

Public Report
Improving Lives Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 7 March 2023

Report Title

Outcomes from the review of the draft Child Exploitation Strategy (2023 – 2028).

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor

caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Members of Improving Lives Select Committee (ILSC) met to review the draft Child Exploitation Strategy 2023-28 in advance of its submission to Cabinet. The aim of the ILSC meeting was to comment and influence the priorities, strategic direction and the, as well as identifying challenges and potential solutions.

This report summarises the key points that arose from the discussions and outlines how these will be incorporated into the Child Exploitation Strategy (2023 – 2028).

Recommendations

That Improving Lives Select Commission:

1. Notes the outcomes and recommendations of its review of the draft Child Exploitation Strategy as outlined.
2. Notes that the recommendations have been forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and will be incorporated in the final strategy.
3. Receives further updates on the progress and implementation of the Child Exploitation Strategy.

List of Appendices Included

N/A

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required.

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Outcomes from the review of the draft Child Exploitation Strategy (2023 – 2028).

1. Background

- 1.1 On 24 January 2023, ILSC Members attended a workshop to review the refreshed Child Exploitation Strategy (2023-28) in draft. The purpose of this was to provide ILSC Members with an opportunity to scrutinise and comment on the proposals in advance.
- 1.2 The previous strategy ran from 2019-2022 and was developed by the multi-agency partnership under the auspices of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP).
- 1.3 The draft Strategy also reflects the partnership arrangements in Rotherham and its development has involved collaborative working across Rotherham, including Child Exploitation Delivery Group (CEDG), Child Exploitation steering group, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- 1.4 The workshop was facilitated by the Assistant Director for Commissioning, Performance and Quality and Head of Safeguarding, Quality and Practice. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People was also in attendance.
- 1.5 Following its meeting, Cllr Pitchley (Chair of ILSC) wrote to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People outlining the comments and recommendations that had arisen from the discussions and asking the Cabinet Member to consider these prior to the final version being submitted to Cabinet for decision. These are detailed in section **2.2** with an outline of proposed actions referenced in section **2.3**.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The session involved interactive discussions and presentations led by officers. An information pack containing a closure report on the previous strategy (2019-22) and the current draft strategy was circulated in advance of the meeting.
- 2.2 The following points were raised in the discussions:
 - Members recognised the work undertaken by the multi-agency partnership over recent years to address child criminal and child sexual exploitation. It was felt that the journey from where Rotherham started and where the Borough was currently should be acknowledged in the strategy.
 - It was suggested that explicit assurance should be given that the Council and its partners were committed to providing appropriate support to child and adult victims and survivors of child criminal and sexual exploitation.
 - The strategy was welcomed. However, it was felt that each of the priorities should be expanded upon to describe and contextualise the activities underpinning the "4Ps" (prepare, prevent, protect and

pursue) rather than using a simple one-word descriptor for these priority areas.

The comments relating to the strategy and delivery plan are detailed below:

1. That the strategy should:
 - Articulate the difference between child criminal and child sexual exploitation.
 - Provide clarity about how the partnership works together and the respective areas of responsibilities of each agency.
 - Reflect partnership activity to 'promote' awareness of work to tackle and address exploitation and how to report concerns.
 - Reference how the voice and lived experience of victims and survivors have been used to inform the strategy and delivery plan.
 - Contain a glossary of terms and avoid acronyms which could be confused with other terminology.
2. That the delivery plan should:
 - Reference and align actions from any relevant reviews, inspections and scrutiny activities (e.g. Myers Review, Operation Linden, Stovewood, Scrutiny Review of Post Abuse Support et al).
 - Ensure that timescales for actions are articulated clearly in the plan (i.e. there is no implied end dates for ongoing activities).
 - Ensure that there is clear differentiation between one-off and ongoing activities.
 - Make available an accessible/'easy read' version with translation of key materials/publicity into community languages; use of QR codes; posters in venues etc.
 - Reference any outstanding actions from the previous delivery plan, explaining why they were not completed.
3. That work is undertaken to share successes/ achievements demonstrating current practice and progress via the Safer Rotherham Partnership and Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership websites.

- 2.3 The comments and recommendations made have been incorporated into the development of the Strategy and associated governance arrangements. This will be considered at the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 20 March 2023.

The Strategy has been further developed to reflect this feedback;

- Addition of 'Our Journey' section
- Addition of Organisational roles and responsibilities section and detailed Appendix

- Additional 'Promote' priority included under the 'Prepare' heading and 'Provide Support' priority included under the 'Protect' heading.
- Information regarding how voice and lived experience influence activity has been added throughout.
- Glossary updated.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 As an information report, there are no alternative options or proposals to consider.

3.2 It is recommended that Improving Lives Select Commission:

1. Notes the outcomes and recommendations of its review of the Child Exploitation Strategy (2023-28) as outlined in the report.
2. Notes that the recommendations have been forwarded to Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and will be incorporated in the 2023-28 strategy.
3. Receives further updates on the progress and implementation of the Child Exploitation Strategy.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Whilst there is no consultation required as a result of the scrutiny activity in respect of this item, the service will continue to undertake consultation on service developments as required.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The recommendations arising from this activity have been forwarded to the service for consideration as part of the final strategy. This will be considered by Cabinet in due course.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this item. Any recommendations which may have financial or procurement implications will be considered as part of the Cabinet decision.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this item. Any recommendations which may have legal implications will be considered as part of the Cabinet decision.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 Any human resources implications arising from this item will be considered as part of the Cabinet decision.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The final Child Exploitation Strategy will have a positive impact on children, young people across the Borough supporting early intervention, partnership working and best practice. The recommendations arising from ILSC's scrutiny activity will contribute to the overall content and direction of the strategy.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Any recommendations emerging from this item which have direct equalities and human rights implications will be considered as part of the Cabinet decision

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no implications for CO₂ emissions or climate change.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Any recommendations emerging from this item which have implications for key partners will be forwarded to the relevant agency for consideration and response.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Risks and mitigations will be detailed in full as part of the Cabinet decision.

Accountable Officer(s)

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive
Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

Report Author(s):

*Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor
caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk*

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).