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**CABINET RESPONSE – CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

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**Background**

1. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed as part of their work programme to undertake an inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). As a result the Committee agreed to set up Task and Finish Group Inquiry. The terms of reference were agreed as follows:
  - a) To assess the robustness of the CSE strategy, preventative measures and the level of the Council's and partner organisations' response to incidences of CSE.
    - Exploring partnership working and resource allocation associated with managing CSE in Cardiff.
    - Exploring the scale of CSE in minority groups.
  - b) To gather stakeholders views with regard to the above, including statutory partners and relevant Cabinet Members and Cardiff Council officers.
  - c) To explore relevant best practice in external organisations and other local authorities, that is transferable to Cardiff.
  - d) To make evidence based recommendations to improve the reduction of CSE in Cardiff, to the Cabinet and relevant stakeholders.
  
2. The task group Inquiry was informed by the following:

- Overview and background – to set the context of the Inquiry and gain an understanding of what is meant by Transitions and the support in Cardiff for Looked After Children.
  - Evidence from the Children’s Commissioner for Wales (*Lost In Care* report).
  - Evidence from the Cabinet Members for Early Years, Children & Families, and Education.
  - Evidence from the directors and managers from Children’s Services and Education.
  - Evidence from the EMTAS team and Head Teachers.
  - Research Papers / Reports (via Literature Review).
  - Members also heard from the following external witnesses: Phil Evans, Chair C&V LSCB; Bernie Bowen Thompson, Safer Wales/Streetlife; Donna Tucker, Safer Wales/Streetlife; Rachael Ray, NSPCC; Allyson Davies, Barnardo’s SERAF; Caroline Ryan, YMCA (Sexual Health Outreach Team - SHOT); Amy Stuart-Torrie, YMCA (SHOT); George Grindle, YMCA (SHOT); Debbie Farrar, Missing Children Lead, South Wales Police; Linda Hughes-Jones, NHS Safeguarding Children, C&V Health Board; Pam Flanagan, Looked After Nurse, C&V Health Board; Peter Greenhill, Probation Services; Alasdair Macinnes, Youth Offending Service; John Davies, Senior Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Policy Manager, Welsh Government, Inclusion Unit; Dr Dan Allen, Lecturer in Social Work, Trustee to The Romani Cultural and Arts Company, Salford University; Ruth Nash, Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Manager; and Sadie Alexander, Substance Misuse and Young People, Public Health Wales.
3. The report was presented to Cabinet on 27 July 2016, and a full response was agreed by Cabinet on 13 October 2016, copy attached at **Appendix A**.

### **Cabinet Response to Recommendations**

4. The Cabinet response shows that all of the report’s 13 recommendations have been accepted. As well as detailing the Cabinet’s response to each of the

recommendations, the response contains a copy of Cardiff's Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Strategy.

## **Way Forward**

5. The Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Families, and Director of Social Services, will introduce the response report and be available to answer any questions Members may have.
  
6. Members may also wish to consider the response contained in the attached **Appendix A** and the comments provided by the Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Families, and Director of Social Services, and provide any comments, advice or recommendations to the Cabinet Member and Director to help in supporting further improvements in the work of the Department.

## **Legal Implications**

7. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Financial Implications**

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to consider the Cabinet response report, attached at **Appendix A**, together with the information presented at the meeting, and provide the Cabinet Member and the Director of Social Service with any comments, concerns or recommendations.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**2 November 2016**