

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

8 February 2016

ITEM 6(e)
Cabinet Response to
Child Sexual Exploitation
Sub Group
Recommendations

Portfolio(s): Children, young people and Learners

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr I Grayson

Report from Service Area: Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

Responsible Officer: Jacqui Old , Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

Tel: (0191) 643 7295

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's approval to the proposed response to the recommendations of the Children's Education and Skills Sub-Committee in relation to its study into Child Sexual Exploitation, as set out in Appendix 1.

In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Children's Education and Skills Sub-Committee within two months. In providing this response Cabinet is asked to state whether or not it accepts each recommendation. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet agrees the proposed responses to the recommendations from the Children's Education and Skills Sub-Committee in relation to its study into Child Sexual Exploitation, as shown in Appendix 1 of this report.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 6 January 2016.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

The report contributes towards the following priorities of the 2014-18 Our North Tyneside Plan:

Our People - are cared for and kept safe if they become vulnerable

1.5 Information

In response to the number of national high profile cases and reviews in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE) in recent years, the Children's Education and Skills Sub-Committee agreed to examine the Authority's role and practice on issues relating to child sexual exploitation in North Tyneside as its next in-depth study. The report was considered by the Sub-Committee on 16th November 2015 and presented to Cabinet on the 14th December 2015.

As a result of the study, the Sub-Committee identified eleven recommendations, which were directed to Cabinet. A proposed response from Cabinet to the recommendations is set out at Appendix 1.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet may accept the recommendation set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

Option 2

Cabinet may not accept the recommendation set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

Option 3

Cabinet may also accept, reject or amend any of the proposed responses at Appendix 1 on an individual basis.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended in order to support the effective delivery of measures to support victims of child sexual exploitation in North Tyneside.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1 Overview and Scrutiny Report Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in North Tyneside

1.9 Contact officers:

Russell Pilling, Senior Manager, Safeguarding and Placement Services, 0191 643 7314
Alison Campbell, Senior Business Partner, 0191 643 7038
Dave Parkin, Democratic Services Officer, 0191 643 5316

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

S:\Team\Management\Cath McEvoy\Russell Pilling\CES\NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.pdf

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

If approved it is anticipated that the accepted recommendations can be delivered from existing budgets. Any actions that cannot be met from existing budgets, or have further financial implications, will be brought to Council / Cabinet, as appropriate in future reports before implementation.

2.2 Legal

In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Children's Education and Skills Sub-Committee in relation to its study into Child Sexual Exploitation within 2 months. In providing this response Cabinet is asked to state whether or not it accepts each recommendation and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 state that all licensing functions discharged under the Licensing Act 2003 are non-executive functions. Section 7 of the 2003 Act provides that all matters relating to the discharge of licensing functions under the Act are to be discharged by the Licensing Committee, save for a few exceptions.

The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 also state that the power to license drivers of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles is a non-executive function.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Sub-Committee consulted with officers of the Authority as follows:

Helen Coombs, Manager Legal Services Safeguarding Team
Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance
Jean Griffiths, recently retired Head of Children, Young People and Learning
Elizabeth Kerr, Democratic Services Officer
Jacqueline Laughton, Head of Corporate Strategy
Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager Technical and Regulatory Services
Candice Meikle, Social Worker
Russell Pilling, Safeguarding Operations Manager
Lisa Rankin, HR Specialist (Childrens' Services)
Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The Sub-Committee consulted with the following:

Richard Burrows, Independent Chair of the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board
Helen Bowman, Bright Futures
Ann Cusworth, Family Practitioner at Barnardos
Ian Fiddes, Changing Lives
Laura Seebohn, Changing Lives
Nicola Whalen, Bright Futures

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights issues directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity issues directly arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management issues directly arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

Recommendations from this report will potentially have an impact on the detection and prosecution of crime. Improvement in awareness, partnership working and services delivered to those at risk of sexual exploitation will positively affect the safety of people within the Borough.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability issues arising directly from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive X
- Head(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Head of Corporate Strategy X