

Report for Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board

Date of Meeting: 19th November 2015

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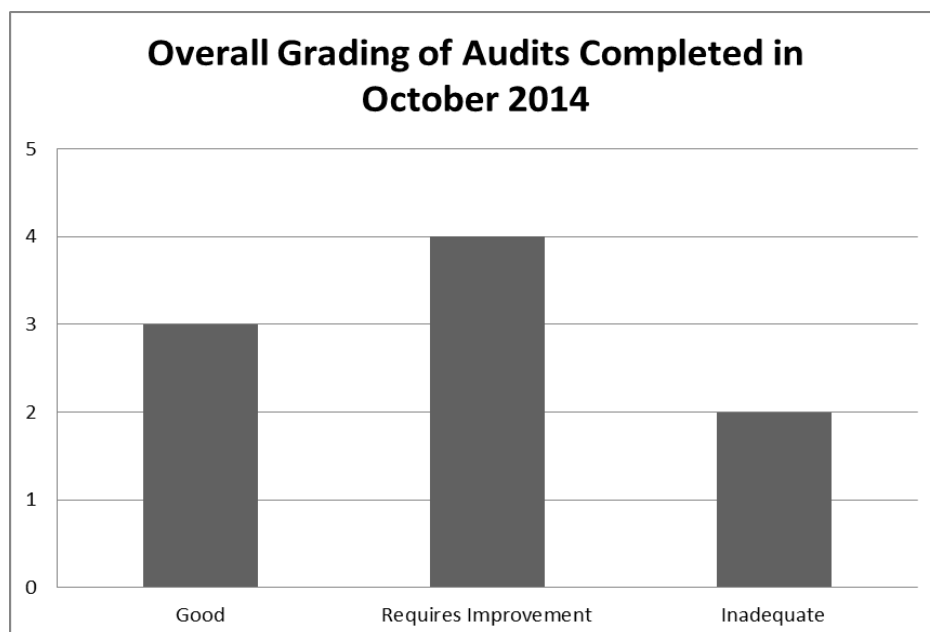
Title: Themed Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Audit – April 2015

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) with the findings of a second themed CSE case file audit which was undertaken in April 2015.
- 1.2 To compare this data with the information which was previously provided following an earlier themed CSE case file audit completed in October 2014.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 A themed CSE case file audit was undertaken in October 2014 (quarter 3 of the audit timetable). Nine children’s cases were randomly selected for inclusion in this themed audit. The nine cases were selected from the Children and Young People who featured at that time on the Vulnerable Exploited Missing Trafficked (VEMT) list. This equated to 36% of the children who were on the VEMT list at that time.
- 2.2 The findings were presented in a report to the SLSCB in May 2015:



2.3 The May 2015 report acknowledged that the outcomes from the October 2014 audit were not acceptable and significant improvement was required. The following actions were subsequently recommended in order to improve practice:

- Running and Missing from Home or Care Procedures to be updated and circulated.
- Further VEMT awareness raising sessions to take place with Team Managers and staff with further drop in sessions to take place in April and May 2015.
- The VPG Local Procedure to be finalised and to include more specific advice in relation to management oversight, supervision and recording. This was also to include the pathway for notifications to the VEMT list.
- Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plans to be used in all cases which would be included in local procedures.
- Supervisions to take place monthly on all cases where children are subject to VEMT. The current procedure to be updated to reflect this.
- Explore action to be undertaken to clarify if all documents relating to CSE can be RAISE documents including Tees CSE Risk Assessment and the VPG Notification Form.
- Training and awareness raising sessions to be rolled out to all partners and consideration to be given to combine the current LSCB training in relation to CSE, Missing and E-Safety.
- A case note/significant event to be recorded on RAISE when a young person is placed on the VEMT list. Any intelligence to be recorded within case notes.
- Young people to be routinely offered 1:1 direct work if deemed to be VEMT and where a young person declines or does not engage a case note to reflect this.

3.0 Update

3.1 A second themed CSE case file audit was undertaken in April 2015 (quarter 1 of the audit timetable) in relation to Children and Young People who featured at that time on the Vulnerable Exploited Missing Trafficked (VEMT) list.

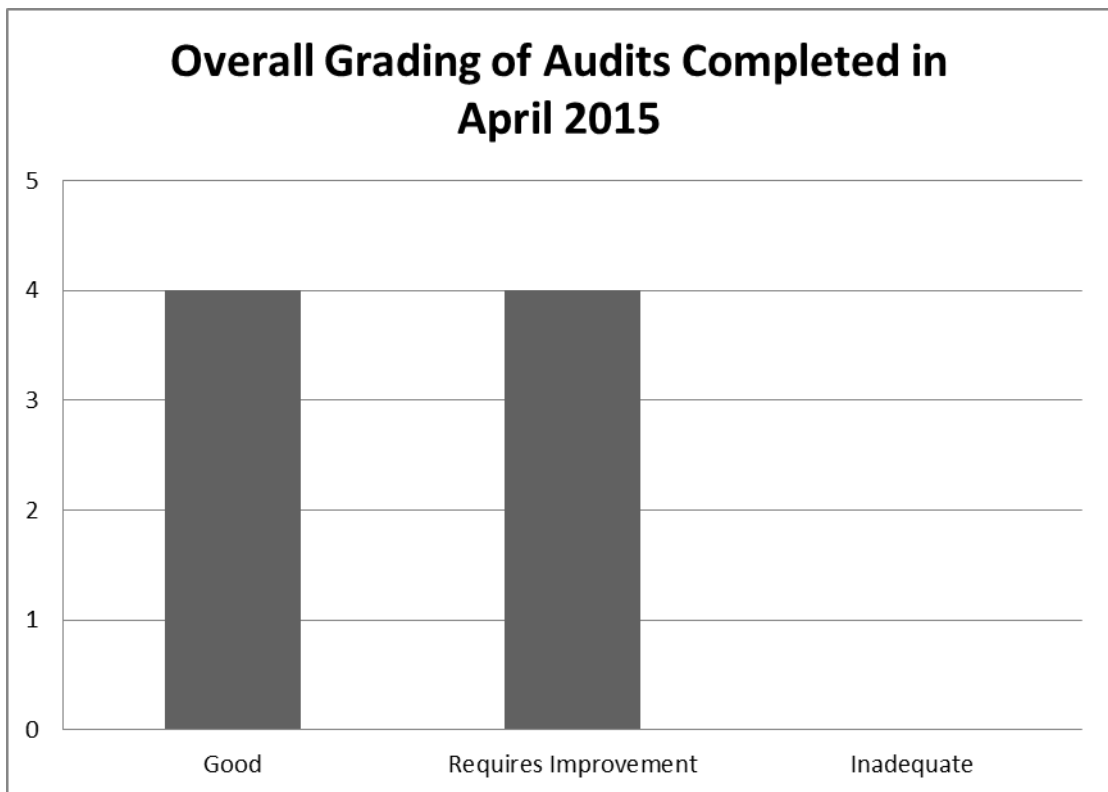
3.2 A similar process to the audits undertaken in October 2014 was followed.

3.3 A total of 8 randomly selected cases were audited – this equated to 32% of the total number of children featured on the VEMT list at that time. 7 of the 8 children were active cases to CSC with the remaining child being active to the Family Support Team following a 'step down' from the Assessment Teams.

3.4 The findings were as follows:

Auditor	Outcome of Audit	Age	Team	Young Person being Safeguarded
JP/CP	Good	17	Fieldwork South 2	Yes
KS/JA	Good	14	Fieldwork South 3	Yes
SMc/NH	Requires Improvement	17	Permanence 2	Yes

JA/SB	Requires Improvement	11	Permanence 1	Yes
JH/MM	Good	14	Assessment/FST (closed)	Yes
MD/GM	Requires Improvement	17	Fieldwork South 2	Yes
PS/GT	Good	13	Assessment	Yes
RB/DR	Requires Improvement	15	Fieldwork North 3	Yes



4.0 Themes arising from the audits completed in April 2015

Chronologies:

- All cases had a chronology
- In three audits the chronology was not sufficiently up to date
- In three of the audits the chronology was deemed to be good
- In one audit the chronology was noted to be up to date but the entries were not focused enough

Risk Assessment and Management Plan:

An auditor would expect to see an up-to-date 'Risk Assessment and Management Plan' (RAMP) on all VEMT/CSE cases.

- In two audits the RAMP had not been updated during the period of VEMT
- In one audit the RAMP was incomplete
- One audit identified that there was no RAMP
- Two audits commented that the risks were identified and addressed

Child Seen

- None of the audits identified that children weren't being seen
- One audit identified that there was no increase in visits during the period of VEMT
- One audit identified that visits were not frequent enough
- One auditor concluded that it wasn't clear if the child was being seen alone
- One auditor commented that there was usually someone else in the house during visits

Case Recording:

- Good quality case recording was noted in three audits
- Four audits commented that case recording was either not reflective or focused enough

Effective Communication:

- Six audits identified evidence of effective communication

Child's Wishes and Feelings:

- Seven audits identified evidence of the child's wishes and feelings being gathered

Supervision:

- Three audits commented that supervision was not challenging or reflective enough
- Three audits commented that supervision was reflective
- One audit commented that there was no increase in supervision during the period of VEMT which would be expected in cases that would otherwise be supervised less than once per month
- One audit commented that supervision was not taking place to the required frequency, with 'significant gaps'

Management Oversight:

- Four audits mentioned evidence of management oversight

Care Plan

- The care plan was mentioned positively in four audits being either:
 - Reviewed appropriately; or
 - Clear

Immediate Follow-up

- One auditor recommended immediate follow-up, specifically recommending a strategy meeting

5.0 Analysis

- 5.1 The results from the CSE audits undertaken in April 2015 does evidence an improvement in practice with no child deemed to be unsafe.
- 5.2 A number of the recommendations from the previous CSE audit report dated May 2015 were still to be implemented at the time that the second set of themed audits were undertaken (these have since all been implemented).
- 5.3 In respect of the 4 audits that 'Require Improvement' common themes could be identified. Supervisions were not held consistently within timescales, case recording indicated that children were not always seen in line with procedures and there was a lack of evidence that Multi-Agency Planning Meetings were held regularly.
- 5.4 The significant difference between those audits deemed as 'Good' and those that 'Require Improvement' was the standard of recording on the RAISE system. In the 'Good' audits there was clear and focused recording in respect of Risk Assessments, Risk Management Plans and Return Interviews. There were up to date Chronologies and some reflective Supervisions with evidence of 1:1 work with the child.
- 5.5 In comparison to the CSE audits undertaken in October 2014 there appears to be a better understanding in terms of the VEMT procedures generally. The Risk Assessment tool now held electronically was consistently used with evidence of a greater understanding for the need for a Risk Management Plan to be completed.
- 5.6 In terms of the Missing from Home procedure there does remain a recording issue with an urgent need to record consistently when a young person has been offered and/or refused a Return Interview.
- 5.7 There was no evidence to indicate that Young People had been made subject to VEMT inappropriately.
- 5.8 There was evidence to indicate that staff are more confident in engaging children and young people in talking about risk taking behaviours.

- 5.9 The audits provided evidence that although there was more robust scrutiny and management oversight of those children subject of VEMT there did remain a lack of consistency across all teams.

6. Action/Recommendations

- 6.1 A 'VEMT Champion' to be identified within each Assessment, Fieldwork and Permanency Team. Their role to share within individual Team Meetings learning and good practice from audits, SCR's, Ofsted Inspections.
- 6.2 Multi-Agency information shared via the VEMT Practitioners Group (VPG) to be regularly and appropriately cascaded i.e.. VPG Minutes to be shared with each Team Manager with a case note relevant to the individual child being inserted on to the child's own electronic file.
- 6.3 The CSC Team Managers who attend VPG to undertake regular scrutiny of those children and young people who are subject of VEMT in their areas to ensure processes and procedures are being followed appropriately and consistently.
- 6.4 A further themed CSE audit to be undertaken in December 2015.

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October 2015