

## **RESPONSE TO THE CORE QUESTIONS FROM THE RISE TEAM**

### **Northampton Borough Council - CSE Scrutiny Panel**

The Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation (RISE) team has been asked to provide evidence to Northampton Borough Councils CSE scrutiny panel. The RISE Service manager is attending a panel hearing on the evening of 08<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The below written evidence is in support of this and responds directly to the set of core questions that have been asked by the panel.

#### **1. Please provide details of the work currently being undertaken by your organisation to address child sexual exploitation (CSE)**

The RISE team are Northamptonshire's specialist CSE team, comprising staff from Children's Services, Health, Police and CAN (a third sector organisation). They are co-located at Mereway, Police Force Headquarters. They operate at tier 4, therefore providing support to those at the highest risk of CSE within the County. They currently work with 50 young persons aged between 11 and 18 years old (with two thirds of the cohort aged between 13 to 15).

RISE has four engagement workers who undertake a programme of work in order to keep the young person's safe and reduce their risk of sexual exploitation. The specialist nurse conducts health assessments as well as acting as a conduit for information sharing, awareness raising and a training resource. Police officers on the team comprise 5 x Detectives and as well as a team of 6 x Proactive officers. The detectives primarily investigate CSE offences, particularly that the cohort are suspected to be victims of whilst the proactive officers actively develop intelligence and disrupt perpetrators of CSE – as well as conducting other safeguarding work for example searching for missing children, issuing child abduction warning notices and arresting suspects.

The RISE team hold a daily meeting during which information from partners is shared, CSE incidents and crimes from the preceding 24 hours are discussed, and current missing children reviewed to ascertain if further safeguarding activity is required. This meeting is recorded and actions monitored.

The RISE team produce a monthly report which is presented to the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Board (NSCB) CSE and Missing sub-group by the teams Service manager, Detective Inspector Richard Tompkins. This contains details of referrals, anonymised details of the cohort open the Service and work undertaken.

## **2. Is there a clear and robust multi-Agency strategy for information sharing, preventing and managing CSE?**

The NSCB have a strategy to tackle CSE which is developed and driven by the CSE and Missing group. This meets monthly and is attended by senior managers from a number of organisations. The meeting is recorded and actions administered by the NSCB business office. There is an associated CSE and Missing action plan that has just been refreshed in recognition of the fact the existing one has largely been completed.

## **3. What other multi-Agency forums exist to facilitate joint working?**

There is a county-wide monthly CSE and Missing forum. This takes place at Force headquarters and is chaired by the RISE service manager. It is attended by representatives from Children's services, Police, health (including A and E, sexual health, mental health), Education, children's homes, Youth Offending Service, Licensing, housing and some third sector organisations.

The RISE team also attend several single agency forums – including the East Midlands Police CSE Quarterly forum, an East Midlands CSE local authority conference held at the end of 2015. The RISE specialist nurse has just established a CSE specialist Nurses forum, the first one being hosted in Northants in September 2016.

## **4. What is the extent and profile of CSE in Northampton? How do we know this?**

The NSCB produce a county wide CSE multi- agency monthly dataset of statistics provided by agencies contributing to the CSE and Missing sub-group. This data covers a number of elements including the number of children missing from home and education, Police crime statistics, young persons in the county open to sexual health services and information from children's Services. As already described the monthly RISE report contains a wealth of information covering statistics together with a narrative on the key activity undertaken by the team. An East Midlands regional CSE problem profile was completed in June 2016 and a local, county-wide one, has been commissioned and is being written at this time. This will focus on Northants as opposed to exclusively on Northampton. These documents can be shared with the scrutiny panel.

Evidence from the RISE team over the last year suggests that CSE is being committed in Northampton predominantly by individual adults offending against young persons. There has fortunately been very limited information that gang related or organised CSE is taking place. Where such information has been received a number of intelligence led operations have been conducted; these

include Operation Vacation which targeted a group of adult males (aged in their 20s and 30's) from Northampton who were believed to be exploiting teenage females and Operation Tanka, targeting offenders exploiting teenage females in the sex trade. This resulted in the prosecution of 34 year old female at Northampton Crown Court in June 2016.

### **5. How effective has NBC, its partners and the Police, been in engaging with the local community and other organisations in raising awareness of CSE?**

Two county wide awareness raising campaigns have been conducted. One coincided with the launch of the Northamptonshire CSE operational toolkit (available via the NSCB website) at a county wide CSE conference in May 2015. The second and most recent campaign ran from end of 2015 to February 2016. Evaluation have been completed for both and presented to the NSCB via the CSE and Missing sub-group. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary praised the counties response in its 'Missing Children: Who cares' report published in April 2016 stating 'in Northamptonshire an awareness raising campaign via social media, billboard advertising, digital audio advertising, a conference and an online toolkit for agencies resulted in a 50 percent increase in CSE referrals to the Forces specialist CSE team from frontline staff across the Force area'

As well as targeting the public a large number of information raising events have been conducted. These have included awareness raising sessions to professionals working with young persons in the county, through to educating young people via rolling out 'Chelsea's choice' a CSE play delivered to over 30 secondary schools in the Northants in the spring of 2016. The BBC 'Look East' news programme also ran a feature on work of the RISE team. Northampton Borough Council held a CSE awareness raising event for a large number of staff in autumn 2015 that the RISE team presented at. The RISE team have identified that better engagement with harder to reach communities, including persons from the Black and Minority ethnic and disabled communities needs to take place. The RISE team have attended a number of events to support this, including discussing the subject at community group events.

Reporting and intelligence gathering around CSE has markedly improved. In January 2015 the RISE team had 17 young people open to its service. Within 6 months, and following the launch of the CSE operational toolkit and risk assessment, numbers had trebled to 50, helping safeguard far more children. The college of policing reviewed Northamptonshire Police's response to CSE in July 2015 and found that 'Staff have noticed a real change in organisational emphasis and there is now a clear and tangible focus upon protecting vulnerable people and CSE'.

## **6. How can awareness be raised further of CSE, human trafficking and domestic slavery of children in Northampton**

As described already a large amount of awareness raising has been undertaken in relation to CSE and whilst there is clearly always an opportunity to improve consideration to highlighting other risk areas such as human trafficking could be considered utilising the similar methods.

Analysis within the county has identified that 2/3rds of the young person's open to the RISE team are aged 13 to 15 years old. There is an opportunity to improve education of young people, below this age range to help prevent CSE.

There also seems an opportunity to improve liaison with volunteer groups and workers (for example youth groups, sports clubs, religious groups). A series of awareness raising events, lasting no more than an hour and half could be provided in the evenings / weekends. Presentations and material could be provided by the RISE team and, providing premises were supplied free of charge the cost would be minimal.

## **7. How is CSE incorporated into local training programmes, and who is able to access this training?**

The NSCB have recently compiled a list of training programmes conducted by various agencies in the county. RISE has supported a raft of training and information awareness raising events. These are documented in the monthly RISE report and include presentations to new police staff, social workers, and teachers (the latter via Northampton University). Presentations have been delivered to health professionals, council staff and councillors. Presentations are currently being completed to the national Probation Service and Bench.

## **8. What support is available to current, potential and historic victims of CSE?**

As described in section 1 the RISE team work with children deemed to be at the highest risk of CSE in Northamptonshire. They support them with a programme of protective behaviour work. The team complete a risk management plan for each child, which all agencies within RISE contribute to and that is reviewed (as a minimum) every 8 weeks. RISE has also recruited a volunteer parent worker to help support the parents of children open to the service. This individual has undertaken accredited training with Parents Against Child Abuse (PACE). The RISE team was established to work with current CSE victims aged under 18 but in exceptional circumstances has supported young adults, for example a vulnerable looked after child who disclosed ongoing sexual exploitation. RISE hold a weekly referrals meeting that is also attended by a representative from the MASH education team and Youth Offending Service. Each referral is discussed and even where declined (which relates to about 50% of cases)

recommendations and signposting for support from other agencies is made to the referrer.

**9. Do you have further information regarding the role of NBC in tackling CSE?**

There is an opportunity to further tackle CSE by utilising NBC staff more effectively, for example by training neighbourhood wardens and food safety officers to recognise and report CSE. There are also opportunities to launch a hotel watch scheme and do more around the night time economy (these are being progressed via a new action plan implemented by the CSE and Missing sub-group of the NSCB).