



**Buckinghamshire County Council**  
**Select Committee**  
Children's Social Care and Learning

**Date:** Tuesday 12 April 2016

**Time:** 10.30 am

**Venue:** Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury

**AGENDA**

**9.30 am Pre-meeting Discussion**

This session is for members of the Committee only. It is to allow the members time to discuss lines of questioning, areas for discussion and what needs to be achieved during the meeting.

**10.30 am Formal Meeting Begins**

| <b>Agenda Item</b>  | <b>Time</b> | <b>Page No</b> |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| <b>1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  |             |                |
| <b>2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b><br>To declare any Personal or Dislosable Pecuniary Interests. |             |                |
| <b>3 MINUTES</b><br>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2016. |             | <b>7 - 12</b>  |
| <b>4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS</b>   |             |                |



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Public Questions is an opportunity for people who live, work or study in the county to put a question to a Scrutiny Committee about any issue that has an impact on their local community or the county as a whole.

Member of public, who have given prior notice, will be invited to put their question in person.

The Cabinet Member and responsible officers will then be invited to respond.

Further information and details on how to register can be found through the following link and by then clicking on 'Public Questions'.

<http://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=788>

- 5      **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**      **10:40**  
For the Chairman of the Committee to provide an update on recent scrutiny related activity.
- Children's Centres Inquiry
- i)      **To agree the draft report of the Children's Workforce Inquiry**  
For the Committee to agree the draft report and recommendations of the Children's Workforce Inquiry, for submission to Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
- 6      **COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**  
For members of the Committee to provide an update on any issue they are investigating on behalf of the Committee.
- 7      **CABINET MEMBER UPDATES**
- i)      **Cabinet Member for Children's Services**
  - ii)     **Cabinet Member for Education & Skills**
- 8      **CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**      **11:00**      **13 - 18**  
To provide an overview of CAMHS provision in Buckinghamshire and to investigate the effectiveness of the service following its tendering in April 2015.

### **Contributors**

Lin Hazel, Cabinet Member for Children's Services  
Zahir Mohammed, Cabinet Member for Education & Skills  
David Johnston, Managing Director – Children's Social Care & Learning Business Unit  
Caroline Hart, Joint Commissioner, CAMHS  
Donna Clarke, Head of CAMHS, Oxford Health NHS

Foundation Trust  
Wendy Woodhouse, Clinical Director, Oxford Health NHS  
Foundation Trust  
Michelle Kukielka, Assistant Director, Barnardo's Children's  
Services Buckinghamshire

- |  |  |              |                |
|--|--|--------------|----------------|
| <b>9</b>   | <b>MISSING CHILDREN, INCLUDING MISSING FROM EDUCATION</b><br>To consider the measures in place to support children going missing from home and from education.   | <b>11:30</b> | <b>19 - 24</b> |
| <br>   |  |              |                |
| <b><u>Contributors</u></b><br>Lin Hazel, Cabinet Member for Children's Services<br>Zahir Mohammed, Cabinet Member for Education & Skills<br>David Johnston, Managing Director – Children's Social<br>Care & Learning Business Unit |  |              |                |
| <b>10</b>  | <b>PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INQUIRY 6 MONTH UPDATE</b><br>To receive a 6 month update on the implementation of the agreed recommendations of the Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Inquiry. | <b>12:00</b> | <b>25 - 32</b> |
| <br>   |  |              |                |
| <b><u>Contributors</u></b><br>Lin Hazel, Cabinet Member for Children's Services<br>Zahir Mohammed, Cabinet Member for Education & Skills<br>David Johnston, Managing Director – Children's Social<br>Care & Learning Business Unit |  |              |                |
| <b>11</b>  | <b>TENDER OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION SERVICE DRAFT BUSINESS CASE</b><br>To consider the draft Child Sexual Exploitation Service Business Case before it is submitted for a Cabinet Member decision.      | <b>12:15</b> | <b>33 - 86</b> |
| <br>   |  |              |                |
| <b><u>Contributors</u></b><br>Lin Hazel, Cabinet Member for Children's Services<br>Zahir Mohammed, Cabinet Member for Education & Skills<br>David Johnston, Managing Director – Children's Social<br>Care & Learning Business Unit |  |              |                |
| <b>12</b>  | <b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b><br>To note the next meeting of the Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee on 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2016.  |              |                |

### **Purpose of the committee**

The role of the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

The Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to the remit of the Children's Social Care and Learning Business Unit. This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Nurseries and early years education
- Schools and further education
- The Bucks Learning Trust
- Quality standards and performance in education
- Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Learning and skills
- Adult learning
- Children and family services
- Early intervention
- Child protection, safeguarding and prevention
- Children in care (looked after children)
- Children's psychology
- Children's partnerships
- Youth provision
- The Youth Offending Service

*\* In accordance with the BCC Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Committee responsible for the scrutiny of Education matters.*

### **Webcasting notice**

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If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Member Services on 01296 382876.

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If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

*For further information please contact: Reece Bowman on 01296 382548, email: [rebowman@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:rebowman@buckscc.gov.uk)*

## **Members**

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs M Aston       | Mrs V Letheren (C) |
| Mrs P Birchley    | Mrs W Mallen       |
| Ms J Blake        | Mr R Stuchbury     |
| Mr D Dhillon (VC) | Mr D Watson        |
| Mr P Gomm         | Ms K Wood          |
| Mr P Irwin        |                    |

## **Co-opted Members**

Mr D Babb, Church of England Representative  
Mr M Moore, Roman Catholic Church  
Ms M Nowers, Primary School Sector



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**Buckinghamshire County Council**  
**Select Committee**  
Children's Social Care and Learning

# Minutes

## *CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE*

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2016, in Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury, commencing at 10.30 am and concluding at 12.30 pm.

This meeting was webcast. To review the detailed discussions that took place, please see the webcast which can be found at <http://www.buckscc.public-i.tv/>  
The webcasts are retained on this website for 6 months. Recordings of any previous meetings beyond this can be requested (contact: [democracy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckscc.gov.uk))

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Margaret Aston, Patricia Birchley, Janet Blake, Phil Gomm, Paul Irwin, Valerie Letheren (Chairman), Robin Stuchbury, David Watson and Katrina Wood

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Babb

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Chris Adams, Lin Hazell and Zahir Mohammed

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

David Johnston and Yvette Thomas

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Dev Dhillon, Wendy Mallen and Michael Moore.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.



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### **3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 were agreed as an accurate record.

### **4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

### **5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman thanked the Committee & Governance Adviser for his support as this was his last formal meeting before going on secondment.

The Chairman gave her update, which included:

- Mention of the Local Government Association Peer Review and the Department for Education audit
- Presentation of the Preventing CSE Inquiry to Cabinet in January
- Attendance at the Cyber-Safety Conference which had been organised as a result of a Select Committee recommendation
- The Chairman had visited a Child in Need Social Work Team, the First Response team in High Wycombe and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

She gave her thanks to the staff members that had met with her on those visits.

### **6 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

Ms Wood had visited the MASH and a Child in Need Team.

Mrs. Aston had attended a session on universal care for children and babies.

Mr Gomm had attended the MASH and had attended a visit to a foster family with a social worker. He had also met several foster parents in addition to this.

Mr. Stuchbury had been on visits with social workers and had been visiting academies.

The Members extended their thanks to staff members for spending time with them.

### **7 CABINET MEMBER UPDATES**

### **7A CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE & LEARNING**



Ms Hazell stated that the majority of her update would be covered in the forthcoming agenda items of today's meeting. Children's Services were still awaiting the letter from the Secretary of State which would indicate the level of intervention from the Department for Education in Buckinghamshire Children's Services.

Ms Hazell made the following points in relation to the budget settlement for the Children's Social Care & Learning Business Unit:

- It is a demand-led service
- Resources available are tight
- Demand is rising

## **7B CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS**

Mr Mohammed gave his update:

- Adult Learning Ofsted inspection resulted in a 'Good' rating
- An audit plan for the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust (BLT) is now in place
- Regular meetings are taking place between Buckinghamshire County Council Members and Officers and BLT
- There is a forecast overspend on home to school transport
- Money needs to be saved on Children's Centres plan and the plan is not to close any but instead to remodel
- The Youth Counselling service is to be reinstated

Members addressed questions around funding, recording of financial information and governance of BLT.

## **8 PREVENT AGENDA**

The Children's Policy & Equality Manager, Yvette Thomas, presented the report and made the following points:

- Prevent is part of government's counter-terrorism strategy
- It is the only with pre-criminal element and covers young people and vulnerable adults
- Prevent was first introduced in 2008/9 and involved some work with head teachers. It is now very much back on the agenda due to national and global events
- The work with schools involves training key individuals such as the Designated Safeguarding Leads within each
- Approximately 50% of the educational establishments in Buckinghamshire have been covered so far

Members covered the following points in their questions:

- The extra resources given to High Wycombe as higher tier Prevent area
- 'Train the trainer' and how it is being used to maximise the limited resource available to devote to the Prevent agenda

- The small amount of government funding made available to the Buckinghamshire local authorities to support work on the Prevent agenda
- The proximity to London and the impact of that on Prevent
- The interface of the Channel Panel and other bodies such as MASH and the Swan Unit
- The similarities between radicalisation and other safeguarding issues
- Online radicalisation and what can be done to address it

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **9 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE & LEARNING BUSINESS UNIT UNDER THE FUTURE SHAPE PROGRAMME**

Ms Hazell introduced the agenda item by stating that Children's Services is now going into phase 2 which incorporates the Future Shape Programme. There had been an agreement not to move so quickly on children's services in recognition of the fact that the improvement journey needed to progress.

Members discussed the following issues with the Cabinet Members and the Managing Director for Children's Social Care & Learning:

- The type of work undertaken by children's services and that social care clients could not be considered as customers
- The work on school improvement and the income it generates
- The rationale for bringing together learning and social care within a single business unit
- The use of preventative measures to avoid the need for higher tariff services later on
- The implementation of staff ideas and work with the Innovation Team
- Increases in the number of children with special educational needs and disabilities and the response of the Future Shape programme to that
- Where income is currently generated by the Business Unit and where further income might be generated
- Governance of the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **10 UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT**

Ms Hazell introduced the item and described to the Committee a year of very intense scrutiny, which had included visits from Ofsted and peer support/challenge from Essex and Cambridgeshire County Councils. There had also been the Local Government Association peer review and an audit commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE). This was alongside monthly meetings of the Improvement Board, visits to the Select Committee, Regulatory & Audit Committee and Cabinet.

There had been very significant efforts to improve which had resulted in improvements in getting children into secure family environments. Work continued on the recording system. Supervision and support for staff had been enhanced. The DfE audit had found that the cases

investigated by them were safe, with no cases referred back for immediate action. Schools, police and health organisations have helped enormously.

Members explored the following issues with the Cabinet Member and Managing Director for Children's Social Care & Learning:

- What constituted a good Children's Service and how long it would take to get there
- Making improvements sustainable
- Performance management of staff and ways in which staff are consulted
- Rates of permanent staff versus temporary staff
- Cultural and equality and diversity issues

SEE PAPERS/WEBCAST FOR CONTENT

## **11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 10:30am.

A private meeting of the Select Committee is being held on 29<sup>th</sup> March to conduct a short inquiry into issues facing the Children's Services workforce.

**CHAIRMAN**





## Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

### Report to the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Title:</b>                   | Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services             |
| <b>Committee date:</b>          | Tuesday 12 April 2016                                 |
| <b>Contact officer:</b>         | Caroline Hart, 07843345524,<br>c-chart@buckscc.gov.uk |
| <b>Cabinet Member sign-off:</b> | Zahir Mohammed  |

#### **Purpose of Agenda Item For Information**

To provide an update on the Buckinghamshire CAMHS service following commencement of a new contract and service model on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016. To include changes to the service and use of CAMHS [Transformation funding](#) allocation through Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern CCGs.

#### **Background**

The CAMHS contract was awarded in April 2015 to Oxford Health Foundation Trust following a competitive tender process. Representatives of the service attended this meeting in July 2015, prior to the new contract starting and at that time it was agreed that it would be beneficial to provide an update on the new model and progress once implementation had commenced. Through the recommission process it was recognised that the service model needed to change to focus on early intervention and maximising the resources available across the whole system in order to better meet the growing demand for mental health services.

#### **Summary**

The service is provided through a partnership between Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Buckinghamshire Barnardos and Beat. With the help of children, young people and their families a new model has been developed that aims to make accessing help from CAMHS much easier with patient experience and participation of central importance in aspects of the service.



The role of the “Article 12” young people’s participation group has been strengthened and a regular forum with parents and carers will be established to ensure that future developments within the service meet the needs of families. The service is also working together to develop a volunteer workforce to support the service as well as exploring opportunities for apprentice roles to help young people into education and work.

There is one integrated service that is delivered county-wide by all partners offering seamless responsive care. The single point of access is the initial point of contact with the service for all. It operates from 8am to 6pm weekdays and is staffed by Barnardos with clinical oversight from Oxford Health staff. The single point of access accepts referrals and queries from families, young people and professionals. Feedback to date has been positive especially regarding the responsiveness and communication.

Barnardo’s staff carry out the majority of the targeted interventions which take up to 6 sessions with the service flexing around the need of the children and young people. The county wide service offers brief, evidence-based interventions, these may include parenting groups/support, family work, individual work and group work. This also includes intervention through Barnardo’s counsellors which includes play therapy for early years and under 11 years.

Where more help is needed, for example when a young person has more complex levels of need with single diagnoses or where the young person has not benefited from targeted help and still requires more help to aid recovery, specialist Oxford Health staff provide evidence-based interventions.

A significant number of young people have comorbid diagnoses and highly complex needs and need extra help in order to ensure that they have the best chance of recovery. These CYP require a multidisciplinary and at times multiagency approach, involving a range of highly skilled clinical staff. This multi-faceted approach includes: medication; family therapy; individual therapy; and multiagency risk management and planning. These are delivered through our specialist teams which include:

- Looked after Team;
- Re-Connect service (0-2 service)
- Child and Adolescent Harmful Behaviours (CAHBS);
- Learning Disability Team;
- OSCA (Intensive Outreach Home and Community Intervention)
- Eating Disorder Team
- Neuro-developmental Team
- Mood and Stress Team

In the more complex care packages a Barnardo's Buddy also provides psycho-education; promotes wellbeing; link the young person into support in the community; check they understand and agree with their care plan; and help identify goals the young person would like to achieve by the end of their treatment. They will also act a point of contact for family members, checking their understanding of the care being provided, offering support, strategies for coping and diagnosis-specific information. The Buddy helps the CYP build confidence in the Service and work to break down any barriers.

*An overview of the service*



Since October every primary and secondary school in Buckinghamshire now has a link worker Barnardos staff are working with the primary schools (under supervision of Oxford Health staff) and Oxford Health staff are working with secondary and special schools.

In addition the service has received grant funding to develop the CAMHS link worker role to 14 schools in county and also to develop and deliver training on attachment to schools and children's centres working closely with social care.

Improving children and young people's mental health outcomes by 2020 is a national priority that has made CAMHS Transformation funding available via allocation through Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern CCGs.

The additional allocation provided through the CCGs is specifically aimed at



- Addressing Eating Disorder services to provide assessment and NICE compliant intervention within 2 weeks of referral (achieved)
- Enhancing the current service provision to enable increased early support and to increase intensive support to try to minimise the need for hospital admissions (in progress)

Although in its infancy the new model is demonstrating that by working in partnership we can offer a much more responsive and flexible service to children and their families

### **Key issues**

*Increase in demand for Neurodevelopmental assessments.* Work is being undertaken by the CCGs to review the current pathways across organisations to ensure clarity in the process/pathway and that it is NICE compliant.

*Access to mental health services for Looked After Children and Young People placed out of county where Buckinghamshire remains the responsible commissioner.* A process has been established to agree funding for intervention where a provider has been identified but there are still some areas that refuse to provide a service to a young person who is not eligible for their commissioned service which can result in delays in provision. This cost is met by the CCGs and in 2015/16 was approximately £30,000 for 5 out of county cases. Additionally non Bucks Looked after Children placed in Bucks are being offered a service by Buckinghamshire CAMHS but the originating organisation is not always agreeing to meet this cost. This is a recently raised issue and the commissioners have agreed with Oxford Health that they will follow up with commissioning colleagues in other areas where there have been issues with payment.

### **Resource implications**

The CAMHS service has a budget of approx. £5.4m with additional allocation of approx. £800,000 which has been invested by NHS England through the CCGs. The service employs 96 wte and has received 1725 referrals in the period 01/10/15 to 29/02/16. The national review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS), [Future in Mind](#) (published March 2015) recognised the impact of poor mental health on the outcomes for children and young people in educational achievement, employment and physical health. As well as the impact on the individual child and family, mental health problems in children and young people result in an increased cost to the public purse and to wider society.

### **Next steps**

Launching a training programme across the seven GP localities for all professionals and those in the voluntary sector in June. This will help to challenge stigma that surrounds





mental health and build on the understanding of children's mental health in the wider children's work force

Continuing to work with and develop links with other organisations within Buckinghamshire such as Time to Talk Youth Counselling service and Buckinghamshire Mind to maximise resources and develop a seamless service for children and young people.

Barnardo's are working with the Youth Service to explore the integration of the proposed new Barnardo's emotional wellbeing/ step down programmes and targeted Buckinghamshire Youth services. This would result in provision of a service that will provide support to children and young people who's presentation do not indicate they need an intervention from CAMHS or those who would benefit from step down support. To ensure cost effectiveness, there will be a volunteer based work force who are trained and supervised by appropriately skilled staff

The new service and commissioners have been successful in obtaining further grant funding to develop a training module for schools and children's centres focussed on attachment and are working in partnership with social care to implement this project in May and June.

Continued partnership working with Buckinghamshire Social Care, Buckinghamshire Hospital Trust and CCGs to ensure that the improvement programme for Buckinghamshire is delivered.

Donna Clark,  
Head of Buckinghamshire CAMHS

Caroline Hart,  
Joint Commissioner







## Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

### Report to the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Title:</b>                   | Missing Children   |
| <b>Committee date:</b>          | Tuesday 12 April 2016  |
| <b>Author:</b>                  | Carol Douch  |
| <b>Contact officer:</b>         | Amanda O'Borne, Head of Service<br>First Response ext 2758<br>aoborne@buckscc.gov.uk |
| <b>Cabinet Member sign-off:</b> | Lin Hazell, Zahir Mohammed   |

#### Purpose of Agenda Item

Information - The committee requested an update on missing children including children missing from education. This report updates the Committee on what systems and joint working is in place to support children and young people who become vulnerable during the time they are reported as or seen to be missing.

#### 1. Background

Local authorities are responsible for protecting children whether they go missing from their family home or from local authority care. Missing children are vulnerable to exploitation including sexual exploitation, violent crime, gang exploitation, or drug and alcohol misuse. Although looked after children are particularly vulnerable when they go missing, the majority of children who go missing are not looked after however due to their vulnerability they are the responsibility of the Local Authority.

The definitions of absent and missing are as follows:

- *Absent*: a child not at a place where they are expected or required to be.
- *Missing*: any child whose whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character, or the context suggests the person may be subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another.

## **2. Numbers in Buckinghamshire**

In Buckinghamshire the senior children's service manager responsible for monitoring policies and performance relating to children who go missing from home or care is Amanda O'Borne, Head of Service First Response. In order to be successful in safeguarding children it requires a multi-agency approach.

Between the 1st December 2015 and 29th February 2016 there have been a total of 434 "Missing Persons" episodes recorded on LCS for Buckinghamshire Children/Young People.

| <b>Missing Status</b>                            | <b>Looked After Children</b> | <b>December</b> | <b>January</b> | <b>February</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Away from placement without authorisation</b> | Yes                          | 22              | 25             | 22              | 69           |
|  | No                           | 24              | 42             | 46              | 112          |
| <b>Total</b>                                     |                              | <b>46</b>       | <b>67</b>      | <b>68</b>       | <b>181</b>   |
| <b>Missing</b>                                   | Yes                          | 7               | 15             | 10              | 32           |
|  | No                           | 79              | 54             | 88              | 221          |
| <b>Missing Total</b>                             |                              | <b>86</b>       | <b>69</b>      | <b>98</b>       | <b>253</b>   |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                               |                              | <b>132</b>      | <b>136</b>     | <b>166</b>      | <b>434</b>   |

## **3. Overview of the current working arrangements.**

There are positive relationships with Thames Valley Police and Barnado's R U Safe Service. In partnership, risk assessments of children missing from home or care are discussed and data analysed to establish any patterns that may indicate particular concerns, risks and action needed. There are currently three key protocols that Buckinghamshire County Council, Thames Valley Police (TVP) and Barnardo's "R U Safe" project are working within.

1. D of E Statutory Guidance on Children who run away or go missing from home (January 2014)
2. Thames Valley Police Protocol
3. Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board

**The process** - All referrals for children who go missing (either from home or from care) or who are reported as absent are recorded by the Police. These referrals are then shared with Children's Social Care First Response Contact & MASH team. Only the missing children aged 11 to 17 are referred by the Police to "R U Safe". Missing episodes are then recorded on the electronic data base for Children's records (LCS). When a case is deemed to be high risk, this is escalated to the relevant Head of Service and the Children's Social Care Director.

Outside of Office hours, the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) receives notifications of any concerns for children and ensures their immediate safety is assured with hand over to day staff. Few need immediate accommodation as most of the time children turn up on their

own volition. When the child is notified of being found the Police and EDT try to resolve the issue and return the child to the placement / home if safe to do so and send a formal notification to social care. The Police do a 'safe and well' check when the child returns home and R U Safe are commissioned to do an independent return interview within 72 hours of the child returning to their home or care setting. This is typically held in a neutral place where the child feels safe and is an opportunity to hear from the child about why they went missing and to understand the risks and issues faced by the child while missing. Safe and well checks and independent return interviews provide an opportunity to inform case planning, for wider strategic planning and for professionals to take into account children's views.

**Partnership meetings** - There are monthly M-SERAC meetings (Missing, Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference) which have a good attendance from key partners. These are co-chaired by an Inspector from Thames Valley Police and Children's Social Care Head of Service. The agenda is set to consider any child that is deemed "High Risk" of being missing in line with the Statutory Guidance that is when a child/young person goes missing on 3 occasions within 90 days.

The purpose of the meeting is to ensure full agency information sharing and to ensure each child/young person has a plan in place to address their needs, linked to the concerns arising from missing episodes. This meeting relates only to children who are currently living in Buckinghamshire. This includes children who are placed here by other Local Authorities. Buckinghamshire children who are placed on other Local Authorities and go missing would have their needs considered by similar arrangements to M-SERAC in that Local Authority. Strong links made with other Local Authorities can minimise risks both to Buckinghamshire's children placed elsewhere and those placed here by other authorities. Many of Buckinghamshire children placed out of County and subsequently go missing gravitate back to Buckinghamshire.

In March there was a two week trail of daily multi agency meetings (chaired by Chief Inspector of Child Abuse Investigation Unit) involving personnel working with the Swan Unit (Police, Health, Education, Social Care and R U Safe). These meetings focused on all children missing within last 24 hours (missing from care or missing from home). Whilst this was a time consuming exercise it was felt to be extremely useful. An extended trial of a full month is planned for May.

**Recording** - From the 18<sup>th</sup> March improvements were made in LCS for the recording of missing children. It is important that all missing and absent children (including children missing or absent from home or missing or absent from care) are recorded on LCS as this is a very vulnerable group of children and it is essential that people at all levels of the organisation are aware and managing the potential risk to these children. This will enable us to report accurately, we will be relying on this information for reporting to Ofsted and for providing statistical returns to government.

There is still some work to do in relation to this process e.g. recording of strategy meetings specifically related to missing and return interviews and will be working on this in the coming weeks. A user guide will also be produced.

#### **4. Reducing the risks**

Early and effective sharing of information between professionals and local agencies is essential for the identification of patterns of behaviour and exploring trends, demands and ways of reducing risks to children. There is a strong commitment for all agencies to work together and continually improve the situation for these vulnerable children.

The attitude of professionals, towards a child who has been missing can have a big impact on how they will engage with subsequent investigations and protection planning. However “streetwise” they may appear, they are children and may be extremely vulnerable to multiple risks. A supportive approach, actively listening and responding to a child’s needs, will have a greater chance of preventing the child from going missing again and safeguarding them against other risks.

#### **5. Children Missing Education (CME)**

Children Missing Education is defined as “children who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school.” The Department for Education has recently launched a consultation on improving reporting measures for children missing education (ends 7<sup>th</sup> March). This has been generated by increasing safeguarding concerns raised by Sir Michael Wilshire following the Trojan Horse inquiry into Birmingham schools.

Prior to June 2013, Buckinghamshire County Council discharged its duties to support CME via a combination of specialist business support and the Education Welfare Service. In June 2013, due to efficiencies in the Education Welfare Service, a new post was created allowing a radical change to the way we recorded, identified and tracked CME; creating a more effective system which satisfied Ofsted’s scrutiny in the 2015 inspection. This resulted in an initial increase in CME which was attributed to better scrutiny and a raised profile.

Numbers have continued to rise:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Academic Year = CME cases open during the year |       |
| 2011-12  | = 104 |
| 2012-13  | = 174 |
| 2013-14  | = 432 |
| 2014-15  | = 640 |

Referrals from other Local Education Authorities have increased year on year which may reflect the higher profile in national press; particularly around CSE/Prevent. Referrals from schools remain relatively constant. In the last two years there are improved links with the

NHS and there are approximately 35 referrals a year. We need to ensure a focus on accurate recording and awaiting the response from the DfE consultation.

Further work needs to be done to investigate this trend to establish if this is a regional issue and how other Local Authorities are responding. The Director for Education is leading a 'deep dive' into children missing education and exclusions from school. It is essential that the trends and patterns in behaviour are explored and supportive in a holistic way. All service and partners need to be aware of trend data, the risks associated with vulnerable children and what support is available.





**Scrutiny Inquiry Progress Update on Recommendations**  
**Interim/Final Progress Report 6 months on**

**Select Committee Inquiry Report Completion Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

**Date of this update:** 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Lead Officer responsible for this response:** Carol Douch

**Cabinet Member that has signed-off this update:** Lin Hazel and Zahir Mohammed

| Accepted Recommendations  | Original Response and Actions   | Progress Update   | Committee Assessment of Progress (RAG status) |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Recommendation 1: The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) should increase the amount of the BSCB Chairman's time that is purchased from the partnership's budget.</b> | Prior to the completion of this enquiry the Chief Executive of the County Council had agreed to increase this capacity from 30 to 40 days per annum.                              | This has already been completed (see previous update)   |   |
| <b>Recommendation 2: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that contract managers are monitoring the compliance of</b>   | All commissioners are ensuring that contracts at the point of renewal include CSE. Training for the wider commissioned workforce is highly recommended at all contract monitoring | We continue to support commissioners in challenging compliance with the safeguarding requirements including specific training around CSE.<br><br>In addition, the placement form has been updated to include a risk assessment (risks children may pose to others and themselves).<br><br>As part of our business planning process we are reviewing all contracts and assessing / ensuring they are targeting children and young people |   |

| Accepted Recommendations   | Original Response and Actions  | Progress Update  | Committee Assessment of Progress (RAG status) |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>providers with safeguarding requirements, including ensuring that the Council's wider commissioned workforce undertakes child sexual exploitation training.</b></p>  | <p>meetings, commissioners will continue to highlight training opportunities, monitor and challenge take up.</p>   | <p>most at risk and in need.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 3: Buckinghamshire County Council should commission the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust to develop a toolkit for use in primary schools to help schools foster resilience in their pupils.</b></p> | <p>We continue to work closely with BLT, especially on a range of suitable toolkits and opportunities for schools to feel confident about fostering resilience, this includes PSHE training. This work will be monitored and updates on the various types of support (including toolkits) will be reported on.</p> | <p>We continue working with BLT.</p> <p>We have been looking at additional material (toolbox) to support schools in this work.</p> <p>In September there is a partnership workshop on 'vulnerability', which will include CSE.</p> <p>Carol Douch has a standing item on PEB and BASH which further strengthens links and development opportunities.</p> |   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 4: Thames Valley Police should roll out the Hotel</b></p>   | <p>The remaining two Local Police Areas (LPA) in Buckinghamshire, Aylesbury and Chiltern &amp;</p>   | <p>Aylesbury Vale LPA are building on the Wycombe concept of Hotel Watch with a wider initiative that includes hotels, as well as a range of other premises. This is captured under an initiative called "Nightwatch".</p>   |   |

| Accepted Recommendations  | Original Response and Actions  | Progress Update   | Committee Assessment of Progress (RAG status) |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Watch scheme across Buckinghamshire.</b>   | South Bucks, have agreed to roll out the model, which originated in the Wycombe LPA.   |   |   |
| <b>Recommendation 5: The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board should actively monitor that the thresholds document is being applied consistently and accurately by all partners.</b> | <p>Publishing a thresholds document and actively monitoring knowledge and application of this is a core part of the BSCB's business. We have an extensive programme of work in place to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed thresholds across partners through communication, awareness raising and training. This is a tailored approach that recognises that staff need different levels of knowledge and expertise dependent upon their professional role and the amount of contact they have with vulnerable children and young people.</li> </ul> | <p>The work described at the last update continues, including targeted work with agencies where evidence has indicated that understanding around thresholds could be improved.</p> <p>We have now distributed well over 1,000 laminated thresholds documents and colleagues are reporting seeing these in a number of locations such as GP surgeries, children's centres etc. This has been supported by the publication of a clearer referral flow diagram which describes the action to take at different levels of need, and the production of two different wallet sized cards to remind professionals what to do when they have a concern about a child.</p> <p>We continue to monitor knowledge of thresholds through a variety of means including auditing activity and questionnaires. There is emerging evidence that knowledge is improving (for example, the recent DfE auditing activity in the local authority found threshold decisions to be sound, threshold decisions in relation to Early Help panels have improved steadily since the panel started, and after some recent work in Bucks the Home Office have commented that we have a strong threshold document which "is underpinned by an evidence base and draws on practitioner's knowledge and experience and has replaced a process that was not working".) However, the Board's own evidence is that there is still room for improvement.</p> <p>We ran a threshold survey last April which gave us a view of thresholds knowledge across the partnership. We plan to repeat this in April / May</p> |   |





| Accepted Recommendations   | Original Response and Actions  | Progress Update  | Committee Assessment of Progress (RAG status) |
|--|--|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor understanding, confidence and application of thresholds using a variety of methods including questionnaires, audits and data analysis. This will continue to be a key part of the Board's work moving forward.</li> </ul>   | <p>this year and would hope to see considerable improvement given the wide ranging activity over the last few months.</p> <p>We have also drawn up a multi-agency audit plan for this year which will include looking at the appropriateness of threshold decisions.</p> |   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 6:</b><br/> <b>Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that all sexual health providers within Buckinghamshire attend the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference and facilitate the sharing of information</b></p> | <p>Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (SERAC) continues to be seen as a vital meeting for agencies to share information about potential or recognized risk to a child who has been or could become subject to sexual exploitation. We continue to have good representation and this will remain closely monitored.</p> | <p>We have since reviewed the protocol for SERAC and this has been approved by the safeguarding board, The focus is predominantly centred on individual children who are most at risk.</p>   |   |

| Accepted Recommendations  | Original Response and Actions  | Progress Update  | Committee Assessment of Progress (RAG status) |
|---|--|--|---|
| between sexual health providers.  |  |  |   |
| <b>Recommendation 7:</b><br><b>Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that the names of looked after children within Buckinghamshire at highest risk of child sexual exploitation are shared with sexual health providers on a quarterly basis.</b> | <p>It would not be appropriate to share the details of all LAC children as the majority that have come into care are not at risk due to CSE and this would be a breach of confidentiality. However it is essential that children those who are higher risk of CSE have appropriate information shared. The LAC nurse identifies the necessary information and resources.</p> | <p>There has been a reconfiguring of the Swan Unit to not only include the focus on newly referred children but also to ensure those children who are allocated to the Children in Care service.</p> <p>We have developed further work on 'missing children' because of the known links with CSE. In March there was a successful short trail which ensured key partners were having discussion each week-day morning on the children previously gone missing for 24 hours. This was effective but an intensive resource. The longer trail period will be happening shortly.</p> |   |
| <b>Recommendation 8:</b><br><b>Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that the effectiveness of First Response is kept under regular</b>  | <p>Performance of First Response and effective triage at the front door is monitored regularly and reported through the Improvement Board and Safeguarding Board. This continues to remain a focal point.</p>  | <p>Effective triage at the front door continues to be monitored and is showing increased improvement in key performance indicators. Externally scrutiny by Ingson in January confirmed the progress that our self-assessment had identified.</p>   |   |

| Accepted Recommendations   | Original Response and Actions  | Progress Update  | Committee Assessment of Progress (RAG status) |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>review, including the staffing arrangements following the introduction of the new Contact and Referral Officer post to ensure accurate and timely triage at the social care 'front door'.</p> |  |  |   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 10:</b><br/> <b>Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that all County Councillors undertake training on spotting child sexual exploitation.</b></p>                  | <p>Agreed. This was agreed by full Council in November 2015 and fully supported by Cabinet. Understanding not only CSE but all aspects of a child's journey through social care and important matters should be a priority for partners (both internal and external) as this enhances the challenge and improvement to the service. Children's Services will work with HQ Member services to ensure training sessions are held for</p> | <p>Members have been work shadowing social care teams, there are further opportunities available and a work shadow timetable and briefing documents has been developed.</p> <p>A new member intranet page for safeguarding is under development (due April). It is envisage all key documents and latest news or links will be posted here. The aim to keep members up to date and have easy access to information.</p> <p>Carol Douch and Karen Dolton will be leading a 'safeguarding' training session for all members on the 7<sup>th</sup> April. This informative and interactive session aims to highlight key information about safeguarding and the journey of the child through social care. Training slides and materials used will then be made available on the members intranet pages. Further sessions are timetabled and case studies will also be made available.</p> |   |

| Accepted Recommendations | Original Response and Actions   | Progress Update | Committee Assessment of Progress (RAG status) |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
|                          | Members in early 2016 and thereafter at least annually. This will be included as an action within the revised Children's Improvement Plan and the strand of work on supporting Members. |                 |   |

*RAG Status Guidance (For the Select Committee's Assessment)*

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | <i>Recommendation implemented to the satisfaction of the committee.</i>              |  | <i>Committee have concerns the recommendation may not be fully delivered to its satisfaction</i> |
|  | <i>Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.</i> |  | <i>Committee consider the recommendation to have not been delivered/implemented</i>              |







## Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

### Report to the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Title:</b>                   | Tender of Child Sexual Exploitation Service<br>Draft Business Case |
| <b>Committee date:</b>          | Tuesday 12 April 2016  |
| <b>Author:</b>                  | David Johnston   |
| <b>Contact officer:</b>         | Alison Byrne, 3937,<br>abyrne@bucksccl.gov.uk                      |
| <b>Cabinet Member sign-off:</b> | Lin Hazell   |

#### Purpose of Agenda Item

This is the draft business case for the re-tendering of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) & Missing Services. It is for the committee's information and to enable them to comment before the project group finalise work on the specification.

#### Background

The select committee produced a report, PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INQUIRY REPORT 3 November 2015 which was background to a report which went to cabinet and the cabinet member decision was to approve the re-tendering of CSE & Missing Services.

#### Summary

CSE is a high profile issue both nationally and locally and in the CSC&L business unit plan it says, "The challenge to protect children who are at risk of CSE and radicalisation is a high priority for the Local Authority".

In Buckinghamshire we have been developing our understanding of CSE and as awareness has been raised more young people have been identified as being at risk and the demand for services is growing. Going missing has been acknowledged as a significant indicator of CSE and Thames Valley Police have funded a pilot project in Buckinghamshire to ensure that all young people who go missing are offered an independent return interview.



CSE & Missing Services in Buckinghamshire, currently provided by Barnardo's R-U-Safe?, are due to be retendered for a new contract to be in place in April 2017 in order to comply with Council Standing Orders and procurement law. There is a widely held assumption that BCC commissions all of the services provided by R-U-Safe? but almost half of their funding comes from other sources, mainly from Barnardo's own voluntary funds (VF). These funds are not guaranteed and, although CSE is a high priority for Barnardo's, their funds could be diverted into other areas. The current BBC budget available for this commissioned service only covers 50% of the whole service costs therefore BCC will also need to consider its investment in this high priority area so that these vital services can be maintained and that the retendered service has sufficient budget.

### Key issues

- CSE is a high priority issue for all partners in Buckinghamshire (Missing is recognised as a significant indicator)
- Offering Return Interviews (RI) for all young people who go missing is the statutory responsibility of the LA
- The BSCB has to report annually on its assessment on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to child sexual exploitation.
- All partner agencies are facing budget constraints

### Resource implications

We could re-commission on a reduced scope or seek value added through committed funding from other organisations.

### Next steps

Cabinet member has already agreed that the re-tendering process should go ahead with the following timescales but funding levels and specification priorities to be confirmed.

| Date                       | Milestone  |
|----------------------------|--|
| March 2016                 | Business case signed off   |
| March 2016 – May 2016      | Market, public and stakeholder engagement including scrutiny committee |
| June 2016                  | Service specification signed off                                       |
| August 2016                | Invitation to Tender   |
| September 2016             | Evaluation   |
| November 2016              | Contract award   |
| November 2016 – March 2017 | Implementation   |
| April 2017                 | Service goes live  |

Scrutiny committee comments would be welcomed by the project group.









# Project Management Toolkit

## Full Business Case

|   |  |                             |                          |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Project Title</b>                      | Tender for: Provision of services for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) & Missing C&YP |                             |                          |
| <b>Project No. or Ref (if applicable)</b> | 15_16 315  | <b>Document Version Ref</b> | <b>V6:30/03/16 Draft</b> |
| <b>Project Manager</b>                    | Alison Byrne   | <b>Telephone No.</b>        | 07824 472745<br>Ex: 3937 |
| <b>Project Sponsor</b>                    | David Johnston   | <b>Telephone No</b>         | Ex: 3104                 |

### Executive Summary

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a high profile issue both nationally and locally and in the CSC&L business unit plan it says, “The challenge to protect children who are at risk of child sexual exploration (CSE) and radicalisation is a high priority for the Local Authority”.

In Buckinghamshire we have been developing our understanding of CSE and as awareness has been raised more young people have been identified as being at risk and the demand for services is growing. Going missing has been acknowledged as a significant indicator of CSE and Thames Valley Police have funded a pilot project in Buckinghamshire to ensure that all young people who go missing are offered an independent return interview.

The CSE & Missing Services in Buckinghamshire, currently provided by Barnardo’s R-U-Safe?, are due to be retendered for a new contract to be in place in April 2017 in order to comply with Council Standing Orders and procurement law. There is a widely held assumption that BCC commissions all of the services provided by R-U-Safe? but almost half of their funding comes from other sources, mainly from Barnardo’s own Voluntary Funds (VF). These funds are not guaranteed and, although CSE is a high priority for Barnardo’s, their funds could be diverted into other areas. The current BCC budget available for this commissioned service only covers approximately 50% of the whole service cost therefore BCC will also need to consider its investment in this high priority area so that these vital services can be maintained and that the retendered service has sufficient budget or commission on a reduced scope or seek value added through match funding from organisations.

### Background and Reasons

Following a scoping exercise carried out by Barnardo’s in 2006 a ‘Bucks Young Women’s Service’ was launched in June of that year with a single worker seconded from Addaction (the commissioned young people’s Drug & Alcohol service); the Children’s



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Services Manager came into post in March 2007 when the service was renamed 'Barnardo's R-U-Safe?' It was expected that the service would have approximately 18 clients per year with around 12 on the caseload at any given time.

A joint 'Missing' protocol between the service and Thames Valley Police (TVP) was set up in May 2007 and was associated with the Sexual Exploitation Services because of the recognised linkages. No estimation of numbers was made as it was assumed that the sexual exploitation service would absorb the Missing service without the need for additional resources but the demand was too great.

In 2009/10 the service was expanded to recognise the increase in demand and to include young men. The service was tendered and awarded to Barnardo's R-U-Safe? who were the only bidder although others had expressed interest. The contract was awarded for 3 years with the option to extend for 2 years. The contract started on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010. Over the years there have been several additions to the contract through formal variations. There were 1-off payments for; a volunteer service, a counselling service, a dedicated Social Worker, an additional worker and a return interview (RI) service and committed payments for 1.5 additional workers and a schools worker for the duration of the contract. In July 2014 a business case was compiled and it was agreed to extend the contract for a further 2 years (2015/17) at £290,000 p.a. This was because CSE was an emerging National issue and the market place was immature.

The CSE & Missing Services in Buckinghamshire, currently provided by Barnardo's R-U-Safe?, are due for re-commissioning in April 2017. The current contract with BCC is for £290,000 per annum but the whole service in 2015/16 is costing £602,000 with £249,000 of the gap funded by Barnardo's. We need to establish the priorities for these services and the future funding from BCC and partners, particularly TVP.

As well as the statutory responsibilities to safeguard children set out in Working Together 2015 there are specific responsibilities related to this area of work. A CSE & Missing service is needed as it is a priority area for BCC and the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and to meet the responsibilities outlined below.



# Project Management Toolkit

| Responsibility  | How met in Buckinghamshire   |
|---|--|
| <p>Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation Supplementary Guidance (2009) states that a key principle should be a proactive approach focused on prevention, early identification and intervention as well as disrupting activity and prosecuting perpetrators and that, in their local planning and commissioning, LAs and their partners should consider what services are needed to address the needs of young people who have been sexually exploited.</p>  | <p>This is at the heart of the BSCB CSE Strategy. The core business of Barnardo's R-U-Safe? is a proactive approach focused on prevention, early identification and intervention as well as providing support for young people who have been sexually exploited and TVP, District Councils and partners in the Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership Board (SSBPB) are working towards disrupting activity and prosecuting perpetrators.</p> <p>In 2014/15 130 young people received CSE services from R-U-Safe? and 13,224 attended awareness raising sessions in schools.</p>                           |
| <p>Also in Working Together 2015 it states that the BSCB should conduct regular assessments on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to child sexual exploitation and include in their annual report information on the outcome of these assessments. The report should also include appropriate data on children missing from care, and how the BSCB is addressing the issue.</p>   | <p>The BSCB CSE sub group, of which R-U-Safe? is a key member, coordinates this work and the work R-U-Safe? do with young people who go missing is vital to fulfilling this obligation.</p> <p>In 2014/15 there were 1,110 reports of young people going missing and 580 young people received RI or interventions from R-U-Safe?</p>  |
| <p>One of the recommendations from the Ofsted report, 'The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?' (November 2014), is for LAs and partners to ensure that sufficient appropriate therapeutic support is available to meet the needs of local young people at risk of or who have suffered from child sexual exploitation.</p>   | <p>R-U-Safe? provide support to meet the needs of young people at risk of or who have suffered from child sexual exploitation and provide additional therapeutic support in the form of counselling for young people who do not meet the thresholds for CAMHS interventions.</p> <p>In addition to the 130 young people who received CSE services from R-U-Safe? in 2014/15 a further 25 were supported by their counsellor.</p>   |
| <p>Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home (January 2014) states that;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safe and well checks are carried out by the police as soon as possible after a child reported as missing has been found.</li> <li>2. When a child is found, they must be offered an independent return interview. The interview should be carried out within 72 hours of the child returning to their home or care setting.<br/><b>The checklist for LA in Appendix A confirms that the RI is the responsibility of the LA.</b></li> <li>3. When a child is placed out of their local authority area, the responsible authority must make sure that the child has access to the services they need.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TVP complete the safe and well checks and are compliant with the statutory guidance.</li> <li>2. R-U-Safe? offer RI within 72 hours. Currently, the RI are offered to all young people resident in Buckinghamshire including those who are children looked after but the responsibility of other local authorities but this will be a consideration when we re-specify.</li> <li>3. The R-U-Safe? contract does not include Buckinghamshire children looked after but placed out of county but this will be a consideration when we re-specify.</li> </ol> |



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## Current Services

### Sexual Exploitation

'R-U-Safe?' takes referrals from professionals, young people and concerned individuals regarding any child resident in Buckinghamshire whose behaviour suggests that they are at risk of or are the victim of sexual exploitation. Self-referrals and those for children who are looked after are given the top priority.

Cases are allocated to project workers who will see the young person on a one-to-one basis. They work to enable the young person to develop a healthy, trusting relationship with an adult. They educate their clients with regard to different types of CSE and grooming behaviours and help them to recognise their risky behaviours and that they may be a victim of abuse. They also provide practical support where appropriate relating to working with statutory agencies or other services such as sexual health clinics. When it became apparent that young people living in care homes were reluctant to engage in one-to-one work, 'R-U-Safe?' developed a care home package and now work with groups of young people when that is more suitable.

### Return Interviews

The joint 'Missing' protocol between 'R-U-Safe?' and TVP predates the statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care. Previously 'R-U-Safe?' were provided with details of all children who went missing and used to provide 3 tiers of intervention; Low, Medium >High and High Risk with letters sent, followed up by telephone call and the offer of 'keep-safe' work or sexual exploitation service if appropriate. In October 2014 TVP funded a pilot RI project whereby missing workers contact every child who goes missing and offers them a RI regardless of risk level. This approach has led to valuable information for TVP as well as timelier preventative work for some children. 'R-U-Safe?' workers have found that some young people who would have been graded as low risk are in fact high risk when all the circumstances of their missing episode have been revealed. This has led to a significant increase in their workload.

### Missing (MissU)

The MissU service is a programme of 6 sessions which examine the reasons why children go missing and how they can best protect themselves if they choose to continue with this behaviour. The aim is to reduce the number of repeat missing episodes and to reduce the risks involved when children go missing. Some of these clients will then be referred to the Sexual Exploitation service as going missing is one of the main indicators of being at risk of CSE.

### Prevention

'R-U-Safe?' has a dedicated schools worker who goes into schools, academies and colleges to talk to groups about healthy relationships, CSE and internet safety as





# Project Management Toolkit

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required. When the BSCB has run 'Chelsea's Choice' (a theatre production for secondary schools) the schools worker has been there to follow up on any concerns that have arisen.

## Counselling

It was recognised that some 'R-U-Safe?' clients were in need of some therapeutic work but did not meet the threshold for CAMHS intervention. In 2013/14 BCC and CIB (Children's Information Bureau) jointly funded a counsellor for the year to work with 'R-U-Safe?' clients. The counsellor holds a caseload of 10 clients and they usually have 10 sessions.

## Multi Agency

'R-U-Safe?' is part of the newly established Swan Unit, the specialist multi agency CSE team, and attends all strategy meetings where CSE is an issue in a Child Protection enquiry and the decision making meetings regarding how cases are handled. They are members of the BSCB CSE sub group, provide input into the BSCB multi agency training and attend the M-SERAC (Missing & Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference) and GMAP (Gangs Multi Agency Panel) meetings. They provide awareness-raising sessions for partner agencies and are a source of advice and support for external colleagues.

This Business Case outlines our plans to retender these services to ensure young people in Buckinghamshire are protected from CSE, as prioritised in the CSC&L Business Unit Plan with the new service being in place for April 2017.

## Business Options

### Option 1 - Do nothing

Carrying on with the current contract would be illegal and VF are not guaranteed.

### Option 2 - Commission the entire service

BCC would have to increase funding or secure additional funds from partner agencies. BCC currently funds £290,000 p.a. and so an additional £312,000 would need to be secured.

### Option 3 - Re-establish priorities re-specify the service

If BCC cannot secure additional funding the contract would have to be re-specified based on the priorities and available budget. The current funding covers a children's service manager, a qualified social worker, 1.5 x Sex Ex project workers, 1 x Miss-U project worker, 0.6 prevention worker and an administrator. This does not cover the statutory duty of the LA to offer an independent RI for every young person who goes missing.

### Option 4 – As Option 3 but require a partner to give added value



# Project Management Toolkit

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This is as Option 3 but with the tender requiring the provider to supply supplementary services. It is not permissible to ask for a given amount of funding but we could specify the additional services we are looking to provide.

## Option 5 – Bring services in-house

Currently BCC do not have the capacity or capability to offer these services in-house. There would be TUPE implications and also questions as to whether the RI could then be described as independent and whether young people might be less likely to engage with workers linked to Children's Social Care.

The recommendation is to take Option 4 i.e. that a specification for CSE and Missing Services should be drawn up, based on BCC priorities, and put out to tender looking for a delivery partner to add value by providing investment to deliver additional outcomes. The available budget will be determined by BCC medium term plans and additional contributions secured from partner agencies such as Thames Valley Police (TVP).

## Benefits

The benefit of Option 4 is to keep the level of service as close to the current practice as possible. This would reduce the impact if the service is only funded at the current contract price (£290,000). The impacts of reducing the services are listed below;

- The Sexual Exploitation service would be a reduced service meaning that only the highest risk cases could be worked with. Approximately 70 young people would not receive support; the waiting lists would increase possibly causing some lower risk cases to become actual victims.
- Return Interview service could not be offered to every young person who goes missing and the LA would not be meeting statutory obligations. With only one missing worker approximately 300 young people would be at risk of not being offered an RI and some cases of CSE would not be identified at an early stage putting them at more risk.
- The Miss U service would be seriously curtailed, with approximately 20 young people missing this level of support, as the missing worker would be required to undertake as many RI as possible. This would lead to an increase in the number of missing episodes as the young people would not be learning new coping mechanisms. The young people would also be at higher risk when they go missing as they would not be learning the keep safe strategies.
- The Prevention worker would not be able to visit as many schools and this could potentially lead to more young people being exploited as they would not realise the risks. This could affect as many as 5,000 young people.
- The Counselling service would not be offered which could lead to approximately 25 more referrals to CAMHS per annum.



# Project Management Toolkit

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- The Multi-Agency and strategic work would be restricted by capacity issues. This would affect the work of the Swan Unit, the BSCB and M-SERAC. Their ability to support partner agencies in training would be very limited.

## **Additionally there are benefits for all partners**

- Although the RI service is the responsibility of the LA, TVP have funded Barnardo's £42,000 in 2015/16 to support this work. R-U-Safe? supply the information they gather at RI and TVP are able to consolidate some of this into intelligence to support their pursuance of perpetrators and to locate missing young people in a timelier manner. The reduction in the number of repeat missing episodes has a direct financial benefit for them.
- All partner agencies receive training & support, advice & guidance. As all of us are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children this enables us all to be more effective.

## **Dis-Benefits**

CSE is high priority for all areas of Buckinghamshire County Council, with the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board, the Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board and the Health & Wellbeing Board all being signed up to the CSE Strategy and Promise.

The Dis-benefits are going to the market with a funding level which does not meet the demand.

## **Costs**

There is a widely held assumption that BCC commissions all of the services provided by 'R-U-Safe?' but it is clear that over half of their funding comes from other sources, most particularly from Barnardo's own VF contributions. These funds are not guaranteed and, although CSE is a high priority for Barnardo's, their funds could be diverted into other areas.

Initially the service was commissioned by BCC with input from Addaction and voluntary funds (VF) from Barnardo's. Over the years the service has grown and some 1-off funding e.g. for a counsellor has been consolidated by Barnardo's and some by BCC e.g. the qualified social worker. Finances for the service have been provided as follows;



# Project Management Toolkit

| Year  | BCC (£) | Other Agencies' Contributions (£) | Barnardo's VF (£) | Total (£) |
|-------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 11/12 | 200,000 |                                   | 35,643            | 235,643   |
| 12/13 | 210,000 |                                   | nil VF            | 210,000   |
| 13/14 | 284,000 | CIB<br>23,000                     | 101,000           | 408,000   |
| 14/15 | 290,000 | TVP<br>30,000                     | 141,000           | 461,000   |
| 15/16 | 307,000 | TVP 42,000<br>DfE 21,000          | 232,000           | 602,000   |

Going forward, £290,000 has been secured from BCC and £35,000 from TVP per annum for the lifetime of the contract. An element of the BCC contribution is funded by Public Health, for 16/17 it is anticipated this will be £72,000.

## R-U-Safe? Services funding 2015/16

BCC Contracted Service (Comprising; children's service manager, qualified social worker, 1.5 x Sex Ex project workers, 1 x Miss-U project worker, 0.6 prevention worker and an administrator)

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Salary Costs     | £220,089 |
| Non-Salary Costs | £69,911  |
| Total Cost       | £290,000 |

R-U-Safe? Complete Service (Comprising in addition to core service; senior project worker, counsellor, 0.4 prevention worker, Miss-U project worker, data analyst/evaluation officer, 2.5 F/T and 2 P/T x Sex Ex project workers, 'In Plain Sight' worker and prevention work volunteer) is funded by additional contributions from; BCC – additional £17,000, Barnardo's VF – £232,000, TVP – £42,000 (specifically for the Return Interview work) and DfE - £21,000 (specifically for the 'In Plain Sight' worker)

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Salary Costs     | £467,292 |
| Non-Salary Costs | £135,032 |
| Total Cost       | £602,324 |



# Project Management Toolkit

For the final year of the current contract, the amount of VF streamed into the service will be £200,000. This will have an impact on the delivery of the current service and could mean increased numbers of young people on the waiting list.

TVP have verbally agreed to contribute £35,000 pa for the lifetime of the new contract and we are working with them to secure this in writing and additional funding from local policing areas.

## Timescale

| Date                       | Milestone  |
|----------------------------|--|
| March 2016                 | Business case signed off   |
| March 2016 – May 2016      | Market, public and stakeholder engagement including scrutiny committee |
| June 2016                  | Service specification signed off                                       |
| August 2016                | Invitation to Tender   |
| September 2016             | Evaluation   |
| November 2016              | Contract award   |
| November 2016 – March 2017 | Implementation   |
| April 2017                 | Service goes live  |

## Dependencies

The current specification includes a commitment to support partners by providing training and advice. Workers from Barnardo's R-U-Safe? form an integral element of the newly established Swan Unit.

Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation Supplementary Guidance (2009) states that a key principle should be a proactive approach focused on prevention, early identification and intervention as well as disrupting activity and prosecuting perpetrators and that, in their local planning and commissioning, LAs and their partners should consider what services are needed to address the needs of young people who have been sexually exploited.



# Project Management Toolkit

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## **Investment Appraisal**

This contract will be funded through resources from Children's Social Care and Learning, TVP and Public Health, which has to be confirmed annually. Break clauses and "dependent on available funding and satisfactory performance" clause will be included in the contract.

## **Known Risks**

Insufficient Council Funding: Currently the incumbent provider subsidises the contract by £200k + pa. The Council only have £290k pa funding available for the new Contract. Risk: If the tender goes out with less than 75% funding, there may be reputational risk for the Council, the business may be unattractive to the market and outcomes may not be met

The cost of the staff on the TUPE list may exceed the contract price and so the business may be unattractive to the market.

If Barnardo's are unsuccessful there is a risk that their current staff will transfer to other Barnardo's services rather than TUPE across to the new Provider and expertise will be lost. Any new provider would have to recruit and train new staff which could lead to an implementation gap.

## **Supporting Documents**

- Project timetable
- BCC Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INQUIRY REPORT 3 November 2015



Buckinghamshire County Council

## Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee

# ***How are we preventing child sexual exploitation and supporting young people in Buckinghamshire?***



### **The Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee**

The Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee is appointed by Buckinghamshire County Council to carry out the local authority scrutiny functions for all policies and services relating to learning and the social care of children.

#### **Membership of the Select Committee**

Mrs. Margaret Aston  
Mr. David Babb (Co-opted Member)  
Mrs. Janet Blake  
Mr. Dev Dhillon  
Mr. Phil Gomm  
Mr. Paul Irwin  
Mrs. Valerie Letheren (Chairman)  
Mrs. Wendy Mallen  
Mr. Michael Moore (Co-opted Member)  
Mrs. Monique Nowers (Co-opted Member)  
Mr. Robin Stuchbury  
Miss. Katrina Wood

#### **Membership of the Preventing CSE Inquiry Group**

Mrs. Margaret Aston  
Mrs. Avril Davies (co-opted)  
Mr. Dev Dhillon  
Mr. Phil Gomm  
Mr. Paul Irwin  
Mrs. Valerie Letheren (Chairman)  
Mrs. Wendy Mallen  
Mr. Robin Stuchbury

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Further information on the Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee can be found at:  
<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=788>



## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Chairman’s Introduction .....  | 4  |
| Executive Summary .....  | 5  |
| Recommendations .....  | 6  |
| Introduction .....   | 7  |
| National Context.....  | 8  |
| Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation .....                                | 9  |
| Local Context .....  | 10 |
| Buckinghamshire Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding Children Board ..... | 10 |
| Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Group.....                                     | 12 |
| Transformation under the Future Shape programme.....                         | 13 |
| Commissioning within Children’s Services.....                                | 13 |
| Operation Bullfinch.....   | 14 |
| Awareness Raising.....   | 15 |
| Awareness Raising – The role of Schools .....                                | 15 |
| Awareness Raising – The role of Hotels .....                                 | 19 |
| Awareness Raising – The role of Licensing Authorities & Taxi- Drivers.....   | 20 |
| Information sharing / partnership working .....                              | 22 |
| Children Placed Out of County.....   | 25 |
| Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS).....                          | 26 |
| First Response.....  | 27 |
| Early Help .....   | 28 |
| Supporting Parents and Siblings of Victims.....                              | 29 |
| Conclusions.....   | 31 |
| Glossary .....   | 34 |
| Appendix A: Victims’ Contributions .....                                     | 35 |
| Appendix B: Schedule of Witnesses.....                                       | 38 |

## Chairman's Introduction



The decision to conduct an inquiry into the prevention of child sexual exploitation in Buckinghamshire was straightforward. Details that have emerged in recent months of crimes committed both locally and nationally left my colleagues and I shocked. Therefore, as the protection of children is a major part of our remit as a Select Committee, the need for us to undertake the inquiry was clear. We have taken care to ensure that we gained views from across the spectrum of professionals engaged in the fight against exploitation. Most importantly of all, we received the input of those directly affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE) in the county, including a parent of a victim and many victims themselves.

Whilst it was the correct decision to conduct the Inquiry, it has not been the easiest of processes. The evidence that we have received has been disturbing, but it has been heartening to hear of the progress that has been made in altering systems, processes and thinking in order to better address CSE. There are clear linkages with many of the issues raised in our recent inquiry into cyber-safety.<sup>1</sup> Our focus in this inquiry was the prevention of CSE, as to attempt to cover every aspect of the subject would have resulted in an extremely protracted process that would have taken many more months to complete. This would have been unacceptable as we wanted to make our contribution in as timely a manner possible.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to those that have taken the time to contribute to our evidence base, either by appearing in person to answer our questions, or by making written submissions where this was not possible. Even greater thanks are due to the Buckinghamshire parent and children affected by CSE that added their contribution to our inquiry. I commend their fortitude and their willingness to share their experiences as we work to constantly improve the way in which we protect children from CSE.

The production of our report has dovetailed with that of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board CSE Strategy. This means that our findings will feed into the strategy, helping to shape the overall effort to address CSE in the county. We will be presenting this report and its recommendations to the Safeguarding Children Board and the County Council's Cabinet and it will help to inform the serious case review (SCR) into previous SCRs that has just commenced. Our intention is that the significant work that we have undertaken during this inquiry results in actual change on the ground, to the benefit of children in Buckinghamshire.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Val Letheren".

**Mrs. Val Letheren**  
**Chairman, Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> The final report can be found at:  
[https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s55782/Report%20to%20Cabinet\\_STchangesfinal.pdf](https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s55782/Report%20to%20Cabinet_STchangesfinal.pdf)

## Executive Summary

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a widespread issue that is not confined to one geographical area, nor is it confined to a single group of perpetrators or victims. Similarly, it occurs in various different contexts ranging from the virtual online world, through to the school yard and the night-time economy. This complicates the issue enormously and makes a coherent response to it more difficult.

This difficulty is compounded by the many factors that can converge in a child's life to make him or her more vulnerable to CSE. Unpicking the range of issues that a child may face is a big challenge for those with parental responsibility and for those with non-parental relationships with the child, such as the police and social care. It may be that underlying issues in a child's life need to be addressed before he or she even feels able to make a disclosure of CSE.

Once a disclosure is made, there is then the need to protect the child and family and the task of bringing the perpetrator/s to justice. And yet CSE is an issue that has only recently been more thoroughly understood following high profile failures by public services that were unable to fully comprehend the nature of what was taking place in their areas.

We are assured that, despite a recent such failure in Buckinghamshire, much has been done to address the knowledge gap around CSE. The majority of this work has involved the raising of awareness of the issue, combined with work to develop policies, strategies and procedures to help professionals faced with the issue. The delivery of 'spotting the signs' and other training to staff is an ongoing process. Work to improve the sharing of information continues and is a key component of efforts to safeguard children; we make several recommendations intended to improve this.

The development of the new Swan Unit represents the biggest investment of staff and resources. This dedicated service brings together into the same location the police, children's social care and staff from Barnardos RUSafe? to work on cases of CSE. At the time of writing, a representative from the health services in Buckinghamshire has yet to be appointed to the Swan Unit; a significant omission that needs to be addressed.

Work to support parents and siblings of victims is also important as it builds resilience within the family unit that can provide support, and help to protect against further exploitation. Resilience, as a means to protect against all forms of exploitation, is a theme of our report as we consider the building of it in young children to be amongst the top priorities of those working with children, particularly Buckinghamshire County Council Children's Services, the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust and the county's schools.

## **Recommendations**

**Recommendation 1: The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) should increase the amount of the BSCB Chairman's time that is purchased from the partnership's budget.**

**Recommendation 2: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that contract managers are monitoring the compliance of providers with safeguarding requirements, including ensuring that the Council's wider commissioned workforce undertakes child sexual exploitation training.**

**Recommendation 3: Buckinghamshire County Council should commission the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust to develop a toolkit for use in primary schools to help schools foster resilience in their pupils.**

**Recommendation 4: Thames Valley Police should roll out the Hotel Watch scheme across Buckinghamshire.**

**Recommendation 5: The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board should actively monitor that the thresholds document is being applied consistently and accurately by all partners.**

**Recommendation 6: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that all sexual health providers within Buckinghamshire attend the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference and facilitate the sharing of information between sexual health providers.**

**Recommendation 7: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that the names of looked after children within Buckinghamshire at highest risk of child sexual exploitation are shared with sexual health providers on a quarterly basis.**

**Recommendation 8: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that the effectiveness of First Response is kept under regular review, including the staffing arrangements following the introduction of the new Contact and Referral Officer post to ensure accurate and timely triage at the social care 'front door'.**

**Recommendation 9: Buckinghamshire County Council should commission services to provide support to the parents of victims of child sexual exploitation.**

**Recommendation 10: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that all County Councillors undertake training on spotting child sexual exploitation.**

## Introduction

1. In spring 2015 the Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee took the decision to review what is currently being done to prevent child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Buckinghamshire. This was shortly after the publication of the Serious Case Review into events in Oxford that led to the prosecution of seven men in June 2013 for offences including rape, facilitating child prostitution and trafficking.

2. The Oxford case followed similar in South Yorkshire and elsewhere. That the abuse took place in a neighbouring county with a shared police force supported the need for the Inquiry; the Select Committee therefore acted quickly and agreed terms of reference that focussed the Inquiry on the prevention of CSE in Buckinghamshire.

3. The decision to focus on prevention arose from the recognition by Members that CSE covers a broad range of activity ranging from various forms of peer-on-peer abuse through to the systematic prostitution of children using violence and extortion. It is not limited to one demographic group, nor is it limited to a single geographic area. Therefore, as a complex and multi-faceted issue, the decision was made by the Select Committee to limit the scope of the Inquiry to preventative work with those vulnerable to CSE. Limiting the Inquiry in such a way prevented the work from losing focus; it also was based on the principle that prevention is paramount. A single victim of CSE is one too many.

4. As with all Select Committee Inquiries, councillors gather evidence from a range of sources and then base recommendations to decision makers on that evidence. Our Inquiry group included cross-party political representation and our recommendations are based firmly on the evidence we heard. Through the implementation of our recommendations we hope to play a role in strengthening the preventative work underway in the county with a particular focus on the building of resilience within our children, giving them the strength to say 'no'.

5. However, Thames Valley Police have learnt from local and national cases that too much focus on the child's ability to consent has led professionals in all agencies to make poor decision about individual cases. It is worth reiterating that a child under 16 years of age cannot consent to sexual activity. Put simply even if outwardly a child has agreed to take part in sexual acts, the acts themselves remain a very serious criminal matter, which must be recorded and rigorously investigated.

6. It is worth noting that during the Inquiry, in July, six men were found guilty of committing similar offences to those perpetrated in Oxford; the majority of those convicted lived in Aylesbury, as did the victims. In September they were given lengthy custodial sentences. Nothing can compensate adequately for the offences committed, but an emphasis on prevention by all concerned with the safety of our children should hopefully go some way in making such crimes ever more difficult to commit.

## National Context

7. There have been several incidences of child sexual exploitation (CSE) on a large scale that have been considered of national significance. The offence itself is not new, but the systematic and industrial scale of the exploitation in places such as Rotherham and to a lesser extent in Oxford, is something that has taken many by surprise.

8. It was found by reviews undertaken by Louise Casey, Baroness Jay and others that many of the agencies concerned, such as the police and social care, were for various reasons ill-equipped to recognise and respond to CSE. This was made more significant by the organised way in which the perpetrators identified and exploited their victims, often choosing the most vulnerable children that were least likely to see their abusers as such; perpetrators were able to threaten and cajole victims into compliance.

9. Whilst the least resilient children were targeted, they were often already engaged with support services that should have been better able to spot what was going on and intervene where they were already aware of the abuse. In cases where it was not recognised as outright abuse - for example, where there was a view that the relationships were somehow consensual – there has had to be an urgent change of culture.

10. We do not wish to repeat the points that have already been made much more comprehensively elsewhere around the failures of the various agencies concerned. However, in respect of this, we are reassured from the evidence that we have received that significant positive change has taken place and much is still ongoing. Much of this is around the training of professionals and awareness raising across the population, therefore we devote a section of our report to this type of activity.

11. Whilst the cases that have attracted the most attention have been those that involved gangs of adult males, there are also many other scenarios that can be categorised as CSE. These include situations involving peer-on-peer abuse, 'sexting' and predatory use of online gaming and social media. CSE covers a very wide range of activity which is not limited by gender, age, ethnicity or religion.

12. The diversity of the crime and those involved makes a coherent response much more difficult. We believe that the term 'Child Sexual Exploitation' itself is so broad that it is unhelpful, as it covers activities that take place online and in the playground, as well as in B&Bs and guesthouses.

13. We were made aware that much more work needs to be done on understanding CSE in relation to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

14. It is worth noting that the inspection regime has also received criticism for failing to grasp the issue. For example, Ofsted recently received criticism from the CLG

Select Committee for failing to spot child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Rotherham. The committee made several comments around the move toward a joint inspection framework which would provide a much more comprehensive assessment of local authorities. It also mentioned the need to consider much more closely actual work with the children themselves, rather than rely upon the assessment of written policies and procedures.<sup>2</sup>

### **Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation**

15. The nationally agreed definition of CSE is as follows:

*Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.*

16. The definition was developed by the UK National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People (NWG) and has been adopted in statutory guidance for England.

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<sup>2</sup> Ofsted's response to the committee's report can be found at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/news-parliament-2015/ofsted-response-rotherham-report-publication/>

## Local Context

### **Key facts**

- **In 2014 Buckinghamshire Children’s Social Care and the Safeguarding Children Board were assessed as ‘inadequate’ by Ofsted**
- **Improvement work is now well underway**
- **A recent court case involving men from Aylesbury resulted in several prosecutions**

17. In the context of preventing child sexual exploitation (CSE), we consider the ‘local’ to be not only Buckinghamshire, but the counties and boroughs surrounding it. This is because CSE is a truly cross-border issue, with perpetrators frequently transporting victims within the county and beyond. This immediately poses a problem for agencies that are based within a single geographical location, such as the county council.

18. We initiated our Inquiry whilst the police were undertaking Operation Articulate, which investigated CSE perpetrated by men mainly resident in Aylesbury. The men were brought to trial at the Old Bailey and six were convicted of various offences including multiple rape of a child under 13 and child prostitution.

19. At sentencing, the offenders were given jail terms of between three and 19-and-a-half-years. The county council’s Managing Director for Children’s Social Care & Learning issued a statement in response to the trial.

20. Whilst Operation Articulate was underway, the Children’s Social Care & Learning Business Unit commissioned a review by an independent consultant that evaluated the multi-agency response to CSE in Buckinghamshire in preceding years.

### **Buckinghamshire Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding Children Board**

21. It is impossible to fully consider any aspect of children’s services in Buckinghamshire without also considering the current position of the Children’s Social Care & Learning Business Unit and the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) following last year’s Ofsted inspection, which resulted in ‘inadequate’ ratings for both.

22. As a committee, we have spent much time scrutinising the improvement work that resulted from this and have noted several promising developments that should be of significance in addressing CSE, such as the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Swan Unit and development of the early help offer. However, criticism from Ofsted centred on fundamentals such as:

- Assessing and responding to children and young people in need of help and protection.
- Levels of unallocated work



- The severity of caseloads in some areas of the service
- The prevalence of agency, rather than permanent, members of staff

23. These are core aspects of the whole system that have to be rectified in order to effectively protect children. They are a major part of the foundation upon which the success of the whole service is based, and therefore our ongoing scrutiny of them is directly related to our work in relation to the prevention of child sexual exploitation (CSE).

24. We are of the view that improvement work is now well underway. We reported our interim findings on this work in a document that we published in June.<sup>3</sup> Amongst our findings was endorsement of the point made by Ofsted around the recruitment and retention of social workers and the need to maintain social work caseloads at a manageable level; issues of key significance when it comes to the county council's ability to provide a social work response to CSE.

25. We are assured that CSE has been placed high up the agenda of all main statutory agencies in Buckinghamshire, under the auspices of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB), which has named the issue as one of its five priorities. The Board had previously established a CSE Sub-Group responsible for the development of a CSE Strategy and action plan. The Board has recently held 'pop-up' and 'challenge events on CSE.

26. Safeguarding Board Chairmen are often independent contractors who chair several safeguarding boards in different local authority areas. They are appointed by upper tier council (county and unitary) Chief Executives and many are paid on an hourly or daily rate.

27. We believe that the new chairman and support team of the BSCB are contributing fresh ideas and renewed energy. However, we have doubts as to whether enough of the new chairman's time has been purchased to enable the BSCB to be brought up to the requisite standard, following last year's 'inadequate' rating of it by Ofsted. We were made aware of the fact that she is employed for only 30 days per year in Buckinghamshire, which we consider to be insufficient.

28. Whilst these are positive developments, we are aware that the CSE Strategy has been in development since last year; the CSE Sub-Group may need more senior representation on it; and there is work to be done (as on many other issues) on building the link between the strategic-level BSCB work, and the work done 'on the ground' by practitioners.

**Recommendation 1: The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) should increase the amount of the BSCB Chairman's time that is purchased from the partnership's budget.**

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<sup>3</sup> See: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s57735/Improvement%20reportv5.pdf>

## **Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Group**

29. The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board has a child sexual exploitation (CSE) sub-group that takes the lead on the topic. The group has recently changed its chairman and holds responsibility for the production of the CSE Strategy, which at the time of writing is still in development. The sub-group meets on a monthly basis and consists of representatives from several of the various agencies that comprise the BSCB. Key achievements of the sub-committee include:

- The development of a Practice Guide for CSE
- The development and pilot of the *aide memoire* for professionals on CSE
- Supporting the rollout of 'Chelsea's Choice', which has been delivered across the county, with 33 secondary schools participating in the production, mainly covering year 8 and 9 pupils
- Securing funding for 'Chelsea's Choice' to be rolled out for a second time (Sept-Oct 2015)
- Gaining agreement on the operating protocol for the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (SERAC)
- Running the RU Wise2it? campaign, with the development, with the involvement of children, of posters, leaflets and a social media campaign
- The development of a leaflet for parents
- The piloting of a parents' evening which involved the attendance of approximately 30 parents, who also provided feedback on how the event could be improved. Seven events have now been held across the county
- The launch of a single point of access for CSE advice, created through RUWise2it?, which lands on the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) webpage. This includes specific information for children and young people, parents, carers and professionals, respectively
- Implementation of new multi-agency awareness raising training after pilots in the previous year. This now has a waiting list and agreement has been given to double the number of sessions per annum from three to six
- Significant involvement in the National CSE Awareness Raising Day on 18<sup>th</sup> March, involving a large amount of media coverage. Public Health has worked closely with the sexual health services to ensure they have access to specialist information, training and the CSE screening tool. In addition Public Health has developed a Facebook campaign entitled 'What's your pulling playlist?'

30. We believe that the work underway represents a strong start and much appears to have been achieved. We hope to see that the current momentum is maintained for long enough to ensure that the improvements are placed onto a sustainable footing.

### **Transformation under the Future Shape programme**

31. The Children's Social Care & Learning Business Unit is soon to undergo its transformation under the County Council's Future Shape programme. Whilst the case for the Future Shape programme has been made elsewhere, we would expect that the implementation of the programme in the Children's Social Care & Learning Business Unit should not be allowed to distract attention from the critical and time consuming work involved in getting children's services back to an acceptable standard. We will be seeking assurance on this from the Director of Children's Services, the Cabinet Members and the Chief Executive.

32. If fully realised, the savings that can arise from the implementation of the Future Shape programme should go some way in mitigating the impact of ever increasing demand and reducing resources. In that respect, we welcome the long term ambition of the programme and look forward to monitoring its progress. We note that the consultation on the implementation of the programme in children's and adult services begins at the start of October and we will be commenting on this at our November meeting.

### **Commissioning within Children's Services**

33. The commissioning of services for children is done under the auspices of the Buckinghamshire Children's Joint Commissioning Strategy 2011-2014. Joint commissioning is undertaken with the Clinical Commissioning Groups, the Public Health Service within the County Council, and various other bodies. Commissioned services of particular note in terms of preventing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) include client transport, RUSafe?, school nurses and sexual health providers.

34. We note that the Joint Commissioning Strategy is now expired and is due a refresh. Our view is that contract managers should be working diligently to ensure that providers of commissioned services are meeting their safeguarding duties. Furthermore, we believe that this should also include ensuring that the staff members of commissioned service providers undertake training of relevance to spotting CSE.

**Recommendation 2: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that contract managers are monitoring the compliance of providers with safeguarding requirements, including ensuring that the Council's wider commissioned workforce undertakes child sexual exploitation training.**

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## **Operation Bullfinch**

35. Local incidences of child sexual exploitation (CSE) have included those uncovered during Operation Bullfinch in Oxford. The CSE that took place in Oxford was a distinctive variety, which was highly organised and widespread, involving abuse of children that was at the highest level of severity.

36. We have learnt of the work that has been undertaken in Oxfordshire since Bullfinch through consideration of the Serious Case Review <sup>4</sup>that was published and through the more recently released 'stocktake' document<sup>5</sup> produced by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board, which we have considered as a part of our evidence base. We were interested to compare learning from Oxfordshire to the situation in Buckinghamshire; aspects of importance within the document include:

- Children's Social Care is, and should be seen as, the lead agency for safeguarding
- Work remains to be done on the regulation of taxi drivers – the report states that '[district councils] need to improve how they share information about drivers, delegate enforcement powers and require taxi drivers to complete safeguarding training as part of any knowledge test'
- Work needs to be done on the commissioning of services to provide help and therapy for children as they transition into adulthood
- The Kingfisher Unit is seen as a very positive development; it also provides consultancy and support to other services. The new Swan Unit in Buckinghamshire is based on Kingfisher
- There is now a 'Need to Know' policy which gives practitioners guidance on when cases need to be escalated to senior managers
- Social workers, police officers and civilian staff within the police force are now a lot more persistent and won't be 'fobbed off' as easily by potential victims – they work with them until they feel confident enough to disclose
- School nurses now use a consent checklist for sexual relationships – all schools have a nurse and some are available all year round, not just in term time
- There is brief mention of the 'Say something if you see something' training that is provided to hotels, guest houses, door staff, parks and street scene staff, etc. Only 12 out of 800 Oxford City licensed drivers took up the offer of training in the last 12 months and there is no safeguarding training offered by the other Oxford districts (page 30)

37. The stocktake document relates to Oxfordshire but it contains subject matter of equal relevance to Buckinghamshire or any other local authority area. Therefore, we would expect to see evidence of learning from Oxfordshire being applied in Buckinghamshire. One good example of this is the development of the Swan Unit, which is based upon the now well established Kingfisher Unit in Oxford.

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<sup>4</sup> See: <http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Serious-Case-Review-into-Child-Sexual-Exploitation-in-Oxfordshire-FINAL-Updated-14.3.15.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> See: <http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Stocktake-report1.pdf>

38. The Swan Unit was in its very early days whilst we conducted our Inquiry; therefore it is difficult for us to draw any conclusions about it as yet. However, we will be considering the Unit and its development at a later date as a part of our regular Select Committee work programme.

## **Awareness Raising**

### **Key findings**

- **Significant work has taken place in secondary schools to raise awareness of sexual exploitation**
- **Age-appropriate work in primary schools should now be a priority**
- **The development of resilience in younger children is particularly important to protect them against all forms of exploitation**

### **Awareness Raising – The role of Schools**

39. We received the evidence of three committed head teachers that were willing to share their experience of working with children in a school setting. Also at the session we heard from a Thames Valley Police School Liaison Officer who was able to give us an alternative perspective on work in schools.

40. All described how different the current environment is in which children grow up in today. The most significant difference is the internet, which has altered to a great extent the way in which children learn, play and communicate with others. Whilst much of the change has been very beneficial, aspects of it have been much less so: the interconnectivity that the internet has introduced facilitates the exploitation of vulnerable people.

41. The online world is largely unregulated, under-policed and anonymous. The use of fake online profiles can be used to mislead children. Certain websites and smartphone applications enable the sharing of photographs and information which can later be used to exploit children using them in an unsafe way. What compounds the issue is that anything placed online is effectively there 'forever', even if the original material posted online is then deleted.

42. This is not just limited to social media; online gaming and other platforms can be used to facilitate the exploitation of children. We heard about the proliferation of websites that are aimed at children with new sites emerging frequently, making it difficult if not impossible for parents, carers and teachers to keep track of what children are doing online. It is important that schools operate policies which bar students from bringing mobile devices onto the school premises.

43. Awareness raising activities such as 'Chelsea's Choice' and campaigns such as RUSafe? give children some level of understanding of the risks facing them. However, children that are frequently absent from school may miss productions of

'Chelsea's Choice' and lessons on personal, social and health education (PSHE) that address issues of relevance to child sexual exploitation (CSE). Unfortunately, the same children that are frequently absent from school are often those that are at highest risk of CSE – these are the children that need to be quickly identified and provided with persistent offers of information, advice and guidance from parents and professionals.

44. School nurses play a key role in this, as they are able to build relationships with children that teachers are often unable to. Similarly, police school liaison officers are in a position to provide immediate protection, help and support to those children that are in need of it. We were informed that every school has an assigned police officer from within the local neighbourhood team, tasked with maintaining a relationship with that school. However, not every school benefits from a dedicated school liaison officer.

45. One of the main themes that emerged from the session was the importance of building resilience in children from an early age. Helping secondary school age children to become aware of risk is vitally important, but the work should start much earlier in primary school, with the building of resilience within children.

46. Using age-appropriate means to build confidence and self-esteem in children is potentially a lot more effective way of preventing child sexual exploitation (CSE), as the child him/herself is able to understand the boundaries of what is acceptable, and then has the self-confidence to be able to inform an adult when these boundaries are not respected.<sup>6</sup>

47. We would endorse further research into the way in which younger children of primary school age can be assisted in developing the resilience they need to protect against CSE and other forms of exploitation such as radicalisation. The current guidance on Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) does not include specific reference to building a child's defences against CSE; this is a significant gap.

**Recommendation 3: Buckinghamshire County Council should commission the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust to develop a toolkit for use in primary schools to help schools foster resilience in their pupils.**

48. In Buckinghamshire the Safeguarding Board (BSCB) has published Practice Guidance on CSE (dated June 2014)<sup>7</sup> and has overseen the RUWise2it? campaign.<sup>8</sup> This has been used to raise awareness of CSE directly amongst children using

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<sup>6</sup> For example, the NSPCC has developed the 'underwear rule' to help adults discuss boundaries with younger children; see: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

<sup>7</sup> BSCB Practice Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation, [http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CSE/CSE\\_Practice\\_Guidance\\_2014.pdf](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CSE/CSE_Practice_Guidance_2014.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> See: <http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/child-sexual-exploitation-launch/>

various channels of communication. Materials have been supplied to all schools in the county, but we were concerned to hear that certain of the head teachers that we spoke to had no knowledge of receiving it.

49. 'Chelsea's Choice' is a drama production that portrays a series of events that culminates in the sexual exploitation of a child. The production toured Oxfordshire schools in the years immediately following Operation Bullfinch, and more recently it has featured in Buckinghamshire Schools. The target audience is older children of secondary school age.

50. It is difficult to assess exactly the effectiveness of plays such as 'Chelsea's Choice', but the number of children coming forward to disclose abuse following a performance is a useful indicator. Data on the number of such disclosures would be useful when making a case for resources to commission further awareness raising activity in schools.

51. Children's Services needs to be in a position to manage any increase in demand arising from awareness raising activities; demand that would initially fall on the first points of contact for child sexual exploitation (CSE)-related contacts: First Response and the police.

52. The people raising these contacts might include parents, children themselves, teachers, school nurses, police school liaison, GPs, and so on. Further information on who is making these contacts, and in what frequency, would allow a picture of demand to be developed. CSE training could then be targeted at those making the greatest number of reports of alleged CSE.

53. Better intelligence could also be used in a variety of other ways, including improving:

- The experience of the child making the disclosure;
- The level of training provided by the local authority to those to whom the child has confided;
- The response and support given by First Response, the police and RUSafe? to those to whom the child has confided

54. Such work on the referral pathway would result in a speedier and more efficient service to the vulnerable child and those working directly with him/her.

### **Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (ESAS)**

55. ESAS is a team of specialists supporting safeguarding in schools. The team has a key role to play in addressing CSE and to that end it is an active member of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board CSE sub group. It also contributes to the co-ordination of services across the county in supporting schools, children, their families and communities in raising awareness of the complexity of CSE and the resources available locally and nationally to address it.

56. Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (ESAS) has worked with secondary schools across Bucks to support the roll out of 'Chelsea's Choice' to Year Groups 8 and 9. This will again be available to schools over the Autumn Term and is now in its second year of delivery

57. ESAS has supported the work of the child sexual exploitation (CSE) sub group to develop resources to raise awareness of the issue. It also ensures that these resources, including posters and fliers, are available within schools. Some schools have used these resources in the safeguarding areas of their website to facilitate access by students and their families.

58. Information available to schools on the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) website is also referenced in training and via the Schools Bulletin, which is distributed to all maintained schools and academies in the county. Independent schools are kept informed via the Independent Schools Forum

59. As part of the Section 11 / 175 Audit process a Toolkit of resources has been developed for schools. There is a file within this containing resources to support schools identify the signs and indicators of CSE, deal with emerging disclosures and identifying vulnerability

60. The ESAS team contributes to the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment (SERAC) and Multi-Agency Risk Meeting (MARM) processes, attending the meetings, sharing and collating information with and from education providers, on children identified as vulnerable. Information offered by the police and other agencies is shared with the designated safeguarding lead at the child's school.

61. Since the launch of ESAS last year the team has also introduced termly Forums for Dedicated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in each of the districts to enable safeguarding updates to be given on the local and national issues. CSE has been a feature in a number of these sessions. Barnardos reps are invited to the Autumn Forums to ensure DSL remain in touch with this live issue in Bucks.

62. In terms of training provided, the ESAS team has:

- Participated in the design and delivery of the multi-agency CSE training package developed by the BSCB
- Reviewed and redesigned the learning pathway for DSL within schools. A new DSL training package was developed and CSE is included within this to support those charged with raising awareness within their schools with the skills to identify vulnerability, signs and indicators. Delivery of this topic is done in partnership with the Schools link officer from RUSafe?
- CSE is also covered with Barnardo's support, in the DSL Refresher training



- CSE is covered in both the primary and secondary whole school training package, which form part of the statutory training required of staff (Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015 & the Education Act 2002)
- ESAS has worked with Barnardo's to develop a standalone training package which can be delivered to the whole school staff team.
- Via the schools bulletin ESAS has also promoted the support the NSPCC is offering to children at Primary level to support them to think about who they can tell their worries to. This offer has been taken up by a number of schools and the work is currently drawing Barnardos and the NSPCC lead together to develop a local resource for children in Bucks (targeted at year groups 5 & 6 ) to support them to reflect on and understand what constitutes a "healthy" relationship.

### **Awareness Raising – The role of Hotels**

63. More targeted awareness-raising is also taking place within Buckinghamshire. For example, Hotel Watch is a Thames Valley Police initiative that is based on the same principles as Neighbourhood Watch, Farm Watch, Pub Watch, and others. Hotel Watch includes within its scope the prevention of child sexual exploitation (CSE); although, it also includes separate issues such as ensuring that the police are informed about large social events taking place at the hotel, the security of hotel car parks, and so on.

64. Hotel Watch in High Wycombe held its first meeting in October 2015 and it was hoped that the major hoteliers in the area would be represented, along with representatives from several other smaller scale establishments. The CSE aspect of the meeting would be concerned with increasing awareness amongst staff of the signs of potential CSE and how to raise any concerns with the appropriate agencies (the police, First Response and RUSafe?).<sup>9</sup>

65. Hotel Watch is in its early days and is a welcome development, especially due to the way in which perpetrators of CSE have abused hotels and guesthouses in the course of their crimes. Any further help that statutory agencies can provide the sector should be encouraged as a means to making the hospitality industry a key partner in addressing CSE. 'Say something if you see something' training is now a significant component of this in Oxfordshire, provided to hotels, guest houses, door staff, parks and street scene staff, etc.<sup>10</sup>

66. We were pleased to hear about developments that were taking place which will allow hotels to share information quickly and easily in the event of any concerns. Whilst Hotel Watch is a welcome development in High Wycombe, we believe that the

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<sup>9</sup> The police on 101 or in an emergency on 999; or First Response on 08454 600001

<sup>10</sup> See: <http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Stocktake-report1.pdf>, p. 30

initiative should be replicated across Buckinghamshire. The benefits of this are self-explanatory and the level of investment required by Thames Valley Police should be relatively low.

#### **Recommendation 4: Thames Valley Police should roll out the Hotel Watch scheme across Buckinghamshire**

##### **Awareness Raising – The role of Licensing Authorities & Taxi- Drivers**

67. We were grateful to receive evidence from the District Council licensing managers, who play a critical role in relation to regulating hackney carriages and private hire vehicles. They also have duties in relation to the ‘night-time economy’, which includes takeaways, public houses and night clubs. Unfortunately we were unable to cover in great depth the issues around safeguarding in the night-time economy, but we are of the understanding that this is an area of significant risk that requires much further work.

68. Hackney carriages are in far fewer numbers in all of the Buckinghamshire districts, and this in turn means that the drivers are much easier to stay in contact with. We were informed that in certain areas they are more organised as a trade group, resulting in some extent to an element of self-regulation and greater contact with the local authorities.

69. This is in contrast to the situation with private hire vehicles, of which there are many in operation in all of the Buckinghamshire Districts. Because there are many times the numbers of private hire vehicles, it makes it much more difficult to address that section of the trade as a group. We were informed that the operators themselves vary in scale from sole traders through to larger private hire enterprises with many affiliated drivers.

70. The implication of this is that when training on issues such as safeguarding is offered to the drivers it is much easier to involve the hackney carriage operators as communication with them is easier, mainly due to the fact that they are a much smaller group of self-employed drivers. In contrast, attempting to engage the much larger patchwork of private hire companies in training is a harder task.

71. The main sanction against drivers arises from the requirement for license holders to be ‘fit and proper’. Therefore, in the first instance drivers are invited to training, and then if there isn’t a good response there is further encouragement. If this does not work then the driver can be considered not ‘fit and proper’ and sanctions can be applied to the license, for example suspension and ultimately revocation.

72. This is not a straightforward process and it is infrequently applied; also, we were informed that the term ‘fit and proper’ is not defined in law. The licensing committees of the respective district councils are usually involved in the process, and we were informed that there were plans for further training for licensing committees in certain of the districts.

73. In the latter half of 2014 the district council licensing managers had come together to form a peer group, also involving Thames Valley Police, in recognition that it would be useful to share more information. A shift of emphasis has taken place which has resulted in a greater focus on people using the trade, as opposed to the trade itself; for example, where applicants have a criminal record, this is now receiving greater weighting than it had in the past, policies are being applied more strictly, training will be made obligatory for new drivers and links are being developed with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and Amey.<sup>11</sup>

74. We see these as welcome developments, but would hope to see this joined up with the overarching work of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, with reference to the developing CSE Strategy for Buckinghamshire.

75. The licensing managers were of the view that the level of English spoken by the drivers was of great importance to avoid misunderstandings with passengers that could compromise either the driver or the passenger.

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<sup>11</sup> Provider of client transport in Buckinghamshire

## Information sharing / partnership working

### **Key findings**

- **Ofsted inspections should include consultation with school nurses and police school liaison officers where present**
- **The roll-out of CP-IS in Buckinghamshire should be fully supported and expedited by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services**
- **Sexual health providers have a key role to play in sharing information, between themselves and with other agencies**

76. The sharing of information is a common theme across many issues, including the prevention of child sexual exploitation (CSE). It plays a role at every stage in the process of the journey of the child through the system, and at every stage it is usually in need of improvement. We heard that often there is reluctance to share information because of issues around data protection and the legality of doing so.

77. However, a recently issued (March 2015) joint statement from Secretaries of State outlines that '... a teenager at risk of child sexual exploitation is a child at risk of significant harm. Nothing should stand in the way of sharing information in relation to child sexual abuse, even where there are issues with consent'.<sup>12</sup>

78. The sharing of information plays a key role in several respects, including:

- When making contact with First Response or the police to share initial information
- When professionals undertake statutory meetings to share information on a vulnerable child
- When specialist meetings take place, such as Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (SERAC)
- On a day-to-day basis between professionals in environments such as the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Swan Unit
- When developing 'problem profiles' or other forms of intelligence

79. All information sharing in Buckinghamshire is undertaken within the legislative framework and within the confines of a number of written agreements between agencies specific to Buckinghamshire. Beneath these agreements sit various policies and procedures that are intended to offer guidance to practitioners when making decisions as to when to share information in various different circumstances.

80. Those sharing information in cases of CSE include the police, social care, health services, schools and RUSafe? Based on what we heard information sharing links

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<sup>12</sup> See:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/408843/info\\_sharing\\_letter5.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408843/info_sharing_letter5.pdf), p. 5

appear to be strongest between children's social care and the police. These two agencies have the greatest representation in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and comprise the majority of staff in the new Swan Unit. There has been and continues to be cooperation in the investigation of many different cases of child sexual exploitation (CSE). The involvement of health services remains an issue.

81. The focus of this Inquiry is on the prevention of CSE, and therefore the focus is on information sharing before an offence is perpetrated. In this respect, the Barnardos RUSafe? service is critical. We were informed by the Service Manager that there is a 12 week target for the provision of the service and that target is always met. However, we were concerned to hear that children are left waiting for an average of between 5 and 7 weeks for a service from RUSafe?, although efforts were made to ensure that the child is protected whilst waiting. Risk assessment is undertaken on each individual case; where the risk identified is high, the child receives a quicker service.

82. We would expect that risk assessment consistently takes place with reference to the BSCB threshold document. Our view is that the commissioners of the RUSafe? service and the BSCB should together take a lead on ensuring that this is the case, particularly when waiting times for a service are potentially so long; in these circumstances the assessment of risk should be accurate, consistent and in accordance with the BSCB threshold document. This should be clearly specified by the commissioners of RUSafe? and application of the threshold document should be regularly monitored in conjunction with the BSCB.

**Recommendation 5: The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board should actively monitor that the threshold policy is being applied consistently and accurately by all partners.**

83. Additional partners with a key role to play in preventing CSE are sexual health providers, which in Buckinghamshire include pharmacists, Terence Higgins Trust, Brook and Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust. We heard directly from representatives of these providers and were assured that awareness of CSE was high and measures had been taken in response to it, most significantly at a national level by Brook, which recently introduced its CSE screening tool.<sup>13</sup>

84. Local practice is informed by an awareness of the risk of CSE and there appeared to be a common understanding of when and how to refer. We would refer back to the earlier comment about the use of the threshold document as a guide for practitioners which provides a common understanding across the county in terms of risk. We questioned the representatives of the sexual health providers and their commissioners in the Public Health Team on the level of information sharing that took place.

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<sup>13</sup> See: <http://www.brook.org.uk/our-work/category/sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool>

85. We were informed that Terence Higgins Trust operates a 'red flagging' system which makes practitioners aware of when they are dealing with repeat referrals to their services in the county. This addresses the risk of attempting to mask sexual activity by receiving sexual health services from different Terence Higgins locations, as they all share information.

86. However, when we questioned information sharing between providers, we were informed that there was currently in operation no way of sharing information on those children presenting frequently but at a different provider on each occasion.<sup>14</sup> This is a clear risk as it fails to provide a thorough view of the risky sexual activity of a potentially vulnerable child.

87. Pharmacies, which can provide certain sexual health services, are an added dimension to this and a child could present at numerous different pharmacies (e.g. for emergency contraception), then a combination of more specialised sexual services, without that treatment history being made fully apparent to a practitioner. It would only be fully apparent if the child was willing and able to describe the treatment history to the practitioner, who could then raise his or her concerns.

88. However, it is highly improbable that a child under duress would be willing to do so. Even a child under no duress could not be expected to recount several different visits to clinics, pharmacies, etc. Therefore all efforts should be made to share information more effectively within the sexual health provider community within Buckinghamshire. If sexual health providers do so, then information on the highest risk children that use the services will be shared within a confidential environment. Therefore, we make the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 6: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that all sexual health providers within Buckinghamshire attend the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference and facilitate the sharing of information between sexual health providers.**

89. The SERAC (Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference) is a multi-agency forum for information sharing on the highest risk children. It is hosted by Children's Social Care and is co-chaired with Thames Valley Police. The SERAC meetings result in a jointly developed risk management plan that provides support to those that are on the SERAC agenda; they are only removed from the SERAC agenda once levels of risk are reduced.

90. We questioned the sexual health providers on the level of service given to children in the care of the local authority, as children especially vulnerable to exploitation. We were informed that the child's social worker would always be

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<sup>14</sup> For example, receiving service from Brook in August, then Terence Higgins Trust in November

involved in the discussion, but this is assuming that the child discloses that he or she is in care. We therefore recommend that:

**Recommendation 7: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that the names of looked after children within Buckinghamshire at highest risk of child sexual exploitation are shared with sexual health providers on a quarterly basis.**

### **Children Placed Out of County**

91. Often children looked after by the county council are placed outside of Buckinghamshire in different local authority areas. This can be for various reasons to do with the needs of the child. If these needs cannot be met by provision within Buckinghamshire, or to keep the child within the county would be unsafe, then social care will place the child outside of the county.

92. We have previously reported<sup>15</sup> on the situation in Buckinghamshire in respect of looked after child placements. Headline approximate figures on the number of children looked after 'in house' by Buckinghamshire County Council and neighbouring authorities include:

- Buckinghamshire <50%
- Oxfordshire 80%+
- Hertfordshire 90%+
- Milton Keynes 75% +

93. Placing so many children out of county can have implications both in terms of cost and in terms of the ability of Buckinghamshire County Council to monitor and ultimately safeguard the child placed out of county, at 'arms-length' from social care. Whilst the child's social worker remains in frequent contact, we believe that it is self-apparent that in the majority of cases it would be easier for Buckinghamshire social care to remain in contact with a child placed within Buckinghamshire itself, or at least within close proximity to the county.

94. In many cases children at risk of sexual exploitation may be among those that benefit from a placement out of county, where this removes them from direct association with abusers and those facilitating abuse. Although, we have heard from several witnesses about the use of social media and the way in which it can be used to very easily trace the whereabouts of those targeted for abuse.

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<sup>15</sup> *Improving Children's Social Care Inquiry*; see:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s57735/Improvement%20reportv5.pdf>

95. There are two issues for Buckinghamshire County Council: firstly, whether Buckinghamshire children placed elsewhere are adequately protected. Secondly, whether children placed within Buckinghamshire from outside the area are adequately protected. Looked after children are particularly vulnerable and require proper oversight by the local authority wherever they reside, especially when they are at risk of being tracked down by exploitative and often violent people from their past.

96. Where a child is placed out of county we believe that there should be a way in which social care in the local authority area hosting the child is incentivised to provide support to the child concerned. This would provide the child with a social care contact on their doorstep and could be achieved in various ways, including a reciprocal agreement<sup>16</sup> or a re—charge model, in which Buckinghamshire social care would be invoiced for social worker time from the host authority area – this might work out cheaper than paying Buckinghamshire social workers’ travel to more distant parts of the country and overnight expenses.

97. We are aware that there would be complexities involved in this, including a much greater exchange of information about looked after children between authorities placing the child and those hosting the child, but believe that it is important to consider innovative ways to protect children whatever issues they are facing, wherever they are placed in the country.

### **Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS)**

98. Achieving consistent, cross-boundary information sharing is a significant challenge. Ad-hoc arrangements between individuals can fall prey to changing circumstances, such as one of the individuals moving on. In this case the ad-hoc arrangements may break down. The police are able to access national databases such as the Police National Computer (PNC) which enable cross-boundary working. Similarly, the NHS can track individuals across boundaries using individuals’ NHS numbers. Social care does not have access to such national systems.

99. The Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS)<sup>17</sup> is an attempt to address this by sharing local authority child protection information with local unscheduled care settings. The reasoning behind this is given in the frequently asked questions:

*Serious case reviews have demonstrated that children living in abusive and neglectful home environments are more likely to be mobile and move across different local authority boundaries, yet most child protection information is only held in the area where the child lives, and is not shared nationally. This means that healthcare practitioners often lack access to the information that could help*

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<sup>16</sup> Where Bucks social care provides the equivalent service to children it is hosting from that local authority area

<sup>17</sup> See: <http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/cpis/needed>



*them to form a clear assessment of a child's possible risks. This has been a long-standing problem for the NHS, but one that CP-IS aims to address.*

*Although solutions have been, and are being, developed to share such child protection information between health and social care at a local level, these solutions (along with current manual systems) do not capture the movement of children across local authority boundaries.*

100. The rollout of CP-IS is staggered across the country and if successfully implemented, should support the safeguarding of our most vulnerable children. We are of the view that it would go some way to addressing some of the issues raised in Serious Case Reviews that might have been avoided had healthcare practitioners more comprehensive information about the child under treatment.

### **First Response**

101. The main points of contact for any professional with concern about a child are the police and First Response. Where there is a need for a non-emergency response, the initial contact point should be First Response, which is the Buckinghamshire Children's Social Care 'front door'. This then involves:

- Triage of the information provided by the person in the First Response Team responding to the telephone call or referral form
- A decision, which could be to respond with no further action, refer to early help services, send to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding (MASH) for further information gathering / sharing, or refer directly to a Child in Need Team for a social care response
- Inform the person who made the contact of the decision made
- The agreed next steps take place (e.g. statutory meetings about the child take place; referral to other services made, etc.)
- Child receives the appropriate service

102. The end-to-end time from the contact being made with First Response through to child receiving the appropriate service should clearly be as short as possible. If there is an emergency response required, or the child subject to the contact with First Response is otherwise at very high risk, then a very speedy social care response is required. Making the judgement as to whether such a response is required is the task of a well-trained and knowledgeable professional with the necessary level of experience; they also need the correct information about the referral immediately in order to make the correct decision first time.

103. We have previously been informed that the Contact and Referral Officer post had been created to perform this role. These practitioners are not social work qualified but should be at the right level of seniority and experience to be the first point of contact at the 'front door' of children's services. Getting it right at the first point of contact has a critically important impact on outcomes for children. Staff at

the appropriate levels of seniority and experience and seniority will play a vital role in:

- Signposting to appropriate services
- Feeding back to those making the initial contact
- Eliciting the correct information to enable social work qualified staff to make timely decisions.

104. In coming months, we will be seeking assurance around the implementation of the Contact and Referral Officer post, given its fundamentally important role in the whole system of children's services in Buckinghamshire.

**Recommendation 8: Buckinghamshire County Council should ensure that the effectiveness of First Response is kept under regular review, including the staffing arrangements following the introduction of the new Contact and Referral Officer post to ensure accurate and timely triage at the social care 'front door'.**

### **Early Help**

105. Where a decision is made to refer to early help services (Family Resilience, Families First, children's centres, etc.), the new Early Help Panel will become involved. This is a development which we have been informed about in our public meetings of the Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee. The Panel is an initiative arising from the children's services improvement programme<sup>18</sup> and is in its infancy.

106. Three were initially planned for the county and independent chairs from the county council and partner agencies were to be used. That there is now only a single panel planned for the county is a concern, especially as it was initially thought that three would be required. When three were planned issues were raised with the capacity of those chairing the Panels to meet the work schedule of them. With now only a single panel planned, this is worsened.

107. We will be monitoring the development of the Early Help Panel as it may have the potential to help coordinate information sharing and preventative work which, if effective, will control the risk of CSE to some extent. We will be seeking further information on the way in which referrals are made to the Panels and the way in which they fit into the broader system of children's services.

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<sup>18</sup> The programme of work instigated following last year's Ofsted 'Inadequate' rating of children's social care in Buckinghamshire and the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board

## Supporting Parents and Siblings of Victims

### Key findings

- Child sexual exploitation has a serious impact on entire families
- Parents and siblings can be subjected to threats, intimidation and further exploitation
- Not enough support is available to the parents and siblings of children affected by sexual exploitation

108. Our principal source of evidence around the provision for parents and siblings of victims was the very useful input of Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE), a national charity working to support the parents of those affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE). Coupled with this, we were fortunate enough to receive a written contribution from a Buckinghamshire parent, the child of whom had been a victim of CSE.

109. Our Inquiry has deliberately focussed solely on the prevention of CSE. Our view is that work with parents and the siblings of those affected by CSE is a critical aspect of the preventative work that should be underway. This is due to the often heightened risk to family group members when a child has been subjected to CSE. We were informed that this risk can consist of threats of violence towards parents and attempts to exploit sisters and brothers of those already subject to abuse.

110. Despite this, we heard from the PACE representative that nationally there are large gaps in provision for parents and immediate family members. Not only does this potentially place other children in the family at risk, but it also leaves parents that have been left depressed and heartbroken almost completely alone in dealing with the trauma they and their families are facing.

111. In a written report to us, the PACE representative states:

*The majority of children affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE) are living at home when the exploitation starts. Sexually exploited children suffer physical, psychological, behavioural and attitudinal changes; these all present challenges to their parents and threaten the stability of a family environment.*

*An affected child may direct emotional, verbal and even physical aggression towards parents, siblings and this often extreme behaviour can be difficult for parents and carers to manage, resulting in what can be described as a 'chaotic household'. The child's estrangement from the family achieved by the perpetrators as a result of calculated grooming can also result in strained relationships and broken families.*

*The disempowerment of parents as protectors of their child as a result of the perpetrator's grooming, coercion and intimidation can then be unwittingly increased by statutory agencies and professionals, who assume that the parent or family is unwilling, or incapable, of protecting their child from exploitation.*

112. The letter we received from the Buckinghamshire parent of a child sexual exploitation (CSE) victim describes the strong support provided by RUSafe? to the victim concerned, and the offer of a counsellor for the parent from RUSafe?, but it is stated that this is not enough. The letter goes on to state that the whole family needed support that was not there:

*I needed someone who understood what I felt that, could talk to me during out of office hours. I needed above all to meet other parents who had experienced the same thing and to know I was not alone. I needed to meet someone who could empathise about how long the journey to court was, who was there for me and would not judge what had happened or how I felt about it. I did not want an online forum or a phone call – I wanted face to face contact with people in my situation ... It was not enough that the victim was supported – my whole family needed support and it wasn't there.*

**Recommendation 9: Buckinghamshire County Council should commission services to provide support to the parents of victims of child sexual exploitation.**

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## Conclusions

113. Our Inquiry has been wide-ranging in terms of the evidence that we have gathered. It is clear from all concerned that child sexual exploitation (CSE) is very much at the forefront of agencies' agendas; for example, it is listed as one of the main priorities of both Thames Valley Police and the Police & Crime Commissioner; similarly, Buckinghamshire County Council has made it a strategic priority of children's services and the BSCB has named it as one of its priority areas.

114. The high level of attention locally in Buckinghamshire replicates the attention given to the issue at the national level; this is welcomed by us and all that we have spoken to on the subject. The level of attention locally has clearly manifested in action 'on the ground', most notably in the awareness raising activities taking place, for example in schools, and in the development and refinement of policies and procedures in the light of what is now understood about CSE.

115. In respect of the understanding of CSE, it is very encouraging that there appears to be a consensus emerging on what is meant by the term 'Child Sexual Exploitation'. This is a major step forward in helping to develop a common understanding of the issue both in terms of how it can be spotted and in terms of measuring its prevalence.

116. The national definition of CSE has been a useful development in that respect, as it has given a common description to a widespread, complex and multifaceted issue. However, whilst a common definition is helpful, we note that there is still some issue around the use of different criteria by agencies for identifying actual or potential victims of CSE. Clearly this is an area that requires further work and we will be monitoring this as a Select Committee at a later date.

117. We understand that CSE often occurs in conjunction with other factors that place a child at risk; these include domestic abuse, involvement in gangs, substance misuse and running away. As the understanding of CSE grows nationally and within Buckinghamshire, we look forward to seeing a more sophisticated analysis of the risk factors interrelate, so interventions can be made by the appropriate agency/agencies in a timelier manner.

118. The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board *Aide Memoire* is a welcome development and could provide a useful source of intelligence, if the *Aide Memoire* forms are collected from those making contact with the police / social care and the data within them are analysed periodically. Over time, this could provide a useful insight into the interplay of CSE risk factors within the county.

119. After the evidence-gathering session we held with District Council Licensing Managers, became aware of a potential gap in terms of work underway to target the 'night-time economy', which consists of takeaways, nightclubs, bars and so on. This is obviously significant due to the time spent participating in the night-time economy

by many older children. The use of drugs and alcohol by both children and adults is likely to be more prevalent in the night-time economy, which adds to the level of risk.

120. We have since been informed that a Barnardos worker has gone on to make contact with licensing teams across the county as well as working alongside police under the Hotel Watch scheme; also, a pledge around CSE has been developed for businesses within the night-time economy. We consider these to be very positive developments.

121. Work within the night-time economy is complicated by the flow of people through, for example takeaways, which makes the task of ensuring the safety of children difficult as it is impossible to regulate everybody frequenting or working on the premises. There is therefore likely to be a need to target 'hotspots' in the night-time economy where older children are known to congregate.

122. Hot spot targeting is an activity undertaken by neighbourhood policing teams and the identification of child sexual exploitation (CSE) should already form a key component of this; local authority staff (such as youth workers) should contribute to this wherever possible, with overall coordination likely to come from the local Community Safety Partnerships.

123. Potentially useful developments such as Hotel Watch in High Wycombe should be assessed in terms of their effectiveness. We recognise that Hotel Watch has a wider remit, but if found to be helpful in preventing CSE, then it should be considered for replication elsewhere within the Buckinghamshire police area. Similarly, valuable posts such as that of police school liaison officer, which is currently limited to one area within Buckinghamshire, should be considered for replication across the county.

124. We consider there to be a gap in provision for the immediate family members of victims of CSE. Support for parents is vital as parental resilience can help protect the siblings of victims from being targeted for abuse; they also deserve help in their own right. The role of adult services in this has to be fully understood and the necessary working arrangements with children's services should be developed. Siblings of victims should be considered children in need and be assessed accordingly.

125. None of the work on CSE can be considered without considering in parallel the improvement work going on across children's social care and the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board. Systemic issues within the two have a direct impact on their ability to play their critical respective roles in the multi-agency response that CSE requires.

126. As a Select Committee we have been monitoring the improvement work and will continue to do so via our regular updates on the subject. In terms of the multi-agency response to CSE, we will monitor this through updates to us on the

implementation of the recommendations of this report<sup>19</sup> and work underway more generally.

127. Underpinning all of the work by the Safeguarding Board and the individual agencies is the need to continuously seek to raise awareness of CSE with the general public. A well informed public equipped with the knowledge firstly to spot the signs, and secondly the awareness of to whom to report concerns,<sup>20</sup> is one of the most effective ways to prevent child sexual exploitation (CSE), assuming people are willing to raise concerns.

128. Publicising what to look for, and information on what to do in the event of any concerns, will be effective only insofar as people are willing and able to inform the authorities. If people are unwilling to raise concerns – possibly because of fear or a sense that it is ‘not their problem’ – then efforts to raise awareness will not have the desired effect.

129. Therefore the current awareness raising work should be reframed in order to reassure those that might be too afraid to report concerns, and to promote a sense of shared responsibility amongst those that might consider that it is ‘not their business’ to make a report. The message that ‘safeguarding is everybody’s business’ should be reinforced to the general public.

130. A commendable amount of work is taking place, but we believe that further work is needed to understand CSE involving boys. Whilst the majority of known cases so far have involved girls, significant proportions involve boys. There needs to be a concerted effort to understand CSE involving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, where there may or may not be other complicating factors involved.

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<sup>19</sup> Expected initially at 6 and 12 month intervals

<sup>20</sup> The police on 101 or in an emergency on 999; or First Response on 08454 600001

## Glossary

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Cabinet Member  | A councillor that makes decisions; the Cabinet Member for Children's Services makes decisions about the services provided by the Children's Social Care & Learning Business Unit.                       |
| Children's Social Care & Learning Business Unit         | The part of Buckinghamshire County Council that provides services for children and young people.  |
| Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committee      | The committee of councillors that scrutinises the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.   |
| Councillors   | Elected representatives of local people.  |
| Early Help  | Making sure that support is provided to families before problems become severe.   |
| First Response  | The first point of contact for people that wish to speak to the Children's Social Care & Learning Business Unit regarding a child about whom they have concerns.  |
| Kingfisher Unit   | The specialist unit in Oxford that deals with child sexual exploitation.  |
| Managing Director for Children's Social Care & Learning | The Buckinghamshire County Council officer in charge of the Children's Social Care & Learning Business Unit.  |
| Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)                    | A secure environment where people from the police, health services and social care share information about vulnerable people.   |
| Ofsted  | The organisation that inspects children's services, schools, etc.   |
| RUSafe?   | A service that Buckinghamshire County Council pays Barnardos to provide in the county. It works with children at risk of sexual exploitation.   |
| Safeguarding Children Board                             | Local Safeguarding Children Boards operate in every local authority area in England. Their role is to bring together all the organisations that have a responsibility to protect children in that area. |
| Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (SERAC)  | A meeting between different organisations to discuss cases of sexual exploitation.  |
| Serious Case Review                                     | An investigation into what went wrong if something serious happens to a child or young person.  |
| Swan Unit   | The specialist unit in Buckinghamshire that deals with child sexual exploitation.   |



## **Appendix A: Victims' Contributions**

### **Thanks to staff of RUSafe? for gathering the following**

Questions for clients on behalf of Bucks Select Committee (Council Members)

Thinking about the reasons why you may be working with R-U-Safe?, we'd be grateful for your thoughts on the below questions, which we've been asked to gather for the Bucks Select Committee. Please be as honest as you wish.

**Thank You ☺**

### **Questions for clients on behalf of Bucks Select Committee (Council Members)**

Thinking about the reasons why you may be working with R-U-Safe?, we'd be grateful for your thoughts on the below questions, which we've been asked to gather for the Bucks Select Committee. Please be as honest as you wish.

**Thank You ☺**

#### **1. Who has helped you?**

*"R-U-Safe & Foster carer"*

*"[...] from RUSafe and one or two care home staff throughout the three homes I have lived in."*

*"RUSafe, CAMHs Care Home staff."*

*"[Person's name]"*

*"Mum and dad, foster carers that I've had."*

*"Mum and RUSafe."*

*"Police, school counsellor, family, RUSafe, YES, Pastoral Manager at school."*

*"[...] from R U Safe"*

#### **2. Who could you talk to?**

*"[...] from RUSafe, [...] from CATCH team and [...] from CAMHS"*

*"RUSafe, CAMHs Care Home staff." (LAC)*

*"[...]"*

*"Most people, talk to my mum the most."*

*"Mum, friends and RUSafe."*

*“Pastoral manager, RUSafe, mum, School counsellor, Police only if really serious.”*

*“[...] (R u Safe), Stapleton House (Care Home)” (LAC)*

*“R-U-Safe, foster carer and social worker (possibly).”*

### **3. Who could you NOT talk to?**

*“Social care, CAMHS, Police.”*

*“Police, social worker.”*

*“A member of staff at Padstones.” (LAC)*

*“Staff at 1A -don’t feel they listen.”*

*“Dad, sister, Police and YES counsellor.”*

*“Social worker, Police – if small incident, Dad.”*

*“Family, teachers”*

*“Friends, police, foster carer and social worker (maybe)”*

### **4. What is the one message you would like to give Buckinghamshire authorities regarding your experience?**

*“Since I have been in care, I have had 5 social workers and I have not felt listened to by any of them. They are difficult to contact and can never answer my questions. I have never seen my social workers regularly and have never been made aware of changes to social workers until it had already happened. At the moment, I have been told that I have a new social worker again, yet nobody can tell me who they are.*

*I am very unhappy about being in care and feel that I am kept completely in the dark about all things in direct relation to my life. Nobody discusses with me the changes that happen, which makes me feel angry and that I cannot trust anybody.*

*The only people that I feel genuinely care about me are the ones that cannot make decisions. Projects like RUSafe have such an impact, but so called “professionals” like social care do not think they are important and do not involve them in decisions or encourage me to keep engaging with them.*

*How can I feel safe and secure and try and be happy when I am so mistrusting of all the people who decide what happens in my life. I have no power, so why should I go along with the plans they make for me?”*

*“I have had too many changes of social workers.”*

*“Terrible, rubbish, bad – High Number of social workers”*

*“Life is hard.”*

*“That they are slow at doing things that you request. Slow at organising things – both meetings and activities. Budget is tiny- stops me from doing activities.”*

*“Don’t know.”*

*“People are helpful, understanding and offer support – RUSafe, school counsellor, Police, Sexual health clinic.”*

*“Thank you, this[R u Safe] has help me a lot ☺”*

*It [RUSafe] is really helpful and it actually helps.*

**5. Is there anything you would like to ask the council members who are asking you these questions?**

*No*

*“Why do my social workers keep changing? This stops me from building any kind of trusting relationship with them.” (LAC)*

*Nope.*

*No.*

*No.*

*No.*

*“Give [...] a pay rise (he didn’t ask me to say this)”*

*“Why do projects like ‘Skidz’ get closed down, when they are really good for young people?”*

*“Why has it taking so long to ask for the views of young people”*

## Appendix B: Schedule of Witnesses

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 10 June,<br>2pm – 4pm                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fran Gosling-Thomas, Chairman, BSCB</li> <li>- Alison Byrne, BSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Committee Chairman</li> <li>- Helen Fortgang, Children’s Service Manager, Barnardos</li> </ul>   |
| 25 June,<br>1pm – 5pm                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pauline Dichler, Headteacher. Stony Dean secondary special school</li> <li>- Sarah Leighton, Headteacher, Hughenden Primary School</li> <li>- Catherine Davies, Principal, The Chalfonts Community College</li> <li>- PC Graham Briggins, Thames Valley Police School Liaison Officer</li> <li>- Therese McAlorum, Education Safeguarding Advisor (BCC)<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> July,<br>1pm – 5pm        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trish Hunter Service Manager, Brook</li> <li>- Sue Myers, Lead Nurse Sexual Health, Terrence Higgins Trust Outreach Sexual Health Service</li> <li>- Alison Chapman, Matron, Sexual Health &amp; Contraceptive Service, Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust</li> <li>- Cristabel Morris, Public Health Practitioner, Buckinghamshire County Council</li> <li>- Angie Blackmore, Public Health Principal, Buckinghamshire County Council</li> </ul>  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> July,<br>9pm – 5pm       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maurice Emberson, independent social care consultant</li> <li>- Tom Duffin, National Partnerships Director, Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE)</li> <li>- Carol Douch, Service Director, Child and Family Service, Buckinghamshire County Council</li> <li>- Anita Hawthorne, CSE Social Worker, Buckinghamshire County Council</li> <li>- Richard North, DCI - Protecting Vulnerable People Buckinghamshire, Thames Valley Police</li> <li>- Kate Riddle, Head of Nursing Children and Young People’s Directorate, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>- Emma Rolfe, Named Nurse for Child Protection, Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust</li> <li>- Parent of a CSE victim<sup>22</sup></li> </ul> |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> September,<br>1pm – 4pm  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Neil Stannett, Environmental Health Manager, Wycombe District Council</li> <li>- Nathan March, Licensing Manager, Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council</li> <li>- Peter Seal, Licensing Manager, Aylesbury Vale District Council</li> <li>- Kyle Bennett, Senior licensing officer at Aylesbury Vale District Council</li> </ul>   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> September,<br>12pm – 4pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visit to Birmingham City Council children’s services scrutiny committee to hear about their experiences of conducting a CSE Inquiry</li> </ul>   |

<sup>21</sup> Written submission

<sup>22</sup> Written submission

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1<sup>st</sup><br/>October,<br/>9am – 1pm</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joy Shakespeare, Head of Family Resilience, Buckinghamshire County Council</li> <li>- Lesley Manka, Service Manager, Addaction</li> <li>- Sue Butt, Operations Manager</li> <li>- Children &amp; Young People’s Joint Commissioning Team, Buckinghamshire County Council</li> <li>- Andrew Bluck, Contract Manager, Amey Client Transport, Buckinghamshire County Council</li> <li>- Pauline Camilleri, Head of Youth Offending Service, Buckinghamshire County Council</li> <li>- Acting Sergeant Phil Ince, Neighbourhood Policing Team, Wycombe Local Police Area</li> <li>- CSE victims<sup>23</sup></li> </ul> |
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<sup>23</sup> Written submission

