Child Sexual Exploitation Service is identified in the attached Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service (SSES) Annual Report for the period 2018 -19. 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 2019 – 20.

**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 2018-2019



SSES Annual Report  
2018 - 2019 - scrutiny

**Category of Report:** OPEN

These reports are provided to enable discussion on:

- Progress, achievements and challenges in 2018/19
- Overview of work 2018/19
- Priority areas for 2019/20

## Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service

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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 2018/19**

A total of **150** referrals received between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

- A slight increase from the 148 received in 2017/18
- 44% were allocated to the Sexual Exploitation Service, 24% were allocated to Community Youth Teams for CSE early intervention/prevention work.
- 32% not allocated to SSES or CYT - there has been an increase in the number of very low level CSE cases which fall under the level 1 'universal' threshold of need; these include cases of teenage pregnancy (where no CSE concerns are raised) and worries about the use of social media which are being addressed by school and parents. There is also a noticeable rise in cases where other agencies are already involved at a significant level; in some cases providing specific counselling support or mental health input (including young people who are admitted) and the added pressure of another worker becoming involved is too much. On other occasions referrals needed signposting to other services (criminal exploitation, Door43) as the presenting risks did not sit with CSE and required different specialist input

- The main referrers into Sheffield Safeguarding Hub (SSH) for CSE are Social Care 41%, Police 21%, School or College 11%, Children Looked After & Leaving Care Service and Children's Homes 7%, Parent/carers 4% and Health 5%. The remaining 11% were from MAST, Supported Housing charities, Adult Safeguarding Partnership and Missing Young Persons Team
- **Age** - the peak age of referrals is 16 with 25% of the total; the peak age in 2016/17 was age 16 with 30% of the total. A notable increase in age 10-13 referrals, 33 individuals although all aged 12-13, none age 10 or 11. 2018/19 and 2017/18 both had the same number of 10-13 with 18.
- Of the 33 12-13 year olds:
  - 7 allocated to SSES
  - 18 signposted to CYT
  - 8 assessed as very low level and not allocated
- **Gender** - 91% were for females. Virtually the same for 2017/18 (90%), this has remained static for some years.
- **Ethnicity** - the majority of the referrals are White British with 70% of the total referral which is slightly higher than the 66% in 2017/18
- **LAC** - Of the 150 referrals in 2018/19, 14.7% are LAC. The number of LAC referrals have fallen compared to 2017/18 where 18.9% were LAC although an increase on 2016/17 when it was 9%

### Key Achievements in 2018/19

- Successful implementation of a sexual exploitation worker for vulnerable young adults (aged 18 – 25 years old) together with an awareness raising training package for professionals. Close interest from National Working Group who are sharing identified best practice with other authorities.
- Development of training pathway to include contextual safeguarding ensures that professionals in Sheffield are kept up to date with the most recent research and learning.
- Missing Young Persons Team co-located with the Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service. Increase in information sharing and referrals to other support agencies.
- A 9 month independent evaluation of APART (A Practitioner Assessment of Resilience and Risk Tool) took place. Despite the relatively short time frame, the tool evidenced demonstrable outcomes and positive impact with improvements for young people across all measured areas. The report concludes that APART 'is an effective evaluation tool that can provide evidence of change over time for young people receiving support.' It will be now embedded with further evaluation built in.

### Developments in 2018/19

- The SSES service will co-locate with the Criminal Exploitation Team. These services will be based on Floor 2 of Star House.
- Funding from the Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership has been secured to employ a vulnerable young adult sexual exploitation worker

specifically to meet the needs of 18 – 25 year olds. This will also include awareness raising and training for professionals across the city.

### **Priorities for 20/21**

- Develop and shape services which are responsive to working with complex vulnerabilities (Youth Portal.)
- Work alongside statutory partners delivering evidence based interventions ensuring young people are supported by individual case plans within a framework of contextual safeguarding.
- Launch of the Amber Project which sees the Sexual Exploitation Service and Criminal Exploitation Team combine to provide a generic Child Exploitation Service in Sheffield, ensuring efficient information sharing and partnership approach.