

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY



SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

CORE QUESTIONS – EXPERT ADVISORS

The Scrutiny Panel is currently undertaking a review that is investigating Northampton Borough Council (NBC) plays an active role in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of the work currently being undertaken by partnerships, statutory and voluntary organisations, and the Police to address these issues
- To investigate how NBC contributes to the above work
- To raise awareness of CSE, human trafficking and domestic slavery of children in Northampton
- To explore best practice elsewhere in identifying and providing support to victims of CSE
- To understand what NBC is doing outside the Scrutiny process in relation to human trafficking and domestic slavery of children

The expected outcomes of this Scrutiny Review are:

- To make evidence based recommendations to improve the role that NBC has in tackling CSE
- To make recommendations, as appropriate, regarding partnership working in tackling CSE

CORE QUESTIONS:

A series of key questions have been put together to inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny Panel:

1. Please provide details of the work currently being undertaken by your organisation to address child sexual exploitation (CSE)
The Educational and Inclusion Partnerships Team (EIP) attend the monthly multi-agency CSE/missing persons forum and also the monthly steering group.
EIP officer based in the MASH attend the weekly RISE (Reducing incidents of Sexual Exploitation) allocation meetings.
2. Is there a clear and robust multi-Agency strategy for information sharing, preventing and managing CSE?
Please see the above groups
3. What other multi-Agency forums exist to facilitate joint working?
We are represented in the MASH and MASH steering group, the FGM/HBV sub- group and feed into the FGM community group. EIP are represented on the PREVENT and attend the Channel meeting where appropriate.
4. What is the extent and profile of CSE in Northampton? How do we know this?
For the most complete and accurate information please refer to the RISE team which is led by DI Richard Tompkins in Northants Police.
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?
From a NCC, Learning, Skills and Education perspective information is shared with schools. Schools are aware of their obligations towards safeguarding.
In May 2015 professionals working directly with children in Northamptonshire had the opportunity to attend the launch of the CSE toolkit to support them to ascertain the level of risk of CSE children and young people may be exposed to.
Schools Information is shared at Locality forums and Peer Support groups for schools' staff across the County on a termly basis.
Secondary Schools and Academies have had the opportunity to access "Sophie's Choice", an awareness raising CSE education play devised for year 9+ (ages 13 and 14), which is followed by a question and answer session and follow up work in lessons. Part of this programme also includes 2 days training for schools' staff. This is delivered via the Targeted Mental Health

(Tamhs) programme which is available to schools via the NCC Education Psychology Service.

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

For local groups to have a lead responsible for the above who is able to liaise with the relevant community groups and attend training sessions through the local Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Board in order to better understand the local context.

The EIP team within Learning Skills and Education are currently devising a series of twilight training sessions for Designated Safeguarding Leads in all schools. It is anticipated that these will be held in four venues across the county on a termly basis where all safeguarding issues and information, including CSE, human trafficking and domestic slavery can be shared. We are hoping to be able to invite community groups and other professionals to help facilitate these sessions.

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

Resources and Training, including the CSE toolkit, are available for children, parents, carers and professionals through the Local Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Board www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk

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

Please refer to DI Richard Tompkins and the work of the RISE team

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

Please liaise with the Northamptonshire RISE team, led by DI Richard Tompkins. This team takes the lead for CSE across Northamptonshire.