

Title	Buckinghamshire Strategy for Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
Date	March 2016
Report of:	Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)
Lead contacts:	Matilda Moss, BSCB Business Manager moss@buckscc.gov.uk

Purpose of this report:

- To present the Health & Wellbeing Board with the completed strategy for sign off
- To raise some of the key issues in relation to the Health & Wellbeing Board for discussion

Summary of main issues:

The strategy sets out a partnership commitment to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Buckinghamshire.

Although the BSCB is the strategic lead for CSE, this strategy also needs to be supported by the other strategic partnership boards working in Buckinghamshire (Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Safeguarding Adults Board). The success of this strategy will depend upon the support of these Boards, and on the collective action of their constituent agencies. Only a proactive, co-ordinated, multi-agency approach will be effective in preventing CSE, protecting children and their families and pursuing perpetrators. **Everyone has a role to play.**

The strategy sets out:

- Our joint vision for responding to CSE in Buckinghamshire
- The ways we will work together to achieve our vision and the best possible outcomes for victims and their families in Buckinghamshire
- The roles and responsibilities that everyone will need to fulfil to help achieve this vision, from strategic through to operational level

The strategy is based around the following 3 strands

- **Prevent** CSE from happening and stop existing CSE from continuing.
- **Protect** those who are at risk of, or victims of, CSE and ensure an appropriate multi-agency response is available to support them and their families. This includes support for adults who have disclosed CSE in their childhood. It also includes support for young people who have perpetrated as we recognise these young people are also likely to be victims of abuse themselves.
- **Pursue** and disrupt the perpetrators of CSE and support victims to safely disclose abuse and provide the evidence to prosecute offenders.

The strategy has been developed in partnership with wide consultation across agencies working in Buckinghamshire – including through the 4 strategic boards. Feedback was received from a number of organisations including many of those represented on the Health & and Wellbeing Board.

The Strategy will be launched on 18th March to coincide with CSE National Awareness Day. Representatives from each of the 4 strategic boards have been asked to come together to sign a 'CSE Promise'. Following this we will be asking the other agencies represented across the 4 Boards to sign up to this promise, which is a commitment to deliver the vision set out in the strategy. Each agency will receive a copy of the promise which we hope will be prominently displayed as a reminder of our joint vision.

Issues for Health & Wellbeing Board to consider

Health & Wellbeing Boards provide a platform for ensuring commissioned services meet the needs of their local populations. The BSCB CSE Sub Group is starting to identify a number of potential gaps in services in relation to CSE - in particular for parents, carers and siblings of CSE victims and adults disclosing CSE in their past. We are also looking in more detail at a number of other areas including the services that are provided for victims as CSE as they transition into adulthood. Whilst we recognise that many agencies are having to deliver services within decreasing budgets, we are keen to ensure we have a good understanding of local need and for this to be considered as part of commissioning decisions.

In line with a recommendation for Buckinghamshire County Council made as part the recent scrutiny enquiry in to CSE, the Board is also keen to ensure that service specifications for commissioned provision make relevant reference to CSE and that staff within commissioned services receive training around CSE where this is appropriate to their role.

To develop our understanding around both of these issues, the BSCB is holding a multi-agency challenge event on CSE and commissioning on 16th March. An invitation to this event was forwarded to the Health and Wellbeing Board and representatives from Public Health will be in attendance. We will share the findings from this event with the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Moving forward, we are keen to work together with the Health & Wellbeing Board to ensure that:

- Relevant findings around potential gaps in services are shared with the Health & Wellbeing Board in an appropriate manner and can be considered as part of commissioning decisions
- The JSNA includes robust and up to date profiling around CSE
- Commissioned services are clear about their role in helping to tackle CSE

We would welcome any feedback from Health & Wellbeing Board members on how to best achieve this and on any other areas where the Board feels it can support this strategy.

Recommendation for the Health & Wellbeing Board:

- The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to sign off the Buckinghamshire Strategy for Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and commit to supporting the vision set out in the document.
- Health and Wellbeing Board members are asked to consider the relevance of the Strategy to their own organisations, and in particular to discuss those areas set out above.

Background documents: Not applicable