

LEARNING FROM THE PETERBOROUGH CSE OVERVIEW REPORT



Operation Erle

In June 2016, the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board published 'AN OVERVIEW OF THE MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN PETERBOROUGH'.

Operation Erle, was the operational name of a multi-agency partnership investigation into child sexual exploitation in Peterborough between 2013 to 2015.

Operation Erle 2013 - 2015

- Operational Erle was managed via effective multi-agency working. The Operation received national praise for its victim centred approach.
- The Operation centred around a strong ethos of multi-agency information sharing which was facilitated by a 'Silver' and 'Gold' meeting structure which allowed separation of operational and strategic discussions.
- As the investigation progressed, it became apparent that schools were key in supporting victims. Educational settings hold a large amount of information which is vital in building a true picture of the young person's everyday life, including their concerns and vulnerabilities.

Operation Erle 2013 - 2015

- Except for exceptional circumstances, all young people involved in Operational Erle were automatically subject to a section 47 enquiry. This ensured that the impact of CSE on young people was considered appropriately in a multi-agency information sharing context.
- Training and briefings for staff from all partners was offered to ensure the signs and symptoms of child sexual exploitation were understood by frontline practitioners and managers alike.

Operation Erle 2013 - 2015

- It has been identified that there is a need to produce and share victim contact strategies with all members of a joint enquiry. These should include contingency planning, social media strategy and suicide strategy.
- It is important to consider the needs of the whole family during the investigation adopting a 'think family' approach. This relates to both the victim's family and that of any potential perpetrators.
- A common theme across many of the cases was the number of missing from home episodes. It was acknowledged that young people may need or want to speak to an independent person when returning from a missing episode. A dedicated Missing Case Worker is now commissioned from Barnardos to undertake this task and National Youth Advocacy Services (NYAS) undertake this for young people in care.

Developments in Practice

- A joint protocol on Children Who Go Missing From Home and Care has been established between Cambridgeshire Constabulary & Children's Social Care. This is updated on an ongoing basis.
- Introduction to CSE training is now available to all partner agency staff and is available as part of the core PSCB training programme.
- CSE is one of the key priorities for the Cambridgeshire Constabulary. A dedicated team has been established to deal with this crime.
- Operation Makesafe has been developed within Cambridgeshire to ensure joined up Information sharing to identify at risk young people and hot spot areas.

Developments in Practice: Education

- Each secondary school has a CSE lead who works in partnership with the PSCB Sexual Exploitation Coordinator
- Schools have been encouraged to build healthy and safer relationships into the curriculum. This is not exclusive to secondary schools, many primary schools across the city have started to deliver age appropriate content to Key Stage 2 pupils.

Developments in Practice: Police

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary has recognised the impact social media and the World Wide Web has had in relation to CSE by introducing a dedicated 'online' investigation strand. This is based within the CSE Investigation Team which helps speed up information sharing and the response to opportunities to tackle CSE.
- The CSE and Missing Person Investigation Unit are based in the same location as partnership agencies who sit within the MASH, placing all the needs of all CSE victims within a well established partnership arena.

Developments in Practice: NSPCC

- The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Children (NSPCC) was a key partner during Operation Erle. The dedicated Service Centre in Peterborough redirected resources to deliver within the child sexual exploitation agenda, drawing on a national body of evidence and model of intervention focusing on prevention where child sexual exploitation is a risk.
- A dedicated child sexual exploitation focused intervention continues to be delivered from the Service Centre, with group work provided in secondary schools, including where children have special educational needs, aimed at diverting young people at risk of sexual exploitation away from those risks. The Peterborough NSPCC team has a strong focus on participation work with young people, and through this work has provided the opportunity for young people to influence professional learning in the city.

Developments in Practice: Strategic Oversight

- **Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan** The progress of this work plan is regularly monitored and reviewed by the multi-agency Strategic Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing group. This is also reviewed by the members of the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board.
- An Operational Group has been established in Peterborough. This is a multi-agency group that will be responsible for the identification, monitoring and review of all high risk cases of missing and cases where CSE is a risk factor within Peterborough.

Developments in Practice: PSCB

Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator Role

- The Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board created the post of a part-time Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator to map multi-agency connections, ensure risk assessment is robust and interventions are available and suitable. The role has also developed multi-agency policies and procedures, raised awareness and driven continuous improvement.
- This role is now working for both the Children and Adults Safeguarding Board in Peterborough as part of one business unit.

Developments in Practice: Young People

Interventions/Chelsea's Choice

- In June 2013 the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board commissioned the drama Chelsea's Choice (delivered by Alter Ego Creative Solutions www.alteregocreativesolutions.co.uk/chelseas-choice) which was delivered to nearly all of the secondary schools in Peterborough. In excess of 3,000 Years 8 and 9 students saw the drama.
- This was followed up by Cambridgeshire Constabulary Safer Schools Officers via a roll out of the "Exploited" CEOP programme. The "Exploited" film and resource pack aims to support and educate young people on how to stay safe from abuse and exploitation.
- During the academic year 2016/17, the PSCB has organised a number of further performances at local secondary schools to continue with raising awareness of this issue with students. As part of the programme, the PSCB will also be hosting an event especially targeted at parents.

Developments in Practice: Training

Information Packs

- The Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Strategic Learning & Development Group identified the requirement for agencies to be fully aware of the signs and symptoms of child sexual exploitation. As a result a multi-agency task and finish group developed a child sexual exploitation resource and training pack. The pack is free of charge to all agencies and includes leaflets, posters, details on signs and symptoms and a 2 hour child sexual exploitation briefing which can be shared as part of agencies training or team meetings.
- The leaflets for young people and parents/carers were co-produced with a group of secondary school students to ensure that their contribution was constructively used to develop 'user friendly' materials. The leaflets are currently available in English, Polish, Russian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Slovak and Urdu.

Developments in Practice: Education

Ambassadors' and 'Champions'

- In 2016, The Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board ran a pilot with two local primary schools to train a group of pupils as “Digital Safety Ambassadors”. The pupils were trained on internet safety and will then be champions within the school setting by assisting other pupils on how to stay safe online. This will be undertaken by running assemblies and contributing to lessons on internet safety. This is key evidence of collaborative work across the local community and the inclusion of younger voices in sensitive matters that impact on their lives. A request will go to the Board to get approval to roll this out across the city.
- Multi-agency partners have made it a priority to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation throughout the local communities, for example, the Business Manager of the PSCB and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) have facilitated training to the Muslim community in Mosques and Madrasahs in Peterborough.

More Information:

- The full report can be found on the Safeguarding Board's website: [here](#), alongside lots of resources for children and young people, parents and carers and professionals.
- Peterborough Safeguarding Boards Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator:
Hannah Campling
01733 863746
hannah.campling@peterborough.gov.uk