Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

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Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: **Report of the Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Committee**

Date: **27 November 2015**

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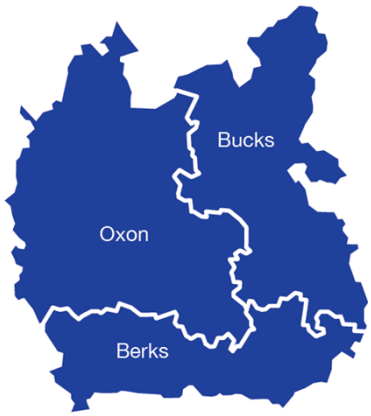

Background

1. At the July meeting of the Police and Crime Panel Members agreed the terms of reference of the Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Committee. The purpose of the Sub-Committee is to support, monitor and scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on preventing and taking action with regard to Child Sexual Exploitation across the Thames Valley to provide assurance to Panel Members.

2. The Membership of the Sub-Committee is as follows:-

Iain McCracken (Chairman)
Kieron Mallon (Vice Chairman)
Julia Adey
Margaret Burke
Julia Girling (Independent Member)
Bob Pitts
Dee Sinclair

Deputies
Angela Macpherson, Mr Curtis James Marshall and Ian White

3. The first meeting of the Sub-Committee was held on 4 November 2015 and the minutes are attached to this report. A presentation was given by Thames Valley Police on the extent and profile of CSE in the Thames Valley and lessons learnt so far. The Sub-Committee also received the recent report from Buckinghamshire County Council on Child Sexual Exploitation from their Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee.

4. The Minutes contain some recommendations to the Panel and also some areas for further consideration. The Sub-Committee does not have any powers and reports back to the Panel. The PCC may then issue a response to the Panel on whether he accepts the recommendations made.

5. The recommendations may require the Sub-Committee to carry out further research into different areas. This in turn may involve inviting other partner agencies to attend and provide information to the Sub-Committee. If there are any recommendations following requests for information this will be submitted to Panel Members and the PCC.

6. In addition to the recommendations below Members suggested the following areas which could be considered:-

- 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 – inconsistency in how return interviews were undertaken
- 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)

RECOMMENDATION to the Panel

1. **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.**

   This was raised as a concern by the PCC and a Panel Member because this area was not regulated.

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

   The Bullfinch recommendation not implemented 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'

3. **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.**

   The PCC expressed concern about the ability to provide resources for six MASH in Berkshire which could impact on their effectiveness. Members thought it would be helpful to identify best practice which can be shared and to ensure that there was good co-ordination across the Thames Valley.

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

   As 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) Members thought it would be helpful to obtain feedback from Panel Members on how their LSCB are held to account and at what frequency.

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

   This was a recommendation from the Bucks County Council Inquiry Report (Minute 6) for Buckinghamshire and the suggestion was that this should be extended to the Thames Valley if possible.

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

   This was a recommendation from the Oxfordshire stock take report that regulation of these two areas could be more robust. The role of Licensing Authorities and Taxi drivers was also considered as part of the Bucks County Council Inquiry Report.

7. **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.**

   There was a similar recommendation to this one proposed through the Buckinghamshire County Council Inquiry Report. The Terence Higgins Trust operates a 'red flagging' system which makes practitioners aware of when they are dealing with repeat referrals. There is no sharing of information on children presenting frequently at different providers. Sexual Health Services are 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.