

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	BCP's Response to Child Exploitation (an update)
Meeting date	10 March 2020
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on arrangements to support children and young people at risk of exploitation
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Members note the content of this report2. Officers provide an update on the proposals outlined in this report
Reason for recommendations	The issue of child exploitation remains a core and significant component of leadership focus, activity and focus required of BCP Council, the Pan Dorset Children's Safeguarding Partnership, the BCP Community Safety Partnership and the wider community of citizens and professional partners.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr. Moore, Children and Families
Corporate Director	Judith Ramsden, Corporate Director, Children's Services
Contributors	Julian Radcliffe (Service Director); Kendra Bell (Service Manager)
Wards	All Wards
Classification	For update and information

Background

Child Exploitation (CE) is a term with a broad definition. It includes child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, County lines, modern slavery and trafficking. Following LGR and the creation of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council, there was a clear and stated need to develop a single approach to the issue of CE.

Nationally there has been an increase in awareness of child exploitation via social media and the launch of the Trapped campaign in October 2017, which highlighted exploitation via County Lines. Furthermore, there has been a plethora of recently published national guidance and research covering, Sexual Exploitation, County Lines, Modern Slavery and children who go missing from home and care.

BCP through the self-assessment process identified the need to actively review the approach and child level work to ensure our approach reflects best practice and positively impacts on children and young people at risk of exploitation.

Overview of work completed

The Pan Dorset Childrens Safeguarding Partnership adopted a high level strategic approach and delegated the responsibility for the development and delivery of an effective multi agency delivery plan to the BCP Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

A BCP Child Exploitation (CE) delivery plan (2020 -2023), is in the final stages of development. This draft delivery plan has been shared with the BCP Community Safety Partnership (CSP), who provide governance to this area of work and is on track for adoption and sign off in Spring 2020. Workstreams are progressing, they are not awaiting the sign off ,of the overall delivery plan.

The delivery plan will address the overarching strategic aims of the Pan Dorset Childrens Safeguarding Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership in relation to the following :

- **Prepare** - enhancing systems and process to enable better understanding of local need, raising awareness and knowledge and developing a responsive culture through embedding CE within all agencies in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and Dorset areas. This includes an operational review of the systems for identification and screening of children where there are concerns regarding Exploitation.
- **Prevent** - prevent children and young people experiencing any issues of exploitation by ensuring as many people as possible know the risks and signs and how to report them.

- **Protect** - identify those at risk, providing them with early health and support victims of CE to help rebuild their lives. We are currently reviewing all children where there are concerns about exploitation. The review will include all agencies and professionals involved with the child to ensure there is a robust plan of intervention in place.
- **Pursue** - identify, disrupt and prosecute those who are intent on exploiting children and young people. We are undertaking a mapping exercise which will identify links between groups of children and adults who pose risk. This will lead to targeted action.

The CE Strategy Board meet bimonthly and oversees and reviews a series of work streams that drop out of the delivery plan.

Developing an Adolescent Hub

BCP have committed to developing an integrated, multiagency (building based) hub to support vulnerable and at-risk young people. The first partnership group meeting was held In December 2019. This was the starting point to agreeing the scope and delivery model for the hub.

A business case/ proposal is being completed (due March 2020), which will broker opportunities for partner agencies to second/ release posts to the hub based on best practice models. The timeline for this work is being scoped out.

Young People Missing' from home and or Care

When young people go missing, evidence is clear this can be associated with an increase in risk and in several ways. Establishing clear and effective protocols to identify and respond (a time bonded meeting in the first instance) to young people who go missing, are key factors in both understanding and mitigating these risks. Therefore, revised, BCP wide 'Missing Guidance' was developed in Autumn 2019 and has been operational since November 2019, we are not content however with the timeliness of the response in relation to return home interviews and aim to improve this with on a monthly basis.

Recent data shows that the numbers of return home interviews (RHIs) completed within required timescales (3 days) has improved. The overall number of RHIs completed has declined. This can, in part, be explained by the number of young people with repeat missing episodes who have declined an RHI. However, we are not content with the timeliness of the response in relation to return home interviews and aim to improve this with on a monthly basis.

Training and staff Development.

We have designed a bespoke training course for all levels of staff supporting children who are exploited or at risk of exploitation across Children Social Care. The course will focus on trauma informed delivery model and associated tools. The courses will run from April 2020. Staff and managers have welcomed this investment and approach to ensuring staff are equipped to support children with complex safeguarding needs resulting from exploitation.

Specialist Support

We have secured additional capacity led by an experienced Consultant Director children's services who is leading on the following workstreams:

- A business case for an alternative delivery model and approach to enhance and strengthen our response for children who are at risk of exploitation
- Framework for changes to processes and systems management
- Governance arrangements and streamlining reporting and processes
- Stakeholder involvement and consultation

Practice developments and Quality Assurance activities include

- Audit and review of high-risk children and 'MACE' using improved tools, risk assessment and planning
- Review of processes and systems for identification and responding to children suffering harm through exploitation
- Creation and development of a dedicated service for children suffering harm through exploitation
- Proposed new training and development framework agreed and commissioned
- Review of the provision and responses for missing children and Return Home Interviews
- Reviewing pathways for high risk children and operational mapping

Summary of financial implications

Posts in the proposed Complex Safeguarding Service sit within existing resources

Summary of legal implications

Delivery on our legal and regulatory obligations

Summary of human resources implications

Posts in the new Complex Safeguarding Service are being realigned from within Children's Services to another.

Summary of environmental impact

NA

Summary of public health implications

NA

Summary of equality implications

Children at risk of/or experiencing CE are vulnerable to poorer outcomes and face many inequalities in a range of areas, including health and wellbeing, education and this can last into adulthood. The initiatives in this paper are designed to address these inequalities and promote better outcomes.

Summary of risk assessment

NA

Background papers

BCP CE Delivery plan (2020 -2023)

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report