

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

12 MARCH 2015

**REPORT OF CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT
COMMITTEE TASK AND
FINISH GROUP**

CABINET DECISION

Children & Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Ann McCoy

TASK AND FINISH SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

1. Summary

The attached report presents the findings of the Task and Finish Scrutiny Review of Child Sexual Exploitation.

2. Recommendations

1. That the number, membership and accountability arrangements for the VEMT groups/ SLSCB be reviewed to ensure that all appropriate agencies and providers are represented, avoid unnecessary duplication and any conflicts of interest and that the outcome of the review be reported back to Children and Young People Select Committee as part of the forthcoming review of the LSCB.
2. That the LSCB consider formal mechanisms for sharing information from the VEMT groups including how best to raise awareness with the wider voluntary and community sector, including the Faith Community.
3. That consideration be given to developing early support services for children at risk of CSE as part of the Early Help Strategy and Implementation Plan.
4. That the Health and Wellbeing Board be asked to consider and commission appropriate prioritised services for children at risk of CSE.
5. That awareness raising activities be developed for children and young people in respect of social media and healthy relationships as well as work with parents and via schools.
6. That the LSCB ensure that a multi-agency co-ordinated training strategy be developed to:
 - a. Map out current provision
 - b. Identify any gaps
 - c. Identify who should receive training, frequency of training and assurance mechanisms
 - d. Introduce mandatory safeguarding training for Elected Members (including CSE)

7. That CSE should feature in regular performance reports to Cabinet and Children and Young People Select Committee as part of quarterly performance updates.
8. That information about the prevalence of CSE be included within the JSNA together with appropriate commissioning decisions and priorities.
9. That work is commissioned, accepting the challenges, to obtain feedback from children as part of further assurance work.
10. That the revised VEMT Strategy and Action Plan and strengthened performance and quality assurance framework be subject to further scrutiny together with the internal audit of CSE case files and the outcome of benchmarking work against the Ofsted thematic report recommendations as part of the scrutiny review of the LSCB.
11. That this report is submitted to the LSCB for their consideration.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2013/14.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code).

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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DETAIL

1. On 9 October 2014, Cabinet considered an update on CSE as part of a regular report on social care activity and performance. At that meeting Cabinet requested that a Children and Young People Select Committee Task and Finish Group be established to review how robust the Council and Multi Agency Partners' procedures are with regard to children deemed to be at risk of child sexual exploitation and that the review involves all partner agencies. Executive Scrutiny Committee agreed to add the review to the Scrutiny Work Programme and a Task and Finish Group was appointed from the Children and Young People Select Committee.
2. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has been identified by children's charities and highlighted in the national press as a growing problem. Furthermore the Jay report (and more recently the Casey report) into the Rotherham child sexual abuse scandal criticised the Metropolitan Borough Council for failings in the handling of abuse. This has in turn led to Local Authorities reviewing their own and partnership arrangements for identifying and dealing with the problem.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4. None

RISK ASSESSMENT

5. Further scrutiny will be necessary in order to provide assurance in relation to this issue.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

6. The following Council Plan themes/objectives are relevant:
 - Ensuring children and young people are safe

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7. This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment because it is making no major change to any policy or service provision at this stage.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

8. The proposals in this report have been developed in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People as well as the wide range of partner agencies referred to in the report.

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Education related? Yes

Background Papers None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

The proposals as a whole are not ward specific.

Property

None