

## **EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday, 8 November 2016 at 6.30 pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

### **Present**

Councillor Will Purvis (in the Chair)

Councillors David Tompkins  
Ben Dowling  
Suzy Horton

Ryan Brent (Observing as Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care)

### **Officers**

Alison Jeffrey, Director of Children's Services

### **Witnesses**

Annie Clark, Lead Nurse for Community Sexual Health Team and Safeguarding (Portsmouth and South East Hampshire)

Kelly Huggett, Health Development Officer

Amanda Littlefield, Hillside Youth Centre Manager

Michelle Evans and Claudia Villa-Hughes, Barnados

### **69. Apologies for absence (AI 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Godier and apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Horton.

### **70. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **71. Minutes of the previous meeting - 18 October 2016 (AI 3)**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel held on 18 October 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

### **72. Review into how well Portsmouth City Council and partners are preventing and dealing with child sexual exploitation (AI 4)**

The Chair invited everyone present to introduce themselves which they then did. He advised that a deputation request had been received from Mr Les Cummings and invited him to make his deputation. The Chair thanked Mr Cummings for his deputation.

The Chair then invited Annie Clark, Lead Nurse for Community Sexual Health Team and Safeguarding (Portsmouth and South East Hampshire) to give an overview of the work of the sexual health team. Annie had circulated to the panel prior to the meeting a copy of the young person risk assessment tool that they use. She explained that the service is based at St Mary's hospital and deals with all aspects of sexual health including HIV, STD's and unplanned pregnancies. All staff are trained in CSE and they will complete the risk assessment tool for any client under the age of 16. She explained there are two parts to the service; outreach nurses who provide drop in sessions at King Richard School, Portsmouth College and The Foyer hotel and referrals from agencies including Barnados and Children's Social Care. There is also a sexual health practitioner who provides training for people working with young people and a young people's drop in clinic on Thursday's from 3-5:30pm.

Amanda Littlefield, Hillside Youth Centre Manager advised that her staff had received training from one of the sexual health practitioners which had been very useful.

In response to questions, the following points were clarified:

- King Richard School is one of the locations for the outreach nurses due to its locality in the north of the city and also because it used to be a health living centre. King Richard School are champions and do a lot of work and training on sexual health in their school.
- There are two members of staff working as outreach nurses that each work 22 hours a week and there is one school nurse for Portsmouth.
- There are currently 18 people on the waiting list for training. Training is provided free of charge however due to budget cuts no one is administering the requests for training. Kelly Huggett, Health Development Officer explained that historically this was undertaken by the Independence and Wellbeing Team and Children and Young Person Services within Public Health however this role has now been made redundant and organisations now need to provide their own admin support. Alison Jeffery said that this needed to be resolved and she would look into this.
- The risk assessment tool used by the sexual health team had been developed in house and the MET Operational Group had not commented on this. Annie advised that if staff have concerns about a child they will follow the protocol and it's very important that all practitioners have training. Alison Jeffery said that it would be useful for the MET to have sight of this. Claudia Villa-Hughes, Barnados and member of the MET Operational Group said that the MET had discussed the short SERAF tool which had been rolled out to other areas of health, and had felt that this was not appropriate however they had not discussed the risk assessment tool used by the sexual health team. She said this could be added to the agenda for the next MET operational group as it is important that the prompts used are understood by all practitioners and this could be a piece of work for the MET Operational Group to undertake.

The Chair then invited Amanda Littlefield to give an overview of the work of the youth service at PCC. Amanda advised that they have over 60 young people attend the Hillside Youth Centre each day, and have 4 youth workers each evening. The centre works closely with schools and will identify any changes of behaviours. If any are identified these will be reported to the police, social worker or CSC. Staff within the youth service have completed all the safeguarding training available through PCC. Youth workers will talk to individual young people to make sure they are happy and build strong relationships with them. Youth workers also attend the MET operational meetings.

In response to questions the following matters were clarified:

- Leading up to school holidays' Amanda explained that she will contact Sorted, Barnados Motiv8 etc. to see if there is capacity for them to visit the youth centre to hold workshops for young people aged between 11 and 19. An example was for the recent October half term leading up to Halloween a workshop was held about how to be safe around alcohol and staff will make sure these are well understood and received.
- The youth workers also discuss with children how to stay safe online and will warn them about the risk of sending explicit photographs. However she felt that the majority of the young people are very 'switched on' when it comes to what information they should be sharing online as they know about CEOP. She advised that a lot of children using her youth centre group chat with their friends online rather than sit alone talking to online friends.
- Youth centres in the city have agencies such as PARCS to come in to specifically talk to children about CSE. Michelle Evans, Barnados added that it is helpful to have conversations with young people about raising awareness of CSE as they can sometimes be too savvy about the online world and 'sexting is a huge issue that Barnados are struggling with currently.
- It is sometimes hard to get other agencies to come into youth centres as everyone is so busy. Amanda advised though that if there is no-one to come in to run a session, staff who have been trained will often run the sessions themselves. Claudia Villa-Hughes added that Barnados have held four evening sessions on LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) in youth clubs recently and they have an e-safety specialist who is a project worker however due to time constraints their availability to hold sessions is low. Kelly added that everyone is working under tight resources but try to work collaboratively to provide support for young people in the city. Schools are also under pressure and will approach Sorted to ask for training workshops etc. however attendance at these can be poor due to them having targets to reach within education subjects. Unfortunately there is not the capacity to send professionals into every school who requests training so it's about giving them the tools to deliver the sessions themselves.
- With regard to how a new professional to the city would know what resources are available, Kelly advised that there is a SLA available for schools and she will meet head teachers to obtain the details of the link person which is usually someone from the pastoral team and she will promote the services that she and her team can offer. Michelle

advised that this is the same for Barnados and they will promote the services they can offer to all those who work with young people. There is no a structure in place where people working with young people can see a 'menu of options' of training and support available.

The Chair then invited Michelle Evans, Project Worker for Barnados Misuse and U turn service to give an overview of her work. She advised that she works with young people at medium and high risk of CSE both on a one to one and group basis and this can be long term. She also works with young people who have gone missing then return home and will visit them within 72 hours of their return to discuss the push and pull factors why they went missing. A plan for the young person will be created and they will be referred back to the MASH team.

In response to questions, the following matters were clarified:

- Barnados identified a significant link with missing young people and CSE and they have identified incidents of CSE after carrying out missing assessments
- The missing service within Barnados is vital and there are 18.5 hours dedicated to the missing service.
- In July there was a local protocol change so that CSC now carry out the return interview now complete assessments if the young person has a social worker. This has really helped ease the pressure on Barnados. Previously they were receiving 150-200 reports every 3 months but due to the change these numbers have reduced immensely allowing Barnados to complete follow up work as necessary. Last month 4 young people at risk of CSE out of 49 young people they visited so shows tool is working.
- Claudia Villa-Hughes advised that she attends the national meeting of Barnados and the issues across the country are very similar. Hampshire and the Isle of Wight also have a similar picture to Portsmouth. It is very hard to reach young people who have gone missing in the past. The key is to offer the young person an interview within 72 hours of their return and keep persisting with this until they accept the help on offer.

The Chair advised that Kelly Huggett had recently met with three young people to talk about their experiences and journey in relation to CSE. He invited Kelly to give the feedback.

Kelly advised that the three young girls were no longer at risk of CSE and had been pleased to be able to share their experiences to assist with this review. She gave a background to each of the children and then read out their response to the questions that had been put to them.

#### Questions put to the three young people

1. What services have helped and supported you?
2. Thinking of your experience with [name of organisation] how did this help you? And could anything have been improved?

3. Who do you feel has supported you most throughout your journey?
4. Did you have any support/guidance from school staff about CSE? Did you feel you could talk to teachers etc about your situation?
5. Prior to your experiences, were you aware of any of the CSE campaigns such as Chelsea's Choice or the Alice in Wonderland campaign? If yes what did you think of these? Is enough being done to make young people aware of CSE?
6. What is the key message you would like Portsmouth City Council to be aware of following your experiences?
7. Anything else you would like to add?

#### Child T

- Had been identified at medium risk of CSE
- School attendance was a concern
- She received help from the Sorted team.
- Received education outside of mainstream school
- This child used the ITYSS service which we no longer have
- CSC were involved in undertaking her initial assessment
- Police were involved in retrieving her when she went missing.
- Child was discussed at the MET Operational meetings.

Her answers to the questions:

- 1) The services that helped and supported me were ITYSS, Sorted and the Police.
- 2) Working with Sorted I found this really helpful because she showed me what dangers could have happened in the situation I was in. It would have been nice to have met a young adult who has been through a similar situation.
- 3) I feel that it was 50% sorted and 50% ITYSS they supported me in different ways.
- 4) I had a good relationship with a teacher from the lodge who would ask about my problems but I'd never speak to her as I could only talk to an educated person who didn't work in a school.
- 5) Because my attendance was poor I didn't have much PSHE and I didn't attend assembly.
- 6) I think it would have been helpful if there were more police on patrol, it would have prevented the risks. If there was more support from my family I wouldn't of wanted to stay out and away from home. I found it really intimidating for all the professionals to attend my meetings. It would have been better if only one professional teacher would attend.  
\* (Kelly clarified that she was referring to the Team around the Child (TAC) meetings.)
- 7) I hope I have helped put my point across.

### Child H

- Had been identified as medium risk of CSE.
- Issues with school attendance and had a package of lessons outside of mainstream.
- CSC assessed her
- Received help from the Sorted team
- Police retrieved her when she went missing - 3 times in 90 days
- Used Barnados family intervention programme supported her and her family members - this was a recommendation from the MET group.
- Discussed at MET operational meetings.

Her answers to the questions:

- (1) Police, school, Barnados, Sorted, Social Services.
- (2) I know that the police were only doing their job but if I didn't want to be found they wouldn't find me whereas if I did want to be found I made sure I stood out. I found that sorted helped me because they made me know about all the dangers that were involved and made me know about self-esteem and help me improve my confidence.
- (3) I feel that sorted helped me the most because it made me look at things differently whereas I also feel that Barnados helped me as well because if they didn't help me with my family problems I wouldn't of stayed at home.
- (4) I feel that I could trust a few teachers because they kept it confidential but with the right people that could help they explained it in my point of view which help them understand me more. Teachers wouldn't ever say about CSE but they pointed out that what I was doing was risky and they said they were worried about me.
- (5) I was not aware of any campaigns. I felt that school should make more school children more aware of CSE and make them feel as someone is there to talk to.
- (6) My personal journey didn't need any change because help got called at the right time for me to change.
- (7) I feel that meetings with everyone helped getting my point of view across but I feel there should have been less people in the room because it made me feel intimidated.

### Child P

- Had been identified as medium risk of CSE
- Services she used were CSC, Barnados U Turn service, Sorted, Police, Boost and school.

Her answers to the questions:

- (1) Switch, Barnados, U Turn, Social Services, Police, School.
- (2) Barnados were helpful in many ways. We build up a good relationship that was more like a friendship. The service ended without notice and I was not in a position for the service to end\*. The way it ended made me feel worse and behave worse. Switch was also a really good service, I was seeing my worker for about 2 years once a week,

towards the end of the support I was receiving we started seeing each other twice a fortnight and had an arranged date to say goodbye and we still have each other's number so if I feel I need the support I know I have it. \* *(Kelly explained that rather than the service ending, it was a change to the Barnados worker. The service continued but as the child felt that she didn't get to say goodbye when the new worker came in she did not want to engage.)*

- (3) I feel that throughout my journey no one has helped me as much as I have helped myself. I feel like people can advise you and help you but no one can change you until you are willing to change yourself. Social care were very supportive and tried their hardest to advise me and show me a path but I was not willing to accept the help.
- (4) I felt I could talk to teachers from school but I wouldn't respond in a polite way other than to one particular teacher. At one point in my life school was the only place I felt I had to go when things were difficult for me at home. Some days I would be at school until 6pm talking to my teacher because I didn't want to face the outside world. The person I confided to in school didn't use the words CSE, however she would point out the risks I was taking. She also referred me to other services and got specialist support.
- (5) In school I watched the Alice in Wonderland campaign production of child exploitation. It made me emotional and did change the way I looked at things. On the school I attended I feel enough has been said about CSE but not enough is being done. \* *(Kelly explained that the child was referring to Chelsea's Choice rather than Alice campaign.)*
- (6) The message I would like to give Portsmouth City Council would be services need to now look back at my experience through social services, I feel like my family didn't get the support they needed when I was the one preventing 60% of the drama within the family home.

Kelly summarised by saying that all three of the children had different situations at home which were push factors to their risky behaviours. Substance misuse was a huge factor for one of the young people. If things were better for them at home they would have been less likely to go missing. All three children were clear that they could get the attention of the police if they wanted to be found. The panel commented that with all the various services available to young people, it was heartening that the perception of the police remains that they will 'rescue' a vulnerable child needing help. Of the children and when they hit rock bottom and are reliant on substances this is when CSE can occur.

In response to questions the following points were clarified:

- One of the children was at significantly high risk of CSE and one suffered peer to peer CSE.
- Hampshire Constabulary has now introduced the Goldstone Team, a specialist unit to tackle CSE that consists of police officers and staff, assisted by a dedicated analyst. The team works closely with other agencies such as Children's Services, health, schools, and third sector organisations such as Barnardos. The team is located within Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs, allowing for greater joint working, information sharing and greater use of both criminal and civil remedies

to help the victims, but also disrupt locations used by offenders. The Goldstone team is focussing its work on perpetrator's which is very positive.

- Barnados held a workshop for PCSO's on CSE and have created a training programme for new recruits.
- The Chair said that he has met with a police sergeant recently regarding neighbourhood policing and he was pleased that one of their three priorities was CSE.

The Chair thanked all the witnesses for their evidence.

The Chair advised that Ofsted had recently published a document 'Time to listen' - a joined up response to child sexual exploitation and missing children, which was a combined report with HM Inspectorate of Probation, HMIC and the CQC. Members of the panel had received a copy of this document prior to the last meeting and he invited Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services to give a brief summary of the document.

Alison advised that the report followed up on a series of five targeted area inspections. The report found that plans were variable across the areas. It also found that in some areas there was poor management of frontline decision making by CSC and police was resulting in poor practice in a number of CSE cases. Alison commented though that in Portsmouth the Goldstone team moving the focus to perpetrators was a very good thing.

The report raised concerns about frontline health professionals and not all had the skills needed to identify CSE and not all children have easy access to sexual health services.

One of the reports other key findings was that the local authority, police, health and other key agencies such as probation and youth offending must share information and intelligence to fully understand the local patterns of child sexual exploitation, to disrupt and deter perpetrators and to identify, help and protect children. She advised that analysing reasons why go children go missing when child identified as missing response is robust in the city.

Alison advised the panel that there is an analyst from Hampshire police now attending MET meetings. Claudia Villa-Hughes added that the MET are pooling this data but there is still some way to go. The analyst has only attended one meeting so far so the MET will keep working on brining this information together.

Finally, Alison drew the panel's attention to the recommendation that individual agencies and organisations use their powers in a range of ways to protect children. These should all be exerted to their full extent, such as local councils' role in granting taxi licences.

The Chair thanked Alison for this summary.



The panel agreed that their next meeting should be an informal meeting to review the information and evidence received so far to see whether any further formal meetings are required.

The meeting concluded at 8.05 pm.

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Councillor Will Purvis  
Chair