

Minutes

Minutes of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel Sub-Committee on Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation held on Wednesday 4 November 2015, in The Farmhouse, Thames Valley Police Headquarters, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 2NX, commencing at 12.00 pm and concluding at 3.00 pm.

Members Present

Councillor Julia Adey (Wycombe District Council), Councillor Margaret Burke (Milton Keynes Council), Councillor Kieron Mallon (Oxfordshire County Council), Councillor Iain McCracken (Bracknell Forest Council) (Chairman) and Councillor Dee Sinclair (Oxford City Council)

Others Present

Reece Bowman (Buckinghamshire County Council), Jemma Graham (Office of the PCC), Paul Hammond (Office of the PCC), Gilbert Houalla (Thames Valley Police), Joe Kidman (Thames Valley Police), Richard List (Thames Valley Police) and Anthony Stansfeld (Office of the PCC)

Apologies

Julia Girling (Independent Member), Councillor Angela Macpherson (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Curtis-James Marshall (Independent Member), Councillor Bob Pitts (Wokingham Borough Council) and Councillor Ian White (South Oxfordshire District Council)

1. Election of Chairman

Resolved

That Cllr Iain McCracken be elected Chairman for the Sub-Committee for the ensuing year.

1. Election of Chairman

Resolved

That Cllr Iain McCracken be elected Chairman for the Sub-Committee for the ensuing year.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved

That Cllr Kieron Mallon be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the ensuing year.

3. Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the Sub-Committee as agreed by the Panel on 17 July 2015 were noted.

5. Presentation on Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation in the Thames Valley

Anthony Stansfeld Police and Crime Commissioner, ACC Richard List, DCS Gilbert Houalla and Det Supt Joe Kidman (Head of Strategy for Crime and Protecting Vulnerable People) attended for this item.

ACC Richard List introduced this item. He reported that crime was changing and that burglary had fallen significantly. Crimes that were increasing included Child Sexual Exploitation, modern slavery, cyber crime and forced marriage and a large part of these crimes impacted on vulnerable people. As a result of the changing nature of crime an additional superintendent had been allocated to this area and partnership working was key to address these types of crime.

Det Supt Joe Kidman then gave a detailed presentation on child sexual exploitation which included the following points:-

- The **definition** of child sexual exploitation focused on the 'grooming' element to get the child involved with the perpetrators which could then escalate to threats and violence. It was exploitative as there was power on one side of the relationship and true consent was never given.
- There are **different types of CSE**; group based, offending linked to a street gang, lone offending and online grooming. In Oxfordshire (Bullfinch trial) and Buckinghamshire (Articulate trial) these crimes were group based.
- The majority of the **victims** are girls but there are increasing incidences of boys. The majority of crimes relate to lone offenders.
- With the increase of **social media** sites victims are being groomed online and it is challenging for the Force to address this area. It is easy for anyone to assume a different identity or to be anonymous on the web. The perpetrator will encourage the victim to post indecent images online which may be shared by a group. One in five indecent images of children shared online were taken by the child themselves. Lone offenders often use social media as the initial point of contact with the child.
- There are **statistics** relating to National Child Abuse Prevalence. The highest abuse rates are linked to 18-24 year olds (45%), who are reported as children for this crime. The NSPCC website shows that over 2,400 children were victims of sexual exploitation in gangs and groups from August 2010 to October 2011. This is higher now with increased reporting and better information being available. On the website there is a random survey, with interviews conducted with 2275 children aged 11-17 and 1761 aged 18-24 (retrospective).
- 10% of children on **Child Protection** Plans had suffered some form of sexual exploitation. The majority of child abuse (80%) is intra familial or with people who are in positions of trust. Sexual exploitation can also be linked with children who are neglected.
- There is sexual abuse forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact or non-penetrative acts. There are also non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

TVP Problem Profile

- There were 476 occurrences linked to CSE in 2014/15 – there were contact and non contact offences. Not all of these occurrences were 'crimes' but had led to referrals and identified children at risk but not yet a victim. Some sexual offences were 'child on child'.
- Main age range of victims in the Thames Valley is 14 to 17.

- 48% of offenders were white, 15% black and 25% Asian.
- **Budget hotels** continue to be linked. Some training has been undertaken with hotels. There is an initiative called Hotel Watch used in some areas and there are examples of good practice displayed by Travelodge. Further work needed to be undertaken with private low price hotels who were less likely to be engaged with the police. Where there was resistance to work in partnership and concerns about the way the business was operating different methods of entrance could be used by organisations such as police, fire, health and safety and environment health.
- Where some victims did not want their case to be taken to court other action could be taken such as the use of a caution leading to inclusion on a sex offenders register.
- In 2014/15 with regard to sexual offences where the victim is under 18 there were 396 perpetrators charged and summonsed and 84 cautioned. It was still not easy to quantify the number of CSE victims and offenders.
- The Thames Valley Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) operating model has four strands:
 - Prepare** – Providing strong leadership and effective systems whilst working with partners to tackle CSE
 - Prevent** – Raising awareness of CSE amongst professionals, young people, parents, carers & potential perpetrators to prevent incidents/repeat incidents of CSE.
 - Protect** – Identifying and Safeguarding vulnerable children & supporting victims & those professionals who seek to reduce instances of CSE.
 - Pursue** – Disrupting, developing intelligence, arresting & prosecuting CSE offenders, ensuring a victim centred approach at all times.

During the presentation the following points were noted:-

- Cllr Iain McCracken asked about the relationship with the **Crown Prosecution Service**. ACC Richard List reported that the CPS prioritise CSE and have made a number of changes. Det Supt Joe Kidman referred to the joint protocol created by the CPS (Alison Saunders DPP and Assistant Commissioner Martin Hewitt in 2015) which looks at the CPS and Police approach to cases to make sure both organisations are prepared and empowered to deal with the changing nature of casework and to provide greater consistency in the handling of these cases. It also improves the service and support for victims while enabling both police and prosecutors to manage challenging caseloads in the most effective and efficient way possible. Investigations should not be reliant on one victim who says everything, where possible and a more powerful case can be made with different victims who are being exploited by the same people but do not know each other.
- Particularly, in relation to Oxford Cllr Kieron Mallon also referred to the number of **language schools** and also young children attending school in Oxford and the need for good pastoral care and protection. The PCC reported that this was not regulated and was an area of concern. Det Supt Joe Kidman reported that this would be within the remit of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) in Oxford. Kieron Mallon emphasised the need for a 'corporate parenting' role and licensing; most areas required licensing and language schools should be regulated. Dee Sinclair referred to the Language School Forum which discussed issues such as CSE. She also referred to pop up schools which were not regulated and often used online teaching.
 - Recommendation to the Panel**
 - That the Scrutiny Officer should speak to the LSCB in Oxford to gain a better understanding of any issues concerning language schools and if necessary invite them to a future Sub-Committee meeting.**
- DCS Gilbert Houalla reported that there was a problem reaching '**invisible communities**' and they would be worried about reporting crimes. It was a real challenge to profile them. Every victim would be treated equally whatever their background. In previous years the credibility of a victim was taken into account but this has now changed in the Police Force and by the Crown Prosecution Service. ACC Richard List referred to modern slavery and training people to recognise signs. This was a new crime and there was a National Working Group looking at this issue.
- Cllr Kieron Mallon reported that Thames Valley Police Force had a reputation for providing best practice in preventing CSE and that other areas in the Country were not addressing the issue as well. Det Supt Joe Kidman reported that the College of Policing were also taking a lead and had developed a National

CSE Action Plan. They had been visited by a number of Police Forces particularly looking at the Kingfisher Unit which was well regarded. He also referred to the HMIC Inspection report which is referred to below and the National Working Group on CSE which involved all main partners. There were also discussions at a regional level to share best practice and discuss cross border activity.

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/child-sexual-exploitation/cse-action-plan/>

<http://www.nwgnetwork.org/>

Operation Bullfinch

Det Supt Joe Kidman reported specifically on this operation and lessons learnt such as the following:-

- Management of missing person investigations – developing a curious approach to why children go missing.
- Ownership of CSE investigations and using an evidence based approach.
- The golden hour principle which is the term used for the period immediately after an offence has been committed, when material is readily available in high volumes to the police. Positive action in the period immediately after the report of a crime minimises the amount of material that could be lost to the investigation, and maximises the chance of securing the material that will be admissible in court.
- Reference was also made to using a full range of investigative options such as covert tactics, source based intelligence, telephony and computer intelligence.
- The perpetrators started off as low level drug dealers.
- Pro-actively identifying children at risk of CSE and perpetrators to front-line teams so they can make informed decisions and take pro-active action where necessary. In addition increasing awareness amongst the wider community to promote reporting of potential CSE.
- Some victims were likely to report incidents of CSE several years later once links had been made and may provide evidence for cases but not end up in court. Of those found guilty in the Bullfinch trial they received 150 years in total. One person was acquitted but others were prosecuted for further offences. The Serious Case Review and drawing up the terms of reference was a long process. Following Bullfinch TVP developed Operation Safeguard and rolled out a training programme. (see below for information).

Full recommendations from the Serious Case Review into Oxfordshire

<http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SCR-into-CSE-in-Oxfordshire-FINAL-FOR-WEBSITE.pdf>

The **Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board** have recently undertaken a **stock take report** and looked at the impact of the multi-agency approach to tackling CSE and the conclusion was that there has been solid progress made with a more curious approach in safeguarding arrangements. Escalation processes are now used appropriately and there is transparency and a willingness to learn.

Sophie Humphries (Independent Safeguarding Expert) was appointed to work alongside OSCB to provide support & challenge to the OSCB as part of their evaluation into 'the impact of the multi-agency approach to tackling CSE in Oxfordshire' and 'to undertake my own enquiries and form a view on the accuracy of the OSCB's findings and conclusions arising from this piece of work'. The focus was on the outcomes for young people, particularly for children who had challenging backgrounds and lives.

Five important observations were made:-

- Maintaining strong and persistent leadership and the need to monitor and escalate all serious safeguarding matters - For the OSCB to continue to provide training across agencies on escalation processes, and for these to be attended by frontline and senior officers to create an opportunity for them to interact face to face.
- More understanding is needed of perpetrator profiles
- The effectiveness of communication by Kingfisher needs to be monitored by Children's Social Care and Thames Valley Police with a report provided to the OSCB.
- Specialist interventions for those adults who may only disclose the abuse they experienced as children some years later

- Regulation of the contracts to transport vulnerable children and the licensing of taxi drivers should be more robust - Consistent with legislation and statutory guidance, organisations bound by Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 that are either providing or commissioning transport services for children must demonstrate the Section 11 compliance of those arrangements.
- Working with and engaging communities is key and holding to account the co-ordination of District Councils Community Safety Partnerships - That the OSCB continues to reassure itself that communication and joint working is effective between the County Council and District Councils in regard to Safeguarding Children

CSE Making a Difference 'Stocktake report'

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

Independent Report by Sophie Humphreys

<http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/DetSupt/Stocktake-commentary1.pdf>

Cllr Kieron Mallon asked a question about the lone offender and the perpetrator profile. He made reference to the Bullfinch trial and asked whether there was a link between group based offending and Asian males and lone offenders being mostly white. DET SUPT Joe Kidman reported that white males could also undertake group based offending. Often street gangs were of mixed race. Some female offenders who themselves have been victims are then groomed to get other children involved so that they do not suffer abuse themselves. There was no pattern and it crossed all communities. DCS Gilbert Houalla reported that there was new evidence that the organised element of CSE could be linked to Asian men, however the offender profile was mixed. There were a number of gangs in Slough and Wycombe but they were multi-cultural. The PCC then referred to one of the recommendations of the Bullfinch SCR which was as follows:-

"With a significant proportion of those found guilty nationally of group CSE being from a Pakistani and/or Muslim heritage, relevant government departments should research why this is the case, in order to guide prevention strategies'.

The PCC expressed concern that the Government had not addressed this recommendation and he had written to the Home Secretary about this issue. A question was also raised by Andrew Smith MP in the House of Commons but he did not receive an informative response. There has been no research on this issue. The Police would find this information helpful but there was obvious sensitivity around alienating the Muslim community.

Recommendation to the Panel

That the PCC and Panel Members lobby Government to implement this recommendation or to look at the opportunity to commission independent academic work subject to available resources due to limited budget.

Cllr Iain McCracken commented on the importance of the role of the Safeguarding Nurse at the Kingfisher Unit. He asked whether this would be rolled out to other areas. Det Supt Joe Kidman reported that Buckinghamshire had set up a Swan Unit which was similar to Oxfordshire.

Det Supt Joe Kidman commented that health and education could make further improvements in the area of CSE, particularly their involvement with the MASH. Full commitment from all partners was key including probation and CAMHS. Information sharing needed to be undertaken in the right way so that there was a real understanding of the local picture. There was also a concern about referrals made through the health and education sector which the police were sometimes not aware of.

Other areas included identifying siblings of perpetrators and how to tackle CSE at private parties.

Dee Sinclair reported that it was important that Community Safety Partnerships and Local Authorities worked together on taxi licensing and the transportation of children.

Operations across the Thames Valley

Det Supt Joe Kidman reported that a number of CSE operations have been carried out across the Thames Valley this year which highlights the Forces commitment to tackle such exploitation, these most recently include: -

Operation Reportage – a series of warrants carried out in Banbury in June 2014. This saw six men arrested and charged and was the first inquiry initiated by the Kingfisher team. This arose out of information and intelligence and began with concerns about a young girl who was regularly going missing. The victim reported that the Kingfisher Team was good at finding out what was going on and making her realise that what happened in her relationship was not right.

Operation Articulate – a series of warrants carried out in Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, Buckingham, Chesham and Middlesex in September 2014. This resulted in 11 men being arrested and eight have been charged.

There is another **Operation (Safeguard)** which provides staff with the knowledge and the tools to identify and investigate CSE including:-

- Identifying the signs of CSE
- What to do if CSE is suspected
- Disruption methods
- Organisational learning
- Specialist teams
- Methods for raising awareness – e.g. Hotels & Children’s Homes
- Current police operations

Operation Secutor relates to TVP’s response to Indecent Images of Children.

The cases of the children identified as victims of CSE identified through Operation Reportage were reviewed at the OSCB Case Review & Governance Group. A Serious Case Review was not required but a learning review was agreed. In terms of Operation Reportage there were a summary of recommendations:-

- Raise awareness of CSE and how to deal with a concern for professionals working in Health and Education
- Where perpetrators have siblings that they should be identified as part of the multi-agency assessment
- Develop a programme of prevention and awareness training for children parents and communities

Det Supt Joe Kidman then referred to the **HMIC National Inspection Reports** as shown below. These reports were not specifically about the Thames Valley but the Force recognised the challenges described, some of which have already been tackled or are currently being tackled.

‘In Harms Way’ key findings:

- The police service is struggling to cope with the increasing workload in respect of Child protection
- Investigations & action against perpetrators were often inadequate
- Significant gaps existed between expected good practise and actual practise

Summary of Recommendations:

- Better plans to identify disrupt and prosecute perpetrators
- Better staff awareness and understanding

Online and on the edge’ key conclusions:

- Although the protection of children is a priority for all forces, they take a traditional approach to a 21st Century problem which needs skills and technology to match
- There is an increase in reported offences, while a significant proportion of offences, including on-line CSE are still unreported
- Policing must understand the prevalence of online offending and its impact on children, to allocate resources and develop effective responses for children

Summary of Recommendations:

- Officer access to social media applications & other IT systems to allow effective investigation of online offences
- Forces review management & supervision of online CSE
- Forces review existing processes for categorising risk
- Forces to use evidence based methodology & make better use of research

HMIC Revisit of TVP (Child Protection) Post-Inspection Review April 2015 key conclusions:

- Recognised TVP's commitment to improving the protection of children
- Improvement has been seen in relation to the recommendations, including reducing the backlogs for the online investigation team, investment of additional resources and training

Summary of recommendations:

- Good practise regime to improve standards of investigation in CSE cases is required
- Greater consistency needed in attendance at initial case conferences
- Improvement in recording of discussions with partners needed
- Improvement in recording views/concerns of children needed

Progress by Thames Valley Police

- Increasing resources being allocated to Child Abuse Investigation Units
- Training for all front-line staff in Spring 2016. This is the SaVE Programme (Safeguarding Vulnerability and Exploitation). There will be face to face training including looking for vulnerability and being professionally curious.
- MASH's established in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes & Reading and being implemented across rest of Berkshire to help information sharing across a wider operation team. Work is also underway on establishing a multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) in Slough and the Bracknell Forest MASH would be live in April 2016.
- Annual Problem Profile – liaison at a high level between partners looking at the right level of detail and asking difficult questions.
- Operation Secutor – online indecent images of children
- KIRAT assessment tool for online CSE (TVP use a national risk assessment tool supported by professional judgement to escalate where appropriate)
- Operation Safeguard – CSE
- Sexual Abuse Risk Assessment Conference (SARAC)
- Training packages for hotel reception staff to assist them in identifying potential offenders and victims of CSE
- Information leaflets relating to CSE have been produced for children, parents and agencies
- Schools Officers now receive specific training in relation to CSE/Missing Persons and TVP have SPOCs for all children's homes
- Co-located multi-agency engagement team in Oxfordshire
- Police engagement team in Berkshire
- Review of the management of Missing Persons
- Return Interviews

The following points were noted:-

- The PCC expressed concern that Berkshire Council Leaders wanted a MASH set up in each of the six unitaries which would impact on the quality and sustainability of service provided for each MASH. The PCC reported that the recommendation was to set up two MASH in Berkshire in order to provide the level of resources required to operate a MASH effectively. Det Supt Joe Kidman reported that one of his concerns in Berkshire was because the Unitary Authorities were small, one child could live in one area, go to school in another and be registered with a GP in a third area which would make it very difficult to share and track information. TVP are encouraging local authorities to discuss mechanisms to share this information. The PCC also referred to Slough where there had been an inadequate rating for Children's Services which had led to the Department of Education stepping in and ordering the creation of an independent trust to drive improvement which made the work of the MASH even more crucial.

Recommendation to the Panel

That the most effective MASH model be scrutinised by Sub-Committee Members and as appropriate Panel Members should promote the adoption and implementation by all Local Authorities across the Thames Valley of best practice. That the Sub-Committee look at the co-ordination of work undertaken by the MASH's across the whole of the Thames Valley.

- Management of Missing Persons – the carrying out of return interviews which is a Local Authority responsibility is inconsistent across the Thames Valley in terms of who does them, quality and rate of completion.

Set up of SERAC (Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference) and Missing Panels across the Force (Multi Agency Risk Management Meeting)

- There are a series of conferences with individual children
- SERAC is a multi-agency forum hosted by Children Social Care and co-chaired by the Police.
- Missing Panels look at children who have gone missing three times in 90 days and try to identify the underlying causes.
- This is being trialled for adults as well.

Thames Valley Operations

- There is activity in every local police area in relation to CSE.
- There are multi agency meetings with other partners at an operational level and for complex cases there are also Strategic Management Groups.

if you see something, say something

This is a public campaign in relation to human trafficking. Dee Sinclair asked how this campaign was being promoted as some members of the public were still not aware of it or not sure what to look for and how to report it. Det Supt Joe Kidman reported that there was a helpline and that the campaign had increased the level of reporting. The LSCB also had a big role to play in this area and it was important to have joined up messages across partner organisations. DCS Gilbert Houalla reported that he had noticed a big improvement and there were also apps that could be used to help the safety of children. There were a lot of opportunities to talk to the public through a variety of different meetings (such as Neighbourhood Action Groups) and it was important to focus the agenda away from less urgent issues such as parking to raise the profile of preventing CSE. The PCC reported that some of the recent celebrity coverage relating to CSE was not providing the real picture of CSE. Det Supt Joe Kidman also referred to 'Chelsea Choice' which was a play and film presentation and provided an opportunity for parents and children to discuss CSE. Some children also report incidences having watched the film.

Future Work Programme Items

Whilst there were some firm recommendations to be made to the Panel other areas for future consideration were raised during this item as follows:-

- Bringing the CSE agenda to the community
- The need for an organisational chart to show how all the partners worked together and an understanding of how preventing CSE was governed/co-ordinated to ensure services were working effectively without duplication.
- The LSCB had an independent voice but were these Boards effectively held to account?
- Liaison with Health and Wellbeing Boards as there were 9 in the Thames Valley. Could Panel Members form a closer link with HWB to ensure there was effective liaison?

ACC Richard List, DCS Gilbert Houalla and Det Supt Joe Kidman were thanked for their excellent presentation.

6. Bucks County Council Select Committee Inquiry on Child Sexual Exploitation

Reece Bowman, Committee and Governance Adviser attended the meeting to present the Bucks County Council Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee report called 'How are we preventing child sexual exploitation and supporting young people in Buckinghamshire'. Appendix B to the report shows the schedule of witnesses and the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. This Inquiry was undertaken following the publication of the Serious Case Review into events in Oxford. The MASH in Buckinghamshire went live approximately one year ago and the Swan Unit has now been developed to specifically look at CSE (from July 2015). The Swan Unit brings together the police, children's social care and staff from Barnardos RUSafe. However one of the main concerns was a physical presence from the Health Service in the MASH and the Swan Unit.

Resilience, as a means to protect against all forms of exploitation, is a theme within the report and the building of resilience in young children should be a top priority of those working with children, particularly Children's

Services and the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust and schools. One of the recommendations relates to developing a toolkit for use in primary schools to help schools foster resilience in their pupils. This would also help with preventing radicalisation.

In 2014 Buckinghamshire Children's Social Care and the Safeguarding Children Board were assessed as 'inadequate' by Ofsted and improvement work is now well underway. There was a recent court case involving men from Aylesbury resulting in several prosecutions. Paul Hammond asked when the Council would be inspected and was informed that it would be 18 months afterwards. The Ofsted rating had an impact on recruitment and retention of social workers which then had a self-perpetuating effect on staff. The Council were working on reducing the amount of agency staff. The Council had requested a Peer Review which had been undertaken and were now working towards a 'Requires improvement' grading. It was important to have permanent staff in the First Response and Children in Need Teams.

In answer to a question Members noted that the Local Safeguarding Children Board was an independent body with an Independent Chairman which was funded by the partnership. The Chief Executive of the Local Authority would appoint the Chairman. The LSCB were not held to account by another body [A government report states that the Chief Executive and Lead Members, through scrutiny committees, should be more central to the governance process to ensure that the Chair and the Board are held to account]. The LSCB are required to write an Annual Report.

Recommendation to the Panel

That the Panel Members be asked to identify which of their Authorities scrutinise their LSCB's and at what frequency

The report also makes reference to the role of schools and the role of hotels in terms of awareness raising. Reference was made to the play 'Chelsea Choice' and the recommendation that the Thames Valley Police should roll out the Hotel Watch scheme in Buckinghamshire (and ideally across the whole area). Awareness raising with Neighbourhood Watch was also key.

Hotelwatch was raised at the last item but there was a recommendation within the BCC Inquiry report that Thames Valley Police should roll out the Hotel Watch scheme across Buckinghamshire and whether this could be undertaken therefore for the whole of the Thames Valley.

Recommendation to the Panel

That the PCC be asked whether it would be possible for the Hotel Watch Scheme to be rolled out across the Thames Valley.

The role of Licensing Authorities and Taxi Drivers was important in terms of awareness raising and evidence was received from the District Councils in relation to regulating hackney carriages and private hire vehicles. There were also links with the night time economy such as 'take away' restaurants and night clubs.

Cllr Dee Sinclair reported that it was not a level playing field with licensing and some drivers go to other authorities in Oxfordshire to obtain a licence but still operate in the city. There was a concern about monitoring drivers if they were operating in a different area to where their licence was obtained. Some Authorities offered a different charging rate for licensing. LSCB should look at licensing and transportation of children (including chaperones) to ensure that there was sufficient safeguarding and training had been undertaken. For example AMEY provided home to school transport and were trained on safeguarding children but not specifically CSE. Taxi drivers could also identify any concerns in relation to transportation from private parties.

Recommendation to the Panel

For the Panel to scrutinise whether there was a co-ordinated response in relation to licensing in the Thames Valley and the transportation of children.

Cllr Margaret Burke also asked about safeguarding at large events such as MK Bowl which could be another area to look into.

Commissioning of services for children is another area that the Inquiry addressed. Joint Commissioning is undertaken with Clinical Commissioning Groups, Public Health and other bodies. Any commissioning document needs to make reference to any safeguarding duties such as staff training.

Another partner who plays a key role in this area are sexual health providers which includes pharmacists, Terence Higgins Trust, Brook and the Healthcare Trust. The Terence Higgins Trust operates a 'red flagging' system which makes practitioners aware of when they are dealing with repeat referrals. However, perpetrators may be aware of this and children may go to other providers. There is no sharing of information on children presenting frequently at different providers. Sexual Health Services were commissioned by the Public Health Team with the decision being taken by the relevant Cabinet Member who may be able to influence the sharing of information through the commissioning process.

Recommendation to the Panel

For the Panel to ask their relevant Cabinet Member (County and Unitaries) that through their commissioning process that all sexual health providers are asked to facilitate the sharing of information on repeat referrals within a confidential environment for high risk children.

The Inquiry recommended that sexual health providers should attend the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference in order to share information and also that information be shared on the names of looked after children at highest risk of CSE.

Other recommendations included:-

- That the effectiveness of First Response is kept under regular review
- That services be commissioned to provide support to the parents of victims of CSE
- That all Councillors should undertake training on spotting CSE.

Reece Bowman reported that this report would be submitted to the BCC Cabinet in January 2016. Members thanked him for attending the meeting and sharing the excellent Inquiry Report with the Sub-Committee.

7. Child Sexual Exploitation Conference

Cllr Iain McCracken gave a report on the conference he had attended run by Policy Communications which included presentations from the following:-

- Children's Commissioner
- NWG Network
- Independent Association of LSCB Chairs
- Research Fellow from University of Bedfordshire
- HMIC
- College of Policing
- Barrister (No 5 Chambers)
- NHS England
- Avon and Somerset Constabulary
- Victim Support
- London Borough of Waltham Forest
- Safer London Foundation

Cllr Iain McCracken reported that it was apparent from the presentations at the conference and this meeting that there were many organisations involved in preventing CSE. Even within one organisation there was a further layer of complexity such as in the Health Service where the presenters slide showed how difficult it was to work your way through such a large organisation to find the correct contacts and links. What came across very clearly was the need for inter agency communication, and the need for clear aims and objectives and strong scrutiny.

8. Future Work Programme items

It was agreed that the Sub-Committee should meet three times a year if possible. Questions would be sent to the PCC to provide further assurances on CSE prevention as there was not sufficient time to address them in the meeting.

Recommendations to the Panel include:-

- Understanding where there was an issue with Language schools
- Whether further work could be carried out on the recommendation not carried forward in relation to the Bullfinch Trial on prevention strategies
- Scrutiny of effective MASH models and informing best practice
- Panel Members be asked to identify which of their Authorities scrutinise their LSCB's and at what frequency
- Asking the PCC whether the Thames Valley Police could roll out Hotel Watch across the Thames Valley
- Scrutiny of co-ordinated approach to licensing in the Thames Valley and transportation of children
- Asking relevant Cabinet Members when commissioning whether they could ask sexual health providers to facilitate the sharing of information on repeat referrals within a confidential environment for high risk children

The following areas came up in the meeting that Members may wish to consider further:-

- Themed areas such as forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- The PCC is prioritising this area through his Police and Crime Plan but what is the long term Action Plan for CSE?
- Co-ordination of partnership working overall and looking at relationship with the Health Service and Schools and linkages between HWB, Community Safety Partnerships and Panel Members
- What further work could be done to reach 'invisible communities' and preventing CSE
- Management of missing persons investigations
- Perpetrator profiles and siblings
- Awareness raising in communities/safeguarding issues at large events
- Prosecution and relationships with the CPS (however the Police are extremely positive of their working relationship and work being undertaken to improve this area)

Other areas in the Terms of Reference can also be considered.

9. Date and Time of Next Meetings

Further meetings will be organised by the Scrutiny Officer.

CHAIRMAN