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Title of meeting: Cabinet	CFE Decision meeting
Subject:	The inclusion of Police Community Support officers in Early Help and Prevention
Date of meeting:	20 th October 2022
Report by:	Katy Willcox- Service Lead Early Help and Prevention.
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by: Cllr Suzy Horton

2. Purpose: To provide information relating to the inclusion of Police Community Support Officers in Early Help and Prevention.

3. Information Requested:

The inclusion of Police Community Support officers in Early Help and Prevention

Further to a visit carried out by Cllr Suzy Horton and Sarah Daly (Director Children, Families and Education) to Paulsgrove Family Hub, a report was requested to provide further detail on the Early Help & Prevention Service. The aim of this report is to introduce the Early Help and Prevention service; explain the work we do alongside families and in particular the inclusion of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the service.

What is the Early Help and Prevention Service?

Any professional working with a family who identifies that a family is having difficulties which impact on the child's well-being can have a conversation with the family to explore the situation and work with them and other professionals to coordinate an appropriate plan of support.

Some families, however, may have difficulties that become more complex. A referral can then be made to the Early Help and Prevention Service, who offer a bespoke package of support facilitated by a lead professional. The service is provided by Portsmouth City Council and Solent NHS Trust. There are two routes for support from the Early Help and Prevention Service. We receive referrals via the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) or from the Family Support and Safeguarding Teams once their period of assessment has completed.

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For children aged 0-5 this support is led by health visitors and for children aged 5-19 it is provided by family support workers. Some referrals into health visiting are received as above, however most referrals are received via the midwifery service or through health visitor assessment when meeting the families during the antenatal period.

What do we do?

When the family consent to receive a service from Early Help, the targeted service can work with the family to complete an early help assessment and produce a plan with actions with the aim of improving the outcomes for the family. This plan is co-produced with the family and relevant professionals. We work with a family for approximately 6 months. The plan of support can then be passed on to wider partners, for example school to continue with ongoing actions that may be required. Descriptors of the level of complexity that defines the difference between offering support at Tier 2, by universal services or by Tier 3 targeted services are set out in the Threshold Document: [PSCP-Threshold-Document-v5-March-2021.pdf \(portsmouthscp.org.uk\)](https://portsmouthscp.org.uk/PSCP-Threshold-Document-v5-March-2021.pdf). Delivery is led by both professionals and trained volunteers at a variety of venues, including family homes, schools, community centres and the city's family hubs. There is open access to the universal service offer that includes health visiting and midwifery services. There is also specific provision for children with disabilities, Young Carers, Parenting service and LGBTQ + young people.

The Children with Disabilities Team offers family support work where parents or carers require specialist support meet their child's additional need. Our Young Carers Team offer face to face and virtual support to young carers that attend and send out a monthly newsletter with a wealth of information and updates. The team is also available to support the wider network to understand how to best support young carers in their services. The LGBTQ+ Team offers direct and family work along with the 4U group (13-18), the 4ME group (18-25) and have a 4US group (under 13 with families and carers). The team also supports the wider network. The Parenting Services send out a termly offer that includes parenting surgeries for families without a lead professional. They also provide a range of face-to-face discussion groups, Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) and Repairing Relationships.

Team Around the Worker:

If the family are being supported by our targeted service, they will have one allocated lead professional. The lead professional will have access to specialists working within the service for support. These areas of specialism have been developed to respond to the needs within Portsmouth and currently include:

- Behaviour Change
- Education
- Domestic Abuse
- Housing
- LGBTQ+
- Child Mental Health and Attachment
- Children with Disabilities

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- Parental Mental Health
- Parenting
- Parenting - Non -Violent Resistance (NVR)
- Substance Misuse
- Young Carers
- Exploitation

The specialist is expected to have a robust knowledge of resources and tools to provide information, advice, and guidance (IAG) for the Early Help and Prevention Team and the wider workforce.

Recognising an increased need:

The Early Help and Prevention Service work closely with the Youth Offending Team (YOT). We attend relevant board meetings and panels and contribute to audits and decision making regarding young people. It may be appropriate for some children to be supported by Early Help and Prevention rather than commencing intervention with YOT. This will involve direct work with the young person. The partnership work that has taken place with YOT has led to a greater awareness regarding first time entrants across the whole youth justice partnership. The Reducing Antisocial Behaviour or Offending Screening tool (RASBO) was also introduced.

A RASBO is a tool that has been designed to be used to think through if a child is specifically at risk of antisocial behaviour and/or offending. The RASBO can be used for children aged 8 years and over. It highlights risk factors that can be linked to offending and aims to support professional assessment and intervention. It includes areas such as living arrangements, relationships, lifestyle, substance use, thinking and behaviour.

In addition to this in Portsmouth during 2021 88 children were at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and an additional 158 children were at risk of child criminal exploitation (CCE).

In response to this need, Portsmouth City Council and Hampshire Constabulary commenced a working agreement in November 2021 that enabled a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) to work in the Portsmouth Early Help and Prevention team and in addition to this we recruited an additional Exploitation and Reducing Offending Specialist.

The PCSO works closely with our exploitation and reducing offending specialist. The reducing offending role is to offer support to workers to identify early indicators of criminal behaviours with our young people. The RASBO is a tool used to capture all of the information needed to come up with a clear plan for positive outcomes. Our preventing offending specialist can support with the completion of the RASBO and discuss the plan moving forward.

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If there are several topics of concern, then the Early Help PCSO can initially deliver 6 tailored direct work sessions with the young person. Topics of concern, although not an exhaustive list could include that they have committed an Assault, carried out a Knife Crime/Weapons, Theft, Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage with any additional safeguarding concerns being flagged to the lead professional.

After 9 months the service reviewed the impact that these roles were beginning to have on the service and the young people we were supporting. We were already able to evidence an increase in the use of safety mapping tools and resources to help understand the young person's lived experiences. We had increased knowledge in relation to situations of concern and were able to improve our contextual safeguarding by contributing to possible solutions to reduce ASB and offending through local links and knowledge. In addition, we saw increased links with other services such as Hampshire Liaison and Diversion Service, who provide a similar type of intervention through a different pathway, and in different areas of the City. Our staff were also recognising the opportunity for use of RASBO and this tool was helping us to identify young people that would benefit from one to one support from the PCSO. We were also able to start looking at the impact the direct work was having on the young people working with the PCSO.

The PCSO role was developed by enabling them to access a thorough training schedule from PCC that increased their knowledge regarding working with families. It was the view of The Early Help and Prevention Service that the PCSO role had been productive and informative, and we were supported by PCC and Hampshire constabulary to request an additional PCSO and an extension to the secondment was agreed. The second PCSO joined the service in May 2022 and these secondments are currently in place until May 2023.

Currently the PCSO will:

- Work with a child where a completed RASBO toolkit has been used to identify specific intervention relating to reducing the young person's risk of youth offending behaviour.
- Where a child has been Identified at YOT panel that Early Help is more appropriate than YOT intervention. Consideration at panel as to what this targeted intervention should be that meets the behaviour identified.
- A Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF) is a tool that should be completed by professionals with any child who is thought to be at risk of or known to be at risk of one or more forms of exploitation. If a child within the Early help and Prevention Service has been identified as low risk, the PCSO should be included within the plan of intervention. Where the outcome is medium, the PCSO should ensure that the named PCSO aligned to that young person, also called the Single Point of contact (SPOC) and the lead professional are in contact. The PCSO is able to expand the specialist Team around the Worker model to allocated SPOCs to support them with how they can contribute to a child's plan.

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- The PCSO is a Preventing Offending Champion and because of this attends regular meetings chaired by the Service Leader of the Youth Offending Team. This is an opportunity to discuss relevant subjects and give service updates. It is an opportunity to reflect on issues being experienced and be introduced to new tools and resources with representatives from across the whole service.
- The PCSO has attended previous organised events (focusing on exploitation) within local youth centres. They can present and interact directly with young people. This has supported with increasing relationships including making links with the Fire Service.
- Community Partnership Information form (CPI) training was initiated by the PCSO for all Early Help staff. CPIs have been promoted within Champions meetings and within schools.
- The PCSO has worked with our preventing offending specialist to design training relating to exploitation, county lines and offending along with suggested interventions and how these should be used. This has been delivered to all Early Help and Prevention staff and all new social workers in Portsmouth as part of the Academy training programme.
- The PCSO presents at all bimonthly Early Help and Prevention City Wide meetings to update all staff regarding their role and the role of the Police and attends the Portsmouth District Tactical Planning meeting (TPM) alongside our management to represent Early Help.

Current interventions:

- Our recording system, Mosaic has been updated to enable us to now track the TAW that has been offered more efficiently
- Since June 2022 we are aware that the reducing offending specialist and the PCSOs have provided Team Around the Worker (TAW) for 36 children
- In addition, 33 other children have had extended one to one support sessions from the PCSOs
- The PCSOs have also recorded 32 sessions of support for their police colleagues to support them in their work as a SPOC

Impact:

In compiling this report, we have again explored the journey of the first 8 children that we worked with in 2021 after we had finished our intervention. Out of the initial 8 children only one was reopened to Family Support and Safeguarding for a further period of intervention. A further child is currently open again to Early Help and Prevention; however, this is not

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because of ASB. Therefore, we can conclude that 7 out of the 8 children were previously considered at risk of exploitation 6 now have no risk recorded and 1 has been reduced to low.

We have also looked at 14 children whose intervention commenced in 2022. Out of the 14, 8 remain open to our service with improvements being made. The children either have low or no exploitation concerns. The intervention for the other 6 children has ended. There have currently been no further concerns raised and no referrals. It is acknowledged that these have only been closed for between 1- 6 months.

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Signed by (Director)

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
CFE Decision meeting - 20 10 22 - APPENDIX - PSCO Case study FINAL	Attached.
Threshold Document	PSCP-Threshold-Document-v5-March-2021.pdf (portsmouthscp.org.uk)