

**Meeting:** Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019

**Title:** Child Sexual Exploitation

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**Service:** Children Young People and Learning

**Wards affected:** All

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**1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update and overview of the current context in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in North Tyneside Children's Services and the mechanism by which we review children who are at risk of CSE.

**2. Introduction**

The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People developed the definition of child sexual exploitation which is now used by the government and other organisations:

“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 using 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 characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability”.

### **3. Details**

Within North Tyneside we have MSET processes in place – The definition of which stands for Missing, Slavery (MDS), Exploitation and Trafficking (MSET). We have a process by which workers who have a worry that a child or young person is at risk through being missing, involved in slavery, being exploited or trafficked and having put in place disruption plans with multi agency partners will be referred in to MSET.

Pre-MSET meets once a month to review referrals and agree actions. The meeting consists of police, a senior manager in children’s services, residential managers and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). All referrals are screened and discussed around what work has been undertaken to disrupt and what further work could be recommended. If it is agreed to progress to the full MSET panel, then the meeting is held the following week with full multi agency attendance.

Prior to progressing to MSET and through robust planning we try and disrupt any worries that we have in relation to children and young people. We work closely with the police who will co-ordinate things such as a neighbourhood officer response and determine if a Child Abduction Warning Notice (CAWN) can be served on a property where a young person under 16 may be going and there are worries around exploitation. Should this disruption not work to reduce the worries, or the worries escalate then the case would be referred in to MSET.

Our Case recording system allows for identification of children who are at risk of being Missing involved in slavery, exploitation or potentially are being trafficked and regular reports allow for active review and monitoring of cases. This enables discussion in Supervision; appropriate referrals being progressed, or disruptive action progressed. There is currently scoping taking place around having a multi-agency data set which would better facilitate strategic and operational understanding of the extent of the worries and the impact of the arrangements.

There is a growing awareness of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and while we are seeing some cases we have not as yet got the information to understand the extent of the issues. In recognition of the need to better understand CCE across the borough, the Police have commissioned a problem profile. This will inform our response moving forward.

Under the new North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements a report will be provided to the Quality of Practice Standing Group. This group will meet every two months and have oversight of the Local Authority response and provide any further recommendations for this area. The Corporate Parenting Forum also receives a six-monthly report on missing episodes.

### **4. Background Information**

The following link can be used to access the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Partnership website which contains relevant information around Child Sexual Exploitation

<https://www.northtynesidescp.org.uk/professional/child-sexual-exploitation/>

### **5. Appendices**