
CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION - Report of Committee's Task & Finish Group

Reason for the Report

1. This report enables the Committee to approve the draft report of this Committee's Task & Finish Group, copy attached at **Appendix A**. The draft report also includes the All-Wales National Action Plan for Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in Wales 2016/17.

Background

2. At its meeting in September 2015 the Committee agreed a Task & Finish group to investigate 'Child Sexual Exploitation in Cardiff'. The Committee agreed the following Terms of Reference for the task group:

- To assess the robustness of the Child Sexual Exploitation strategy, preventative measures and the level of the Council's and partner organisations responses to incidences of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE);
 - Exploring partnership working and resources allocation associated with managing CSE in Cardiff;
 - Exploring the scale of CSE in minority groups;
- To gather stakeholders views with regards to the above, including statutory partners and relevant Cabinet Members and Cardiff Council officers;
- To explore relevant best practice in external organisations and other local authorities, that is transferable to Cardiff; and

- To make evidence based recommendations to improve the reduction of CSE in Cardiff, to the Cabinet and relevant stakeholders.

3. Members of the Task & Finish group were:

- Councillor Richard Cook (Chairman)
- Councillor Dianne Rees
- Councillor Jim Murphy
- Patricia Arlotte – Roman Catholic co-optee member.

4 Throughout the Inquiry, Members considered a wide range of research, guidance and Policy documents, as well as deliberating upon examples of good practice, and lessons learned from recent high profile CSE cases. The report's bibliography sets out the breadth of information and data considered as part of the Inquiry.

5 In addition, Members held telephone conversations with witnesses and encouraged written statements from those who were unable to attend the round table discussions. Whilst these are not specifically referred to detail in the Background Evidence, they played a significant role in the Inquiry and in shaping findings and recommendations

6 The task group Inquiry was informed by evidence from relevant Members who were Cabinet Members at the time of the Inquiry, and senior officers as follows:

- Councillor Sue Lent, Deputy Leader, Early Years, Children & Families
- Councillor Sarah Merry, Cabinet Member, Education
- Tony Young, Director of Social Services
- Carol Jones, Assistant Director Education & Lifelong Learning
- Sian Cadwalladr, Principal Education Welfare and Safeguarding Officer
- Jan Coles, Lead Manager, CSE
- Nici Evans, Partnership Manager, Policy, Partnerships & Citizen Focus
- Gary Bowen-Thompson, Education Outreach Team

- Paul Clayton, Specialist Education Team
- Jade Harrison, Children's Services CSE Coordinator
- Mary Lewis, Ethnic Minority and Traveller Advisory Service (EMTAS)
- Olwen Evans, EMTAS
- Balwinder Sandhu, EMTAS
- Kay Evans, EMTAS
- Brigitte Stavrakis, EMTAS
- Ian Whittaker, Willows High School
- Ian Loynd, Assistant Headteacher, St. Teilo's High School.

7 The task group Inquiry also heard from the following external witnesses:

- Phil Evans, Chair C&V Local Safeguarding Children Board
- 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
- Sadie Alexander, Substance Misuse and Young People, Public Health Wales.

- 8 Evidence received from all of the above witnesses was used by the task group members to identify appropriate findings for the Inquiry and its recommendations.

Way Forward

- 9 The draft report of the Task & Finish Group is attached at **Appendix A**. Members' attention is particularly drawn to the Key Findings section (pages 11 - 20) and the Recommendations section (pages 21- 26). These are based on the evidence heard throughout the Task & Finish Group Inquiry.
- 10 Members may wish to consider the report, make any amendments and agree whether to approve the report to be considered by the Cabinet.

Legal Implications

- 11 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 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

- 12 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 draft report of the Task and Finish Group, copy attached at **Appendix A.**
- Endorse the report, subject to any comments the Committee wish to make, for submission to the Cabinet.

DAVID MARR

Interim Monitoring Officer

11 May 2016