

## Update on Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015-17 Action Plan

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) has established a Strategic Group which meets every 4 – 6 weeks to oversee the implementation of the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy Action Plan. This Strategic Group is chaired by Detective Chief Inspector Steve Eccleston, West Mercia Police.
- 1.2. During the first three quarters of this year (April - December) there were 52 referrals around possible CSE risks, and 45 CSE Strategy Meetings. Children and young people at risk of CSE are being identified and are being referred for their protection, although of course this does not mean that all those at risk are being identified

### 2. Specific areas in the Strategy Action Plan

- 2.1. The detailed action plan is routinely scrutinised and updated by the Strategic Group. Some actions and timescales have been adjusted over time in light of experience and the dependence of some actions on the completion of others. The key areas of activity are as follows:
- 2.2. **Public awareness campaign** – Warwickshire LSCB has agreed to Worcestershire making use of materials developed in Warwickshire for its own public awareness campaign. This campaign 'Something's not Right' has been successfully rolled out across Warwickshire using a range of media and methods. Confirmation is awaited regarding the cost implications, but agreement has now been given in principle for the materials to be branded to incorporate Worcestershire's requirements. It was initially planned to roll out the campaign from January 2016, but the timescale has been revised as final conditions of use of the materials are still awaited, there is a need to co-ordinate this with other West Mercia Boards and a proposed national campaign, and the financial implications have to be considered.
- 2.3. **Schools** - A Task Group is working on the development of a 'whole school' approach to raising awareness of CSE with staff, governors, pupils and parents. Materials developed by Solihull LSCB are being considered for endorsement by WSCB. The materials address CSE within the broader theme of 'healthy relationships.' As Solihull LSCB are revising their materials further, this work is expected to be completed in March 2016.
- 2.4. **Training** – A CSE Training Strategy has been refreshed and approved. The Strategy requires partner agencies to identify the training requirements of their staff according to their roles and responsibilities, and to ensure that CSE training is provided accordingly. In this financial year WSCB has delivered three half-day multi-agency training sessions on CSE with 65 CSE leads; an impact evaluation of this is underway. WSCB also continues to reference CSE in core multi-agency training (Targeted Group 1 and 2 courses), and the CSE e-learning module can be accessed via the Board.
- 2.5. **Identification and risk assessment** – the CSE Pathway is in use by practitioners as illustrated by figures given above, though it continues to be reviewed and developed to ensure that systems and processes are set up to

respond robustly to concerns about CSE. The Pathway will include a distinction between children and young people at risk of CSE, those suspected of being sexually exploited, and those who are actual victims of CSE. This will enable agencies to be clearer about the profile of children and young people affected by CSE in Worcestershire. These processes will also ensure that links are made between children and young people who go missing and the risk of CSE. The CSE Screening/Identification tool has been reviewed, and a CSE Risk Assessment tool has been introduced. Once revised versions are finalised and approved, the CSE Pathway, Screening/Identification tool, and the Risk Assessment will be embedded in practice across the partnership by communications from WSCB.

- 2.6. **Standards** – A set of Organisational Standards has been drafted for approval by the CSE Strategic Group on 29/1/16 which will set out WSCB's expectations on partner agencies in relation to CSE. Partners will be audited against these Standards, thus enabling WSCB to evaluate their readiness to respond to CSE concerns as and when they arise. This will enable WSCB to fulfil a duty within statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (DfE, 2015) to "conduct regular assessments on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to child sexual exploitation" and include the outcome of these assessments in its Annual Report.
- 2.7. **Governance** – As mentioned, the WSCB CSE Strategy has a dedicated Strategy Group which oversees the development of the approach to CSE in Worcestershire. At the appropriate point of development, and not before, the CSE Strategic Group will hand its responsibilities over to the WSCB Vulnerable Children's Group which will oversee the CSE Strategy as part of a wider remit.
- 2.8. **Voluntary Sector** – As well as being able to access WSCB multi agency training events and e-learning the voluntary sector can also access training and awareness raising which is being delivered specifically for this group of agencies.
- 2.9. **Taxi drivers and operators** – Worcestershire Regulatory Services now include CSE in training for new taxi licences and refresher training.

### 3. Conclusion

- 3.1. Progress is being made in a number of ways, albeit more slowly than desired. CSE is a complex issue that requires a multi-faceted approach as reflected in the Strategy and Action Plan. It is a priority area for Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board and has a dedicated group of members to oversee the implementation of the Strategy with the Board receiving regular reports on progress. Awareness is being raised and children and young people are being referred and managed through an agreed pathway.