

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DRAFT CARDIFF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

Purpose of Report

1. To respond to a request by the Director of Social Services to comment on the draft Cardiff Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy, prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

Background

2. In 2014, the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee and the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee held a joint Inquiry on Human Trafficking in Cardiff. In July 2015, the Chairperson of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee wrote to the Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, outlining the issues raised at a review of the Human Trafficking Report, and requested that the issue of child sexual exploitation be considered by his Scrutiny Committee as part of its work programming.
3. In addition, the Director of Social Services proposed that an Inquiry should be undertaken to assess the robustness of the sexual exploitation strategy, preventative measures and the level of the Council's and partner organisations response to incidences of child sexual exploitation.
4. The Committee established a Task Group in September 2015. This Task Group is currently investigating a range of issues in relation to CSE, and will conclude its work in March 2016. As part of this work, the Director of Social Services requested that the Task Group look at the draft Cardiff CSE Strategy, which is due to be considered by the Cabinet.

Outcome of the January 2016 Task Group Meeting

5. The Task Group, consisting of Cllrs Richard Cook, Dianne Rees, Murphy and Mrs. Arlotte (Roman Catholic Co-Optee) met on 21 January 2016 to discuss and review the draft CSE Strategy and Action Plan. A report summarising this work and the Task Group's observations and recommendations is attached at **Appendix A.**

Further Scrutiny

6. Members may wish to agree to receive regular updates on the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan. The Cardiff and Vale Local Safeguarding Children Board is due to undertake a review of the Strategy and Action Plan in October 2016 and Members may wish to receive a report on the outcome of this review.

Way Forward

7. Committee Members will have the opportunity to discuss the information provided in this report and appendix, and agree a way forward with regard to any issues the Task Group has recommended for the Committee to consider.

Legal Implications

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make 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

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make 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 discuss the information provided in this report and appendix and:

- i. Agree to report the issues and recommendations arising from the consideration of the draft CSE Strategy and Action Plan, attached at **Appendix A**, to the relevant Cabinet Member and Director; and
- ii. Agree any future scrutiny of the CSE Strategy and Action Plan following its approval by Cabinet.

MARIE ROSENTHAL

Director of Governance and Legal Services

9 February 2016