

Learning from the Multi-Agency Audit – Child Sexual Exploitation

Why....

To assure DSCB that children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation are provided with effective support, which leads to improved outcomes.

What.....

The aim of this audit was to assure DSCB that the recommendations and identified actions from a previous multi-agency audit that took place in January 2015 had been incorporated into practice.

The audit focussed on 12 young people where there were concerns about child sexual exploitation. These young people were randomly selected from Doncaster Children's Service Trust, South Yorkshire Police and from Early Help services.

Who was involved in the audit.....

Doncaster Children's Services Trust, South Yorkshire Police, Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group, Doncaster Bassetlaw Hospital Foundation Trust, Education providers, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, GPs, practitioners and young people.

What was working well and what were we worried about.....

There was evidence of improved practice in a number of areas.

Practitioners knew the signs and risk indicators of child sexual exploitation and articulated these in referrals, assessments, case file recording and supervision within all agencies involved.

The responses demonstrated by agencies were appropriate, timely and children have been kept safe from harm.

Tenacious practice was evidenced to disrupt activity of perpetrators and appropriate action had taken place.

Children and young people informed us that they felt safe and were able to tell us what messages they had received in order to keep safe.

"Yes, spoke about keeping safe and the dangers of going out and keeping safe" (Child J, 16).

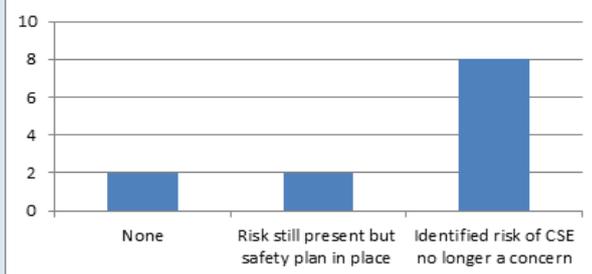
Child Sexual exploitation training is making a difference to practitioners "Training has clarified the indicators/warning signs and vulnerabilities to consider what may indicate risk of CSE" (Education).

When concerns of child sexual exploitation arose in cases already open to social care, referrals were not routinely made to the DSCT CSE Team.

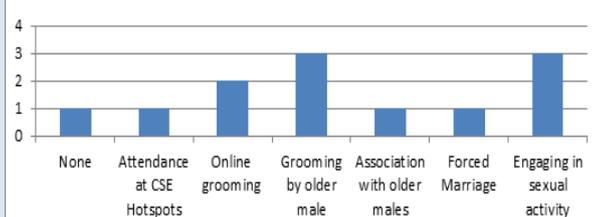
Direct work with children and young people is still not always evidenced on the child's file.

The impact of interventions was not explicitly stated,

Impact



Extent of CSE



Recommendations

What needs to happen.....

All children/young people whom that are at risk of or suffering harm of CSE must be referred to the DCST CSE team.

Poor school attendance is normally a symptom and not the root cause of concern, **do not dismiss it**. Explore this and understand the reasons.

When recording clearly identify where your source of information has come from (remember to include their title and role).

Evidence your direct work. Make sure you record the purpose, who was present, what happened, what does it tell you about the child's experiences and next steps. Save and evidence pieces of work.

Evidence the impact. Record clearly what difference your work is making to children/young people and their families.

In your assessments and plans involve all who have parental responsibility. Where this is not appropriate, record why.

Ensure accurate recording of attendances at multi-agency meetings.

Be clear with children/young people about your role, what support can be offered and understand the importance of closure visits to a child/young person.

"More involvement from social and police as it mainly just ended with no closure or help. Was promised visits and support which didn't happen" (Child L, aged 15).

Good practice tips.....

When documenting "**Voice of the child**", does this stand out?

Are you always mindful of how you record information on a child's file? Remember your information may be seen by the child/young person, would you like to read this about yourself!

Have you "closed the loop?" Do not assume that other agencies will contact you to update you. It is your responsibility to check. For example, it is not acceptable to record "waiting for social care to come back to me".

Do you consider individual needs, identity, culture, racial and religious background and what this means for the child/young person and family?

Have you invited all relevant professionals to your multi-agency meetings?

Have you considered adult services?

If you are aware that a child has moved schools, do you ensure that this information is recorded and shared?

When deciding who should be the Lead Professional/Keyworker, do you consider the relationships and what would be in the best interest of the child and family?

Do you record and evidence verbal and non-verbal communication in your case recording?

Do you distribute minutes of meetings in a timely manner to avoid misunderstandings?

Next Steps.....

- DSCB Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children Sub-group to ensure all actions from the action plan are completed.
- Continue to increase involvement of children/young people.
- Involve more parents/carers