
Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	5 th November 2015
Subject:	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	Wards Affected:	All Wards
Report of:	Director of Social Care and Health		
Is this a Key Decision?	No	Is it included in the Forward Plan?	No
Exempt/Confidential	No		

Purpose/Summary

A report was provided to Cabinet on 26th March 2015 to inform Members of the work undertaken to safeguard children from Child Sexual Exploitation, in respect of their duties under the Local Government Act 1999 regarding governance and scrutiny of children and young people's services. At this meeting it was agreed that the then Director of Young People and Families would submit a report to the Cabinet on a quarterly basis on the number of CSE referrals in Sefton and the action that had been taken.

This Report provides information regarding referrals received by Sefton Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which were related to child sexual exploitation during Quarter 1 (1st April – 30th June 2015) and Quarter 2 (1st July – 30th Sept 2015) and the action that has been taken as a result.

Recommendation(s)

- (1) The work taking place in Sefton regarding Child Sexual Exploitation be noted; and
- (2) It be noted that an update report will be submitted to the Cabinet at the end of each quarter and that the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Safeguarding will be updated on a regular basis.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	x		
2	Jobs and Prosperity	x		
3	Environmental Sustainability		x	
4	Health and Well-Being	x		
5	Children and Young People	x		

6	Creating Safe Communities	x		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	x		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy		x	

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To ensure Cabinet members are aware of the partnership activity undertaken to safeguard children from child sexual exploitation in Sefton.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

N/A

(B) Capital Costs

N/A

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Financial	
Legal	
Human Resources	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT (FD.3859/15) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD.3142/15) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 All concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of, or a victim of child sexual exploitation, are referred to the Sefton Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), as per the Local Safeguarding Children Board Child Sexual Exploitation Partnership Pathway. If a parent or member of the community has such concerns and raises them to the Police or another agency representative, the professional who has been informed ensures this information is reported to the MASH.
- 1.2 Resource has been invested in a Child Sexual Exploitation Business Officer / Analyst role which is based within the MASH. All Child Sexual Exploitation referrals are recorded by the CSE Business Officer / Analyst and a quarterly data analysis report is provided to the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children Sub Group. The following report provides data regarding the number of child sexual exploitation referrals received and the information as to the action being taken as a result.

2. Number of CSE referrals in Sefton

- 2.1 A significant range of initiatives to assure the quality of Sefton's response to children at risk or experiencing CSE has been undertaken over the last 12 months and further initiatives are planned. For example:
 - Training and awareness raising across the whole Sefton partnership. This has included presenting sessions for elected councillors, taxi driver representatives and teachers and other professionals
 - A significant investment in improving Sefton's Electronic Recording System (LCS) to ensure all relevant information about children at risk of CSE or those that go missing is stored and accessible in a single location and available to support interventions and incident and trend analysis
 - The creation of a LSCB Missing Children's Sub Group and the creation of the LCSB Dashboard to collate data held by Police, Children's Social Care and Early Intervention and Prevention in order to comply with statutory guidance
 - Improved processes to ensure high quality and timely return interviews for children who have been missing
 - The newly developed Community Adolescent Service works with young people at risk of, or experiencing CSE and will develop a focus and expertise to support all staff working with this issue
 - We have sought peer support from another Local Authority which has already developed a body of knowledge in relation to CSE to enable us to further develop practice
 - Strengthened arrangements between social care and schools to capture as much information as possible for children who go missing.

- 2.2 The Local Safeguarding Children Board has also supported the Young Advisors to undertake a CSE Event with young people. Children from 10 High Schools and the Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit have been consulted and provided their insight as to who they would tell if they or a friend were being sexually exploited. The findings from this event are currently informing a Public Health led CSE Needs Assessment, which will inform the LSCB and Commissioners of the further services required to safeguard children from CSE.
- 2.3 As a result of this work it is possible that referral rates may increase over time but the referral rate evidences that agencies within Sefton are committed to ensuring that any possible sign of CSE is further analysed, to ensure we can identify when a child is at risk, of or a victim of CSE in order to protect them and prosecute offenders.
- 2.4 The Council and its partners have access to contemporary data to inform case specific and strategic planning. Baseline data is now being developed which will enable accurate analysis of trends over time to support single and multi-agency planning.
- 2.5 During Q1 (2015-16) Sefton MASH received 61 CSE referrals. During Q2 77 CSE referrals, regarding 51 children and young people, were received by the MASH.
- 2.6 Analysis is undertaken as to whether the child was already known to Children's Services, Sefton Council or another Local Authority, at the time of the CSE referral. During Q1 22, and in Q2 16 of children / young people were not known to Children's Services at the time of the CSE referral.
- 2.7 Analysis is undertaken as to the form of sexual exploitation involved. A proportion of the referrals received during both Quarters are related solely to potential sexual exploitation via technology and social media and do not involve any direct contact exploitation of the child (encouraging a child to take and distribute inappropriate photographs of themselves for instance)
- 2.8 Analysis is undertaken of all CSE referrals to identify if they have previously been reported missing. During Q1 of the 61 children and young people referred 28 had not previously been reported missing, 16 had previously been reported missing and 17 were children / young people who are 'Looked After by another Local Authority and placed in Sefton and had previously been reported missing. During Q2 24 of the children had not previously been reported as missing, 26 had been reported missing and the remaining 27 were looked after children who are placed in Sefton and had been previously reported as missing.

3. Action being taken

- 3.1 When the MASH receives a child sexual exploitation referral a multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy Meeting is convened, unless it is very clear from the referral that the referral does not relate to child sexual exploitation concerns. During the Strategy Meeting an immediate plan is put in place to

safeguard the child / young person, if this is required. During the Strategy Meeting decisions are also made as to whether a Police Investigation should commence and whether the child / young person should be referred to the Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation Panel (MACSE) for a multi-agency MACSE Plan to be put in place.

- 3.2 Police investigations commence when there is concern that a child / young person may be a victim of child sexual exploitation.
- 3.3 CSE Strategy Meetings are discussed at a monthly Pre-MACSE Meeting between the MACSE Co-Chairs (Detective Chief Inspector / Detective Inspector Sefton Police Vulnerable Person Unit and Sefton Council Service Manager Safeguarding), Sefton Police CSE Co-ordinator and Sefton Council CSE Business Officer / Analyst. Analysis is undertaken of all CSE Strategy meetings to identify patterns, trends and links between children and adults.
- 3.4 All children who are considered to be a victim of CSE are referred to the MACSE. Children are also referred to MACSE when they are considered to be at risk of exploitation and require a MACSE Plan to prevent and protect them from exploitation.
- 3.5 The MACSE Plan sets out multi- agency actions under the 4 headings; Profile, Prevent, Protect and Prosecute which aims to safeguard the child / young person from exploitation whilst investigating, disrupting and prosecuting offenders.
- 3.6 When the child / young person is 'looked after' by another Local Authority and is placed in Sefton, the child's allocated Social Worker, Team Manager, Independent Reviewing Officer and the Responsible Manager for the Children's Home are invited to attend MACSE, to ensure the multi-agency plan put in place in Sefton is congruent with the young person's Looked After Child Care Plan.
- 3.7 When a child / young person is not referred to MACSE the referring professional is informed of the reason for this decision and is asked to monitor for any signs of sexual exploitation and re-refer the child / young person to the MASH.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Monitoring and analysis of referrals will continue to enable greater understanding of referral patterns and ability to measure the impact of increased community awareness. A report will be provided to Cabinet at the end of each future Quarter.