

**TITLE OF REPORT: MSET ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Corporate Parenting Board on the work of the Strategic and Operational MSET groups held across 2021-22

### **Operational MSET**

2. MSET (Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked) is a multi-agency partnership group which operates at an Operational and Strategic Level within Gateshead. The Operational Group sits under the Safeguarding Children's Partnership and considers high and medium risk cases of children who are believed to be at risk of Missing, Slavery or Exploitation or are being Trafficked.
3. The Operational Group meets monthly and for each case on the agenda a multi-agency Safeguarding and disruption plan is formulated
4. The Operational Group also considers intelligence from across the partnership in order to identify any locations or perpetrators of concern linked to Missing and Exploitation
5. The group does not replace existing child protection procedures but works to reduce risk for those cases which require a multi-agency contextual safeguarding approach to reduce harm.
6. From April 2021 to February 2022 there have been 86 cases brought to Pre MSET for consideration with 10 cases progressing to Operational MSET panel. Only one case has featured on the MSET panel on more than one occasion.
7. Work has been undertaken within the Children's Safeguarding Partnership in 2021 to increase the awareness and identification of exploitation within Early Help Services. This has led to a reduction in cases being presented to Pre MSET as risks are being identified and discussed at an early stage within front door services.
8. MSET roadshows are planned to take place April 2022 to increase front line practitioner's awareness of the Operational MSET processes and to support recognition of exploitation within front line practice.

### **Strategic MSET**

9. Strategic MSET (JSEG) is a joint group of the adults and children's safeguarding partnership. The Strategic JSEG meets on a quarterly basis and has strong representation from both partnerships.
10. The Police chair of the Strategic Group is a consistent chair across the Northumbria Police Force footprint (6 LA areas) which promotes sharing of learning and best practice and connectivity across the region in identifying emerging trends or concerns.
11. On the SEG workplan for 2021/22 the following pieces of work have been undertaken:

- Review of the MSET paperwork. To ensure a consistent approach to risk assessment across the region and ensure criminal exploitation risk factors were incorporated in the framework
  - Missing Adult Protocol- Development and roll out of a Multi-agency Missing adult protocol.
  - Victim Hub Implementation. The Multi-agency Exploitation hub was launched in November 2021.
  - Regional Missing Children Protocol. Gateshead CSP have refreshed their Missing children's procedures and are now leading on the development of a Regional Missing Children Protocol.
12. In the past 12 months some of the areas which have been discussed within the JSEG have been:
- Increased numbers of children coming to MSET panel with undiagnosed speech and language/cognitive functioning difficulties.
  - Increased numbers of cases involving teenage boys who are believed to be criminally exploited into drug supply/ localised County Lines activity
  - An increase in Online Exploitation (Northumbria Police report rises of 40% in referrals). This is felt to be attributed to children being in lockdown and spending increasing amounts of time online.
  - FASD input to understand (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) the vulnerability to exploitation of this cohort of children who are often undiagnosed until later in life.
  - Update on the work of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and their preventative education workstreams
  - The Children's Society Prevention Programme Presentation.
  - Regional County Lines Coordinator update
  - Transitional Safeguarding and a vulnerability not age approach to safeguarding exploited victims
  - Tricky Friends Animation. An online video to support those with learning disabilities to recognise harmful/exploitative friendships.
  - Presentation on Changing Lives Sexual Exploitation toolkit.
13. Both Operational and Strategic MSET continue to have strong partnership commitment and effective working practices to help support the safety of children and young people in the Gateshead area.

### **Recommendation**

14. That the Corporate Parenting Board note the information contained in the report.

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Contact: Report completed by DCI Lynne Colledge, Northumbria Police. (MSET chair)