

Scrutiny Panel 1 Child Sexual Exploitation

Response to core questions: Ruth Austen Environmental Health and Licensing Manager NBC

1. Please provide details of work currently being undertaken by your organisation to address CSE.

1. As a regulatory body CSE impacts on a range of our work. Frontline staff have all received briefings on CSE and are reminded to be alert for any signs of it occurring during their routine work. If any suspicious activity is noted and referrals made to the RISE team. Team members attended the CSE conference in 2016.

Fit and proper person checks are carried out on taxi and private hire drivers and operators and a range of other licence holders. This process involves DBS checks. In addition, information about any taxi / private hire driver / operator arrested for sexual or violent offences is passed to the Licensing team by the Police under the Police Common Law Disclosure process. On the basis of information received licences may be revoked or other enforcement action taken. Information on CSE is included in the training day for all new Private Hire Drivers. The understanding of this information is tested as part of the driver assessment process. Two briefing sessions on CSE have been provided for hackney drivers and private hire drivers and operators which were attended by approximately 200 people. – it is proposed that further similar briefings for the taxi / private hire will be arranged in future and work is progressing to arrange similar briefings for the hotel and on-licensed trade.

2. Is there a clear and robust multi-Agency strategy for information sharing, preventing and managing CSE?
Work in accordance with CSE Toolkit

3. What other multi-Agency forums exist to facilitate joint working?
Arrangements in place for information sharing with Police as outlined in 1 above. Northants Licensing Liaison Group which has reps from all District Councils, County Council (Health and Trading Standards), Police, and a range of other agencies discusses Licensing issues and Safeguarding / CSE is a standing agenda item.
Member of CSP officer group which has some discussion on CSE
Involvement where necessary in case conferences / LADO meetings on a case by case basis

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

Aware that it is a nationwide issue and of the existence of the RISE team in Northants. Awareness of overall issues through professional contacts /meetings.

5. How does NBC contribute to the above work
See above. Awareness of staff / eyes and ears on ground

6. To raise the Scrutiny Panel's awareness, please supply details of what NBC is doing, outside the Scrutiny process, in relation to human trafficking and domestic slavery of children
Some involvement with multi-agency operations to address human trafficking. Joint visits have been carried out to food premises and to on and off licenced premises – these have not been specifically to target slavery involving children but have had a more general focus.

7. How effective has NBC, its partners and the Police, been in engaging with the local community and other organisations in raising awareness of CSE?
See point 1 above regarding taxi / private hire industry. General campaigns to raise awareness of issue / reporting mechanisms quite effective but may be some denial that this type of thing happens here.

8. How can awareness be raised further of CSE, human trafficking and domestic slavery of children in Northampton?
Further publicity campaigns, reporting successful cases and operations

9. How is CSE incorporated into local training programmes, and who is able to access this training?
See point 1 above

10. What support is available to current, potential and historic victims of CSE?
I do not have any specific experience in this area.

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