

# Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton (HIPS) Child Exploitation Newsletter

Quarterly professionals update from the HIPS Child Exploitation Group - Summer 2020



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The Safeguarding Children Partnerships of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton are working together to tackle child exploitation. This newsletter keeps professionals in the HIPS areas up-to-date with issues and progress discussed, and to flag up local and national campaigns.

The HIPS Child Exploitation Group would like to thank all practitioners across all agencies for their ongoing work to keep children safe at this time.

## HIPS Procedures

The HIPS Procedures website not only contains useful guidance for practitioners across the HIPS areas on a wide range of subjects relating to safeguarding; it also contains local information on to refer to children's social care and early help in each area. Check out <https://hipsprocedures.org.uk/> and register for updates.

## NSPCC learning briefings

The NSPCC has produced a series of briefings on the themes that rise in child safeguarding practice reviews. The themes include hidden men, parents with mental health problems, suicide, teenagers and more. Please see <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/case-reviews/learning-from-case-review-briefings>

## Updates from the meeting of 8 July 2020

The group received an update from the new Modern Slavery Partnership; featured in more detail on the back page of this newsletter.

### **Impact on COVID 19 and Recovery**

The four areas and Hampshire Constabulary reported back on the impact that Covid has had on safeguarding children and responses. All areas are working with partners to share information regarding vulnerable children, and there have been some issues with children going missing during this period. All areas have seen large demand for services.



Staff have been working remotely but may now begin to gradually return to the office, if it is safe to do so. The police updated that they have seen an increase in children in local areas being involved in county lines rather than children travelling to various locations.

**Deep Dive into Child Exploitation**—Portsmouth updated on the deep dive into child exploitation which dated back to 2019 and incorporated various multi-agency audits in practice. The deep dive has helped Portsmouth understand what has worked well and what needs improving. It was highlighted that CPI training has been delivered, however the number of CPIs submitted is still low in some areas and it was agreed that Portsmouth will follow up with DCI Ross Toms regarding future CPI training.

**Return interviews**—the Task and Finish group now has a draft Terms of Reference which will be discussed and agreed at the first meeting. Several more partners volunteered to join the group.

**SERAF/CERAF**— the new CERAF and the CSERQ4 have been updated. Please see the [HIPS Procedures website](#) for details.

**MET Webinar and Child Exploitation Training Slides**— training has been rolled out to professionals across the HIPS areas depending on future capacity more sessions may be run. The Modern Slavery Partnership are also working on some slides and will be happy to share them. The group agreed to update as HIPS wide training slides.

**Youth Commission Report**—the Chair thanked Amelia, Youth Commissioner, for the active role she has taken in this group since its inception. The group would like to thank Amelia for her time and will be sending her a gift voucher in recognition of this. Amelia also gave an overview of the Youth Commission report which is featured below.

**The voice of the child**—the group agreed that it is key to include the voice of the child/lived experience of children in its work. Hampshire queried whether there are any existing local forums that engage with children and young people. It was agreed the group will receive a review of good practice examples as provided by the HIPS Operational MET Group at the next meeting.

**Public Health Survey**— the group will receive an update on the public health survey that has just taken place in Hampshire schools at the next meeting. This survey saw input from approximately 6,500 children and featured questions around being bullied, online safety, wellbeing and other areas.

Hello everyone,

Currently as part of the HIPS child exploitation group, it's been compelling to see how different departments are adapting and finding new ways of working in the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic and the changing world around us. From the majority of staff the main options have been working from home and utilising technology to conduct meetings, whereas others are still carrying out home visits to make sure the most at risk are safe. It's inspiring to see that the pandemic has not stopped the incredible work people do.

During our most recent virtual meeting I was asked to present the findings of a report the Youth Commission wrote about exploitation from our big conversation cards. This report which was conducted in the first quarter of this year (January - March 2020) was present to the board. The majority of these responses came from people aged 14-18 with about 15% of responses saying they have personal experiences with exploitation. Many suggested that the best way to help the issue would be to increase education surrounding it and signpost to relevant services. I will continue to update this report with new findings from our big conversation cards as we analyse it.



At end of last year I helped to write, film and act in a education video with young people from Hampshire CAMHS to help raise awareness of unhealthy relationships. See the back page of this newsletter for more!

Due to COVID, the youth commission have decided to open our applications to new members early this year. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining us go to <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/youth-commission>.

See you next time,

**Amelia**

## An update from the Youth Commissioner

# Local & national updates

The HIPS Child Exploitation Group received a briefing from the Modern Slavery Partnership. This new partnership works to make Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton a supportive place for victims and a hostile place for perpetrators of modern slavery.

The work of this partnership largely has overlaps with child exploitation issues. Sexual and criminal exploitation of children often involves the movement or trafficking of people. Child criminal exploitation can involve forced labour, theft, benefit fraud, drug cultivation and production and County Lines.

The local strategy has been developed alongside the national strategy to raise awareness of modern day slavery, combat it by working in partnership, identify victims and pursue perpetrators.

The first meeting of the group has taken place and the new structure is embedded with good buy-in across partnership agencies. The group is task focussed and utilises the shared resources and enthusiasm across the agencies to deal with this issue. There have also been some challenges, for example the demand on agency resources presented by Covid, working remotely and connecting with vulnerable groups.

The group will continue to work to recruit to the new Victim Navigator role, implement task and finish groups around a HIPS Hampshire child pathway, vulnerable groups, post 18 challenges. There will also be work to map exploitation in rural areas and a complete training package will be rolled out. For more information and the local strategy please see:

[www.modernslaverypartnership.org.uk](http://www.modernslaverypartnership.org.uk)

## Youth Commission Film - Fractured

Make sure you check out this new short film; written, acted and directed by young people including Amelia, our Youth Commissioner, from the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Youth Commission and Hampshire CAMHS. The film raises awareness of unhealthy relationships. It focuses on LGBT+ relationships and coercion and control. Produced is by Strong Media as part of the ICE project run by Hampshire Cultural Trust and Hampshire CAHMS. The film is available on the [Hampshire PCC's you tube channel](#).



## Free knife crime education for secondary schools

As you may be aware, Hampshire Constabulary funded a Knife Crime Education pilot in several schools across the county areas prior to lock down; delivered by a specialist provider, sessions were delivered to both teaching staff and pupils. We are delighted to announce that we are able to extend our offer of more free workshops from September 2020.

All secondary schools including alternative provision and independent schools are very welcome to get in touch to express an interest and to confirm whether they would prefer face to face deliver (within Covid guidelines), or a webinar (either live or pre-recorded). If you know of any schools would have concerns around carrying knives or knife crime, please just ask them to contact [schoolyouthengagement@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:schoolyouthengagement@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

# MODERN SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

## See, Hear, Respond

The HIPS Child Exploitation Group received a briefing paper on See, Hear, Respond. This new partnership from Barnardo's is funded by the Department for Education and has been created to help children and young people experiencing harm and increased adversity during coronavirus by providing support to those who are not being seen by schools or other key agencies. The aim is to provide early intervention *before* children reach the threshold for statutory intervention. Help is available via:

- an [online hub of support and information](#)
- online counselling and therapy
- face-to-face support for those most affected and at risk of some of today's most pertinent issues, such as criminal exploitation,
- helping children and young people reintegrate back into school.

There is no minimum threshold for referral. Please note that See, Hear, Respond does not replace your usual referral process for children who meet a statutory threshold for significant harm: such referrals must be made to your local authority safeguarding team using your usual safeguarding procedures.. For more information please see the front page of the Barnardo's website: <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/>

Contact us:

[HSCP@hants.gov.uk](mailto:HSCP@hants.gov.uk) or call 01962 876355