

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/2016 - REPORT NO. 122

MEETING TITLE AND DATE
Council 11th November 2015

**REPORT OF CHILD SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION TASK GROUP:**

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Agenda - Part: 1	Item: 10
Subject: Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group – Progress Update	
Wards: All	
Member consulted: Cllr Jemal, Chair of Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Task Group has met on two occasions and has produced this report to update Overview and Scrutiny Committee and full Council on the work so far. Two further meetings are planned before the Task Group produces an annual report and makes recommendations which will be taken to Cabinet and then onto full Council in March 2016.
- 1.2 The group has set out its work plan for the year which is attached as an appendix to this report. Outside of the formal meetings the group is visiting services and observing practice at every opportunity in order to gain a full picture of the local scale, prevalence and response to this issue.
- 1.3 To date the group have received reports from officers about the national and local picture with regard to Child Sexual Exploitation and other related vulnerabilities including children missing from home and care and children missing education.

- 1.4 They had the opportunity to observe a MASE (multi-agency sexual exploitation) meeting which are police led and held on a monthly basis. Following this they received a verbal update from the police with particular emphasis upon disruption and enforcement.
- 1.5 The Task Group strongly recommends **ALL** members raise their awareness of this complex, important safeguarding matter and attend members' briefings and training sessions that are being put into place with regard to safeguarding concerns.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to:

- 2.1 acknowledge the complex nature of this area of safeguarding and thanks the partnerships and front line staff for their commitment to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 2.2 strongly recommend that **ALL** members actively get involved by increasing their awareness of this matter and attending future safeguarding presentations that are being put into place specifically for members.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This year has seen a sharp focus on the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) across the United Kingdom. A number of national and regional reports and studies were published identifying both the scale of the problem and potential strategies for tackling it.
- 3.2 In February 2015 Enfield council demonstrated its clear commitment to tackling CSE by agreeing to establish a specialist dedicated members' Task Group with a strong focus on Child Sexual Exploitation and associated risks for children and young people. The terms of reference were agreed. The Task Group will meet 4 times a year comprising of 6 members split politically 4:2 in terms of membership in accordance with proportionality requirements. The Task Group have two further meetings planned before they produce an annual report and make recommendations which will be taken to Cabinet and then onto full Council in March 2016.

3.3 The key areas of focus for the Task Group are to review and scrutinise all matters relating to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Associated Risks for Children and Young People. This includes:

- Monitoring and evaluating the performance of relevant services and functions in relation to both the prevention of and interventions to address CSE and associated risks for children and young people.
- Reviewing the efficiency of services, functions and outcomes relating to CSE and associated risks for children and young people.
- Considering relevant legislation in regard to CSE and the associated risks to young people.
- Taking an independent leadership role in Enfield Council's aim of continuous improvement in the performance of its tasks, functions, policies and resources as they relate to CSE and associated risks to children and young people.
- Publishing an annual report of its work for Council in March 2016.
- Receiving regular updates from appropriate officers and specialists in relation to the associated work of the Children's Safeguarding Board, Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Group (MASE), Young Runaways and Children Missing from Care, Home and Education.

3.4 The Task Group has had 2 meetings on 23 June 2015 and 10 September 2015 and has 2 further meetings planned this year. A work plan for the year has been agreed which has been attached as an appendix to this report.

3.5 **Work accomplished so far.**

The Task Group has received:

- a literature review of lessons learned and recommendations from recent inquiries and reports
- an update on the local picture including a profile of active cases
- the CSE Operation Protocol which was launched on 1st July 2015
- a report from Anne Stoker, Head of Safeguarding, providing an update on children and young people missing from home and care
- a briefing note from James Carrick, Head of Behaviour Support and Special Educational Needs, on children missing education in Enfield
- A verbal update from Detective Sergeant Adam Rowland regarding Child Sexual Exploitation and the work of the police and partners with particular emphasis upon disruption and enforcement
- A report from Fabrizio Proietti, Service Manager, St Christopher's, Enfield's Young Runaways Service on children missing from home and care.

3.6 On 2nd September members of the group observed Enfield's Multi-agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meeting. The meetings are police lead and convened on a

monthly basis. They are attended by the strategic CSE lead for each agency. The meetings are designed to provide a forum in which to:

- Share information and intelligence to help develop an understanding of individual cases where CSE has been identified and to identify trends, perpetrators, hotspots etc.
- Provide a strategic approach to confronting CSE in premises or businesses, utilising preventative action (media, youth services) and enforcement (Police, Licensing etc.) where appropriate.

3.7 The meeting provided an opportunity for members to see how the partnerships work together. The progressions of each case where children are identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation was reviewed ensuring actions are being taken by all agencies.

3.8 On the 1st October 2015 the Task Group visited the new Enfield Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention (CSEP) team. They had the opportunity to meet the multi-agency team and hear about the work that they are doing. The team started taking cases on 1st July 2014. To date 24 contacts have been received by the team and 14 have progressed to case allocation due to concerns about child sexual exploitation.

3.9 Further plans are in place for members of the Task Group to observe MAP (multi-agency planning) meetings for individual young people. MAP meetings bring professionals together to coordinate in depth plans to reduce risks and prevent further sexual exploitation.

3.10 Findings of the group so far:

- The Task Group have considered the roles and responsibilities of its members with regard to CSE and associated vulnerabilities. It was noted that all members need to be fully aware of these matters and that past attendance at CSE and safeguarding briefing events has been poor. The Task Group felt that it was their responsibility as champions in this area to encourage members to raise awareness, attend briefings and thus increase scrutiny and challenge with regard to CSE.
- The Task Group found the MASE meetings to be very informative. It was well attended by all partners and each of the agencies present clearly knew the young people very well. The multi-agency knowledge and information sharing that took place within the MASE helped to build up a clear picture of the risks and aided safety planning for those young people at risk of sexual exploitation. The members saw that all partners were committed and came prepared into the meeting with up to date information about each young person. The Task Group was satisfied that there was

inter-agency cross-borough working in place in order to protect children. The Task Group observed rigor and challenge across the partnership in order to ensure that everything had been done that was possible to protect those children discussed in the meeting.

- The Task Group acknowledges that it is early days with regard to the development of the work of the Enfield CSE team. It is an integrated multi agency team with practitioners that have a wealth of experience. The team are well embedded, working in close partnership with other services. The Task Group offered their full support to this new team. They would like the CSE team to deliver a presentation to all members when the team is more settled. The CSE team offer advice and guidance to professionals as well as working directly with individual cases, however there is no Enfield local number or team that could respond directly to the public (adults or young people) when they may be concerned about Child Sexual Exploitation.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None. The Task Group is required to report back to Council on a bi-annual basis

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To provide Full Council with an update as agreed in the Terms of Reference for the Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

The direct staffing costs of the CSE Team (£201k) are contained within the Schools and Children's Services departmental budgets. There are no additional costs associated with the implementation of the recommendations of this report.

6.2 Legal Implications

Section 17(1) of the Children Act 1989 states:

'It shall be the general duty of every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs.'

Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires political representation on committees to reflect the proportions of representation in the council as a whole.

The proposals set out in this report comply with the above legislation.

6.3 Property Implications

None

7. KEY RISKS

None

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for All, Growth and Sustainability and Strong Communities

Tackling CSE is an issue affecting some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. It is a complex, ongoing challenge and the Council needs to ensure that its actions are sustainable over time. The CSE Task Group has an important role to play in ensuring the safety of vulnerable children and young people and promoting the issue across their communities.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

Corporate advice has been sought in regard to equalities and an agreement has been reached that an equalities impact assessment is neither relevant nor proportionate for the approval of this report

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The work plan developed by the CSE Task Group will form part of the performance management of Enfield's responses to CSE and provide valuable additional scrutiny.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None

12. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None

13. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage, other than detailed within the report.

Background Papers

None