

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
<b>2. Date:</b>	23 January 2015
<b>3. Title:</b>	Scrutiny of Rotherham's Plans to address Child Sexual Exploitation
<b>4. Directorate:</b>	Resources

### **5. Summary**

Attached as Appendix 1, Members are asked to comment on the draft report and recommendations of the scrutiny review of Rotherham's plans to address child sexual exploitation.

### **6. Recommendations**

That OSMB:

- a. Receives the draft report;**
- b. Comments on the report and recommendations (outlined in Section 2 of the report);**
- c. Agrees that the report, as amended, is forwarded to Cabinet; the Children's Improvement Board and Corporate Improvement Board for consideration.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

7.1 At its meeting of September 3 2014, the Cabinet referred the action plan emerging from the Jay Recommendations to OSMB for consideration. However, in order to understand current practice and the future planning and delivery of services across agencies and sectors; OSMB agreed at its meeting of November 14, 2014 that a more in-depth scrutiny of Rotherham's plans to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation was required.

7.2 The scrutiny session took place over two full days on Friday 12 and Thursday 18 December 2014.

The first day examined the experiences from and implications for the local government sector in addressing the challenges of child sexual exploitation; examining current performance and action plans, how agencies in Rotherham work together to tackle CSE; and how criminal justice agencies in Rotherham address CSE.

The second day focussed on how agencies can provide timely and appropriate support to survivors and their families; and lastly a panel of academic witnesses, commenting on the wider implications of the Jay Report.

7.3 As part of the preparation for the scrutiny review, OSMB agreed that two planning sessions were organised for OSMB Members. External facilitators were used for these sessions to provide independent advice and challenge. These planning sessions were used to identify and agreed objectives and questions for the two-day scrutiny. Anecdotal feedback from Members who participated in this preparation was very positive.

To ensure that priority areas were addressed sufficiently, OSMB agreed the process for submission of questions. These were to be submitted in advance and sent to each of the witnesses to ensure that questions could be answered at the relevant session. This included the Member questions devised during the earlier planning sessions.

In addition, all Council Members were written to with the review schedule and asked if they wished to submit questions to any of the sessions. A dedicated 'slot' was allocated at the opening session of each day for these to be asked.

7.4 At the end of each day, a summary of key issues was given. These have been incorporated into the draft recommendations as outlined in Section 2 of the report. Members' comments are sought on these recommendations.

7.5 In order to ensure that the recommendations are incorporated in to the improvement activity of the Council, it is proposed that these are fed into the Corporate and Children and Young People's Improvement Boards as appropriate.

## **8. Finance**

The financial implications of the recommendations have not been considered as part of this review.

**9. Risks and Uncertainties**

See report

**10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implication,**

The recommendations from this review will be fed into the Corporate and Children and Young People's Improvement Boards

**11. Background Papers and Consultation**

See Section 3.2 of the report

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