

Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Report of
Margaret Hathaway, Interim Accountable Officer, Southend and Castle Point
& Rochford CCGs

to
Health & Wellbeing Board
on
20th June 2018

Agenda
Item No.

Report prepared by:

Ruth Baker, Head of Children's Service Transformation

	For discussion	X	For information only		Approval required
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Joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to child sexual exploitation, children associated with gangs and at risk of exploitation and children missing from home, care or education in Southend-on-Sea

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to;

- 1.1 To provide HWB with a background summary of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection findings and to advise of the action being taken in relation to the findings.

2 Recommendations

HWB are asked to;

- 2.1 Note the report
- 2.2 That progress against the action plan is reported to HWB for assurance in the Journey of the Child Annual report

3 Background

- 3.1 Between 19 and 23 March 2018, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary and Fire & Rescue services (HMICFRS) and HMI Probation (HMIP) undertook a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to child sexual exploitation, children at risk from gangs and exploitation and children missing from home, care and education. The JTAI was a joint inspection of children's services, Essex Police, the National Probation Service, the

Community Rehabilitation Company, Youth Offending Services and Health providers. 16 inspectors inspected services over the course of 3 full days spread over 4 days with formal feedback on the fifth day. The inspectors were from Ofsted, HMICFRS, HMIP and CQC. Ofsted were the lead inspection agency.

- 3.2 The inspection included a 'deep dive' focus on the response to children and young people experiencing these vulnerabilities.
- 3.3 The joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) included an evaluation MASH+. MASH+ is the multi-agency team which assesses the level of need and risk at the first point that a child is referred to the Council due to welfare concerns held by professionals or the public. In this JTAI, the evaluation of MASH+ focused on children presenting with the type of vulnerabilities which were the focus of the deep dive.
- 3.4 The inspection team also considered the effectiveness of the multi-agency leadership and management of this work, including the role played by the LSCB (LSCB).
- 3.5 The formal letter from the inspection was published on 9th May (see appendice 1)
- 3.6 The inspectors' feedback reflected the Council's view of the progress made against the Children's Services Improvement Plan and the areas of identified challenge and priority focus.
- 3.7 There were no areas for immediate action identified by the inspection team.
- 3.8 During the inspection the inspectors identified no children who were unsafe.
- 3.9 The letter identifies a number of areas of strong practice including the partnership response to children at risk of both criminal and sexual exploitation, the relationships between Council practitioners and young people, management oversight and decision making within the Council, the tenacity of practitioners, the Council's commitment to improving outcomes for children including the investment made in the services, the development of the adolescent intervention and prevention team, use of performance information and Council strategies relating to workforce development, recruitment and retention. In total the letter identifies 27 areas of strength across the partnership.
- 3.10 The letter identified 29 areas for improvement across the partnership. Of these 9 relate specifically to Council children's services. The areas for improvement identified were all, bar one very minor area, areas we had advised Ofsted were areas of focus for us prior to the inspection.
- 3.11 Action is being taken on the areas for development by all agencies inspected. It is of note that two of the areas for development are relatively easy to address as they relate to minutes of meetings being shared and the structure of a type of meeting.

- 3.12 The partnership is developing a joint action plan to address the identified areas for development so that we have a single plan across the children's system. The timescale for the completion of the plan is August however, as detailed above, improvement activity is already planned and being undertaken.
- 3.13 The Deputy Chief Executive, as DCS, will provide Ofsted with a written statement of proposed multi-agency response to the findings in the letter by 18th August 2018.
- 3.14 Progress against this plan will then be monitored by Childrens Services Improvement Board, by individual agencies, the LSCB and the Community Safety Partnership.

4 Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The Council is required to submit to Ofsted, the statutory regulator, a written proposal of our multi-agency response to the findings of the inspection. We therefore have no other option than to comply with this requirement.
- 4.2 Safeguarding children is a statutory duty of relevant safeguarding agencies and therefore HWB members need to be assured that progress is being made against the action plan in order to discharge this duty. This is the reason for the recommendation for the progress against the action plan to be brought back to HWB during Q4 of 2018/19.

5 Financial / Resource Implications

- 5.1 None identified at this time however this may change once the multi-agency response to the findings is agreed.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 None

7 Equality & Diversity

- 7.1 One of the areas for improvement related to diversity and this will form part of our multi-agency response and action plan

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Southend on Sea Joint Targeted Area Inspection Report .