

For Decision	
Non Public	Public
Report to:	Strategic Performance & Resources
Date of Meeting:	20th November 2013
Report of:	Assistant Chief Constable Stephen Jupp
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Agenda Item:	6

Child Sexual Exploitation Update

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Police & Crime Commissioner on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) within Nottinghamshire and the approach to tackling it with our partners.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner note the update.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 In order to allow the Police & Crime Commissioner oversight and scrutiny to the way that CSE is being managed and delivered within the organisation, in partnership and within the Region.

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 Crimes against children have risen up the British political agenda in recent years and a major two-year inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups was launched by the government in 2011 and is due to report in November.
- 4.2 It's interim report found that 2,409 children and young people were confirmed victims of child sexual exploitation in gangs or groups between August 2010 and October 2011. The inquiry said that between April 2010 and March 2011 16,500 children in England were at high risk.
- 4.3 During 2012, Nottinghamshire Police investigated 143 cases of child sexual exploitation (CSE), as well as 71 cases of grooming and four cases of trafficking.
- 4.4 The number of cases which have been categorised as being linked to CSE has increased dramatically over the last couple of years, and the number of grooming cases has also risen. Clearly CSE, will in the majority of cases involve some form of grooming.

- 4.5 There are currently a number of large scale investigations taking place within SEIU relating to organised child sexual exploitation within Nottinghamshire.
- 4.6 Any child is potentially at risk of being sexually exploited, but some children are more vulnerable than others, such as those who go missing from home or care; where there is bullying or gang links; or where there are family difficulties such as parental domestic violence, mental health issues or drug and alcohol misuse, ostensibly where there is vulnerability.
- 4.7 National research would indicate that currently there is a gap in the understanding of the scale of the problem of CSE.
- 4.8 Any system now within Nottinghamshire Police that records any form of data relating to CSE will have a CSE flag or marker available to be allocated against that record. In terms of intelligence, all information submitted relating to CSE will now come under the heading of Operation STRIVER which is being adopted by the region.
- 4.9 The Force has engaged with Leicester University and is in early negotiations to identify any opportunities for research around CSE offending.
- 4.10 There is a disparity of approach within City and County partnerships in support of victims- At present in the City and Conurbation there is a pilot project called Protect & Respect which is part of the NSPCC. This project engages with victims and those vulnerable to CSE. This pilot project is one of only two in the country and they are currently working with eighteen victims of CSE with the City of Nottingham. In the county, there are no specialist resources targeted at young people who are at risk of, or experiencing, CSE, particularly from a therapeutic perspective.
- 4.11 There are a number of drivers nationally and locally. Nationally, CSE remains high profile politically and in the media, driven by a number of stakeholders (Barnardo's, NSPCC, Children's Society, the University of Bedfordshire and the National Working Group).
- 4.12 The Force is signed up to the Barnardo's 'Cut Them Free' campaign and have responded on all key 7 action points.
- 4.13 There have also been a number of high profile cases in the media recently, Operation Retriever in Derby, Operation Chalice in Telford, Operation Span in Rochdale and Operation Bullfinch in Oxford. Following the review of all of these investigations criticism has been levelled at the Police, Children's Social Care and the Crown Prosecution Service for failing to respond appropriately and in a timely manner to concerns about possible sexual exploitation of children.
- 4.14 There is a cross-authority multi-agency group (CSECAG) working to further improve the identification and response to those children and young people at risk of or being sexually exploited. This is chaired by the Police. Through the work of CSECAG, the procedures and policies for multi-agency working in this

area are being reviewed and improved in preventing and detecting the abuse of children in Nottinghamshire. There is still a long way to go but multi-agency investigations in Nottinghamshire are certainly better placed now in terms of the understanding of CSE than ever before.

- 4.15 The Head of Public Protection chairs the regional CSE working group, focusing on the identification of organised crime groups, mapping of the groups and cross border operations. The group, in its infancy is prioritising the early flagging of crimes and intelligence as 'CSE related' which will enable a more informed problem profile and also assist in identifying precursor activity.
- 4.16 The Head of Public Protection represents the region at the national ACPO Child Abuse and Investigation working group and we are currently working on the National ACPO CSE action plan.
- 4.17 The majority of frequent missing episodes relate to children and young people less than 18 years, many of whom are looked after. Going missing repeatedly is an indicator of harm and clear links have been identified between going missing, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and gangs.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 There are no resource issues as a result of this update

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 None identified

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 There are no equality implications identified

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 Missing Persons enquiries are a high risk area of business, with clear links to Child Sexual Exploitation and other forms of harm to the young and vulnerable. Any enquiry has the potential to escalate into a critical incident, with the associated reputational risk to the Force, and potential negative outcomes for the individuals involved.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 9.1 To reduce the threat from organised crime
- 9.2 To protect, support and respond to victims and vulnerable people
- 9.3 There is a link to a previous paper around missing from home coordinators. A key function of the missing person co-ordinators role is to ensure robust and early responses by police and partners to vulnerable persons (whether they

are deemed 'missing' or 'absent'), thereby preventing risk-taking behaviours becoming established and pathways into criminality being developed

- 9.4 The creation of this dedicated divisional resource is consistent with the preventative model of policing that is currently being adopted by the Force.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 Current ACPO consultation on the use of child abduction warning notices

11. Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 Not applicable

12. Appendices

- 12.1 None