

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	8 May 2019
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Child Sexual Exploitation
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the national and local position in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and the implications for South Lanarkshire

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the work of the South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee (SLCPC) in continuing to progress activity of the Scottish Government's [Child Protection Improvement Programme](#), the [National Action Plan to Prevent & Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation in Scotland](#) and other associated matters of national and local importance be supported;
- (2) that the work of the South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee to progress the National Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan be noted;
- (3) that the revised South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee local action plan in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation be noted and circulated to raise awareness within individual professional, disciplines and partnerships be noted;
- (4) that the promotion of the South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee website www.childprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk and relevant publicity material, including the provision of a new suite of [SLCPC - CSE Leaflets](#) in reception areas and public areas for distribution, be noted; and
- (5) to note that the Child Sexual Exploitation awareness poster, developed by lived experience young people available from March 2019, at 3.6.3 of the report will be displayed across South Lanarkshire.

3. Background

3.1. Child Protection Improvement Programme

3.1.1. In 2017, the national Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP) systems review, independently chaired by Catherine Dyer, accepted a suite of recommendations and actions contained in two published reports. Their implementation will strengthen the child protection system in Scotland.

- 3.1.2. The [Child Protection Improvement Programme](#) report sets out 35 actions covering children's hearings; leadership and workforce development; inspections of children's services; neglect; data and evidence; CSE; child internet safety; and trafficking. The systems review report makes 12 recommendations, covering initial and significant case reviews, Child Protection Committees (CPCs), the Child Protection Register, and matters of leadership, governance and accountability.
- 3.2. National CSE group
- 3.2.1. The national CSE group works to implement the national CSE action plan, and also to develop proposals for policy and practice improvement in relation to the action plan within the wider context of child sexual abuse. South Lanarkshire is represented on this group. It has strategic oversight of the national action plan and shares knowledge across CPCs and locally between services. It works with CPCs to raise awareness of the issues and build on local knowledge and promote understanding and expertise. An annual progress update report from the national group is expected in March 2019. At a local level the SLCPG has met its local action plan targets to date.
- 3.3. SLCPG – CSE and online safety sub group
- 3.3.1. We reviewed and revised our local strategic response to CSE in 2018. The revised CSE and online sub group has strong multi-agency representation. Our membership includes:
- ◆ SLCPG Lead Officer
 - ◆ Learning and Development Worker
 - ◆ Community Safety Police Scotland
 - ◆ Sexual Health Service
 - ◆ Social Work Resources
 - ◆ Education Resources
 - ◆ Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS)
 - ◆ Leisure Services
 - ◆ third sector
- 3.3.2. A new terms of reference sets out expectation and the expected levels of commitment across the Partnership. The group will report regularly to the SLCPG.
- 3.3.3. Linked to the South Lanarkshire Children's Services' plan, and the SLCPG business plan, it takes forward the work of the national CSE action plan (due to be updated by the national group in April 2019) and considers it in a local context in terms of its own action plan priorities. The work is developed to support the workforce across an area of increasing concern locally and nationally. The most significant increase relates to young people targeted online. Community risks continue.
- 3.3.4. On 27 February 2019, the above sub group hosted a development day to quality assure progress and focus on further developing its own action plan for the year ahead. Priority areas include (a) update of local CSE guidance (b) improvements in data collection (once the national shared data set is agreed) (c) consider CSE in the context of the new national human trafficking and exploitation strategy (d) ensure a continued drive on raising public awareness and public information in relation to CSE and online safety and (e) continue to deliver training to the workforce.

3.4. SLCPD – learning and development

3.4.1. We have a comprehensive SLCPD – child protection training programme for the multi-agency workforce in South Lanarkshire. Practitioners and Managers can learn about CSE by attending a briefing, workshop or full day course depending on their needs. Demand is consistently high and will continue to be offered. Around 300 staff have learned about CSE in the programme year 2018/2019. We offer bespoke training and support other areas with the Lead Officer taking part in a CSE conference as a guest speaker with Aberdeen CPC and also for Police Scotland in 2018 at force training in Fife.

3.4.2. Progressed by the SLCPD Learning and Development Worker, the aim is to raise awareness of how children and young people become involved in CSE, the impact of their involvement and how practitioners can respond effectively to protect and support children and young people at risk of, or affected by CSE. This includes the identification and response to perpetrators.

3.4.3. We hosted a highly successful regional CSE and child trafficking workshop on behalf of the national CSE group in late January 2019. A total of 50 multi-agency members of targeted staff across four local authorities from Police, Social Work, Health and Education attended and will cascade learning across their organisation.

3.4.4. We actively encourage partners to link with the SLCPD Learning and Development Officer to ensure staff within organisations at all levels have the required knowledge and skills in this area. A scoping exercise is planned.

3.5. CSE awareness campaigns

3.5.1. We routinely host local CSE campaigns across social media and to the multi-agency workforce. We published a suite of [SLCPD - CSE Information](#) leaflets for children and young people, parents and carers, professionals, hotels, licensed premises and private hire/taxi companies across South Lanarkshire in 2018. Almost 1000 leaflets were circulated to businesses across the authority who work in the high risk night time economy sector. We are preparing to once again support [National CSE Awareness Day](#) on 18 March 2019.

3.5.2. Plans are also in place to host four public information events this year. Our focus will include the revised Barnardo's night watch online resources.

3.6. CSE – involving young people

3.6.1. Working with IFSS in South Lanarkshire we held a consultation event with a group of young people directly affected by CSE. We were offered a raw picture of the impact on young people and gained essential information around early indicators of both community and online activity that led to the risk of CSE and the impact on young people.

- 3.6.2. We found improving strengths in some areas and young people were encouraged to help us learn how to support young people and reduce risk in areas they felt we needed to know more about. This included a need to improve our online resources. One young person said they would say to any young person at risk of CSE;
- ♦ “here you, listen to me right now, block all those people, it’s not worth the hassle. Alcohol and stuff might be free at the time but they always want something back. They will never leave you alone”
- 3.6.3. Young people also worked on a media campaign with us and have created a CSE awareness poster (below) for young people. This will be displayed in a number of places across South Lanarkshire.



New - CSE poster (expected launch date of March 2019)

4. Employee Implications

- 4.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Campaign and public information event costs are met for the SLCPC budget. Partners contribute as requested in relation to specific tasks.

6. Other Implications

- 6.1. It is essential to ensure maximum opportunity for all in protecting children and young people. The SLCPC asks the Social Work Committee to note the content of the report publicise as wide as possible within their networks.
- 6.2. The Committee are encouraged to consider their contribution to the work of the SLCPC by ensuring staff across the multi-agency workforce are appropriately signposted to opportunities to improve their understanding of CSE and improve outcomes for children and young people.

7. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 7.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy, or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 7.2. Extensive consultation has taken place with the Child Protection Committee members and young people as part of the development of the publicity material.

Val de Souza
Director, Health and Social Care

18 March 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Accountable effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Ambitious, self-aware and improving
- ◆ Fair open and sustainable
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Deliver better health and social care outcomes for all
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration

Previous References

- ◆ none

List of Background Papers

- ◆ none

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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