CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 FEBRUARY 2017

ITEM NO. ....

CHILDREN AT RISK OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose is to provide an overview of service delivery and outcomes regarding children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE).

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

2. *'Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them sexual activities.*

3. *In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and or/economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability'*.(National Working Group (NWG) definition agreed by the National Police Chief Council 2009).

Service Provision from Barnardo's

4. Since January 2011 Barnardo's have provided CSE services within Darlington and are well embedded in Darlington's CSE referral pathway and procedures. The provision is funded by Darlington Borough Council and the Police and Crime Commissioners.

5. The aim is to work closely with the local authority and the Social Workers to support children and young people who have been identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation or have been sexually exploited.

Service Intervention

6. The areas of work provided by Barnardo's include –

   - One to one case work for children and young people
   - Support to carers and parents
   - LSCB and single agency training
   - Contribution to the decisions and goals shared at the Missing and Exploited Group   (MEG)

- Supporting police operations linked to CSE
- Contribute to service and strategic development

The focus of the work is –

7. To PROTECT and safeguard children and young people who have been identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation or have been sexually exploited.

8. To PREVENT sexual exploitation by providing support, advice and consultancy to services.

Service Outcomes

- An increasing number of sexually exploited children are supported to recover,
- Ore children at risk of sexual exploitation receive 1-1 support and are safeguarded from perpetrators
- To reduce the number of children who are at risk of sexual exploitation or abuse
- To educate as many young people as possible within secondary, primary and special education provision to equip them with the knowledge to recognise if they are being targeted so that they are able to protect themselves.
- To include young people who are vulnerable and may not be accessing statutory education i.e. looked after children, travellers, and children from other authorities living in Darlington
- To educate as many professional members of the public and community groups as possible to recognise CSE and understand their responsibilities to report it

Process

9. Every young person referred to the service has undergone an assessment of their individual needs which includes the level of risk. The risk matrix has recently been updated. The new matrix takes into consideration the changing landscape including the increasing reports of sexting. The risk areas are more specific and Social Workers can now add their judgement to each area creating a more thorough and realistic assessment. It is now easier to monitor reductions in risk.

10. The needs identified in the assessment become an integral part of the Child Protection, Child in Need or Looked After Childrens Plans and are reviewed at least 6 weekly. The case will not be closed to CSE services until a risk assessment indicates low/minimal risk.

Recommendation

11. Scrutiny to note the contents of the report ,challenges and future plans

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults Services

Background Papers
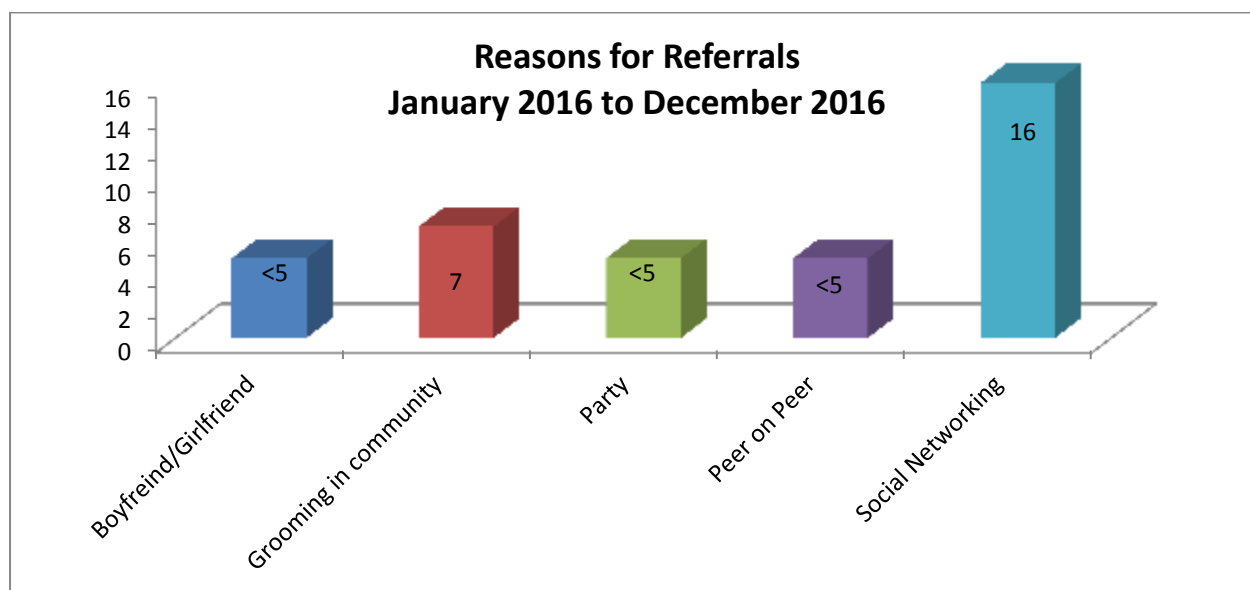
Author: Jean Langthorne Ext 6022

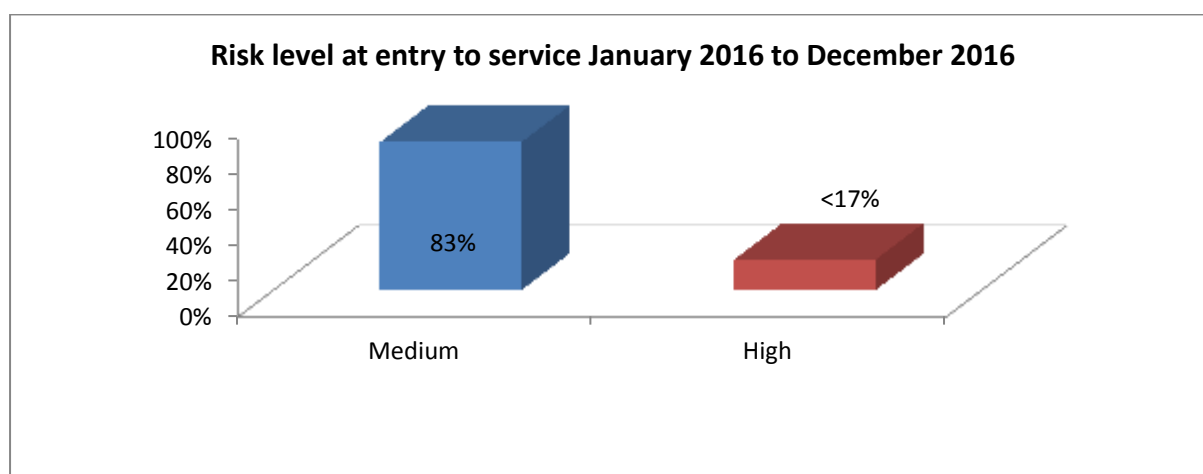|	
S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues this report needs to address
Health and Well Being	Increased engagement for children and their families and Looked after Children in the receiving of timely services
Carbon Impact	No issues
Diversity	No issues
Wards Affected	Impacts on all Wards
Groups Affected	Children and families in Darlington , Darlington Looked after Children and other authorities Looked after Children placed in Darlington
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Children receiving the best start in life and their emotional wellbeing needs are met
Efficiency	This report does not identify any efficiency savings.

Main Report

Referral data

12. During 2016 the service received 30 referrals where the risks of CSE were deemed either high or medium (<17% young people high risk and 83% young people medium risk). All 30 cases have been supported by a Bardardo's CSE Project worker. 11 have subsequently closed following successful intervention and 19 are currently open and receiving a service.

Graph to show reasons for referrals made to the service (using the CSE models of exploitation) January 2016 – December 2016

Over 50% of the referrals relate to concerns of CSE in respect of grooming by social media.As a consequence the CSE Project Workers are using a programme called REAL LOVE ROCKS . It is a 6 week programme which for primary aged children focusses on the children in year 6 to prepare them for the transition into secondary school and educates/advises on the risks of social media. The Programme for secondary school children explores CSE in greater depth and raises awareness of the risk of social media,the grooooming process and how to identify exploitative relationships.

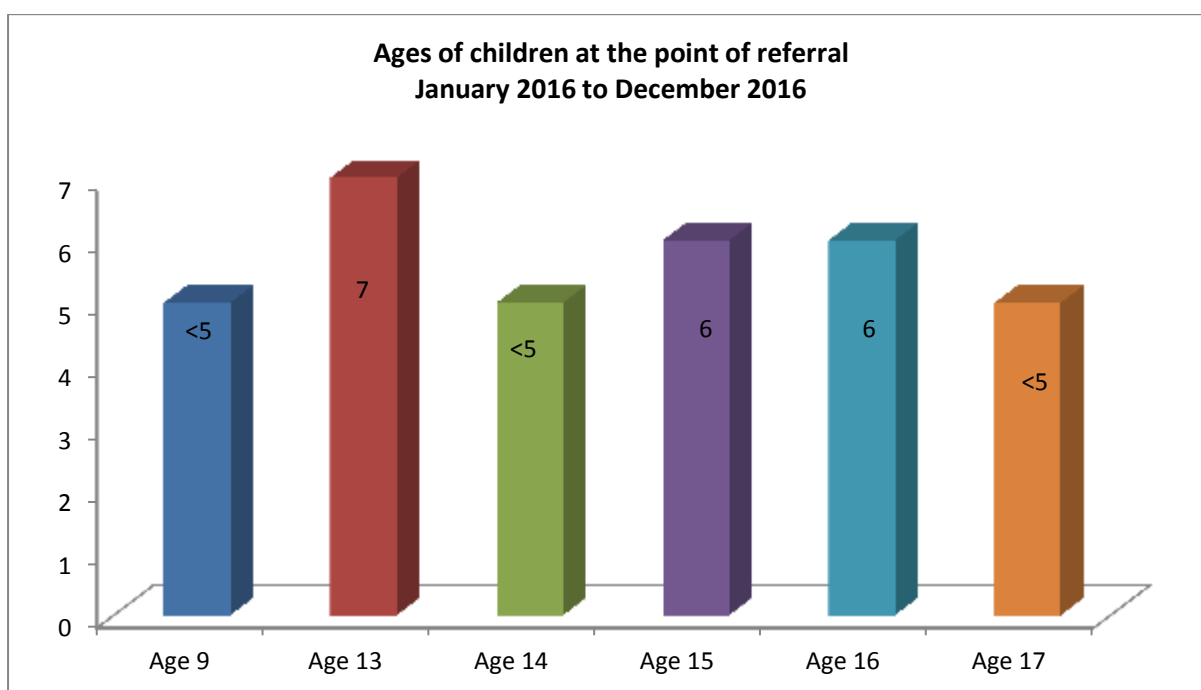**Graph to show the levels of risk at point of referral January 2016 – December 2016**

Of the medium cases 36% have reduced from medium to low and have been closed. The remaining 64% have remained at medium risk. Of the cases at high risk 20% have been reduced to medium and another 20% have reduced to low and been closed to services.

13. When a young person has been assessed as high or medium risk of CSE the Barnardo's CSE Project workers work closely with the case holding social worker to reduce the risk of CSE as detailed in the Child Protection, Child in Need or Looked After plans. The plans focus on covering issues including safe relationships, the grooming process, internet safety, recognising risk, sexual health, self-image, identity and confidence and self-esteem issues.

14. The work plan aims to:

- Raise awareness about protecting self and keeping safe
- Equip the young person to identify abusive or exploitative behaviour and prevent unsafe situations
- Increase the young person's knowledge of sexual health strategies
- Reduce incidents of missing from care
- Reduce associations with risky peers and adults
- Use strategies to encourage safe decision making
- Consider strategies to enhance safety, self-esteem and self-understanding

Graph to show the ages of on referral January 2016- December 2016

**Ages of children at the point of referral
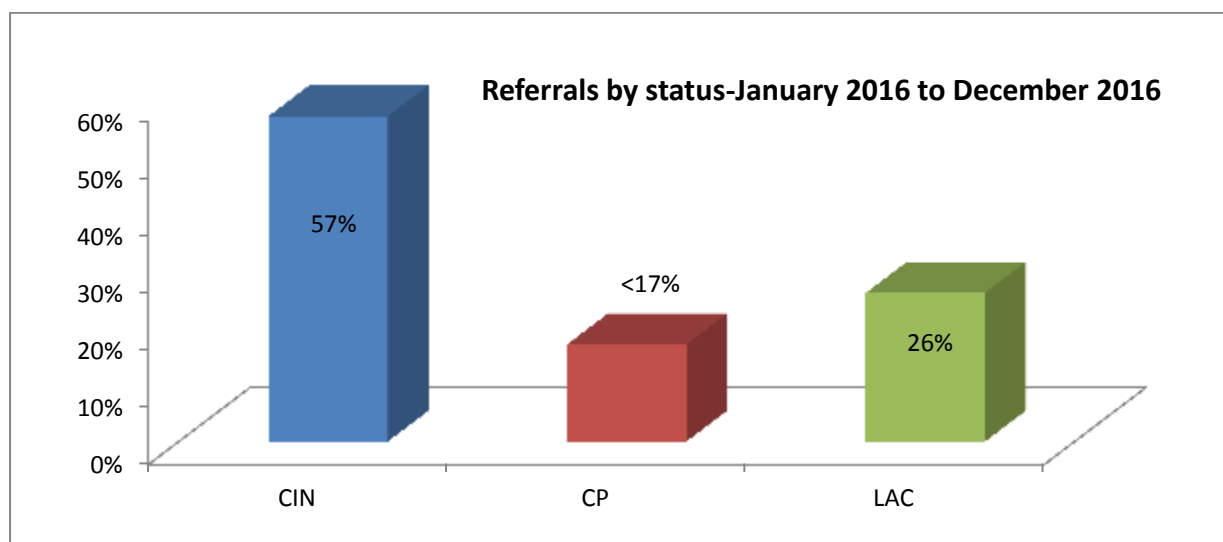January 2016 to December 2016**

This graph indicates that young people aged 13- 17 are at greatest risk of CSE. Awareness sessions have been facilitated in some of the secondary schools and plans are in place to work with the Barnardo's Project workers, Safeguarding Leads, PHSE/SRE lead and the training Department to prioritise CSE awareness in all schools including primaries. Additionally we have a CSE champion already in place in a number of secondary schools and plan to extend this to all schools

15. Of the 30 referrals received in 2016 less than 5 referrals had been made in respect of a male young person. However, research tells us that boys and young men are equally at risk and can be victims of child sexual exploitation. The dangers of the impact of CSE on boys and young men are often overlooked by practitioners. There is evidence that young men who are being sexually abused are often more likely to be criminalised for their behaviour and viewed as a perpetrator without questioning the reasons behind their behaviour. Additionally young men find it more difficult to

disclose an abusive relationship. University College London, with the support of Barnardo's have analysed the records of 9,042 victims since 2008 and found that almost 1 in 3 males were victims of CSE.

Graph to show the status of young people on referral January 2016- December 2016

Referrals by status-January 2016 to December 2016

The graph indicates that of the referrals received in 2016 two thirds were Child in Need cases and only one third cases where the child is looked after. Research suggests that nationally the numbers of Looked after Children who have been at risk of sexual exploitation would be much higher. As a result of these low numbers in Darlington a priority is to work with the staff in the Childrens Homes (both DBC and independent) and in units offering alternative educational provision to raise their awareness of the warning signs /changes in behaviour which may indicate risks of child sexual exploitation.
In respect of the looked after children 33% of those supported were children from other authorities placed in Darlington foster care /residential care

Evaluation and Feedback

16. The success of the intervention is measured using the Barnardo's Outcome Assessment grading scale in addition to user and carer feedback

OUTCOMES SUMMARY FOR YOUNG PERSON CASES WORKED WITH BETWEEN JULY 1ST AND DECEMBER 31ST 2016 Barnardo's Outcome	Percentage of cases with an improved score
SECOS - CATE (Darlington)	
1.2.13 Improved mental health & well-being	77%
1.3.02 Knowledge of sexual health strategies	50%
2.1.02 Able to identify abusive/exploitative behaviour	80%
2.1.08 Reduction in level of risk/harm	77%
2.1.21 Able to recognise exploitative behaviour/grooming on the internet	83%
4.1.12 Episodes of missing from home/care reduced	50%

Examples of Service User Feedback

17. Young People's comments about the service:-

The service is excellent. I feel a lot happier than I did a year ago. I know that they are only a phone call or text away if I need to talk.
The service is good. I didn't know all the stages of grooming and this service has opened my eyes.
I think this work has helped me, I have been listened to, I have learnt about internet safety and the grooming process.
The service is good because I learned a lot and I enjoyed working with the Barnardo's worker and we had done a power point on internet safety. Also I was helped to do an application form for a course
The worker understands you…we met in a safe place. I learnt about sexual exploitation. I was listened to and we talked about stuff in private.
Parent/Carer comments about the service:-
The service is excellent. The Barnardo's worker is always at the end of a phone any problems, had help whenever I needed, advice well received.
The service is excellent. I was given the help and support needed for my daughter to keep her safe on line.
This work has helped my daughter to understand the risks online

Training and development

18. Training has been delivered to-
   - Social care staff
   - Schools
   - Counsellors
   - Childrens home staff
   - Foster carers
   - LSCB

19. Further training and briefing sessions are planned to ensure that both local authority staff and those not directly working with children are support to understand the indicators of child sexual exploitation and their duty to report any concerns.

ERASE team

20. Darlington Borough Council work closely with the 'ERASE' team which stands for Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation. The team focus on child sexual exploitation, but also on missing children, as being reported missing from home can be an indicator that a child is at increased risk of sexual exploitation. The team is made up of a number of professionals including police officers, a social worker, an intelligence officer and Barnardo's youth workers and the team have close working relationships between schools and the other agencies involved with the local safeguarding children board, including Health.

21. The team build on the good work already underway to tackle child sexual exploitation and focus on preventing abuse and tackling it early in the hope that they can make a real difference to young people in Durham and Darlington. The team use intelligence led activities to proactively identify young people at risk and work

with them to reduce the risk. The team also work with other units to develop intelligence to identify and disrupt offenders.

Links between CSE and Missing

22. Whilst the research is not able to provide exact representation of the extent of running away and CSE among young people, one Barnardo's project, which focus on working with sexually exploited young people reported that anywhere between 25 % and 57 % of young people they work with experience both running away and CSE ("Running from hate to what you think is love": Emilie Smeaton, Bardardo's 2013). Concern was highlighted in the independent inquiry into CSE in Rotherham regarding the low incidents of CSE and the levels of LAC who went missing suggesting the links were not being explored sufficiently.

23. Within Darlington, in the period July 2016 to December 2016 of the 87 children reported missing, 12 (14%) were also receiving support because a risk matrix assessed them as medium or high risk of CSE. As a result of the low numbers in Darlington, the CSE Project workers are going to deliver training to both the Darlington Borough Council Childrens Homes staff and the Independent Childrens home staff to increase their knowledge and raise their awareness of any danger/risk signals.

Governance arrangements

24. The governance arrangements include the Missing and Exploited Group (MEG) and Missing, Exploited and Sexual Abuse Sub Group (MESA).

25. The monthly MEG discuss young people who are at high or medium risk of CSE. They will identify localities, identify perpetrators, any links to missing episodes, criminal activities or substance misuse, share Police intelligence and put actions/decisions in place through a multi-agency co-ordinated approach.

26. Case holding Social Workers provide an overview of their involvement including the current risk and the interventions identified and completed. The actions identified in the meeting should be recorded by the Social Worker and they should provide an update of the actions prior to the next meeting.

27. The intelligence gathered at the meetings will be shared with the Missing, Exploited and Sexual Abuse (MESA) group. This group leads on the production and implementation of multi-agency strategies, action planning, policy and guidance and the development of a performance framework for monitoring missing and any links to CSE to improve the long-term outcomes for children and young people in Darlington.

Challenges and future work

28. Further develop the role of CSE champions in all Darlington schools.

29. Continue to develop preventative strategies and ensure CSE is an integral part of PCSE in all schools.

30. Raise awareness with Social Care Staff, Early Help Practitioners and Youth Offending Officers in relation to the risks to young boys and men of child sexual exploitation.

31. Ensure groups who are excluded from school, are missing from education or access alternative provision, are supported.

32. Work closely with the Childrens Access Point to provide data and reports in relation children and young people who are at low risk of CSE to ensure appropriate services are in place to prevent an escalation.

33. Alongside the LSCB and the ERASE team, provide training to all social workers to update on the rationale and purpose for the change of CSE risk matrix, advise how the risk matrix is to be used and reinforce the principles of analysis to understand the risks to children and young people.

34. Support the LSCB to launch the CSE procedures including supporting Social Workers to understand the process from identification, referral to MEG, preparation for discussion of cases at MEG and the importance of maintaining case records.