End of Project Report
Child Criminal Exploitation Prevention

Project Details

Project: Child Criminal Exploitation Prevention

Project Sponsor: Jane Kennedy – Police & Crime Commissioner with match funding from Sefton and Knowsley Local Authorities

Project Manager: Steve McCabe

Project Team: Mark Reynolds (full time) Jay Vernon (part time)

Start Date: 10th October 2016

Completion Date: 31st August 2017

Document Details

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<th>Modifications</th>
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Project Overview

When both CCE Advocates came into post in October 2016 there was highlighted need for research and statistics gathering on the emerging issue of Child Criminal Exploitation. At this point during the pilot programme, very little or any information was readily available in terms of research and case studies. After extensive research and networking with partner agencies both locally and nationally, the team then began to make some headway.

After a number of consultations between the project team and other service delivery teams within the local authority, it was decided on the intervention method for this pilot programme. The intervention model was made up of a series of interactive presentations that would target the following:

- Children and Young People (Primary)
- Children and Young People (Secondary)
- Parents and Carers
- Professionals (whom work both directly or indirectly with CYP)

A series of presentations was then designed and stored using Prezi (online presenter).

Once links had been established with schools and partner agencies, a number of emails then followed to offer the interventions to them. Uptake initially was slow, however, it quickly gathered momentum and as you will see from statistics below, a vast number of people received the intervention appropriate to their audience type.

As part of the project, it was decided that a train the trainer seminar was to be held to engage professionals and empower them to present the presentation post 31st August 2017 in order to ensure sustainability of the programme. This was achieved on 13th July 2017 whereby a number of professionals both locally and nationally attended a venue in Knowsley and subsequently received the train the trainer guidance. A pack was designed and was professionally sent to print. A picture of this can be seen below:
Project Objectives Review

Bar charts to show statistics from the duration of the pilot programme:

This bar chart shows the total number of people who received interventions from Jan 17 to July 17

This bar chart shows the total number of people who received interventions in the Sefton Borough from Jan 17 to Jul 17

Sefton Local Authority School/Establishment Breakdown:
Knowsley Local Authority School/Establishment Breakdown:

This bar chart shows the total number of people who received interventions in the Knowsley Borough from Jan 17 to Jul 17

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<thead>
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<th>Professionals</th>
<th>Children and Young People</th>
<th>Parents / Carers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>1</td>
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Miscellaneous Schools/Establishments Breakdown:

This bar chart shows the number of people who received interventions from miscellaneous schools/establishments from Jan 17 to Jul 17

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<th>Children and Young People</th>
<th>Parents / Carers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
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The following are objectives that were originally set by the Local Authority for the project prior to the appointment of the team.

- Raise awareness of CCE;
  
  *This was achieved through targeted interventions for audiences identified.*

- Highlight pathways;
  
  *Referral pathways into the local authority and Merseyside Police were highlighted to professionals during presentations. Information, Advice and*
Guidance was given to parents/carers on where to seek help if they feel their child or person in their care is being exploited.

- Identify young people involved, or at risk of becoming involved, in CCE;

This was identified and encouragement given to the school mentors to make referrals into the relevant local authority.

- Divert young people away from CCE;

It is anticipated that the children and young people who received the intervention will be more informed and divert away from antisocial behaviour or criminal behaviour which could leave them a victim of child exploitation.

- Reduce the risk of those identified as involved, or at risk of becoming involved, in CCE;

The project team contributed to both local authority meetings and was actively involved in discussions and action plans for people who have been identified as at risk of child criminal exploitation.

- Develop deliver a consistent message and pathway throughout the Borough and, in partnership with Sefton MBC, will develop cross border awareness and support;

Again, this was developed and delivered through the presentations to the target audience across both Sefton and Knowsley LA.

- Develop links to Parental Support Offer to ensure a whole family holistic approach is developed;

Parents/Carers have been the most difficult to engage, however, those who did engage received information, advice and guidance on where to seek help and support if they feel that their child is at risk, or is involved in child criminal exploitation.

- Work with practitioners in this area to ensure sustainability outside of the period of the contract;

A train the trainer seminar was held whereby 40 practitioners attended.

- Ensure ongoing best practice development across agencies in Knowsley/Sefton and beyond (working with Merseyside Partners).

A train the trainer seminar was held whereby 40 practitioners attended.

**Project Team Review**

The pilot programme was deemed to be a huge success. As you can see from the figures in the above section, they far exceeded our expectations. The level of engagement from schools and other settings also exceeded our expectations and to that end, allowed the amount of people to receive some form of intervention of Child Criminal Exploitation. It’s envisaged that in the short, mid and long term, those children and young people who received the intervention
will feel that they are more informed on CCE and feel empowered to say ‘no’ if they feel that they are becoming embroiled in a difficult situation with peer pressure etc.

The programme worked extremely well with the delivery model chosen. This was to offer a universal approach to schools who could then take up the offer if they wished. What was really encouraging is that school staff then spoke to each other and passed on the teams contact details and we was then subsequently contacted by other establishments and schools to request our interventions at that location. This shows that the presentations were well received and that people who engaged clearly spoke about the issue post training. Its envisaged that this continues in order to keep child criminal exploitation at the forefront of everybody’s minds and to act when cause for concern or suspicion is raised about a child or young person.

**Services Review**

Thank you for an easy to listen to presentation about a very serious concern with our young children. You have certainly raised an awareness of Child Criminal Exploitation amongst us. We know the signs to look out for & where to seek help & support.

Thank you. I found it very sad and informative. Our children need educating on this before it is too late for them.

I found the presentation excellent - lots of information - delivered in a relaxed and comfortable way!

Brilliant presentation. Delivered with an enthusiastic way which raised awareness. There were real examples which brought home the seriousness of CCE. As a teacher it is so important to be given as much information as possible on what to look for and what to do and services that are available. It would be good if young people in our school attended.

Thank you for completing this evaluation form. This will help us evaluate our presentations and improve future events throughout Knowsley and Sefton.
From looking at the above statements, you will see some feedback that was received from professionals who had witnessed the interventions first hand. As you will see, feedback was extremely positive and professionals are now highlighting the need for CCE interventions to help safeguard children and young people within their school or establishment environment. Every professional was invited to complete an end of course evaluation which can be seen below.

The evaluation form was designed to be a quick and simple way of capturing some evidence to support the outcomes of the pilot programme. In the majority of cases people left a comment with how useful they thought the presentation was. In all cases, people’s awareness was raised and this is evidenced by the distance travelled scale at the top of the form. Participants were invited to complete the first scale before the intervention then complete the rest of the form following the intervention.
In regards to capturing the thoughts and feelings of the children and young people, it was deemed not appropriate as the intervention was only 1 hour long and it would not be suitable to ask the children to complete a survey on what they thought. Feedback was taken verbally from teachers or staff within the room and this was always of a positive nature. Follow up emails have been received from staff within some of the school or establishments highlighting how they have thought the children enjoyed the session and so much so they were able to continue the conversation once we had left the room. This then allows the school staff to reinforce the message that was delivered within the school or establishment setting. It was also deemed not appropriate to ask parents to complete this form as they were extremely hard to engage in the first instance so verbal feedback was obtained. This feedback was always positive and some parents felt quite strongly about this issue and how they feel they are good parents but they are scared for their child’s safety whilst out and about due to issues highlighted in the presentation.

Lessons Report

1. Schools stated that they were concerned that post 31st August the programme would cease to exist. They questioned the sustainability of the project. In addition they believed such programmes have greater impact when delivered by outside agencies with the opportunity for follow up lessons. Such lessons would be based on subjects such as knife crime, peer pressure and risk taking behaviour.

   Both CCE Advocates developed follow up sessions however due to capacity issues; this could not be followed through. Schools had the opportunity to attend the Train the Trainer Seminar to then pass on the intervention at local level within their establishments. This day was attended by 40 professionals from across Merseyside.

   Catch 22 have received funding to deliver a pan Merseyside service to highlight and work directly with children and young people who are victims of CCE, or are showing the signs that they are potentially involved with CCE. Catch 22 are now in a position to deliver this so schools can call upon them should the need arise.

2. During the course of the project parents and carers were found to be the most difficult audience to engage. However, it was found that those who did engage recognised the seriousness of the issue and took much from the sessions. Feedback from the parents indicated that such work should be carried out in all schools. If the project is to be developed further it is recommended that parents and carers are prioritised.

   Schools used coffee mornings to try and engage parents. It would be envisaged that parents and carers are targeted as apriority as mentioned above and a suitable plan/process developed to try and engage them. An information flyer or a short 15 minute briefing before or after school may be of use.
3. Majority of schools have asked for the interventions at a younger age group i.e. years 3 & 4 such are their concerns about the scale of CCE. One Deputy Head stated ‘CCE is a bigger issue that CSE within the Borough’.

   Catch 22 are leading the pan Merseyside service and will be working with children and young people at a younger age if it’s deemed appropriate.

4. Many of the young people who engaged with the presentation have said they would like to reclaim their community from gangs and criminals. However, they expressed concerns about repercussions from such people if they were found to have informed the police about them. Consequently they were informed about the confidentiality of ‘Childline’.

5. The Family centres across the two Boroughs which took up the offer of interventions stated that it should be rolled out to all centres for the benefit of staff and parents alike.

   Catch 22 have been given a list of schools and establishments that have received interventions during this pilot programme.

6. The use of ‘PAIR’ (Partnership Automated Intelligence Report) has increased for Merseyside Police.

   The profile of PAIR has also been raised to every professional who has received the intervention. It was noticed that not many people knew the line existed. Crime stoppers were also suggested to professionals to report intelligence through to Merseyside Police or any force that may require it. It was explained the confidentiality of crime stoppers to empower them to make the call when they feel they have information that may assist police in their fight against serious and organised crime.

7. Multi-agency approach and cross Borough working is proved to be a huge success.

8. Paul Cullen has used this programme as good practice at the latest Home Office meeting on CCE.