

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 21 October 2019

Report Title

Strategy to Tackle and Prevent Child Exploitation

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jon Stonehouse, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Strategy to Tackle and Prevent Child Exploitation 2019 - 2022 has been developed by the Multiagency partnership under the auspices of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP), which has replaced the former Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Board (RSCB). The strategy replaces the previous 3 year strategy to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham known as 'The Way forward for Rotherham 2015-2018'.

The strategy seeks to set out how the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Board, Adults Safeguarding Board and Safer Rotherham Partnership will work together to tackle and prevent Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation and recognises the links with children going missing, Radicalisation, Human Trafficking, Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The strategy reflects the most up to date approaches to Safeguarding and incorporates the lessons learnt from the past three years around what works in relation to CSE and how partners can utilise this learning to support us to tackle and prevent future Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).

The Strategy was signed off by the partnership at the June 2019 RSCB meeting. The work plan has been developed via the Child Exploitation Delivery Group which sits under the RSCP.

Recommendations

1. That the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership's Strategy to Tackle and Prevent Child Exploitation be endorsed and the key priorities which will drive partnership working to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation over the next three years be noted.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 A Strategy to Tackle and Prevent Child Exploitation in Rotherham 2019-2022
- Appendix 2 Child Exploitation Work Plan 2019 -2022
- Appendix 3 Initial Equality Impact Analysis

Background Papers

Jay, Alexis (2014) 'Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham'
Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board (2015) 'Child Sexual Exploitation: The Way Forward for Rotherham'
Ofsted (2014) 'The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?'

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 16 October 2019

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Strategy to Tackle and Prevent Child Exploitation

1. Background

- 1.1 The Strategy to Tackle and Prevent Child Exploitation 2019 - 2022 has been developed by the Multiagency partnership under the auspices of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP). It replaces the previous three year strategy to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham known as 'The Way forward for Rotherham 2015-2018'.
- 1.2 The strategy seeks to set out how the RSCP, Adults Safeguarding Board and Safer Rotherham Partnership will work together to tackle and prevent Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation and recognises the links with children going missing, Radicalisation, Human Trafficking, Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The strategy reflects the most up to date approaches to Safeguarding and incorporates the lessons learnt learned from the past three years around what works in relation to CSE and how the Council can utilise this learning to tackle and prevent future Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation.
- 2.2 The Strategy was signed off by the RSCP at the June 2019 RSCB meeting. The work plan has been developed via the Child Exploitation Delivery Group which sits under the RSCP. The work plan is a work in progress with the Child Exploitation Delivery group agreeing dates for completion. Final dates will be confirmed at the November meeting. The strategy and Work Plan come to Cabinet for endorsement.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The Strategy and Work Plan have come to Cabinet for endorsement. The aim is to ensure there continues to be a retained focus on CSE across Rotherham and that Rotherham's learning is used to support us to continue to effectively tackle and prevent CSE and CCE.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The strategy has been developed by the partner agencies within the RSCP. This includes close working with the Adults Safeguarding Board and Safer Rotherham Partnership. The strategy went out for consultation through May and June and was agreed at the RSCB Board meeting in June 2019.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The Work Plan has been developed and the key performance indicators have been agreed. The Child Exploitation Delivery group will be the key driver in ensuring the work plan objectives are met. Timescales were discussed on the 12 September 2019 at the delivery group meeting and will be confirmed by all partners at the delivery group meeting in November.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no new specific financial implications linked to the Tackle and Prevent Child Exploitation strategy. It is expected that all actions outlined in the work plan will be undertaken from within existing budgets.
- 6.2 There are no known procurement implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no known legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no human resource implications in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The strategy recognises and reflects that there needs to be a joint approach across Rotherham and its partnerships to maximise the effectiveness of our response to Child Exploitation. Within Rotherham partners continue to live with and work with the survivors of abuse, both adults and children, which means everyone remains aware of the cost of not effectively tackling and preventing Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 9.2 The aim is for this strategy to support and clarify how the Council, agencies and wider partners will work together and hold each other to account to maximise prevention, disruption, protection and support.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The strategy highlights the learning the Council has taken from previous historic abuse in Rotherham and makes clear the intention that the partnership will see the child first and not the behaviour. This will support us to ensure that whatever the situation the partnership ensures that every child and young adult has the right protection and support; that perpetrators are held to account and seek to provide a safer Rotherham for our children and adults of tomorrow.

11. Implications for Partners

- 11.1 The strategy has been developed by the Partnership who are committed to ensuring that there is joint working to drive the work plan forward to achieve the agreed objectives.

12. Risks and Mitigation

- 12.1. The purpose of sharing the strategy across the partnership, Council and with all members is to minimise the risk posed by CSE and CCE. It supports a clear understanding of our commitment to tackling and preventing future child exploitation. This includes ensuring early identification and prevention; disruption, protection and prosecution; offering support and an avenue to victims and survivors to participate in shaping the services of the future.

13. Accountable Officers

Rebecca Wall, Head of Safeguarding, Quality and Learning
Jon Stonehouse, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	07/10/19
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	03/10/19
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	01/10/19

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