

## Summary of recommendations to the executive and executive responses [Child Exploitation task and finish group]

<p>Between November 2019 and December 2019 a task and finish group concerning child exploitation was conducted.</p> <p>The following was recommended to the executive:</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation 1</b></p>	<p><b><u>Publicising efforts to address Child Exploitation</u></b></p> <p><b>That the executive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>undertakes an exercise to highlight to the local community the work that has been undertaken over the past year to coordinate local partners addressing Child Exploitation; and</b></li> <li>• <b>undertakes publicity to raise awareness of Child Exploitation issues locally and promote the reporting of issues and concerns to assist disruption and prevention work.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Executive Response</b></p>	<p>Agreed. There is a need to raise awareness as part of a Public Health led initiative, to co-ordinate information and advice regarding the risk to young people’s health and welfare from exploitation. This key area of preventative activity is key component of the new Child Exploitation strategic plan being developed by the CE Strategic Group (will be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> September). Action though on this area has already commenced with a particular focus on young people participation and best methods of promoting key messages and resources. The CE Strategic Group intend to use intelligence on high risk groups to better target public health information on contextual safeguarding and community awareness (including specific cohorts of known young people and geographical hotspots).</p> <p>Updated information on the WISH website to incorporate all forms of Exploitation not solely CSE. This also includes updated information and relevant signposting in February 2020.</p> <p>Throughout late 2019 and early 2020 children and families co-delivered with the youth justice service, monthly contextual safeguarding training to partner agencies to highlight holistic approaches to safeguarding adolescents. The aim was to promote and embed the use of the Child Exploitation risk assessment toolkit across the directorate and partner agencies. Training ceased in March 2020 but will be re-starting virtually in September 2020 All training sessions have been fully booked.</p> <p>The Child Exploitation team delivered training in November 2019 to all Designated Safeguarding Leads at annual Education Conference. The aim was to raise awareness and promote the assessment toolkit and engage partner agencies in agile responses to exploitation.</p>

	CE awareness day to be incorporated into Children and Families all staff conference in collaboration with a specialist partner (NWG) - this was scheduled for March 2020 but did not happen due to COVID -19. The CE Strategic Group as part of its new delivery plan are planning a dedicated contextual safeguarding event at the end of 2020.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
To establish through the CE Strategic Group a public health led publicity campaign across the county.	Andy Gill - Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding Quality and Improvement	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2020	There is a co-ordinated public health awareness raising campaign regarding child exploitation across Herefordshire.	This is being progressed by public health but has been delayed as a result of the work that is being done for COVID 19. Public health have progressed work on resources for young people and agreed through the CE Strategic Group this needs to be delivered with greater pace and an agreed delivery plan. Delivery work to start in January 2021.
To arrange and facilitate contextual safeguarding training across the partnership	Andy Gill - Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding Quality and Improvement	Start in September 2020	There is virtual training delivered across the partnership.	Virtual training has been continuing across the partnership; with more dates being arranged for January – June 2021 on a monthly cycle
The CE Strategic Group as part of its new delivery plan are planning a dedicated contextual safeguarding event at the end of 2020.	Andy Gill - Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding Quality and Improvement	December 2020	Event delivered successfully.	Planning is underway for a contextualised safeguarding event to take place in Spring 2021 and is being arranged through the Safeguarding Partnership

<b>Recommendation 2</b>	<u><b>The exploitation risk assessment tool and safeguarding thresholds of need</b></u>  <b>That the executive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expedite the inclusion of level 3 cases in the exploitation risk assessment tool to ensure a more detailed assessment of those children and young people at risk; and</li> <li>• investigate the potential of including those children presenting at the level 2 threshold of need in the exploitation risk assessment tool.</li> </ul>			
<b>Executive Response</b>	Agreed. It is good practice to ensure the exploitation tool is completed by any agency working with a child or young person at any level of need where there are emerging concerns of child exploitation.			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Target/Success Criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Children and families to request all interventions with children at risk of child exploitation, regardless of the level of need, complete an exploitation risk assessment to better inform the level of risk and the intervention(s) required to meet the child/young person's need.	Ceri Morgan – Assistant Director Education Development and Skills	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	All children open to HCC Early Help/ family support service will ensure a child exploitation risk assessment is completed should there be evidence of emerging risk of Child Exploitation.	Data now being collated on the number of children & young people being identified with a concern around CE. A risk assessment is not always being completed.
The Early help strategic group (right help right time) to work with partner agencies, to encourage the use of the Child Exploitation tool when completing an early help assessment and there is an emerging risk of Child Exploitation.	Nicola Turvey – Early Help Manager	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	Any agency working with a child at level 2 will consider if there is risk of child exploitation, and if so, complete the CE risk assessment.	This hasn't been discussed at the Early Help Strategic Group yet. To be put on the agenda at the next meeting to promote the use of the CE tool.

<b>Recommendation 3</b>	<p><b><u>Data sharing</u></b></p> <p><b>That the executive works with partner agencies, in particular the Police and organisations in the CSP, to examine the impediments to the sharing of data and propose solutions where issues exist.</b></p>			
<b>Executive Response</b>	<p>Agreed. It is always important to ensure information and data can be shared as effectively as possible across all agencies, to enable children and young people to be appropriately safeguarded. There have been discussions with police regarding the Problem Profile that was being undertaken.</p>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Target/Success Criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<p>The CE Strategic Group will have blocks and impediments to information and data sharing as a standing agenda item, to ensure this receives regular attention.</p>	<p>Andy Gill - Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding Quality and Improvement</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Data sharing protocols are used effectively to protect young people</p>	<p>Information and data sharing is a standing agenda item on each meeting agenda to ensure that the CE Strategic group share any blocks or impediments so that these can be addressed across the partner agencies. Working with support from the national Tackling Child Exploitation programme (from November 2020) we are developing a targeted approach – pulling data and intelligence together on group of young people most at risk of child exploitations (approximately 300) so we can be more strategic and preventative in our approach.</p>

<b>Recommendation 4</b>	<p><b><u>Mapping of current services and organisations</u></b></p> <p><b>That the executive facilitates a mapping exercise of all current Child Exploitation services provided by local organisations and agencies and publicises the finalised map to all organisations, agencies and the public.</b></p>			
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<b>Executive Response</b>	Agreed. This links to Recommendation 1 response - will include a list of local resources and organisations that is updated by the CE team that all colleagues can access.				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Target/Success Criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>	
The CE Strategic Group to lead on pulling information together as to services available to support both young people, and their parents and carers, where there is concern regarding child exploitation. There will be further work, as previously described, on listening and responding to the voice of young people.	Andy Gill - Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding Quality and Improvement Karen Wright	End December 2020	All services to young people will be mapped, and the information made available to parents, carers, young people and professionals across Herefordshire.	<p><i>See response to Recommendation 3</i></p> <p>Tackling Child Exploitation bespoke support package has commenced in November 2020 to take this work forward.</p> <p>Child Exploitation Team already have resources available for parents and carers in respect of CE issues which are promoted.</p>	

<b>Recommendation 5</b>	<p><b><u>Promotion of training and raising awareness</u></b></p> <p>That the executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Considers the promotion of the training from the exploitation and vulnerability coordinators to schools or groups of schools;</b></li> <li>• <b>Investigates the provision of the training from the exploitation and vulnerability coordinators to all members of the Council; and</b></li> <li>• <b>Arranges the hosting of a parish summit on Child Exploitation to raise awareness throughout the local community and inform parish and town councils how to contribute to disruption and prevention work.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Executive Response</b>	<p>Part agreed. Whilst it is agreed that there should be awareness raising across schools, the Child Exploitation team is a very small team, and would not have the capacity to train schools, even if clustered. A presentation to the schools Designated Safeguarding Leads meeting to fulfil this recommendation.</p> <p>Agree a presentation to council members.</p> <p>Agree hosting a parish council summit at which a presentation could be delivered by the CE team.</p>

Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
CE Head of Service, Barb Langstaffe, to liaise with Alison Naylor, Head of Learning and Achievement, to arrange presentation at DSL event(s) as appropriate for primary and secondary schools.	Salwa Farid – Head of Safeguarding and Review  Alison Naylor – Head of Learning and Achievement	September 30 <sup>th</sup> 2020	Schools will have greater awareness of the signs of exploitation, and will be able to complete the CE risk assessment tool to better inform their response and interventions.	Safeguarding Education officer now in post. In the process of being made to hold a series of CE workshops during spring term 2021. Ruby Mathews (Managing Practitioner) from the CE team is leading.
CE Head of Service Barb Langstaffe to liaise with Chris Jones, strategic business intelligence manager, to arrange date and time for briefing to council members on child exploitation. Briefing will be delivered before the end of November 2020	Salwa Farid – Head of Safeguarding and Review  Chris Jones – Strategic Business Intelligence Manager	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Councillors will have a greater awareness of the signs of exploitation	This has not yet happened. New Head of Service Salwa Farid to follow this up with a view to providing a briefing at the beginning of 2021.
CE Head of Service Barb Langstaffe to liaise with Chris Jones, strategic business intelligence manager, to arrange date and time for a presentation to be delivered at a parish council summit preferably before the end of November 2020.	Salwa Farid – Head of Safeguarding and Review  Chris Jones – Strategic Business Intelligence Manager	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Parish councillors will have a greater awareness of the signs of exploitation	This has not yet progressed, however The Childrens Society CLIMB project have delivered CE Workshops to local parish councils across Herefordshire.

<b>Recommendation 6</b>	<u><b>Signposting and reporting tools</b></u>  <b>That the executive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Undertakes a review of the signposting of information concerning Child Exploitation to identify improvements that could be easily accomplished across agencies; and</b></li> <li>• <b>Works with organisations involved in the development of the new reporting Tell Someone app to expedite its introduction.</b></li> </ul>			
<b>Executive Response</b>	<p>Part agree. This will be incorporated along with Recommendation 4 mapping of current services and organisations actions, under a whole system approach captured under Recommendation 1. This will pull all information together and can then be disseminated via safeguarding partnership website for all agencies to access.</p> <p>The WISH website has been updated by the Child Exploitation team to incorporate all forms of exploitation.</p> <p>Young people have requested an online platform such as Instagram or Facebook for this information to be accessible and signpost them to the services they may require. Will also consider the potential introduction of the Tell Someone app and sharing of experience of other organisations.</p>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Target/Success Criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>
See actions under Recommendation 1 and 4. The Child Exploitation Strategic Group will implement as part of its delivery plan.	Andy Gill - Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding Quality and Improvement	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Signposting is clear and accessible and if agreed, a rollout plan for the use of the above reporting app.	Use of the App has been discounted as it was felt that young people wouldn't use this. CE team working to update the website to provide access to resources that are freely available for children and young people

<b>Recommendation 7</b>	<b><u>Annual Child Exploitation summit</u></b>				
	<b>That the children and young people scrutiny committee considers the scheduling of an annual Child Exploitation summit as part of its work programming.</b>				
<b>Response</b>	To be completed by the scrutiny committee – to be considered as part of the scrutiny committee’s work programme prioritisation session. Supported by the Child Exploitation Strategic Group.				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Target/Success Criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>	
See above and Recommendation 1					

<b>Recommendation 8</b>	<b><u>Transition to adulthood for vulnerable young people</u></b>				
	<b>That the executive develops a clear pathway for young people (not in care), vulnerable to exploitation, during transition to adulthood to ensure that services and access to support continues over the age of 18.</b>				
<b>Executive Response</b>	Agreed				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Target/Success Criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>	
Pathway to be developed by Child Exploitation team that links into the transitions protocol. Key part of the Child Exploitation Strategic Groups delivery plan.	Salwa Farid – Head of Safeguarding and Review	October 2020	A clear pathway will be in place for all young people that enables them to continue to access the services and support that they need	The Local Authority is currently engaged with the Tackling Child Exploitation project and is receiving a bespoke support package focused on Horizontal and Vertical expansion and inclusion. The first meeting was held to progress this on 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2020. The next steps of the project will involve a small group of individuals from key partner agencies. It is anticipated this will be concluded by Spring 2021.	

<b>Recommendation 9</b>	<p><b><u>Licensing and safeguarding training</u></b></p> <p><b>That the executive considers what other licenses granted by the council could include a requirement for mandatory safeguarding training.</b></p>				
<b>Executive Response</b>	<p>Agreed Training is mandatory for Taxi Drivers and being delivered through the work of the Safeguarding Business Unit. Consideration needs to be given to the development of mandatory training for security staff in the night time economy, sports coaches, those with alcohol licences and transportation hubs.</p>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Target/Success Criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>	
Training packages to be developed that can be delivered to specific areas of employment that provide them with mandatory safeguarding training	Salwa Farid	December 2020	Training Packages developed and training arranged.	CE Team/ LADO/Licensing to develop online CE e-learning module. This will be developed and ready by no later than 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021. This will require some specialist input from the Communications Team.	

<b>Recommendation 10</b>	<p><b><u>Children not in school</u></b></p> <p><b>That the executive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>undertakes a review of the risk of exploitation to children not in school and determines whether additional resource should be dedicated to the home education team to assist in the identification of safeguarding concerns relating to children not attending school; and</b></li> <li>• <b>works with schools to ensure that a Child Exploitation risk assessment is conducted on individual pupils ahead of the application of fixed term exclusions.</b></li> </ul>				
<b>Executive Response</b>	<p>Partially agreed. Determines whether additional resource should be dedicated to the home education team to assist in the identification of safeguarding concerns relating to children not attending school. This is being considered by Ben Straker.</p>				

**Undertakes a review of the risk of exploitation to children not in school and determines whether additional resource should be dedicated to the home education team to assist in the identification of safeguarding concerns relating to children not attending school:**

The current law on home education states:

- *If your child is currently on the roll of a school you are not obliged to inform the school that he or she is being withdrawn for home education or gain consent for this. However, it is sensible to do so, in order to avoid subsequent misunderstandings as to how you intend to fulfil your parental responsibility for your child's education. The school is obliged to inform the local authority of children removed from its admission register and will give home education as the reason, if notified of this by the parent. Parents of children withdrawn from school for home education are not legally obliged to inform the local authority themselves*
- *Your local authority has no formal powers or duty to monitor the provision of education at home*
- *Local authorities have a general duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (section 175 of the Education Act 2002) in relation to their education functions as a local authority. This applies equally to children who are being educated at home, as it does to children attending school. This duty does not entitle a local authority to insist on visiting a child's home, or seeing the child, simply for the purposes of monitoring the provision of home education.*
- *Informal enquiries can include a request to see the child, either in the home or in another location. But the parent is under no legal obligation to agree.*

As a consequence, until the law is changed at a national level requiring that the Elective Home Education Officer must have access to an EHE child on a regular basis and be informed of all children being home educated (a national register) a review to establish if more resources were required to assist the EHE Officer in identification of exploitation/safeguarding concerns would not provide the information to allow a cost benefit analysis to be completed.

The EHE Officer currently works effectively with the multi agencies including the MASH, schools, the CE team and others, referring in concerns if they have them and attending multi agency meetings in order to assist in the safeguarding of EHE children. Attention needs to be focussed on changing the national laws regarding EHE and then additional resource would become useful in assisting with identifying safeguarding concerns for EHE children.

**Works with schools to ensure that a Child Exploitation risk assessment is conducted on individual pupils ahead of the application of fixed term exclusions"**

The current guidance from the DFE on exclusions states that: 'The head teacher must take into account of their legal duty of care when sending a pupil home following an exclusion'

Schools must therefore take into account the safety of the child before excluding them either for a fixed term period or for a permanent exclusion and as a result many schools already have strategies in place to deal with a child where an exclusion is not a 'safe' option. The use of a child exploitation risk assessment should be amongst a number of tools that schools consider before

	excluding a child however it would not be appropriate to complete one before every fixed term exclusion. The vast majority of fixed term exclusions are for periods of less than 5 days and there is a limit on the number of days a child can be 'fixed term' excluded for in any one term and year. If a child is given a fixed term exclusion of more than 5 days, the school has to ensure that they arrange alternative provision for the child. The use of the child exploitation risk assessment should therefore continue to be promoted to schools as one part of the tool kit that should be considered when excluding a child			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Target/Success Criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>
To continue to promote the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment with schools via termly briefings to head teachers and designated safeguarding leads and through training events e.g. the safeguarding in education conference. <i>See Actions under Recommendation 5.</i>	Alison Naylor – Head of Learning and Achievement and Victoria Blackmore – Education Safeguarding Office	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	Conferences and briefings will include information/training on the Child Exploitation Risk assessment and schools will consider the need to complete one as part of their RA processes before excluding a child	November 2020 education safeguarding conference – session led by the CE team on CE and using the new CE RA tool.
To complete a short review of the risk to exploitation of children not currently in school (EHE) children with the child exploitation team	Victoria Blackmore - Education Safeguarding Office and Joy Burnett – Elective Home Education Officer	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	A written report is completed on the risk to exploitation of EHE children	This is being progressed.