

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28 MARCH 2011**

**BARNARDO REPORT ON CHILDREN VULNERABLE TO
SEXUAL ABUSE - PRESENTATION**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report is to inform Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee of a new project established in Darlington (in partnership with Barnardos), aimed at children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

Summary

2. The report describes the five aims of the project and the methodology used in the work.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) That CYP Scrutiny Committee note the contents of this report.
 - (b) That CYP Scrutiny Committee support the work of the CATE project and receive future updates on the work and its findings.

**Murray Rose
Director of People**

Background Papers

None.

Debbie Jones : Tel 406024
kr

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues for crime and disorder linked with this report.
Health and Well Being	The report covers well being issues which affect young people across all wards
Carbon Impact	There are no issues related to this report
Diversity	There are no issues arising from this report.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	Young people
Budget and Policy Framework	No decisions required
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The work covered in this report is consistent with the 'One Darlington' strategic aims
Efficiency	No issues arising from this paper

MAIN REPORT

Background

4. The Barnardos CATE (Children Affected Through Exploitation) Project was set up as a consequence of the findings from wider regional projects including the SECOS project (sexual exploitation of children on the streets), Barnardo's in Middlesbrough. The findings from these projects suggest that sexual exploitation often goes unrecognised and therefore is not responded to as a child protection issue. There is also a strong correlation to 'missing from home' incidents and substance misuse amongst young people.
5. Based on this regional work, funding was secured by Barnardos for a two year post based in Darlington, specifically aimed at the sexual exploitation of young people. The post is based within the Family Intervention Team and links closely to Council services in addition to Health and the Police.
6. Debbie Jones (the Darlington CATE worker) came into post in September 2010 and is located full time in Darlington in February 2011. The post is based on an 'action research' model and has the following aims:-
 - (a) To identify the known extent and mode of sexual exploitation of young people within Darlington and those young people believed to be at risk of being exploited.
 - (b) To gain understanding of the needs of young people being exploited/at risk of exploitation through prostitution.
 - (c) To identify resource needs in order to respond effectively to young people needing support in their recovery from sexual exploitation and to reduce the risk of being involved.
 - (d) Through education and training, support professionals in their identification and support of young people who are being exploited or who are at risk of exploitation.
 - (e) To produce and publish research findings and develop through consultation an ongoing action plan for Darlington.
7. The work is delivered via a person centred approach through one to one work, and group work support, to young people who are identified as being at risk of, or who are currently being sexually exploited in addition to this 'case work' element. The project supports the identification, and the extent and mode of sexual exploitation of young people, and those who are at risk within Darlington.
8. Currently, work is taking place with three young people, two of whom are Looked After Children. A training event has been held for social work staff and further dates are being arranged as part of a multi agency LSCB training programme.
9. The CATE Project is very much in its infancy and there is a clear need for awareness raising and training of professionals to develop the project further and the support being offered to young people at risk.