

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	3rd July, 2013
3.	Title:	Home Affairs Select Committee – Child Sexual Exploitation and the response to Localised Grooming
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. **Summary:**

The Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) published its report ‘Child Sexual Exploitation and the response to localised grooming on Monday, 10th June. The Chief Executive and the Strategic Director of Children and Young People’s Services were called to give evidence to the HASC on the 8th January. Tackling the sexual exploitation of children and young people remains the highest priority for Rotherham Borough Council. We welcome the Select Committee report as a body of evidence and advice that can be used by local authorities around the Country to improve their response to these horrific crimes.

6. **Recommendations:**

- (i) **That Cabinet note our assessment against the HASC recommendations.**
- (ii) **That the findings of the practice review in July be brought back to Cabinet.**
- (iii) **That a quarterly progress report against the local Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan (incorporating the HASC recommendations) be brought to Cabinet.**

7. Proposals and Details:

At the Cabinet meeting of 19th June, Cabinet requested a detailed analysis against the HASC recommendations be brought back to this meeting.

The Home Affairs Select Committee report identified 36 statements and/or recommendations in its report of June 2013. (See Appendix 1). Please note the timescales for the actions in the Appendix are not agreed as these will be subject to discussion at the Extraordinary meeting of the LSCB on the 8th July. The meeting has a single agenda item on CSE.

The Rotherham LSCB Manager and Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services have undertaken a self assessment against the 36 areas and have identified three areas where we are undertaking work as identified in the HASC recommendations but the work is not reflected in our own existing Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan. These are No. 4: Improvements in Residential Care; No. 8: return interviews for children who have been reported missing and No. 31: resources for the voluntary sector. We will update our Action Plan to reflect the activity.

8. Finance:

The Council response to the Select Committee findings will be met from existing resources. Cabinet should note an additional £50k per year had been secured for the work of the CSE team from SRP managed funds from the Police and Crime Commissioner. These funds are for 3 years.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

The publication of the Select Committee report has rightly made the Council and its partners re-assess the effectiveness of our response to child sexual exploitation. Failure to continually improve our services will mean children and young people are not afforded a comprehensive and quality service.

We will continue to maintain our focus on early intervention and prevention activity, but we also believe that our strengthened multi agency working must lead to enhanced disclosure and evidence gathering, investigations and ultimately prosecutions by the Police. We fully acknowledge the deterrent effect that successful prosecutions can bring.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

One of the recommendations from the Select Committee is that Ofsted should inspect Children's Services in relation to CSE before December 2013. We welcome this opportunity.

We are undertaking an externally conducted review of our practice in July 2013. This will be facilitated through Barnardo's and our incoming independent LSCB Chair. A further diagnostic will take place in October 2013

to assess mid year progress in readiness for any inspection we may be subject to.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

House of Commons Home Affairs Committee 'Child sexual exploitation and the response to localised grooming' 10th June, 2013.

Cabinet Report 19th June – Home Affairs Select Committee 'Child Sexual Exploitation and response to localised Grooming'.

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