

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO Cabinet**

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>2. Date:</b>	<b>18 September 2013</b>
<b>3. Title:</b>	<b>Child Sexual Exploitation Update</b>
<b>4. Directorate:</b>	<b>CYPS</b>

**5. Summary:**

Cabinet has considered two reports on the 28th June and the 3rd July on the findings of the Home Affairs Select Committee. A briefing for Members was sent out on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. As reported separately, RMBC is committing to an Independent Inquiry of historic CSE cases. The terms of reference for this will be brought separately to Cabinet.

**6. Recommendations:**

- **For Cabinet to note the information about the reviews and enquiries which will be taking place over coming months, and the terms of reference for the internal RMBC inquiry announced by the Leader on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013.**
- **For Cabinet to note the work that has been carried out on awareness raising, recognition of the signs of CSE and referrals to children’s social care and the CSE team since April 2013.**
- **For Cabinet to note the current live operations that are taking place and the potential publicity related to these.**

## **7. Proposals and Details:**

### **i) Reviews and enquiries**

Members may already be aware that there are a number of reviews and enquiries which will be taking place over coming months to examine historic allegations of abuse; and the effectiveness of current arrangements.

These include:

- Work already commissioned from Barnardo's on CSE due to start on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September, which examines the current multi-agency model of working and effectiveness of work on CSE in the borough
- This will inform the Diagnostic led by the incoming Chair of the LSCB (Steven Ashley) on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October, of the safeguarding of children and young people involved in CSE
- Operation Clover, which is the South Yorkshire Police investigation into specific historical cases dating back to 1994 to 2005
- An independent inquiry to be commissioned by RMBC into historic child exploitation in Rotherham, outlined in the formal statement made by the Leader on 4<sup>th</sup> September. The terms of reference for this will be reported to Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> September
- Three enquiries announced by PCC Shaun Wright on 29.8.13 which are:
  - Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary to conduct a thorough review of the process and structures currently in place in South Yorkshire Police to investigate allegations of CSE
  - The Chief Constable to set up an additional team of detectives and other specialists to investigate allegations of historic child abuse in South Yorkshire
  - The Chief Crown Prosecutor to conduct a similar review of all those historic cases in which the Crown Prosecution Service was involved in considering whether charges should be brought

### **ii) Current live operations**

Details of the current operations which can be shared are below; however the details of live investigations are confidential:

- Operation K ALPHABET – 16 month long intelligence led investigation, reported in the Advertiser. 8 suspects charged with 71 offences against children. 2 individuals have 42 and 21 charges between them
- Operation Carriage – operation targeting Prom season and concerns around ensuring child safeguarding

- Operation Klan – two Doncaster men on remand for a range of offences. A number of victims identified, some of whom are from Rotherham
- Operation Clover – this is a joint investigation linked to the recent story in the Times and allegations of abuse from 1994 to 2005
- 4 cases on police bail at the moment
- 2 cases pending court, one being charged for 40 offences including rape, sexual activity with a child; the other being charged with two rapes of a child under 13 years
- One conviction since April, Sam Bradley, Teaching Assistant. Pleaded guilty at court, received 3 years

**iii) Actions to prevent CSE and protect children and young people carried out to date in 2013/2014:**

- 55 Contacts where CSE is one component of the child's vulnerability relating to 50 children
- 44 Referrals where CSE is one component of the child's vulnerability relating to 43 children
- 38 Initial Assessments completed by CSE team with a further 7 ongoing
- 15 Core Assessments completed by CSE team with a further 9 ongoing
- 9 Schools engaged since April, over 872 pupils involved
- 85 Cases open to social care, 6 of which are boys
- 74 cases are currently open to the parenting service
- 51 Joint investigations
- 58 Police referrals into PPU since April 2013 (42 in 2012)
- 20 Abduction notices served
- 15 Ward Members trained ( only 3 Members not undertaken training)
- 24 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators trained
- 11 Parish Councillors trained
- Training planned for Partnership and Young People's Police Officers

- Special Constables attending CSE team for training and awareness
- Training planned for School Governors in the Autumn
- In the six months from April to September 2013, Safe at Last received a total of 147 referrals for 68 individuals, of which 28 were first-time referrals. Safe at Last conducted 25 return interviews, although this number may increase when the final numbers for the 6 month period are completed. Safe at Last carried out 130 follow up visits with 23 individuals, some of whom were new to the project, some already known to the project
- 3 young women and 8 families supported by GROW. – 6 through parenting work and 5 through direct work with young people aged 17-25
- The AWARE project run by GROW worked with 4 families and 6 young people who had experienced CSE
- 126 staff have undertaken LSCB multi agency training
- Rotherham Council and South Yorkshire Police have been working with secondary schools across the borough to help staff and students understand what CSE is, how to protect children and young people from it, and how to report concerns. The Team Manager from the CSE Team has attended Schools Forum to work with school representatives responsible for PHSE (Personal Social and Health Education) understand CSE and provide support and guidance to parents, carers and pupils. Many schools have a CEOP (Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection) Co-ordinator who works with students and parents/carers
- Rotherham has 20 hotels, guest houses and bed and breakfasts listed with environmental health. These are all being visited next week to promote Operation Makesafe. This is where staff in such establishments are trained in what to look for, what to do and how to report CSE
- a contact is the first point of contact with social care services from someone making an enquiry or wanting to report a concern
- a referral is a contact that requires further investigation and assessment to see whether a child or their family needs help from social services
- an initial assessment is a brief assessment of each child referred which includes relevant information from a number of agencies
- a core assessment is an in-depth assessment which looks at the detailed needs of the child, and whether their parents or carers have the capacity to respond to those needs. It involves other agencies who will provide information about the child or parents and contribute specialist knowledge.

NB – A number of referrals and cores were allocated to locality teams and these are not included in the CSE team figures above.

Other activities to support CSE prevention and protect children and young people

**iv) Multi-agency groups overseeing CSE strategy and implementation**

- The multi-agency GOLD Group has become the CSE sub-group of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and is responsible for the overview and delivery of the CSE Strategy and Action Plan. It has revised terms of reference to reflect the strengthened role of the group.
- The multi-agency Silver Group has become the operational group dealing with specific investigations and intelligence. It has revised terms of reference and reports to the GOLD group.

**v) Enhancing the CSE team**

- Police and Crime Commissioner funding identified for GROW and Safe at Last enabled enhancement of the CSE team capacity through parenting and return home visits
- Barnardo's have recruited a social worker to the CSE team and they start mid-September
- Sexual Health Nurse being recruited to the CSE team through Public Health/TRFT- interviews on 13<sup>th</sup> September.
- Administrative support identified for CSE team began in September through GROW.
- Awareness raising session at Eastwood Funfest in August
- Awareness raising session being planned for the autumn, through local Members in the Wickersley ward.
- Barnardo's Practice review planned for 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September
- LSCB Chair leading on a CSE diagnostic on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**8. Finance:**

The CSE team total budgeted expenditure for 2013/ 2014 is £ 274,086. This is funded by £45,208 DSG, £50,000 PCC, and £178,878 Revenue.

**9. Risks and Uncertainties:**

Ofsted are bringing in a new framework for inspection which will go live from November this year. There will be a strand of this inspection looking at CSE. In addition, HIMC are undertaking thematic CSE reviews of police forces and the Police and Crime Commissioner has asked that South Yorkshire Police be reviewed.

**10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:**

The multi-agency Performance Framework which accompanies the CSE Strategy and Action Plan has been simplified to ensure that accurate, timely information about key aspects of CSE and safeguarding children and young people is collated and used to inform practice. New government guidance on the collection of data relating to CSE is anticipated and will be incorporated in the performance data; which will be presented to members as part of the regular updates on performance.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation:**

Reports to Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Members briefing on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

LGA publication, June 2013 'How councils are raising awareness of child sexual exploitation'

**Contact Name :** Joyce Thacker,  
Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services, RMBC  
Joyce.thacker@rotherham.gov.uk

Jason Harwin,  
Chief Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police