



Northumberland

County Council

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 16 JULY 2020

JTAI ACTION PLAN

Report of Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services

Cabinet Member: Councillor Wayne Daley, Executive Member for Children's Services

1. Purpose of report

To consider sufficiency of progress with the action plan resulting from the Joint Targeted Area Inspection of Child Exploitation (JTAI) in 2019.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee

- Acknowledges the progress made.
- Identifies any areas for additional scrutiny if necessary

3. Link to Corporate Plan

The JTAI was an inspection of all partners of the (then) Local Safeguarding Children Board, now known as the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Committee (NSCC). It relates to the Living theme in the Council's Corporate Plan.

4. Key issues

1. The JTAI resulted in no priority areas for action for Northumberland and was viewed by partners as being an effective external review of how the partnership tackled the issue of child exploitation.
2. The NSCC receives a progress report at each of its meetings, with its Sexual and Criminal Exploitation sub-Group (S&CE) undertaking the scrutiny function on its behalf. The local authority takes the lead on the monitoring.
3. The NSCC is thus far satisfied with progress, acknowledging that the COVID 19 pandemic has prevented progress on areas that require groups of staff to gather in one place, e.g. workshops.

4. The methodology used to monitor the action plan is attached in appendix A and leads are asked to undertake monitoring every quarter. Progress is then discussed, and a sense check undertaken at the S&CE subgroup, with the progress report being formatted into 4 quadrants, agreed at the subgroup and endorsed at the NSCC.
5. There has been significant progress made in a number of areas denoted by the green and yellow squares. The inspection of local authority children's services in January 2020 (ILACS) noted that children who go missing or who are at risk of exploitation from others receive a prompt multi-agency response. This includes well-attended strategy meetings, referral for consideration at the Missing, sexually exploited and trafficked meeting (MSET) and the offer of specialised support to help young people recognise and reduce risks. Better informed strategic planning is leading to improved, targeted and focused work, including disruption activity.
6. The areas where most progress is still needed are in the red quadrant. Specifically, the strategies for Child Criminal Exploitation and Sexual Exploitation, which can now be updated as the intelligence profiles led by Northumbria Police have recently been signed off by the S&CE subgroup; and the planned roadshows are on hold and discussions about alternative ways of delivering them are being considered.

5. Background

1. The JTAI report was published in August 2019; the action plan was submitted in November, and endorsed by Ofsted in December.
2. There have been three rounds of monitoring through the NSCC up to this point.
3. The detail of how much progress has been made on each area for improvement is presented in Appendix A.

6. Appendices:

- A. Progress report

7. Implications

Policy	The inspection processes are statutory and subject to government policy.
Finance and value for money	No direct implications but strategy should lead to reduction in demand.
Legal	The report refers to statutory processes for protecting children at risk of significant harm
Procurement	n/a

Human Resources	Having enough experienced social workers is essential for a high performing Children's Social Care service.
Property	n/a
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	This report will not result in any groups being discriminated against.
Risk Assessment	n/a
Crime & Disorder	The JTAI inspection focused on the exploitation of children and young people and is linked to the work of the Youth Offending Service
Customer Consideration	NA
Carbon reduction	n/a
Wards	All

8. Background papers:

JTAI report [here](#)

9. Report sign off.

Monitoring Officer/Legal	Liam Henry
Executive Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer	Chris Hand
Relevant Executive Director	Cath Mcevoy-Carr
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Wayne Daley

10. Author and Contact Details

This report has been prepared on behalf of Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services. For further information, contact Alan Hartwell on 01670 623589 or at Alan.Hartwell@northumberland.gov.uk.



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APPENDIX A – JTAI ACTION PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE FOR S&CE SUB GROUP: MAY 2020

Good progress, all actions taken and on track	Sufficient progress, but needs finalising and / or some slippage in time scales
Formally launch the work on reducing the criminalisation of LAC, and roll it out	Review and refresh the multi agency referral form, followed by a relaunch
Review list of invitees to meetings such as CPCs and MSET	Develop and implement a process to ensure that actions and outcomes from meetings where children are discussed are reflected in one plan in CSC's records
Review Terms of Reference and membership of MSET	Review MSET process and risk assessment toolkit to ensure they focus on a wider range of child exploitation risks
Provide professionals with a good practice document to follow regarding PSHE	Undertake a formal data analysis review to better understand what the local challenges are to counteract the impact of exclusions, those who are electively home educated and those who go missing, and report findings to the Board
Build on the work of the YOS Management Board to further consider the impact of links between permanently excluded children and young people and offending	Where strategy meetings are held, ensure there is key professional attendance, and that the rationale for decision making and explicit meaningful actions are recorded
Complete the review on exclusions and alternative provision and report back to scrutiny and the NSCC	LA and multi agency training and management oversight, and evaluation of it
Extend the decriminalisation work to include all CYP who are at risk of exploitation	Implement a model that allows the NSCC to scrutinise the data about the safeguarding of children who are not in school during normal school hours
Produce a partnership profile regarding criminal exploitation, and update the CSE intelligence profile	
Ensure robust Police Management direction for investigations relating to criminal exploitation of children to maximise prosecution opportunities	
Requirement to hold strategy meetings where there is likelihood of significant harm as a result of increasing risks	
Moderate or little progress, and deadlines are either a long way off, ongoing, or have started to slip	Little progress and / or time scales have either passed or are within the next 2 months and are unachievable
Develop an awareness campaign to empower parents, practitioners and education providers to be aware and act upon early warning signs	Using the CCE and CSE profiles, update the CE & CSE strategy, action plan and work programme (Can the revised profiles be signed off at S&CE sub group, so that there is a record of partnership agreement?)
Deliver on exclusions action plan	Deliver MSET roadshows to frontline practitioners across the partnership (COVID 19 lockdown has prevented the roadshows taking place)
Explore with the police how to introduce the participation of young people, parents and carers in strategy meetings	