

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

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| 1. Meeting: | Improving Lives Select Commission |
| 2. Date: | 22 January 2014 |
| 3. Title: | Scrutiny of current arrangements to counter child sexual exploitation in Rotherham |
| 4. Directorate: | Resources All wards |

5. Summary

As part of its work programme, the Improving Lives Select Commission agreed to hold a single issue meeting focusing on how agencies in Rotherham work together to counter CSE in Rotherham and the actions taken to keep children and young people safe.

The attached reports detail findings and recommendations from recent reviews into the activities of key agencies. A presentation will give an overview of the findings and response of agencies.

Members are asked to consider the reports together with an overarching presentation.

6. Recommendations

That Members:

- a. Comment Receive on the presentation and reports;**
- b. Forward any comments arising from the presentation and reports to the Cabinet Member or agency for consideration.**

7. Proposals and details

7.1 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has a serious long term and lasting impact on every aspect of a child or young person's life including their health, physical and emotional wellbeing, educational attainment, personal safety, relationships, and future life opportunities.

7.2 In June 2013, the Improving Lives Select Commission received a report detailing the single multi-agency approach taken to counter CSE, as published by Rotherham Local Safeguarding Board. This included the refreshed delivery action plan incorporating the relevant Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) recommendations. The Commission requested a further update of activity and progress.

7.3 Since that point, a number of reports were commissioned into Rotherham's response to CSE. Members are asked to consider the findings and recommendations from the following reports:

- Review of the response to child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, conducted by Steve Ashley, Independent Chair of Rotherham Local Children's Safeguarding Board (Published Jan 2014)
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) South Yorkshire Police's Response to Child Sexual Exploitation – Findings of an inspection commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner (Published Nov 2013):
- Barnardo's Rotherham Practice Review Report (Published October 2013)
- "If only someone had listened" Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (Published November 2013)

A summary of the recommendations from each of the reports is attached as Appendix 1.

7.4 A presentation has been requested to 'set the scene' in relation to CSE in Rotherham and provide an overview of the wider issues. The presentation will cover:

- National context
- Local issues which will include:
 - Definitions of CSE
 - Prevalence
- Recommendations from reviews
- Actions taken to counter CSE
- Areas for improvement

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Any recommendations from the Select Commission in relation to these issues would require further exploration by the Strategic Leadership Team and Partners

on the cost, risks and benefits of their implementation.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The reviews highlight areas for further development work across multi-agencies. Scrutiny should have a role in giving oversight and challenge to agencies to ensure that these improvements are delivered and children and young people safeguarded.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Ofsted Inspection Framework 2013

RMBC Corporate Plan (2013-16)

- Protecting our most vulnerable people and families, enabling them to maximise their independence
 - we will protect children and young people, vulnerable people and families from all forms of abuse, violence and neglect
 - we will identify need and support children, young people and their families at the earliest possible stage

11. Background Papers and Consultation

As outlined in 7.3

12. Contact

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