



Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board

Child Exploitation Update

19th September 2022

**Updated 7th November 2022

Katie Buckley

Child Exploitation Team Manager
– Children's Services

Achievements - 6 months (1 of 2)

- ▶ Multi Agency partnerships and exploitation forums – high challenge and support
- ▶ Regular local exploitation profiles written, being shared and scrutinised in strategic forums.
- ▶ Child Exploitation and Missing Children performance surgeries in place
- ▶ Improvement and embedding of awareness and vulnerability reduction in professional consciousness and practice
- ▶ TSCP Strategic plans for Child Exploitation (Sexual and Criminal) and response to missing children signed off and progressing
- ▶ Cross-border working embedded with good practice being shared
- ▶ Transition Panel with adult services (discussion slots for children being exploited or identified as a Modern Slave)
- ▶ Operation Make Safe – visits to local hoteliers jointly with police cadets to raise awareness & 520 taxi drivers have received awareness information.

Achievements - 6 months (2 of 2)

- ▶ 1st round of local area training completed (multi agency) with varied professionals attending.
- ▶ Process of formal commissioning of more training on CSE/CCE/Missing and Modern Slavery underway – partnership buy in and planning
- ▶ Barnardo's and Checkpoint remain engaged via 0-19 Commissioning
- ▶ Contextual peer group and location mapping – improved assessment and understanding
- ▶ Exploitation and missing children linked to other relevant forums (Youth ASB, YJS, Vulnerable and Homeless Adults)
- ▶ Examples of children and families being supported to reduce vulnerability and reduce exploitation vulnerability assessment (High to Medium and Medium to Low)

Achievements September 2022 - November 2022

- ▶ Multi Agency Response to Operation Might – safeguarding of children potentially committing or victim to youth violence

Multi agency information sharing, complicated strategy framework in place, over 50 safeguarding visits by police officers in 2 weeks

- ▶ Expansion of Barnardo's EXCEED project
- ▶ TSCP Sub Group focused discussion on health data and exclusion data
- ▶ Plan to enhance case records systems for reporting missing and exploited children

Ofsted comments - May 2021

- ▶ Significant progress has been made in addressing child exploitation in Torbay.
- ▶ Children at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation or of going missing from home are assessed using specifically designed assessment tools.
- ▶ Subsequent swift action reduces risks, supporting families to make positive changes.
- ▶ Multi-agency strategic arrangements to track and assess risks are embedded.
- ▶ Tenacious work across the partnership ensures that most exploited and missing children are at the centre of all work and interventions.
- ▶ Staff are rightly proud Inspection of the strategic and operational improvements that have been achieved.
- ▶ Work has progressed from information-sharing to effective collaboration and joint working.
- ▶ This is making a tangible difference to how well children are protected from harm and how successfully their wider welfare is promoted.

Brief overview of local profile

5th September 2022

- ▶ 140 exploitation toolkits (children being monitored by the Exploitation Team)
- ▶ 72 males, 65 females, 2 identifying as transgender and 1 identifying as non binary
- ▶ 104 children identified as vulnerable to Child Criminal Exploitation
- ▶ 64 children identified as vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation
- ▶ 28 children identified as vulnerable to both (a significant improvement)

**Need to continually identify ALL types of child exploitation – national and local practice message regarding ambivalence to CSE due to societal views and also national resource focus on CCE.

**Expectation that financial exploitation is also increasingly recognised.

Brief overview of profile

5th September 2022

Child Criminal Exploitation:

- ▶ 67 males, 34 females, 2 identifying as transgender and 1 identifying as non binary
- ▶ 27 children being criminally exploited (HIGH toolkits)
- ▶ 76 children vulnerable to criminal exploitation (MEDIUM toolkits)

Child Sexual Exploitation:

- ▶ 11 males, 53 females
- ▶ 15 children being sexually exploited (HIGH toolkits)
- ▶ 49 children vulnerable to sexual exploitation (MEDIUM toolkits)

**Practice messages – need to avoid gender bias when identifying types of Child Exploitation

Brief overview of local profile

7th November 2022

- ▶ 141 exploitation toolkits (children being monitored by the Exploitation Team)
- ▶ 75 males, 63 females, 2 identifying as transgender and 1 identifying as non binary
- ▶ 105 children identified as vulnerable to Child Criminal Exploitation
- ▶ 65 children identified as vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation
- ▶ 29 children identified as vulnerable to both (a significant improvement in identifying the interchange between types of exploitation)

**Need to continually identify ALL types of child exploitation – national and local practice message regarding ambivalence to CSE due to societal views and also national resource focus on CCE.

**Expectation that financial exploitation is also increasingly recognised.

Brief overview of profile

7th November 2022

Child Criminal Exploitation:

- ▶ 69 males, 33 females, 2 identifying as transgender and 1 identifying as non binary
- ▶ 21 children being criminally exploited (HIGH toolkits)
- ▶ 83 children vulnerable to criminal exploitation (MEDIUM toolkits)

Child Sexual Exploitation:

- ▶ 11 males, 51 females
- ▶ 10 children being sexually exploited (HIGH toolkits)
- ▶ 55 children vulnerable to sexual exploitation (MEDIUM toolkits)

**Practice messages – need to avoid gender bias when identifying types of Child Exploitation.

**HIGH/BEING EXPLOITED toolkits can quickly reduce with good assessment and planning in initial stages of engagement

Challenges

- ▶ Combining Multi agency data to enhance local profile – vision for a partnership dashboard in place but logistics still to be worked out
- ▶ Educational attendance/engagement, school exclusions and poor mental health of children identified as being exploited – multiple daily challenges for children which increase vulnerability
- ▶ Identification and swift responses to cuckooing and trafficking – confidence and resources (to be tackled in planned training)
- ▶ Contextual Safeguarding Framework needed (referral routes, structure, resources)
- ▶ Implementing national learning at pace with current pressure on partnership resources – including organised responses to organised crime/tackling organised networks and children who require high levels of safeguarding and resource for protection
- ▶ Addressing domestic abuse, substance misuse and vulnerability of parents

Next steps - Children's Services

- Toolkit performance (being up to date within 3 months) – continue to tackle
- Continue to support, train and enhance skills across all services
- Ensure Social Work and Managers attendance at TSCP training
- Consider recommendations relating to Liquid Logic records system improvements for missing and child exploitation
- Reduce duplication of data entry into LCS and use data that is added to LCS more effectively
- Identify Strategic and Operational Leads for Contextual Safeguarding
- Consider NAIRA pilot (Not At Immediate Risk Absent) and Philomena Protocol (missing trigger plans)
- Foster Carer Training – update content and set dates up over Winter 2022/2023
- Focus work with Children With Disability Team – reducing vulnerability to exploitation

Next steps - Torbay Safeguarding Partnership

- Operation Make Safe – raising awareness in the hotelier, public transport and local business industries
- Multi Agency Training – commissioning
- Contextual Safeguarding framework - project manager and identify agency Leads (project timeline has been presented to Business Group)
- Consider improvements to children with SEND and disabilities re: identification and response to child exploitation and missing episodes
- Continue learning from national and local Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Continue cross border working and practice sharing with Peninsula authorities
- Continue supportive links with National Working Group, national and local expert organisations

Thank you for your time

▶ Any questions/comments??

