

Report to the Commissioner's Governance Board

Date: 1 March 2017

Title: Emerging Risks & Cross Border Crime –
Child Sexual Exploitation

From: Chief Constable



INTRODUCTION

1. The PCC briefed attendees at the Force Culture Board that as a result of his public survey, CSE was identified as the issue that the public within Kent and Medway are most concerned about. Much of this can be attributed to the success of Operation Willow and the awareness raising that has caused increased public concern.

CSE OPERATIONAL SNAPSHOT

2. The volume of CSE investigations are reported upon monthly and the average number of on-going live complex investigations sits at around 24 per month for the team. This does not include other reactive investigations that are undertaken as a result of incidents reported to the force via other channels. The number of research files continues to rise as there are few that are totally closed down in case a child comes to notice on a second piece of intelligence. Research files will entail enquiries such as data trawls with multi-agency partners, open source research on victims and perpetrators, as well as traditional R&D searching pre-existing police databases, ANPR, and enquiries with immigration.
3. The notification of children to local policing and community teams is managed by way of electronic briefings and liaison with Police CSE Champions to monitor and engage with children with CSE concerns on division. Intelligence gathering can lead to the requirement for further research or safeguarding interventions, or full CSET proactive investigations.

CSE RECRUITMENT

4. CSE remains a priority in the Kent Control Strategy. It has also established a CSE Team (CSET); which adopts a multi-agency partnership approach to tackle CSE and safeguard vulnerable children. The team comprises:
 - Police: 1 x Detective Inspector, 2 x Detective Sergeants, 4 x Detective Constables, 3 x Police Staff Investigators, 3 x Intelligence Officers, 1 x Trainer, 2 x Analysts, 1 x Admin Support.
 - Partners: 1 x KCC Early Years Help Co-ordinator, 2 x KCC Social Workers, 1x Medway Social Care staff member in the process of being recruited) and 1 x Health worker.
5. Medway Social Services removed the 2 CSET social workers in October 2016 as a result of an organisational restructure. Kent Police has been liaising with Social Services regarding a replacement, and have been provided with the name of the social worker who will become our Medway CSET member. This has taken longer than anticipated to arrange and CSET currently have no direct Medway support. Of note there are no new investigations in Medway this month. There are still a number of on-going investigations although the victims for these cases are not suffering as a result of this and safeguarding is in place.
6. The funding bid for triage investment was raised at KSCB. Medway had previously agreed to a 25% contribution and CSET awaits the funding decision from Kent County Council so these matters are being considered at this time.