

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016- 2017**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY**

**22nd March 2017**

**REPORT OF: GROUP DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN SERVICES**

<b>Agenda Item No: 3</b>
<b>Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan</b>

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with information about the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan (Appendix 1)

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Scrutinise and comment on the information provided.
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any matters contained in the report.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 During recent years and months, high profile well publicised reports have provided an opportunity to assess and improve the multi-agency response to child sexual exploitation.
- 3.2 In August, 2014, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council commissioned an independent Inquiry into child sexual exploitation (Independent report into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, 1997-2013 by Alexis Jay OBE). The report documented considerable learning, and provided distressing information about the circumstances of victims, and the abuse that they suffered. In particular the report identified collective failures of 'political and officer leadership', noting that the seriousness of the problem was underplayed by senior managers. Weaknesses were also identified in that the Local Safeguarding Board (LSCB) in the area did not go far enough to check that practice was compliant with policies and procedures, and found that the challenge and scrutiny function of the LSCB was lacking over several years, at a time when it was most required.

- 3.3 On 4.2.14 the Secretary of State published the report of Dame Louise Casey CB's inspection of the compliance of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in relation to the Council's exercise of its functions on governance, children and young people, and taxi and private hiring licensing. This report dealt with the themes that are raised initially by Jay such as:
- Equipping and supporting staff to listening to children and young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation, and acting on what they say
  - Listening to staff who raised concerns
  - Effectively coordinating information sharing across the services to ensure that perpetrators of sexual exploitation were challenged
  - Avoiding responses that were affected by cultural misattributions and racist stereotypes;
- 3.4 The report equally enhances the readers understanding of the extent to which the following factors influenced the denial that Casey encountered:
- Organisational culture
  - Leadership and governance
  - Responses to Whistle Blowers
  - Action taken against staff found to be guilty of gross misconduct
  - Effective practice by the Licensing Authority
  - Lack of challenge of partner agency by the Safeguarding Board
- 3.5 The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) established a multi-agency task and finish group to assess local service and responses in the context of the learning identified by both of these reports.

#### **4. WHERE WE ARE NOW**

- 4.1 The Safeguarding Board has a strategy and action that is informed by both the reports highlighted above and the Welsh Government national child sexual exploitation action plan. This plan uses the framework set out in the National Action Plan based on the following Outcomes (the 'four Ps'):
- **PREPARE** - the CTSCB and partner agencies have set out objectives to support the identification of children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE and have appropriate responses and resources in place to improve their wellbeing outcomes
  - **PREVENT** - the CTSCB and partner agencies have a prevention programme and responsive services in place to support children and young people at risk of CSE and their families
  - **PROTECT** - the CTSCB and partner agencies actively protect children and young people from CSE, by working together to achieve the continuity and

effectiveness of care plans for those children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE

- **PURSUE** - the CTSCB and partner agencies have a clear and shared understanding about how they can contribute to the disruption and prosecution of perpetrators and to the support of victims through a consistent child centred approach

The Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group oversees the development and implementation of this plan.

4.2 In November 2017 Welsh Government requested an update report against the action plan which can be seen at Appendix 1. It shows that whilst much work is still required a great deal has been achieved.

4.3 The achievements include the following:

- Multi-agency quality assurance work of a sample of young people's cases followed by a learning event to share learning with practitioners. The learning event was positively appraised by professional participants who have recommended more delivery of this type
- A report to Safeguarding Board's Operational Committee outlining regional practice with revisions to regional process to improve compliance with the All Wales Protocols for Child Sexual Exploitation
- Publication of a leaflet for night-time vendors to provide information about how to raise concerns
- Schools sharing with pupils the short film 'Caught in Traffic' which illustrates how grooming can work, and during November's Safeguarding Week there was further awareness raising with young people
- Carried out quality assurance work with both local authorities' licensing departments leading to developments and changes.
- By July 2016 191 staff had received training in relation to child sexual exploitation
- Added information to its public facing website about child sexual exploitation
- Received information from South Wales Police and Crown Prosecution Service about activity aimed at maximising potential prosecution of perpetrators
- Designed a process for mapping of cohort intelligence in a way that will maximise the potential to disrupt perpetrator in their tracks, and provide management information about numbers of cases and outcomes. This is known as MACSE.
- Carried out a further up to date regional child sexual exploitation needs assessment with the support of the national Welsh Government and Barnardo's Gwella project.

## **5. WHERE WE WANT TO BE**

- 5.1 We want children, young people and families where there are concerns about sexual exploitation to receive excellent information, advice, assistance and if necessary robust safeguarding services.
- 5.2 We want those in leadership, management and practitioners to understand the potential for sexual exploitation to occur in the Cwm Taf and to be prepared to act to safeguard young people and challenge perpetrators in line with national and regional procedures.

## **6. WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT**




- 6.1 Worked carried out thus far shows that there is more to be done in the following areas:
- Further refinements to regional process to provide assurance that practice is in line with the national protocol
  - Develop and evaluate the Multi-agency CSE (MACSE) process
  - Provide clarity to safeguarding board member agencies about workforce awareness raising and training requirements
  - Implement the recommendations of the Gwella needs assessment
  - Engage with parents and carers to understand more about what agencies can do to help safeguard young people who are vulnerable and at risk in this way
  - Use national child sexual exploitation day on 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> March as an opportunity to raise public awareness about their role in safeguarding young people who may be at risk or vulnerable due to sexual exploitation.

**APPENDIX 1:****CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD - CSE ANNUAL REPORT 2016****Reporting Template****National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (Wales)**

This is a template for use by Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies to report progress against the four overarching outcomes of the national action plan to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):

<b>PREPARE:</b>	Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies assume CSE to be present and have specified objectives to support:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The identification of children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE</li> <li>- A range of appropriate responses and resources designed to improve well-being outcomes for children subject to or at risk of CSE</li> </ul>
<b>PREVENT:</b>	Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies have a prevention programme and responsive services in place to help children and young people at risk of CSE and their families
<b>PROTECT:</b>	Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies actively protect children and young people from CSE, by working together to achieve the continuity and effectiveness of care plans for those children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE
<b>PURSUE:</b>	Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies have a clear and shared understanding about how they can contribute to the disruption and prosecution of perpetrators and to the support of victims through a consistent child centred approach

**RAG STATUS**

	On track, in progress and complete to plan, no issues
	Not complete, in progress, a risk but not an issue yet
	A problem needs serious attention and action now



**1. PREPARE - Overarching outcome:**

***Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies assume CSE to be present and have specified objectives to support:***

- ***The identification of children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE***
- ***A range of appropriate responses and resources designed to improve well-being outcomes for children subject to or at risk of CSE***

1.1 SCBs and partner agencies have established a strategic response to tackle CSE that reflects statutory guidance and aims to prevent and protect children from abuse	1.1a	Red / Amber / Green	Insert brief narrative updating against the action
	1.1b	Green	Awaiting guidance from Welsh Government.
	1.1c	Green	Awaiting guidance from Welsh Government
1.2 SCBs and partner agencies have established operational arrangements and practitioner tools to support the identification of CSE and enable a timely range of appropriate responses	1.2a	N/A	N/A
	1.2b	Green	A CSE needs assessment was carried out in Cwm Taf in 2015. This enabled the Safeguarding Children Board to identify gaps in existing provision. This assessment is currently being updated and an analysis of demand and need in Cwm Taf is ongoing at present.
	1.2c	Green	The SERAF is the approved risk assessment tool. Awareness raising is ongoing via multi agency training.

<b>1.3</b> SCBs and partner agencies assume CSE is present and have identified children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE as a shared priority	<b>1.3a</b>	Green	The CTSCB has a CSE Action Plan in place. Regular multi-agency CSE Task Groups are taking place to ensure that the plan is progressing. Quarterly reports on progress are presented to the Board.
	<b>1.3b</b>	Green	The CTSCB has identified CSE as a priority in the Annual Plan for 2016/17. To support this work, a CSE Champion has been identified to lead on the regional CSE Action Plan, which has been developed in line with the All Wales National Action Plan.
	<b>1.3c</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>1.4</b> SCBs and partner agencies contribute to a national shared dataset informed through local evidence and intelligence to improve understanding, profiling, and response to CSE	<b>1.4a</b>	Green	Completed pilot within timescales. Awaiting further direction from Welsh Government following an assessment of the pilot.
	<b>1.4b</b>	Green	Completed pilot within timescales. Awaiting further direction from Welsh Government following an assessment of the pilot.
	<b>1.4c</b>	N/A	N/A
	<b>1.4d</b>	Green	This is carried out as part of the MASH processes and is included in information sharing guidance.
	<b>1.4e</b>	Green	Cwm Taf Information Sharing Protocol for MASH has addressed this.
	<b>1.4f</b>	Green	CSE quality assurance and audits are now part of the annual work plan for the CTSCB Quality Assurance and Standards Sub Group.
<b>1.5</b> SCBs and partner agencies are active in informing all members of	<b>1.5a</b>	Green	Some awareness raising has been carried out with young people. Information has been developed and is available in a variety of formats. For example, CSE information has been added to the



the community of the role that they can play to make the community safer from CSE			Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards website which includes a link to a video made by young people about CSE. A Schools Conference took place in November 2016 which included workshops on CSE, both for Primary and Secondary aged children. CSE awareness is included in Foster Carers training. The Miskin Project in RCT is CSE focussed. A Barnardo's CSE leaflet is included in the Leaving Care pack. CSE Leaflets have been made for taxi drivers, hotels and licensed premises' and have been distributed in November 2016. CSE is part of the work plan for the CTSB's new Engagement Participation and Communications Sub Group in order to develop this action further.
<b>1.6</b> SCBs and partner agencies ensure that the risk and impact of CSE forms part of safeguarding training for all staff, this includes awareness raising (including about those at greater risk of CSE as a result of their vulnerabilities), warning signs and the responsibility to report and respond to concerns	<b>1.6a</b>	Amber	<p>A Training needs assessment is ongoing at present. It was completed previously in November 2015. This assessment is currently being updated.</p> <p>The information gathered to date is that 191 people were trained in CSE awareness in 2015/16. "Understanding and Recognising CSE" training is part of the CTSCB multiagency training calendar, which includes information on the use of the SERAF assessment tool and the All Wales CSE Protocol. Direct Work skills training around CSE is also part of the CTSCB training calendar. CSE also forms part of level 2 and 3 safeguarding training. A CSE Practitioner Forum took place in October 2016 and it was fed back by those who attended that more training is needed on CSE and the All Wales Protocol for CSE. This has also been fed back in one to one interviews with practitioners from Education, Police and Children's Services. There are some agencies still to be interviewed, for example Health professionals.</p>

	<b>1.6b</b>	Amber	The CTSCB has a multi-agency training programme that focuses on CSE, however this is being reviewed at present to ensure all actions in the regional CSE Action Plan are included and that a wide enough audience is being reached.
	<b>1.6c</b>	Green	CSE training is reported to and monitored by the CTSB Training and Learning Sub Group and the Children's Delivery Group. This information is included in the Board's Annual Report
<b>1.7</b> SCBs and partner agencies improvement agenda are supported through inspection activity that evaluates the service effectiveness in promoting the safety and well-being of children and young people	<b>1.7a</b>	N/A	N/A
	<b>1.7b</b>	Green	The CTSCB Operational Committee receives all agencies inspection reports for review and scrutiny. Relevant actions arising are reported back on completion.

<b>2. PREVENT - Overarching outcome:</b> <b><i>Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies have a prevention programme and responsive services in place to help children and young people at risk of CSE and their families</i></b>			
<b>2.1</b> Agencies preparedness for the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 includes a focus on the well-being outcomes of children subject to or at risk of CSE	<b>2.1a</b>	Green	A proposal was taken to the last multi agency CSE Task Group to implement Multi-agency CSE meetings (MACSE) to be chaired by the Police. The purpose of these would be to identify, map, and assess risk and patterns of CSE in the area. A new multi-agency task group has been set up to progress this action.
	<b>2.1b</b>	Green	Both LAs have a Panel as set out in Part 6 which addresses duties in relation to out of authority placements.
<b>2.2</b> SCBs and partner agencies have identified the range of preventative services to support those at risk of CSE in their locality	<b>2.2a</b>	Green	Assessment of preventative services available, demand and need in Cwm Taf is ongoing at present.
<b>2.3</b> SCBs and partners agencies to hold each other to account for their contribution to the safety and protection of children and young people including those at risk of CSE and challenge practice shortfalls	<b>2.3a</b>	Green	CSE is part of the CTSCB Quality Assurance and Standards Sub Group work plan
	<b>2.3b</b>	Green	A proposal was taken to the multi-agency CSE Task Group in November 2016 to implement Multi-agency CSE meetings (MACSE) to be chaired by the Police. The purpose of these would be to share information about where interventions need to be amended to reflect the local picture and ensure activity is kept updated and relevant to the service demand and emergent issues. A new multi-agency task group has been set up to progress this

			action.
<b>2.4</b> SCBs and partner agencies act to make Wales a hostile place for perpetrators of CSE and empower children and young people to make positive choices	<b>2.4a</b>	Green	CSE information has been added to the CTSB website which includes a link to a video made by young people about CSE. A Schools Conference took place in November 2016 which included workshops on CSE, both for Primary and Secondary aged children. CSE awareness is included in Foster Carers training. The Miskin Project in RCT is CSE focussed. A Barnardo's CSE leaflet is included in the Leaving Care pack. CSE Leaflets have been made for taxi drivers, hotels and licensed premises' and have been distributed in November 2016. A CSE awareness session was completed with education professionals in November 2016 which included specific risks such as learning disabilities, modern technology and social networking. CSE is part of the work plan for the CTSB's new Engagement and Participation Committee Sub Group in order to develop this action further.

<b>3. PROTECT - Overarching outcome:</b>  <i><b>Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies actively protect children and young people from CSE by working together to achieve the continuity and effectiveness of care plans for those children and young people subject to or at risk of CSE</b></i>			
<b>3.1</b> SCBs and partner agencies promote the well-being of children and young people who are subject to or at risk of CSE including those at greater risk of CSE as a result of their vulnerabilities	<b>3.1a</b>	Green	<p>This will largely be addressed via training. A training needs assessment is ongoing at present. It was completed previously in November 2015. This assessment is currently being updated.</p> <p>Operational arrangements are being addressed via the CSE Task Group and now also the MACSE task group.</p>
<b>3.2</b> CSE is considered as part of any risk management process /mechanisms	<b>3.2a</b>	Green	Risk assessment and management of risk including risk assessment in relation to CSE is integrated into existing business process via MASH and multi-agency child protection processes. We are aware via CSE focused QA work that has taken place that there is a need to increase use of the SERAF and improve the compliance of CSE strategy meetings.
<b>3.3</b> SCBs and partner agencies have identified the range of services available /needed, to help those children and young people affected by CSE, in their locality	<b>3.3a</b>	Green	Analysis of demand and need in Cwm Taf is ongoing at present. It was completed previously in November 2015. This assessment is currently being updated. A database is being completed of the services available in the locality which address CSE.
<b>3.4</b> SCBs and partners agencies to hold each other to account for their contribution to the safety and protection of children and young people subject to CSE and challenge	<b>3.4a</b>	Green	This is addressed via the CTSCB Quality Assurance and Standards sub group as part of the annual work plan and will be by MACSE meetings once they are implemented. We plan to develop advice to Board agency members about CSE training for staff and volunteers. The standards agreed within this will also be used to hold to account. There is a CSE champion and a Task and Finish group working on the actions within the CSE strategy and action plan. The Operational Committee and Board receive highlight reports that

practice shortfalls			identify issues and shortfalls.
	<b>3.4b</b>	Green	This is addressed via the CTSCB Quality Assurance and Standards sub group as part of the annual work plan and will be by MACSE meetings once they are implemented.

<b>4. PURSUE - Overarching outcome:</b> <i>Safeguarding Children Boards and partner agencies have a clear and shared understanding about how they can contribute to the disruption and prosecution of perpetrators and to the support of victims through a consistent child centred approach</i>			
<b>4.1</b> Make Wales a hostile place for perpetrators of CSE through development of robust investigative strategies to disrupt perpetrator activity and better protect children and young people	<b>4.1a</b>	Green	A Police Problem Profile was completed in 2016 and was shared with CTSCB
	<b>4.1b</b>	Green	This has been achieved – see above.
	<b>4.1c</b>	Green	Police are providing a report to the CSE Task Group to evidence how they meet this action.
	<b>4.1d</b>	Green	The CSE Task group has been provided information to confirm that this has been developed.
	<b>4.1e</b>	Amber	This is covered to a degree in CTSCB multi-agency training on CSE, however the ongoing needs assessment will address whether more work needs to be done to address this.
<b>4.2</b> Crown Prosecution Service, Police and partners to work collaboratively to deliver quality and timely investigations that meets the needs of the victim and brings abusers to justice	<b>4.2a</b>	Green	CSE Task group has a CPS representative who has offered information including advice for practice.
	<b>4.2b</b>	Green	The CSE Task group has been provided information to confirm that this has been developed.
<b>4.3</b> Increased understanding of the needs of young victims and witnesses of CSE giving them a voice,	<b>4.3a</b>	Green	Police are providing a report to the CSE Task Group to evidence how they meet this action

ensuring they are treated fairly, sensitively and in an age appropriate way	<b>4.3b</b>	Green	Police are providing a report to the CSE Task Group to evidence how they meet this action
<b>4.4</b> Identifying and dismantling organised crime groups targeting and exploiting children and young people in our communities	<b>4.4a</b>	Green	The proposed MACSE meetings will support Welsh Police Forces in conducting operations relating to CSE involving groups and gangs
	<b>4.4b</b>	Green	The CSE Task Group has been provided information to confirm that this has been achieved.
<b>4.5</b> Welsh Police Forces to work with partner agencies to identify and disrupt perpetrators targeting young people in our communities	<b>4.5a</b>	Amber	This is covered to a degree in CTSCB multi-agency training on CSE, however the ongoing needs assessment will address whether more work needs to be done to address this.
	<b>4.5b</b>	Amber	The development of MACSE meetings which is subject to a task and finish group at present proposes to effectively manage CSE risk and protect vulnerable young children within their locality
	<b>4.5c</b>	Green	There has been work carried out in response to this and a report provided to the Board.
	<b>4.5d</b>	Green	This has been confirmed by Police as being part of their core business.