

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on 04 April 2023 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr R Burton – Chair

Present: Cllr E Coope, Cllr M Haines and Cllr S Moore

Also in attendance: David Sidwick, Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset

10. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Lisa Lewis.

11. Minutes

The Minutes of the working group held on 24 January 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record.

12. Update from the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner

The Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner gave a PowerPoint presentation to the working group which detailed:

- What does your Police and Crime Commissioner do for you?
- Police and Crime Plan: Priorities and Themes
- Impact of Drugs
- What is a County Line?
- County Lines – Origination
- Priority 3 – Fight Violent Crime and High Harm
- From Harm to Hope – 10 Year Drug Strategy
- Combating Drugs Partnership
- Making South West Hostile to Drugs
- Dorset – Operation Viper
- Young People in Treatment
- Illegal Gateway Drugs (IDGs)
- Prevention
- Questions and Answers – Police and PCC view
- Police and Crime Plan: Dorset Police Vision
- Police and Crime Plan Delivery.

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

- In response to a query, the PCC advised he would report back on the proportion of the vulnerable kids detailed that were from BCP and how they were classed as vulnerable however that may be quite challenging. **ACTION.**
- The Working Group discussed intervention and prevention work within schools and it was noted that currently it started when children were in secondary provision aged 11 and the need to start some form of education regarding drugs and exploitation at an earlier age was highlighted. It was highlighted that this was being considered by the Community Safety Partnership. The working group want this to be considered further. **ACTION.**
- A Working Group member expressed concern regarding the money involved in drug dealing then by removing one would only lead for another to take its place, but the PCC advised that the alternative would be to do nothing which would lead to increases in harm and addiction and was not an option.
- The Chair highlighted that the number of perpetrators usually started as victims and what work could be done with victims to ensure they didn't become involved in crime, drugs and exploitation, the Working Group was advised of the work ongoing in this area by the PCC.
- In response to a query regarding the neighbouring LAs, the Working Group was reassured that the four other PCCs within South West were also prioritising the disruption and prevention of drugs within their area and were working together to ensure better communication and impact.
- The Director for Safeguarding and Early Help advised of the work being done regarding prevention within community settings and the impact it was hoped this would have on the need for future intervention, however it was acknowledged that measuring the impact in this area would be problematic
- The Group discussed the use of mobile phones among children as young as 7 and how they could be used as a grooming tool and the need for age appropriate education regarding exploitation, drugs and the dangers of carrying weapons could help reduce problems later in life
- The Group discussed the youth service provision and the PCC advised of funding that he had been allocated and what it could be used for, such as providing equipment.
- The Group was advised of the disruption work undertaken in Dorset to stop perpetrators from being able to set up county lines in the area
- The Group agreed to progress recommendations to the Committee and Cabinet that BCP Council wanted to promote partnership working to ensure increased communication around the issues discussed with parents, schools, children and youth services and ensure earlier education was implemented within schools across BCP regarding exploitation, drugs and the dangers of carrying weapons. **ACTION.**

13. PHSE in Schools

The Head of Service Educational Improvement and Services had difficulty in joining the meeting to give her presentation and it was agreed it would be circulated with any queries being emailed to her via the Clerk. **ACTION.**

14. Complex Safeguarding and CE Screening Tool

The Service Manager – Complex Safeguarding, Assessment and Edge of Care and Service Manager – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Out of Hours Service presented a PowerPoint presentation which included:

- Child Exploitation Pan Dorset Screening Tool
- BCP views on CE Tool review
- Proposed new CE Tool
- Review of CE Policy
- Recognising exploitation concerns in MASH

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

- In response to a query, the Working Group was advised that the Service and workforce needed to be more practiced and developed in their approach to using the tool.
- It was highlighted that the tool was ready to be used and once the workforce was competent and the Ofsted rating had improved, it could move to a more strength based screening tool rather than the current one.
- It was highlighted that this screening tool could be adapted if needed, however the working group was reassured that it was used by other LAs and had been in existence for 5 or 6 years so had a lot of testing.

15. Update from Youth Services

The Service Manager - Safeguarding and Targeted Support presented a PowerPoint presentation which included:

- BCP's Vision for CYP
- Four Pillar Delivery Model
- Pillar 2 explained – Contextual harm, Targeted support, Detached and Outreach
- Core Practice Model
- BCP Detached and Street based service
- Detached Activity
- Intel and Data to inform

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

- A Working Group member was pleased to hear about ‘clear skins’ being addressed as even children of wealthy backgrounds could be vulnerable to exploitation.
- In response to a query regarding detached activity, it was noted that Canford Cliffs was omitted and the Service Manager advised she would check this. **ACTION**
- In response to a query regarding the seasonable response and whether that would be available this year, it was hoped this would be offered but it was acknowledged that planning would normally be underway by now and there were funding limitations.
- In response to a query from the Chair regarding risks to stopping improvement happening, the working group was advised that it was important to identify thematic concerns regarding a young person then there would be a duty to investigate it further and provide support where appropriate.
- The need to ensure there was an education package and support platform in place to make young people aware of what it is to grow up and the information they needed to be able to make decisions about their lives safely.
- A working group member expressed concern about open access for areas that weren’t deprived still had access to youth work and it was highlighted that community response and partnership working could help address to maximise partnerships and skills to ensure a good coverage of services for young people to intervene early and offer good activity and diversions were in place.

CHAIR