

COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Community Safety Scrutiny Commission held on Tuesday 5 February 2019 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Leanne Werner (Chair)
Councillor William Hougbo (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Karl Eastham
Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Michael Situ
Martin Brecknell

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Jasmine Ali, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Adults.

OFFICER SUPPORT: Nina Dohel – Director of Education will be attending.
Lee Souter ; PSHE & Healthy Schools Lead, Children's and Adults' Services
David Bromfield Senior Advisor for Secondary Schools
Norman Coombe, Head of Corporate Team, LEGAL Services;
David Littleton, Head of Regulatory Services;
Sarah Newman, Business Unit Manager ;
Alasdair Smith, Director, Children & Families;
Patricia Comley, Strategic Lead for Adult Safeguarding,
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards & Principal Social Worker for Adults

PARTNER SUPPORT Tamara Barnett: Human Trafficking Foundation
Catherine Baker Senior Research, Policy and Campaigns Officer, ECPAT UK
Detective Superintendent Sean Oxley – Safeguarding Lead for Central South
DI Paul Graves – Deputy in Safeguarding Hub for Central South

1. APOLOGIES

VIDEO LINK TO THE MEETING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaM0gryNGaU&t=2s>

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Leanne Werner declared she is a governor at COLA.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 29 October 2018 were agreed as an accurate record.

5. TACKLING ABUSE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN SCHOOLS AND ON OUR STREETS

The chair invited Natasha Jones, Head of Key Stage 3, City of London Academy (COLA) and two 6th form students from COLA to present on healthy relationships and the work that COLA is developing to address this.

The COLA students said that they have not received lessons on sex education yet, it's still seen as a taboo subject, and so media has become the only educator. They said it would be helpful to address this in schools. Sex education and healthy relationship education is important otherwise young people will get information from other sources such as media and porn; which are neither realistic nor showing a healthy portrayal of normal relationships.

LGBT education needs to be improved; heterosexual relationships are not the only norm among students. Harassment is also hard to tackle if people do not know how to identify this. Education needs to start early and there is a need for healthy examples in the media. There is a problem with revenge porn, sexualisation of girls and young women.

Natasha Jones, Head of Key Stage at COLA said that that students on panels have said we want to talk more about healthy relationships. The feedback has been that the education is focused almost exclusively on biology; but they would like more on relationships and emotions. Relationships are not always easy. Teaching about consent is a key to this and also rights in a relationship. The school has been holding discussions with students. Issues like abortion have come up, as did rape. Some students were saying rape could not take in place in a relationship, which

was shocking. Talking about these issues is crucial.

Following feedback from students that they would like more on this issue there is now a growing recognition within the school and the leadership structure that this is an important subject. One of the concerns is that sex education will not be taken seriously as it is not academic subject. Some teachers also feel incompetent. But teachers are empowering themselves and a recent session she delivered in school was very popular. There is a growing awareness that relationships are the most important thing. The current curriculum in development is student led; scenarios are given for discussion, there is student evaluation and feedback, and ongoing discussion with student panels on content development.

The chair invited the following education and police representatives to contribute:

- Detective Superintendent Sean Oxley – Safeguarding Lead for Central South
- DI Paul Graves – Deputy in Safeguarding Hub for Central South
- Nina Dohel – Director of Education will be attending.
- Lee Souter ; PSHE & Healthy Schools Lead, Children's and Adults' Services
- David Bromfield Senior Advisor for Secondary Schools

The Director of Education said that schools are teaching this to a greater or lesser extent .There is an established network, meeting quarterly. Schools are forthcoming and ask about issues such as gender identity with in LGBT. There is also a PSHE curriculum and resources bank; with teaching resources on citizen rights, etc.

The police said that they work to Identifying young people at risk and risky individuals, and they are raising awareness of harassment and working with women's groups to do this.

The chair then invited comments and questions.

Members asked the young people about useful resources and they referred to a series of performances on social media about what constitutes a healthy relationships and what is not .This was a student's collage project showing different scenarios. It would be helpful to learning about boundaries and how to assert them at an early age. Healthy relationships discussion and teaching ought to start at a young age, about 7 years old. It is also important to engage boys.

Members asked if the education department collect's data on safeguarding. The Director said that formally the council did record data; but however the there was a question as to its usefulness, and with the move towards academies and autonomy there are more local choice about what data is shared.

The police have been asked to provide data to the scrutiny commission to support the review; officers said that they are working on providing this

however there are some difficulties.

The Director added that Ofsted do inspect school safeguarding policies and it will be an Ofsted requirement to teach safe and healthy relationships.

The Director was asked if it was a legal requirement to report. She explained that schools are required to have a safeguarding policy. Most schools use the Southwark model. Schools will use this to make decisions to refer matters to MASH and/ or the police. A member asked if there would be provision to report anonymously and she said this is always available.

The Director was asked how the council can use its influence best and she said that an approach that has worked is sharing curriculum content and working with primary schools.

She was then asked if there was a lack of consistency. The Director said she would frame this as variability. Parents can get nervous, and withdraw for religious or other reasons. There can also be issues related to the skills and confidence of staff. Schools now have lots of autonomy.

The PSHE & Healthy Schools Lead said the education department does share best practice and there are PSHE models of delivery and sessions, which are popular with teachers. An external expert has delivered 6000 hours teaching hours.

A member asked how can the council get a more accurate picture of what is happening on the ground and support partners.

The COLA teacher said that it is important to communicate with young people what is harassment. One approach could be a focus on this issue for a week, similar to work on Mental Health, and this could promote how to identify and report harassment.

Members asked if the police are taking this seriously. Some of the feedback received has been this is not always the case. The police said they are working to support victims and also working with educating perpetrators. They pointed out their resource constraints with 300 less police officer. This means they have to focus their resources on cases which stand a chance of being solved, and that is frequently based on being able to identify the perpetrator - which can be variable with harassment.

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6. CHILD TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY

The following experts, members and officers contributed to this item

- Tamara Barnett: Human Trafficking Foundation
- Catherine Baker Senior Research, Policy and Campaigns Officer, ECPAT UK

- Jasmine Ali, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Adults.
- Norman Coombe, Head of Corporate Team, LEGAL Services;
- David Littleton, Head of Regulatory Services;
- Sarah Newman, Business Unit Manager ;
- Alasdair Smith, Director, Children & Families;
- Patricia Comley, Strategic Lead for Adult Safeguarding, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards & Principal Social Worker for Adults.

Tamara Barnett: Human Trafficking Foundation, gave an overview of Modern Slavery. Communities most at risk of modern slavery include UK drug and gangs using Modern Slavery to exploit young people on county lines (where often vulnerable urban young people are controlled and exploited by drug gangs to sell drugs in towns outside of the city), Vietnamese (cannabis farming), Nigerian (domestic servitude) and Albanian.

Most recently the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) identified 5,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK, 2,000 of these were children. In the UK 20% per cent of children go missing in LA care. The National Crime Agency Data Southwark statistics show in 2016 one adult was identified under the Modern Slavery Act, which is low. A Hestia report highlighted that there were 55 victims in a safe house from Southwark. The Human Trafficking Foundation estimated that 200 would be realist figure for Southwark, and a focus on this work ought to see the number of referrals go up.

Tamara works with LAs to set up task and finish groups on slavery, looks at best practice, gaps in reporting, and creates LA slavery leads. She is already doing some work with Southwark and spoke at a recent event organised by the adult safeguarding board.

LAs have a statutory obligation to identify victims of trafficking and Modern Slavery. There is often a lack of support before a victim goes into a safe house and when they leave (usually after 90 days). LAs need to work out what gaps there are and how they are recording victims of modern slavery, what multi-agency tools they have in place, and what services they can use that already exist. There are challenging resource issues here as although councils have been given responsibilities this has not been coupled with additional resources.

It is crucial that all frontline staff, including councillors, are trained to identify possible victims of modern slavery. She recommended setting up a task and finish group, which ought to include housing, and also consider creating an Adult MASH.

Catherine Baker Senior Research, Policy and Campaigns Officer, ECPAT UK reported that she had started to do some work with Southwark on child trafficking training.

Nationally nearly half of all victims of Modern Slavery and Child Trafficking are children. Labour exploitation is on the rise. 24% of child trafficked children in care go missing, and 20% are not found. This 20% is not

always followed adequately.

She reported that Southwark could not provide the data on child trafficking because of the flags used.

She advised that Child Trafficking cuts across the boundaries of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and criminal exploitation, with many children are experiencing multiple forms of exploitation and harm.

She advised training for front line workers is crucial. It is also important to consistently treat unaccompanied children as potentially trafficked children. It is best practice to have CSE lead and a Child Trafficking lead and it works well if these are the same people. Other good practice is to have a Modern Slavery Special Point of Contact (SPOC) and this could be a member.

The chair invited officers to contribute on the council work on this area.

Norman Coombe advised that the council adopted the Cooperative Party statement on Modern Slavery and this includes a commitment to report on this once year; due July. <https://party.coop/local/councillors/modern-slavery-charter>

Alasdair Smith, Director, Children & Families reported that referrals have increased to 15 a year and the council is working with around 200 children at risk from Modern Slavery through county lines' - directly or indirectly . The safeguarding board has now moved from CSE to the broader theme of Criminal Exploitation. He said the council sees less classically trafficked children and the department do not see children go missing from care; generally if children come into Southwark's care they stay. They do see isolated cases of child trafficking; gardeners (cannabis) and teenagers (domestic servitude).

Regulatory services said that they are developing work in this area. Modern Slavery first came to officers' attention with people sleeping in cars. Recently they have done some targeted work with local car washes, following concerns about modern slavery at one business . They visited 17 local car washes and identified a couple with both health & safety and modern slavery concerns.

Housing also encounters people at risk when they discover issues such as overcrowding. Regulatory services are training people up so they will understand risks with Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) , the night time economy and places with a high risk of exploited labour such as nail bars and car washes. They are also working on getting the infrastructure in place so there is a referral process.

Tamara commented on the well attended meeting 23 January, organised by Southwark safeguarding . She endorsed the importance of having a clear pathway and a comprehensive strategy.

There was a discussion about missing children, who are unaccompanied and more at risk of exploitation/child trafficking. There are low numbers in

Southwark, around 7, which is low but still present. The Director of Children and Families said that missing includes a foster carer saying a child not returning at 10pm. He said that he did not think Southwark had an issue as he was confident the council had very good practices in place in this area; however he will be looking into this matter further. There is an Ofsted report due out soon which will look at Southwark's practice with missing children.

The police added that they are looking at repeat missing episodes from care. They thought those at most risk are children homed away from the borough. There is also an issue with children who are criminal exploited and committing crimes e.g. 'county lines'. This is not a new thing, but is something that is now being focused on by partners. When the police do surveillance they see both children and vulnerable adults exploited. There is more to be done locally to address repeated missing incidents that often lead to county lines. Social workers and parents have good intelligence on this that can be utilised. Tamara added that Lewisham has done a really good piece of prevention work on mapping risks and vulnerabilities.

The key recommendations from the session were:

- Set up child exploitation sub groups to look across the spectrum including: CSE, county lines, modern slavery -to get a fuller picture as children often experience many different forms of exploitation and abuse
- Create or merge specialist council leads on Child Trafficking /Criminal Exploitation/ Child Sexual Exploitation
- Consistently treat all unaccompanied children as potential victims of slavery
- Make sure Section 47 is done for all those children
- Ensure that Southwark has the right systems in place to track unaccompanied children /child trafficking victims in our care, and monitor risks like going missing
- Ensure frontline staff including social workers and councillors are trained to identify possible victims of modern slavery /child trafficking.
- Create Modern Slavery Champions within the Council (similar the mental health champions) and identify SPOC
- Setting up a task and finish group on Modern Slavery, that would include housing, and would ensure that there is an integrated and comprehensive plan including a referral process
- consider creating an Adult MASH
- Report annually on progress on implementing the Modern Slavery charter

7. WORKPLAN

The vice chair reported that he had held a session with men and boys at the Salmon Youth Centre on Healthy Relationships. Going back and talking with girls and young women could be worthwhile.

It was agreed that the report ought to ensure it had input from Modern Slavery and Child trafficking experts.

A meeting with Lewisham on their good practice could be useful.

More work is needed on raising public awareness on sexual harassment.
International women's day might be a good opportunity.

Meeting ended at 9.25 pm