

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

21ST JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	LOCAL RESPONSE TO TACKLING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) AND CHILDREN WHO GO MISSING FROM HOME/CARE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the local response to CSE, lead by Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB). Following national concern about cases of child exploitation in Rochdale, which resulted in criminal convictions of nine men involved in a network of abuse in 2012, the Government asked that LSCBs to scope 'the nature and extent of the problem and assess how well they are responding'. WSCB action plan is attached in Appendix 1 as well as the Local Government Association (LGA) information entitled 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): Key Questions for Lead Members for Children's Services' which will be referenced in this report.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Government produced a progress report on CSE in July 2012 and announced a series of actions to address areas identified in the national reports from the Children's Commissioner and the All Parliamentary Report on Children who go missing from care regarding;

- Asking local authorities to review their own data collections on missing children against police data
- Changing regulations so that Ofsted can share information about the location of children's homes with the police
- Setting up a task and finish group to introduce additional safeguards to improve local authorities' scrutiny of their decisions to place children out of area
- Taking forward changes so that children's homes take a proactive
- Review current provision so that Local Authorities can monitor the quality of care offered in children's homes and alert Ofsted to failings

2.2 These reforms were due to report by the end of 2012 and LSCBs are awaiting further updates on this.

3.0 PROGRESS ON WSCB ACTION PLAN

3.1 Wirral Safeguarding Children Board has set up a sub-group of the LSCB and brought together key agencies such as the Police, Health, Barnardo's and other key partners to review local procedure and policy and consider whether there is an effective response. The action plan covers areas such as:

- Development of an infrastructure to respond effectively
- Identify and engage with children who are experiencing or at risk of CSE
- Integrated services for children experiencing or at risk of CSE
- Decrease the incident of CSE
- Support prosecution of offenders
- Disrupt activity related to CSE

3.2 In addition to the sub-groups work the Independent Chairs of Cheshire/Merseyside LSCB's have developed a CSE strategy which supports the actions identified and is intended to support information sharing across Local Authority areas. The strategy is to be launched regionally before April 2013 through a regional event lead by the independent chairs of LSCB's.

3.3 Locally the Strategic Service Manager-Safeguarding has met with independent providers of children's homes on Wirral to ensure that reporting concerns and incidents of CSE are being done according to the LSCB procedure for CSE and runaways. This meeting has been set up to be scheduled for three times per year to ensure that independent providers are doing what would be expected of 'good enough parents'.

3.4 The LGA briefing for Lead Members on CSE, attached in Appendix 2, is helpful for Scrutiny Committee to develop a greater understanding about what the Local Authorities' should be providing by way of information and data to ensure it is protecting and safeguarding children in their area.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 The LSCB Action Plan is designed to identify the risk to children and young people who are placed away from their home authority and family. Wirral agencies, community groups and members of the community should be aware how to report concern about children who run away and the possibility of exploitation.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 It is a requirement to develop a local action plan and therefore no other options has been considered.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation has taken place with a wide range of partners within the LSCB.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 None specifically identified.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 Finance for the commissioning has been met by CYPD budget which is for the provision of a dedicated counselling/support service for young people at risk of sexual exploitation and for those who run away from home/care through Barnardos.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None identified.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes - EIA attached

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None Identified.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None Identified.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Members note the LSCB action plan and the work already undertaken in this area

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1

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APPENDICES

- 1. Wirral LSCB action plan for CSE appendix 1
- 2. LGA Tackling Sexual Exploitation (CSE): Key questions for Lead Members for Children’s Services appendix 2.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Caroline McKenna

Email address: carolinemckenna@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: Caroline McKenna

Chief Officer: Julia Hassall

Department: Children and Young People

Date: 7th January 2013

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Wirral Safeguarding Children Board action Plan – Sexual Exploitation of children July 2012 – April 2013

Section 2b: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny - 21/1/13

Please add hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Services**
- The workforce**
- Communities**
- Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council (please tick relevant boxes)

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advances equality of opportunity
- Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

- No** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 5:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Young people that are sexually exploited	Positive: The action plan aims to Identify and engage with children who are experiencing or at risk of CSE and develop appropriate integrated specialist services				
Racial minorities, sexual orientation, disability	Negative: potential for people from certain minority groups to be incorrectly targeted by using a process of ‘hotspot’ locations and as a result of previous media coverage following Rochdale cases. This could lead to harassment and discrimination against communities. Could reduce community cohesion	The development of the policies, procedures and guidance, accompanying training and the media strategy will ensure that any potential for negative targeting is mitigated.	Caroline McKenna	March 2013	None
		Ongoing monitoring will ensure that there is no negative targeting of communities.	LSCB Business manager and QA officer	May 2013	None
All	Positive: responses are based on the needs of individual children and child-centred through the use of a consistent risk screening tool				

All	Positive: the action plan identifies the need for specialist services and to obtain evidence directly from young people that they are meeting their needs. This is to be reported annually to the CSE sub group.				
All	Positive: professionals, community groups, businesses and the public will be more aware of sexual exploitation through awareness raising activities				

Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Through the Child Sexual Exploitation sub group of the LSCB

Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Government report on Child exploitation, July 2012
Local Government Association (LGA) information entitled 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): Key Questions for Lead Members for Children's Services'
Data collection about child exploitation is part of the implementation of the action plan.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

Yes

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?

Consultation has taken place with a wide range of partners within the LSCB to develop the action plan

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for re-publishing.

Section 9: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Add appropriate departmental hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published (section 2b)**
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 5)**
- c) **Send this EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your completed EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**