

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Licensing Committee

Date: 7 April 2016

Title: Provision of Child  
Sexual Exploitation Training  
for Personal Licence Holders

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**Wards affected:** All

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## PART 1

### 1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the work undertaken by the Children's Education and Skills Sub-Committee and to highlight the recommendation made by Cabinet in relation to Licensing.

### 1.2 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee note the decision of Cabinet and request Officers to undertake further investigations.

## 2.0 Background Information

### 2.1 Background

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 in November 2014 to examine the Authority's role and practice on issues relating to child sexual exploitation in North Tyneside as an in-depth study. CSE was considered an appropriate topic as it was important to ensure that the processes and initiatives undertaken by the Authority and its partner organisations to tackle the issues around CSE were correct and effective and to raise awareness of the issues more broadly within the Authority and the community as a whole.

In recent years there have been a number of high profile cases, in particular in Rotherham and Oxfordshire. As a result of these cases several reviews have also taken place in relation to CSE, in particular the Jay and Casey reports. Louise Casey was appointed to lead the inspection of Children's Services at Rotherham Council. The report included an investigation into Rotherham Council and if it took and continues to take sufficient steps to ensure only 'fit and proper persons' are permitted to hold a taxi licence. In addition the report looked at the liaisons between the Council and other agencies.

The Children's Education and Skills Sub-Committee identified eleven recommendations which were considered by the Sub-Committee on 16 November 2015 and presented to Cabinet on 14 December 2015. On 8 February 2016 Cabinet responded to the recommendations made.

## 2.2 **Cabinet - 8 February 2016**

At its meeting on 8 February 2016 Cabinet resolved to accept the recommendations from the Children Education and Skills Sub-Committee Sub Group as an effective delivery of measures to support victims of child sexual exploitation in North Tyneside.

In relation to licensing, Recommendation 9 stated:

Cabinet should consider amending the process of applying for a private hire or a hackney carriage licence and a personal licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 to require the applicant to have undergone CSE training prior to issue.

Officers advised Cabinet that under the Licensing Act 2003 it is not possible for an Authority to add to the conditions set out in the legislation or to include in the North Tyneside Council Statement of Licensing Policy. The Authority could not add a condition that an applicant must have undergone CSE training before being issued with a personal licence. It would however be possible 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.

Cabinet recommended that the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure look into the possibility of voluntary training on CSE being offered to existing licence holders and new applicants for such a licence. Cabinet requested that a report be submitted to the Licensing Committee.

As a result of this recommendation made by the Children's Education and Skills Sub-Committee in relation to Licensing Officers are considering the action and the format that the training and/or information should take. A further report will be presented to the Licensing Committee for consideration when this has been completed.

## 3.0 **Decision Options**

The option available to the Committee is:

### Option 1

To note the decision of Cabinet and request Officers to undertake further investigation.

### **Appendices:**

4.0

No appendices are attached to this report.

### **Contact Officers:**

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Dawn Frankland, Senior Licensing Officer, Tel: 643 6902

## 6.0 **Background Information:**

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report & are available for inspection at the offices of the author of the report:

Cabinet 14 December 2015

[http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC\\_PSCM.PSCM\\_Web.download?p\\_ID=563](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=563)

Cabinet 8 February 2016

[http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/browse-display.shtml?p\\_ID=564166&p\\_subjectCategory](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/browse-display.shtml?p_ID=564166&p_subjectCategory)

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### 2.1 **Finance and Other Resources:**

There are no financial implications for the Council arising from this report. The cost of collating the data can be met from the existing Licensing revenue budget.

### 2.2 **Legal**

#### **Legislative Framework**

Part 2 Section 10(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 provides that a Licensing Committee may arrange for the discharge of any functions exercisable by it by an Officer of the licensing authority.

All Licensing Act functions are non-executive functions which save for a few exceptions are discharged by the Licensing Committee.

### 2.3 **Consultation/Community Engagement:**

The Children's Education and Skills Sub-Committee commenced its study on 15 June 2015. A series of evidence gathering meetings were held with officers, the North Tyneside Safeguarding Childrens Board and organisations working with young people in the borough. The recommendations were reported to Cabinet on 14 December 2015.

### 2.4 **Human Rights:**

The economic interests connected to the use of a licence may be considered to be possession belonging to existing licensees and as such are afforded protection under Article 1 of Protocol 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Any decisions therefore made in relation to a licence application need to be fully considered. An individual also has the right to a fair hearing under Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

### 2.5 **Equalities and Diversity:**

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

**2.6 Risk Management:**

There are no significant risk management implications to the Council arising from this report.

**2.7 Crime and Disorder:**

It is not considered that there are any crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

**2.8 Environment and Sustainability:**

It is not considered that there are any environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.