

Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton

Quarterly professionals update from the HIPS Child Exploitation Group - Spring 2022

The HIPS partners continue to work together to tackle child exploitation and the different risks to children that the pandemic has brought. This newsletter keeps professionals in all four areas up-to-date with issues and progress discussed in the HIPS Child Exploitation meetings and to flag up local and national campaigns.

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NEWS: New flowchart for the National Referral Mechanism is being released and implemented in your local area. Find out more from your local Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Check in to the Lurking Trolls website to see the latest additions to the resources available, including [audio books](#)



BEWARE OF LURKING
TROLLS

News from across the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships

IOWSCP

A mapping exercise has been completed to consider JTAI criteria for the inspection theme of Exploitation and information from this exercise has been added to the action plan and rag rated. The group is now working to map National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Review [“It was hard to escape”](#). Recommendations to areas of the plan. Membership of the Delivery plan group has been extended to ensure effective multi-agency participation.

PSCP

The Child Exploitation Delivery Plan has been subdivided with smaller task and finish groups. This brings together wider and more diverse participation and benefits a more preventative agenda, inclusive of children with a lower level of identified risk. Updates from task and finish groups feed into the PSCP sub group on a quarterly basis .

HSCP

The local delivery plan has been reformatted which has highlighted progress made across a number of areas. Participants provide written updates in advance which allows for a focus on good practice /issues within the meeting, freeing up time. A [Safeguarding Adolescents Strategy and Toolkit](#) for professionals in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has been published, which focuses on safeguarding themes that affect adolescents. Next stage is to produce a product for children, parents and carers. Audits have been completed in relation to children who are Missing, exploited, trafficked and reports will be shared with the HSCP business group and main board.

SSCP

The local delivery plan will be aligned to the development of the Young People’s Service in Southampton. This is an opportunity to drive effective practice. The Safeguarding Practice Improvement Group has begun work on a deep dive thematic audit around the JTAI theme of Child Exploitation. Findings of this will also inform the local delivery plan. Agreements for information sharing in relation to Operation Endeavour are in the final stages.

Click on the picture to find out more about the HIPS Child Exploitation Strategy.



HIPS Child Exploitation Operational Group Update:

The Group have covered the following areas

- Feedback from the JTAI in Hampshire - where the Willow Team was described as pioneering
- A Navigator programme presentation was delivered
- CERAF use and CPI numbers were considered across the HIPS area.
- Parents against Child Exploitation Workshops were discussed. It is planned the products of this will be rolled out HIPS wide.

Watch the Parents against Child Exploitation video [here](#). "Towards Hope

- The National Transfer Scheme has now become compulsory for LA areas and issues of Migration Hotels were discussed and local responses, in terms of safeguarding and support for children.



Youth Commissioners Update

At the last child exploitation board meeting, new **Youth Commission** representative Amber picked up on a knife crime report being spoken about. It was looking at the issues and apparent scale in the surrounding areas - we feel that this is something which would be beneficial to explore further with the Youth Commission to see if we can come up with any action plans to try and help reduce youths carrying and offending with knives.

It was announced at the meeting that the **Youth Commission's Big Conversation** has relaunched with our new priorities being;

- **hate and hostility**
- **safe on the streets**
- **substance misuse**

We would appreciate if you could encourage anyone between the ages of 14-25 living in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to have their say via on these issues via this link <https://cutt.ly/3YYsVT6>, so we can give the most well rounded advice to the police and other professionals at our recommendations conference later in the year! The survey closes on September 30th.



Best wishes, **Amelia and Amber**

Violence Reduction Unit Update

342 Offenders Project Overview

Project overview: The aim of the project is to acquire a holistic picture of the life journeys of a cohort of local knife crime offenders in order to identify patterns in background experiences and offending behaviours. This will reveal risk factors that are common and significant across the Pan-Hampshire area, and which may have influenced offending behaviour, and missed opportunities for identification and intervention will become clearer. The insight gained will feed into the understanding of the local picture of crime, giving all services involved an evidence base to inform their priorities and response strategies around vulnerable young people, and to improve commissioning in this area. This will strengthen their ability to identify and offer appropriate support to children who are at risk of following a path to crime and violence at the earliest opportunity, and ultimately help change their destination.

Stage one: This Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) project began with the identification of 342 offenders who had committed a knife or bladed weapon enabled offence in Hampshire between 01/10/2018 and 30/09/2019. Hampshire Constabulary were commissioned to analyse information from the police systems relating to those 342 offenders. A depersonalised report was produced depicting experiences common to varying proportions of the offenders. The report covered a range of details including, but not limited to, experiences of victimisation, domestic violence, mental health or substance misuse issues and familial factors. Examples include: 75% have been a previous victim of crime and 35% have a family history of substance misuse.

Stage two: During the second phase of the project data was identified from Children's Social Care/ Children's Services and Education systems about these same individuals. The required data points were grounded in an evidence-based understanding of what risk factors increase the likelihood of involvement in crime and violence, including experiences of school exclusions and time spent as a looked after child.

Data from Portsmouth was analysed by two data scientists who produced an anonymised report based on machine learning algorithms. The report explored patterns within the data, linking background experiences, contact with these services and the nature of the knife-related offending. The same analysis style was also applied to the police data from stage one of the project; this produced insights such as apparent differences between the influence of Adverse Childhood Experiences in those committing possession offences and violence offences. This report demonstrates the patterns that can be revealed and the understanding to be gained from this style of analysis and data.

Stage three: The current stage involves gathering and analysing Children's Social Care and Education data from all four local authorities to produce an anonymised report. Methodological improvements based on stage two of the project will be incorporated. Going forward, the work will provide an example of a sound methodology for similar research with data from a wider range of services and with more recent, and future cohorts. One future development would be to include a reliable measure of exploitation risk and experiences of exploitation, to understand what role this played in the offenders' backgrounds.

Hampshire Constabulary Update
Child Criminal Exploitation Profile



Child Criminal Exploitation continues to be prioritised within the Hampshire and Isle of Wight, with golden threads like Child Centred Policing focusing activity across all strands of the justice system. The last two years has seen unprecedented challenges around CCE, with a drive to better identify those at risk; understanding the impact for looked after children; significant operational activity around county lines; and Covid lockdowns particularly affecting young people. In a drive to understand the current picture, a profile was commissioned on Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).

This profile, looked at a year's worth of data, and focused on understanding the scale and scope of CCE across the force, including identifying some of the drivers of CCE and the criminality and offending associated with it. It found that Portsmouth and Southampton have disproportionality larger number of children identified at risk of CCE compared to other areas. However, pockets of CCE existed across the area, highlighting CCE requires close consideration of local issues, and that by just looking at volume by Districts, acute issues within specific communities can easily be overlooked.

The relationship between certain drivers (deprivation and county line locations) and CCE was analysed. It was expected that more children flagged at risk of CCE would be found in deprived areas. However, this was found not to be statistically significant, perhaps providing some evidence that over the last 2 years, children from less deprived backgrounds have been targeted to be exploited, some of which has been more recently documented to be driven by social media.

In contrary, it was found that there was a statistically significant relationship between the location of children flagged at risk of CCE and the location of county lines, even though there are very few county lines with children identified in their operation, or children arrested for heroin or crack cocaine possession. This highlights a gap and the ongoing need for County Lines activities and the MET Team to identify vulnerable children who are identified as part of operational activity.

A total of 19 schools and educational facilities were identified, which were located in 7 key areas across the HIPS area that had high volumes of children flagged. These schools will be targeted by the Education Engagement Team to educate teachers and students around the risks of exploitation. This analysis also provided further evidence on when the risk of CCE escalates by age group, with an aim of targeting the school years prior to the risk increasing.

The profile also illustrated how the number of children identified of at risk of CCE has steadily increased over the last two years, a trend that coincides with encouraging Neighbourhood Policing Teams to identify and flag children who may be at risk and much work by Hampshire Constabulary and partners to accurately understand the scale and scope of CCE.

Finally, offending history and victimology were examined, showing that contrary to some thoughts, there was no identification of seriousness of offending escalating as children get older. Children who were flagged at risk of CCE were more likely to be linked to 'low' harm offences such as Anti Social Behaviour, Shoplifting and other theft offences, at an older age, rather than a younger age. This possibly highlights that the presence of violence at a younger age, is likely a serious indicator of risk and an increased requirement for intervention. This was also underpinned by over a third of children being linked to a violent offence and that peer-to-peer violence was evident across the cohort of children considered.

For further information please contact ITDOrgAnalysis@hampshire.police.uk

Exhibition: The real faces of Modern Slavery: unmasking the truth

This is a journey through the compelling stories of survivors identified and supported within our surrounding area, with visual and audio content depicting their experiences past and present and their future aspirations as they start to attempt to rebuild their lives. An educational experience with an insight into Modern Slavery with factual information, dispelling the common myths. Please see a sneak preview of the accompanying [video](#).

"A journey through the compelling stories of modern slavery survivors"

NOW SHOWING

ANNOUNCING
The real faces of Modern Slavery: unmasking the truth
THE EXHIBITION

credit/artist image: Fiona Yaron-Field

Westbury Manor, Fareham 5 October to 14 November 2021	Southampton Central Library 12 April to 13 May 2022
Portsmouth Libraries Southsea: 16 November to 3 December 2021 Cosham: 6 December to 17 December 2021 Portsmouth Central: 20 December 2021 to 10 January 2022	Allen Gallery, Alton 14 May to 26 June, 2022
Eastleigh Museum 15 January to 26 Feb 2022	Winchester and Gosport Discovery Centres 5 July to 31 July 2022
33 High Street, Newport, IOW 28 February to 26 March 2022	Fareham Library and Basingstoke Discovery Centre 3 August to 7 September 2022
	Andover Museum 17 September to 30 October 2022