

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VULNERABLE YOUNG
PEOPLE TASK GROUP HELD ON
THURSDAY, 11TH JULY, 2019**

COUNCILLORS: Yasemin Brett (Chair), Kate Anolue, Mustafa Cetinkaya,
PRESENT Elaine Hayward and Glynis Vince.

OFFICERS: Anne Stoker (Director of Children and Family Services),
Angela Bent (Head of Service Practice Improvement &
Partnerships, Children's Services), Andrea Clemons
(Head of Community Safety), Mervin Cato (Head of
Behaviour Support Services on the NEXUS project),
Elaine Huckell (Scrutiny Secretary)

127. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor Brett welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Councillor Stephanos Ioannou and Councillor Rick Jewell (Cabinet Member Children's Services). Also for lateness from Councillor Anolue.

Councillor Brett referred to the clash of meetings of this Group with the Public Transport Consultative Group. **Action:** E Huckell (*Post meeting note - Dominic Millen was contacted and would ensure there were no future clashes with this meeting*)

For noting -Agenda item 12 was discussed after item 6, but for the interests of clarity they are shown in the agenda order.

128. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillor Yasemin Brett was appointed as Chair for the Committee for the year.

129. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Glynis Vince was appointed as Vice Chair for the Committee for the year.

130. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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There were no declarations of interest.

131. VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP - DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Anne Stoker presented this item on the draft terms of reference for the Vulnerable Young People Task Group. She referred to the background to the setting up of the group which was established in 2015, in principle to review and scrutinise all matters relating to child sexual exploitation and associated risks for children and young people in Enfield.

The work of the CSE Task Group had been built upon and expanded to include a focus on a number of additional areas including: gang activity, missing young people, trafficking and modern slavery, radicalisation, young people involved in, or at risk of, harmful practices (such as FGM, forced marriage and honour based abuse) and those at risk of domestic abuse.

The key functions of the Task Group is to review and scrutinise matters relating to vulnerabilities which affect young people, to ensure the best services are provided. It also aims to monitor and evaluate performance of relevant services. Anne Stoker stated that we have an Action plan which aims to drive forward the Strategy for Safeguarding.

AGREED The Task Group composition was discussed, and would be amended as follows –

‘Political proportionality applies for the group – it is composed of 6 members to be drawn from the non-executive element of the Council.’

The amended terms of reference would be submitted to the Member and Democratic Services Group and Council.

Councillor Brett referred to homeless youngsters in relation to the LGBT group, and representatives of the Adolescent Support Team (FAST) would be invited to the September meeting of this group to talk about Adolescent Homelessness.

132. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 7 March 2019 were Agreed.

Matters Arising

- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) – Councillor Vince referred to the update to the Task Group, at the last meeting, about this issue.

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- CAMHS(Child Adolescent Mental Health Services) Update – At the last meeting a report was presented on this subject.

It was agreed that Enfield Psychology Service – (Suzy Francis) would be invited to the September meeting of this group to talk about the service the team provides in schools.

133. NEW GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME TO PROTECT CHILDREN AT RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Angela Bent (Head of Service Practice Improvement & Partnerships, Children's Services), presented the report and highlighted the following:

- A Government Programme to protect children at risk of exploitation was announced in May 2019. It is aimed at delivering support to areas responding to criminal and sexual exploitation. Consortium led by Research in Practice (Children's Society and the University of Bedfordshire).
- A sum of £2m to be shared by local authorities and safeguarding partnerships would apply for this money and used for example for staff training.
- Every Council would be able to apply for bespoke support to tackle specific threats in their area and applications will go forward in October 2019. This will be discussed at the next Enfield Safeguarding Partnership.

Members asked that a verbal update be provided at the next meeting of the YYP Task Group in September. **Action:** Angela Bent

134. SAFEGUARDING ADOLESCENTS FROM EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

A presentation was given by Andrea Clemmons (Head of Community Safety) on the Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation Strategy for 2019 to 2022, which replaces the 2014 Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy.

The strategy in connection with other related plans and, strategies and policies is about how we prevent and tackle all forms of exploitation which includes –

- Child sexual exploitation
- Children and young people exposed to exploitation through gang involvement, county lines, trafficking and serious youth violence.
- Radicalisation and the prevent agenda and
- Children missing from home or education.

Andrea highlighted the following

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- The high rate of youth violence in the borough (377 reported cases of Serious Youth Violence in Enfield as of end of February 2019).
- Engaging in further collaborative work for example Oasis outreach workers at North Middlesex hospital.
- Progress made includes the publication of the strategy on the Council's and ESCB's websites.
- A pledge launched 'to renew our commitment to end exploitation of adolescents in Enfield'. This has been signed by the Council, Police Service, CCGs and Enfield Children and Young people services
- Information provided to the Parent Engagement Network.
- The next meeting of the VYP Sub group meeting to be held on the 22 July 2019 would be talking about crime levels and the number of missing adolescents.

Councillor Brett suggested that the Mayor and Council leader could be asked to sign the pledge, she also asked that she attend a future meeting of the VYP sub – group. She wondered whether some young people might find that having a mixed identity may feed into feelings they may have of insecurity.

Action: Andrea Clemmons will arrange for Cllr Brett to be invited to the Sub Group

135. ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2019/ 20

Anne Stoker introduced the Work Plan which had been circulated at the meeting. It showed which areas had been looked at over the previous three years. She said it was helpful to have the cross- party support of members who would drive to continue to deliver these services.

It was suggested that new members may wish to attend meetings of the MASE -(Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Meetings are police led and are convened monthly where it is possible to share information and intelligence). Reference was also made to case studies that have been given in the past which have been useful.

Anne Stoker said that we have had reassurance in 2015, 2017 and 2019 that Ofsted are pleased with our safeguarding groups and she suggested that we may therefore consider this to be an appropriate time to have a final year for the Task Group, now that all areas are in place.

Subjects such as the Child Exploitation Profile could be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in future. She suggested that we may wish to have an update from the Police at the next meeting in September and this was agreed. Some Members stated that they thought it was important to continue with this group.

Councillor Brett said she would like to place on record her thanks to previous Chairs of this group. She also referred to an Eastern European Forum that she attends where issues have been discussed regarding exploitation, and

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suggested it may be useful to have a discussion about different cultural aspects with a focus on young people at a future meeting of this Task Group.

Councillor Cetinkaya spoke about the focus of schools for young people's future and their safety. Whilst it was thought it may be useful for the Director of Education to be invited to discuss the issue of 'Exclusions' – it is understood that this subject is to be examined in depth at a new Overview and Scrutiny Workstream therefore we would not wish to duplicate this work.

AGREED

The following items to be included on the work programme

September meeting -

1. Adolescent Support Team (FAST) – representatives to be invited to the September meeting to talk about Adolescent Homelessness.
2. Enfield Educational Psychology Service (Suzy Francis) to be invited to talk about the service the team provides in schools.
3. Update from the Police.
4. New Government Programme to Protect Children at risk of exploitation (verbal update)

December meeting -

1. Missing Children report
2. Community Groups – to be invited to discuss issues of exploitation
3. Nexus – An update to be provided

136. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of future meetings for the Vulnerable Young People Task Group are:

Thursday 5 September 2019
Tuesday 3 December 2019 and
Tuesday 10 March 2020.

137. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

RESOLVED in accordance with the principles of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

138. NEXUS

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NEXUS —

Mervin Cato, Head of Behaviour Support Services gave a presentation on the work of the Nexus project which aims to provide a 'holistic and sustainable approach to assist in the well-being of parents and children.

He referred to work that is undertaken with the schools exclusion team to reduce the number of secondary school permanent exclusions across Enfield, by working closely with schools on preventative interventions. He spoke of the linking up of community groups with organisations who work with young people.

Reference was made to the CHiPS project which is being relaunched. This project is a way of providing community help points to provide safe places for young and vulnerable people to go to for help. A suggestion was made that adverts could be used in doctor's surgeries to publicize this project.

Mervin referred to 'Holler' which is an initiative that has created a network of people who go into schools to tell young people their stories and inspire them to achieve their ambitions, it was originally set up by an Enfield born professional footballer

Councillor Brett thanked Mervin Cato for his work with this project and mentioned 'Family Group conferencing' and 'Family Networking' which is a useful way of bringing family and friends together to help find solutions.

Funding for this initiative is over a two- year period and Mervin was asked if he would come along and give an update to the group at their December meeting.

He would also look into the possibility that members of this group may come along and visit the Enfield Pupil Referral Unit in September.

139. ANNUAL CHILD EXPLOITATION PROFILE

Anne Stoker and Angela Bent presented the Child Exploitation Profile for 2018-19

It was explained that the aim of the profile is to understand as far as possible the scope and nature of child exploitation in Enfield. Next year there would be a fuller picture. Anne Stoker stated that we aim to gain an understanding of the demographics relating to this and to find hidden victims.

An explanation was given of 'County Lines'.

Anne stated that 44 productions had been given of 'Chelsea's Choice' which is a play delivered to young people. She said this year there would be a new production relating to 'County Lines'

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It was confirmed that the numbers presented in 'Missing' chart related to missing episodes.

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified.

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