

BRIEFING	TO:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
	DATE:	10 June 2020
	LEAD OFFICER:	Janet Spurling Governance Advisor, Assistant Chief Executive’s Directorate 01709 254421
	TITLE:	Children’s Commissioner’s Takeover Challenge – Hate Crime
1. Background		
1.1	The Children’s Commissioner’s Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) is a national initiative where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management/leadership roles. As part of RMBC’s commitment to the CCTOC, each year the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people.	
1.2	RYC chose hate crime as the theme for this year’s takeover challenge, as it was one of the key priorities in their manifesto for 2020 after emerging in the top three issues following the annual “Make Your Mark” consultation with young people.	
2. Key Issues		
2.1	Appendix 1 comprises a report which outlines the findings and recommendations following the spotlight review undertaken by Rotherham Youth Cabinet in March 2020.	
2.2	It was evident that good work is taking place in Rotherham to raise awareness about hate crime and to challenge attitudes and behaviour, which needs to continue and develop further.	
2.3	Similarly, with initiatives to encourage people to come forward and report incidents. It also helps to strengthen community confidence when people see clear, meaningful action has resulted following them reporting an incident. Under-reporting is still perceived to be an issue, in particular for disability-related incidents.	
2.4	Media coverage of events and issues was a clear concern shared by participants in the scrutiny session, as it often created divisions and tensions in the community. It was recognised that this was difficult to control, certainly at national level, although there might be scope for more liaison at local level.	
2.5	Licensing recognised legitimate concerns raised in respect of hate incidents experienced by taxi drivers and their families, which had fed into the revised policy and consideration of other potential measures that could be introduced to protect drivers.	

2.6	<p>In light of their findings, RYC developed the recommendations contained in pages 10 and 11 of the review report. In summary these focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ partners continuing to engage with young people and to consider having a dedicated young person's seat on the Independent Hate Scrutiny Panel ▪ liaison between primary and secondary schools to support preventative work on hate crime ▪ encouraging all schools inviting the Hate Crime Co-ordinator to work with students, with a focus on work in smaller groups ▪ involving young people in a peer educator initiative for hate crime awareness raising ▪ partners working with RYC on a campaign to raise awareness with young people about how and where to report hate incidents. ▪ sharing the concerns raised by RYC with regard to press coverage of issues that may impact more widely on communities with the local media.
3. Key Actions and Timelines	
3.1	<p>It is anticipated that following discussion at OSMB the report will be submitted to Cabinet with a date for a formal response to the recommendations to be confirmed for autumn 2020.</p>
4. Recommendations	
4.1	<p>That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Receive the report and note the conclusions and recommendations outlined in Appendix 1. 2 Agree for the report to be forwarded to Cabinet and partners for their consideration and to Council for information. 3 Request a detailed response to the recommendations to be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Rotherham Youth Cabinet in October 2020.

