

Overview summary of six multi-agency audits involving young people at risk of CSE/missing

Joint Targeted Area Inspection – Hackney Council, November 2015

Agency Involvement

Children's Social Care
Youth Justice Service & Young Hackney
Hackney Learning Trust
Homerton (CHYPS Plus, Homerton University Hospital and Homerton Sexual Health Service)
Whittington (LAC health and School Nursing Service)
GP
East London Foundation Trust
Police (Borough and Sexual Exploitation Team)

Key Trends

Audits completed across the six cases evidenced **good multi-agency working** in identifying, working with and reducing the risks of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and risks associated with children going missing.

One case had recently moved from a Child Protection plan to a Child in Need (CIN) plan, which clearly evidences the **effectiveness of the work undertaken by the professional network**.

Other cases saw a reduction in missing episodes, a reduction in violent outbursts and young people being more settled in placement. The audits demonstrated **a young person focussed approach and a generally good awareness of the young person's family context**.

Professionals attended and **shared information in multi-agency meetings**, including Multi-Agency Planning (MAP) meetings, Child in Need meeting, Child Protection Conferences, LAC Reviews and Professionals Meetings.

These meetings were generally well attended by appropriate professionals.

It was noted in two cases that invitations to appropriate health professions for MAP meetings would have enhanced information sharing and that police had not always been able to attend.

Management oversight of cases was demonstrated through regular review at the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) forum and some cases had also been discussed at the High Risk Case Forum.

Agencies were consistently aware of the risks of CSE and risks associated with children going missing, with alerts and markers on their information systems enabling them to act proactively to meet young people's needs.

Where there was resistance from the young person to engage, for example with health or education, other **agencies have worked together to facilitate improved engagement.**

Agencies were persistent when working with the young people and several audits highlighted a consistency in workers which strengthened relationships.

Agencies were also able to be **responsive to changes in young person's circumstances**, such as new disclosures and placement moves including young people moving to live outside of London.

There were examples of **professionals mapping risks across a peer group**, holding joint strategy meetings, working across borough borders and considering the links with gangs and other vulnerable young people.

The young people were not seen in isolation, but as part of the larger context, leading to a greater understanding of the local profile of CSE; the perpetrators and the victims.

There was a **good example of the police using a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to collate reports** and enable better consideration and analysis of the holistic picture for a particular young person, rather than viewing events in isolation.

This approach could be used to strengthen and co-ordinate the police response to CSE and missing in other cases.

It was noted in a number of audits that **information sharing could have been strengthened in multi-agency forums by the attendance of all relevant professionals.**

Some gaps in police attendance at MAP meetings were identified.

The co-chairs of the MASE forum have reviewed the process for inviting police to MAP meetings and strategy discussions for children missing from home or care.

Guidance was circulated to CSC practitioners, reiterating where invitations should be sent and the information police require in order to contribute effectively.

A good example of a 87a referral was also shared with CSC practitioners. **The police have agreed that where the borough SPOC is not available to attend, someone from the Police Protection Desk will attend on their behalf.**

Police attendance at MAP meetings will be reviewed on a regular basis.