

Scrutiny Committee Response Tracker

Date of meeting	Query raised	Response/ Update
25 th April 2023	Members are to be provided with additional data concerning the number of children who are identified as Asian and are at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation	<p>Concerns relating to CSE, including issues discovered through return home interviews or social care assessments have found that fewer Asian young people are identified as being at risk of CSE than we could expect, given the overall % of the Islington resident population from an Asian ethnic group. The numbers can vary, year on year, but are consistently in single digits for any one year. From all children identified at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation since the start of 2021/22, 2.2% are from an Asian ethnic group, and this is significantly different from the population overall. In 2022-23 3.4% of children identified as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation were from an Asian group, whereas an estimated 8% of the Islington resident population aged under 18 is from an Asian ethnic group. This again is statistically significant. The Home Officer Policy Paper on the 'Characteristics of group-based child sexual exploitation in the community' found particular barriers to the disclosure of child sexual exploitation amongst Asian victims.</p> <p>Since this was identified in the 2021/22 annual report the Exploitation and Missing team have been extending their training offer to professionals who work across the borough with the aim of equipping them with the knowledge to identify any young person who is at risk of CSE, highlighting hard to identify children. All Islington schools, primary and secondary, were invited to an exploitation briefing in the Autumn term. This briefing highlighted different types of exploitation young people may be experiencing, the indicators and how to respond to a concern. This training will continue every year to make sure any new members of staff are upskilled, and existing members of staff have their knowledge refreshed.</p> <p>The Exploitation and Group Offending training has now been opened up beyond social care staff. Professionals from across the partnership are invited to attend and it has also been extended to 2 full days with a large focus on ethnicity, diversity and exploring the different experiences of young people from various communities.</p> <p>An action from the Multi Agency Child Exploitation panel was to also develop a system to disseminate information about exploitation out to professionals when it is being identified. The Manager of the Exploitation and Missing team now runs a 6 weekly Exploitation briefing to over 245 members of the partnership alerting them to current exploitation trends, indicators and how these may present in different children. These sessions remind professionals of the importance of contacting Islington Children's Service Contact Team if there are any concerns about young people at the most appropriate time. Thought has been given to what services families of different cultures and ethnicities may have contact with and may feel more comfortable talking to. With this in mind the Exploitation and Missing team has delivered specialist training to the early years teams, as well as GP's and A&E staff being invited to the 6 weekly Exploitation briefings.</p> <p>A child going missing is often one of the first clear indicators there is a risk of exploitation. For this reason, Islington Children's Social Care moved the Return Home Team under the management of the Exploitation and Missing Manager. The Return Home team have been exposed to the data showing there is an underrepresentation of Asian young people identified as at risk of exploitation and are encouraged to keep this in mind when completing Return Home Interviews,</p>

		<p>especially for young people who may not be open to statutory services at the time they have gone missing. The community safety team have continued to work tirelessly to upskill local businesses under the safe spaces initiative. Projects such as this are the cornerstone of the contextual safeguarding approach which outlines that creating safe spaces assists in safeguarding young people from exploitation who may not come to the attention of Children's Social Care.</p>
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