

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP HELD ON TUESDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, 2017

MEMBERS: Jansev Jemal (Chair), Nesil Cazimoglu, Patricia Ekechi, Doris Jagge, Michael Rye OBE

Officers: Tony Theodoulou (Executive Director Schools and Children's Services, Grant Landon (Service Manager Practice & Partnerships), Anne Stoker (Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, Schools and Children's Services), Tariq Soomaaroo (Governance & Scrutiny Officer)

Also Attending: Kevin Hyland OBE (UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner) Karen Alderton (Service Manager) Andrea Wilkinson (Acting Manager) and Ellen Maunder (Social Worker) from the Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Team (CSEP)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minutes:

There were no declarations of interest.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR - WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor Jansev Jemal was appointed as Chair for the Committee.
Councillor Jemal welcomed attendees to the meeting.
Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Maguire, Councillor Vince, Councillor Hayward, Councillor Bond and Councillor Orhan.
Apologies for lateness had been received from Councillor Ekechi.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 12 September 2017 were **AGREED**.

4. ORDER OF THE AGENDA

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AGREED to amend the order of the agenda to accommodate members of the public in attendance at the meeting. The minutes follow the order of the meeting.

5. ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER

Received:

Presentation received from Kevin Hyland OBE (UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner) on national efforts to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking.

Noted:

Kevin Hyland highlighted that his role was to encourage good practise in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of slavery and human trafficking offences and is to also identify victims of those offences.

Statistics regarding the scale of human trafficking and modern slavery was presented, it was learnt that 40,300,000 people live in slavery today. 13,000 potential victims of slavery are in the UK and 151,600,000 children are victims of child labour worldwide.

It was noted that the Commissioner wanted to improve the identification of victims of modern slavery as it is currently a hidden and underreported crime. It was also highlighted to improve immediate and sustained support for victims and survivors across the UK.

An update was provided regarding the reform of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The NRM is the UK's framework for potential victims of modern slavery to be identified and referred for appropriate support. It was recognised the system needed improvements in many areas such as resource and funds to assist victims leave slavery. The Commissioner is therefore pushing for a complete reform which was approved in October 2017.

As per the approval, the Commissioner wants to see intelligence brought into the picture through victim-centred processes with more coordination, accountability, oversight and monitoring. This will have a positive impact on the number of criminals prosecuted and convicted, as well as an increased number of victims identified, supported and ultimately move on from the horrors of slavery.

It was revealed that Modern Slavery has strong links to organised crime, the Commissioner expressed his intent to promote an improved law enforcement response across the UK.

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The Commissioner also wanted to identify, promote and facilitate best practice in partnership working, and to encourage improved data sharing and high-quality research into key issues, ensuring partnerships are in place across the country that enable effective communication streams between relevant bodies. The Commissioner also wanted to also work with homeless charities to see the trends regarding trafficking.

Strategic plans for international collaboration includes working with the Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development, National Crime Agency, Crown Prosecution Service and other statutory agencies, including international partners, to encourage best practice in upstream prevention activity focussing on specific areas that victims are trafficked from.

The Commissioner discussed County Lines, the role of the Police, Health, Local Authorities and schools in making children aware of how modern slavery and child labour operates in the Country today.

1,500 judges have been trained to use legislation for life sentences for anybody convicted of Child labour/Modern Slavery.

Statutory agencies are confident in the legislation. Consultations are taking place with Directors (NHS) for strategic approaches using intelligence from hospitals when in contact with victims from County Lines.

Highlighted/Agreed:

Councillor Jemal (Chair) spoke regarding the importance of this work and wanted to know what key challenges had the Commissioner faced.

The Commissioner responded advising that there are ongoing political tensions and being open and honest isn't always well received. There were also restrictions when recruiting staff members and funding cuts which impacted upon the budget.

Tony Theodoulou (Director of Children's Services) asked for the Commissioner's input with regards to next year's focus on Albanian criminals operating in Enfield.

The Commissioner highlighted his experience with the Vietnamese criminal operations similar to the Albanian operations and will be spending time with the Albanian authorities and find out facts and where the drive is. Ultimately the Commissioner wants to identify where the risks are and whether it is possible to arrange "safe" returns for anyone liable.

Councillor Cazimoglu mentioned that the Police did not have a positive response with crimes such as prostitution in her ward and wanted to know what is being done about victims with learning disabilities and children being exploited.

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The Commissioner advised that prostitution as an organised crime often linked to foreign nationals. It is usually difficult to get victims to cooperate and often there is a lack of information given but reiterated it is treated as a serious crime.

Regarding disabled/child exploitation, the new National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is to identify and refer victims for appropriate support this includes the involvement of child advocates.

Councillor Rye enquired regarding the Commissioner's budget (£500,000) and whether this is a sufficient amount to carry out his objectives, Councillor Rye also asked about any failings encountered.

The Commissioner replied advising that he raised a further £100,000 but ideally wants around £900,000 as an overall budget. Regarding failings, the Commissioner stated that he wanted to change the policing system and raise awareness to the public about places that look suspicious such as some nail bars and car washes.

Councillor Rye mentioned that planning permission is required this could be refused if it was thought car washes were linked to modern slavery and child labour.

6. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION PREVENTION TEAM (CSEP) UPDATE

Karen Alderton (Service Manager) Andrea Wilkinson (Team Manager) and Ellen Maunder (Social Worker) from the Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Team (CSEP) presented a report to the committee on progress of the Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention (CSEP) Team and included case summaries.

Karen Alderton explained the team is now part of the Looked after Children's (LAC) Service and is made up of social workers, police officers and youth workers. The team manager Andrea Wilkinson explained the team has now been restructured and has a stable group cohesively working with the police.

Three case studies were provided from the CSEP team.

The Committee thanked all three members of the CSEP team for the update and case presentations.

7. PROPOSED CHANGES TO GROUPS REMIT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Recommendation

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Council asks all members to increase their awareness of CSE and related issues and attend safeguarding training sessions that are available specifically for members.

The CSE task group acknowledges the progress made in understanding offenders / persons of concern but also recognises the need to continue to improve profiling on a local and Pan-London basis establishing consistency of approach across police services. Council recommends Borough police and MPS continue to work with Enfield partners to complete the persons of concern local profile that has recently been developed

The CSE Task Group will be proposing a change to its Terms of Reference to include a focus on a range of other inter-related vulnerabilities. It is recommended that this change is acknowledged and supported thereby improving oversight and scrutiny of these important areas.

AGREED

The proposed changes to groups remit and terms of reference was AGREED at full Council. This was agreed to provide Council with an annual report outlining the findings and recommendations of the CSE member's task group. The recommendations will strengthen the local response to CSE.

8. COUNTY LINES

Received:

Grant Landon delivered a presentation on County Lines (Trafficking, Exploitation and Serious Offending)

Noted:

Grant Landon began the presentation explaining County lines is the term used to describe a person or group from an urban area crossing police force boundaries to a more rural/county force, setting up a secure base to conduct day to day drug dealing.

It was learnt that County Lines issues largely relate to the supply of heroin and crack cocaine. Other drugs such as cocaine, MDMA, amphetamine and cannabis are also mentioned but in smaller numbers.

Establishment of a County Line is achieved through exploitation of both vulnerable people and drug addicts in the local area.

A statistics map showed Hertfordshire (23), Suffolk (19), Kent (14) and Thames Valley (14) were impacted by the largest number of groups. In almost all of these cases the groups operating the County Lines were London-based.

Once established, junior members (Youngers) are encouraged to run local County Lines. The 'youngers' are male or female aged 14 -17. Youngers are

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'promised' around £50 per day to operate a phone line 24hrs. Violence is used in establishing the County Line, securing it and removing competition.

Safeguarding points to look for are exploitation of vulnerable children, missing persons, exploitation of local drug users and the use of a "Trap House" within a local community where drug dealing, drinking and exploitation occurs. "Trap Houses" are secured often by exploiting vulnerable people male/females who own/rent a property.

Grant Landon highlighted Enfield's key issues which included four main Enfield based identifiable "gangs" with close allegiances with other Haringey based gangs. Between January to September 2017, 100 young people in Enfield have been reported missing. Since April there have been referred to the CSEP team. Of the 30, 15 of the young people are known to the Youth Offending Unit (YOU). Screenings in the YOU have been amended so that any young person believed to be involved with County Lines are also now being screened using the child sexual exploitation tool.

Highlighted/Agreed

A comment was made that Hertfordshire statistics could be high due to local connections in London.

Collaborative work with Police and Social workers have been positive and lead to significant arrests. County lines are sold as a glamorous lifestyle but it is often an unpleasant life due to incidents such as victims being set up or incurring physical violence including stabbings. County Lines usually starts as positive but is known to be difficult to break away from due to fear and debt.

Offenders are usually from dysfunctional families and County Line has been around for some time. Therapy sessions will continue and will aim to gain further intelligence, understand the problem and tackle the situation.

9. PARTNERSHIP AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING (PACT) PROJECT

Received

Grant Landon delivered a presentation on Partnership against Child Trafficking Project (PACT)

Noted

Grant Landon explained "Every Child Protected against Trafficking" (ECPT) is a well-established UK third sector organisation, working to tackle Child Trafficking.

The "Missing people", organisation is the only charity in the UK which is dedicated to bringing missing children and adults back together with their families.

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Grant Landon highlighted the importance of focussing on “Modern Slavery, Trafficking & Exploitation” (MTSE) and understanding how the local authority/area currently responds to MSTE and working together improving the overall response.

Findings of Case File Audits conducted by Cordis Bright (External Consultants) found some inconsistencies regarding young people being identified as being at risk of trafficking and little record of young people being referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Comments/Actioned

Although there were some inconsistencies the audit found all children were safe.

The findings of the audit have been shared with social workers and managers. The individual audits will be discussed and plans reviewed as appropriate in supervision sessions.

Enfield Modern Slavery & Trafficking policy is to be completely revised. ECPAT has written a draft which will be updated in line with new national guidance.

10. A.O.B

The Committee thanked Grant Landon for all his hard work for his time at the council and wish him well for the future.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Vulnerable Young People Task Group formally known as, Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group will be Thursday 8th March 2018.

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