

**Meeting: Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee**

**Date: 7 December 2015**

**Title: Report of the Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group**

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**Service:** Law and Governance

**Wards affected:** All

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

To consider a report produced by the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee's Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group.

### **2. Recommendation**

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider and approve the Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group report and its recommendations and refer it to Cabinet for consideration on 14 December 2015.
2. Put forward the role of public transport employees in assisting other agencies to protect young people from child sexual exploitation as a potential topic for in-depth investigation by the North East Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **3. Details**

- 3.1 In response to the number of national high profile cases and reviews in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE) in recent years, the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee had agreed at its November 2014 meeting to examine the Authority's role and practice on issues relating to CSE in North Tyneside as its next in-depth study. Due to another in-depth study being undertaken by the sub-committee an initial scoping document for the establishment of a CSE sub group was not agreed until its meeting on 15 June 2015.
- 3.2 CSE was considered an appropriate topic as it was important to ensure the processes and initiatives undertaken by the authority and its partner organisations to tackle the issues around CSE were appropriate and effective and to raise awareness of the issues more broadly within the authority and the community as a whole.
- 3.3 The objective of the CSE Sub Group was to satisfy Members that there was a pro-active approach to tackling CSE in North Tyneside and increase awareness of Members, officers and the public in general of the issues and the warning signs in relation to CSE.
- 3.4 Members held a series of evidence gathering meetings with representatives from the local authority, the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board and organisations

working with young people in the borough.

- 3.5 The report was submitted to the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee on 16 November 2015 for endorsement and has been submitted to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for its approval to submit the report to Cabinet in accordance with Part 4.3 Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee Rules of Procedure in the Authority's Constitution.
- 3.6 During discussion on the report, Members asked what training was provided for bus drivers or metro staff relating to vulnerable young people and their awareness of child sexual exploitation. Public transport was not part of the Sub Group's remit which meant it could not be added to the report recommendations and no answer could be provided at the meeting. However, the Sub-committee agreed the topic should be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the North East Combined Authority (NECA) as a potential topic for investigation due to the cross boundary nature of public transport in the region and the important role public transport plays in young peoples' lives.
- 3.7 As the NECA was an outside body the suggestion that the topic be put forward to its Overview and Scrutiny Committee needed to be approved by the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, in accordance with Part 4.3 Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee Rules of Procedure in the Authority's Constitution. The Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee requests that the suggestion is accepted by the Committee and is put forward to the NECA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a potential topic for in-depth investigation.

#### **4. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Report of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee: Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in North Tyneside.