

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL**  
**CHILD EXPLOITATION WORKING GROUP**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 January 2023 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr R Burton – Chair

Present: Cllr E Coope, Cllr L Lewis and Cllr S Moore

Also in attendance: Gavin House, Detective Chief Inspector, Dorset Police  
Lauren Jones, Safer Schools & Communities Officer, Dorset Police  
Amanda Gridley, Service Manager, Early Help 1  
Juliette Blake, Director for Safeguarding and Early Help  
Kelly Twitchen, Headteacher BCP Virtual School and College and  
Interim Service Manager for Inclusion

5. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr M Haines.

6. Minutes

The Minutes of the Child Exploitation Working Group held on 1 November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

The Chair advised he would provide an update regarding his attendance at Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the BCP Community Safety Partnership Annual Report and would provide a verbal update at the next meeting of the Group. **ACTION**

7. Update from Dorset Police

Gavin House, Detective Chief Inspector, Dorset Police provided the working group with a PowerPoint presentation, which included the following:

- Structure of new safeguarding hubs and resourcing for BCP and County hubs.
- County Lines problem profile and Operation Viper detailing our response and successes with the neighbourhood enforcement teams.
- Social media reviews and profile for County Lines along with volume of intelligence and proactive methods for tackling the County Lines problem profile.
- Detail of BCP numbers of searches / seizures and disruptions for County Lines.
- Child Exploitation problem profile including child sexual exploitation and our response to this in the hubs.

- Management of high risk children at risk of CE and management of those at medium risk with partnership working through the MET meeting (missing / exploited and trafficked) with Children's social care.
- Information / intelligence sharing detail and routes between Police and Partners.
- Knife crime statistics for BCP and comparison detailed by age and location of suspects.
- Detail of Op Sceptre (knife crime national intensification week) and partnership approach to tackling knife crime in BCP.

The Working Group discussed the presentation and comments were made, including:

- In response to a query about missing occurrences, the group was advised that it can often be the same young person who goes missing multiple times, however the group was reassured that a risk assessment was undertaken for every occurrence and the interventions to prevent CE within the cohort were detailed
- The focus on county lines was discussed and the large amount of work that had been undertaken by the neighbourhood enforcement teams. It was highlighted that whilst there had been a lot of interventions/disruptions, there was still a small number of children who required support around county lines and exploitation
- There was some discussion about the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which was currently managed by the Home Office changing, however whilst it was being considered by partners, the working group was reassured that children were continuing to be safeguarded but that conclusive groups decisions in courts were taking too long
- The number of arrests detailed was discussed including the reasons for them and that some would have been children and some adults. The working group was advised that under NRM, there was a duty to presume that under 18s had been exploited. It was detailed that 19 NRMs had been identified within that data so would be safe to assume that the rest of the figure was made up of over 18s or not modern slavery related.
- The group discussed the difference levels of risk of CE and CSE and were reassured that it was not normal for a young person to become high risk without some knowledge of them although the possible reasons it could happen were highlighted, including out of county children being placed within Dorset or finding themselves in a risky situation due to friendship groups
- In response to a query regarding weapons which had been seized, the group was advised it would be as a result of stop and searches and drug seizures, which included intelligence lead searches
- The working group had a detailed discussion about knife crime including the reasons why young people carried knives, the work undertaken with schools where knife crime was an issue

- The work undertaken in Operation Sceptre was discussed including what was classed as a weapon, how they were collected and destroyed and the results of test purchases within BCP which the working group was pleased to hear resulted in none of the supermarkets selling to young people.

The Chair thanked the Detective Chief Inspector for his presentation and contribution to the working group.

Lauren Jones, Safer Schools & Communities Officer, Dorset Police, provided a presentation on the work the Safer Schools Team do within local schools, which included:

- What the Safer Schools and Communities Team (SSCT) covered including policing in schools, intervention work and Youth Disposals
- The interventions available from the SSCT
- What behaviours came under the Child Exploitation banner
- Examples of what was presented and discussed with pupils in a school environment around CE for Yr 7+ and Yr 9+ pupils
- County Lines and what was shown to pupils around the issue
- Teenage relationships abuse and consent
- Resources available and signposting to them.

The working group discussed the presentation and comments were made, including:

- A group member congratulated the Safer Schools & Communities Officer for all the work being done and the improvements which had been made
- It was discussed how the SSCT would consider data and target schools in areas where the benefit would be greatest. It was noted that although there wasn't the resources available to go into all schools, with the reasons provided, the click and play presentations were available to all schools
- The other work that the SSCT do within schools was discussed and it was noted that their presence was from a safeguarding perspective rather than punitive.

The Chair thanked the Safer Schools & Communities Officer for her presentation and contribution to the working group.

8. Update from the Service Manager for Navigators and Safeguarding in Education Advisers

Amanda Gridley, Service Manager, Early Help 1, provided a presentation regarding the work undertaken by Navigators and Safeguarding in Education Advisers, including:

- Education Safeguarding Advisors – roles and responsibilities.
- Family Hub Navigators

- Details of specific CE related work
- Details of intervention work

The Chair thanked the Service Manager for her presentation and advised that some data regarding the interventions being used would be helpful to the working group.

9. Next Steps

The Chair concluded that a lot of information had been shared and considered during the meeting and that it demonstrated that a large amount of multi agency work was being undertaken to address CE.

A Member of the working group advised of the need to consider whether CE Hotspots could be targeted with an ambition of designing it out of the area.

It was noted that the working group would have one last meeting prior to elections which would consider what schools taught during PHSE regarding CE. The group decided that after that meeting, it would compile a report to be considered by the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to demonstrate its findings.

CHAIR