

APPENDIX 3 - Details of the cases under the review period

January 2017 – October 2018

- 10 cases were identified between January 2017 and October 2018 that involved a form of sexualised peer on peer abuse where an alleged perpetrator(s) attended the same school as the alleged victim(s). Five of these identified cases were primary age pupils and five were secondary age pupils.
- 6 of the alleged recorded incidents took place outside of school with 4 of the alleged incidents taking place at school.
- All 10 cases have been recorded as alleged sexual violence. Of the cases recorded as sexual violence:
 - 1 is recorded as alleged rape
 - 1 is recorded as alleged assault by penetration and
 - 8 are recorded as alleged sexual assault including inappropriate touching.
- Analysis of the outcomes of the referrals found that:
 - 6 are recorded as 'NFA (no further action for social care)
 - In 2 cases that were referred in, the threshold for a section 47 enquiry (this is where a child is at risk of significant harm) was not met. In one of these cases a child and family assessment was completed. All 10 cases are now recorded as 'closed to social care'.
- A strategy meeting was held for one case that resulted in it being progressed to child protection level for one of the children involved.
- A section 47 enquiry (a child is at risk of significant harm) was held for 1 case and a child and family assessment was completed. This case was subsequently closed to social care.
- There were police investigations in 4 cases, of which 3 indicate that there were no prosecutions. 1 case we are unable to report on due to the confidential nature of the case and restrictions placed on access to the information.

Assess the advice given, taking into account the national guidance available at the time

- For the first 12 months of this period the guidance available to schools nationally was general safeguarding guidance e.g. Keeping Children Safe in Education, Working Together to Safeguard Children, which did not include specific sections or guidance on peer on peer abuse.
- The DFE central government guidance on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence in schools and colleges was implemented in December 2017. This

sets out the requirements for the completion of a safety plan and advises to consider referral to another service.

- In April 2017 Herefordshire Council funded a report into a historical case of sexualised peer on peer abuse in one school; that delivered several recommendations. These recommendations (see appendix) included: a consideration of future risks posed to individual pupils and a template for a safety plan/risk assessment that was included in the report. It further recommended that Herefordshire Council would have its own policy.
- No advice was recorded as given by the MASH in 4 of the 10 recorded cases.
- Advice such as a safety plan was not given in one other case (a historical case): the victim and perpetrator no longer attended the same school.
- In the 5 remaining cases, advice is being recorded as given but safety plans were not included in this recorded advice for 4 of the cases. In the remaining case, the school had already put into place a written safety plan.
- There is evidence of schools completing 'keep safe work' such as the NSPCC PANTS programme, making referrals e.g. to the Police, social workers visiting schools and involvement of WMRSASC in order to keep young people safe and apart where recommended. There is evidence of multi-agency working.

Contact a school/college to confirm if advice was followed or what action was taken

In all cases where advice was given, the schools had followed the advice to refer to other services such as the police, WMRSASC and a health visitor. Support was also put in place by one school which is ongoing and includes the NSPCC PANTS programme and the New Start Network from Shropshire.

November 2018- November 2019

- Total cases during the period: 18 cases were identified that involved a form of sexualised peer on peer abuse where an alleged perpetrator(s) attended the same educational setting as the victim(s). However further analysis of the data in June 2020 found that 1 case has been incorrectly identified for this investigation: The alleged perpetrator did not attend the same school as the victim.
- Age Range : 4 of the cases occurred with primary age pupils, one involved pupils 16-18 years attending a college and the remainder of the cases (13) involved secondary school age pupils.
- Location: 12 of the alleged incidents occurred outside of school and 6 of the incidents occurred in school.
- Type of abuse - The types of sexual peer on peer abuse included in the 18 cases identified were: 1 case was of alleged sexual abuse, 1 was alleged consensual sexual touching, 2 were alleged sexual harassment and 14 were alleged sexual violence.

- For the 14 cases listed as alleged sexual violence: 2 involved alleged rape, 12 alleged sexual assault. 6 of the cases of alleged sexual assault related to inappropriate touching and one of these incidents is recorded as persistent inappropriate touching.