

Meeting: Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee
Date: 15 February 2016
Title: Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group – Cabinet response

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Service: Law and Governance
Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update the Sub-committee on the response from Cabinet to the final recommendations made by the Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group which were presented to Cabinet on 14 December 2015.

2. Recommendations

To note the Cabinet response to the recommendations of the Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group.

3. Information

- 3.1 At its meeting held on 14 December 2015 Cabinet received a report from the Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group. In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet was required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Sub Group within two months.
- 3.2 Attached is a copy of the report submitted to Cabinet on 8 February 2016 to agree its response. The decision of Cabinet will be circulated to the Sub-committee on Friday 12 February 2016 after the publication of the minutes of the Cabinet meeting.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Response from Cabinet to the Overview and Scrutiny Report on Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in North Tyneside.

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:

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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

**Cabinet Response to Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations
Completed Action Plan**

Title: Cabinet Response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Sub Group Recommendations

In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet are required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within 2 months. In providing this response Cabinet are 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.

Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation	Officer Commentary	Cabinet Decision (Accept or reject)	Action to be taken (if any) and timescale for completion
<p>Recommendation 1 The North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report to be added to the annual work programme of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee, with the Independent Chair of the Board invited to attend the meeting where it would be discussed. Once submitted to the Sub-committee the report, and the minute of the discussion, be circulated to all Members of the Council for their information.</p>	<p>The North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report is the key accountability mechanism for the work of the Board. This recommendation will ensure that knowledge and understanding of partnership delivery of safeguarding responsibilities will be effectively communicated to Members.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>On an annual basis in September of each year the Independent Chair of the Board will be invited to the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee to discuss the Annual Report.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2 Cabinet requests the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding ensures that local authority officers are enabled to attend the meetings of the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board's Sub Groups to</p>	<p>Officer attendance at sub groups in place at senior level. Attendance includes: Business group – chair Senior Manager Safeguarding and Placement Services</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Existing officer engagement positive with all sub groups. Reporting lines to the LSCB Business group are well established and clear. Further discussions are taking</p>

<p>ensure a consistent membership and clear reporting lines.</p>	<p>QILP – Service Manager LAC and LCT Teams Case Review sub Group – Service Manager Safeguarding Vulnerable Adolescents – Service Manager Safeguarding Training sub group – Service Manager Front Door</p>	<p>place to establish a closer connection between all three boards (LSCB, SAB and Safer North Tyneside) in relation to sexual exploitation.</p> <p>The intention is that further sexual exploitation action plan updates will also be submitted on an annual basis as part of the LSCB annual report.</p> <p>A meeting to consider next steps will take place during January 2016. This will consider further the terms of reference, governance issues and make recommendations to all three boards.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 Cabinet requests the Chief Executive to require all service areas to appoint a Safeguarding Champion who will participate in the completion of the Section 11 Audit from the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that all services have recognised that they must have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</p>	<p>The Section 11 Audit is a comprehensive document that sets out the position of Board partners in relation to safeguarding. The contribution of all service areas will ensure that the Council will more effectively consider its position and identify areas for development.</p>	<p>Members of SLT have nominated champions and are considering the value of combining this role with established safeguarding adult's champions.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4 Cabinet requests the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board invites</p>	<p>North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board is a partnership body and to work effectively</p>	<p>This proposal is accepted as a positive step by the Council. The Independent Chair of the Board</p>

<p>the Chair of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee or a designated member of the Sub-committee to attend its meetings as an observer.</p>	<p>needs to engage with all constituent organisations.</p>		<p>will take to the LSCB with a view to the Board accepting.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5 Cabinet requests the Head of Law and Governance undertakes the necessary steps to propose to Full Council an amendment to the Constitution to ensure that child sexual exploitation training is provided to all Members at the same frequency as to officers and that attendance is mandatory and includes information on: what the situation in the borough is what the warning signs are what to do if you suspect something what to do if someone comes to you with a disclosure or a suspicion.</p>	<p>This will be taken forward in the annual Constitution review which starts in January.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Review to begin in January 2016.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6 Cabinet requests the Standards Committee reviews the current Members and Co-opted Members Code of Conduct and considers including a provision that Members <u>must</u> report any suspicion of sexual exploitation or intelligence received on any safeguarding issues be referred to the authority's Front Door Service and that failure to do so would be considered a breach of the</p>	<p>This will be taken forward in the annual Constitution review which starts in January. Any recommendation will then need to be referred to the Standards Committee for consideration.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Review to begin in January 2016.</p>

<p>Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Recommendation 7 Cabinet requests the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding to provide a quarterly update, including any information from the police service, on the situation in North Tyneside regarding CSE in the Members Newsletter.</p>	<p>Quarterly sexual exploitation update will be provided and will be informed by the work of the LSCB sub group to ensure that a multi agency perspective is included.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>First update to be provided for March 2016.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8 Cabinet requests the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development and the Head of Corporate Strategy develop a communication strategy for the NTSCB's CSE Training Strategy to ensure all Members, officers and other interested groups both inside and outside the authority are aware of the training opportunities available and what is expected of them with regard to attendance and keeping up to date.</p>	<p>We recognise that it is critically important that we promote the CSE training which is available to Members, officers and other interested groups both inside and outside the authority and will develop a communications strategy to do this by the end of March 2016. This will make use of all internal and external communication channels including the intranet, Teamwork for officers, the weekly newsletter for Elected Members, the Council website and our regular liaison routes with community and voluntary sector organisations. We will monitor the effectiveness of these communication channels by tracking where people have found out about the training opportunities when they book the training.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The strategy will be in place by end of March 2016.</p>

<p>Recommendation 9 Cabinet considers amending the process of applying for a private hire or a hackney carriage license and a personal licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 to require the applicant to have undergone CSE training prior to issue.</p>	<p>During 2015, the Authority delivered CSE training to drivers and private hire operators licensed within the borough. Attendance at training was voluntary since there is currently no mandatory requirement for licensees to undertake this as part of the grant of their licence. The Authority will be consulting on proposals to update its existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy during the early part of 2016 as part of a periodic review. The Authority intends to introduce a mandatory requirement for applicants to undertake CSE training and will seek views on this as part of the consultation. Regulation & Review Committee are overseeing the consultation. All sales of alcohol must be authorised by a person who holds a personal licence issued by the Licensing Authority for the area in which they reside. Once issued with a personal licence the holder can authorise the sales of alcohol anywhere in the country. The Licensing Act 2003 states that an Authority must grant a personal licence to an individual if prescribed conditions are met. It is not possible for an</p>	<p>Accepted whilst noting the division of responsibilities between executive and non-executive functions</p>	<p><u>Taxi (Hackney Carriage & Private Hire) Licensing</u></p> <p>Cabinet welcomes the mandatory requirement for applicants seeking Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licences from the Authority to have to undertake CSE training and notes that such a requirement will be consulted on when the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy is consulted on.</p> <p><u>Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing</u></p> <p>Cabinet recommends that the Head of Environment Housing and Leisure look into the possibility of voluntary training on CSE being offered to existing personal licence holders and new applicants for such a licence, and for a report to be submitted to the Licensing Committee.</p>
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	<p>Authority to add to the conditions set out in the Act or to include in the Statement of Licensing Policy a condition that must be met, namely to have undergone CSE training, before being issued with a Licence. It would be possible however on the grant of a personal licence to provide the licence holder with information in relation to CSE and/or offer voluntary training on CSE.</p> <p>All Licensing Act functions are non-executive functions which save for a few exceptions are discharged by the Licensing Committee.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 10 Cabinet requests the Head of Corporate Strategy develop a communications strategy on CSE through the authority's own publications (Our North Tyneside and Teamwork) to dispel some of the myths surrounding CSE and signposting people who are suffering or may suspect CSE is taking place to appropriate support and information. The strategy to include the production of posters to inform people of the warning signs and what to do if they are concerned for display in all Council buildings and offered to</p>	<p>Information and community awareness are crucial aspects of any strategy to enhance the safety of young people and adults. This recommendation will improve the ability of those at risk and those that care for them to recognise warning signs and seek support.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The children's missing persons lead is working with the nominated officer from the Head of Corporate Strategy and a representative from Adult Services to deliver this recommendation. Proposals regarding draft communications to be considered during January 2016 and specific material to be produced in February 2016.</p>

<p>bed and breakfasts, hotels, takeaways and taxi offices.</p>	<p>Recommendation 11 Cabinet requests the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding and the Head of Commissioning and Investment work with Changing Lives to consider whether there is a suitable venue in Whitley Bay to be made available for use by Changing Lives and their associated partners/programmes as a drop-in centre for young people who may be experiencing exploitation and/or abuse.</p>		<p>Accessibility is a key issue for young people seeking support around the issues of exploitation and/or abuse. Changing Lives currently utilise venues in North Shields and would want to extend their drop-in facility into Whitley Bay.</p>		<p>Accept</p>		<p>Council officers and Changing Lives representatives met in January 2016. Work continues to focus on possible use of the Battle Hill Centre and a visit is being arranged. Changing Lives have also been put in contact with a potential community building in Whitley Bay.</p>
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