

## Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

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

**Date:** 20 April 2018

**Author:** Chairman of CSE Sub Committee



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### Background

A recent meeting of the Sub-Committee was held on 5 March 2018. This report includes recommendations from this meeting combined with a follow up on previous recommendations.

### FOLLOW UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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.**

#### Update

The PCC has written to the Government and received a response from Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System. He responded in December 2017 referring to the Government's Counter Extremism Strategy which set out plans to introduce a new system of oversight for out-of-school settings, so there is transparency about where these settings are operating, as well as enabling Ofsted to enter, investigate and apply sanctions where there is evidence that a setting is failing to adequately safeguard children in its care. The Government is also encouraging Local Authorities to use their existing powers under safeguarding, or health and safety legislation to disrupt and tackle unsuitable out-of-school settings.

- 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’

#### Update

Recent research has been presented to the Oxfordshire Children's Safeguarding Board CSE Sub Group on 26 March 2018 on perpetrator profiling and the following recommendation was discussed:-

The Sub Group could consider commissioning a new piece of academic research to expand on the work presented to the Sub Group on perpetrator profiling and look at some additional hypothesis. Given the clear potential strategic benefits of this work, approaches could also be considered to the other Local Authorities and Health providers within Thames Valley to broaden the research and available resource further.

The Sub Group discussed the report and whether further research work should be undertaken nationally.

#### Recommendation

**Panel Members may wish to ask the PCC whether he is able to help with this area of research or be able to influence further research nationally.**

- 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.**

#### Update

A review is being undertaken of Berkshire MASH and the most effective way of providing services across Berkshire. The Chief Constable confirmed that there were ongoing discussions with Berkshire MASH and a report on this has been sent to the PCC.

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

#### Update

New regulations for Multi-agency Safeguarding have been included in the Children and Social Work Act 2017, which will be put in place by May 2018, with Councils required to have their new arrangements up and running by September 2019. Under the plan the requirement for local areas to have Boards with set memberships will be removed.

#### Recommendation

**The Panel may wish to ask the Chief Constable for an update on how this will affect partnership working and what plans are in place for the Thames Valley.**

<https://www.lgcplus.com/services/children/transition-period-for-child-safeguarding-boards-reform-announced/7023263.article>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wood-review-of-local-safeguarding-children-boards>

<https://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2017/apr/25/the-government-is-jeopardising-progress-on-child-sexual-exploitation>

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

At the last meeting of the Preventing CSE Sub Committee in September 2017 Members had previously suggested that there could be a scheme whereby there could be a sign on hotel doors or a logo showing that they were part of the Hotelwatch Scheme. At the March

meeting the Chairman suggested trialling the Scheme in a pilot area and like Modern Slavery getting other service areas in the Council to spot areas of non-compliance and promote the Scheme. TVP had responded referring to the Hidden Harm Campaign and that their response was that it was everyone's responsibility to 'See it Say it' and that it was information from a number of sources that brought together provided good intelligence.

One of the issues with the Hotelwatch Scheme was the turnover of staff in the hotel industry and the continual need for training. Test purchases were carried out once a year where adults and children book a room in a hotel to test how the staff reacted.

Reference was also made to the Modern Slavery toolkit which had been developed by Oxford Brookes University and the number of hotels also signed up to this Scheme as well. <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/microsites/combathumantrafficking/thetoolkit/>

#### **Recommendation**

**The Deputy PCC has been asked whether it is worth looking at a pilot Scheme and whether there could be some match funding from Councils as currently the Hotelwatch Scheme was not operationally consistent across the Thames Valley and this could help ensure that there was a standard approach across all areas and that the % of hotels signed up to the Scheme could be monitored.**

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

A set of minimum standards has been drawn up to be used across the Thames Valley which can be used by the new Single Point of Contact post which is being piloted for a year. The Framework is a work in progress and it is hoped that this document will be developed further as a joint working document with the agreement of all Authorities in the Thames Valley. A job description has been developed which is going through the TVP Hay Panel which will then go the PCC for agreement before advertised.

#### **Recommendation**

**That the PCC/Deputy PCC agree the final details for the Single Point of Contact Post.**

#### **Follow up on recommendation made on 4 March 2017**

#### **9. That Members use any links with schools to help open the pathway for CSE Awareness including the promotion of healthy relationships**

Update

A number of related issues were raised under this heading:-

- Developing conversations with closed communities such as travellers and ethnic minority groups.
- Developing work with primary schools on CSE issues and whether this can be available to all children rather than requiring parental permission. Getting the right access to school children was crucial.
- Following the success of Chelsea's Choice whether a similar production could be used to highlight Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and FGM targeted at areas of high risk.

- Concern was raised about different ethnic groups not mixing at school and whether more work needed to be undertaken with the education sector. Reference was made to the Louise Casey report which had been published in December 2016 and that after a year nationally concern was being raised that nothing was being done with regard to community cohesion and that there needed to be an integration oath. The PCC was asked to provide an update to this meeting on what they were doing as an organisation.

#### **Recommendation**

**That the PCC/Deputy PCC provide an update on what he and TVP are doing in response to the Louise Casey recommendations and to provide an update on what actions can be taken to address the other points raised above.**

#### **New recommendations**

##### **10. Raising awareness of key CSE issues with Members across the Thames Valley**

A discussion took place about the need to heighten awareness of the hidden harm issue with Members across the Thames Valley. There were a number of briefings about this issue with Community Safety Partnerships but this needed to be extended more generally to ensure that Councils were doing all that they could to help prevent child exploitation. It was important to particularly address this issue by targeting local areas who had a higher population of those groups who may be at high risk. Reference was made to the delivery plan and the Chairman asked how the Panel could help TVP deliver the objectives of their Plan (page 10 of the agenda).

A suggestion was made that with the annual presentation by the PCC and Chief Constable to all Councils across the Thames Valley, that it may be helpful to give a specific presentation on one area, where it was important to raise awareness, such as hidden harm in addition to a shorter general presentation.

#### **Recommendation**

**For the PCC/Deputy PCC to consider whether it would be helpful to give a more specific presentation at Annual Council Meetings to help raise awareness of key issues that need to be addressed such as Hidden Harm.**

##### **11 Good practice documents**

At the last meeting there had been a discussion about the CSE Outcomes Framework used by Staffordshire and the Deputy PCC had been asked to report back on whether there was any good practice that could be adopted by Thames Valley. The Deputy PCC reported that he had looked at the CSE Framework and commented that there were some elements of good practice within the document that could benefit the Thames Valley. He also commented that this Framework needed to be linked to the work undertaken by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs and that it needed to be outcome focused. He also commented that this document would need to be supported by schools.

<https://www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk/cse-framework/>

Reference was also made to the Revolving Doors document which looked at PCC Police and Crime Plans and showed good practice from different PCC areas on preventing violence against women and girls.

<http://www.revolving-doors.org.uk/blog/pccs-take-action-against-violence-against-women-and-girls>

**Recommendation**

**That the Deputy PCC consider where these documents could add value and report back to the Panel.**