

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

3 October 2018

Update on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Report by Chief Social Work Officer (Report No. 18/321)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update to Perth and Kinross Council on the work being taken forward to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)¹. The Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee (CPC) and Perth and Kinross Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group (CSEWG) continues to be active in taking forward a zero-tolerance of sexual abuse and exploitation.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Scottish Government published [Scotland's National Action Plan to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation \(CSE\)](#) in November 2014, following a number of high profile reports exposing failures to tackle child sexual exploitation in areas across the UK, including Rotherham. Since publication, the Scottish Government has published annual updates on this National Action Plan which can be found [here](#). A multi-agency CSE National Working Group (NWG) continues to take this work forward across Scotland and officers from Perth and Kinross continue to contribute to and influence its work.
- 1.2 In February 2015, Perth and Kinross Council noted a report on CSE which described the work being taken forward locally. It proposed a proactive partnership approach to tackle CSE in Perth and Kinross; the establishment of a Perth and Kinross multi-agency CSE Working Group (CSEWG); the development of a comprehensive CSE Work Plan and emphasised the importance of establishing a zero-tolerance approach to child sexual abuse and exploitation. Perth and Kinross Council approved this report and requested regular progress reports be provided by the CPC to Council.
- 1.3 Tackling CSE remains a key priority for the Perth and Kinross CPC and the CSE Working Group and is a key part of their improvement programme. Annual progress is reported within the annual Perth and Kinross CPC Standards and Quality Reports produced in August of each year. This year's CPC Standards and Quality Report 2017 – 2018 will be noted by Council on 3 October 2018.

¹ Throughout this report references to child sexual exploitation (CSE) apply equally to child sexual abuse (CSA).

1.4 **Perth and Kinross Multi-Agency CSE Working Group (CSEWG) and CSE Work Plan 2017 – 2020**

- 1.4.1 Established in February 2015, the CSEWG first published a comprehensive Work Plan in April 2015. Since then, it has been subject to constant monitoring, review and scrutiny by the CSEWG, the CPC and the Children, Young People and Families Partnership (CYPFP); been reported upon in the annual Perth and Kinross CPC Standards and Quality Reports since 2015 and more recently been externally examined, scrutinised and inspected by the Care Inspectorate as part of their [*Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in Perth and Kinross \(Care Inspectorate: 17 April 2018\)*](#).
- 1.4.2 The [CSE Work Plan](#), which was last refreshed on 10 November 2017, was the subject of a recent progress report (Appendix 1) to the CPC in August 2018, which noted the significant progress made since 2015 and the ongoing work. The Work Plan, which continues to reflect the national CSE Action Plan, contains four workstreams: **prevention; intervention; disruption and prosecution and recovery.**
- 1.4.3 Initially, whilst much of the focus of our local work was on prevention work with the aim of assisting staff, children, young people, parents, carers and the public to recognise CSE; this has subsequently been extended to include an early intervention approach with a focus on recovery and trauma informed practice.

1.5 **Local Action in Perth and Kinross to tackle CSE since 2015**

- 1.5.1 The following provides Perth and Kinross Council with a summary of our ongoing partnership work aimed at creating *a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and exploitation and to ensuring a hostile environment across Perth and Kinross.*
- 1.5.2 Since 2015 and specifically throughout 2017 – 2018 we have:
- established and continued to support the work of the Perth and Kinross multi-agency CSEWG and Workstreams; with clear Terms of Reference and a comprehensive Work Plan which remains subject to regular progress reports and scrutiny;
 - developed, published and continually promoted the [Perth and Kinross CSE Practitioner's Guide and Toolkit](#);
 - developed, maintained and continually promoted the comprehensive [CSE Webpages](#) on the Perth and Kinross CPC website;
 - developed and distributed widely via partners, a significant number of bespoke/specific CSE information and advice leaflets to [young people](#), [parents and carers](#); [hoteliers, accommodation providers and landlords](#); [licensed premises](#) and [taxi/private hire drivers](#);

- recently developed further bespoke/specific CSE information and advice leaflets which, when distributed, will extend our message and reach to include hairdressers, beauty salons and nail bars; takeaways, restaurants and cafes; public transport staff; taxi marshalls and street pastors;
- continued to promote and roll-out the NSPCC, their [Speak Out Stay Safe Schools Programme](#) to all PKC Primary Schools and certain Independent Schools across Perth and Kinross; with increasing numbers of children receiving the programme year-on-year;
- continued to support the annual GIRFEC - Keeping Your Child Safe events in Perth; with the seventh/latest annual event having taken place on 17 May 2018; with a particular focus on new technologies, abuse and exploitation online; with no less than 3,900 delegates having attended these annual events to date;
- continued to support the annual Keeping Yourself Safe Survey across all Schools in Perth and Kinross; with increasing numbers of children and young people completing the survey year-on-year; with this year's survey due to run again in Autumn 2018;
- published and distributed a [Perth and Kinross Directory of Support Services for Abuse and Exploitation](#), showing contact numbers; referral pathways and the abuse and exploitation recovery and support services currently available in Perth & Kinross;
- held a CSE all-day Masterclass on 3 February 2016 for Elected Members, Chief Officers and Senior Managers and Frontline Managers to learn more about CSE from high-profile guest speakers, table-top discussions and workshops; with a second Masterclass being planned for the end of 2018;
- recruited and currently retained 8 multi-agency CSE Training Champions who have to date, collectively facilitated 10 one-day CSE training sessions to 160 multi-agency staff members; all evaluated highly with further sessions planned for 2018 – 2019;
- working in partnership with Barnardo's Scotland, held 2 half-day workshops – Learning disability and CSE; 55 multi-agency delegates attended which they evaluated highly;
- working in partnership with Barnardo's Scotland, held 2 half-day workshops – Identifying and responding to male victims of CSE; 53 multi-agency delegates attended which they evaluated highly;
- promoted awareness and understanding of CSE on PKC/CPC Social Media Platforms (Facebook and Twitter); extended our social media footprint and reach as evidenced by the thousands of shares, likes, impressions and tweets; and

- refreshed and strengthened our [CPC Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidelines](#) to include CSE; including a requirement to specifically consider and address any suspected CSE in our multi-agency screening group (MASG) arrangements and our inter-agency referral discussions (IRDs).

1.6 Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Stop To Listen (STL)

- 1.6.1 A key strand of our local work to tackle abuse and exploitation was Stop to Listen (STL). STL was a national, multi-agency approach, led by Children 1st, which aimed to develop and improve prevention, early intervention and child-centred responses to children and young people who may be at risk of, or have experienced sexual abuse (CSA) and exploitation (CSE).
- 1.6.2 The aim of this work was to improve the way in which key services/agencies work alongside children and young people by building strong and trusting relationships, through which children and young people, who have experienced sexual abuse and/or exploitation, are able to have more control over, and involvement in, the process of disclosure, investigation and recovery. It also aimed to ensure that the multi-agency response process went at their pace as far as possible; responded to their own fears about disclosure and gained trust; whilst offering them support throughout and after the process of disclosure.
- 1.6.3 In 2015, Perth and Kinross was appointed as one of four national Pathfinder areas for this new initiative, led by Children 1st. The three other national Pathfinder areas were Glasgow, North Ayrshire and Renfrewshire. Within Perth & Kinross a multi-agency STL Steering Group, chaired by Jacquie Pepper, then Chair of Perth and Kinross CPC and supported by a STL Pathfinder Project Plan, successfully took forward this pathfinder initiative which concluded in March 2018.
- 1.6.4 Within Perth and Kinross, we focussed on two specific areas of practice/culture change, namely – improving joint investigative interviewing and developing a young people’s peer support and/or advisory group. Of particular note are the improvements we have made to the joint interview facility at Almondbank House in Perth and the establishment of a Young People’s CSE Advisory Group.
- 1.6.5 This pathfinder work is now complete and the CPC has published an Evaluation Report (Appendix 2). This report describes our STL journey; our key achievements and challenges and some of the legacy work we are continuing to take forward in terms of the [CSE Work Plan](#) and CPC Improvement Plan 2018 – 2020.

2. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The information above describes much of the work undertaken by the CPC and CSEWG since February 2015 to tackle abuse and exploitation in Perth and Kinross. A significant amount of other work has been carried out locally

and there is a high commitment across all services/agencies to this important work and to continuing a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and exploitation of children and young people in Perth and Kinross.

2.2 It is recommended that Council:

- (i) Notes the ongoing work of the Child Protection Committee and Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group to tackle abuse and exploitation in Perth and Kinross;
- (ii) Notes the significant progress made via the CSE Work Plan 2017 – 2020 to raise understanding and prevent abuse and exploitation; develop pro-active early and effective intervention; promote trauma informed practices and support for recovery for victims; and
- (iii) Notes the Stop To Listen Pathfinder Evaluation Report at Appendix 2, and ongoing legacy work in Perth and Kinross.

Author(s)

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	n/a
Workforce	n/a
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	n/a
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	n/a
Strategic Environmental Assessment	n/a
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	n/a
Legal and Governance	n/a
Risk	n/a
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	n/a

Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 This report relates to Strategic Objective No (i) Giving every child the best start in life.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 This report relates to Strategic Objective No (i) Giving every child the best start in life.

- 1.3 Education & Children's Services Policy Framework

The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area – Integrated Working.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There are no known resource implications at this time.

Workforce

- 2.2 There are no known workforce implications at this time.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no asset management implications at this time.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Not Applicable.

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 There are no legal implications at this time.

Risk

- 3.5 There are no associated risks at this time.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Democratic Services, Head of Finance, Head of Legal and Governance Services, Corporate Human Resources Manager, the Children, Young People and Families Partnership, Education and Children's Services SMT, the Child Protection Committee and the Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group and partners have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

External

- 4.2 The Child Protection Committee and Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group and partners have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

5. Communication

- 5.1 There are no Communication issues at this time.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Perth and Kinross Child Sexual Exploitation Work Plan 2017 – 2020 Progress Report (31 July 2018)

Appendix 2: Perth and Kinross Stop To Listen Pathfinder Evaluation Report (31 March 2018)