

Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Monday 24 November 2014

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
Councillor Lisa Rajan (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Anne Kirby
Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams
Reverend Nicholas Elder
Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer
Abdul Raheem Musa
George Ogbonna

Reserves

Councillor Catherine Dale
Councillor Lucas Green
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Charlie Smith

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Contact Julie Timbrell on 020 7525 0514 or email: julie.timbrell@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive

Date: 14 November 2014



Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Monday 24 November 2014

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

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PART A - OPEN BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES

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

In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.

4. MINUTES

5. REVIEW: ATTAINMENT GAP - LEWISHAM SOUTHWARK COLLEGE

Vice Principal Quality and Curriculum, Robert Rees, will attend to contribute to the review and will present on the work the college is doing to

ensure as many young people as possible attain 5 good GCSEs enable school leavers to access education, employment or training provide a diversity of educational programmes so all young people can maximise their achievement & progress - including young people with special educational needs or who might have a range of aptitudes.

6. REVIEW : ATTAINMENT GAP - EVIDENCE FROM THE SCHOOL SURVEY

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7.	CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) - FOLLOW UP WORK	1 - 7
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Please find enclosed reports:

setting out the sub-committee recommendations to cabinet on the CSE strategy.

describing work done with young people to involve them in development of the CSE strategy.

8. FREE HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS - SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

9. WORK-PLAN

This item will decide the next meeting's agenda and plan out work on the review themes:

- Attainment Gap
- CSE & Safeguarding
- Adoption (mini review)
- Autism (mini review)

DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF ANY CLOSED ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

Date: 14 November 1014

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 18 November 2014	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Child Sexual Exploitation – scrutiny recommendations	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet endorses the recommendations by the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee on the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board's (SSCB) Draft Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee received the draft CSE strategy at the 15 October meeting in order to scrutinise it prior to the report going to cabinet.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

3. **The committee's recommendations for the CSE are listed below:**

See Me Hear Me

- 3.1 The committee notes the recent report from the Children's Commissioner on CSE and its new framework, See Me, Hear Me, specifically designed for those who commission, plan or provide protective services. Developed with CSE victims, the model forces professionals to 'focus relentlessly on the child'. It is accompanied by two other reports from the inquiry, which highlight the risk to young people and the complexities around their understanding of sexual consent.

The committee recommends that the SSCB apply the principles of the 'See Me, Hear Me framework' to the strategy. These are:

- The child's best interests must be the top priority
- Participation of children and young people
- Enduring relationships and support
- Comprehensive problem-profiling
- Effective information-sharing within and between agencies
- Supervision, support and training for staff
- Evaluation and review

- 3.2 The SSCB should consider how it will obtain the views of the 98 children potentially at risk of CSE (of which only a few were actual targets) identified by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and/or the shadow board and/or any other young people who are actual or potential targets of CSE, and provide a paper setting out their views on CSE and how best to tackle it.
- 3.3 The SSCB should emphasise engagement with families in the strategy, particularly given the evidence that it is often family members who young people confide in or who realise a child is at risk.
- 3.4 The SSCB should adopt a clear evaluation plan so that the strategy's effectiveness can be properly monitored. An evaluation should be reviewed by the Cabinet a year after the strategy's adoption. The SSCB should consider the opportunity to work directly with the office of the Children's Commissioner on CSE as part of the monitoring process.

Schools

- 3.5 Scrutiny welcome the commitment in the strategy to ensure CSE is in Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum at all schools and that targeted work is done at schools with the highest number of 'at risk' children. However, scrutiny thinks that closer involvement is needed with schools to develop and implement this plan; in particular the committee recommend more links are made between the SSCB and the Head Teacher Executive to investigate:
- Best practice for delivering CSE in PSHE
 - Making sure the new social work clusters are communicating with all schools in order to identify any children at risk of neglect or abuse, including CSE
 - Whether there are any other ways that schools could contribute to tackling CSE

Social Care

- 3.6 Southwark Council should continue to sustain and prioritise the recruitment and retention of social workers. This is in recognition of the importance of long-term quality relationships in protecting children & young people at risk or harmed by CSE.

Communication

- 3.7 Scrutiny welcome the emphasis in the draft strategy of raising awareness of CSE across the community and the additional training of staff working with children across all agencies to recognise signs of vulnerability and of abuse. However, the SSCB should consider adding a clear strategic priority to the strategy. This could set out a comprehensive plan for a multi-channel communications campaign on CSE to raise awareness a) within all the partner organisations and b) in the local community, including local children and adults. Scrutiny thinks

there should be particular emphasis on digital and social channels so that we can measure internal and community engagement. The desired outcome is that CSE becomes increasingly socially unacceptable, that young people are protected from abuse and believed, and that tell-tale signs are spotted and reported..

Champion

- 3.8 Scrutiny welcomes the new CSE co-ordinator post that is set out in the strategy and suggests that they not only maintain links between agencies and manage the CSE action plan but that they are a champion across all agencies. In addition scrutiny think that each partner of the strategy should have a named person who has direct accountability for their service area and the implementation of the CSE strategy.

Faith communities

- 3.9 Include work with Faith groups in the strategy. Councillor Jamille Mohammed, Deputy Cabinet Member for Inter-Faith Community Relations, has offered to raise the profile of the work on CSE within the faith communities and advise the safeguarding board.

Children in Care

- 3.10 Given the increased risk of CSE that Looked After Children face, protection of these children need to be given additional focus in the strategy, perhaps through mention in the pledge or further inclusion in the strategic priorities.

Internet

- 3.11 The internet is all too often used to groom children for sexual exploitation. It is important that Southwark use the internet and social media to help safeguard children. The committee suggest that all agencies look into new ways of working through the use of online platforms and social media to help frontline workers share important information in the protection of children from the threat of sexual exploitation. There are a number of organisations that could help with this including Futuregov who are currently working with a selection of local authorities on a system known as "Patchwork" which provides frontline professionals with technological solutions for 'working together to safeguard children and young people.
- 3.12 The committee also recognise the important work done by Child Exploitation Online Protection centre (CEOP) and suggest that the SSCB ask a representative to help inform any communication plan.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Education & Children's Services & Scrutiny Sub-Committee Agenda 15 October 2014	Scrutiny Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Julie Timbrell 020 7525 0514

AUDIT TRAIL

Report Author	Councillor Jasmine Ali – chair	
Version	Final	
Dated	6 November 2014	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	N/a	N/a
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	N/a	N/a
Chief Officers	N/a	N/a
Cabinet Member	N/a	N/a
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		6 November 2014

Item No. 7	Classification: Open	Date: 24 November 2014	Meeting Name: Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub- Committee
Report title:		Children and Young People: views on draft SSCB CSE strategy	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Report from:		Southwark Safeguarding Children Board	

1.0 Background

1.1 Following its meeting on 15 October, the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee requested a short description of any work done to date with young people on the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy.

1.2 The CSE strategy is being developed by Southwark Safeguarding Children Board and its dedicated CSE subgroup.

2.0 Work to date

2.1 In summer 2014 a Child Engagement Subgroup was set up at the request of the Independent Chair of Southwark Safeguarding Children Board.

2.2 Members of this subgroup are drawn from the local community and from a variety of services for children and young people. The subgroup is supported by officers from services provided by Southwark Council.

2.3 The purpose of the subgroup is to serve as a means for the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) to engage with young people, identify insights relevant to the Board's priority areas of work, and understand issues from the perspective of children and young people. In these ways, the SSCB intends that its priorities will be influenced by what local children and young people say about their lives.

2.4 An early focus for this subgroup was the sexual exploitation of children and young people. A series of workshops and sessions were held over Summer 2014 to explore CSE as an issue, including awareness and existing understandings. This included spoken word exercises, an ethnographic focus group and the discussion of CSE-related scenarios. This workstream provided an indication for the Board regarding awareness and understandings of CSE among young people in Southwark today.

2.5 This work built on a previous project in 2013, whereby young people from the 'Speakerbox' Children in Care Council made a short video for the SSCB, in which young people directly asked the Safeguarding Board to be protected, and for work on 'healthy relationships' to be a priority.

- 2.6 Young people from the subgroup attended the meeting of Southwark Safeguarding Children Board in September 2014 in order to feed back directly to senior representatives from the council and partner agencies. Their feedback challenged the Board to:
- Strengthen the awareness-raising element of the strategy, to ensure that CSE is fully integrated within PSHE curricula in schools, as many young people do not understand CSE and what constitutes CSE
 - Consider social media platforms as a means of communicating with young people
 - Include local businesses in efforts to keep young people safe
 - Ensure that arrangements to keep young people safe who go missing are strong and effective
 - Provide help and support to victims and ensure that young people are shielded from subsequent exploitation
 - Consider the role of the wider community in stamping out sexual exploitation

3.0 Young people and their understandings of CSE across England




- 3.1 Various work has taken place both within specific localities and nationally by reputable charities and the Office of the Children's Commissioner, to understand prevailing attitudes among young people regarding CSE: what do they understand CSE to be? In what ways is it wrong? What makes young people vulnerable or safe?
- 3.2 These pieces of work have consistently highlighted similar insights around the following issues:
- i. **Understanding:** young people are not familiar with the term 'child sexual exploitation' and do not always understand the ways in which (a) perpetrator(s) is abusing the victim.
 - ii. **Victims** of CSE often do not recognise themselves as victims – and may therefore resist offers of support and opportunities to share details of abusers
 - iii. **Gender** plays a role in understandings of and manifestation of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation among young people. Specifically, sexual activity can be a source of status within groups and gangs for young males, whereas young women are harmed or judged for sexual activity.
 - iv. **Blame:** young women are frequently blamed for the harm they experience, with some young males in research thinking that victims 'ask for it' or 'deserve it'.
 - v. **Normalisation of sexual violence:** in some communities, young people assume that sexual violence is inevitable and something that young people have gotten used to
- 3.3 These insights help to crystallise the challenges in raising awareness among young people and emphasise the need for direct work with young people in early adolescence.
- 3.4 A specific strand in the draft CSE Action Plan, appended to the draft Strategy, is dedicated to raising awareness with young people in schools, faith and community settings.
- 3.5 Ongoing engagement with young people who are victims or at risk of sexual

exploitation will be important in developing our multi-agency response. This will include analysis of return interviews with those who go missing and engagement via dedicated CSE caseworkers, who are skilled and experienced in working with young people on this issue.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Document
 "Sex without consent, I suppose that is rape": How young people in England understand sexual consent , Office of the Children's Commissioner
 It's wrong but you get used to it , Office of the Children's Commissioner
 Child Sexual Expolitation Inquiry interim report - I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world , Office of the Children's Commissioner
'Real voices: Child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester. An independent report by Ann Coffey MP http://anncoffeymp.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Real-Voices-Final.pdf

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Victoria Mills, Children and Schools	
Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Chair, CSE Subgroup and Director, Children's Social Care	
Report Author	Oliver Hopwood, Principal Strategy Officer, Children's & Adults' Services	
Version	Final	
Dated	13 November 2014	
Key Decision?	N/A	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
	Officer Title	Comments Sought
	Director of Legal Services	No
	Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No
	Cabinet Member	Yes
	Date final report sent to the Scrutiny Team	13 November 2014

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**EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-15**

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NOTE: Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Julie Timbrell Tel: 020 7525 0514

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Councillor Lisa Rajan (Vice-Chair)	1	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	1
Councillor Evelyn Akoto	1	Sarah Feasey, Legal Services	1
Councillor Anne Kirby	1	Eleanor Parkin, Policy Officer, Children's & Adults' Services	1
Councillor James Okosun	1	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care, Children's & Adults' Services	1
Councillor Kath Whittam	1	Kerry Crichlow, Director Strategy & Commissioning, Children's & Adults' Services	1
Councillor Kieron Williams	1	Elaine Allegretti, Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance, Children's & Adults' Services	1
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Councillor Lucas Green	1	Chris Page, Principal Cabinet Assistant	1
Councillor Sunny Lambe	1	Aine Gallagher, Labour Political Assistant	1
Councillor Rosie Shimell	1	William Summers, Liberal Democrat Political Assistant	1
Councillor Charlie Smith (Two vacancies)	1	Julie Timbrell, Scrutiny Team SPARES	10
Education Representatives			
Revd Nicholas Elder	1		
Lynette Murphy O'Dwyer	1		
Abdul Raheem Musa	1		
George Ogbonna	1		
Other Members			
Councillor Victoria Mills	1	Total:	39
		Dated: June 2014	