



Child Sexual Exploitation

Report to: Policy Committee
Date: 28 November 2014
Report by: Sarah Blackmore
Report No: P-17-2014
Agenda Item: 9

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To develop the Care Inspectorate's strategy and response to issue of CSE in Scotland.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Policy Committee:

1. Acknowledges and agrees the organisation's strategy and response to this issue.

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Version Control and Consultation Recording Form

Version	Consultation	Manager	Brief Description of Changes	Date
	Senior Management			
	Legal Services			
	Resources Directorate			
	Committee Consultation (where appropriate)			
	Partnership Forum Consultation (where appropriate)			
<p>Equality Impact Assessment</p> <p>To be completed when submitting a new or updated policy (guidance, practice or procedure) for approval.</p>				
Policy Title:				
Date of Initial Assessment:				
EIA Carried Out		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, please attach the accompanying EIA and briefly outline the equality and diversity implications of this policy.				
If no, you are confirming that this policy will have no negative impact on people with a protected characteristic and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.		Name: Position:		
Authorised by Director	Name: Robert Peat	Date:		

1.0 BACKGROUND

The recent reports “**Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham**” by Alexis Jay and “**Real Voice-Child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester**” by Ann Coffey have highlighted this issue and the failures to protect children. The Jay report exposed a system which failed to identify victims as children, or indeed children as victims of crimes. In many cases the victims were then blamed by the agencies for the shocking abuse that they were subjected to. The report shows the individual, systemic and institutional failings that allowed perpetrators to abuse children over many years. Barnardo’s Scotland have published a discussion paper “**Lessons for Scotland from the Jay Report into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham.**” This report highlights that Scotland needs to learn key lessons from the Rotherham inquiry.

In Scotland, if we are to tackle CSE effectively, we must accept that it is happening here, and that it demands a specific and holistic response across all aspects of the public sector. A renewed focus is required around increasing agencies understanding and awareness of CSE as a major child protection issue.

This report focuses specifically on the sexual exploitation of children, rather than child sexual abuse per se, about which a separate briefing can be provided. However, it is essential to note that child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse and cannot be treated in isolation. The Care Inspectorate is actively working with all partners to ensure that Scotland is the best place in the world to grow up and to bring up children.

2.0 SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT ACTION PLAN

On 11 November 2014, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning made a statement in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation. A national action plan has been co-produced by Scottish Government and a national ministerial Working Group made up of a range of experts including ourselves, Police Scotland, Children in Scotland, Aberlour, Barnardo’s Scotland and the Crown Office. The report “**Safeguarding Scotland’s Vulnerable Children from Child Abuse**”, by Jackie Brock, Chief Executive, Children in Scotland and Chair of the Working Group was published on the same day.

Recommendation 6.2.7 states:

“The findings from Joint Inspections of Children’s services will be tremendously useful for identifying improvement and supporting local and national accountability. A thematic report within the next year would help us identify necessary progress, including the tackling of sexual exploitation.”

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3.0 CARE INSPECTORATE ROLE

The Care Inspectorate is well placed to support the national action plan and take a lead role in ensuring lessons are learned from these inquiries to ensure children in Scotland are protected. This work would fit in with our vision, values and purpose. It would help us provide assurance and protection in relation to vulnerable children especially those who are looked after and accommodated. This work would also help ensure that the Care Inspectorate in partnership with the Scottish Government and other bodies act as a catalyst for change and innovation.

In terms of our Strategic Objectives a focus on this issue fits well with all of them. In particular Strategic Objectives 3, 4 and 5.

Strategic Objective 3: To support people's understanding of high quality safe and compassionate care by promoting the standards and quality of care they should expect and make sure their voices are heard.

Recent inquiry reports have sent shockwaves around Scotland and the United Kingdom. Raising awareness of CSE and ensuring staff in services are working in partnership with other agencies following the GIRFEC model will promote high quality, safe and compassionate care for looked after and accommodated children in Scotland. This focus will also ensure that the voices of the children who suffered appalling abuse are heard. These reports are not just in relation to CSE, but the wider continuum of child sexual abuse. Indeed, the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England has commenced a comprehensive enquiry into the sexual abuse of children within the home, and there will undoubtedly be lessons for Scotland to consider from this, once completed.

Strategic Objective 4: To build capacity within care services to make sure there is high quality development and improvement of rights based care across Scotland.

The Care Inspectorate can build capacity by promoting best practice and ensuring there is rights based care, informed by the learning from these inquiries across Scotland. Recognition that there is a need to look at rights that can sometimes conflict to ensure children are protected.

Strategic Objective 5: To support and inform local and national policy development by providing high quality evidence based advice and information on care.

Using the information gathered from both inspections of frontline regulated care services and from strategic inspections will allow the Care Inspectorate to take a lead role in ensuring national policy is shaped by up to date intelligence and information. It will also allow resources to be targeted where they are most needed. This is consistent with our significant Scrutiny and Improvement

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Change Programme which is underway across the organisation.

This work would also fit in with some of the other identified tasks in the operational plan. It could usefully be aligned with the planned production of a thematic inspection and collaborative policy report on the mental health, exploitation, well being and resilience of young people aged 13 to 25. It also closely links to the role of the Corporate Parent, which is a new role for the Care Inspectorate under the new Act. The Corporate Parenting agenda means that distinctions between children and adult services are more blurred especially for young people moving on from care settings so consideration would need to be given to best way to address this and whether a two staged approach might be needed.

It also closely fits with raising awareness of the role of the Care Inspectorate in high quality development and improvement of rights based care across Scotland.

4.0 JOINT INSPECTIONS OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Child Sexual Exploitation has already been incorporated into the joint inspections of services for children. A detailed and meaningful thematic report on this issue is planned which will look at how this issue is identified and addressed by Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland. In the meantime, the strategic inspection team are already highlighting this in each of their joint inspections and the first report where this is explicitly mentioned has recently been published.

5.0 INSPECTIONS OF REGULATED SERVICES

Research indicates that young people who are looked after and accommodated because of their particular circumstances are more vulnerable to exploitation. The research study undertaken by CELCIS and the Care Inspectorate in 2013 into the sexual exploitation of looked after children found that young people and children who have experience of the care system can be particularly at risk. The study found that this could be as high as one in four of the care population. We know that these young people often have complex needs and require interventions from knowledgeable staff within a supportive environment to address their complex underlying vulnerability factors. There are also strong links to children and young people who go missing as well as radicalisation and human trafficking. Looked after and accommodated children are over represented in reports of missing children. It is therefore proposed that the Care Inspectorate has a particular focus to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation in care homes for children and young people, residential schools, secure units and agencies for fostering and adoption. However, we also know that child sexual exploitation, as well as child sexual abuse, can occur within the home environment and this also needs to be carefully considered in looking at outcomes for children across the scrutiny landscape.

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6.0 TRAINING FOR CARE INSPECTORATE STAFF

In order to ensure lessons are learned from the recent reports there is a need for awareness raising and specific training for Team Managers, Strategic Inspectors and Inspectors within the Children's Services & Criminal Justice sub-Directorate and a range of options for this are currently being explored.

7.0 NEXT STEPS

An expert group is being established to take this extensive work forward across the organisation.

8.0 BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE WHO USE SERVICES AND THEIR CARERS

Our focus on this issue will help ensure children and young people in Scotland are protected. Recent inquiries have shown children who were victimised did not get the help and support they needed. By ensuring lessons are taken forward from these inquiries we can help ensure children and young people have safe spaces and relationships with trusted adults. The Scottish Government has made clear that everyone has a responsibility to ensure there is vigilance and awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation. The Care Inspectorate has an opportunity to support and play a key role in this agenda.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Robust targeting of existing resources will be employed to ensure our plans in this area can be put into practice.

10.0 CONCLUSION

The Policy Committee is asked to endorse the organisation's approach to this important issue.

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