

# Item No: 14

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016

## Glasgow City Integration Joint Board

**Report By:** Susanne Millar, Chief Officer Strategy, Planning & Commissioning / Chief Social Work Officer

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### LEARNING FROM DASH (CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATION)

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To provide the Integration Joint Board with an overview of Operation Dash and the multi agency learning that has been derived from the investigation.
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<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>The Integration Joint Board is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Note the contents of the report.</li> <li>b) Note that further updates on the work of the City's Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group will be provided.</li> </ul>
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#### Implications for IJB:

<b>Financial:</b>	None
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<b>Personnel:</b>	None
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<b>Legal:</b>	None
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<b>Economic Impact:</b>	None
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<b>Sustainability:</b>	None
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<b>Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:</b>	None
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<b>Equalities:</b>	None
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<b>Risk Implications:</b>	
<b>Implications for Glasgow City Council:</b>	The key findings will impact positively on practice developments.

<b>Implications for NHS Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde:</b>	The key findings will impact positively on practice developments.
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<b>Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both</b>	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	✓
	2. Glasgow City Council	
	3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	
	4. Glasgow City Council and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	

## 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to highlight the joint learning that has been identified during Operation Dash, and how it has been used to inform current practice in relation to child sexual abuse and exploitation within the City.
- 1.2 At the conclusion of the investigation a learning event was set up with the key professionals who had been involved in the Operation. It was important that the significant learning was fully captured in order that this could inform and influence future practice in the area of child sexual exploitation both within the City but more widely across other partner authorities.
- 1.3 The report was jointly prepared by Social Work Services and Police Scotland.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 Operation Dash commenced in February 2013 led by Strathclyde Police (now Police Scotland) in conjunction with social work services and partner agencies and involved twelve local authority areas. Glasgow had 84 children and young people identified in operation, ranging in ages, the youngest being 10 years old and the oldest being 21 years of age. The majority of children were known to services and had active social work involvement, although there were a small number of children who were not known and who were the victims of serious sexual crimes perpetrated by adult males.

- 2.2 The police investigation resulted in a total of **28** reports submitted to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in relation to **27** individuals across the investigation. All of these individuals were male and overall the majority of suspects were assessed to be 16 to 25 years of age. Glasgow had 14 suspects who were known to Glasgow Social Work Services. There are still Court proceedings ongoing relative to the Operation Dash.
- 2.3 Operation Dash was supported by a dedicated police team, the social work child protection team, young women's service and criminal justice services in addition to health, education representation and Barnardos.

### **3 Key Learning**

- 3.1 The report identifies a number strengths within the organisation and implementation of the investigation including:
- The positive impact and role of the dedicated police team
  - The multi-agency operational group which met on a regular basis to share information and agree process of investigation
  - The establishment of screening meetings which reviewed all children identified
  - Development of tools to support and assist identification and assessment
  - The use of Child Sexual Exploitation multi agency chronologies
  - A review of joint investigation interviews and the development of additional Child Sexual Exploitation guidance for staff undertaking joint investigative interviews
  - Strong working relationship with the procurator fiscal from the outset
  - Development of 'young perpetrator' meetings as some of the young males had been previously in the care of social work and the council had a corporate parenting responsibility
  - An increased awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation across agencies within the city
  - Police intelligence was central to understanding the city wide connections
  - An awareness of the links between Child Sexual Exploitation and internal trafficking
- 3.1 The report also identifies future challenges for agencies in delivering services for vulnerable, high risk young people, including:
- The co-ordination of such large scale investigations is time intensive and practitioner intensive and requires commitment from all services
  - The role of children's residential services is crucial and it was recognised that they need to be involved from the outset where concerns are identified
  - Practitioner roles and responsibilities and the use of child protection and vulnerable young person's procedures to manage the protection plan
  - The ability of services at a local level to replicate best practice – the importance of working at the young person's pace was central to Operation Dash, but this requires patience, time commitment and space for staff to build up working relationships

- The importance of supporting young people and their families following the investigation - long term support
- The need to review missing persons procedures

#### **4 Practice Developments**

4.1 Glasgow Child Protection Committee through the Vulnerable Young Persons Sub-Group has established a short term Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group. A work plan has been written which links with the National Child Sexual Exploitation work plan which was updated earlier this year. Work is ongoing under the following 4 work streams

- Prevention/Awareness Raising
- Intervention
- Recovery
- Prosecution

4.2 Glasgow will be a Stop to Listen test of change area and work in partnership with Children 1<sup>st</sup> to develop an approach of working with victims of child sexual abuse/exploitation 12 years and above. Children 1<sup>st</sup> have secured a small amount of funding and have appointed a Project Manager who will support the four test changes areas. A work plan is in place and work is ongoing to take the learning from Operation Dash into future practice development.

4.3 It is important to note, that while this report relates to a large scale police investigation, the majority of the work undertaken by services and practitioners on a day to day basis is with individual children and young people. The work with vulnerable young people can be positively informed by the learning from Operation Dash.

#### **5 Recommendations**

5.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- a) Note the contents of the report.
- b) Note that further updates on the work of the City's Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group will be provided.