

Independent Chair: John Goldup

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Dear Head Teacher

Child Sexual Exploitation Training in Schools

Last October I wrote a <u>letter</u> to you, following the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) conference, which had the theme of peer on peer sexual harassment. I also shared with you the report from the conference, which I hope you found helpful and informative.

I now wish to raise with you an equally important issue, that of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and specifically, the level of referrals currently received for children and young people on this child protection issue into children's social care. It is a subject that I know you are familiar with and one which was a priority for the LSCB in 2016 - 2017, and remains on its Business Plan for the next year. I am also aware that our Business Manager and CSE/Missing Co-ordinator met with a few senior Head Teachers to talk about CSE last month.

My colleagues on the Redbridge Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Panel meet monthly to discuss cases where there has been a CSE concern and to plan strategically to address the issues raised. The vast majority of young people discussed attend school and yet the number of contacts received from education providers is regarded as low at only 38 in 2016 – 2017.

The Panel is interested to understand what training or awareness-raising is provided to pupils, staff and parents, with a view to wider planning to increase the number of referrals received. This issue is equally important for primary school head teachers as the incidence of CSE in that age group, albeit at the top end is rising. It would be helpful if you could complete the attached brief questionnaire which relates to awareness raising activities that have taken place in your school. The completed form should be returned to Lesley Perry, LSCB Business Manager via 020 8708 5282 or Lesley.Perry@redbridge.gov.uk. The information provided will inform our understanding of how we may support schools further going forward.

In the meantime, there is a good deal of useful information on the LSCB website on CSE for parents or carers, professionals and on staying safe on-line for children and young people. I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you of the important contact information for making a referral about a child or young person, if you have a concern:

Tel: 020 8708 3885 or 020 8708 5897 (after 17:00 and at weekends)

E-mail: <u>CPAT.Referrals@Redbridge.gov.uk</u>

For guidance and support in relation to an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer, contact the Local Authority Designated Officer on 020 8708 5350 or via LADO@redbridge.gov.uk

We look forward to receiving your responses.

Jana P

Yours sincerely

John Goldup

Independent Chair Redbridge LSCB