

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

**CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE - REPORT OF THE
PLACES SCRUTINY PANEL**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the report of the Places Scrutiny Panel in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation in North Lincolnshire.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 10 March 2014, the Places Scrutiny Panel approved its draft report on Child Sexual Exploitation in North Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 The report was referred to Cabinet for consideration of the recommendations with a view to the preparation of an action plan.
- 2.3 In recent months the issue of protecting children from sexual exploitation has received a good deal of media attention. Also, findings of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) published in 2012 indicated that CSE was widespread, in both rural and urban areas and that both victims and perpetrators come from a range of ethnic and social backgrounds.
- 2.4 Therefore, with this in mind, the scrutiny panel wished to ensure that North Lincolnshire had embedded in its child protection procedures robust and comprehensive systems in place to identify, support and protect our children and young people from CSE. The scrutiny panel agreed to focus on a number of key issues. These were -
- To develop an understanding of the potential scale and nature of this issue in North Lincolnshire
 - To establish levels of professional awareness of this issue
 - To consider what interventions are available, and which of these are currently being utilised in North Lincolnshire and whether there are any gaps in provision
 - To identify any examples of good practice

- Raise public awareness of this issue

A copy of the Scrutiny Panel's report is attached to this report

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 There are no options associated with this report.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

4.1 There may be some resource implications associated with the recommendations when they are implemented.

5. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

5.1 Not applicable in relation to this current report.

6. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

6.1 The scrutiny panel consulted as appropriate during its review and are included within its report

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That the report and recommendations be approved and adopted.

7.2 That the relevant members and officers prepare an action plan in response to the recommendations of the report for submission to a future meeting of Cabinet.

DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND RESOURCES

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
SCUNTHORPE
DN16 1AB
Author: Richard Mell
Ref: RAM/ CH
Date: 6 March 2014

Background papers used in the preparation of this report - Nil



Places Scrutiny Panel

Child Sexual Exploitation

March 2014



CONTENTS

Foreword from the Chairman	Page 3
Background to the Review	Page 4
Recommendations	Page 5
Findings	Page 7
Conclusion	Page 26
 Appendices	
Appendix 1 – Membership of the Places Scrutiny Panel	Page 27
Appendix 2 – List of stakeholders interviewed by members	Page 28

FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**Councillor
Jonathan Evison**
Chairman of the
Places Scrutiny
Panel

Child sexual exploitation is a horrible and extremely emotive type of abuse, it destroys the very essence of an individual before they have any true experience of life, unfortunately this type of abuse has always been with us, and it can happen to anyone's children irrespective of background, race or religion. It is only in the last few years that this type of abuse has started to be looked for as a main priority when assessing vulnerable children. This report shows the advances we have made in North Lincolnshire in helping these young victims and will help to benchmark, highlight and share good practice, strengthening our fight against the perpetrators and our resolve to care for and protect our young people.

Over the next decade nationally and locally detection of this type of abuse will be seen to increase, this must be viewed as a positive, we are becoming better at identifying perpetrators and victims. The result of this will be more children released from this lonely sole destroying silent form of abuse that seriously destroys their lives - more help will

be available to victims and the perpetrators will be caught and hopefully punished.

We need to engage our communities and businesses to be our eyes and ears encouraging people to report things we all sometimes see that appear odd or out of place. We also need to continue the support given to our front line. Even though crimes associated with child sexual exploitation in percentage terms is quite small, because of the devastating effect it has - we need to continue in giving it a higher priority.

As Chairman of the Places Scrutiny Panel, I would like to recognise the input of Nikki Alcock, the council's Safeguarding and LSCB Service Manager. Nikki agreed to become co-opted to the panel despite her busy workload and her knowledge and experience has proved invaluable time after time.

I would also like to thank the large number of contributors to the report and the officers for the diligence in helping to collate and assemble it.

Councillor Jonathan Evison
Chairman of the Places Scrutiny Panel

BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW

The exploitation of children is an appalling act committed by the worst kind of perpetrators. Ensuring the safety of vulnerable children is one of the most important jobs the council does and there is no room for complacency when it comes to protecting children.

In recent months the issue of protecting children from sexual exploitation has received a good deal of media attention. Recent high profile cases of abuse, including those perpetrated by Jimmy Savile and prosecutions in Rochdale, Rotherham and Oxford has put child sexual exploitation (CSE) in the national spotlight.

Findings of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation published in 2012 indicated that CSE was widespread, in both rural and urban areas and that both victims and perpetrators come from a range of ethnic and social backgrounds.

Therefore, with this in mind, Members wished to ensure that North Lincolnshire had embedded in its child protection procedures, robust and comprehensive systems in place to identify, support and protect our children and young people from CSE.

Consequently, the panel agreed to explore this issue further.

SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

The scrutiny panel agreed to focus on a number of key issues. These were -

- (i) To develop an understanding of the potential scale and nature of this issue in North Lincolnshire
- (ii) To establish levels of professional awareness of this issue
- (iii) To consider what interventions are available, and which of these are currently being utilised in North Lincolnshire and whether there are any gaps in provision
- (iv) To identify any examples of good practice
- (v) Raise public awareness of this issue

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Resources

Due to the growing body of research and evidence currently in circulation, and the emerging patterns of child sexual exploitation used by perpetrators, there is a need on the part of the council and its partners to respond to this and the panel recommends that partners keep under review the level of resourcing made available for the prevention, detection and prosecution of offenders, in order to ensure that children and young people are safeguarded and supported appropriately.

2 Raising Awareness

(a) Community Engagement

That the wider partnership develop and implement a long term plan for awareness raising with children, young people, families, foster carers, businesses, voluntary and community sector, Faith Groups and schools. Through the LSCB and in collaboration, partners will further develop awareness raising with the wider community to enable members of the public to be vigilant, identify and report concerns to the appropriate agencies, for example, the use of the council's magazine Direct to inform and increase parental awareness of CSE.

(b) Council Employees

All frontline council workers, even those who do not work directly with children and young people, should be trained to recognise the warning signs and vulnerabilities of child sexual exploitation, and know how to report anything that might give them cause to believe that a child maybe at risk or is experiencing CSE.

(c) Councillors and Overview and Scrutiny

That the council ensures that all councillors receive CSE training as part of their wider safeguarding role, on an annual basis. Child Sexual Exploitation training should also be covered as part of the elected member induction process.

3 Communication

(a) Community Safety Partners

That consideration be given by Humberside Police and the Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership to updating their respective websites to include information on child sexual exploitation. This would allow children and young people, parents and partners to be directed to the relevant agency to allow them to receive the help and support they need.

(b) Social Media

- i The panel recommends that the LSCB develop and consult on a social media strategy for raising awareness of child sexual exploitation in North Lincolnshire. This would allow a more coherent and targeted approach to be implemented, building on the good work already undertaken on the 'poster campaign'.
- ii That the LSCB give consideration to providing an on-line facility, whether it be Twitter, Facebook or the council's web site, for members of the public to share concerns they may have with regard to the safety of a child or young person.

4 Training

That the council and wider partnership give a clear commitment that the current training provision be, as a minimum maintained, and, if financially possible, the budget increased.

5 Licensing

That the council ensures that there are clear lines of dialogue between the Police, People directorate and the licensing boards. As part of their scrutiny role, Local Safeguarding Children's Boards should monitor the relationship between the police, children's social care departments and licensing boards and ensure that any recommendations made to the licensing board are acted upon. The council and Police must make greater use of licensing to tackle the issue of grooming.

6 Schools

- a That the council continues to encourage schools to raise awareness of CSE, and gives a commitment to work with other education providers, such as academies, to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation among their pupils. In addition, the LSCB gives a commitment to continue to provide information and training on sexual exploitation to both frontline and strategic professionals responsible for young people's welfare.
- b That the LSCB give consideration to raising the awareness of child sexual exploitation risks among Year 5, 6 and 7 students.

7 Priorities

That Humberside Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside acknowledge that tackling child sexual exploitation is a priority in North Lincolnshire, and that this be reflected within the force's priorities and in the Police and Crime Plan.

8 Police

That the Police consider the implementation of disruption tactics to ensure a much more direct approach to targeting alleged perpetrators of CSE.

9 Health

That the wider partnership continue to provide support, assistance or resources to ensure that a children's Sexual Abuse Referral Centre is established within the Humberside area.

FINDINGS

Evidence submitted to the Office of Children's Commissioner as part of the most in-depth investigation in England into the size of the problem around child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups stated, that at least 16,500 children were identified as being at risk during one year and 2,409 children were confirmed as victims of sexual exploitation in gangs and groups during the 14 month period from August 2010 to October 2011. Evidence indicated that in any given year the actual number of children being abused is far greater than the 2,409 that had been confirmed.

Members were very clear from the outset that the number of suspected cases of child sexual exploitation (CSE) was not the focus of the review. The focus was ensuring that North Lincolnshire had embedded in its child protection procedures, robust, concise and comprehensive systems to identify, support and protect our children and young people from CSE.

What exactly is Child Sexual Exploitation?

The Supplementary Guidance to Working Together 2009 defines Child Sexual Exploitation as -

'Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use

of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterized in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and /or emotional vulnerability¹.

The Office of the Children's Commissioner defined CSE by gangs and groups as follows -

Gangs are relatively durable, predominantly street-based, social groups of children, young people and, not infrequently, young adults who see themselves, and are seen by others, as affiliates of a discrete, named group who (1) engage in a range of criminal activity and violence; (2) identify or lay claim to territory; (3) have some form of identifying structural feature; and (4) are in conflict with similar groups.

Groups are two or more people of any age, connected through formal or informal associations or networks, including, but not exclusive to, friendship groups².

Sexual exploitation can take many forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for attention, affection, accommodation or gifts, to serious organised crime and child trafficking. What

¹ Department for Children, Schools and Families - Working Together 2013, Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation

² (Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into CSE in Gangs & Groups Final Report, Nov. 2013)

marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power within the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim, increasing the dependence of the victim as the exploitative relationship develops.

Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from their peers to have sex, sexual bullying (including cyber bullying), and grooming for sexual activity. Technology can also play a part in sexual abuse. A common factor in all cases is the lack of free economic or moral choice.

The Supplementary Guidance states that -

“Sexual exploitation is not limited to particular geographical areas and all Local Safeguarding Children Boards should assume that it is an issue in their area”.

CSE has been identified throughout the UK, in both rural and urban areas and in all parts of the world.

Members realised the enormity of the situation after having read national guidance and research that indicates any child or young person may be at risk of sexual exploitation, regardless of their family background, however, some groups are particularly vulnerable. These include children and young people who have a history of running away or of going missing from home, those with special needs, those in and leaving residential and foster care, migrant children, unaccompanied asylum seeking children, children who have disengaged from

education and children who are abusing drugs and alcohol or those involved in gangs.

Local Safeguarding Children’s Board

One of the ways that local authorities and their partners are held to account is by Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards (LSCB), which were set up under the Children’s Act 2004. Representatives from Children’s Social Care, the Police and NHS all sit on the Board, which is designed to co-ordinate the safeguarding and promotion of welfare of children within the local authority and to scrutinise the effectiveness of and assure the quality of work done by each of the agencies represented on the Board³.

As well as co-ordinating between and scrutinising the work of agencies, the LSCB is responsible for promoting safeguarding training, undertaking serious case reviews and publishing an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.

In order to reduce the impact on children and young people and families of CSE in North Lincolnshire, the LSCB has consulted and produced a strategy and action plan to ensure that all agencies work together effectively to achieve the shared commitment of reducing the harm and numbers of children drawn into sexual exploitation and pursuing perpetrators of this form of abuse and crimes against children and young people.

A sub group of the LSCB was established in 2011, which aimed to tackle the risks to children and young people by implementing

³ Children Act 2004, Part 2, Section 14

effective strategies and plans to ensure that effective multi-agency and partnership working occurs.

The commitment to funding prevention, safeguarding, bringing offenders to justice and maintaining public confidence remains an LSCB priority. North Lincolnshire is excellent on its support to victims and victim focussed work but Members believe further work will need to be developed on offender-focussed information in order to inform further understanding of CSE issues.

Members were aware that nationally, partner agencies are directing resources towards the creation and operation of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH). In fact, one of the final Munro Report recommendations was that council's look at new 'gatekeeping' methods in children's social care. A MASH allows partners to provide information sharing across all organisations involved in safeguarding – encompassing statutory, non-statutory and third sector sources. Essentially the hub will analyse information that is already known within separate organisations in a coherent format to inform all safeguarding decisions. Locally there was a mixed reaction to the creation of a MASH in North Lincolnshire. Some partners believed that the area needed a MASH, whilst other partners were of the opinion that a MASH would simply duplicate the existing provisions that are already in place. It would be inappropriate for the scrutiny panel to make a judgement either way, bearing in mind that the LSCB had facilitated a debate amongst partners to determine whether the concept of

a MASH should be explored locally, deeming it was not necessary at this particular moment in time.

However, North Lincolnshire does have its very own co-located multi-agency team. Multi-agency partnerships, especially those that include the Police, can have distinct advantages over looser networks of support: establishing shared expectations and approaches, facilitating information sharing and coordinating support with action on perpetrator(s). These benefits are amplified by team members being co-located, as found in evaluations of Barnardo's co-located police/social worker Eclipse service⁴ and noted in the University of Bedfordshire's comprehensive 2011 study:

“the most successful organisational model is where specialist staff from a range of agencies work together in a dedicated multi-agency unit. ... The data revealed a significant difference between the achievements of agencies working together in co-located multi-disciplinary teams and those where partnership working is yet to develop 'off the page' of the local strategy”⁵.

This positive approach to partnership working can only be a good thing to assist the protection of children and young people in North Lincolnshire.

Members explored in detail the March 2013 LSCB strategy for tackling child exploitation in North Lincolnshire. This multi-agency strategy allowed partners to have a shared understanding of the problem of sexual

⁴ Barnado's (2010)

⁵ University of Bedfordshire (2011) p. 39 paras 4.25-4.26

exploitation. More importantly, the document provided a mechanism for agencies to be held to account for their actions or failures to act.

Members were reassured to hear that contrary to the national picture, North Lincolnshire's LSCB did collate data in such a way as to give a picture⁶ of the extent and nature of CSE in the local area. A risk mapping exercise had been undertaken in 2012 following the interim Office of the Children's Commissioner report and recommendations in 2012. The document was again refreshed and updated in 2013.

The LSCB had also established a sub group specifically to address exploitation, which included CSE, and implemented an action plan for tackling child sexual exploitation in North Lincolnshire.

The panel noted the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee report, which recommended that "every Local Safeguarding Children's Board should publish an annual report on the work of the child sexual exploitation team, using the data collected to assess the scale and nature of child sexual exploitation within the local area. Such a report ought to include data on the number of: complaints; investigations; prosecutions; convictions: and police officers, social workers and other specialist support workers working on child sexual exploitation⁷.

Raising Awareness

'It is important that all young people develop the knowledge and skills they need to make safe and healthy choices about relationships and sexual health. This will help them to avoid situations that put them at risk of sexual exploitation and to know who to turn to if they need advice and support. The need for information goes wider ... to raise the awareness of parents and professionals as well⁸.'

The National Action Plan and the 2009 supplementary guidance on safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation both emphasise the importance of awareness raising for two reasons:

- to help protect children and young people from being abused, by teaching them what to look out for, what to do if they are threatened and where to turn for support
- to identify those who have been sexually exploited, by informing parents and carers and by training professionals in what to look out for and what to do if they suspect abuse.

Any young person regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity and sexuality can be at risk of being sexually exploited. Indeed, children from loving and secure homes can also be victims of sexual exploitation. This is because the characteristics common to all victims are not always their age, disability or sexual exploitation, but their powerlessness and vulnerability.

⁶ Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, Out of Sight, Out of Mind, p8

⁷ House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, Child Sexual Exploitation and the response to localised grooming, Second Report of Session 2013-14, p17.

⁸ Department for Education (2011) paragraph 29 and paragraph 34.

The 2011 report by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) 'Out of Mind, Out of Sight' highlighted that the vulnerability of many victims makes them particularly susceptible to the grooming tactics used by offenders. Most victims are groomed to an extent by their exploiter with a variety of persuasive methods used to control and keep them in exploitative situations.

The development of new technologies, social networking tools and platforms presents new opportunities for social interaction, but also brings new risks and increases the opportunity for offenders to target vulnerable young people. Facebook and Blackberry messaging are known to be accessed by offenders to identify young people whom they can groom.

The role of the local community in North Lincolnshire is vital in sharing information, and identifying areas of concern. Local residents are very often the eyes and ears of the community, and have a duty to pass on any concerns to any of the partner agencies. It is the panel's view that children and young people are more likely to be protected from child sexual exploitation if professionals, young people, parents and the wider community have a better understanding of the problem, can recognise key signs and know how to respond.

The LSCB has a task and finish group which spans a number of agencies and are looking at a range of activities around community engagement, including raising awareness of 'Pub Watch', 'Shop Watch', Faith Groups and

bus companies. Taxi drivers have been trained in safeguarding awareness.

However, Members firmly believe that the promotion and community engagement activity in North Lincolnshire could be further improved and extended. . This needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Partners agreed that more must be done in North Lincolnshire to inform and educate the general public on not only the dangers of CSE, but where help can be accessed too. The Members therefore believe that a sustained, resourced community engagement programme needs to be developed by the wider partnership in order to inform and educate North Lincolnshire residents.

Schools

Teachers are more likely to see victims on a regular basis than almost any other professional. They will notice recurrent or prolonged absences and significant changes in behaviour. They are therefore key in identifying children at risk at an early stage and, by raising concerns at an early stage, being able to potentially stop the grooming process before the sexual exploitation has begun.

Members were informed that there are statutory duties on schools in relation to child protection and these are exercised through school governing bodies. Ofsted is responsible for driving school improvement, inspection and regulation of schools. 'Staying safe' is one of the five outcomes in Every Child Matters and keeping young people safe is

part of the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum in schools. Ofsted evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding as part of their inspection of schools.

A well planned, coherent and effective PSHE programme will provide concrete evidence of the school's provision in promoting pupils' behaviour and safety and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Educational attainment cannot be raised without investment in PSHE. It also provides evidence of the impact of this on achievement and on 'developing a wide range of skills that will prepare pupils for the next stage in their education or employment drawing on excellent subject knowledge, promoting resilience, confidence and independence'. PSHE in schools is delivered as a coherent, progressive programme of study with partners and is not regarded as a one-off exercise. Members were informed that PSHE is not part of the national curriculum and not part of the current national curriculum review. North Lincolnshire, however, is one of few local authorities to retain PSHE expertise.

Members were delighted to hear of the success of North Lincolnshire's PSHE programme. Colleagues from across the partnership were nothing but complimentary of the 'healthy relationship' approach that is embedded in every secondary school.

Governing bodies have a statutory duty to promote the health and well being of pupils. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural dimensions of school are critical to ensuring

that children have good moral health, as this will enable them to make healthy judgements. Examples of work being undertaken in schools are the development of anti-bullying policies in schools; providing learning around the risk of drug and alcohol abuse and helping to develop children's social and emotional health as well as leading learning around healthy eating and sexual health. School governors have an important role in holding the senior leadership team to account for ensuring that school is a safe environment for pupils.

All staff and governing bodies in North Lincolnshire are supported by the LSCB offer of regular training and development on child protection. Members welcomed more of this, especially at an earlier awareness level by using the LSCB CSE Awareness Raising training package.

Members sought reassurance that school staff in North Lincolnshire were sufficiently well informed to deal with a disclosure of CSE at school. Members were informed that there is a Safeguarding lead in all schools and that all staff, including governors should have received training on child protection.

School Nursing

The School Nursing Team consist of trained nurses, Health Care Assistants and clerical staff.

They are trained to work with children, families and school staff and have a special interest in every school-aged child's health.

The team has links with many other professionals, who also work with children, to support children and young people throughout their school life.

Members heard of the excellent work being done in our schools by nurses, assisting students with a range of mental, physical and health problems. Healthcare professionals are likely to be among those who are alerted first to some of the warning signs of sexual exploitation.

Members wished to see a commitment from partners to continue with the existing provision and ensure that the current excellent relationship with the areas schools is extended to the new forms of school organisation like academies.

However, the scrutiny panel does acknowledge that this will be dependent on the outcome of the current council review into the School Nursing service provided in North Lincolnshire. Members heard that the council is seeking to increase the accessibility of the service, extending the service for young people up to 19 years old, and including the service in creating an integrated 0-19 provision.

The Members request the outcome of the review.

Social Care

In October 2011 the Office of the Children's Commissioner launched a two-year inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (CSEGG). The inquiry produced three reports. The first was an 'accelerated report' specifically addressing the extent to which children in residential care are affected by localised grooming, which was requested by the Secretary of State for Education following the convictions of the Rochdale men in 2012.

The accelerated report, published in July 2012 found that although the majority of victims of child sexual exploitation lived at home with their families, those in care were disproportionately represented⁹.

However, this was not the case here in North Lincolnshire. Evidence from the council's Social Workers allayed Members' fears that our children in care were not being exploited. Locally, placements for children in care are, unless in extreme circumstances, within North Lincolnshire. This, therefore, did not distance the victims from their family and friends which was seen as a positive for the child or young person.

However, running away or going missing from home or care is a key indicator that a young person may be being groomed for sexual exploitation. It is therefore recommended good practice that, upon return, a 'return interview' is carried out to understand why the young person went missing.

⁹ Office of the Children's Commissioner, Accelerated Report, Briefing for the Rt Hon Michael Gove, MP, Secretary of State for Education, on the emerging findings of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, with a special focus on children in care, July 2012, p40.

Consequently, the Department for Education published its statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care on 17 January 2014. The guidance stated that when a child is found, they must be offered an independent return interview. Independent return interviews provide an opportunity to uncover information that can help protect children from the risk of going missing again, from risks they may have been exposed to while missing or from risk factors in their home.

The interview should be carried out within 72 hours of the child returning to their home or care setting. This should be an in-depth interview and is normally best carried out by an independent person (i.e., someone not involved in caring for the child) who is trained to carry out these interviews and is able to follow-up any actions that emerge. Children sometimes need to build up trust with a person before they will discuss in depth the reasons why they ran away¹⁰.

Although Members wish to see this Statutory Guidance considered by the LSCB as soon as is practicable, they do acknowledge that all children in care are offered a return interview by the children's advocate. In addition, multi-agency missing children protocol has been in place since 2010, and is currently being revised in line with this guidance

Panel Members were greatly reassured that Children's Services continue to strengthen arrangements that are in place in relation to CSE, in particular regarding the transition of 16 and 17 year olds who have been subject of

a care or child in need plan to ensure that there is a safeguarding adult plan when they reach their 18th birthday.

The fact that a young person is 16 years old and has reached the legal age of being able to consent to sex should not be taken as a sign that they are no longer at risk of sexual exploitation. These young people are still defined as children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004 respectively. They can still suffer significant harm as a result of sexual exploitation and their right to support and protection from harm should not be ignored or de-prioritised by services because they are over the age of 16, or are no longer in mainstream education or training.

One area that both partners and Members shared concern was with regards to looked after children reaching the age of 18. Currently, once a young person reaches 18, the individual is no longer considered to be a child. Consequently, there is the real possibility that they could disappear off the "vulnerable radar", thus losing access to the support they have been used to during their childhood.

However, Members were delighted to hear that locally, partners all gave a commitment to supporting our young people up to and after their 18th birthday. This pledge is yet another example of the outstanding and unwavering support that North Lincolnshire's children and young people receive from the wider partnership.

¹⁰ Department for Education, Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care, 17 January 2014, page 14

Health

Locally, Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (NLaG) provide health and care services to communities in Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Scunthorpe and Goole. The Trust covers the local authority areas of North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and East Riding of Yorkshire.

Primarily, the North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group commission's health and care services.

Healthcare professionals are likely to be among those who are alerted to some of the warning signs of sexual exploitation, such as repeated sexually transmitted infections, physical injuries, changes in appearance and self harm.

National data published by the Office of the Children's Commissioner showed that 11,800 children had presented at a sexual health clinic on more than one occasion, 900 of whom had a repeat sexually transmitted infection. In the 2010-11 financial year, 1,193 children under the age of 16 had a second or subsequent abortion¹¹.

With this data in mind, Members were alarmed to hear that research by the National Working Group tackling CSE has found that nationally, as well as being unwilling to share information with other agencies, there were also issues around whether health professionals were likely to share data with each other. This was particularly true of the Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) clinic, Paediatrics, Accident and Emergency (A&E),

Gynaecology and Maternity. Understandably so, this was of grave concern to the scrutiny panel.

However, following lengthy discussions with the Clinical Commissioning Group and Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust, Members were reassured that these blockages were not evident in North Lincolnshire. In fact, partners were very complimentary of the information sharing protocols implemented locally, with all agencies expressing their complete confidence that information would be circulated to the relevant agency. Safeguards were in place to ensure that should an incident arise whereby information was not being shared, then the relevant protocols were in place for that information to be obtained.

The need for confidentiality within the Health Service has and is regarded as a barrier that partners need to consider and find an acceptable solution to, as it can protect perpetrators and not victims. Equally, there is a balance around confidentiality and young people's right to have relationships. Members acknowledge that health practitioners have a very challenging task in assisting the victim without protecting the perpetrator.

The Trust provides universal services to young people, including School Nurses. As was mentioned previously, these services are popular with young people. However, the transformation of education services in North Lincolnshire and the increasing number of

¹¹ Office of the Children's Commissioner, Interim Report, 'I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world'. p114

academies being developed was seen as a risk. School nurse provision in academies remained uncertain at this time.

GUM and CASH (Contraception and Sexual Health) services nationally and locally have a pivotal role in preventing and protecting children and young people and in supporting enforcement agencies such as police and crown prosecution services in pursuing offenders. Locally, the support of GUM and CASH is very much appreciated by North Lincolnshire agencies who acknowledge their dilemma of providing care and of preventing this form of abuse.

Nationally, there is research/evidence that victims and perpetrators are 'CASH Shopping' to evade detection similar to the 'hospital shopping' seen in physical abuse. Therefore, further work needs to be undertaken on children presenting from out of area into our Accident and Emergency departments and Walk In Clinics. The need to agree and implement an information sharing protocol on this issue along North Lincolnshire's border is therefore crucial.

The Department of Health has also commissioned Dame Fiona Caldicott to lead a review to ensure that an appropriate balance is struck between the protection of confidential and identifiable information within health and care records and the use and sharing of that information for research and a range of other purposes. In addition, a health-working group is currently investigating child sexual exploitation which will produce a report and recommendations

on the role of health professionals in supporting victims of child sexual exploitation in the long-term¹².

The Members await the outcome of Dame Caldicott's review with interest.

Police

Despite the increased profile of CSE and improvements in how the police work with partner agencies, the under reporting of child sexual exploitation remains a national issue.

In November 2012 the Office of the Children's Commissioner interim report into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups 'I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world', highlighted that sexually exploited children are not always identified even when they show signs of being victims.

Members were reassured that all officers and staff working in child protection appeared to be deeply committed to their work. They were professional, diligent and focused upon achieving good outcomes for the children with whom they work

Members also heard that the force has made considerable efforts to improve the response to victims and potential victims of child sexual exploitation. For instance, they have improved their engagement with other agencies and organisations, which have responsibilities in relation to child protection.

Anecdotal evidence from officers suggested that the emphasis from senior and middle managers was still more focused on dealing

¹² House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, Child Sexual Exploitation and the response to localized grooming, Second Report of Session 2013-14, p 47.

with other offences, rather than child sexual exploitation. This was partly due to the performance framework that governs the recording of crime committed and those that are solved, and the fact that child sexual exploitation is not listed as a priority on either the Humberside Police website or in the Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan for 2013-17.

It was also pointed out to Members that staffing structures, resources and the approach to responding to child sexual exploitation have developed independently across the four policing divisions of Humberside. However, the scrutiny panel was informed that the Chief Constable was aware of this anomaly and was seeking to address how the force responded to child sexual exploitation.

Whilst the Police and criminal justice agencies lead on this, the support of all partners in gathering and recording information/evidence is vital. All those involved in caring for or working with a child who is suspected to be at risk of sexual exploitation, should gather, record and share relevant information in line with their agency practice. Parents and carers should also be encouraged and supported to do so, ensuring that information is recorded appropriately, as this may be required in subsequent criminal proceedings.

Members strongly believed that disrupting the activity of perpetrators can reduce the incidence of abuse and sends a very valuable message to children, young people, their

families and their carers. Members would therefore like to see the Police identify and publicise the early preventative measures that will be put in place, as well as endorsing the use of more intrusive interventions.

The force has made a concerted effort to raise the awareness of staff about the risks of child sexual exploitation. Although no formal evaluation of the training has been completed, officers spoken to by Members were confident that it had been well received.

A further disruption tactic that may be used follows the 'Childhood Lost' campaign, supported by over 100,000 people who signed a petition, which proposes changes to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse. Consequently, the panel supports the amendments to the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to introduce a Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Order. The crucial change is that an order could be issued if the defendant hasn't been convicted of anything, providing there is evidence of the danger they pose to children.

Once enacted, Scrutiny Panel Members hope that criminal justice partners will proactively seek to implement the new Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Order to protect North Lincolnshire's children and young people

Members heard of a nearby Police force's (Sheffield) efforts to tackle the issue of child sexual exploitation perpetrators using local hotels as locations in which to offend. Police

Officers successfully persuaded hotel managers across the city to work with them to create processes that would enable the Police to respond to any activity that hotel staff suspected to be child sexual exploitation. Hotel staff were provided with training to help them recognise the signs, and Police Officers were encouraged to provide an appropriate level of response. Proactive initiatives should be considered here in North Lincolnshire, orientated towards detection of CSE taking account of local perpetrator patterns and locations.

Partners were very clear there was a link between those victims of CSE and substance mis-use. This revelation caused Members to pursue locally the substance mis-use processes and procedures with regards to CSE.

Members learnt that with regard to the substance mis-use service, the DELTA (Young Persons Drug Treatment) team members have previously received child sexual exploitation awareness training and regular updates, due to the Co-ordinator being a member of the LSCB CSE sub group. The CSE warning signs and vulnerability checklist as issued by Children's Commissioner is part of DELTA's assessment process. Any risky adults or concerns of a safeguarding nature that came to light would then either go to weekly multi-disciplinary team meetings (MDT) as part of information sharing or contact the relevant drug service directly depending on the circumstances.

There doesn't appear to be anything from the providers in terms of internal workforce development but all Addaction staff have attended local LSCB training and NLaG Child protection awareness training as well as mandatory safeguarding children e-learning packages - all of which address CSE at various levels. Crime Reduction Initiatives and the Junction staff have attended LSCB training.

However, despite this, Members would like CSE to be built into the service specification so that commissioners can monitor and enforce any aspects of the contract that are not being delivered.

Members heard that the Police and Children's Services facilitate a multi-agency weekly meeting which discusses CSE. The 'Thursday' meeting sees numerous partners attend, contribute and respond to actions on a number of issues CSE related. National good practice shows that at the core of any strategic response to CSE is the need for multi-agency strategy meetings to plan and monitor action¹³. In North Lincolnshire, these meetings serve to share multi-agency intelligence and agree strategy to be implemented on individual children and young people which is in addition to daily operational child protection meetings.

All partners were of the opinion that the meeting is an excellent forum for intelligence sharing to allow an exchange of information which supports both the identification of victims' and the development of appropriate responses.

¹³ Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation – Helping Local Authorities to Develop Effective Responses, Local Government Association and Barnado's, p9

However, concern was raised that the meeting is not properly resourced or supported. Humberside Police currently service, support and facilitate the meeting. It does not, however, have any dedicated secretariat. This is a matter that the wider partnership should address as soon as is practicable.

Record Keeping and Documentation

Good record keeping is an important part of a professional's task. Records should use clear straightforward language, be concise, and accurate. They should clearly differentiate between facts, opinion, judgements and hypothesis.

Members heard that well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. Safeguarding children requires information to be brought together from a number of sources, and careful professional judgements to be made on the basis of this information. Records must be clear, accessible, and comprehensive. The subject of a record does have the right in law to request access to them at any stage. Judgements made, actions and decisions taken should be carefully recorded. Where decisions have been taken jointly across agencies, or endorsed by a manager, this should be made clear on the case records.

Locally, all records clearly provide the chronology of the case and demonstrate how the process has been managed by the professional and indicate how actions taken and decisions made have been endorsed by line managers and senior managers.

Specifically, the reader should be able to track the plan for the case through:

- the information about the child and family and actions taken from referral through interventions to outcome and closure of the case;
- identified and potential risks of harm, the source of harm and those at risk;
- the intended outcome for the child, the interventions which have taken place, by whom and the reasons for intervention;
- the evidence that change has taken place; and
- an analysis of the progress that is being made.

Members learnt that research and experience locally has shown repeatedly that safeguarding children requires professionals and others to share information about:

- a child's health, development and exposure to possible harm;
- a parent who may need help, or may not be able, to care for a child adequately and safely; and
- those who may pose a risk of harm to a child.

Often, it is only when information from a number of sources has been shared that it becomes clear that a child is at risk. This is one area where, locally, partners were very complimentary of the relationship that exists amongst professionals. Information is freely shared and partners were, fortunately, unable to give any examples whereby information that had been requested had not been shared.

Personal information about children and families held by professionals is subject to a duty of confidence, and should normally not be disclosed without the consent of the subject. However, the law permits the disclosure of confidential information necessary to safeguard a child. Members were reassured to hear that all partners were in agreement that professionals can only work together effectively to safeguard children, if there is an exchange of relevant information between them. Fortunately, this is the practice here in North Lincolnshire.

Sexual Abuse Referral Centres

One area of concern expressed by partners was the lack of a Sexual Abuse Referral Centre (SARC) in the Humberside area.

SARCs are specialist medical and forensic services for anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted. They aim to be a one-stop service, providing the following under one roof: medical care and forensic examination following assault/rape and, in some locations, sexual health services.

SARCs are mostly able to assist in the immediate aftermath of an assault but do not offer long term specialised counselling and advocacy services. SARCs are funded and run in partnership, usually between the NHS, Police and the voluntary sector.

Most SARCs are able to offer medical services to anyone including those who do not wish to report the assault to the Police ('self referrals'). Service users can then choose whether they would like to inform the Police

at a later stage and have their samples stored whilst they are considering what to do next. It is hoped that through this option service users can take back some control over what is happening whilst allowing more time to make such an important decision.

Locally, since 2013, victims of CSE are forensically examined at Manchester due to the lack of availability of a suitably qualified Paediatrician. Clearly this was a cause for concern for the scrutiny panel. However, Members were informed that provisions are being put in place for victims to be examined in Hull as was the case before the service was commissioned through Manchester. Three Paediatrician's are currently being trained, and, once completed, a five day a week service will be provided. This process is not one that can be rushed, as recent prosecutions have been unsuccessful based on the perception that Paediatrician's were not suitably trained to undertake such examinations. The Panel sincerely hopes that this arrangement with Hull does come to fruition, and urges the wider partnership to provide any support, assistance or resources to ensure it's successfully implemented.

Licensing

Members consistently heard from stakeholders that North Lincolnshire needs to be more proactive with taxi companies, hoteliers and fast food establishments in raising awareness of CSE and other forms of exploitation that can occur. This is essential as many taxi drivers and hoteliers have, by the nature of their work, access to young vulnerable children and young adults'.

North Lincolnshire’s Licensing Unit and LSCB collaborate when concerns are raised over the conduct of taxi drivers or fast food establishments, with the revocation of the licence the ultimate sanction against the individual and/or business.

Nationally, fast food establishments have come to the attention of LSCBs as they are often a popular meeting place where young people hang around. Members believe that the council should consider applying a more robust approach when approving any future developments of fast food establishments.

Licensing boards set up by the local authority regulate both food restaurants and taxi licensing offices. It is therefore essential that there is an exchange of information between the Police, People directorate and the licensing board so that action could be taken if there was a concern around an individual or a location.

The council’s Licensing Manager sits on the CSE Group of the LSCB. This proactive inclusive approach by the LSCB should be applauded. However, Members would like to see the council amend its many Licensing policies to incorporate CSE within them. Whilst CSE it could be argued is covered ‘loosely’ in the ‘statement of Licensing Policy’ Protection of Children from Harm for example, a definitive explanation of CSE in the policies would show a real statement of intent that this heinous crime will not be tolerated and will always be investigated.

Members believe that North Lincolnshire

Council’s Licensing Unit and LSCB should open a dialogue with owners of taxi firms, fast food outlets and hoteliers with advice and guidance on their responsibilities to vulnerable groups of people and what the consequences will be should they fail to adhere to such guidelines.

Training

The Government’s National Action Plan reminds LSCBs that they are responsible for ensuring that training is provided to meet local needs for safeguarding and promoting children’s welfare – and that child sexual exploitation must be considered when local training priorities are decided. As LSCBs are expected to ‘assume that sexual exploitation occurs within its area unless there is clear evidence to the contrary¹⁴’ and training tends to prompt recognition of sexual exploitation, it is appropriate for LSCBs to provide training to key professionals. Core agencies include social care, Police, youth offending services, health and education, but key frontline workers could be children’s home staff, street wardens, town centre and shopping centre wardens, park staff and staff in pubs, clubs or hotels.

The Howard League for Penal Reform report found that sexually exploited girls will usually be economically and socially marginalised, often not in school, training or employment. They will spend a lot of time hanging out in parks, in or around fast food restaurants or taxi offices, and wandering the streets¹⁵.

This means that they may be visible not only to Police but also to other council employees.

¹⁴ Department for Education (2011) paragraph 9 and Department for Children, Schools and Families (2009a) paragraph 4.5

¹⁵ Howard League for Penal Reform, Out of Place: The policing and criminalisation of sexually exploited girls and young women, p24

All frontline council workers, even those who do not work directly with children and young people, ought to be trained to recognise the warning signs of child sexual exploitation, and should know how to report anything that might give them cause to believe that a child is at risk. Local authority staff, or contractors working on the authority's behalf, have a significant presence in public places where children and young people congregate - park wardens, staff at sports centres and libraries, environmental health officers and taxi licensing officers are all likely to notice children hanging out when they would normally be expected to be in school, and could act as a valuable early-warning system for behaviour which indicates a problem. The council should also consider setting an employee hotline where anything suspicious can be reported¹⁶.

The scale and form of training varies with LSCBs' priorities and resources, but there are three key methods that are implemented locally. These are combined to ensure that staff have appropriate levels of knowledge:

- External expertise
- Internal knowledge sharing
- E-learning

Partners were extremely complimentary of the training that professionals can access in North Lincolnshire. The LSCB and other agencies are extremely proactive in delivering and/or commissioning both external and internal training providers to enhance the knowledge and expertise of local practitioners. Members also heard examples of partners delivering training above and

beyond the requirements of their service level agreement for example, which the scrutiny panel commends.

However, in the current economic climate, Members are fully aware that training is a budget that could be reduced or cut to ease the financial burden on partners. That is why the Members state, in the strongest possible terms, that any reduction in the training budget for CSE would be a retrograde step and potentially work against North Lincolnshire's plans which are strongly towards the prevention of CSE.

Victim Support

Child sexual exploitation can have a catastrophic effect on the victim. Members heard that victims often suffer with feelings of trauma, betrayal and stigmatisation. They may also blame themselves. The court process itself can often compound this trauma, with victims stating that attendance at court can be as traumatic as the exploitation itself.

Evidence submitted by the Deputy Children's Commissioner to the House of Commons Home Affairs select Committee stated that "psychological support services were variable around the country and that she did not believe that all victims were getting the support they required". This was supported by the NSPCC who estimated that there may be a shortfall of up to 88,000 places for therapeutic support.

In North Lincolnshire, the Haven Project is a therapeutic service for children and young

¹⁶ House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, Child Sexual Exploitation and the response to localized grooming, second report, 2013, p14.

people who have experienced trauma as a result of abuse, whether sexual, physical, emotional harm or neglect. The project is delivered by Action for Children. In April 2013, Action for Children were re-commissioned as a specialist therapeutic project by the council and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

The project is commissioned to work with between 60-80 cases per year. Members were informed that currently, the service has capacity in order to accept all referrals.

Members noted that locally, it is up to the victim to decide when they receive counselling for the trauma they have suffered. This is in line with the following official guidance:

“whether a vulnerable or intimidated witness should receive therapy before the criminal trial is not a decision for the Police or the Crown Prosecution Service. Such decisions can only be taken by the vulnerable or intimidated witness, in conjunction with the professionals from the agencies providing services to the witness¹⁷”

Members can confidently say that in North Lincolnshire the needs of the victim are always put first.

Members were concerned that it could take anywhere up to a year or longer to obtain victim and witness statements and years for the case to be considered at Court. There is perhaps no surprise that often victims do not wish to go through this process and

prosecutions do not take place. For victims of CSE, the judicial process is adversarial and victims can feel discredited.

The NSPCC have highlighted the importance of pre-trial therapy and support in preparation for the trial. Members were concerned to hear that locally, it was not uncommon for it to take over a year for the case to be brought to trial. Support through the prosecution is vital as it can mitigate circumstances which may lead to evidence being withdrawn by the victim at short notice. Locally, the LSCB commission the Humberside Child Witness Scheme to provide support to vulnerable witnesses.

Scrutiny Panel Members were concerned of the emotional toll that the criminal justice journey can have on victims of CSE. Not only from the initial referral and criminal investigation, but to the point at which the victim may appear in court and be required to give evidence against the perpetrator(s).

Victim support is vital for young people who are vulnerable and who often find the court setting and face-to-face contact in Court with a perpetrator a terrifying ordeal. Members heard anecdotal evidence from Action for Children that one victim described the attendance and cross-examination at court by four barristers as “worse” than the sexual exploitation suffered previously.

Nationally, Victim Support, The Children’s Society and the National Working Group suggest that Independent Sexual Violence

¹⁷ <http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/prosecution/pretrialadult.html> (4.3)

Advisers (ISVA) should be employed at a local level to support witnesses. These are victim focused advocates who are funded to work with victims of serious sexual crimes to enable them to access the services they need in the aftermath of the abuse, and to support them throughout the criminal justice process.

There is evidence nationally to suggest that ISVA's should be appointed to assist the young person throughout the criminal justice process, allowing the victim to develop trust and confidence to share more details of abusers as time goes on. Indeed, the Association of Chief Police Officers' Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan recommends that individual forces' identify and support services to provide care to victims and their extended families "for the duration of their criminal justice journey and beyond". Locally, however, Members were reassured that these support mechanisms are in place to assist the child or young person and the immediate appointment of an ISVA was not required at this moment in time.

However, the capacity of partners to provide this function should be closely monitored, with swift proactive action being implemented to support the victim should circumstances change.

Supporting Practitioners

Members are completely unequivocal in their belief that the victim of CSE must be the priority for all partners. However, the victim of CSE can only move forward with the support of family, friends and professionals from many partners. People are essential to

the quality of service that is provided to the victim. There is no doubt that practitioners who work with victims of CSE work in an increasingly difficult climate with rising demands not always matched with an increase in available resources. Staff can be overstretched and this can lead to stress, ill health and burnout.

CSE practice is, to a large extent, unobserved, and practitioners need to be self-aware and conscious of their role; they need to look out for signs of potentially unsafe practice and alert managers to issues which are affecting the quality of their work.

Members heard that practitioners need to be as good at spotting these signs in themselves as they are in others. Whatever the causes, partners were all uniformed in there assessment that support is available from their employers to help to address these and support the worker through the difficulties.

Locally, Members were informed that partners were reasonable in their expectations and actively support practitioners in the complex and challenging work required of them. Partners understood their duty to encourage and assist their staff to be reflective and self-regulating.

Good quality supervision and an effective workload management scheme are both crucial in supporting staff. Supervision must be a two-way process. Practitioners need to honestly account for their work and identify difficulties and concerns. They should be able to feel confident that they will be supported

and provided with guidance and assistance. Workload management must be a tool to prevent overload in staff and for employers to identify and manage the work which cannot be allocated. Fortunately, this happens locally.

Members were reassured that professionals were aware of the importance of supporting the staff who deliver services to ensure that they are trained, supported and resourced to undertake the often difficult and complex tasks required by our service users. Staff were supported in a non-blame culture to enable the identifying and reporting of problems within workplaces.

Councillors'

Scrutiny panel Members were reassured that council officers maintain a clear focus on effective safeguarding arrangements and in particular to CSE. However, Members believe that the Executive must actively challenge employees to ensure that officers are performing their duties effectively and hold them to account by challenging them on performance information for example.

Members were reassured to hear that the senior management team within the People directorate were frequently challenging reports/performance issues and act as a critical friend challenging the way that the service delivers its response to CSE.

It was also clear to see that officers within the People directorate have a very proactive 'can do' attitude to safeguarding and CSE in particular. In what is a very challenging

environment to work in on a daily basis, the passion and dedication to tackling CSE, displayed by council officers and stakeholders from all across the wider partnership was refreshing to see.

The council's overview and scrutiny function must be more proactive in fulfilling its critical friend role to ensure that the issue of CSE is being tackled by the wider partnership. This may involve inviting stakeholders to a scrutiny panel meeting on an annual basis to discuss CSE and to ensure it remains a priority.

Elected Members must also receive specific member training in relation to CSE as part of their wider safeguarding role as a priority. The training shall then be programmed into the member development programme for each Municipal Year.

Members heard that the council is committed to raising the awareness of CSE, not only to employees but to Councillors and other partnerships who can play a role in this. Raising awareness sessions should be provided to all Members and should be covered in their induction training.

CONCLUSION

The exploitation of children is an appalling act committed by the worst kind of perpetrators. Ensuring the safety of vulnerable children is one of the most important roles councils and its partners perform and there is no room for complacency when it comes to protecting children.

Child sexual exploitation is a concern for everyone and the ugly truth is it can impact on children from any background or any part of the country. The majority of victims are not in the care system, although looked after children represent a disproportionate number of victims.

Although councils and social workers play a crucial role in tackling child sexual exploitation, it cannot be tackled in isolation. Joined up working and information sharing with the Police, health service and other agencies is crucial to stamp out this disturbing criminal behaviour.

Raising awareness of the threat and signs of this terrible form of abuse amongst parents, young people, carers, professionals across the system and the wider public is essential to both preventing and stopping exploitation. The justice system must also bring the full force of the law to bear on the perpetrators of these awful crimes associated with child sexual exploitation and get justice for victims.

APPENDIX 1

Membership of the Places Scrutiny Panel

Councillor - J Evison (chairman)
A Davison (vice-chair)
J England
T Foster
D Oldfield

The panel conducted a number of evidence gathering sessions, speaking to a range of key officers from the council and its partners.

The panel would like to thank them for their valued input and attendance. They also received and considered a range of written evidence, including local and national research, guidance and legislation.

APPENDIX 2

Stakeholders interviewed as part of the review -

- Kim Adlard -Operational Matron - Children and Young People’s Services, Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust
- Nikki Alcock - Service Manager - Safeguarding & LSCB, North Lincolnshire Council
- Dave Basker – Principal Social Worker (Safeguarding Practice), North Lincolnshire Council
- Ann-Marie Brierley - Principal Social Worker - Case Management, North Lincolnshire Council
- Darren Chaplin - Principal Officer Vulnerable Children & Young People, North Lincolnshire Council
- Dr Karen Dunderdale – Chief Nurse, Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust
- Craig Ferris - Head of Safeguarding, Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust
- Sarah Glossop - Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Edwina Harrison - Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board
- Kirsty Ireland - Senior Social Worker, North Lincolnshire Council
- Stuart Minto – Head of Safer Neighbourhoods, North Lincolnshire Council
- Katie Newborn - Service Manager Adult & Children Safeguarding Board, North Lincolnshire Council
- Detective Constable Emma Parratt - Humberside Police
- Deb Pollard - Relationship Manager, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Di Rees - Social Work Service Manager, North Lincolnshire Council
- Mags Smithson - EPU Manager, North Lincolnshire Council
- Joanne Wagstaff - Action for Children
- Chief Inspector Paul Welton, Humberside Police

