

Minutes

Minutes of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel Sub-Committee on Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation held on Friday 8 September 2017, in Olympic Room, Aylesbury Vale District Council Gatehouse Road Aylesbury Bucks HP19 8FF, commencing at 1.30 pm and concluding at 3.00 pm.

Members Present

Julia Girling (Independent Member), Councillor Angela Macpherson (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Councillor Kieron Mallon (Oxfordshire County Council), Curtis-James Marshall (Independent Member) and Councillor Ian White (South Oxfordshire District Council)

Officers Present

Clare Gray

Others Present

Matthew Barber (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) and Paul Hammond (Office of the PCC)

Apologies

Councillor Julia Adey (Wycombe District Council), Councillor Margaret Burke (Milton Keynes Council), Councillor Iain McCracken (Bracknell Forest Council) and Anthony Stansfeld (PCC)

22. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED

That Mr K Mallon be elected Chairman of the Preventing CSE Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

23. Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That Ms Emma Webster be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Preventing CSE Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

24. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

25. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 November 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

26. Update from Thames Valley Police

DCI Kelly Glister attended the meeting to provide an update on the work of Thames Valley Police in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

DCI Kelly Glister reported on the strategic approach to CSE and the different documents/governance structures that were used to manage the prevention of CSE such as the Force's Delivery Plan, Police and Crime Plan, Force Strategic Assessment (The Strategic Assessment gives an overview of the current and medium term issues affecting, or likely to affect Thames Valley Police.). There is a Vulnerabilities Strategic Group which is chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable and a Child Exploitation Operational Group which is chaired by Det Superintendent. 13 strands of vulnerability have been identified and action plans have been devised that are fit for purpose. There is also a risk performance meeting where partners are invited to attend.

On the operational side DCI Kelly Glister referred to the definition of CSE which has been adopted to represent the change in landscape and understanding of CSE, including the definition of consent and use of technology. The Force use the following strategy:-

Prepare - There is a dedicated cycle of learning, training, peer and process reviews, dedicated multi agency teams

Prevent – Education, disruption, intelligence development, internet and personal safety, predictive harm analysis (This is software that uses crime type, crime location and date and time – and then based on past crime data it generates a hotspot map identifying areas where crime is most likely to happen. Oxfordshire, Milton Keynes and Reading were the test beds for the predictive harm model, which will be rolled out across the Force).

PROTECT Engagement & support for children and families, joint safeguarding processes, multi-agency risk management meetings, dedicated CSE teams (Kingfisher/Swan)

PROSECUTE Thorough investigations & quality file preparation, continued and consistent victim care & support, specialist prosecution teams

PARTNERSHIPS Joint ownership & shared risk management, co-located teams and enhanced information sharing, priority within LSCB's.

DCI Kelly Glister made reference to Operational Makesafe which related to methods which were delivered at a local level through Neighbourhood Policing and Problem Solving Teams e.g Hotel Watch and test purchasing which were used to raise awareness and share responsibility across the industry. With test purchasing staff were allocated credit cards and then used the hotel facility, taking a young person into the hotel with them.

Other tactical operations include Health and Safety Executive and Environmental Health which was a form of disruption and intelligence gathering.

Operations and Prosecutions

There are five live investigations in the Thames Valley. In 2016 there was a total of 1028 occurrences recorded; 775 non-crime incidents and 273 reported crimes. This is a reduction of 28% from last year. The investigations included cases in Aylesbury and Oxfordshire where some of the victims had now become adults but information was still produced. Reference was made to working with Simon Bailey the National Police Chiefs' Council lead for child protection and the need for dedicated teams to look at historical crime but this was very expensive. Simon Bailey had also commented that low level offenders who were not at risk to the public should be placed on the sex offenders register and given counselling and rehabilitation instead.

There was a large scale investigation at the Old Bailey currently with 2/3 large scale investigations ongoing in each County. A total of six men had been arrested in connection with CSE offences relating to female victims between 2008 and 2015 – this was part of Operation Nautical.

Serious Case Review and Learning

The key learning points from Bullfinch was addressing safeguarding, risk assessment and referrals; crime recording and investigation and secondary investigation (the Banbury CSE Case had been very complex and there had been a long period of investigation). HMIC had referred to integrated record keeping. Many of the points within the Action Plan had now been addressed. There had also been a Serious Case Review in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire and the Local Safeguarding Board had issued a report. She also referred to the PACE Group

(Parents Against Child Exploitation) who had provided feedback on individual's experiences, some of which was quite hard-hitting and TVP had taken on board their comments in relation to these SCR cases.

Perpetrator profiling

With information taken from recorded occurrences in 2016 the victim profile was a mean average age of 18 and a median average of 16 years – 90% were female but the sexual exploitation being experienced by boys was also being addressed within the Action Plan. 50% of victims were of white origin. The suspect was on average 10 years older than the victim with a mean average age of 29 and median 22 years. The issue of consent was a difficult area for 16-18 year olds and another area of difficulty was reporting of CSE by boys.

MASH

DCI Andy Howard was co-ordinating the MASH and looking at how the hubs could operate more efficiently and effectively. There is a joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response which is carried out by the Care Quality Commission, HMIC and HMI Probation and an assessment has recently been undertaken on Wokingham. There will be a further report on the Thames Valley by the HMIC in October. There was still concern about having adequate representation in the MASH from Adult Social Care, Health and Education. The vetting process also made co-ordinated working more difficult.

https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/07/Joint_targeted_area_inspection_of_the_multi-agency_response_to_abuse_and_neglect_in_Wokingham.pdf

During discussion the following questions were asked:-

Cllr Ian White referred to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub site visit (MASH) and asked what support staff were given working in such difficult circumstances. DCI Kelly Glister reported that staff undergo psychometric testing to see how they will cope with a stressful work environment and also have strong leadership and line management. They have training days to help address any particular issues and there are structures to develop career opportunities and rotate staff. There was not a large turnover of staff.

The Deputy PCC asked about electronic entry into hotels and how this was approached. DCI Kelly Glister reported that they tried to give management training and also depending on the type of premises to ensure there was monitoring by CCTV. Cllr Mallon asked whether there could be a scheme/sign on doors with stars as to whether hotels complied with the Hotelwatch Scheme and whether hotels/guest houses could be named if they opted out of the Scheme. DCI Kelly Glister said she could raise this issue with DCI Felicity Parker who was the tactical lead for modern slavery for TVP.

Action: Thames Valley Police

Cllr Mallon referred to the comments made by Trevor Phillips, the former Chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. He had expressed concern about the refusal of authorities to properly describe some of the grooming gangs as Muslim and another Conservative former Policing Minister had said that the gangs should be treated as 'race hate criminals' so they could be handed tougher prison sentences. DCI Kelly Glister commented that there is an ethnicity record but it is not broken down any further. This may be recorded in more detail next year.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4781426/Asian-grooming-gangs-treated-race-hate-crimes.html>

Cllr Mallon also referred to the issue of PREVENT and faith schools that were not regulated. He commented that all MASH processes needed to fit with various circumstances and that these were consistent across the Thames Valley. There was a Prevent Engagement Officer who provided advice across the Board but they were not located within the MASH. In addition Predictive Harm Analysis was being used for early intervention.

Members thanked DCI Kelly Glister for the report.

27. How to prevent and pursue online child sexual exploitation

DCI Kelly Glister updated Members on this area and commented that referrals were predicted to have doubled at the end of this financial year (April 2018) compared with previous periods. The Strategic Assessment next year would address any intelligence gaps and national trends. There was a new online covert capability and a recruitment process was being undertaken in relation to this. The Child Abuse Image Database was being used to identify victims and protect more children. Where indecent images were identified a risk assessment was

undertaken using a matrix to identify whether the threat was low, medium or high. High risk cases were reviewed fortnightly.

DCI Kelly Glister also referred to the Digital Media Investigation Unit which responds to information from members of the public, victims and police intelligence. Once information has been developed and risk assessed, detectives would then execute warrants or attend addresses where criminal activity is suspected. When the perpetrator has been identified their houses are searched and items can be seized for investigation. There is a triage process in investigating crimes.

Sexting was not considered a crime and the proportionality of this was addressed when looking at low, medium or high risk cases.

Cllr Webster commented that it would be helpful to have guidance on what constitutes a proper offence.

Members noted the HMIC report on how police forces performed in their work to prevent online CSE which made a number of recommendations. Panel Members asked for a written response on how TVP were addressing these recommendations (page 37 of the agenda).

Action: PCC/TVP

28. Update from the Deputy PCC

The Deputy PCC reported that Preventing CSE was monitored through the OPCC Delivery Plan and the Force Delivery Plan. He reported on the recent taxi licensing event to improve safeguarding and the proposal to have a single point of contact and reported that Local Authorities were meeting on 13 September 2017 to discuss standardising policies and the single point of contact officer. He also made reference to the fact that the MASH would be reviewed and that the MASH in Berkshire would not be viable in the future and needed to be restructured.

Julia Girling asked how CSE was addressed and lessons learnt across the Country. DCI Kelly Glister reported that there was regular liaison with other Forces and a National Working Group which was chaired by the Norfolk Chief Constable. Information was shared on a whole range of issues including perpetrator profiling.

Cllr Mallon referred to the Louise Casey report and the need to ensure that these recommendations were being implemented.

The Deputy PCC was asked whether he had looked at the Staffordshire PCC CSE Outcomes Framework and whether there was any benefit of Thames Valley having a similar document. The Deputy PCC reported that he would have a look at this document and feed back to Panel Members.

<https://staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Stoke-Staffordshire-CSE-Outcomes-Framework-10.pdf>

Action: Deputy PCC

29. Work Programme

Members agreed that the different strands of the Strategic Assessment should be addressed in future meetings along with Forced Marriages, Female Genital Mutilation and Sexual Exploitation within modern slavery. DCI Kelly Glister would send the Scrutiny Officer a copy of the Strategic Assessment.

Action: TVP/CG

30. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

CHAIRMAN