

Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday 19 October 2021
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Shire Hall, Warwick

Membership

Councillor Yousef Dahmash (Chair)
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Jo Barker
Councillor Brett Beetham
Councillor Barbara Brown
Councillor Peter Gilbert
Councillor Brian Hammersley
Councillor Marian Humphreys
Councillor Justin Kerridge
Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince
Joseph Cannon
John McRoberts
Rev. Elaine Scrivens

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5 - 10

2. Public Speaking

3. Question Time

(1) Question to Cabinet Portfolio Holders

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting are available for members of the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to put questions to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

The work programme attached lists any briefings circulated to the Committee since the last meeting and any items listed in the Council's Forward Plan for decision by Cabinet or individual Cabinet Portfolio Holders over the coming months.

(2) Updates from Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Assistant Directors

Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Assistant Directors are invited to provide any updates they have on issues within the remit of the Committee.

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|--|---------|
| 4. Child Exploitation Annual Report | 11 - 26 |
| 5. Contextual Safeguarding and Extra Familial Abuse | 27 - 32 |
| 6. Work Programme | 33 - 36 |

To consider the enclosed work programme, updated following the meeting of the Chair and Group Spokespersons. The programme includes an update from the Forward Plan showing items relevant to the remit of this Committee.

7. Any Other Business

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for 16 November 2021 @ 10am.

The meeting will be held at Shire Hall, Warwick.

Meetings for 2021/2022 have been scheduled as follows –

- 22 February 2022 @ 10am
- 11 April 2022 @ 10am

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

Disclaimers

Webcasting and permission to be filmed

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Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election of appointment to the Council. Any changes to matters registered or new matters that require to be registered must be notified to the Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable after they arise.

A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless they have a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

Non-pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

Public Speaking

Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire, or who is in receipt of services from the Council, may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter within the remit of the Committee. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak please notify Democratic Services in writing at least two working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Council's Standing Orders.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Any member or officer of the Council or any person attending this meeting must inform Democratic Services if within a week of the meeting they discover they have COVID-19 or have been in close proximity to anyone found to have COVID-19.

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Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 30 September 2021

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Yousef Dahmash (Chair)
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Jo Barker
Councillor Brett Beetham
Councillor Barbara Brown
Councillor Brian Hammersley
Councillor Marian Humphreys
Councillor Justin Kerridge
Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince

Officers

Nigel Minns, Strategic Director for People
Helen Barnsley, Democratic Services Officer
John Coleman, Assistant Director - Children and Families
Maureen Oakes, Customer Service Manager
Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities
John Findlay, Service Manager (Business & Customer Support)
Daniel Atkins, Technical Specialist - Children Transformation

1. General

The Committee noted that Seán Taylor has stepped down from Trade Union Representative Duties and therefor will no longer be the Teacher's Representative on this scrutiny panel. Paul Gillett of the National Education Union has been elected by the Teachers' Representative Panel and will replace Seán moving forward on this committee.

Seán wished to let the committee know that he has enjoyed attending the meetings and the common purpose of those involved – “It has always been a pleasure to work across party politics and to see Councillors work towards the best interests of the young people of Warwickshire and this particular way of working and collective attitude marks this committee out as special!”

The Chair thanked Seán for his contributions to the committee and welcomed Paul. He noted that a letter would be written to both Seán and Paul.

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Pete Gilbert and Paul Gillett, Teachers' Representative.

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 20 July 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

2. Public Speaking

There were no public speakers at the meeting.

3. Question to Cabinet Portfolio Holders

There were no questions to Portfolio Holders.

(1) Updates from Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Assistant Directors

Councillor Jeff Morgan, Portfolio Holder for Children, Families & Education provided an update to the Committee in relation to the recent OFSTED inspection. It was confirmed that there had been some critical points identified by OFSTED and that officers were now working on a response which is required by 24 December 2021 which will include a statement of action for Warwickshire County Council

The five areas identified as needing improvement were as follows –

- Waiting time for ASD (it was noted that this is a national issue)
- Communication and Relationships with parents. A new parent/carers forum has been introduced.
- Special Needs Local Offer – the inspectors felt this is not visible or clear. Officers confirmed that inspectors only saw a draft version of the offer rather than the final offer – which is now live.
- There are too many SEND pupils in special schools when their needs could be met by mainstream schools.
- Lack of staff uptake for SEND training

Nigel Minns, Strategic Director – People Directorate confirmed that there were no surprises from the inspection which was positive; officers were aware of the issues raised.

Following a question from Councillor Brett Beetham it was confirmed that an OFSTED inspection was started in March 2020 but had to be suspended due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Since then, a range of improvements have been made to services. The Committee noted that many of the issues identified are national issues such as a shortage of Social Workers, a shortage of foster and residential placements.

It is unclear how much OFSTED balance National and Local issues.

Following a question from Councillor Marian Humphreys, it was confirmed that Warwickshire County Council has invested heavily in Children's Services over the last few years but the national issues are driving costs up.

John Coleman, Assistant Director – People Directorate stated that Warwickshire County Council was able to provide evidence to OFSTED on how they are facing issues that perhaps there is not much control over and how officers have worked to solve them.

4. Warwickshire Children's Strategy 2021-2030

John Coleman, Assistant Director – People's Directorate, presented the report to the Committee confirming that it is a draft version for comments from the Committee. It was noted that this is the first Warwickshire County Council strategy that is just for children and young people. The development of the strategy included head teachers, health colleagues, partners, parents/carers and young people.

It was noted that the strategy clearly outlines the intentions of Warwickshire County Council and that so far, all the feedback has been positive with children put at the heart of decision making. It was noted that there has been engagement with partner agencies but it is a Warwickshire County Council Strategy.

The engagement with children and young people has varied between the five districts but the intention is that there will be an annual survey with engagement increasing each time.

Real engagement with children and young people – variations between the districts. First survey aimed at children and young people 1800 (120,000) – intention is that this will be an annual survey.

The Committee noted that Officers would welcome views on the document ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 14th October 2021.

Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince requested that additional information relating to the overall population of Warwickshire would be helpful and would add more context to information in the strategy such as the number of social workers per children. John Coleman accepted the suggestion and agreed to add the information to the strategy.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse added that he felt some areas needed further development and that he agreed with the proposal for the strategy to come back to the Committee each year for a review. Councillor Justin Kerridge agreed with Councillor Roodhouse in relation to the measures not quite matching with what precedes them in the documents; it is not always clear how things are going to be achieved. John Coleman added that not all priorities can be delivered at the same time, with some that will need to be completed before others can be started.

Following a question from Councillor Breet Beetham, John Coleman confirmed that the survey asked for district information but not division information. It was agreed that this information

can be shared with elected members and that division information is something that can be added to future surveys.

Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince added that the strategy needs to be clearer about the services that the council is already offering; and what will continued to be offered; some parts of the document suggest that the council is not offering services that are already in place.

Councillor Brian Hammersley added that it is important that the strategy recognises that not all children are academic and they want to follow a vocational path. There needs to be support for all children, not just the academic ones.

John Coleman thanked members for their comments and grammatical corrections and confirmed that officers have tried to provide a statement of intention to integrate to partner agencies and service users.

5. Update Children's Transformation Plan

Dan Atkins - Advanced Practitioner, presented the report to the Committee to bring elected members up to date with where Warwickshire County Council is within the transformation programme.

Members of the Committee were pleased to note that there has been progress despite challenging times. The Council is starting to see emerging benefits and investments delivered. The main focus now is that people and programmes are working as they were intended to and to look into what difference the programme has made.

The Committee noted the following information -

- There has been an increase in family meetings
- There has been a reduction in children placed into care
- There has been an increase in support around domestic abuse
- There has been an increase in the number of SGOs granted

Following a question from Councillor Jo Barker in relation to domestic abuse and the council's relationship with alternative housing providers, John Coleman, Assistant Director – People Directorate confirmed that the council is working with the Sanctuary Scheme which focuses on the victim and if it safe for them to stay in their own home and remove the perpetrator. It was confirmed that there is also close working with the local heads of housing in the district and boroughs with a clear understanding of the urgency of the issue. The Committee noted that the council will always try to avoid having to use a B&B for victims but there is a housing supply concern in Warwickshire so sometimes that is the only solution. It was confirmed that Domestic abuse workers are being introduced into the children's service teams and that officers are responding to an increase in demand since the start of the pandemic. Nigel Minns, Strategic Director – People Directorate confirmed that a detailed presentation on domestic abuse had been presented to the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee; it was agreed that the report would be shared with members of this committee.

Dan Atkins informed the Committee of the Caring Dad Programme which is aimed at the perpetrator of domestic violence and supporting them to rebuild relationships. Predominately,

men are the perpetrators and this programme identifies that we need to improve our relationship with men and ensure that engagement is with all members of the family, not just Mum and Dad but all connected people (e.g. Grandparents). There has been a lack of support for perpetrators in the past, there is progress in this area which is a positive thing.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse requested information in relation to the financial planning for services and resources. John Coleman confirmed that the sustainability of services is always a challenge and that recruitment has been affected by covid but that all services and resources are now up and running.

The Committee noted that there has been an increase in the number of children coming into care during covid, including afghan refugees and other unaccompanied asylum seekers. The placement mix means that more children are now with family. Warwickshire County Council recorded the highest amount of SGO's (leaving care) in the last year. The pressure is with children placed in residential care – and there is a lack of stability for those children due in part to financial constraints.

6. Complaints Report

John Findlay - Service Manager (Business & Customer Support People) presented the report to the Committee and shared the following information -

- There were 282 complaints during 2020/2021 – an increase of 6% on the previous year.
- The number of processed and closed cases decreased by 12% during 2020/2021
- There was a 30% increase in the number of digitally created cases

In relation to the reason for complaints the following information was provided -

- Communication - 63%
- Protection of abusers - 14%
- Service Standards – 13%

The Committee noted that communication was the top reason for complaints within Warwickshire County Council. IT was confirmed that there is a new Team Leader (Louise Churchill) for complaints working on how complaints are received and why they are received. There has been an increase in all complaints during the pandemic.

Following a question in relation to the nature of complaints received and any trends identified, it was confirmed that it can be incredibly complicated; the process can take time to unpick and fully understand the true nature of the complaint.

The Committee raised concerns that the top reason for complaints is communication and asked if there is a further breakdown of reasons why communication is. The Committee asked if there was a point in the complaints process where the service user could opt to inform their local elected member? John Findlay confirmed that there is no option at present but that he would be taking all suggestions on board.

The Committee acknowledged that the council is looking to replace the current customer relations system and that a new complaints recording system would be part of this. The new system would provide interactive solutions along with a history of all interactions, across

services, with the customer and then be able to offer a better solution. The hope is that this will allow Warwickshire County Council to get much better at providing answers and solutions, quickly to customers who are aware of what is happening to them from the service. The system will allow customers to access the status of their enquiry/complaint etc.

Following a question from the Chair in relation to officers working from home during the pandemic potentially causing the spike in complaints, it was confirmed by Nigel Minns, Strategic Director – Peoples Directorate that across the Children and Families Service there had been limited, if any, working from home for officers. There had been an impact on response times due to a change in the targets but this is not as a result of working from home. The Committee was asked to note that the number of complaints is relatively small when you look at the number of children and families that officers are working with.

7. Work Programme

The Committee noted and agreed the work programme as attached.

Future items for the work programme will be discussed at the next Chair and Group Spokes Meeting on 3rd November @10am. The meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

8. Any Other Business

None

9. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for 19 October 2021 @ 10am.

The meeting will be held at Shire Hall, Warwick.

10.Exclusion of Press and Public

11.EXEMPT Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2021 were agreed as an accurate record with the following amendment –

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse wished it to be recorded in the minutes that he voted against the motion.

.....
Chair

Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Child Exploitation Annual Report 2020/21

19 October 2021

Recommendation(s)

1. That OSC note the contents of the Warwickshire Child Exploitation Annual Report 2020/21
2. That OSC support the ongoing delivery and development of the team

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The attached report is self-explanatory and outlines the work of the C&F Child Exploitation Team through the year 2020/21.
- 1.2 The report outlines the response within the context of the COVID 19 pandemic and also notes the increasing levels of demand and complexity within the broad area of Child Exploitation.
- 1.3 Children who are exploited are subject to a variety of extremely negative influences including serious youth violence, forced labour, forced portage of drugs and other substances, sexual exploitation and coercion into the activity association with gangs. Urban Street gangs from the West Midlands conurbation and a wider geographic area are increasing their influence and control of young people who live in Warwickshire.
- 1.4 The attached report outlines how the team has expanded its range of roles and capacity to tackle the increasing levels of demand experienced. The teams remain co-located with partners in the Leamington Justice although both Warwickshire Police and Barnardo's have been in the process of redesigning and reshaping their own delivery. All partners remain committed to the view that co-location and joint working are the best ways to address the issues presented by the exploitation of children.
- 1.5 When a child is reported as missing and returns, the Child Exploitation undertakes the statutory function in relation to completing a Return Home Interview which seeks to establish the reasons for absence and identify any ongoing exploitation concerns, or potential exploitation concerns so that these can be addressed. It can be seen within the report that the response rate from children and young people is a challenge and there are added issues when Warwickshire young people are placed outside of our County, most likely as a part of their Child in Care arrangements. As stated in the report around 9% of our Children in Care are identified as at risk of exploitation.
- 1.6 Staff working in the Child Exploitation team have had the opportunity of significant training relevant to their work both in Restorative Practice and the 'Trauma informed approach' to working with young people. The journey towards a Contextual Safeguarding approach is a real strength and

welcome improvement for staff in the team.

- 1.7 Key areas of development moving forward in the team is the consolidation of the Transitions work so that young people moving to Adult services keep a continuity of approach. As outlined in the report it is also important to develop increased assertion with educational providers about engagement for young people as it is widely recognised that this is a key protective factor. As we move to an increasing Contextual Safeguarding approach it is important that engage with parents and carers to support them in trying to divert and care young people who are subject to such strong external influences.

2 Financial Implications

- 2.1 The 2020/21 Budget for the WCC Child Exploitation Team was £451.730.00, which was allocated almost completely to staffing and staffing costs.
- 2.2 Moving forward, it is recognised that long term funding needs to be identified for the Adult Transitions worker as this is currently only approved for two years. The Nursing post is being funded out of C&F Transformation money . Future available funding and priorities for that funding are still under negotiation.

3 Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None

4 Supporting Information

- 4.1 The report provides a comprehensive overview and data in respect of the work undertaken by the team in conjunction partners.

Appendices

1. Child Exploitation Annual Report 2020/21

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	John Coleman, Sally Nash	johncoleman@warwickshire.gov.uk, sallynash@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	John Coleman	johncoleman@warwickshire.gov.uk
Lead Director	Strategic Director for People	Nigel Minns
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Children, Families & Education	Cllr Jeff Morgan

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Cllr Jeff Morgan



Annual Report 2020-2021

Child Exploitation and Missing Children Service

Warwickshire County Council

Report Authors:

Nigel Jones – Child Exploitation & Missing Children Coordinator

Date: April 2021



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1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of our approach to Child Exploitation (CE) & Missing Children, delivered within the Children & Families Service Group of the People Directorate, and details how we have responded to these issues over the last 12 months.

The year has seen an increasing number of children and young people identified in need of our services and has presented considerable challenges to us to ensure our response is effective.

Exploitation of children is continuing to evolve significantly, both in scale and complexity, and we are working hard to ensure our understanding of it becomes comprehensive through learning, knowledge, and information sharing. Criminal exploitation, County Lines, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking are harms we are responding to in Warwickshire and there is growing evidence of it harming our children and manifesting in neighbourhoods, communities, and online platforms, principally informed by peer relationships, and involving young people perpetrating as well as experiencing harm as a consequence of exploitation.

The profile we are now identifying regarding criminal exploitation involves more organised networks and elements of youth violence and use of weapons between rival groups. This is constantly requiring us to think differently about how we build capability and a multi-disciplinary response that is best suited to the challenges. There is a growing national drive to focus on complex and contextual safeguarding approaches to adapt to these threats to children in our communities and we are evolving the systems we use and how we most effectively mobilise our collective efforts to target and disrupt exploitation of children and young people.

Additionally, Covid-19 created a unique situation through the year requiring us to anticipate risks and respond dynamically as they emerged. The impact brought challenges both to a change in our ways of working with young people and presentation of the exploitation and missing profile. Exploitation became more localised with less travel and more 'hidden' online, and more missing was reported as some of our young people found it difficult to maintain the restrictions. Through early coordination, we were able to respond well to these challenges and maintain effective service provision for our young people, keeping them in sight by using technology to stay connected. We used creative ways of continuing to deliver support via virtual tools, and quickly identifying adapted perpetrator methods. We were asked to present the approach we initiated at a national webinar event to maximise learning, and assist other areas adapting to the threats to initiate effective working practices.

2. Service Provision

The WCC CE & Missing Service provides voluntary direct support to children and young people targeted for the purposes of exploitation to help divert and recover them from the effects, and responds to those going missing from home and care by giving an opportunity to discuss the event with an independent practitioner through a Return Home Interview (RHI). These interviews are designed to identify reasons for going missing and address underlying concerns by initiating action to reduce the likelihood of further occurrences. The service also supports young people transitioning into adulthood up to the age of 25 where exploitation continues to be a concern, with a dedicated Transition worker assessing need and ensuring the ongoing provision of support in conjunction with adult services, and acts as a source of advice and support to multi-disciplinary teams and partner agencies.

The team has a strong commitment to Prevent and Protect our children and young people from the harm caused and is solution focused to improve outcomes for them. Practitioners take a trauma sensitive, persevering, and restorative approach to practice, seeking to engage young people in a range of activities concentrated on raising awareness and reducing risks. This method of approach is making a positive difference as highlighted in Section 5 of this report. There are examples of good engagement secured and significant information disclosed by young people about their experiences to enable action allied to need.

Additional resources were added to the team during 2020-21 to enhance capacity against the increasing threats and to strengthen capability, and further efficiency has been achieved. Funding was identified to establish a new CE Nurse role to identify and address health and well-being needs of exploited children and young people and to improve identification, reporting and sharing of information about exploitation across NHS and other health services. An advanced practitioner role is now directly supporting and assisting with developing the Missing service to drive consistent performance improvement, and two additional social workers are enabling the team to directly support more exploited children and young people.

The team is now aligned within the management structure of the Youth Justice Service with the Domestic Abuse Team allowing stronger links in terms of ensuring best outcomes for children and young people. There is significant overlap between exploitation, relationship abuse and young people offending because of being exploited and this has brought benefit with improved understanding and closer working between disciplines.

The team is co-located with partners from Warwickshire Police and a commissioned Barnardo's service, working together with a common aim to understand the prevalence of CE and Missing Children in Warwickshire, share information, and agree strategies to intervene and protect victims as well as disrupting and prosecuting perpetrators. The Police dedicated Exploitation Team widened their responsibilities during the year to form a new Child Abuse, Trafficking & Exploitation team (CATE) and the impact of this restructure has been kept under review within the Leadership Group established to oversee operation of the multi-agency service with an aim to ensuring our combined approach remains strong. The service reports to a Chief Officer Board, established jointly with MASH in December 2019 to provide additional governance arrangements, to which we provide updates on our progress and service performance.

3. Key Activity and Achievements

During 2020/21 we made significant progress towards better identification, protection and support for children and young people exposed to exploitation, and with our practice arrangements. These include:

- Continued to develop our understanding and knowledge of child exploitation, including effective strategies to address the harms. As active members of the Warwickshire Exploitation Sub-Group we have influenced shaping of the new 2020-23 Strategy.
- Secured increased intelligence from mapping conducted by our practitioners, leading to several serious and complex crime operations and investigations being initiated in response to the identified threats to safeguard affected children.
- Strengthened our cross border working arrangements with Coventry missing children and exploitation services in recognition of the significant profile between our areas

- Conducted ongoing work aimed at developing our support arrangements to parents and carers, engaging mentor support from the National Working Group, benchmarking practice, and collaborating with the Children & Families Parent provision to share expertise.
- Led the implementation of the Philomena Protocol into Warwickshire in March 2021, an initiative to help locate and safely return children and young people in care as quickly as possible when they are missing and to share vital information to prevent ongoing reoccurrences.
- With partners, expanded the Warwickshire 'Something's Not Right' campaign from CSE to across all forms of exploitation, supporting the development of a new website, materials, and ambitious communications plan to expand the reach of the campaign and modernise methods of raising awareness.
- Launched the new campaign in Child Exploitation Awareness Week, an initiative led by the team and held in Warwickshire between 15th and 21st March 2021, during which we conducted a range of activities about exploitation and knife crime, held webinars and a Facebook live event with partners regarding associated harms such as mental health and substance abuse in selected schools and to engage and support parents, conducted targeted awareness raising and outreach in localities of concern, and focused on online exploitation featuring a guide for professionals developed with two exploited young people supported by the team around exploitation on social media.

Exploitation is a complex and largely hidden crime where victims are often too traumatised to report their exploitation, or do not self-identify as victims. Our success is built upon a model of proactive identification and outreach and the year has seen increasing numbers of children identified as suffering or at risk of exploitation.

	2019/20	2020/21	Direction
Number of completed CE Assessment Tools	181	266	Up 47%

Fig 1

Referrals to the team are made via the CE Assessment Tool when exploitation is identified as a safeguarding concern. Fig 1 shows the increasing number of young people identified as at risk of or suffering exploitation, either via new referral or within cases open to Children & Families team. These were subsequently sent to the team for consideration and direction of action required.

43% of all CE Assessments conducted during the year identified Vulnerability to CE as the outcome. This is by far the most significant cohort and has led to the CE & Missing Team conducting focused work with colleagues in Early Help to review and strengthen our early intervention capability. This remains an ongoing priority for the forthcoming year as we enhance awareness in these services and ensure practitioners have the knowledge and skills to deliver appropriate work to avoid cases escalating.

9% of Children in Care had identified CE concerns this year, representing 13% of all exploited children and young people in Warwickshire. 59% were accommodated in out of county placements during the year. The CE & Missing Team operate a relational model and continue to deliver support work regardless of placement location to keep 'in sight', recognising the increased vulnerability.

	2019/20	2020/21	Direction
Number of young people directly supported by the team	37	57	Up 54%
Number of Intel forms submitted	60	89	Up 48%

Fig 2

As stated, we have increased the establishment of the CE team in-line with the rising demand and have seen significant increased activity. Fig 2 shows that 20 more young people have received direct support to safeguard and recover them from exploitation. The team have submitted 29 more intelligence reports this year contributing to development of the local picture, with a continuing high number leading to the commencement of investigations and operations.

The Transitions worker supported 12 young people through the year, its first full year of being established. Good practice is for an allocation to have been made by 17th birthday to enable assessments and effective planning with adult services and consequently only one young person has currently been supported post 18. The service is showing significant benefit in improving outcomes for young people, establishing needs, advocating with agencies, and initiating pathways into adult services, as well as the continuance of support to safeguard from exploitation.

	CE	County Lines	CSE	Trafficking
Proportion of identified concerns	64%	40% of CE concerns	27%	9%

Fig 3

64% of all referrals to the Exploitation and Missing Team now relate to criminal exploitation as shown in Fig 3 above. This is an increasing trend, rising exponentially as understanding and awareness develops, and involves features of County Lines, trafficking, localised drug supply and use of children to commit acquisitive crime. A significant proportion of the young people we are supporting have been drawn into County Lines (40% of criminal exploitation) and the team are working hard to improve understanding, knowledge and capability to intervene both with the young people and the spaces where it is occurring. Practitioners draw upon other specialist resources such as a mentor from St Giles (a project supporting criminally exploited children) and utilise a range of diversionary recreational and vocational activities, including sports clubs and mechanical engineering courses. Our work includes raising awareness to ensure young people are not unnecessarily criminalised for offences committed because of exploitation.

There has been concern of a considerable reduction in CSE referrals reported nationally this year, highlighted within the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, due to the focus shifting more onto criminal exploitation. In Warwickshire however, although reducing in proportion, CSE remains a significant part of our profile and the number of young people identified at risk within Children & Families is only slightly down on last year (7% reduction), though new referrals into MASH have reduced by 12% and we aim to ensure the partnership is focused on identifying all types of CE.

Peer mapping is now established within the CE & Missing Team, along with designation of workers to locality areas, and this is greatly enhancing the intelligence picture with significant identification of

connected young people exploited within the same network, notably in connection with County Lines activity. This is supporting the development of prevention activity and Disruption planning.

There has been an increase by 25% in the number of Complex Abuse meetings held by the CE & Missing Team responding to situations of complexity, notably organised or multiple abuse involving several abusers and/or a number of children. 70% have pertained to Criminal Exploitation this year, emphasising the more organised and group related nature of this abuse.

	Not in education	Not attending education	At risk of exclusion	Alternative Provision
Proportion	12%	19%	7%	15%

Fig 4

A sizeable proportion of exploited children and young people are not engaged in meaningful education or training, shown in Fig 4 above, and in some cases for lengthy periods of time. This is known to be a trigger for significant acceleration of the risk of exploitation, identified as a key finding in national reviews. Local action is being taken with Education Safeguarding and the lead for Alternative Provision to initiate an escalation review process and reparative action at the earliest opportunity to prevent escalation in harm.

Missing Children & Young People

	2019/20	2020/21	Direction
Number of missing episodes (children involved)	1639 (475)	1856 (449)	Up 13% (Down 6%)
Number of missing CIC episodes (children involved)	632 (116)	734 (106)	Up 16% (Down 9%)

Fig 5

The team received more missing referrals during the year due to an increase in missing episodes, though the number of children going missing reduced slightly.

This is set against a sizeable reduction in missing episodes by 26% the previous year and the number of children by 20%. A significant rise occurred in the first 3 months of this reporting year following national lockdown from Covid-19 and Fig 5 illustrates that the predominance of the increase in episodes came from a smaller number of Children in Care as they found it more difficult to comply with the restrictions imposed and carers were more accountable for them leaving their placements. More children go missing from home than from care, however more children go missing from care on multiple occasions (1:2.8 and 1:5.4 episodes respectively), with those in supported accommodation being the highest frequency.

The average length of time a young person has been missing has reduced significantly this year from 104 hours in 2019/20 to 76 hours. Missing Practitioners now engage in daily review of missing

episodes to support investigations and this has had a positive impact on improving safeguarding, helping to locate and safely return our young people quicker.

	2019/20	2020/21	Direction
Number of return home interviews conducted	1041	1079	Up 3%
% completed of all episodes (CIC)	64% (56%)	58% (64%)	Down 6% (Up 8%)

**predicted*

Fig 6

There has been a slight increase in the number of Return Home Interviews conducted by the team this year. Fig 6 illustrates that this relates however to a reduction in the overall proportion completed. Practitioners reported varying levels of success with engaging young people in completing interviews through the year due to the Covid-19 restrictions, with some finding it easier to communicate via social media and telephone, and others more readily declining the contact offered. Face to face visits, including cold calls, were conducted where necessary in accordance with a risk assessment, though this was necessarily limited to rare occasions of a safeguarding nature. Initially, new ways of working achieved an excellent 69% completion rate in Quarter 1, though this reduced significantly during the second quarter and has maintained at 55%. There has however been an increase in the proportion of those completed with Children in Care. Post Covid, the service will return to predominant face to face contact.

	Declined by YP/unable to engage	Other Agency undertaking	Decision not appropriate	No reason recorded	Other
RHI's not completed	31%	18%	8%	26%	17%

Fig 7

Fig 7 illustrates the varying reasons return home interviews aren't successfully completed. The proportion declined by the young person, or where engagement was unable to be secured to seek an interview, rose this year as a consequence of the pandemic effects. Similarly, there was an increase in 'others' asked to conduct the interview on behalf of the Missing Practitioners, with a greater need to rely upon professionals with an established trusted relationship in view of the difficulties. A significant number are recorded as 'no reason provided' due to administration issues with the Mosaic forms. This has now been addressed through Mosaic form upgrades in Oct 20.

A report published by the Children's Society titled 'First Steps' examining effectiveness of return home interviews highlighted a wide national variance in completion rate with an approximate average around 52%, so we are performing well as a comparison despite the additional challenges through the year. We are constantly striving to secure better engagement however, discussing ways to maximise success both on an individual and service basis through daily briefings and development workshops.

Over the last five years the age and gender group of 14 -15-year-old girls accounted for the highest proportion of both exploited and missing young people each year. That is now changing however with 16 – 17-year-old males becoming the predominant group the service is responding to.

Currently, over a third of children and young people who go missing have markers that indicate concerns of possible exploitation. More than two thirds of those identified as exposed to exploitation have been reported as missing at some stage.

The service facilitates reviews of children not found within 3 months at a Long-Term Missing Children Panel with partner agencies, and numbers were reduced during the year by 16% from 26 to 22 young people from enquiries undertaken and information shared. These exclusively consist of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) that went missing shortly after entry into the country and remain a high priority in view of potential trafficking and exploitation concerns.

During the year the CE & Missing Team were engaged with supporting the Warwickshire submission to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) regarding 'institutional responses to the sexual exploitation of children by organised networks. Warwickshire were one of six areas selected nationally to provide evidence to the Inquiry and submitted substantial documentary evidence in response to selected themes. This culminated in our Strategic Director for People Services, Nigel Minns, providing oral evidence to the Inquiry hearing that concluded in October 2020. Our preparation for the Inquiry enabled us to further review our practice and understand areas for development.

The Inquiry is expected to report in the autumn of 2021; however, we have already reflected upon our learning and have initiated action against the areas for improvement, including:

- initiating the development of an 'appropriate language' webinar in response to the use of inappropriate descriptors about exploited young people
- re-establishing Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings as a tool to address exploitation concerns - significantly increased from Oct 20
- conducting trend analysis, mapping, and debriefing to understand our local picture.

4. Service Development

A key focus during the year has been to establish Contextual Safeguarding into our way of working as a best practice approach to safeguarding that better responds to the harm our exploited and missing children and young people are experiencing outside of the home, within neighbourhoods, public places, schools and peer networks.

The CE & Missing Team have initiated considerable practice development, implementing upgrades to the Mosaic database to enable data to be captured about the different forms of exploitation and to provide a more relevant and targeted approach by ensuring contextual risks are considered within an updated CE Assessment Tool and interventions initiated alongside the young person and family. Plans established within meetings are now configured around the key elements of Disruption and Support to maximise interventions in the spaces of concern.

The team have introduced Peer Mapping and Peer Assessments into practice to better understand links between young people and harmful associations. Practitioners have been designated to localities to build up knowledge of contextual risks with locality professionals and to enhance the intelligence picture to take preventative and disruptive action. The team also hosted learning sessions about Contextual Safeguarding at the Children & Families 2020 Conference and have continued to conduct awareness raising across the service.

A Task & Finish Group has been established to support the development of a whole systems approach within Children & Families and develop a commitment to a Contextual Safeguarding approach across Warwickshire.

Service provision has been further strengthened by the addition of a specialist Child Exploitation Nurse to the resources of the team as a collaboration with the Warwickshire School Health & Wellbeing Service. This function is co-located and has been developed in accordance with a good practice model, taking learning from a small number of areas that have adopted a similar approach. The role has been established to identify and address health and wellbeing needs of exploited young people, conducting direct work and signposting where appropriate, to develop awareness and identification of exploitation across health services, and to facilitate improved information sharing about exploited young people. The Nurse commenced in January 2021 and a reporting system has been established to measure impact on service provision and outcomes for young people.

The CE & Missing Team has continued to strengthen links with Adult Services to improve service provision to children transitioning into adulthood who remain exposed to the harms of exploitation, ensuring support is not lost when they turn 18. Work has been conducted through a Task & Finish Group to establish a framework for operation, including supporting the team Transitions worker with training on adult law and policy, supervision, enhanced pathways for wider support within Mental Health and reviewing the recording system to better support their work. The Group are also examining arrangements for young adults identified at risk of exploitation who wouldn't have care and support needs established within the Care Act and continue to work on firming up the multi-agency pathways and eligibility criteria with wider adult services.

Additional developments to service arrangements during 2020/21 include:

- Introduced an Exploitation Team Duty Worker role to advise and support the workforce and partner colleagues and assure appropriate responses to referred issues
- Joint working with Barnardo's to expand training capacity to wider exploitation, including provision of webinars on a range of associated issues.
- Re-designed and modernised the system approach to CE, publishing a Child Exploitation Operating Framework to give the CE & Missing Team and Children & Families workforce clear guidance on related processes, pathways, and service expectations
- Implemented updated guidance for MACE meetings, alongside its inclusion into other meeting processes in Oct 20, to re-establish and maximise its use as an effective risk management process for exploitation concerns in accordance with the 'one meeting one plan' approach
- Join up with the Serious & Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOCJAG) interventions team to add additional support and resource capability to escalating complex cases of highest concern, including better links with other risk management forums such as the CE & Missing Operational Group, County Lines and YJS risk meetings to provide a more integrated and coordinated whole system approach
- Ongoing development of the Missing Children Service, adding an Advanced Practitioner role to provide additional leadership, professional development, and support to staff

5. Service Performance

Performance of the team is captured within a CE & Missing Dataset that is published monthly and reviewed within the team for service assurance, learning and improvement.

This year we have enhanced the dataset to provide qualitative outcome-based data on the impact of our work with young people to measure our effectiveness. Learning from feedback from the part OFSTED Inspection in March 2020, a CE & Missing Review Plan has been implemented to record plans and progress of work with young people who have allocated support workers within the team. This follows the Pathway to Change model and provides direction and scope to the work initiated via SMART planning. It enables ongoing assessment of improvement/decline/stability in levels of risk and outcomes for the young people to measure the impact of our work, and escalation where necessary to ensure no drift in cases.

	Improved	Stable	Decline
Number	43%	33%	24%

Fig 8

The CE & Missing Team deliver direct support work to both missing and exploitation concerns. Fig 8 highlights that the service has made good progress with improving outcomes for the young people and keeping them safe. The response to exploitation is complex and challenging and periods of improvement and decline can be expected. Longevity of the support work to establish a trusted relationship is key, working with resilience, tenacity and perseverance, and the model employed is making a positive difference.

	2019/20	2020/21	Direction
Response within 24 hrs	Not measured	91%*	N/A
RHI completed within 72 hrs	51%	50%	Down 1%

**From Oct 20* *Fig 9*

The offer rate of Return Home Interviews against missing episodes within 24 hours is high at 91% achievement as shown in Fig 9 above. Of the small number not offered within 24 hours of receipt of the referral, 68% were due to inability to establish contact with the parent/young person and 32% due to capacity of the team.

The proportion of RHI's conducted within 72 hours is consistent to last year's performance, with a slight reported drop to 50%. However, Warwickshire's recording method for further missing episodes that occur for the young person before a RHI could be completed is to 'use existing RHI created' leaving a large proportion of episodes where it is unknown if completed within the target time. This has now been addressed with upgrades to the Mosaic recording system enabling more accurate recording for the year ahead. The proportion known to be outside of 72 hours has reduced by 10% this year indicating performance improvement.

The major reasons for not completing within 72 hours is due to the service being unable to engage the parent and/or young person (68%) or them not being able to meet the practitioner within the timescale (21%). Reassuringly, none were due to incapacity of the team.

The Children's Society titled 'First Steps' report again highlighted a wide national variance in performance against the 72-hour target with an approximate average around 50%, so our performance is comparable regardless of the above reporting issue. We are constantly seeking to improve this to be the best we can be.

Additional enhancements have been made to the CE & Missing Dataset for 2021/22 to capture data on all forms of exploitation and enable further reporting on impact of the work of the team. These include:

- the number of missing children and young people that received a RHI (in addition to that measured against episodes) to show how many young people we are reaching.
- for those that have received an intervention, the rate of continuance of missing to better measure what difference we are making.

	No. of requests	No. completed	Ave. score
Service User feedback	78	21	4.75

Fig 10

Requests made for service user feedback from contacts with our children and young people and parents and carers are now embedded into the team exploitation and missing forms within Mosaic. This is to ensure there is a continual focus on seeking feedback to maximise our learning and reflective practice. As shown in Fig 10, the conversion rate of requests to questionnaires subsequently completed is low and this remains an area that we wish to improve, especially from parents as we seek to develop support we provide them in our plan for 2021-22. Of those completed, the feedback has been very positive with an average score of 4.75 out of 5 across the measures and a number of comments about 'being there', 'listening' and 'persevering'.

The CE & Missing Team have established Quality Assurance processes and, alongside analysing performance data and service user feedback, conducted 4 audits through the year to further review practice on themes of missing children, return home interviews, criminal and sexual exploitation and meeting processes implemented to address risks and vulnerabilities. Findings of the audits have been reported on and subject of development activity and these are realising benefits in improving practice and ways of working with co-located partners, including establishing escalation to ensure no drift in cases, early allocation to support workers in appropriate cases, and recommendations about intervention at the earliest opportunity. A change to the process of reviewing missing reports has led to a 36% increase in convening Missing Intervention Meetings in accordance with procedures, and timeliness of CE Assessments completed has significantly increased with a 74% reduction in those over 30 days.

Additionally, the team introduced a Child Exploitation Debriefing Operations process in 2020/21 to capture learning and inform development across the multi-agency partnership to constantly improve our service approach to exploited young people. Debriefing of one operation has been completed (Washbrook) and another is in progress (Sakura), to be reported on in due course.

In the OFSTED visit to Children & Families during March 2020, suspended due to the Covid-19 outbreak, Inspectors reviewing work of the CE & Missing Team made the following positive summarised comments; • Risks are identified and appropriately assessed • Cases are allocated and

managed • Good mapping work • Appropriate planning • Good tenacious work with young people to raise awareness of risk • Good tools to build relationships with young people • Direct work with children is beneficial • Plans could be clearer to help with direction and scope (new planning tool now implemented to address this).

6. Plan for 2021-22

This report has reflected on our resources, challenges, activity, and achievements during the year. Moving forward our plans aspire to drive continual progression to enable us to be the best we can be at keeping Warwickshire children safe from the harms of exploitation and going missing. The Child Exploitation Chief Officer Board of the co-located multi-agency team will receive updates and challenge us on our progress.

Looking forward to 2021-22, our key actions are:

- Continue work to establish a system-wide approach to Contextual Safeguarding that best responds to the challenges of safeguarding adolescents exposed to modern day risks outside of the family home. Locality based work will be conducted via appointed practitioners to establish partners and influence practice development to take action against identified contextual risks.
- Develop our capacity and capability to provide effective support to parents and families, utilising parental engagement as a protective factor for intervention, by enhancing skills in the team, integrating with the Children & Families Parenting provision and undertaking scoping to report on viability of a local Parent/Family support Group.
- Establish training to develop awareness and understanding of staff across all forms of exploitation and provide training for managers to enhance knowledge of tools and processes to be adopted to, maximising opportunities to successfully intervene.
- Continue to professionalise our response to Missing Children by utilising the national Missing Benchmark Tool with partners to assess practice against a range of good practice standards and initiate any development action identified.
- Facilitate review of the support to children out of education, taking the learning from national case reviews (including the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Report into child exploitation) and evidence within the local profile of this being a trigger for significant acceleration of the risk of criminal exploitation.
- Further support enhancing our Early Help arrangements to respond effectively to exploitation vulnerability, providing training and facilitating practice development to ensure we are identifying concerns of exploitation at the earliest opportunity and preventing escalation.
- Expand our range of interventions, tools, and therapeutic/diversionary activities to ensure they are 'fit for purpose' to successfully engage criminally exploited young people, recognising the challenges and complex issues.
- Further develop the collection and utilisation of feedback, using the voice of children and families to shape our services.
- Gather data to enable review of whether our reach and support to diverse groups within our population is appropriate.

A CE & Missing Team Development Plan incorporating these actions has been established for 2021-22 to drive our activity and is attached at Appendix A.

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Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Contextual Safeguarding and Extra Familial Abuse

19 October 2021

Recommendation

1. OSC note these developments and approach within the Children and Families Services.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The attached briefing provides a comprehensive outline of the principles and issues that underpin a Contextual Safeguarding Approach which seeks to address the extrafamilial abuse that increasingly confronts older young people.
- 1.2 It will be noted that the concept of Extrafamilial abuse where parents find themselves at a loss as to how to address the extremely strong influences and abuse their children are experiencing outside the home in respect of violent coercion, drug portage, sexual abuse, forced labour and other factors presents a challenge to existing Child Protection legislation and procedures which places emphasis on parents taking responsibility for their children and their duty to protect them. A Contextual Safeguarding approach seeks to understand the abuse that occurs outside the family and support parents in offering the best forms of protective behaviour and care possible.
- 1.3 Many Local Authority areas are increasingly adopting this approach and the Warwickshire journey is outlined in the briefing paper. The approach is anticipated to require persistence and a long-term view before it is fully embedded. The attached briefing explains the staged approach and how Warwickshire is approaching this. This work builds on the initiative and success demonstrated in the Child Exploitation Team and will work to improve our understanding and ability to protect young people caught up in this cycle of control.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are some short-term financial costs associated with the development and roll out of this approach, but over time it is anticipated that this understanding and the consequent method of working will be business as usual for all social workers across the workforce. The training programme that is already financed and agreed in relation to the Trauma Informed Approach and Restorative Practice provides excellent foundations for this new approach.

3. Environmental Implications

3.1 None

4. Supporting Information

4.1 This approach requires a wholesale review by all C&F staff in respect of their understanding of how extra familial abuse occurs, how we support parents and how we create protective factors to enable better outcomes for children and young people

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 It is recommended that OSC call in a review and update of the progress in this work in twelve months' time.

Appendices

1. Children and Families Contextual Safeguarding Briefing

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	John Coleman, Sally Nash	johncoleman@warwickshire.gov.uk, sallynash@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	John Coleman	
Lead Director	Strategic Director for People	
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Children, Families & Education	

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Councillor Jeff Morgan



Implementing Contextual Safeguarding

Warwickshire Children & Families have initiated a project to implement a framework for Contextual Safeguarding and develop systems to address extra-familial risk and harm (EFRH) experienced by children and young people outside the family home, such as from child sexual and criminal exploitation, peer-on-peer abuse, and gang affiliation and violence. Like many areas across the country, Warwickshire is seeing a growing number of young people who are being identified as being exposed to these harms and it is recognised that more sophisticated systems of assessing and supporting these cohorts of young people need to be introduced.

Background

Contextual Safeguarding (CS) is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families, within neighbourhoods, public places, schools, peer networks, and online. It is recognised that the existing Child Protection system, legislative and policy framework was designed on the risk of violence and abuse from inside the home, usually from a parent/carers or other trusted adult and has limitations with addressing the exposure to harm outside the home, including the influence of peers on young people's development and safety. CS is an approach that looks at how interventions can change the harmful extra-familial environments to make them safer for all young people.

Warwickshire Children & Families are committed to adopting the Contextual Safeguarding methodology to improve how we respond to these harms. We held a virtual conference in March 2021, hosted by Dez Homes Research in Practice, to develop understanding, encourage debate and establish next steps, and continue to raise awareness of the workforce internally, most recently conducting a broadcast during Staff Conference week in September 2021.

Development towards a CS Approach

Contextual thinking has been applied within our response to Child Exploitation (CE) since January 2020. The WCC CE & Missing Team have initiated considerable practice development, implementing upgrades to the Mosaic database to enable data to be captured about the different forms of exploitation young people are experiencing outside of the family home, and to provide a more relevant and targeted approach by ensuring the contextual risks are considered within an updated CE Assessment Tool.

Our multi-agency meeting forum for managing exploitation risk, Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) has been strengthened to incorporate Contextual Safeguarding into assessments and planning. Meeting forms within Mosaic have been updated to support integration of MACE into existing processes according to the level of intervention as per our 'one meeting and one plan' approach (see [MACE Guidance](#)). Plans established within meetings are now configured around the key elements of Disruption and Support to maximise interventions in the spaces of concern and there is a focus on ensuring that these interventions are initiated *with* the young person and family.

The team have introduced Peer Mapping and Peer Assessments into practice to better understand links and dynamics between young people and harmful associations within a CS context.

Practitioners in the CE & Missing Team have been designated to localities to establish relationships and build up knowledge of contextual risks with locality professionals, enabling enhancement of the intelligence picture and targeted preventative/disruptive action.

CS Project

The initial focus of the Project has been to strengthen current approaches by further enhancing CS practice within our Exploitation response and drawing extra-familial contexts into direct work with children and families.

MACE practice guidance has been implemented to ensure CS requirements are clear within it. This guidance highlights that where the risk is external to the family the focus must be clearly on the perpetrator(s) and other contextual spaces of concern rather than on a parent's ability to protect or blamed for their child's vulnerability. This is to ensure that child protection procedures are not initiated unless exceptional circumstances exist, but rather that parents are seen as safeguarding partners and supported to be a positive intervention factor in appropriate circumstances.

A MACE Independent Review role has also been established to support effective practice, ensuring appropriate pathways are followed in proportion to the concerns and that plans created meet the young persons need and address the contextual issues.

Training on MACE has been provided to teams across Children & Families and a plan developed for ongoing delivery.

In addition to these enhanced processes, identification of CS has been integrated in the Contact and Referral (IFD) to enable a holistic response from referral through to assessment, planning and intervention and an evidence base to identify contextual trends.

Next Steps

Moving towards the next stage of the Project, work is in progress scoping requirements to support development of a whole systems CS approach within Children & Families and the multi-agency. This is in Discovery stage and necessitates a whole service change in our culture, practice, and process, aligned to our Restorative approach.

The project is working with the wider Children and Families teams and external partner organisations to deliver:

- A single and holistic approach to identification, referral and assessment of individual children, peer groups, neighbourhoods, locations, or persons of concern.
- An Assessment of Risk that guides the assessor to the correct pathway or action.
- An Assessment of Risk that identifies vulnerabilities, behaviours, environment, relevant concerns, and indicators, as well as protective factors.
- Clear pathways that inter-links with existing structures whilst providing a clearer focus on CS, including consideration of a new model of conferences for planning and intervention.
- The development of approaches and tools which disrupt or change harmful extra-familial contexts rather than move families or individuals away from them.
- The opportunity to enhance 1:1 work with children/young people
- The opportunity to enhance work with families and systems that surround and support the child/young person
- Increased confidence and clarity for practitioners and colleagues across the business in understanding CS, it's impact and supporting those identified with CS needs.

Working with contextual harm requires safeguarding partnerships to adopt a system wide approach that interlinks with existing Safeguarding procedures whilst providing a clear policy and practice framework for adopting a CS approach. The project will engage with multi-agency partners and key governance groups to establish safeguarding relationships with new sectors having responsibility for and influence over the spaces and places in which we know contextual harm is taking place, and commitment to develop the systems and processes needed.

Progress is provided to the Exploitation Sub-Group of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnership and the framework for operation will be submitted to the Safeguarding Executive for partners consideration and approval.

The agreed methodology will be implemented through a multi-agency CS Training Plan.

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Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: October 2021

Meeting Date and status	Reports	Details
19 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Exploitation Annual Report Contextual Safeguarding and Extra familial Abuse 	
16 November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress of Integrated Front Door (MASH) Performance Report (Q1) Council Plan (<i>tbc</i>) 	
22 February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Workers in Schools 	
11 April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post Covid – impact on services (to include an update from RISE) 	

Outstanding Reports

None at present (12/10/2021)

Future Items to be added to the Work Programme

- The recent SEND Inspection may generate items for the work programme
- Joint meeting with the Adult Social Care and Health OSC in relation to Mental Health and its impact on Children
- Family Support Worker's Service – performance information to be added to the regular performance report

Motions from Council

None currently

Briefing Notes/Information to be circulated outside the meeting

- Exclusions rates and reasons – Marie Rooney
- Information relating to children on the school roll but not currently in school – Marie Rooney
- Post Covid – impact on services/RISE/Family Support Workers etc (ahead of April '22 meeting).
- Update relating to the Emergency Duty Team – John Coleman/George Shipman

Items on the Forward Plan relevant to the remit of the Committee

Decision	Description	Date due	Decision Maker
Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Autism Strategy	Coventry and Warwickshire's Joint Strategy for Autistic People 2020-2025 has been coproduced with professionals and people with lived experience. It set outs the systemwide priorities for the next five years across 5 key areas.	25 November 2021	Cabinet
Children's Services Residential Proposals	<i>Fully exempt report</i>	25 November 2021	Cabinet

Briefing notes and reports circulated –

- Keeping families together – sent 17th June 2021
- Warwickshire Parenting Approach 2021 – 2024 – sent out 26th July 2021

Next Committee Meeting – please note additional meetings may be added for additional agenda items such as performance reviews. These meetings will be held at Shire Hall, Warwick unless otherwise stated.

- 16 November 2021 @ 10am
- 22 February 2022 @ 10am
- 11 April 2022 @ 10am
- Meetings for 2022/2023 have been scheduled as follows –
 - 14 June 2022 @ 10am
 - 27 September 2022 @ 10am
 - 8 November 2022 @ 10am
 - 14 February 2023 @ 10am
 - 11 April 2023 @ 10am
- **Next Chair and Spokes Meeting - these meetings will be held virtually**
 - 3rd November @10am
 - 2nd February @10am
 - 30th March @10am

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