

Briefing paper



Subject: Update on reducing risk of exploitation in Solihull

Date: 2 March 2021

To: Solihull Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB)

From:

Rachael Eaves, **Adult Exploitation Reduction Lead: Adult Care and Support**
Richard Harris, **Superintendent WM Police**

1. Purpose of briefing

1.1. To update the HWBB on the progress being made to reduce the risk of exploitation in Solihull, and specifically the work of the Exploitation Reduction Board (ERB) and the Exploitation Reduction Delivery Group (ERDG).

2. Background information

2.1. As a result of the recommendations from the Rachel Safeguarding Adult Review, and recognition of the need to take a consistent and multi-agency approach on the issue of exploitation within Solihull, an All Age Exploitation Reduction Strategy and Delivery Plan have been developed. The ERB, chaired by the Director of Adult Care and Support, was created to oversee the implementation of the strategy. The ERDG, which is chaired by the Superintendent of the Neighbourhood Policing Unit, have responsibility for delivery of the plan and report to ERB.

2.2. The following strategic objectives for Solihull have been agreed through the Exploitation Reduction Strategy:

2.2.1. To prevent exploitation by increasing awareness and understanding of exploitation amongst individuals, communities, business and planners to maximise the opportunity to prevent its occurrence within Solihull

2.2.2. To develop a common understanding of exploitation across the Partnerships with a clear expectation that each organisation is responsible for ensuring its workforce has access to relevant training and development opportunities and its practitioners are signposted to the SSAB and LSCP multi-agency exploitation procedures and tools

2.2.3. To improve the recognition, assessment and response to individuals at risk of or experiencing exploitation; which prevents the need for statutory intervention

2.2.4. To increase disruption, arrests and prosecution of offenders involved in exploitation; effective management of those in medium-high risk offending and deter those involved in lower level criminology

2.2.5. To strengthen resilience of victims and communities to mitigate harm caused by exploitation by raising awareness of risks through active communications and training

2.2.6. To secure and sustain a collective commitment to addressing and responding to exploitation across all partner agencies and to demonstrate effective leadership in driving the appropriate system, culture and process changes forward

2.3. To ensure the effectiveness of services for people at risk of exploitation:

2.3.1. Evidence-based practice will be developed and promoted

2.3.2. Work with individuals will be measured by its impact on outcomes

2.3.3. The views of individuals, their families and their support networks will inform the development of effective interventions

2.3.4. Single and multi-agency audits will be undertaken to monitor the effectiveness of interventions. This process will seek evidence that the voice of the individual has been taken into account in all assessments, planning processes and reviews.

3. Actions taken

3.1. Solihull All Age Exploitation Reduction Strategy 2020-2022

3.2. Following sign off in September 2020 by ERB, the All Age Exploitation Reduction Strategy and Delivery Plan were endorsed across the Partnership Boards. The plan continues to be delivered through ERDG and is monitored on a monthly basis, with significant progress being made.

3.3. Recent restructuring within WM Police has led to a change in Superintendent of the Neighbourhood Policing Unit for Solihull. This has created the ideal opportunity to review the agenda and work plan for ERDG. As a result, the ERDG agenda will now include provision for regional updates to be shared when available and for data reporting from both the Vulnerability Tracker and the Solihull Exploitation Panel (ShEP) on a quarterly basis. The aim is for this reporting to be aligned with dates for ERB to ensure their oversight.

3.4. In addition, the ERDG work plan will be reviewed to ensure that it remains reflective of the work being undertaken through ERDG and remains in line with the Rachel Safeguarding Adult Review recommendations. This work plan will additionally become aligned to the delivery plan for the Exploitation Reduction Strategy. It is anticipated that this piece of work will be undertaken in March 2021.

3.5. Communications Plan

3.6. In December 2020 the All Age Exploitation Reduction Strategy, Delivery Plan along with the Exploitation Screening Tools and the Solihull Exploitation Capability Framework (2020) were circulated to the strategic leads within partner organisations during phase 1 of a 4 phased communications plan. Phase 1 also included securing engagement from partner organisations and identifying Exploitation Single Point of Contact's (SPOC) for future targeted communications.

3.7. Phase 2 will commence with the launch of the Solihull All Age Exploitation Reduction Procedures and Toolkit in March 2021 (see 4.1) and the implementation of the Self-Assessment tool (see 4.3).

3.8. Phases 3 and 4 are anticipated to commence in April 2021, in which the aim is to raise awareness of exploitation and to ensure those in roles who come into contact with the public are aware of the process in identifying and reporting concerns. Further targeted awareness campaigns aimed at children, young people, parents / carers, adults and the general public will also be developed.

4. Current situation

4.1. All Age Procedures and Pathways

4.2. A significant amount of work has been undertaken to develop Multi-Agency All Age Exploitation Reduction Procedures. This consists of one document for all practitioners and professionals from across the partnership to use when working with children, young people or adults at risk of or experiencing exploitation. The document has now been drafted and following an initial consultation period by SPOC and a subsequent focus group on 4 February 2020, the procedures were positively received, enabling further adjustments to be considered. The procedures, along with the appendices which form the basis of the toolkit including all age multi-agency tools, will be considered at ERDG on 12 February 2021. ERB have agreed a proposal to receive the final procedures and endorse those by 8 March 2021. The ambition of this timeline is to enable the launch of the procedures on National Child Exploitation Day on 18 March 2021. Preparation for the launch of the procedures is currently in progress.

4.3. These procedures have been developed with the knowledge that within Solihull MBC reviews are currently being undertaken of services both within Children's and Adult's. A comprehensive review of these procedures will therefore be undertaken six months following the launch to ensure that any necessary changes are reflected.

4.4. Solihull Exploitation Reduction Self-Assessment Tool

4.5. This tool sits alongside the Solihull All Age Exploitation Reduction Strategy and has been developed to support organisations to understand what action they need to take in respect of exploitation by ensuring their staff are able to identify those at risk and know how to make referrals to other organisations when they have concerns. The self-assessment tool will be used to benchmark where organisations are at on their exploitation journey at the point of launching the Strategy. On completing the self-assessment for the first time, and identifying all areas for development, each organisation establishes its own baseline from which it can develop its response to exploitation. Repeating the self-assessment at agreed intervals will provide both evidence of progress in responding to victims of exploitation and impact of the Strategy over time. Partner agencies will be asked where possible to complete the initial self-assessment by 31 March 2021. It is recognised however that some partner organisation's capacity to complete this during the current Covid-19 pandemic may be limited, therefore a phase 2 has been introduced, enabling those agencies until September 2021 to complete the self-assessment.

4.6. Establishing a Comprehensive Dataset

4.7. The Solihull Exploitation Reduction Commissioning Group, which has been established through ERDG, is developing a set of commissioning principles to ensure exploitation is considered within contracts, procurement and renewing of contracts with it being anticipated that will be completed in March 2021. A needs analysis has also been commissioned to be undertaken to consider both the national and local data to assist in service planning and procurement. It is also anticipated that this will be finalised in February 2021 and will be used to further consider the focus of the Commissioning Group and future service provision.

4.8. Questionnaire

4.9. Alongside the dataset, a questionnaire has been developed with the aim of being distributed to as many services within the Borough and across the boundary as possible, to identify services who support individuals who are at risk of, or who are being exploited. The questionnaire was initially sent out with communications for the Strategy in December 2020 however the response rate has been low. A further more targeted distribution has therefore been undertaken, with responses due to be returned by the end of February 2021. Analysis of this information will assist in enabling a comprehensive mapping of services and identification of services who are not currently known, as well as identifying gaps in current service provision to ensure that commissioning resources are used effectively.

4.10. Vulnerability Tracker

4.11. The Vulnerability Tracker was launched on 26 January 2021 and is essentially a tracker that captures information of all individuals who have been subject to exploitation in Solihull. This information will inform the local needs analysis and will assist organisations in understanding demographics, locations and will inform future priorities.

4.12. A Data Protection Impact Assessment has also been completed to ensure compliance in sharing information and next steps are being identified.

4.13. Learning and Development

4.14. In response to the Solihull Exploitation Capability Framework (2020) which sets out and identifies the core capabilities of knowledge, skills and understanding for four key groups of the workforce, a Learning and Development Gap Analysis has been drafted. This is specific to the SMBC workforce and sets out the gaps and training needs for each of the four tiers against the Capability Framework. A particular identified need is for a training plan to be developed to coincide with the launch of the All Age Exploitation Reduction Procedures in March.

4.15. Partner organisations should use the Exploitation Capability Framework to consider the learning and development needs of their workforce and can be used to compliment the completion of the Exploitation Reduction Self-Assessment Tool.

4.16. Exploitation Staff Conference

4.17. Following the success of the SMBC Adult's Staff Conference, there is interest in developing a multi-agency exploitation staff conference. Early discussions are currently being held in order to consider the practicalities and membership of facilitating this.

4.18. Adult Exploitation Social Worker

4.19. We have made the decision to organise specialised support for people who reach 18 years old and continue to be at risk of being exploited.

4.20. Recruitment is therefore currently in progress for a dedicated Adult Exploitation Social Worker. This Social Worker will work alongside the Children's Missing and Exploitation Team to support young adults at risk of exploitation.