

Safe Places for Young People – Report of the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Board

Report to Cabinet on 24 May 2022

Background

1. The Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 28 March 2022 to receive an update on exploitation.
2. The Exploitation Team Manager, Katie Buckley, provided an update on the progress made to address issues in connection with exploitation as set out in the submitted presentation. Katie provided reassurance that some excellent work had been carried out across the partnership and she was working with peers across the Country to ensure that they provided key information and support in respect of vulnerable young people and those who had been involved in various aspects of exploitation. The website at <http://www.torbaysafeguarding.org.uk/> had been updated to provide clear messages to children, parents or carers and professionals around safeguarding and exploitation and the support available.
3. It was noted that many vulnerable young people were also living in poor family environments facing domestic abuse, or alcohol or substance misuse and partners were identifying parent’s vulnerability and also providing them with support. Education of children experiencing exploitation was identified as a high area for risk due to children often facing multiple exclusions due to deregulating or not attending school, which was not the appropriate course of action for these young people and work was underway with primary and secondary schools to raise awareness of these individuals to try to reduce some of these exclusions.

Inspector Ian Stevens provided an update on his role as part of the partnership dealing with exploitation in Torbay.

Katie responded to questions on the following:

- How have you been sharing good practice cross border.
- Was county lines the biggest problem or were other types of exploitation more of a concern e.g. sexual exploitation.
- How was antisocial behaviour addressed.
- What action was being taken to ensure that young people have a safe place to go and know where to find such places within their

communities where they can see someone that they know and feel safe.

- What after care was put in place for those who had been exploited.
- What was MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Forum).
- What progress had been made to improve the records for missing children through Liquid Logic.
- How far can you go with criminal exploitation prevention as this is a huge area.

Members noted the progress made and requested regular updates on this important issue.

4. That the Cabinet be recommended (unanimously):

That the Cabinet be recommended to support a review of the impact of the Safe Places project to develop and work with our partners and young people to identify safe places for young people to go to within their communities linked to the Family Hub and Spoke Model and learning from best practice from others.