

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

REPORT

Title: Contextual Safeguarding & Exploitation Subgroup Update

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1. Brief Update

- 1.1 The Cotextual Safeguarding and exploitation sub-group continues to work to ensure coordinated multi-agency responses to reduce experiences of significant harm such as child criminal & sexual exploitation and serious youth violence that tends to happen in contexts outside the family home i.e. within peer groups, school’s settings, online and neighbourhoods. The subgroup last met on 14 June 2022 There was a good discussion following the presentation of the outcome of the Young people safety summit regarding the role Citizens alliance network and Community Solutions Hub’s could be playing in creating safe spaces for young people and engaging further with families on the issues of youth safety . The meeting agreed there needed to be more engagement with Parks given young people were saying these were spaces they could feel least safe. A strong message from young people is their fear of repercussions if they “snitch”, and how they valued talking to relatable adults e.g. youth workers. This message needs to inform our commissioning arrangements going forward.
- 1.2 The Young Londoners funding and LA programme has helped us establish a tiered response to the threat of serious youth violence amongst the borough’s young people. The presence of an independently commissioned detached youth work team, lacking for many years in the borough, has been essential in being an immediate first point of contact with young people at risk gang involvement. Outcomes of detached youth work are notoriously hard to measure, but case study exemplars have demonstrated impact. Close partnership working between Spark 2 Life and Box-Up Crime and Studio 3 Arts have helped to establish a referral pathway for young people engaged with through the detached team. Box-Up Crime’s focus has been to reengage young people in learning, with Studio 3 Arts working with older young people to develop entrepreneurship and pathways to self-employment. The cessation of funding for this programme from January 2023 carries with it risk to the delivery of the council’s Step Up Stay Safe programme, and the threat of serious youth violence. It is therefore important to explore all

options to continue funding this element through direct LA commissioning. Work is underway with Community safety, Early help, Social care, and commissioning colleagues coming together to address the funding gaps and commissioning requirements.

- 1.3 Listening to the children's message on safe spaces we have linked up with colleagues in Inclusive Growth who are relaunching the LBBD Inclusive Growth strategy, which will have a Places to be proud of working group answering to the main Delivery Board. The focus will be about designing places for young people (and older people), with community safety and safeguarding against contextual harm in mind.
- 1.4 The Pharmacy lead presented at the recent MASE meeting sharing the role that pharmacists play in offering sexual health advice and support to young people, being mindful of their vulnerabilities to abuse and sexual exploitation in particular. The staff across the 30 borough pharmacies are trained by Brooke. Our Contextual safeguarding & exploitation manager will be offering additional sessions to compliment the training already in place, ensuring a link up and stronger pathway to children's social care and early help.
- 1.5 The MASE (Missing and sexual exploitation) meeting continues to meet monthly (no meeting held during August holiday period) and has a tactical and strategic focus on children at risk of sexual exploitation. The last meeting on 26/7/22 reported there were 26 children assessed as at risk of sexual exploitation, of which 92% are girls with an average age of 16 years, with the youngest being 12 years. 38% of the children are Looked after and 27% care leavers. 54% had gone missing in the last 12 months, with 67% of these missing episodes relating to 4 young people. The Missing Panel continues to keep oversight of our missing cohort, seeking to ensure best practice in working with children who go missing, as well as understanding the drivers for the missing episodes in order that we can best disrupt these from happening. The NRM panel continues to consider the children's vulnerability to trafficking and of the 56 presented at the panel to date, 11 were for CSE concerns. Persons and places of concern continue to be looked at and police apply CAWN's where appropriate, with community safety and additional policing or detached youth workers going in when places of concern are identified. Police have undertaken Make safe training and will be going into local businesses, cab companies and hotels to train staff.

The meeting did a deep dive on the 6 young people who had been known to MASE for the longest period – only 2 are now under 18, all are in care /care-leavers. All have special education needs with 3 being out of college/employment. Four have been known to CAMHS due to poor mental health and 5 use alcohol and cannabis. Unsurprisingly all have suffered adverse childhood experiences with domestic violence being prevalent in all their earlier experiences. Parental substance misuse and mental health were prevalent and experience of significant loss through bereavement is a feature for 4 of our young people.

- 1.6 The monthly CEG (Criminal exploitation group) continues to meet, and similar to MASE has a tactical focus. The last meeting in on 19/7/22 heard that we have 32 open to Rescue & response due to concerns of running County lines. 94% are male, aged from 14 to 21. The highest cohort are 16-19 years old. Two have a CSE flag. Significantly 47% are care leavers and 22% are in care with 16% on a child in need plan with 6% on a Child protection plan. The meeting also reports on the 16

young people who have a county line flag but known to other Local authorities but residing in LBBD. In total we have 78 young people with a live NRM status due to criminal exploitation / trafficking. The meeting was heartened to hear the feedback from two young people , their parents, and social workers on the outcome of interventions offered prior to the decision to remove them from the CEG list. The feedback highlighted some positive changes for the lads which they attributed to trusting relationships with their social worker , Youth offending worker and youth workers. Partnership with their parent (mothers in this instance) was a key factor in bringing about change. Both had engaged positively in education, one attending a residential programme at the Camelia Botnar foundation – building aspirations for the future has been seen as a key contributor to minimising risk for children at risk of criminal exploitation. The work by the police exploitation team, Spark2 Life worker and YARM were also noted .

2. Support required from CSP Board

- 2.1 For the Board to note the content of the report .