



Strategic Thematic Review

THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Executive Summary

2020



Warwickshire
Safeguarding

Background

Warwickshire Safeguarding's new partnership arrangements published in June 2019 set out proposals for the scrutiny and assurance of safeguarding practice throughout Warwickshire. These arrangements consider successes and challenges, identify learning, make suggestions and recommendations for improvement and monitor the progress of these improvements to ensure they are embedded into future practice across partner agencies.

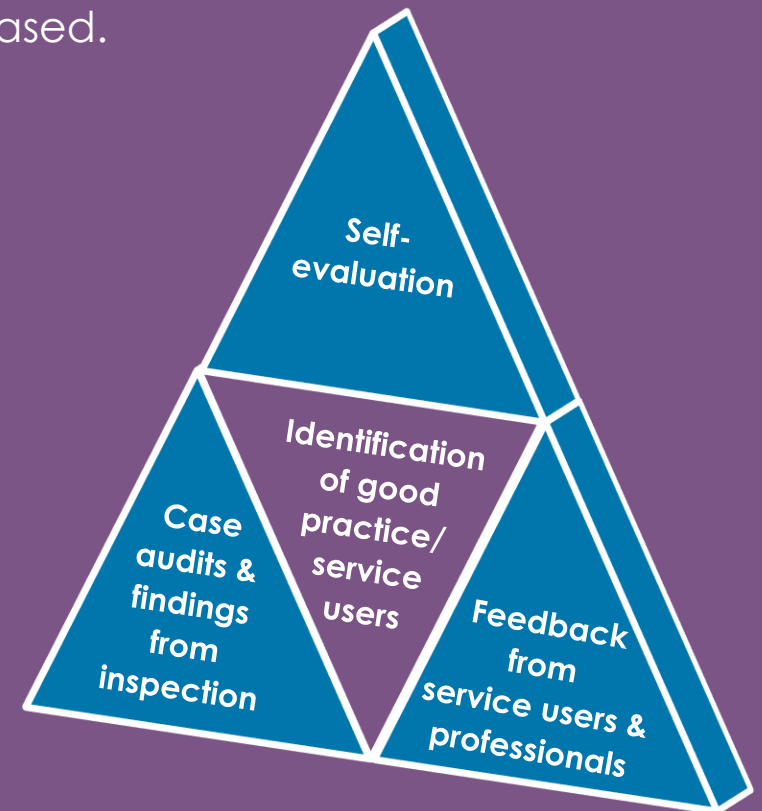
Warwickshire Safeguarding Executive Board (WSEB) determined that the focus of the first thematic review would be 'The Exploitation of Children and Adults' and, as such, the first thematic review has been completed.



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METHODOLOGY & PURPOSE

The review process followed a triangulation approach, which is used to prepare and gather evidence during quality assurance processes. It helps ensure that we can be confident that we have investigated any areas of interest from multiple angles and any decisions we take about areas for development are robust and evidence based.



Key facts and findings



- 185 staff surveys
- 21 staff consultations
- 15 self-evaluations
- 11 case file audits
- 6 pupil consultations

Governance, Policies & Procedures

58% of agencies have a named lead with specific responsibility and training in the field of exploitation

Case files evidenced staff have an awareness of relevant legislation

The most recent published OFSTED inspection of Warwickshire Children's Services acknowledged that the 'Prevent' duty message has been widely shared across the county

50% of front-line staff working with children are aware of Child Criminal Exploitation policies

94% of primary schools and 89% of secondary schools child protection policy refers to Child Criminal Exploitation, however only 49% of school staff completing the survey stated they were aware of these policies

Identification & Early Intervention

88% of primary schools and 78% of secondary schools had indicated that staff have been trained in 'Children Missing from Education'

73% of front line staff working with children have received CSE training in the last 2 years

11% of front line staff working with adults and 22% working with children have received training in County Lines

29% of agencies indicated that they are aware of Warwickshire Safeguarding escalation protocol

18% of front line staff working with adults have received training in Hate Crime

71% of agencies indicated that 'professional curiosity' is considered within supervision and/or training

Key facts and findings



The Lived Experience

Agencies indicated they use a range of methods to raise awareness of exploitation including displays, using digital platforms and awareness raising activities

The case files provided evidenced some good practice in respect of the identification of adults who may be experiencing abuse and attempts to educate and support the customer through this

Case files indicated that there was not always evidence that the child was seen alone

71% of agencies advised that they have systems in place to seek the views of their service users

Partnership & Information Sharing

A number of agencies referred to the MASH information sharing agreement

87% of agencies indicated that they have policies and procedures in place in respect of information sharing within safeguarding processes

The majority of agencies involved in have signed up to the Warwickshire Safeguarding Information Sharing Agreement

Staff told us that they are aware of information sharing policies and the importance of partnership working

In adult case files there is evidence that there was strong multi-agency working and ongoing communication

Direct quotes given as part of the Thematic Review

<p>“we have had quite a bit of training, but I can’t remember what it was called”</p>	<p>“we have clear policies in place that where exploitation is identified, a referral should be made via the safeguarding route”</p>	<p>“I would check referral had been received, but not my responsibility to ensure it has been processed”</p>
<p>“children can see that changes are being made due to their voice being heard”</p>	<p>“I think I am probably aware of the escalation policy”</p>	<p>“no specific workshops or information is provided as far as I am aware”</p>
<p>“I am concerned that people are offering CSE training that don’t have the necessary skills or knowledge to do so”</p>	<p>“I have received training and feel I am aware of the indicators; I would complete an NRM referral form and make a referral to the MASH”</p>	<p>“I have been on training which was all around exploitation, modern slavery and everything that goes hand in hand”</p>
<p>“I am aware of the escalation process and have had to use this on a number of occasions”</p>	<p>“I am not aware of an escalation policy; I would probably speak to my manager”</p>	<p>“I wait for a receipt of confirmation email”</p>



Areas for Improvement and Action Plan

The areas for improvement and action plan can be viewed by visiting the full report [here](#), but here's a few actions that have been agreed as a result of this review;

- 1. Development of partnership standards for DSL job descriptions and training in exploitation**
2. To provide clarity on what is a good referral, the referral process and feedback loops to clarify responsibilities
- 3. To promote the escalation protocol widely throughout the partnership**
4. To provide a coordinated programme of awareness raising events and packages of information in respect of exploitation
- 5. To complete a mapping exercise to identify exploitation 'hot spots' and develop specific projects to raise awareness in these areas**
6. To raise awareness of support available to parents of children who are being exploited

Good Practice

Stratford District Council

Stratford District Council staff are issued with Z Cards which provide a range of information, including identifying who their safeguarding leads are

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Warwickshire Police

There is comprehensive PREVENT guidance/information on the police intranet. The materials include instructional videos, guidance documents, posters and other marketing and links to online training resources

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Voluntary Agencies

A number of voluntary agencies indicated that they have peer mentor and support projects in which service users are trained to offer support to clients as well as sit on recruitment panels for staff

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Schools

The school visited has developed a Wellbeing programme that includes recruiting and training pupils to become Wellbeing Ambassadors who offer information and support to the school and the wider community. They have also set up buddy systems to help keep pupils safe when travelling to and from school



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With thanks to



If you would like to read the full Strategic Thematic Review, visit:

www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/images/downloads/Thematic_Reviews/WS_Strategic_Thematic_Review_on_Exploitation_FULL_REPORT_v2.0_21_05_2020.pdf

Also, if you have any queries relating to this review or require additional information regarding Warwickshire Safeguarding please contact wscb@warwickshire.gov.uk