



CSE and Missing Sub Group Annual Report

2016 - 2017

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1. Foreword

This annual report enables Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB)'s CSE and Missing Sub Group to be held to account for its work during the year 2016/17. The information in the report is also provided to enable a view to be taken on the effectiveness of arrangements for safeguarding children and young people who go missing or who are at risk of or who have suffered sexual exploitation in Northamptonshire.

Ofsted's Report published in April 2016, following the Inspection of local authority services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, stated that *"there is a robust multi-agency response to children and young people who go missing or who are identified as being at risk of child sexual exploitation, through the RISE team, which delivers effective services to reduce risk. Return home interviews occur, but there is no analysis of whether there are any themes to improve the support to this vulnerable group"*.

There is still more to be done across all agencies in the County to ensure children and young people remain safe. The landscape of sexual exploitation is a changing picture, with new and significant risks through Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups.

From July 2017, the CSE and Missing Sub Group will no longer be a sub group of the NSCB but move to become a working group of the new Exploitation Sub Group.

We will ensure this structural change does not shift the focus from CSE and Missing and through the commitment of partners the Action Plan will deliver effective change to safeguard children and young people from CSE and Missing.

2. Introduction/context/background

This report covers the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 and is a narrative of the work undertaken by the CSE and Missing Sub Group focussing specifically on successes, current developments, learning and challenges.

3. Governance and accountability, links to other objectives

Iain Low, Strategic Manager (NCC Safeguarding and Children's Services) has chaired the CSE and Missing Sub Group of the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) throughout the period.

The CSE and Missing Sub Group work against a set of actions as contained in the Action Plan. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated by the CSE Sub Group at the start of the reporting period and has been periodically updated since that time. The comprehensive nature of the plan is a challenge, so in order to enable focus and progress a number of Task and Finish groups have been set up to focus on different aspects of the plan. This is proving workable and good progress has been made in many areas.

Central to the success of the CSE and Missing Sub Group is the close collaboration between key partners. The work of those partners has ensured that many children and young people in Northamptonshire have been protected from CSE. Partners are committed to developing and continuing this important work and have maintained consistent multi-agency attendance and commitment to meetings, with positive robust multi-agency discussion and challenge.

4. Progress/services/provision

A number of organisational changes have taken place over the reporting period in relation to CSE and Missing in the County as follows:

A Policy Officer for CSE and Missing was appointed at the end of April 2016 which has facilitated a dedicated resource to ensure the progression of the Action Plan. The Policy Officer has worked closely across the partnership agencies to ensure a collaborative and consistent approach to tackling CSE within the County.

In May 2017, the structure of the RISE team changed to comprise only of statutory agencies (Police, Health and Children's Services). Previously, two engagement workers from CAN (a third sector organisation) were part of the RISE Team undertaking engagement work with victims of CSE.

Going forwards, the intention is for CAN to undertake work with young people that do not meet the threshold for RISE. CAN will continue to receive information from RISE to support this work and any cases which give further concern can easily be escalated. This arrangement will be reviewed again before 31st March 2018. CAN will remain an active partner in promoting the work of the CSE and Missing Sub Group.

In late 2016, the Initial Response Team was renamed the Missing Children's Team (MCT) to more accurately describe the work that it carries out. Engagement workers within the Team are now described as MCT Engagement workers to provide better clarity for their roles.

In February 2017, there was a change to the classification of missing and absent children in Northamptonshire. Previously, all LAC children were automatically classified as missing, as opposed to absent which was found to have created a 40% increase in the statistics for missing children. The policy was creating an additional pressure on resourcing. A decision was therefore made to revert to the previous classification, as adopted by the rest of the country, where all children are accurately recorded as missing or absent according to the individual circumstances of the episode regardless of whether or not they are LAC.

In February 2017, Northamptonshire Police piloted a project with a dedicated team entitled The Missing Unit, whose aim was to reduce the number of individuals with multiple missing episodes. The pilot ran for 3 months and statistics showed that repeat numbers of missing children dropped during that period. Discussions are currently underway regarding the viability of continuing the project on a long term basis.

The procedure for out of county Independent Return Interviews (IRIs) has changed in two respects. Previously, NCC commissioned a large third sector organisation (NYAS) to conduct IRIs for Northamptonshire children who were placed out of county. In early 2017, a decision was made that NYAS was no longer able to meet the needs of NCC and the contract was terminated.

At the same time a decision was made that, unless there were exceptional circumstances, children placed in Northamptonshire by other Local Authorities would no longer automatically receive IRIs from NCC. This has freed up resources to enable MCT engagement workers to travel in order to carry out IRIs for some of Northamptonshire's most vulnerable children living out of county.

In the first quarter of 2016, a large project was completed in anticipation of a potential Joint Targeted Area Inspection on CSE and Missing by Ofsted, CQC, HMIC, and HMIP. A detailed self-assessment was completed against the specified criteria. This enabled gaps to be identified and required additional work to be included in the Action Plan going forwards. Northamptonshire was not subject to an inspection.

5. Outcomes/performance/successes/achievements

A Problem Profile was commissioned by the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board to examine CSE in Northamptonshire for the period 2015/16. The profile focused on the current nature and scale of CSE but had a particular emphasis on the links to children and young people that frequently go missing. The work was co-authored by analysts from Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire County Council, and was the first Northamptonshire CSE profile to bring together the information held by the two organisations into one narrative. The Profile, which was finalised in November 2016, contained 43 recommendations. A Task and Finish Group was established to consider the recommendations as a result of which a list of actions has been drawn up for incorporation into the CSE and Missing Action Plan. The recommendations, together with a plan for their implementation, will be discussed further at the next CSE and Missing Group meeting in July 2017.

A programme of training to Social Workers was rolled out over a 6 month period between in early 2017. The training was delivered to a total of 160 staff members across teams as follows :

- All Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams;
- All LAC Teams;
- The Leaving Care Service;
- The Fostering Service ;
- Social Work Academy; and
- A number of NCC Residential settings.

Going forwards, the RISE Team will be delivering the NSCB Multi-agency CSE training with the first session scheduled for 30th June 2017.

An awareness campaign, jointly run by Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Board and Northamptonshire County Council and aimed at the Community and Voluntary Sector has been launched in conjunction with the Districts and Boroughs in the County. The campaign consists of a one hour evening event with the aim of developing the understanding of CSE, how to report concerns and how communities can help tackle CSE. The event includes a showing of Kayleigh's Love Story and presentations from the RISE team. One event will be hosted by each District over the course of the next 6 months.

The first event took place in April and was hosted by South Northamptonshire Council. A total of 70 people attended from a broad range of organisations across the voluntary and community sector. The event was also well attended by Local Councillors. The feedback from the first session was extremely positive with the post event evaluation demonstrating that the average awareness of CSE of attendees BEFORE the training was 1.83 (out of 5) and this rose to 4.5 AFTER the training. More than 90% of all respondents said that there were not any things they needed or expected to learn that they did not come away with from the session.

Similar events will be held in each District across the County over the next 6 months with the next event scheduled to take place in Wellingborough on 12th July 2017.

A further campaign has been launched in relation to the night time economy. Guidance booklets have been designed for Licensed Premises, Hotels and Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles. The booklets were drawn up in liaison with the CSE Sub Group and the Northamptonshire Licensing Liaison Group (NNLG). Each guidance booklet contains information on particular signs to look out for in each sector industry and how to report concerns. The campaign was launched by press release at the beginning of June 2017. The guidance

has been well received across partnership agencies and further work will now be undertaken to ensure the guidance is disseminated across the night time economy.

Work is also underway to launch a Joint Operating Framework (JOF) for Taxis. The CSE Policy Officer has been in liaison with Oxfordshire County Council with a view to adopting a similar JOF that has been used in the neighbouring Local Authority. The plan to implement a JOF in Northamptonshire has been approved in principle by the NNLG. The CSE Policy Officer is in the process of drafting the JOF which will then be circulated to NNLG and the CSE Sub Group for consideration and approval. The JOF will ensure standardised processes across the County for:

- Application documents;
- Assessments required (including safeguarding training);
- DBS requirements;
- Risk Management process - DBS content and on-going concerns about taxi drivers;
- Information sharing; and
- Supporting materials and resources.

The CSE Policy Officer now regularly attends the NNLG to facilitate collaborative working with the Districts and Boroughs and to ensure that CSE remains on their continuing agenda.

The CSE Assessment Tool was updated in February 2017 and is now in use across the partnership.

The CSE Toolkit is in the process of being updated. This has proved a significant task but is nearing the end of completion. The revised CSE Toolkit will be presented to the next CSE Group in July 2017.

One of the recommendations from Ofsted (Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, 2016) was to *“undertake an analysis of all return home interviews in order that the local authority can better understand the needs of these young people”*. In line with the recommendation, an analysis of 25 IRIs was carried out. The sample was taken over a 6 month period from September 2016 to February 2017 with 5 cases from each month taken from a selection of criteria including geography and living arrangements (e.g. LAC, CP Plan and living at home). The purpose of the analysis was two-fold: (1) to assess whether the IRIs were compliant with statutory requirements and guidance and internal procedures and (2) to analyse data for the purpose of long term and strategic planning. The outcome of the analysis was extremely positive and demonstrated effective compliance with the required procedures. The standard of IRIs being completed are of a high quality, although processes need to be strengthened to ensure that the information obtained and recommendations made from the IRI are fed into care plans going forwards. The analysis is currently being considered by the Chair and will be disseminated to the NSCB’s ESG 31 July 2017.

Kayleigh’s Love Story¹ was launched across Northamptonshire in February 2017. The first showing took place at Wootton Park School on Safer Internet Day. The video clip tells the true story of a girl who was lured to an online groomer’s house and then raped and murdered by his neighbour. The NSCB and Northamptonshire Police are encouraging secondary schools to show the film to pupils and have a support package in place which they have already taken into a number of schools. They can arrange for an officer, an engagement worker and a safeguarding nurse to be present at screenings as well as offering support materials, help and advice. The launch received positive media attention across the County with article on ITV and NNCB stations.

¹ The film - called Kayleigh’s Love Story - deals with aspects of the last fortnight of her life and warns parents and children of the dangers of online grooming.

So far, 7 schools across the County have shown the film with the attendance and support of the RISE team. A further 8 schools have expressed an interest. Whilst the take-up from schools has been disappointing, the feedback received from those schools that have engaged has been extremely positive. It is anticipated that a number of schools will have shown KLS without support from the RISE Team although, at present, this number is unquantifiable (see section 11 statements below).

For each CSE and Missing Sub Group meeting, a report is produced by the Service Manager of RISE. The report is well received by the members of the CSE and Missing Sub Group and regularly forms the basis of discussion and plans for future development at the meeting. The format of the report has been significantly developed over the course of the last year and covers detailed analysis of the following subject areas:

- Referrals;
- Open cases;
- Statistics;
- Arrests/interviews;
- Strategy Meetings, Professionals Meetings and ABE Interviews;
- Investigations of note;
- POLIT information;
- Health; and
- Awareness raising.

The Communications Plan continues to be developed alongside the priority Task and Finish Groups to ensure targeted groups are educated and aware of CSE and Missing. The plan will focus on :

- Implementation of the JOF for Taxis;
- Introduce training for Licensing Officers, Environmental Officers & Park Rangers;
- BLAST training for officers (focussing on male victims);
- Messages encouraging reporting from young males; and
- Continue to actively promote successes via RISE Report.

6. Participation and Engagement with Children and Young People and other service users.

For engagement with children and young people through schools, please see information on Kayleigh's Love Story (page 6) above and the challenges faced in terms of school engagement (page 8) below.

The Awareness Raising Campaign aimed at Voluntary and Community Providers targeted groups of people who work directly with children and young people and provided information on how to spot the signs of CSE, work with children who may be victims of CSE and report any concerns.

As part of Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge in November 2016, a group of young people took part in a workshop on Missing and gave invaluable comment and feedback on how the Service could work more effectively with young people who go missing, this will be incorporated in the IRI Analysis as detailed above.

7. Challenges/issues/developments/opportunities

One of the major challenges for the CSE and Missing Sub Group is the engagement with schools to raise awareness and educate staff and young people on CSE and Missing.

In order to rectify this situation, amendments have been made to the Section 11 statements that will be sent out to schools and across the partnership agencies. Schools have been asked to confirm what, if any, CSE has been delivered in their school, to whom and by whom. The return of the section 11 statements should provide some clarification as to the extent of CSE training being delivered in schools across the county. Once in possession of this information, the intention will be to identify the gaps in provision and seek to quality assure any training that is being delivered.

The Chair and the CSE Policy Officer are currently in liaison with colleagues from NCC's Learning Skills and Education to agree a plan to implement a training programme to schools through the Teaching School Alliance structure. It is hoped that this will enable and facilitate delivery into schools of a consistent and quality assured package of training on CSE and Missing.

8. Next steps/plans/priorities/actions

Following the launch of the NTE guidance, a plan will be put in place to deliver awareness raising to those working directly in the NTE. This will take the form of workshops and events, the format of which is currently under consideration. A meeting is scheduled with South Northamptonshire Council with a view to the first event taking place in September 2017.

The Joint Operating Framework for Taxis will be implemented across the County.

On return and analysis of the section 11 statements, a plan will be put in place to deliver training into schools through the TSA structure, as set out above 7.3

Plans will be put in place to raise awareness across the following particularly vulnerable groups of society: LGBT, young males, BME communities and children with disabilities.

Work will also be undertaken to seek to better understand the link between CSE and gangs in Northamptonshire.

The CSE and Missing Group will continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis to implement and progress the Action Plan.

Appendices

1. NTE Resources
2. Sample RISE report