

Child Sexual Exploitation - Briefing for Governors

The core aim of the Bury Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) is to work closely with all partners, including schools, to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and where individual cases are identified to intervene to protect children from harm.

With that in mind the BSCB established a working party of Local Authority officers and school representatives in 2015 to produce specific guidance on the role of Schools, Colleges and School Support Teams in safeguarding children and young people at risk of Sexual Exploitation.

This guidance draws upon the recently produced Project Phoenix handbook which represents the multi-agency Sexual Exploitation strategy to which all local authorities in Greater Manchester have agreed and which is being applied through the work of our own Project Phoenix team, based at Bury Police station.

The working party has sought to identify through this guidance:

- What is meant by Sexual Exploitation
- The variety of forms that it takes
- The approaches that schools and teams working in schools should take to help to prevent sexual exploitation
- The steps schools can take to combat it where it has been identified
- The vulnerability factors that a young person might exhibit who could be drawn into sexual exploitation
- The strategies and resources that schools can use to raise awareness about the risks sexual exploitation with pupils, families and carers
- The process a school should use to make a referral to MASH or the Phoenix team.

The guidance will be supported by a series of mini training sessions for Secondary PSHE teachers in Bury and Project Phoenix is putting together a 2 hour training session for teachers on Child Sexual Exploitation. Although this guidance is predominately aimed at schools working with secondary aged pupils it is also of relevance for Primary schools and a growing number of resources are coming available for younger pupils which will be disseminated to Primary schools over this academic year.

Since writing the guidance document Barnado's have announced that the Real Love Rocks programme will be delivered to all Secondary schools in Greater Manchester free of charge in 2015/16.

For further information on the guidance please contact Ian Chambers, Assistant Director, Learning and Culture or Kate Allam, Head of Integrated Youth Support Service.

For decision:

Governors are asked to consider the Safeguarding Children at Risk of Sexual Exploitation guidance and ensure that the school has

- 1) Sufficient training in place to support staff and governors in carrying out their roles**
- 2) Robust procedures in place to identify and report sexual exploitation**