

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 17 July 2015

**Electoral Division affected:
All**

Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board

Update regarding LSCB key activity

(Appendices A, B C and D refer)



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Executive Summary

The LSCB last reported at the 5 December 2014 meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. Members asked Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) representatives for a further future update on a number of key safeguarding activities which had been referred to in the meeting and the LSCB has also taken the opportunity to provide a number of further updates. Items covered in this report are:

1. Brief summary re LSCB
2. Child Sexual Exploitation:
 - Findings from a CSE diagnostic and responses – Appendix A CSE Diagnostic and Appendix B - Response
 - College of Policing report examining CSE services including multi-agency partners - Appendix C
 - Operation Fervant (formerly Hydrant) a police investigation in to allegations of historical sexual abuse and Post Saville actions
3. Information Sharing CP-IS system update
4. Proposal to develop a shared business unit (and its functions) of the safeguarding adults and children boards
5. Developing links with District councils and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Recommendations:

Committee members are asked to consider each of the reports provided.

Committee members may wish to assure themselves that services provided by Lancashire County Council and its partners to children at risk of sexual exploitation, are effective and sufficient in light of the specific reports about those issues.

Committee Members are asked to note the progress on the implementation of the CP-IS system and the continuing development of the work of the Children's Partnership Boards.

Background and Advice

1. Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

- 1.1. The LSCB has a statutory responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of work undertaken by agencies to safeguard children in Lancashire. The LSCB is required to produce an Annual Report which sets out the work undertaken in this regard in Lancashire. The report for the 2013 -14 financial year was presented to the committee in December 2014. The 2014-15 report will be available in September 2015.
- 1.2. Several areas for development of services were identified and the LSCB remains particularly concerned about services for children experiencing emotional and mental health problems. These challenges have previously been presented to the Lancashire Health and Well Being Board. Ongoing development work has been agreed with the establishment of a high level multi-agency group charged with addressing these concerns. I understand the Scrutiny Committee has also heard further evidence on this matter recently and that progress is being reported to Health Scrutiny in the autumn.
- 1.3. The LSCB continues to work with partner agencies to address all areas for development identified in the Annual Report and Lancashire County Council is a key organisation in all this work. The current LSCB work-plan includes an increased focus on quality assurance activity both through increased analysis of data and inspection activity. A second diagnostic exercise is underway and is looking in detail at the development and effectiveness of the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

2. Child sexual exploitation

- 2.1. The LSCB undertook a multi-agency diagnostic assessment in February 2015. The aim was to assess strengths and areas for development in this area of work and benchmark against the findings from the recent Alexis Jay report, the report by Ann Coffey and also the LGA best practice guidance. The exercise was conducted by a small representative number of professionals from LSCB partner agencies and was led by Jane Booth (Independent Chair LSCB). In March 2015 the College of Policing undertook a peer review of the current arrangements regarding CSE. The aim of the review was to "*assess the capability and capacity of Lancashire constabulary to deal with the threat of CSE.*"
- 2.2. The diagnostic, Appendix A, identified many strengths and a number of areas for future action.
- 2.3. The following areas were identified as good practice:
 - A comprehensive CSE Strategy supported by multi-agency policies and procedures
 - Some strong initiatives around prevention
 - Multi-agency, co-located teams
 - Strong engagement of voluntary sector
 - Strong leadership
 - Strong partnerships in place
- 2.4. The key areas requiring action were;

- The challenge of ensuring effective recognition of CSE in a County as large, diverse, two tiered with a plethora of organisations should not be underestimated
- A CSE coordinator requires appointment
- Specialist health services were absent in two areas. (this has now been addressed)
- Consistency re referral threshold requires further examination
- Changes on police operational arrangements requires close monitoring
- Data analysis requires more attention to outcomes rather than solely volume.

2.5. The relevant organisations were tasked with examining the report and responding formally as to how they plan to build on the significant strengths and respond to the challenges. A full response has been received from the agencies and has resulted in continuing improvement. See Appendix B.

2.6. The report of the Review undertaken by the College of Policing is attached as Appendix C. While the focus was on policing, the review also included partnership working. The report concluded *"Lancashire constabulary has made a significant commitment to tackling the challenge of CSE, focusing upon the delivery of an effective multi-agency safeguarding service for the communities of Lancashire."*

2.7. Good practice areas were:

- Clear commitment to the CSE National Action Plan
- Vision and determination evident
- The message that CSE is a priority is understood throughout the workforce

2.8. Key areas action to support further development were:

- Review risk assessment processes
- Increase capacity to collect and better analyse localised data
- Develop further CSE training opportunities
- CSE problem profile to be updated
- *"..relationship with social services (sic) are good and prompt – however if it comes to mental health social workers or anybody else who is required to make an assessment in respect of mental health then there can be challenges."* This will be raised at the Lancashire Adult Safeguarding Board.

2.9. Together the Diagnostic Exercise and the College of policing Review provide a comprehensive analysis of the quality of CSE Services and the areas for development. The LSCB is monitoring progress of actions resulting from both of these detailed examinations and holding agencies to account for delivering improvements. It has already prompted significant action to enhance services and led to the urgent review of the pan-Lancashire CSE standard operating policy.

2.10 Operation Fervant police investigation

2.11 Operation Fervant (formally Hydrant) has been operating in Lancashire since January 2015 and is part of a national operation set up to investigate allegations made against those in positions of trust or responsibility and celebrities. The unit has undertaken 31 separate investigations originating from within the Constabulary by way of direct public contact or by way of referral from Operation Fervant's central office in South Yorkshire. It is interesting to note that a number of the later referrals emanate from the national Independent Panel Enquiry into child abuse (referred to as the Goddard Enquiry).

2.12 To date Fervant Lancashire have investigated a number of historic sexual abuse allegations made by former children in care at various Children's Home establishments in Lancashire. Other investigations of note include that of a football coach Johnathan Chattle affiliated to Preston North End Football club charged with multiple counts of abuse and a significant number of sexual/physical abuse claims at various educational establishments. Chattle received a six year sentence at Preston Crown Court in June 2015; he will also be on the sex offenders register for life.

2.11 Other on-going cases include historic sexual abuse perpetrated by priests, care home workers and preliminary enquiries into possible offences committed by a celebrity actor and a teacher accused of sexually abusing a pupil in 1997.

3 Information-Sharing Pilot Update

3.1 Lancashire County Council was the first local authority in England to upload its client data to the Child Protection Information Sharing tool developed in partnership between LCC, BTLS, the Health and Social Care Information Centre and Liquid Logic as part of a national programme. The data consists of basic demographic details of all children subject to a Child Protection Plan and all Children Looked After. This information then appears within a child's electronic health record for those professionals within unscheduled care settings such as A&E Departments, out of hours GP services, NW Ambulance.

3.2 As at the 4th March 2015, Lancashire County Council, Wigan MBC and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets were the three LAs live with CP-IS. In Lancashire, the unscheduled care settings with access to the information are Royal Preston Hospital, Chorley and District hospital and all maternity services, county-wide. There are a number of A&E sites in the North of England who are also live and they include Wigan, Wrightington and Leigh Hospital, Calderdale Hospital and Huddersfield Hospital.

3.3 The Health and Social Care Information Centre within the NHS are currently aiming for all LA's and the majority of unscheduled care settings across England to be live with CP-IS by the end of 2018.

3.4 Further and more detailed information can be found at www.hsicic.gov.uk/cpis

4 Children and Adult Safeguarding Board business unit amalgamation

4.1 The statutory basis for the Adult Safeguarding Board was introduced nationally under the Care Act 2014 on the 1 April 2015. In order to fulfil the new requirements effectively and efficiently it has been agreed by both boards to establish a combined adult and children safeguarding board business unit with a small increase in personnel funded by additional contributions from partner agencies. The report attached as Appendix D sets out the proposed structure and the restructured unit will be led by a single business manager. Following appropriate personnel procedure, the target is for the new unit to be fully operational by April 2016 at the latest.

4.2 Whilst there is a significant financial benefit from the establishment of a single business unit there are also efficiencies and increased effectiveness in combining some functions in respect of safeguarding across the full age range. It is anticipated that services will be better coordinated and that the risk of policy and procedural gaps across traditional age transition points will be reduced.

5 Development of the Children's Partnership Boards (CPBs) and links with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- 5.1 The five locality based Children's Partnership Boards (CPB) have been meeting regularly since April 2014. The work previously conducted through the LSCB Locality Safeguarding Groups has been integrated into the CPB agendas and a member of the LSCB Business Unit attends all meetings. The CPBs have an important part to play in safeguarding at the local level and all have work plans that include safeguarding priorities.
- 5.2 The County-wide Children's Trust continues to meet twice a year with the LSCB and a joint conference is scheduled for November 2015.
- 5.3 Links between the LSCB and Police and Crime Commissioner and his team are developing and detailed discussions have taken place with the Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of the challenges in the LSCB Annual Report for 2013-14 and the CSE Diagnostic. A mutual interest in ensuring use of regulatory and licensing powers actively support safeguarding has also resulted in meetings with staff from district councils and a work-stream has been developed to establish best practice standards across the county in respect of the licensing of vehicles for Private Hire. These discussions have primarily focused on how CSE can be disrupted on a pro-active basis by the regulatory and licensing powers of district councils. This will be a key feature of future planning.

6 Consultations

Partner agencies have been consulted regarding the information contained in this report.

7 Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal: The LSCB exists as a result of a statutory requirement. Accountability for its effectiveness rests with the LA Chief Executive. Failure of the LSCB to perform effectively reflects badly on the reputation of all agencies.

Personnel and finance: The staff supporting the Board (the Business Management Team), are "hosted" by the council and provided with line management via the county council management structure. The budget is made up from agency contributions but held by the council and managed in accordance with the council's financial regulations.

Equality and Diversity: The LSCB concerns itself with services to support some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the county. Failure of the LSCB to ensure effective services would impact on these vulnerable groups.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
1. CSE diagnostic	February 2015	Paul Hegarty/LSCB/538352
2. College of Policing	May 2015	Paul Hegarty/LSCB/538352
3. Structure chart of adult and children safeguarding boards	March 2015	Paul Hegarty/LSCB/538352
		Paul Hegarty/LSCB
	May 2015	

Appendices:



CSE Diagnostic
Final Report.pdf



Child Sexual
Exploitationrespons



Lancashire CSE Peer
Review -April Final.1



Adult and Children
safeguarding board