

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 1 March 2017

Topic: Children Needing Help and Protection

Information in this report was produced on behalf of	
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Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Item 2 Children Needing Help and Protection

Objective: For the committee to understand, and make any recommendations in relation to the issues associated with Suffolk children in need of help and protection, in particular with regard to child exploitation and abuse.

This report is a brief update of the work of the LSCB in 2016-17 focussing on two specific areas.

The OFSTED review of the LSCB in December 2015 resulted in a rating finding of 'GOOD'. Suffolk were one of only 20% of LSCBs nationally to receive this rating.

The two main areas of improvement for the LSCB identified in the Ofsted report were: -

- Improving the guidance on neglect, so it is sufficiently rigorous to assist in monitoring and evaluating impact.
- Ensure that the Board continues to improve its understanding of the scale and prevalence of child sexual exploitation across the county.

Therefore, the LSCB priorities for the 2016/17 included: -

- Improved Integration – to improve the Neglect strategy to enable us to more effectively identify neglect and its prevalence and enable an evaluation of effectiveness;
- Identifying and Mitigating risk – to ensure that the Board continues to improve its understanding of the scale and prevalence of Child Exploitation, including online safety, across the County.

Improved Integration

The LSCB has undertaken several Serious Case Reviews in the last few years where neglect was a feature of the case. In order to improve practitioner understanding and effectiveness in intervening in cases of neglect, the LSCB committed to a refresh, relaunch and promotion of the Neglect Strategy and associated training.

Consideration was given to the need to specifically address the understanding across the multi-agency workforce of how neglect and poor care can be identified and addressed.

Following multi-agency consultation, the LSCB re-issued the LSCB strategy document entitled 'Actions for Preventing and Intervening Early in Neglect. Suffolk LSCB Strategy, Guidance and Action Plan'. as part of a wider strategy action plan and dissemination of learning from serious case reviews.

Before revising the strategy document, the LSCB undertook a survey of practitioners use and understanding of the original LSCB neglect strategy document and how they utilised the risk assessment tools available to them to identify neglect and enhance Signs of Safety and Wellbeing practice.

The intended impact of the strategy is to improve, across LSCB partner agencies, knowledge and understanding of Neglect. Tools to measure and assess Neglect and an enhanced knowledge of research and practice into working with families where Neglect is prevalent. Evidence of impact is recommended to be via a second electronic survey of professional practice and through audit and scrutiny of single agency action plans.

As part of this work on Neglect, CYPS have invested in specific training to upgrade the expertise of the workforce in utilising the Graded Care Profile assessment framework and this will be rolled out via a 'train the trainer programme'. Suffolk LSCB endorse the use of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP) to inform the assessment framework of Signs of Safety.

The **Graded Care Profile** is an evidence based assessment tool for evaluating levels of parental care. It identifies strengths and weaknesses to capture levels of physical and emotional care, identifies strengths and weaknesses and targets aspects of neglectful care and provides evidence that can inform care and intervention plans.

Identifying and mitigating risk.

Considerable progress has been made in improving the LSCB's understanding of the scale and prevalence of Child Sexual Exploitation across the county. Work includes:

- Appointment of a CSE Co-ordinator who is works closely with the CYPS Missing Children Co-ordinator, exploited children group, MASH and Make a Change Team

- Development and successful implementation of five CaRE (children at risk of exploitation groups) across the county. These multi agency groups bring together intelligence and concerns to a central point in each locality to improve understanding of the scale of concern across the county.
- Ongoing development of the Tactical Tasking Co-ordination Group based in the MASH.
- Ongoing work on raising awareness by means of group training, work with District and Borough licencing teams, taxis, hotels, information packs etc.
- Public Health have commissioned a piece of Research around Youth Gangs and Violence on behalf of the 'Suffolk System'. The research will be undertaken by the University of Suffolk in 3 geographical phases (1) Ipswich 2) West Suffolk 3) East Suffolk. Phase 1 will be complete and findings are expected in June 2017. The purpose of the research is to;
 - Identify and assess the nature and extent of the problem and impact on safeguarding and wider service delivery
 - Describe and asses existing interventions and service provision and, where relevant highlight gaps and anomalies
 - Produce evidence led recommendations that will inform a countywide, multi-agency response which will cover the areas of prevention, intervention and enforcement.
- Training by the LSCB Central team for Councillors on Child Sexual Exploitation.
- The LSCB played a key role in a 60 case audit led by CYP, of high risk cases identified by Suffolk Constabulary during 2015. This did not identify any systemic CSE issues in Suffolk but the learning on individual cases was fed back to front line practice managers.
- There will be a further CSE 20 case audit reporting findings back to the LSCB in May 2017.

