



Coventry Safeguarding Children Board

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Audit Summary

Objective

- To establish the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements for supporting children at risk of and experiencing CSE.

Key lines of enquiry

- The extent to which risk is identified at an early stage, allowing a greater focus on prevention work
- Quality of the assessment of needs and risk
- Effectiveness of planning and reviews in safeguarding children
- How agencies work together to achieve outcomes
- The way in which children and their carers and families are involved in the work
- Impact of the work and the outcomes for the children involved

Summary of Findings

- The return home interview process is effectively identifying CSE risk, but more work is needed to identify risk more widely across partners and at an earlier stage so that interventions can focus on prevention.
- Professionals are not consistently using information from return home interviews, looked after children health reviews or CSE screening tools to inform plans.
- Agency responses to CSE would be better coordinated if re-screening were undertaken as a multi-agency exercise
- There is a lack of guidance for developing need led strategies for decreasing and closing support to children no longer at risk of CSE, or where their vulnerability is significantly decreased.
- Better information sharing across the system and particularly from agencies attending COG may allow UHCW to flag risk more effectively on their systems, making crucial information on children at risk more readily available.
- Generally, evidence from the case files showed that children were seen as victims, but this was not consistent. There were still some evidence of blame language and children being expected to take responsibility for the predatory behaviour of others.
- More guidance should be available to allow professionals to more clearly articulate, through the case file, what success look likes and evaluate the outcomes more effectively, with specific emphasis on how life is different for a child as a result of the support they received.

Recommendations

- The LSCB should provide strong strategic direction to drive through the learning from this audit ensuring that the Strategy, Delivery Plan and Toolkits reflect the following recommendations.
- The Board should renew the current understanding of and focus on prevention, ensuring that specific risk reduction strategies result in positive outcomes for all children at risk of or experiencing CSE.
- The Board should ensure that CSE responses focus on the needs and views of the child, ensuring that the relational model used for higher risk cases is reflected at all levels of CSE risk.
- The Board should ensure that appropriate mechanisms for measuring the effectiveness of support and the impact on the lives of the children concerned is embedded across the partnership.