

Corporate Parenting Panel

6 December 2024

Supporting Solutions – ERASE: Exploitation and Missing



Report of Rachel Farnham, Head of Children's Social Care, DCC

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report will demonstrate the work carried out by the ERASE team and how it contributed to its overall mission during the reporting period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024.

Executive Summary

- 2 The ERASE team continues to develop to meet the needs of young people and parent carers, where young people are at risk of being exploited and / or missing.
- 3 This report outlines the activity of ERASE: Exploitation and Missing, that undertake the following work:
 - (a) Missing from Home Co-ordinator – co-ordination and delivery of services for children who are Missing from Home or our care (MFH).
 - (b) Child Exploitation Workers – offering support and interventions to young people at high risk of Child Exploitation (CE).

Recommendation

- 4 Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to:
 - (a) note the contents of this report.

The Team

- 5 The ERASE team sits under the umbrella of the Supporting Solutions Service; Edge of Care, Family Group Conferencing, Exploitation and Missing, and Rapid Response.
- 6 In Durham children Services ERASE is our specialist child missing and exploitation team. The team was established in January 2016 as a partnership between Durham Police and Durham Children Services.
- 7 The ERASE missing and exploitation team is made up of a Team manager, Missing Coordinators (Return Home Interview workers) and Child Exploitation Workers.
- 8 ERASE is responsible for:
 - (a) Completing return home interviews on all children who have been missing in Durham (with the exception of those open to early help).
 - (b) Working with children who have been identified as high risk of exploitation, who have an allocated social worker in the Adolescent Safeguarding & Exploitation Team (ASET), Families First or Children in Care Services.
- 9 Its mission is *“to help and support young people in reducing the risk of exploitation and missing from home. **To provide young people with a safe space to share their views and wishes**, while working holistically with other professionals to **disrupt, safety plan and help increase safety** and happiness for our young people. To support young people in **building their understanding of exploitation**, building their resilience and empowering them to identify signs of grooming and exploitation. To support parents and carers to spot warning signs of exploitation, implement rules and boundaries, safety planning and understand how to respond to their young people to support in the aim of reducing the risk of exploitation and keep them safe”*.
- 10 This report demonstrates the progress made in relation to the Local Authority’s response to children who go missing, how support for children at risk of exploitation has reduced risk for our most vulnerable young people and sets stretched targets for 2024/25 with a view to seeking excellence for our young people.

Staffing

- 11 The team is currently made up of the following posts: 1x Team Manager, 5x Child Exploitation Workers and 4x Missing from Home Coordinators.

- 12 There have been some changes to the staffing team throughout 2023/24, and instability in staffing levels is something that has been dominant in the last year, particularly within the Missing element of the team.
- 13 While we now have funding for four Missing from Home Coordinators, this year, we have predominantly operated with two. We are utilising agency workers with a planned round of recruitment in April that should give us a full team for 2024-2025.
- 14 The team have access to a Therapeutic Social Worker from Full Circle. Their role is to offer a therapeutic lens when supervising plans for our young people.
- 15 The Therapeutic Social Worker provides clinical Supervision to staff, providing a safe space to reflect on the complex and highly emotive work being carried out with some of our most complex young people in County Durham. This helps to ensure staff have the resilience and skills they need to carry out this complex work.
- 16 The team also access weekly unit meetings / group supervisions where a safe space is created to explore worries / barriers to progress being made, these can also include wider partners for some of our more complex young people.

Child Exploitation

- 17 Joint work with Darlington Children Services and Durham Police has looked at the effectiveness of the child exploitation process, are we identifying and working with the right children.
- 18 There has been a review of the child exploitation matrix and the implementation of the new tool. The tool is prescriptive, supporting the identification of factors that would suggest a child is being exploited, it is time stamped so ensures the information shared is set out as within the last month, the last 3 months and 6 months+ this is to prevent old information being repeatedly presented a current and escalating unnecessary concerns. The form separates out vulnerabilities, such as disability, neglect etc and exploitation concerns, such as has large amounts of cash, more than one phone, etc.
- 19 The partnership have reviewed the classification of low / moderate and significant risk and embedded this within the Child Exploitation Vulnerability Tracker (CEVT) and Child Exploitation Group (CEG) process. We have seen a significant reduction in the number of young people being processed through CEG as a result of this. The Partnership are confident we are now focusing on the most concerning young people who are being exploited or at risk of exploitation.

The new CE matrix is now within the Liquidlogic case management system so can be tracked and monitored more effectively. Going forward we will be able to understand the needs of the children in Durham who are at risk of exploitation as well as how we have responded and the impact.

Child Exploitation Performance

- 20 Referrals are made into the ERASE Team by a social worker working with a child, who has concerns that the child is being or at risk of being exploited. They will complete a Child Exploitation Matrix, which is then submitted to the multi-agency 'CEVT meeting' where a team of professionals utilise multi agency information, reviewing the CE Matrix and determine the level of risk (Low/Moderate or Significant).
- 21 All young people open to either One Point or Children Services who are assessed on the child exploitation matrix as moderate or significant, will be processed through CEVT.
- 22 When risk is determined as low/moderate the CEVT Meeting will offer advice and guidance to the child or young person's Social Worker or Lead Professional. These children will not receive direct support or intervention through ERASE, but the team will offer advice and guidance as required. The oversight and management of the risk of exploitation will remain the responsibility of the allocated worker / manager to assess and respond to risk of exploitation within their existing procedures.
- 23 When children are assessed as Significant Risk at CEVT Meeting, or where professional judgement has deemed appropriate, they will be allocated a Child Exploitation Worker (CE Worker) and be referred to Child Exploitation Group (CEG).

Workload

- 24 The Child Exploitation Workers, have small caseloads to allow them to work with young people to help **build understanding of exploitation, building resilience and empower young people and their families.** They do this by:
 - (a) building relationships with young people and their families;
 - (b) providing intervention, education and support;
 - (c) working collaboratively with all agencies in order to intervene and create safety for a child;
 - (d) gathering and submitting intelligence to Police to build a bigger picture of exploitation in Durham.

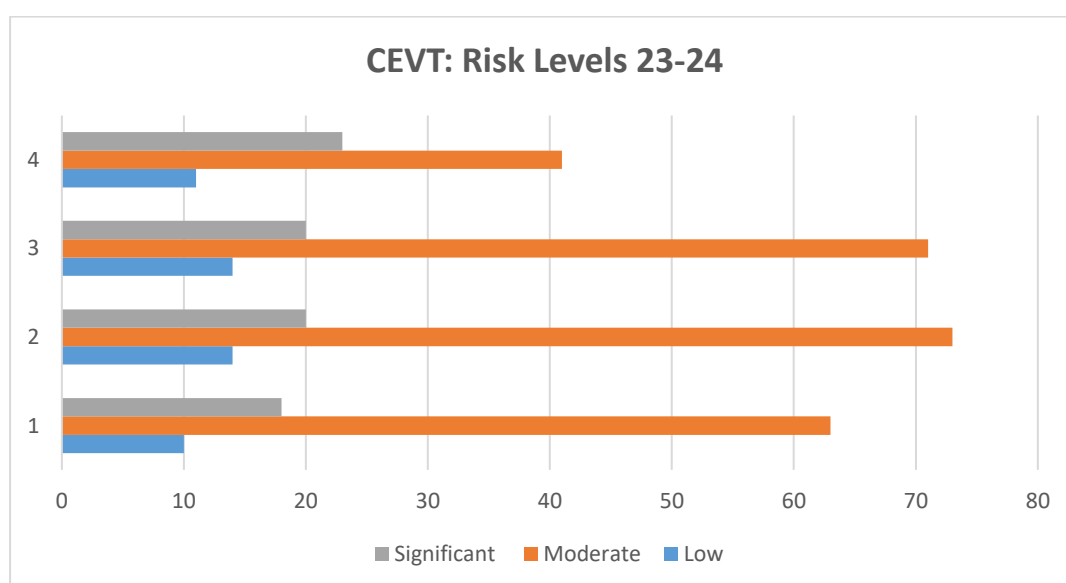
- (e) Educating and upskilling families on safety planning, grooming, healthy relationships, staying safe online and in the community, risk and risk awareness, sexual health, perpetrator strategies, self-esteem and confidence building.

25 The purpose of CEG is to provide strategic oversight of those children who are at most risk of exploitation in Durham. It is a partnership meeting attended by a range of professionals including community safety and housing, allowing for a wider focus on the context where harm occurs. The meeting will focus on evidence of exploitation, safety and disruption planning, with the aim of reducing harm and creating safety. The focus on spaces and places is a new area for CEG and will be developed further.

Referrals

26 In 2023/24 the CEVT reviewed 392 referrals, of which 87 were assessed as high risk, 252 were medium risk and 53 were low risk. While numbers have remained consistent we can see a higher number of young people coming through assessed as high risk of exploitation.

CEVT Referrals	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk	Total
Child Exploitation (CE) referral received (23-24)	87	252	53	392
Child Exploitation (CE) referral received (22-23)	65	223	98	386



- 27 We can see in each quarter of the year that the majority of matrices were scored as moderate, which has remained consistent from last year. Those young people have oversight through care planning with the offer of consultation and exploitation focused direct work tools. For their key worker / Social Worker to complete. However, there is a review of CEVT underway which will focus on whether those children reviewed as 'moderate' are receiving the right level of support at the right time. This will be part of 2024/25 development plan.
- 28 Analysing the CEVT data further we can see that some young people were discussed on multiple occasions and further exploration for this is due to the current exploitation procedure requires a worker to send a moderate or significant CE matrix to CEVT. Once a young person is deemed moderate or significant then their matrix needs to be reviewed monthly and the updated one sent to CEVT. On reflection, a lot of these matrix wont evidence much progress as the work may have just begun, this process and oversight of the young people assessed as moderate risk of exploitation will be reviewed.
- 29 Of the young people discussed at CEVT, a CE worker was allocated to 68 young people which were assessed as significant risk of exploitation and progressed to CEG. Sixteen that were assessed as moderate were allocated a CE worker where professional judgement deemed it appropriate due to intelligence shared by partners.
- 30 **Breakdown of the exploitation concern:** More children were referred due to criminal exploitation (205) than sexual exploitation (163) which is different to last year, where we had 252 at risk of child sexual exploitation and 134 assessed at risk of criminal exploitation, with 2 assessed as at risk of both. Only nine children referred were perceived to be at risk of both Criminal and Sexual Exploitation in the last year.
- 31 Of the 87 young people reviewed as high risk of exploitation between April 23–March 24, this was an increase from 65 in 2022-23.
- 32 Those assessed as high risk were then allocated an ERASE CE Worker, below outlines where they are now in relation to their risk of CE:
- (a) 35 (40%) remain high although it must be noted 16 of these were only allocated a worker in Q4.
 - (b) 12 (13%) were moderate
 - (c) 38 (43%) were low / no concerns
- 33 There were 29 young people who were assessed as high risk of Child Sexual Exploitation:

- (a) 14 (48%) of those young people who were identified as being at high risk of CSE had risk reduced to low
 - (b) 4 (13%) have a reduced risk level of medium
 - (c) 10 (34%) young people remain high risk and 8 of these were allocated during Q3 and Q4 so limited work has been completed
- 34 There were 56 young people who were assessed as high risk of Child Criminal Exploitation:
- (a) 24 (42%) of those now have a reduced risk level of low
 - (b) 7 (12%) have now reduced to medium
 - (c) 23 (41%) remain high risk, 12 of which were allocated Q3 and Q4
- 35 There were 4 young people who were assessed as high risk of both Sexual and Child Criminal Exploitation
- (a) 2 remain high
 - (b) 2 were assessed as low
- 36 It must be acknowledged that those young people reviewed as high risk of CE in Q4 have had a limited amount of intervention since the point of being allocated a CE Interventions Worker, therefore there is still opportunity for this risk to reduce.
- 37 Transitional support for young people who are identified as high and moderate risk of sexual exploitation at CEVT, who are 16+, consideration will be given to a referral to Changing Lives, as they can provide support into Adulthood.
- 38 The ERASE team have a good working relationship with Changing lives and support one another. Changing lives professionals have an invite to attend CEVT and CEG. There is also the option to refer on from the ERASE team where it is felt the young person post 18 will require further support.
- 39 Transitional support for young people who assessed as high and moderate risk of criminal exploitation, this remains a gap in Durham, especially specialised support for male victims.
- 40 Additionally, referrals to Changing lives can also be made for parents of young people open to us where they may also be at risk of exploitation and sex work.

Re-Referral

- 41 At this time we don't have any consistent mechanism for monitoring re-referrals to CEVT and CEG, we intend to develop this in 24-25 working closely with the police and data analysis

Child Exploitation Group (CEG)

- 42 The CEG framework provides strategic oversight and does not replace existing review and monitoring arrangements.
- 43 The CEG has strategic oversight of all Young People assessed as high risk of exploitation and their disruption plans. CEG will discuss and overcome any barriers to services, partner engagement at Team Around the Family (TAF) / Care Teams, as well as multi agency problems solving resulting in mapping meetings.
- 44 The ERASE Team Manager attends the CEG and provides updates on the young people the team are working with as well as contributing advice and guidance on young people not open to the service.

Consultation / Advice and Guidance

- 45 ERASE will provide consultation and advice to a Social Worker or Lead Professional, as required.
- 46 Through the CEVT process, for young people who have been identified as moderate/low risk, advice and guidance is offered to their social worker / lead professionals or anyone supporting young people. The aim of this is to support lead professionals to build a young persons understanding and resilience to CE, while supporting parents and carers and creating a strong safety plan to minimise risks of exploitation. This advice may include:
- (a) Resources for young people, parents and carers
 - (b) Useful links and websites to best support identified needs of young people
 - (c) Contact information for other professionals to consider when safety planning such as, school nurses, housing, neighbourhood policing, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) teams, Humankind, charities and other lead professionals for a multi-agency response to child exploitation
 - (d) Advice and guidance re. mapping meetings and peer mapping sessions with young people
 - (e) Advice and guidance on response to child exploitation and appropriate language

- (f) Information and intelligence sharing

Developments

- 47 ERASE as the specialist service for exploitation and missing has actively been involved in the development of practice across children services and early help.
- 48 The Team Manager is currently reviewing the team's service specification which outlines practice and procedure within the team. This specification will also outline the performance framework for the team, aligned to the quality assurance process and the team's development plan that strives to improve practice.
- 49 The Team Manager is also an active member of the stakeholder group looking at the DSCP (Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership) procedures for Harm Outside the Home.

Direct Work

- 50 The team utilise a variety of tools for direct work that help them understand harm outside the home and exploitation.
- 51 Mapping is a model of practice developed nationally by the contextual safeguarding network and something which has been implemented and developed in Durham in the last year, led through the ERASE Team.
- 52 Initially mapping meetings were held with multi-agency professionals (ERASE, Police, Social Worker, Residential Workers, Education, Health and Community Safety) to look at the peer associations of a young person, adult associates and locations they were frequenting. The aim was to share information to gain an understanding of the risks linked to exploitation, as well as intelligence sharing to aid disruption. The mapping exercises gave a vehicle to share information across the partners to help reduce the young person's risk of exploitation as well as targeting those that were exploiting.
- 53 Developments both within Durham and nationally through the contextual safeguarding network allowed further understanding and developments on mapping and guidance has given us the current framework.
- 54 ERASE holds and coordinates regular partnership mapping meetings, that allows professionals to see both risks and safety within peer networks and social circles, as well as in spaces and places outside of their home. Through carrying out peer mapping exercises, practitioners can identify and understand the nature and extent of the harm outside of the young person's home, which can then be addressed from a multi-agency perspective, supporting individual safety and care plans. The

intention is to reduce the risk of young people being exploited by increasing their safety outside of the home.

- 55 There are three levels of mapping meetings:
- (a) Mapping 1:1 with a young person to understand their peer network
 - (b) Mapping with a group of young people who 'associate' to understand the peer group both safety and risks
 - (c) Mapping with partner agencies to bring together the child's voice, the intelligence on people of concern and spaces and places of concern.
- 56 These tools support the ERASE team in their aim to work holistically with other professionals to disrupt, safety plan and help increase safety beyond the home for our young people.
- 57 Direct Work: the Child Exploitation workers conduct peer mapping sessions with all young people who are supported by them. By exploring a young person's own "map," it gives the young person the opportunity to share not only names, spaces and places, but how young people perceive themselves as part of their group, supporting workers to understand dynamics, safety and risk. Mapping meetings need to be meaningful and actions identified to better safeguard our young people from exploitation. ERASE continue to support teams across the county with peer/eco mapping.
- 58 The team have attended / coordinated 10 mapping meetings this year, we have seen this model of practice become embedded in everyday discussions where intelligence is shared and acted upon both from a care planning and police investigation perspective.
- 59 Going forward we are working with the police and community safety colleagues to develop how we capture the outcomes from mapping meetings and the impact upon the child, the perpetrator and overall spaces and places.

Missing from Home Performance

Missing

- 60 Durham County Council is committed to ensuring all young people in Durham are safeguarded both within and outside the home. Recognising that children go missing for a number of reasons and it is important that they are given the opportunity to share these reasons. It is therefore important that all children who go missing are given the

opportunity to meet with an independent return home worker within 72 hours.

- 61 The Missing Coordinators within the ERASE team carry out this role. Their role is to provide an opportunity for a young person to be listened to, to understand why they went missing, what happened whilst they were away, including exploring whether they have come to any risk, harm, including exploitation and discuss what needs to be put in place to prevent them from going missing again.

Performance

- 62 The table below provides an overview of the number of young people who were reported missing in Durham, alongside the number of missing episodes, comparing this year with the previous year in brackets.

Status	No YP		No Episodes	
All YP	605	(625)	1997	(1971)
Not known to services (K/N)	276	(306)	493	(433)
Children in Care	160	(142)	1155	(992)
Child in Need	189	(213)	393	(492)
Child Protection	28	(23)	66	(53)

- 63 The total number of all missing children has reduced from 625 in 2022/23 to 605 in 2023/24. The number of episodes increased from 1971 to 1997.
- 64 The average number of hours children were missing remained the same at 22 The average age of the child missing was 16 last year and has reduced to 15 this year.
- 65 We continue to see a greater number of children who are not known to services reported missing, with children in care being the highest for repeat missing episodes.

Status	RHI Offered %		RHI Completed %		RHI in 72hrs %	
All YP	95	(92%)	91	(98%)	55	(49%)
Not known to services (K/N)	85	(78%)	74	(97%)	56	(46%)
Children in Care	99	(99%)	98	(99%)	55	(58%)
Child in Need	95	(95%)	91	(97%)	52	(35%)
Child Protection	97	(95%)	98	(97%)	57	(50%)

- 66 The number of return home interviews offered for all young people has seen a slight decrease from 98% to 97% this year, as has the number of interviews completed, 99% to 94%.
- 67 However, the number of return home interviews completed within 72 hours jumped from 48% to 54%.
- 68 Analysing the reduced overall performance we can see it can be attributed to variable staffing levels, issues with data cleansing and changes in practice to focus resources on children in care. The weekly performance meetings has also evidenced how persistent the team are in making contact with children hence this also results in interviews being out of timescales.

Summary of data for Children missing from our Care

- 69 For children in care, we saw an increase in the number of children going missing from 142 to 160 in 2023/24. The number of missing episodes increased from 992 to 1155.
- 70 To add context to this we have seen an increase in the children in care population as well as an increase in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).
- 71 This year we have seen 22 UASC go missing on 62 occasions, compared to 9 on 18 occasions in the previous year.
- 72 The average number of hours our children in care were missing increased from 22 to 23 in the past year. The average age remained consistent at 16.
- 73 Looking at Return Home Interviews (RHI), 99% of the children missing from our Care were offered return to home interviews, all of which were completed with 55% completed within 72 hours.

- 74 Looking at the 99% RHI completed means 1% didn't go ahead, this equates to 16 young people. Further investigation shows a mix of data cleansing issues, with interviews showing as completed but then closed as not completed. This led to a piece of work being completed with the missing workers supported by admin, reviewing the practice and implementing a clear process. Practice is being overseen by weekly performance meeting with the missing workers.
- 75 We can see by the table above that children in our care are a priority for the missing coordinators and this is reflected in the higher % of offered, accepted and completed with 72hrs.
- 76 To further support our young people who are looked after, the ERASE missing team are dedicated to ensuring young people have consistent professionals in their lives. For young people who are experiencing repeated missing episodes, the same missing co-ordinator will visit to complete return to home interviews. This supports positive relationship building and assists in better understanding a young persons lived experiences, reasons for missing in order to offer the best support and disruption. Given that declined RHI for our most frequent missing young people has decreased by 16%, it demonstrates this has had a positive impact.
- 77 There has been targeted intervention with partners looking at children in care, this includes the ERASE Police completing training with the foster carers, residential care staff and commissioned care staff on the expectation of what to do when a child goes missing in care, in line with the Philomena protocol.
- 78 The ERASE Team Manager and Missing workers will liaise directly with social workers and manager when children have repeat missing or have been missing for a significant period of time / deemed vulnerable. The Manager and Missing workers will attend focused care teams, to share information and agree safety planning, understanding triggers and how we respond to them to prevent or reduce the length of missing. This will also inform a police missing profile.
- 79 Children in Care in temporary accommodation: we recognise that push and pull factors are more prominent for young people who are looked after and in temporary placements. We acknowledge that identifying suitable long-term accommodation for young people has been a challenge, resulting in changes in placement and care staff. We know that this increases the risk of young people going missing until their forever home is sourced. This can also be challenge for the missing coordinator to complete the return home interview. Having regular multi agency meetings focusing on the child as well as wider discussions with

commissioning re expectations from agency staff when a child does go missing are aspects we are currently working on.

- 80 Work around completing RHI within 72hrs has continued and you can see we continue to improve with children in our care, this continues to be a priority for the missing team.

April 2023 – March 2024 – Declined RHI

- 81 The data shows that in the last year 194 young people declined return to home interviews totalling 448 missing episodes. All young people were offered a RHI.
- 82 RHI were not completed for young people who are looked after on 279 missing episodes which equates to 63 children. All young people were offered a RHI.
- 83 Not offered and Declined interviews are being motored through the weekly missing performance meeting we now hold. While we are committed to offering a child an independent interview, we will when a child is known to children service liaise with the social worker or relevant professionals working with the child such as supporting solutions or exploitation worker to determine if they can complete the RHI to gain the child's views as we recognise, especially with children in care, they have a number of professionals all potentially asking the same questions.
- 84 Where a child who isn't open to services declines, the Missing workers will review their situation and where we have a number of declines or we are worried about their vulnerability we will try various ways to engage them.

Frequent Missing: Escalation Response

- 85 In July 23 we rolled out an escalation procedure within children services targeting the most vulnerable of our missing children. Those children have been missing on 3 or more occasions in 30 days or have been missing for up to 72hrs.
- 86 When a child has 3 missing in 30 days then a focused multi agency meeting (TAF/ Care Team) should take place to understand the risks underpinning the missing and the safety plan around this. The Missing Team Manager and Missing Coordinator support this process by alerting the relevant social worker / team manager of the child that the trigger has been met, they will attend the relevant meetings and provide support.
- 87 Where a child is missing for up to 72hr or is deemed vulnerable the team will also liaise with the relevant social worker / team manager to

consider a strategy meeting, they will attend and provide relevant support.

Work with ERASE Police

- 88 There is a weekly ERASE Team discussion with the Police re. who we are most worried about that week, this ensures there is effective sharing of concerns and identified next steps. We are now recording post codes of where the young person went missing from and where they were found. We are also recording info re. school to ensure there is a more holistic understanding of the current worries and strengths for the young person.
- 89 Feedback from the Police Child Exploitation Team is there has been an improvement in quality of information captured by the RHI workers. This is the outcome of the same worker aligned to each vulnerable child, this allows better oversight, analysis and understanding of the child's experiences, who they are associating with where they are going, as well as oversight of YP missing at the same time. This wasn't always readily captured with different workers completing RHIs.

Development Plan 2024-25

- 90 **Governance:** work with the DSCP and Strategic CEG to align the practice within the ERASE team to the strategic vision. Partnership developments with regard to spaces and places. Ongoing work within children services to ensure the expertise of the ERASE team supports the wider Families First (FF) and Children in Care (CIC) teams. Informing the development of the practice guide and procedures for Harm Outside the Home for Children Services.
- 91 **Resources / Staffing:** work is ongoing to monitor demand and resources within both exploitation and missing.
- 92 **Missing:** the work of the Missing Project has evidence demand required an increase in staffing to achieve the 72 hr turn around and work on recruitment is progressing. Although there have been vacancies throughout the year, they have been successfully filled.
- 93 **Child Exploitation:** The work completed throughout the year in terms of recruitment and resourcing has meant there has been a reduction in caseloads. Current caseloads are around 7 young people per CE worker. This has had a positive impact on their work and we can now offer a more intensive support for young people and families in aim of tackling exploitation.
- 94 **Missing Project:** Action Plan, this is an ongoing piece of work that involves the partnership, the action plan sets out clear development for the team in respect of quality of RHI information, effective information

sharing and disruption that reduces and disrupts the frequency and length of missing episodes. This work cuts across children services and into Early Help. This is being monitored through the Quality Improvement Board (QIB)

- 95 **Performance and Quality Assurance:** the missing Power BI dashboard has been developed and it allows for the analysis and data cleansing of performance in respect of missing as is evidenced in the detail of the report above.
- 96 **Assurance Activity:** There was a missing assurance audit completed in July 23, that consistent of understanding what we know about missing from data and previous audits, sample of file audits, interviews with workers and parents / carers. This was collated and analysed and the strengths and areas of development were identified to inform an action plan
- 97 The assurance work identified the following:
- 98 Strengths:
- (a) Assessments mainly include worries about missing and exploitation
 - (b) Evidence of good inter-team working
 - (c) RHIs often identified useful detail about where young people have been and who with
 - (d) Understanding why children go missing: conflict at home, domestic abuse, living out of county / wanting to live closer.
 - (e) Some young peoples missing reducing
- 99 Areas of Development:
- (a) 2/3 of plans didn't include missing, even when seen in the assessment
 - (b) Supervision discussions re missing, we did not see an impact on practice or safety planning
 - (c) Insight gained from RHI not always captured in safety plans / direct work or step by step actions to prevent missing
 - (d) Safeguarding information obtained through a RHI and shared doesn't always result in strategy, when one was required and when they are they aren't timely.

- (e) Young people living outside of county Durham – RHI completed via phone
 - (f) Young people refusing RHI as they say they already spoke to the social worker – how do we capture this information in the RHI forms
- 100 The findings have been aligned to the action plan developed through the project work, and actions driven by various parts of the service, some of which has been outlined in this report. Further work includes work on safety planning, plans and supervision documents. Targeting resources at the most vulnerable young people who go missing to ensure inter team discussions, sharing of information and safety planning, with the Team Manager and Missing workers continuing to alert Social Workers and Team managers of concerns and the need for a strategy to be considered. The QIB provides strategic oversight to this work.
- 101 Further work is ongoing with the systems team to look at how we capture the impact of the work undertaken in the ERASE team and the impact upon the child, as well as the wider exploitation performance. Performance data will be reported to monthly Performance Clinics where the team will be measured against targets set, with Head of Service oversight.
- 102 **Collaboration and Co Production:** work with the Children in care Council and the Youth Council to look at how we improve the service to meet the needs of children and young people.

Feedback

- 103 From a mam of child who is exploited:

“...wanted me to know how grateful she was for me not only answering my phone late on a Sunday evening to support her in terms of finding out where her son was being remanded, and taking some of the stress away from her in such a difficult situation for her by transporting her and staying with her whilst she was at Stockton Court – somewhere it would have been difficult for her to find and get to in time to be there for Jack.

Mam said she can rely on me to do what I say I will do and the support for her and her son in court (numerous times) has meant so much to both of them. Mam says she and her son trust me and know they can come to me when they need help and support, confident they will get it.”

- 104 Feedback from a Mam working with a CE worker:

Mam says “she really appreciates how I act like a normal person and don’t come in acting all high and mighty and trying to tell her or her child

what to do. She likes that I always explain things to her including what might happen and give her different options when I can. She says she trusts me and knows I am not hiding things from her or trying to make her do somethings he doesn't want to."

Conclusion

105 Children and young people in Durham who are at risk of extra-familial harm continue to be supported through innovative specialist services. These children benefit from multi-agency ownership of risk through the child exploitation group (CEG) and where risk is identified as high, review of children's outcomes tells us that risk reduces over time with specialist intervention.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

No implications.

Finance

No implications.

Consultation

Children and young people are involved in consultation wherever necessary. Young People are being asked to consult on development of RTHI paperwork. They will also be consulted in future on 'what good practice looks like'.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No implications.

Climate Change

No implications.

Human Rights

No implications.

Crime and Disorder

No implications.

Staffing

No implications.

Accommodation

No implications.

Risk

Effective support for children who are missing or at risk outside of the home is essential to reducing risk to children and young people in Durham. The developments identified within the report will support practice to go further in keeping children safe in the community.

Procurement

No implications.