

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

23 FEBRUARY 2023

**REPORT OF THE CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member – Children and Young People - Councillor Lisa Evans

**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING AND YOUTH
RELATIONSHIPS**

SUMMARY

The Children and Young People Select Committee has completed a review examining Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23. The review is now complete and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Children and Young People Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a strategic partnership approach to Contextualised Safeguarding is agreed and monitored through existing established multi-agency partnerships such as Safer Stockton Partnership, YOT Board, HSSCP and the Children and Young People's Board.
2. That a consistent definition of child criminal exploitation and contextual safeguarding is developed and adopted by all Stockton-on-Tees partners.
3. That clear outcome measures are defined to measure success of interventions and approaches.
4. That support is provided for schools, in partnership with Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP), to promote understanding of contextualised safeguarding and relationships through the development and delivery of a programme of awareness raising and training supplemented with advice and guidance and clear routes into support.
5. That a training and support programme is delivered to Children's Services staff to enhance understanding of contextualised safeguarding and to help recognise and support young people who are being exploited or at risk of exploitation.
6. That a programme of awareness raising is developed for key partners and elected Members.

7. That a community guardian programme is introduced within schools and communities across Stockton-on-Tees to provide wider community support.
8. That multi-agency capacity to support MACE approach is strengthened through the strengthening of existing arrangements to meet need.
9. That an options appraisal is undertaken on how Children's Services can achieve the best outcomes for young people through improved practice and additional capacity and focus, including through the use of voices of experience. This will include options for structure and effective multi-agency working.

DETAIL

1. The attached report outlines the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Contextual Safeguarding Youth Relationships.
2. The overall aim of the review was to assess the Council's response and approach to the issues of contextual safeguarding. This review examined the factors leading to a focus in this area and understand the work of the multi-agency child exploitation (MACE) hub. Within this context, the review has also examined violent and coercive behaviour in youth relationships.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

3. The recommendations seek to better understand who may be influencing young people and the degree of that influence. Contextual safeguarding seeks to address extra familial harm rather than purely focus on the individual child or their family.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no direct legal implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

7. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. None.

Name of Contact Officer: Judy Trainer
Post Title: Democratic Services Manager
Telephone No. 01642 528158
Email Address: judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk