

SOME -

THING'S

NOT

RIGHT.

**Child Exploitation & Missing Children
Annual Report 2018-2019**



Warwickshire
Safeguarding
Children Board



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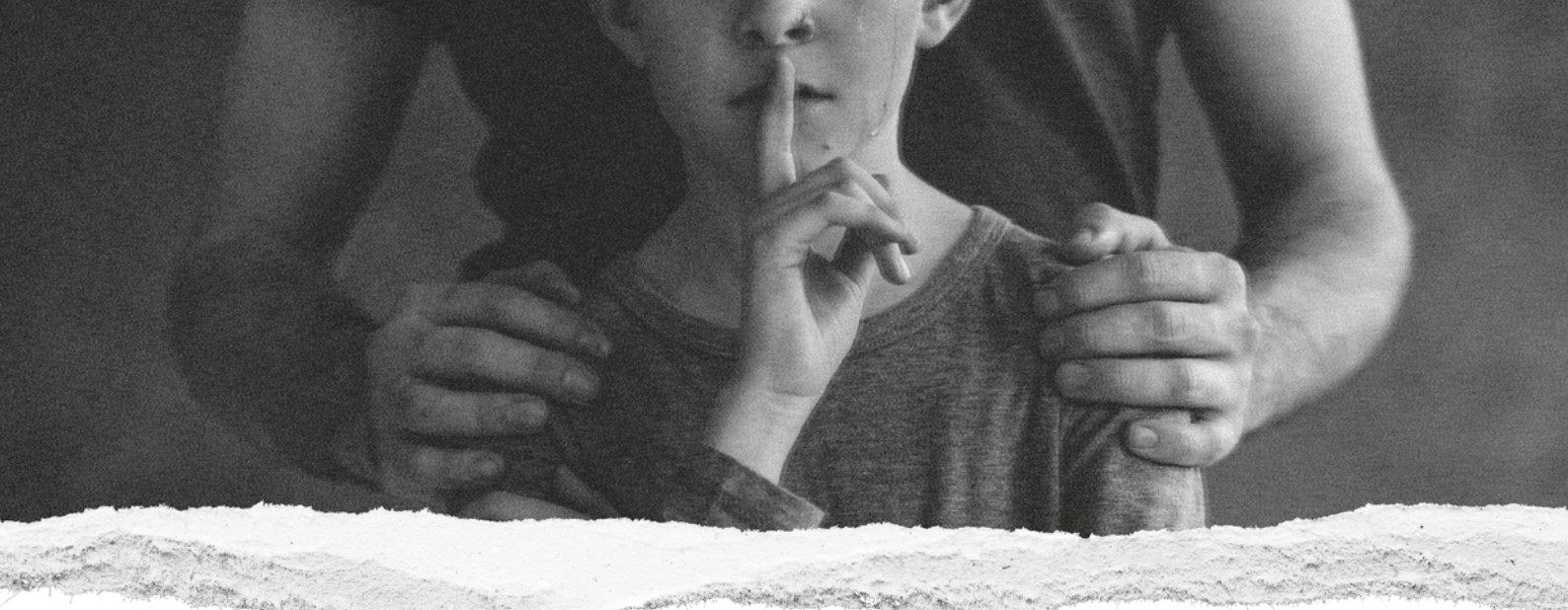
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Welcome to Warwickshire's Child Exploitation & Missing Children Annual Report for 2018/19

The report provides an overview of the issues within Warwickshire and explains how we have responded over the last 12 months. This year we present it structured around our strategic objectives to outline the progress made and in a format that embraces modern advocacy techniques.

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. We are now tasked with addressing multiple forms of exploitation and attending to the causes at a time of significant organisational restructure for key partners. The service has risen to these challenges, continuing to grow and work more holistically across the wider agenda. These issues are a priority for Warwickshire Safeguarding and its partner agencies, who are committed to working together to combat the threats; building on our expertise and strong foundations from responding to sexual exploitation over the last few years.

The report highlights the work of our co-located multi-agency Exploitation & Missing Team and the wider partnership through the year in disrupting offending and supporting children and young people who are being exploited and those who are exposed to the risks. We have an enhanced data and intelligence-led approach. We have continued to enhance community resilience and early intervention capability.

And we have continued progressing development of a single, whole-system approach, enhancing our capabilities and understanding.

Exploitation of children is evolving, both in scale and complexity, and we must be relentless in our mission to protect our children in Warwickshire from the threats, which constantly requires us to think differently about how we build capability and response that is best suited to the emerging challenges. We have recognised that exploitation sometimes continues into adulthood and are implementing a seamless transition service to address the identified gap. There is a growing national drive to focus on complex and contextual safeguarding approaches to adapt to the 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. We are taking cognisance of progress across the country as each area tackles this issue and continue to build innovative practice into our service response. We will equally continue to work together in our efforts to rise to the challenges and evolve our approach to ensure it remains strong.

We believe in the right of every child to have a safe childhood and the opportunity to thrive. That is why we work ceaselessly with an aim to ensure our communities in Warwickshire are safer from exploitation for our children and young people.

In February 2019, the Children's Commissioner published a report *Keeping Kids Safe – Improving safeguarding responses to gang violence and criminal exploitation* following an in-depth study looking at children in England who are members of a gang. The report estimates that up to 27,000 children identify as a gang member but only a fraction are known to children's services. With year on year figures rising in safeguarding referrals, admissions to hospitals where children have been assaulted with a sharp object, permanent exclusions and children being cautioned/convicted for possession of weapons, the Children's Commissioner has recommended that the Government now make criminal exploitation a national priority.

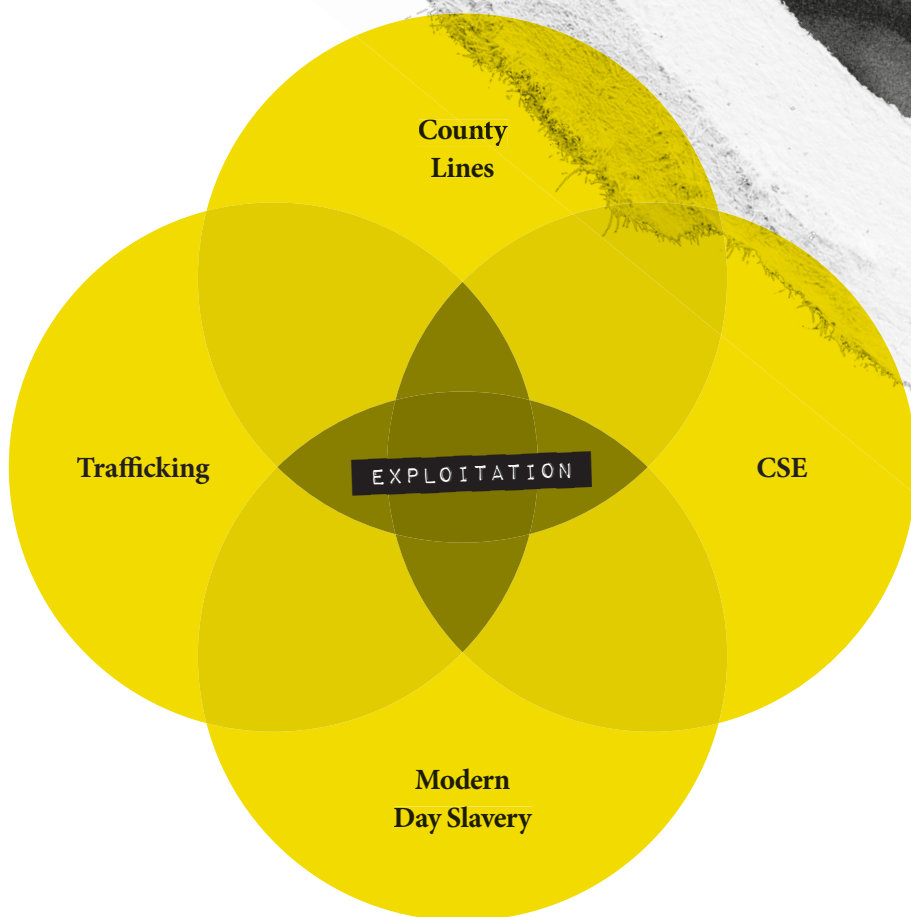
Here in Warwickshire we have made exploitation a strategic priority of the Safeguarding Partnership. There is growing evidence of it harming our children and manifesting in schools, neighbourhoods and online platforms, principally informed by peer relationships and involving young people perpetrating as well as experiencing harm. During the course of 2018/2019 we have strengthened our arrangements to identify, support and safeguard children exposed to criminal exploitation, including county lines. We have educated on the need to ensure our exploited children are seen as victims and are not unnecessarily criminalised. Our co-located multi-agency team have extended their remit and rebranded as a 'Child Exploitation & Missing Team'. A task and finish group has been working on the design and implementation of the Warwickshire response and developing further resources to equip professionals with the knowledge and tools which will be shared in due course.

The broad contextual impacts of exploitation present challenges to traditional safeguarding models, which assess and intervene with families to keep young people safe and are arguably designed for younger children experiencing harm in the family. In the absence of a national framework that provides an integrated strategic approach to safeguarding adolescents, there is a growing drive for areas to develop an effective response that better engages with the dynamics of the adolescent experience in neighbourhoods, public places, schools and peer networks, connecting community safety with the child protection system to respond to exploitation in all its forms. Recognising the vulnerability of young people who display challenging, harmful, criminal and/or abusive behaviours as a consequence (or part) of the exploitation they experience is an important feature of that. In Warwickshire we are researching and testing ways to advance our multi-agency safeguarding practices to better engage with these dynamics and strengthen our efforts to successfully eradicate the complex harms children and young people are experiencing.

Spotlight

Warwickshire is introducing a new, integrated model for safeguarding children and adults in the county from September 2019. This means that the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) will be replaced by a single body called Safeguarding Warwickshire.

The new model will build on the strengths of both pre-existing safeguarding boards to enable the partnership to develop new ways of working, avoid duplication, and improve outcomes for children, young people and adults. It will promote a family focused approach to working across the safeguarding landscape. An Exploitation Sub Group will lead the work across adults and children's services to ensure an appropriate response is being provided by agencies in Warwickshire to exploited people.



With regard to the response to missing children, a Parliamentary inquiry has been launched in March 2019 into the record numbers of children who go missing after being placed into residential homes out of their local authority area, with the figure having doubled over a three year period from 2015 to 2018. The All Party Parliamentary Group for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults is leading the national Inquiry, concerned that there is growing evidence of vulnerable children placed away from area being at increased risk of exploitation in all its forms. Warwickshire has seen a much smaller 10% increase in the relevant number of children going missing over the last 2 years and the same consistent proportion in each year ie 16% of

the total number placed out of area. We are aware of the concerns and seek to minimise the risks through limiting such placements and conducting effective communication and cooperative working between local authority areas, though welcome the national focus to bring about positive change in this challenging area. Return Home Interview performance (successful completion within 72 hours) for our out of area children is below that achieved in comparison to children resident in Warwickshire and therefore a key area for improvement to ensure we are expeditiously identifying and responding to concerns regardless of their location. We aim to deliver and delivering an equitable service to all our children and will focus our efforts in this area.

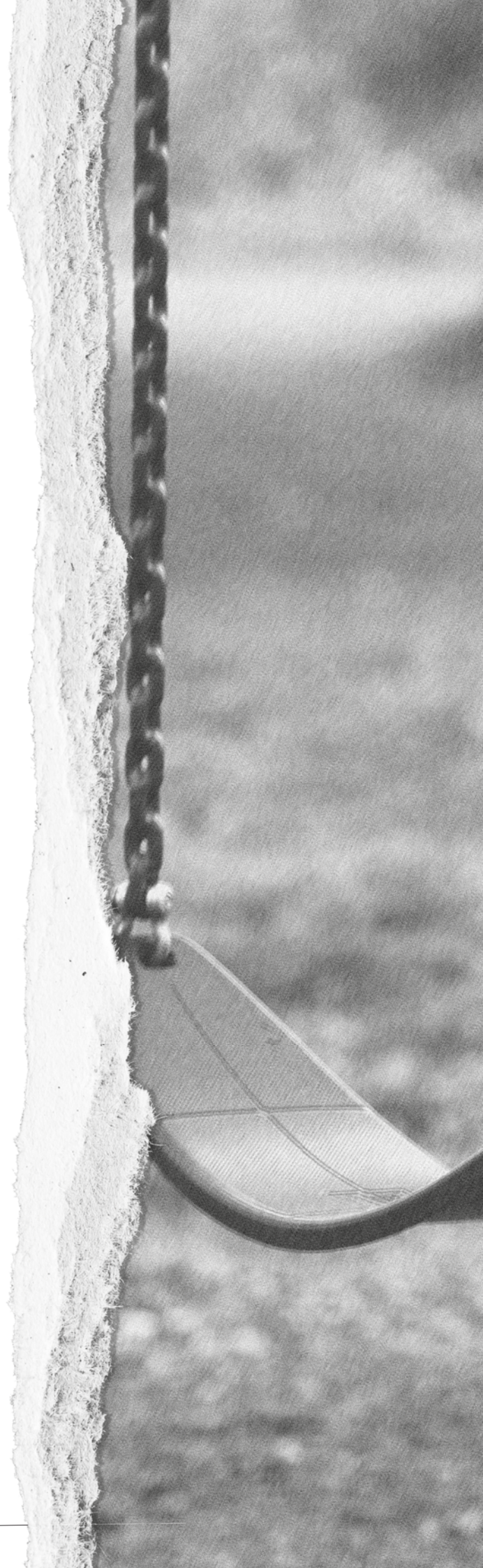
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2018/19 we made significant progress towards better identification, protection and support for victims of child exploitation, and with our practice arrangements.

We have:

- Shifted our focus and aligned our resources to all forms of criminal exploitation, at the same time making good progress with improving our understanding and knowledge, initiating several serious and complex crime operations to respond to the identified threats and safeguard affected children
- Secured an adult social worker post and strengthened partnership arrangements to improve services and support to children transitioning to adulthood continuing to be exposed to the harms of exploitation
- Strengthened our trauma informed practice response by providing specialist training to the multi-agency team and embedding the approach into systems and practices to improve the victim experience
- Developed the effectiveness of the monthly Operational Group, implementing a series of recommendations endorsed by the Exploitation Sub Group aimed at focusing attention on cases of highest risk and concern and enhancing the collective capability of the group
- Produced monthly analysis from strengthened intelligence and mapping, identifying trends and key themes of Exploitation across Warwickshire
- Provided training throughout the year on our new assessment tool and framework to improve effective identification of needs through a child focussed approach, with an emphasis on relationship based interventions
- Intensified our early help capability in recognition of identified gaps, providing training and enhanced service support to professionals working with children identified as vulnerable to exploitation
- Assisted schools with preparations for the compulsory roll out of relationships and health education from September 2019, making 'what students want' the theme of this year's Youth Conference to support schools with their plans
- Further developed our multi-agency dataset to provide qualitative outcome based data on the impact of our service for victims and assessment of the effectiveness of our approach
- Implemented recommendations from the Public Health project to improve identification, reporting and follow up of exploitation across NHS and other health services and strengthen links with the partnership
- Strengthened our cross border working arrangements and developed a cross border protocol to formalise practice in recognition of the significant profile between Coventry & Warwickshire

- Introduced an enhanced support service commissioned by the PCC involving a collaboration between Barnardo's and RoSA (Rape or Sexual Abuse charity) to provide therapeutic support to victims and a seamless transition into counselling support post abuse
- Implemented a Child Exploitation and Missing Coordinator role within Warwickshire County Council to coordinate the Warwickshire response, acting as a central point for information and expertise to bring about consistent and effective multi-agency practice
- Provided additional Police resources to the multi-agency team tasked with responding to repeat missing children to enhance problem solving, safeguarding and intervention opportunities
- Continued to reach new audiences with our messages and campaigns, further expanding the reach of the Something's Not Right campaign social media activity
- Further developed our recognition of exploitation in boys and young men through our awareness, increasing our local profile to 21%.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Understand & Identify: Strengthen the early identification and assessment of children at risk

Improving evidence about the scale and nature of child exploitation is a continuing priority for Warwickshire. Traditional means of measuring crime (victimisation surveys or police records) are less effective at measuring the prevalence of this complex and largely hidden crime whose 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.

A new dataset has been introduced to expand on the range of data we capture and better inform the operational and strategic picture. This is enhancing our insight into the key themes and threats and crucially incorporates qualitative data to enable assessment of the impact of our service for children and young person, which will develop in due course.



A significant proportion of exploitation occurs cross border with Coventry, with a requirement for joint working due to the links in 33% of cases. Travel of victims and perpetrators into both areas is a common feature, with a predominance of Warwickshire children and young people visiting or taken to locations and addresses in Coventry through their exploitation, often whilst missing. Care placements are frequently made across the boundaries of both authorities, leading to transference of risk. We have therefore

sought to strengthen cross border working practices and coordinate effective responses by making links between SPOC's to improve information sharing and coordination of activity and representation at the monthly Operational overview forums in both areas. A Cross Border Protocol has also been constructed to formalise working arrangements between both areas, which is one of the first of its kind and seen as a best practice approach to address the challenges.

Local Profile 2018/19

A recent report by the National Crime Agency (NCA) published January 2019

Intelligence Assessment: County Lines Drug Supply, Vulnerability and Harm 2018 clearly highlights how violence and control used by drug dealing networks is continuing, and the exploitation of children (and vulnerable adults) is increasing. This form of exploiting children is evident in Warwickshire with increasing numbers identified at risk through the year, leading to targeted activity. There is evidence of children being exploited to commit acquisitive crime, sell drugs and run County Lines, where victims as young as 13 have been exploited by groups based in Birmingham and Coventry, and in some local towns, to operate a drugs line through a dedicated mobile phone on behalf of organised crime groups. Exploitation is also occurring through an increasing trend of Peer groups forming within local communities that commit crime and anti-social behaviour and recruit younger children to transport and sell drugs.

Identification of criminal exploitation is continuing to grow as our understanding develops and we embed our approach in response.

Our improving profile has informed strategic assessments to highlight the issues and align our resources to the demand, including action taken through the Warwickshire Serious & Organised Crime Joint Action Group.

19-20 YEAR OLDS
82% WHITE
BRITISH
Predominant perpetrators.

72%
cases cited use
of social media

Exploitation is predominantly
PEER ON PEER

28%
of children adolescent
mental health

Predominance of
exploitation in
RUGBY

29%
of children
drugs and alcohol

15 YEARS
Average age of
children supported

EXPLOITATION

The year in numbers in Warwickshire...

CSE related incidents & investigations

Last year: 303
This year: 291

- 35 %



MASH CSE referrals

Last year: 135
This year: 115

- 15 %



Intelligence forms received

Last year: 34
This year: 80

+ 135 %



National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

Last year: 50
This year: 52

+ 4 %



31

**Criminal exploitation
investigations**
(not previously recorded)



Key facts & trends:

This year has seen a significant reduction in identified CSE investigations for the first time since we started recording it in 2014/15, reduced by 35%. Some of this is undoubtedly due to more robust cleansing and analysis of the data as it is believed there has previously been some over recording. It is however also believed that we have reached the expected peak through increased awareness and identification and are starting to see our efforts to prevent and reduce CSE having a positive impact. This is better shown through the referral figures that have similarly reduced by 15%.

Historical reporting of CSE (over 1 year old) has increased significantly over the last two years by 28%, tending to indicate our approach to build trusted and enduring relationships with young people is having a positive impact on them disclosing their abuse during recovery.

The county profile of exploitation remains a 60%-40% North to South split with a disproportionate predominance in Rugby based principally around young peer groups. This has been highlighted to Strategic Leads and subject of analysis through the Operational Group to inform local activity to address the threats.

The volume of children and young people supported with identified mental health needs remains high and has led to strengthened links with the RISE service to widen understanding of professionals and accessible support.

A significant proportion of our high risk victims are not in or not attending mainstream or alternative education, heightening their risk. A review has been conducted and, along with the national drive to reduce exclusions through increased understanding of trauma and earlier and more specialist assessment of their needs, local action is being taken with Education Safeguarding and Vulnerable Groups to maximise our opportunities with alternative provisions.

The profile of boys and young men identified at risk and receiving a service from the team has **increased again this year from 11% to 21%** of all children with a continuing increasing trend in accordance with our communications strategic priority to raise awareness and understanding.

58% of all CSE Assessments conducted during the year identified Vulnerability to CSE as the outcome. This is by far the most significant cohort and has led to a project to review and strengthen our Early Intervention and Support capability.

CSE was identified as a factor of concern within 4.1% of all children and families assessments completed during 2018/19, exactly in tune with the national average.

30% of all referrals to the Exploitation and Missing Children Team now relate to criminal exploitation (since January 2019 when recording commenced). This is an increasing trend, rising exponentially as understanding and awareness develops. 40% of all Complex Abuse Strategy Meetings within Warwickshire have pertained to Criminal Exploitation, involving features of County Lines, drug supply and use of children to commit acquisitive crime.

56% of all National Referral Mechanism investigations open for Trafficking now relate to Criminal Exploitation (including County Lines), overtaking sexual exploitation as the predominant reason, which represents 30%; the other 14% being for modern slavery.

The number of intelligence Information Sharing forms received from professionals submitting intelligence about CSE increased by 135%. Analysis shows that these tend to be from a small cohort of professionals however and we are examining technical solutions to make this process easier to encourage wider use across all agencies.

MISSING CHILDREN

The year in numbers in Warwickshire...

Missing children

Last year: 583
This year: 595

+ 0.5%

Total missing children episodes

Last year: 1980
This year: 2217

+ 10%

Return Home Interviews completed

Last year: 916
This year: 1063

STABLE

Children long term missing (wholly unaccompanied asylum seeking children)

Last year: 28
This year: 18

- 36%

The identified vulnerabilities to missing children increase to

40% Drugs & Alcohol

38% Mental Health

and 35% Child Exploitation

An increasing 6% have been linked to gang association.

Key facts & trends:

There has been an overall increase in the number of Warwickshire missing children episodes by 10%. Warwickshire Children Looked After also had an increase of 10%

Our ambitious target, redefined during the year, is to reduce the number of episodes from children receiving an intervention from a practitioner by 20%. The numbers for this group has stabilised for the first time with similar figures to the previous year (set against the overall increase above), though we need to look at how we can have greater impact and focus the work required to achieve this.

Police missing figures show a reduction in both the number of children and the number of episodes, by 12% and 5% respectively, which does indicate some progress. These figures are often not a full reflection however as they don't include Warwickshire children placed out of county that go missing and last year both the number and number of episodes increased by 11% and 4% respectively. Warwickshire also seek to ensure accurate recording and therefore support offered to children going missing, meaning on occasions reports are classified as missing that have not been logged by the Police (e.g found before a Police COMPACT entry made or flagged as a missing episode by EDT). These anomalies are under review to bring about consistent recording and consolidated data across the partnership.

Improvements have been achieved in the timeliness of Return Home interviews as a result of a particular focus on raising performance, with those completed within the target of 72 hours rising from 38% to 57%. The number conducted by the dedicated practitioners has fallen slightly from 53% to 48% of all missing episodes, though when including the figures of those felt more appropriate to be conducted by another

agency professional (e.g in view of an established trusted relationship), this rises to 84% (up from 71% in 2017/18). A recent report published by the Children's Society titled 'First Steps' highlighted a wide national variance in performance with an approximate average of 50%, so we are performing well as a comparison. We wish to do better however and are continuing to enhance effectiveness in this area. The timeliness figure rises to 69% looking at the last six months of the year, emphasising the on-going improvements. The rate of interviews declined by a young person and/or parent has also significantly dropped from 29% in the first six months to only 5% in the last.

A growing theme from Return Home Interviews is the exploitation of young people in local drug dealing and County Lines, leading to the carrying of knives and exposure to violence. This is of great concern and intelligence secured has been pivotal in informing investigations and complex operations to conduct enforcement and safeguarding activity.

The addition of Police missing practitioners to the co-located multi-agency team has assisted in significantly reducing the average time a child is missing from 174 hours to 86 hours.

Improved links with the National Crime Agency, Immigration and Border Force has paid dividends in locating and supporting several of our long term missing (exclusively unaccompanied asylum seeking children), reduced during the year by 36% from 28 to 18.

The number of missing episodes from unaccompanied asylum seeking children has again reduced by 16% following continued improvements in the management of their entry within Warwickshire to minimise the risk of them running.

ONLINE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

New figures from NSPCC show that cyber-related sex crimes are up to almost one every hour in the UK - with an average of 22 a day taking place online in 2018/19 📱😞

These crimes included grooming and sexual communication with a child.

*National Crime Agency estimate that around **80,000** people in the UK present some kind of sexual threat to children online.*

The scale, complexity and danger of the on-line threat has escalated over recent years. Approximately one third of Internet users are below the age of 18 and this growing population of young people online, along with the rapid expansion of the Internet and advancement in technologies, creates a considerable challenge.

Additionally, the growth in the use of social media and smartphone technology, enabling direct access to children at scale, is of particular concern. This has led to significant increases in online grooming, blackmail and extortion for sexual and criminal exploitation purposes. There are 149 'apps' (such as Kik, WhatsApp, Instagram) identified in the West Midlands region being used as a method of communication between perpetrators and targeted children and an increasing number being identified monthly. This means offenders can simultaneously target multiple children; grooming, blackmailing and extorting them at speed, helped by the growing ownership of mobile devices, expansion of high speed internet and the ubiquity of encrypted communications technology.

As a result, child exploitation has become synonymous with the grooming of children through social media. Increasingly offending is now being committed entirely online, with offenders coercing and extorting children into producing indecent images of themselves via webcams.

In Warwickshire we are focused on raising awareness of online child exploitation; attaining a greater understanding of the threat and how it is evolving and of both the impact to victims and the wider society; proactively identifying, prosecuting and disrupting perpetrators; and contributing to the work nationally and globally to shut down the online avenues that allow the exploitation of children.



The county Cyber Crime Advisors, funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, are responsible for delivering the Warwickshire Cyber Crime Action Plan on behalf of Warwickshire community safety partners. Their work is focused on delivering initiatives to prevent and reduce risk of harm from cyber-crimes to individuals. By mapping the scope of the issues across Warwickshire, the Advisors have been able to establish the key messages for target groups, in order to successfully raise the awareness of cyber crime.

The Advisors work in collaboration with the Exploitation Team and deliver training sessions to raise awareness of online exploitation. An Online Safety for Young People session is conducted informing young people from all school ages about staying safe on social media, how to avoid the risks of location sharing services, cyber bullying and cyber stalking, sextortion and image based sexual abuse (delivered to the appropriate age group), risks of online gaming, general cyber safety tips (passwords, email etc.) and also where to report a cyber crime and seek psychological

and emotional support. Prevent Online Grooming sessions are conducted for parents, carers and teachers, which delivers an indication of how to spot someone being groomed online, a short outline of risks around radicalisation, particularly online, a guide to current social media apps/websites that are used and the risks of them, a run through of the major online games and their risks, an indication of how to keep young people safe e.g. parental controls and guidance and any further relevant resources.

Operation Safenet is the policing operation involving Warwickshire and three other police forces in the West Midlands targeting suspected paedophiles operating online. Investigations are also conducted to focus on perpetrators use of the internet and social media platforms to groom children for the purposes of criminal exploitation.

The Cyber Safe Warwickshire website provides knowledge and offers advice and support to the community to stay safe on-line, highlighting the biggest online safety concerns affecting Warwickshire residents.

The year in numbers...





CASE STUDY

An adult in Bedworth was identified and arrested having created fake social media profiles to entice and encourage young boys to engage in sexual communication and send indecent images and videos. Examination of his computers discovered folders and spreadsheets he used to keep track of his profiles, contacts and different stages of the 'relationships' he was developing and over 5,000 indecent images. Ten boys aged 12 to 16 years gave evidence to the Police from the identified victims. The male was prosecuted and subsequently pleaded guilty to 12 counts of inciting a child to engage in sexual activity and 10 counts of making/possession of indecent images of children at Warwick Crown Court. He was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment and placed on the Sex Offender Register for life.

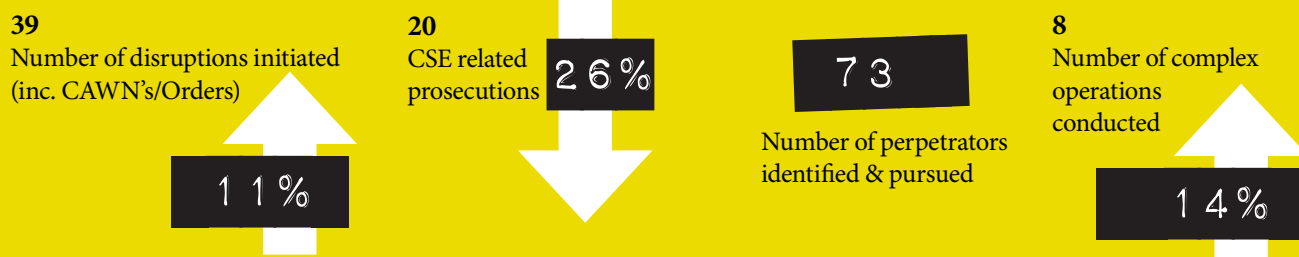
Strategic Objective - Disrupt and Bring to Justice

Lead in disrupting perpetrator behaviour and bring offenders to justice through continually understanding the local profile and risk assessments which address criminal activity.

Eight complex Operations for exploitation have been conducted during the course of the year across all parts of the county to disrupt perpetrator behaviour and bring offenders to justice. These targeted a combined total of 73 perpetrators and supported 80 children identified at risk. Common features included young girls groomed through parties, trafficked and given drugs and alcohol for sexual exploitation, perpetration of assaults and young peer groups engaged in drug activity and criminally exploited by older males.

The number of CSE prosecutions has reduced this year alongside the general reduction of identified CSE. There has been a decrease in the number of cases going to court, but an increase in disruptive action taken as a means of intervention through the operations undertaken. Earlier intervention through delivery of enhanced missing services is believed to have had an influence on this.

The year in numbers in Warwickshire...



Highlights

In April 2018 an investigation began into the activity of young persons who had been found in a room at a Warwickshire hotel who had been purchasing and consuming alcohol and potentially being exploited by performing sexual acts with males present in the hotel room. It was established there were 8-10 young people involved, some of whom had been let into the hotel with alcohol by night staff.

None of the children involved were willing to disclose any detail of the activity in the room so disruptive action was taken by serving child abduction warning notices on the males and serving a Hotel Notice on the manager of the hotel to disclose resident details and make CCTV available to view, which wasn't forthcoming. Two further incidents involving concern for young people exposed to alcohol, drugs and potential CSE occurred in May and June 2018, causing significant concern about the management and practices of the hotel and their ability to safeguard children. Action was therefore taken through the Licensing Authority and a Fire & Rescue assessment, leading the licencing committee to suspend the hotels licence for 3 months and impose a number of conditions, including training for staff on exploitation and safeguarding children, which we subsequently delivered. This invoked considerable press interest and was a lead feature on BBC Midlands Today on 1st November 2018.

The identification of two young girls aged 13 and 15 being supplied alcohol and drugs, sexually exploited and trafficked to premises in Coventry and Watford by three Coventry males led to a complex proactive investigation and subsequent identification and arrest of the males. Intervention and support provided by the Exploitation team led to disclosure of the offending, in one case a significant time later, and charging decisions are currently being considered by CPS. The success of cross border working, multi-agency working and effective gathering of intelligence has resulted in the males being mapped as an Organised Crime Group, crucial to enable targeted action to stop serious gang related crime in Coventry.

Operation Penia was set up to tackle a local issue in North Warwickshire between two peer groups of rival boys. Both groups were made up of vulnerable young males, who lived in the Bedworth area and intelligence suggested they were dealing Cannabis/ Cocaine and were known to carry knives. A number of the group were repeatedly reported as missing from home and school and there were concerns that they were being exploited by organised crime groups. The Exploitation team worked together with a wide range of partners and the parents of these children to disrupt the activity and conduct safeguarding action, taking proactive action within the community, seeking to build positive relationships with the children and avoiding unnecessary criminalisation, focusing on their safety and education. Intelligence was shared across the wider partnership at the Serious and Organised Crime Joint Action Group to highlight the risks and pursue a preventative approach alongside the protection of the young people. This approach has seen some success with a reduction in missing episodes, improved engagement with agencies and reduced concern of exploitation.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Intervene, protect and support. Continue to improve the victim experience to ensure intervention, protection and support is provided, including therapeutic support and access to specialist services into adulthood.

We have continued to strive to ensure that we have the right people, processes and skills to focus on providing effective support to children exposed to exploitation and tackling the most sophisticated offenders who cause the highest harm through exploiting them. We have provided support to more children, strengthened how we deliver that through an improved commissioned service and enhanced our approaches to maximise

our ability to successfully intervene and protect. Evidence-based research is key to tackling the exploitation of children and in Warwickshire we have continued aligning our response in accordance with best practice approaches through examining the evidence scope of what practice interventions work most effectively.

The year in numbers in Warwickshire...

144
Children received
intervention/support by
Exploitation & Missing Team

38%

89

Referrals into other
specialist services

39
Number
of MASE
meetings

7%

64

Number of
Missing Intervention
meetings

73%

Expanding service capacity & capability

Transition to adulthood

In response to growing concern nationally that young people entering adulthood experience a 'cliff edge' in terms of support, we conducted a project during 2018 to review the position in Warwickshire. This identified that our services post 18 have been insufficient for exploited children transitioning into adulthood and young adults exposed to such risk. Consequently they have not been receiving the support and protection they require, with unmet needs both for survivors and those at risk of sexual exploitation as adults. The

project outlined the need to ensure the transitional approach to safeguarding adolescents and young children is made more effective, proposing key considerations for change so that children and adults services become more aligned, more fluid and more responsive to their dynamic needs.

Consequently funding has been secured through a successful business case to implement an adult social worker role into the co-located multi-agency team with the remit of supporting transitioning children continuing to be exposed to the harms of exploitation.

This work will be taken forward during 2019-2020, including the development of pathways with adult services across the partnership to ensure that young people reaching 18 and beyond are supported through transitions into adult services across health, education, as well as social care. This will also include awareness raising and training for professionals.

Emerging evidence indicates that more effectively meeting the needs of exploited adolescents and young adults may help to avoid costly later interventions. Good transition should therefore be seen as an early intervention model, in particular for Adult Social Care and Mental Health services.

Achieving Best Evidence Training

In collaboration with Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire County Council has invested in Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) Training for Social Workers, which will continue through 2019. The courses aim to enhance understanding and skills in undertaking effective interviews with children and young people and specialist investigative interviews based on the principles of Achieving Best Evidence. This is crucial to our strategy to build a holistic and relational response and maximise what are often limited engagement opportunities with service users.

New commissioned support service

The Police & Crime Commissioner awarded the contract for the CSE service under the new commissioned arrangements in January 2019 to an innovative collaboration between Barnardo's and RoSA (Rape or Sexual Abuse local charity). This has enabled continuity in practice and provides a single, equitable offer across Warwickshire to support victims and a seamless transition into counselling support post abuse at the appropriate time, further enhancing victim experience and choice. Additional benefits include commitment to building an enhanced portfolio of therapeutic activities and continued work with young people post 18, up to the age of 25 where necessary, in accordance with

our new transition offer. In terms of wider exploitation, work will be conducted to present an evidence base of support required that most effectively meets the unique needs, using examples of good practice, academia and formal research, and co-design with children and young people. The service is embedded with the co-located multi-agency team and working with the statutory partners to provide best value in accordance with the service specification.

Trauma Informed Practice

It is recognised that embedding a trauma informed approach is an effective framework for engaging with children and young people who have experienced exploitation. Understanding trauma and how best to respond to traumatised individuals can only serve to enhance the Warwickshire service response and as such the Safeguarding Children's Board collectively endorsed a commitment by partners to consider what additional information, training or support is required by their staff to support the effective implementation of our new, trauma informed, assessment and intervention model.

The Child Exploitation & Missing co-located multi agency team have consequently moved towards embedding trauma informed practice in their approach. Three days training was delivered by Dr Karen Treisman, a leading specialist in the field, covering relational and development trauma, a therapeutic box of tools to work in the most effective way and avoid re-traumatising victims, and service transformation guidance to become culturally trauma informed and responsive across our system. The team created a plan of ingredients for integrating the learning into meetings, communication, systems and self-care and sustaining the values and practice in our approach.

A future commitment has been secured to similarly train the Children & Families workforce across the county.

Looking forward to 2019/2020

We have introduced systems to capture data on the direction of travel of cases and qualitative feedback from service users, which over the forthcoming months will enable us to better assess the impact of our work and improve the victim experience where needed.

CASE STUDY*

* Name and some identifying details altered to retain confidentiality.

Ella, a 14 year old girl from Warwickshire, had been reported missing on a number of occasions. Information gained from the subsequent Return Home Interviews with her raised concerns around Ella being at risk of CSE due to her association with older males, her use of alcohol, staying out overnight at undisclosed addresses and being found in a Hotel room with older males and other vulnerable young people under the age of 16.

Ella was referred to the Exploitation Team in July 2018 and was initially reluctant to engage with her allocated worker, not seeing herself as someone who may be at risk of harm. By September 2018, through perseverance, Ella had started to meet with her worker although she was still cautious and didn't engage much during the sessions, remaining exposed to risks and engaged in harmful behaviour. Ella had attendance issues at school and a poor relationship at home with her mother.

The worker managed to build up a positive relationship with Ella over time however and gained her trust. Information supplied by her was shared with the Police and enabled a picture to be built up and attempts to conduct disruption and safeguarding. Work conducted with her was initially focussed on self esteem building, which led to Ella being at a stage that she was able to undertake work around stages of grooming, indicators of CSE, healthy

relationships and staying safe. This had a positive impact on her well-being and she began to demonstrate a clear understanding of risk, which enabled her to start to make positive changes to her life. Ella stopped abusing alcohol and engaged in age appropriate social activity, withdrawing herself from unhealthy relationships and peer groups that were exposing her to exploitation. The worker helped her develop a stronger relationship with her mother, including talking openly about her concerns. Ella also engaged better at school and improved her levels of attainment.

Ella felt able to disclose her abuse as a consequence of feeling safe, her improved outcomes and the trusted relationship developed with her. This disclosure evidenced the concerns held by professionals and demonstrated the positive and supportive relationship between Ella and her worker, including her increased understanding of exploitation. She was supported to give an Achieving Best Evidence interview to the Police, who conducted a full investigation into her allegations, linked to an Operation in respect of the hotel where exploitation occurred.

Her worker continued to see her weekly, providing support and supporting her recovery and reduction of risk. Ella is now confident in her ability to recognise potential coercive or controlling relationships and she has a greater level of self esteem. The risks to her have decreased as a consequence of her own self awareness and the support she has been provided.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

No matter the issue, when it comes to child exploitation collaboration is key. Building effective partnerships is an essential element to our success in eradicating the threat and the harm it causes and we have continued to expand our reach to enhance the service we provide.

A project to assess how CSE is being identified in young people who access health services was conducted by Public Health and reported on in September 2018. This examined current practice by health professionals and those providing public health commissioned services across Coventry & Warwickshire with regard to the identification, reporting and follow-up of potential CSE cases, and to understand systems utilised to train and support professionals. It identified concerns about the knowledge and confidence of some professionals across health to respond effectively, particularly to children vulnerable to exploitation, and challenges experienced in respect of working across border. A lower number of CSE referrals came from Health during the course of the year, highlighting this issue.

Consequently a Task & Finish Group of Coventry & Warwickshire partners has been working to implement the recommendations and address the service gaps, doing things jointly across both areas where possible. This has led to greater collaboration and improved information sharing and support, with additional training being delivered to a range of health services and designated safeguarding leads. A cross border protocol has been developed and guidance provided to assist all professionals with how to respond.

We have commenced work to build upon our links with the voluntary sector to maximise our combined efforts and ensure our response is consistent across Warwickshire in accordance with identified need. An 'approved provider's scheme' is in development and will bring together the strength of a wide network of youth services to improve services to exploited young people, notably those in need of early help and support.

Looking forward to 2019/2020

Our approach to early intervention is under review to ensure we are identifying concerns of exploitation at the earliest opportunity and providing support in the right way to prevent escalation. We will be building capacity and capability in the new Children & Family Centres from September 2019 and training our School Health & Well Being nurses to support the effective provision of early help.

In 2019/2020 we will be progressing work to strengthen our Youth participation model. Evidence shows that high-quality participation that enables young people to contribute effectively to their personal progress or to the development of services to meet their needs, results in higher levels of personal resilience and confidence and more responsive services. We have implemented a model of service user engagement and will report on the results and impact in due course.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Prevention. Raise awareness across Warwickshire within agencies, communities, children and their families.

Young people

Our work with children and young people is a particular priority to inform our approach and ensure we are engaging in the right way. This year we set up a panel, working with Warwick District young carers aged 12 to 16 at their open access youth club to design new images for our Something's Not Right communications campaign in accordance with our priorities to raise further awareness of male victims of CSE, CSE in sport, CSE in health services and Peer on Peer exploitation.

Alongside the image and campaign designs we did funeducational sessions around healthy relationships, consent, grooming and CSE. 12 young people took part in the project and educational sessions.

We will be utilising this youth participation approach in developing our awareness raising materials for exploitation to recognise the wide range of situations this features.

We also conducted three open access youth club sessions during the year with young people aged 12-16 to highlight CSE, focusing on locations of concern in accordance with our local profile.

Schools and Education PSHE Support

Targeted support and education around CSE, Relationships and grooming is available for all schools in Warwickshire as part of their PSHE programmes.

We conducted an event at Brooke Special School on PSHE Health Day with 19 young people, conducting 3 workshops with workshops with sixth form pupils aged 16-18

42 young people in total took part in CSE projects this year.

Our 4th Youth Conference runs in June 2019 and focuses on the mandatory sex and relationship education coming into schools in September 2019 to assist them with understanding and delivering what children and young people most need.

GAME SAFE WARWICKSHIRE

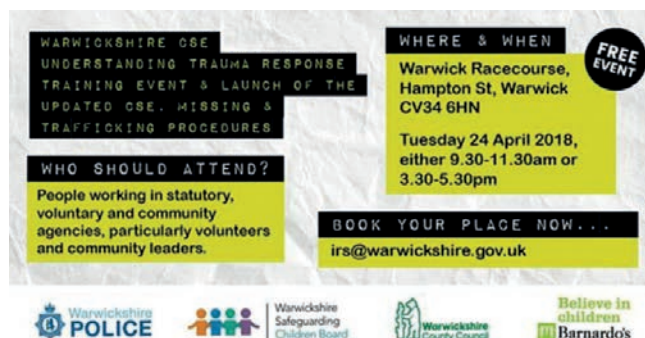
26 APRIL 2018 – THE BRIDGEHOUSE THEATRE, WARWICK

A successful 'Game Safe' Warwickshire event was held on 26th April 2018 at the Bridgehouse Theatre, Warwick attended by 370 people. The event was put on by Warwickshire Cyber Safe team, supported by our Exploitation team, and was attended by secondary schools, special schools, youth groups and police cadets from across the county. Three sessions were delivered through the day to 223 Year 7 & 8 children and 147 parents and professionals to raise awareness of online grooming and gaming safety and internet safety tips to help protect them from the potential harms. The event also highlighted local partners in Warwickshire who can advise and support with online safety and ways to report issues or seek professional help.

The keynote presentation was delivered by Lorin LaFave, mother of Breck Bednar and founder of The Breck Foundation, a charity that educates the Digital Generation to keep safer online. She campaigns for a safer internet and helps train police, educators, health practitioners, safeguarding leads, parents and pupils to ensure that young people are empowered to make safer choices for themselves online.

Community

We are continuing to raise the profile of exploitation in Sport and have attended several events across the county, including a Warwickshire Sports Network Development Event in November 2018. In July 2018 we were present at the Leamington FC Community Fun Event. We worked with Leamington FC last year as part of our CSE Awareness Day events and were invited along to raise awareness of CSE with parents and young people at their annual fun day in July.



In August 2018 we attended the Leamington Pride event. We are particularly keen to raise awareness of exploitation across the LGBTQ community and this was our second time at Leamington Pride. This year we gave out goody bags filled with CSE info, wristbands,



postcards and sweets to young people as well as raising awareness of healthy relationships. We chatted with members of the public from all areas of life, parents, young people, the PCC, local politicians and a few drag queens!

Professionals

April 2018 saw the official launch of the new, holistic, CSE Assessment Tool in Warwickshire which replaced the previous 'screening' tool. Our launch events hosted professionals from across all services including police, social care, education, health and the voluntary sector and raised awareness of the multi-agency team, our new CSE, Missing and Trafficking procedures and trauma informed responses to working with victims of CSE.

We attended the Domestic Abuse Meet & Eat Event in June 2018, which is an annual event for all sectors and agencies across Warwickshire bringing providers of DA, Rape and Sexual assault and abuse support services together. There is a significant correlation between sexual exploitation and domestic abuse and we took our campaign stand to raise awareness. The event promotes and highlights new and emerging trends, services and funding opportunities.

CSE AWARENESS DAY 2019

National CSE Awareness Day led to us conducting a week of activity with themed days aimed at raising awareness across Warwickshire communities.

We targeted specific groups and themes, sharing information and advice at local events and through social media about online grooming, the exploitation of boys and young men, exploitation within hotels and licensed premises and the specific threats of criminal exploitation and County Lines.

Members of the Child Exploitation team ran a stand for the public and local businesses in the Royal Priors Shopping Centre raising awareness of CSE. We chatted with parents, young people and the public throughout the day and asked them to do their own #HelpingHands for our display boards.

Our Barnardo's Project Workers manned the stand all day with help from our Warwickshire Police and Social Care teams and a visit from the Warwickshire High Sheriff Clare Sawdon.

The team shared their #HelpingHands again on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and we asked professionals and services across

Warwickshire who follow us on Social Media to post pictures of their #HelpingHands too and share them with us to spread the word and seek pledges to the cause.

With articles, photos and information shared across social media all week, as well as sponsored posts funded by Warwickshire Police; we were able to reach thousands of people and organisations. The campaign this year reached over one million people across social media.

STOPCSE AWARENESS DAY 18TH MARCH



COMPASS School nurses worked in partnership with us to support CSE Awareness Day across Warwickshire secondary schools this year by running drop-ins and awareness raising stands. We provided campaign posters, postcards, wristbands and pens for the stands and the nurses did an incredible job raising awareness of CSE and promoting their drop-ins, across Twitter and Facebook.

SOME - THING'S NOT RIGHT.

'Something's Not Right' Campaign

Warwickshire's 'Something's Not Right' CSE campaign remains a strong brand capturing the attention of our communities in many different ways to highlight our messages and raise understanding of exploitation. We have taken the campaign to lots of local and professional events in Warwickshire to raise awareness and understanding and have continued to expand our resources and methods of engagement in accordance with our communications strategy. Our website is the focal point of our campaign and we have improved it during the course of the year to ensure it is up to date with modern technology and appeals to a wide audience. Its reach grew to over 4,000 'hits' through the year. We have started work on developing materials to expand the brand from sexual exploitation to raise awareness of the many different ways in which our children are being exploited.

Social Media

Our 'Somethings Not Right' social media campaign is one of our core strengths in regards to raising awareness of CSE and we continued to see high Social Media engagement across Facebook, Twitter and our re-launched Instagram in 2018/19 with numbers of followers consistently rising and the reach of the campaign to over 2 million people.

We had over 1.5 million impressions for our Facebook platform again this year and over 1 million for Twitter.



Facebook Followers

(end of March 2019)

2,338 up 616



Total annual impressions* for
Facebook reach: 1,694,858



Twitter Followers

(end of March 2019)

2,211 up 151



*Impressions: The number of times your Page's posts entered a person's screen. Posts include statuses, photos, links, videos and more. (Total Count)

Our highest reaching and most interacted with Facebook post for 2018/19 was shared on 04/09/2018 and was an image highlighting the top 10 apps that children and young people in the UK are using after figures were released about the numbers of perpetrators of online grooming and sexual offences.



Instagram Followers

(end of March 2019)

208 up 115



Total shares: 3,200
Total impressions: 483,428

The launch of our Instagram account has proven to be a varied and interesting way to promote our service and other important campaigns in 2018/19. Instagram has engaged different parts of the community and the public including young people, voluntary projects, council teams, Police teams and licensing and followers have more than doubled this year.

Our most popular Instagram post of 2018/19 featured our Barnardo's CSE Project Workers engaging in the national Sexual Abuse & Sexual Violence awareness week #itsnotok campaign in February 2019.



Training

More than 1,000 Warwickshire professionals and 195 licensing staff have received CSE training this year.

We continue to place a strong emphasis on training to raise awareness and understanding across the county. Our priorities for the year remained focused on the business sector, across Health and into Education.

Full day multi-agency Safeguarding Board training took place throughout 2018/19 with sessions running every 4 weeks this year due to demand and popularity of the sessions. The training was delivered in partnership with Jackie Kerby, WSCB Safeguarding Interagency Learning and Improvement Officer. All sessions were fully booked and 4 further sessions had to be added in 2019 to accommodate for demand.

13 sessions were delivered, reaching a target group of 286 attendees from a wide range of agencies and sectors including Youth workers, Voluntary agencies, Family Support & Children's Centres, Nurseries, CCTV Teams and the Fire Service. The year saw a rise in voluntary sector staff attending the multi-agency training after a drive by the Exploitation team and WSCB to encourage their involvement in a consistent delivery of CSE awareness to audiences.

As a consequence of the training, we saw a direct rise in services and providers booking follow-on training for their full staff teams, as well as recommending the training to other sectors in their clusters or localities.

Schools & Education Providers

Free CSE training and support is available to all Secondary and Primary schools, Special Schools, Short Stay Schools, Alternative Provision providers and Colleges across Warwickshire.

We offered our 1.5 hour targeted sessions again this year to **Primary and Secondary schools, with 215 attendees.**

Parent and carer sessions are also offered through the schools, though there was limited take up during the course of the year and disappointingly those that were arranged had no attendees.

Alternative Provision is an essential part of providing care and support to children and young people who are not in mainstream education to keep them safe from risk of harm and staff from the network of approved providers took part in two hour interactive CSE Awareness workshops this year, **attended by 28 staff.**

We continued to work in partnership with **Warwickshire College Group (WCG)** this year to support them with staff training for all of their Personal Learning Mentors & Pastoral Staff across their campus's (including their Worcestershire staff who travelled to attend sessions). **56 attendees** received the training.

Health

Health continued to be a priority area for 2018/19 after we strengthened links with health teams following publication of the findings from the Public Health project highlighting concern about the ability of health professionals to recognise and respond to signs of young people being exploited.

77 Health Staff in total attended targeted sessions in North Warwickshire at George Eliot Hospital, including specialist midwives, paediatric staff, health visitors and crisis workers.

A further 77 staff have been trained as a consequence of direct commissioning by services such as GUM and incorporating into NHS level 3 safeguarding training.

Licensing

Following the success of our campaign in 2017/18 to strengthen training and awareness of CSE within the night-time economy, this year we continued to work in partnership with District Council Licensing Teams and Warwickshire Police Harm Hub and Licencing Officers to offer training and support to hotels across the county.

In particular, we worked closely with **Coombe Abbey Hotel** to run a number of training sessions for staff across the business from bar and restaurant, housekeeping and reception to the Senior Management team. **82 staff members attended the sessions.**

We also delivered staff training to a hotel as part of imposed conditions on their license following a successful intervention conducted by the Exploitation Team. 16 staff in total attended this session.

We continued our work training taxi drivers as a consequence of our success in ensuring all new drivers who apply for a taxi licence attend CSE input as part of their core training before they can receive their licence. 97 drivers in total attended 6 sessions.

53 Members of the public, from all ages and backgrounds, who attended both the South & North Warwickshire Police Citizens Academies received a 1 hour CSE awareness session as part of their 10 week course.

Additional training activity in 2018/19

Drop-in sessions to highlight CSE at Bradby Club, Rugby in line with highlighted risks. Worked with 11 young people aged 12-16.

25 Warwickshire Magistrates & Youth Magistrates received CSE awareness training at Warwickshire Magistrates Court, Leamington.

16 Barnardo's Children's Centre & Family Support staff from Lillington Children's Centre took part in a two hour CSE awareness workshop.

16 Springfield MIND mental health staff and volunteers took part in a half day (3hr) 'Recognising and Responding to CSE' training session.

8 Rugby Street Pastors had a two hour CSE awareness training session to support them with the brilliant work they already do in Rugby town centre on Friday and Saturday nights with the public and especially with children and young people.

15 Cov & Warks 'Take a Break' staff team took part in a two hour 'Recognising and Responding CSE' workshop.

22 attendees to a CSE awareness session at Warwickshire Foster Carers Conference

62 new Police recruits, 19 PCSO's and 37 call handlers received a half day training, now embedded in their initial training programme.

Planned training for 2019/20 includes;

CSE training and support for sports clubs and services across Warwickshire

PSHE support to schools and education providers for 11-18 year olds rolling out the mandatory programme from Sep 2019

Youth Justice Team Training
Further training with District Councillors and Elected Officials.

Support the development of the Safeguarding Warwickshire Learning Hub to deliver Exploitation training and online CSE training for Social Care staff



**Are your staff
and volunteers
fully CSE Trained?**

To find out more about CSE
Training please look at WSCB
website at
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wscb
or contact our Barnardo's Project
Worker Tracey Donovan who leads our
training offer by emailing
tracey.donovan@barnardos.org.uk



**Believe in
children
Barnardo's**

OUR PLAN FOR 2019/2020

We are ambitious in our plans to be the best we can be at keeping our children safe from exploitation. We have a plan of continuous improvement reviewed by the partnership executive.

Looking ahead, during 2019/20 we aim to;

Continuously improve to respond to changing concerns and trends

Develop our next 3 year Warwickshire Child Exploitation, Missing & Trafficked Children Strategy for 2020-2023.

Promote a consistent approach to Child Exploitation across the partnership through the Exploitation Sub Group under the new Safeguarding arrangements.

Strengthen our service response to wider child exploitation; embedding procedures, tools and practice arrangements being designed by the Task & Finish Group and maximising our experience and expertise to respond effectively to the emerging issues,

Develop a contextualised safeguarding approach that best responds to the challenges of safeguarding adolescents exposed to modern day risks.

Develop and define our Youth Participation approach, ensuring our service gives a voice to victims and survivors to reflect on the impact of our practice and improve user experience.

Design, develop and launch our communication campaign for wider exploitation to raise awareness and understanding, utilising the Something's Not Right platform.

Monitor and evaluate our activities and practice through the quality assurance program and learn from reviews to inform service development.

Expand our range of therapeutic activities to ensure they are 'fit for purpose' to successfully engage exploited young people, recognising the challenges and complex issues.

Strengthen mental health links and provision to improve outcomes for children and the capability of the service to understand and respond effectively to the presenting features through clinical guidance and support.

Embed the transition service and ensure that effective arrangements are in place between Children's and Adult's services to support vulnerable adults at risk of exploitation.

Build capacity and capability in our Early Help arrangements to ensure we are identifying concerns of exploitation at the earliest opportunity and providing support in the right way to prevent escalation

Promote the use of the new national disruption toolkit to maximum effect to assist investigations, restrict and manage offenders and support and safeguard victims/potential victims.

Introduce a scheme to reinforce links with the voluntary sector to maximise joined up working and effective provision of services to children in accordance with the Warwickshire strategy.

Further strengthen our intervention approach to repeat missing children, utilising evidence based practice and quantitative and qualitative data alongside interviews with young people to inform a preventative model and more informed ways of working.

Improve links with unregulated Private care providers in Warwickshire to build on our local profile and initiate support.

WHERE TO GET SUPPORT

**If you have been a victim of
child sexual exploitation or are
concerned about someone who
is please contact us:**

Child Exploitation & Missing Team

Telephone:
01926 684490

Website:
www.warwickshirecse.co.uk

Warwickshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Telephone:
01926 414144

Website:
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/MASH

Call the Police on 101

(always call 999 in an emergency)

Contributions and Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone supporting our work to protect our children from the dangers of CSE, Missing & Trafficking. We acknowledge in particular those children we serve, whose strength and courage inspires us to work hard every day in our mission to keep them safe.

The support of all agencies and practitioners working with us across Warwickshire is crucial to effectively preventing and tackling the threats these harms pose and we truly have a strong collaborative effort in the county. We pay tribute to all our partners and in particular to the proactive contributions of the Warwickshire's Police & Crime Commissioner, Public Health, Licensing and Youth Justice, whose work has once again been pivotal to our success. We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2019-2020.



www.warwickshirecse.co.uk

