

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board

Child Exploitation Update

29th march 2022

Katie Buckley

Child Exploitation Team Manager – Children's Services

Achievements - 6 months

- ▶ Multi Agency partnerships – high challenge and support
- ▶ Review of processes and policy for identifying, assessing and recording child exploitation
- ▶ Review of function, efficiency and membership of 3 exploitation forums completed in 2021
- ▶ Regular local exploitation profiles written, being shared and scrutinised in strategic forums
- ▶ Cross-border working
- ▶ Training has started – based on local and national learning
- ▶ Barnardo's and Checkpoint engaged via 0-19 Commissioning
- ▶ Contextual peer group and location mapping – improved assessment and understanding
- ▶ TSCP website reviewed

Challenges

- ▶ Combining Multi agency data to enhance local profile
- ▶ Embedding pace of change into partnership workforces
- ▶ Exploitation Toolkit performance (70% toolkits in date not achieved yet)
- ▶ Contextual Safeguarding Framework needed (referral, structure, resources)
- ▶ Implementing national learning at pace
- ▶ Staffing across partnership placing partnership Exploitation Leads under pressure
- ▶ Addressing domestic abuse, substance misuse and vulnerability of parents
- ▶ Embedded exploitative networks in Torbay needing to be tackled via organised planning and resources
- ▶ Educational attendance/engagement and poor mental health of children identified as being exploited

Hidden impact of COVID

- Impact on professional visibility in families who may be vulnerable to grooming/cuckooing
- Impact on face to face Return Home Interviews being offered (although now resolved)
- Recruitment/grooming didn't stop when some of our services were severely hindered – resulting in needing to 'catch up' as we got back to full business
- Online grooming and exploitation continued
- Impact on mental health (whole population)
- Impact of reduced school attendance - visibility of children and engagement in learning

Next steps - Children's Services

- Introduction and embedding of refreshed practice expectations and processes
- Toolkit performance – continue to tackle
- Learning from audits into Top 20 undertaken in December 2021
- Learning from RHI dip sampling undertaken in December 2021
- Criminal Exploitation prevention – support service or project??
- Consider recommendations relating to Liquid Logic records system improvements for missing and child exploitation

Next steps - Torbay Safeguarding Partnership

- ▶ Multi Agency Training beginning regarding local processes and local profile
- Incorporate good practice examples into strategic discussions
- Long term (3 year) strategic plan
- Transition to adulthood planning
- Contextual Safeguarding framework
- Consider improvements to children with SEND re: identification and response to child exploitation and missing episodes
- Review referrals into Checkpoint services for children with exploitation toolkits
- Continue work with YOT to compare data re: weapons and substance misuse
- Peninsula MACE forum development

Thank you for your time

- ▶ Any questions/comments??
- ▶ Please note that data/updates on local profile can be available on the day of this presentation.