

Vulnerable Young People Task Group

Proposed Terms of Reference

July 2017

1. Background

The Child Sexual Exploitation and Associated Risks to Children and Young People Task Group was established in June 2015. Its key function is to review and scrutinise all matters relating to CSE and Associated Risks for Children and Young People in Enfield. The group meets quarterly and offers strong leadership and oversight for the work undertaken to tackle CSE across the borough. It commissions and receives reports on activity relating to CSE and links with other vulnerabilities including Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Missing Youth Offending, Gangs and Disability. The group receives regular updates on the work of the Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention (CSEP) Team and receives and scrutinises data relating to CSE and Missing Young People.

The group also has overseen development and implementation of a CSE awareness raising campaign across Enfield and members of the group have attended a number of meetings and events relating to CSE

2. Developments

Given the progress made on tackling CSE and Missing in Enfield and given the growing understanding nationally and locally of the complex, often intertwined issues that young people face and how they can impact on a young person's life it is proposed that the good work of the CSE Task Group is built upon and expanded to include a focus on a number of additional areas. These include:

- Gang activity in relation to young people
- Missing Young People
- A sharpened focus on Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Radicalisation and the Prevent agenda
- Young People involved in or at risk of Harmful Practices (including Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse)
- Young people who are at risk of or experiencing Domestic Abuse.

This wider focus will align with the recently established Enfield Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) subcommittee which has recently broadened its remit to include all of the above areas.

This wider focus will allow the group to provide a similar level of oversight and scrutiny of these linked vulnerabilities as it has hitherto provided specifically for Child Sexual Exploitation

3. Key functions of the Vulnerable Young People Task Group

3.1. To review and scrutinise matters relating to vulnerabilities which affect young people including but not necessarily limited to the following areas

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Young People who go missing (from Home Education, Care & Health)
- Modern Slavery (including trafficked children, domestic servitude, and labour exploitation)
- Young People involved in or at risk of Harmful Practices (including Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse).
- Young People who are involved in with Gangs and related activity including 'county lines'
- Radicalisation (both in terms of general religious, political or ideological extremism and those at risk of being drawn into terrorist activity as described by the PREVENT agenda)
- Private Fostering
- Any other risk groups of vulnerable young people who are identified during the course of the Task Groups work

3.2. The group will:

- Monitor and evaluate the performance of relevant services and functions in relation to both the prevention and the interventions to address these issues and vulnerabilities
- Review the efficiency of services, functions and outcomes relating to these areas and vulnerabilities
- Consider relevant legislation in regard to these issues and vulnerabilities
- Support and promote a coherent and joined-up borough-wide approach to strategy and activity designed to address these issues and vulnerabilities

3.3. The group will receive regular updates from appropriate officers and specialists in relation to the associated work of Enfield Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) and other related groups.

3.4. The group will make recommendations and report directly to full Council and Cabinet taking an independent leadership role in Enfield Council's aim of continuous improvement in the performance of its tasks, function, policies and resources as they relate to the issues and vulnerabilities listed above.

3.5. To publish an annual report of its work for Council

4. Task Group Composition

4.1. To be in accordance with political proportionality the group is composed of 6 members, comprising 4 members of the Labour Group and 2 of the Conservative Group to be drawn from the non-executive element of the Council

4.2. The Chair of the CSE Task Group will continue as the Chair of the revised group

4.3. The Executive Director for Children's Services or their representative(s) will be in attendance at all meetings of the Task Group

4.4. The Cabinet member for Education, Children's Services and Protection will be invited to attend all meetings of the Task Group as the relevant lead member and in order to present reports or respond to requests for information

4.5. The group will invite any other councillors, officers, commissioning or delivery partners to attend meetings as required for specific purposes

4.6. Support to the group will be provided by the Democratic Services Team

5. Quorum

5.1. The Quorum for the task group is 3 members

6. Frequency

7. Task group to meet every 3 months with any additional meetings deemed necessary being arranged on an ad hoc basis as appropriate

8. Conduct of Meetings

8.1. All meetings of the Task Group will operate in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 including provision for the consideration of exempt or confidential information where the principles of the relevant Access to information Act provisions apply

8.2. The Task Group meetings may on occasions consider highly sensitive confidential information. The meetings will be subject to the Data Protection Act 1998 with rules around exempt information as defined by the Local Government Act 1972 excluding press and public from meetings and other legislation as relevant

8.3. Each member of the Group will have one vote and decisions will be made on the basis of a simple majority with the chair having a casting vote (if required)

8.4. The Group will review its purpose and function on an annual basis