

Report of the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 11th January 2017

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Subject:

This reports sets out the arrangements that are in place and which continue to develop, to safeguard children from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing children being placed in care in Bradford from outside of the district and any emerging issues.

Summary statement:

The report will provide information about the appointment of a Missing Coordinator within Children Social Care and provide an update on the roles of both the Missing Coordinators and the multi-agency work undertaken to reduce missing episodes within the district. This includes children being placed in care in Bradford from outside of the district and any emerging issues.

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Portfolio:

Children's Services

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1.** The report will provide information about the appointment of a Missing Coordinator within Children Social Care who works alongside the police Missing Coordinator, and provide an update on the roles of both the Missing Coordinators and the multi-agency work undertaken to reduce missing episodes within the district. This includes children being placed in care in Bradford from outside of the district and any emerging issues.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation continues to be a national priority for central government. The government departments leading this work are the Home Office and the Department for Education. Please refer to previous reports that have been tabled regarding background information in relation to CSE nationally and in relation to the local context.

3. REPORT ISSUES

3.1 The CSE HUB and Missing.

The Bradford District multi-agency co-located CSE Hub was established in early 2012.

Bradford CSE team is located within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) , and is a multi agency team of police officers, Children Social Care, Health, Education and 3rd Sector voluntary organisations, these agencies are co-located within Sir Henry Mitchell House (SHMH). Additionally there are services which work with the Hub but are not Co-located.

Located within the Hub are a Missing Coordinator (CSE) and Police Missing Coordinator

Current work undertaken:

For children who are reported missing a weekly report is provided for senior managers and the Director of Children's services to inform on all of the missing episodes of children who are looked after within the week, this includes a review of the missing episodes, analysis of each child / young person's situation and what actions have been put in place to minimise the risks.

Information in relation to processes regarding missing including what is expected of social workers and managers when one of the young people go missing, to ensure each team are clear what the role of the allocated worker and case holder is in these circumstances..

Each missing episode is flagged to the missing coordinator who has the responsibility to follow up risk management plans with the allocated worker (if the child or young person hits persistent criteria) and liaises with the police missing coordinator to ensure that a reporting strategy is in place.

The missing coordinators meet with senior managers to discuss the children and young people who are concerning in relation to missing. This is a weekly meeting. An escalated procedure is in place for situations that need to be brought to the attention of senior managers in both Children's Social Care and the Police regarding any high risk children

The coordinators attend the daily CSE meetings to share appropriate information, due to the close link between missing and CSE.

Information is shared with the duty and referral team so that consultation can take place to put a plan in place for persistent Mispers who are not open cases,

Each child or young person who goes missing receives a return to home interview.

With regards to children who are placed in Bradford from other local authorities, the placing Local authority has a statutory duty to inform the authority where the child is to be placed under:

"Children's Home and Looked After Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013 – local authorities are required to consult and share information before placing children in distant placements and the Director of Children's Services (DCS) must approve of these placements." Care Planning Regulations" However, the placing LA do not always inform Bradford that a Child at risk of missing and CSE has been placed in their area. This is often established when they child has gone missing.

Should Bradford become aware of child who has been placed without notification into the area Bradford will raise the issue directly with the placing Local Authority. If Bradford has been informed that a child has been placed in their area that is at risk of missing and/or CSE then the information is passed to the CSE hub and the missing co-ordinator.

A CSE / updated CSE risk assessments and Risk Management plans are requested from the placing local authority. The children are subsequently discussed in the multi-agency morning briefing to ensure appropriate sharing of information to other agencies.

Both CSC and the Police will ensure that CSE / Missing flags are placed on systems to trigger alerts.

Cases are not open to Children Social Care, as the responsibility for children being placed if they are looked after by another authority is the placing authority. Should a child be subject to a Child protection or Child in Need plan then the case would be transferred to Bradford under excising procedures.

Further work is being undertaken across the Yorkshire regional as there is a recognition that local authorities need to improve alerts to authorities when there are Children at Risk of CSE /Missing .

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

None.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Corporate parenting panel are requested to consider the report.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

7. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

8. APPENDICES

None