

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VULNERABLE YOUNG  
PEOPLE TASK GROUP HELD ON  
TUESDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 2019**

**COUNCILLORS:** Yasemin Brett (Chair), Elaine Hayward and Glynis Vince.  
**PRESENT**

**OFFICERS:** Anne Stoker Director of Children and Family Services  
Angela Bent (Head of Service Practice Improvement & Partnerships, Children's Services),  
Claire Whetstone (Director Enfield Children's Young Persons Services),  
Sharon Burgess (Head of Safeguarding Adults & Principal Social Worker)  
Florah Shiringo (Head of Early Help and Protection)  
Fiana Centala (Mental Capacity & DOLS Manager)  
Elaine Huckell (Committee Secretary)

**373. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Councillor Brett welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Councillors Kate Anolue, Stephanos Ioannou, and Mustafa Cetinkaya.

**374. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**375. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 5 September 2019 were AGREED.

It was confirmed that an update report by Mervin Cato on Nexus would be submitted to the 10 March 2020 meeting of this Committee. Councillor Brett referred to the Mental Health Partnership Board and said there were issues discussed at the meeting which may be relevant to this Group.

**376. EXPLOITATION IN THE COMMUNITY**

Claire Whetstone (Director Enfield Children's Young Persons Services), spoke about the work that is being done by the team in the community.

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Based at 'The Ark' they provide advice and support to voluntary and community organisations working with children and young people.

She highlighted the following:

- There is often a lack of understanding about the running of organisations/groups and people who may be new to the borough may be vulnerable as they may have an inaccurate perception of how the borough operates. Open days are held to enable us to engage with people.
- There are specific issues for different communities, for example Somali families may be particularly concerned about Somali youth gangs. Other groups may not be comfortable coming forward with issues to the police as their perception is not to trust them in their home country.
- We are working with Albanian groups who are at risk of exploitation both here and from before coming to this country.
- Growing concerns regarding FGM – we need to be aware of sensitivities when working with faith groups on this issue.
- It is important for there to be good communications. Early intervention is key, especially when people first come to the borough. For some young people they do not realise that counsellors are on hand who can help them.

The following points were raised by members:

- Members thought it was important that we engage with young people who may feel vulnerable coming to the borough. It was suggested that this could be done during ward surgeries and by encouraging involvement in school councils.
- Claire Whetstone reminded everyone that although the ARK is open for people to interact with us, for some cultures, women may be discouraged by members of their families from coming along.
- SACRE may be useful as it is a partnership between Council, teachers, parents engaging with faith groups overseeing provision of religious education in non- denominational schools.
- It may be helpful for members of this VYP task group to discuss exploitation issues with young people – for example with members of the youth parliament, some of our looked after children (LAC) the young mayors may also wish to come along to a future meeting.
- It was noted that the Parent Engagement Network is a significant resource where people are trained to be able to help young people. Anne Stoker referred to the good work carried out by Claire Whetstones team which help to increase young people's resilience.

Claire Whetstone was thanked for her update.

### **377. VPG TASK GROUP PLAY IN THE COMMUNITY**

Councillor Brett spoke of the theatrical production about 'County Lines' which is being shown to young people in the borough. She thought this was a useful

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means of informing people of the dangers involved and for initiating discussion.

She wondered whether a similar production should be considered for the modelling of family relationships. Anne Stoker said we commission family conferences specifically for individual families with the main aim to help keep children safe and improve support. Family group conferences help family members to look at ideas and outcomes to bring about solutions.

### **378. MODERN SLAVERY**

Sharon Burgess (Head of Safeguarding Adults & Principal Social Worker) presented this item, she said 18 months ago her team was asked to take the lead on this issue on behalf of the Local Authority. Bespoke training is being delivered on this subject to 300 members of staff so that should they have any concerns they would know what pathways are available and what can be done. She mentioned that the team works closely with a number of partners including the police. Training events are held for our care providers. There is a Strategy on Modern Slavery and this ties in with our other strategies such as our 'Homelessness' strategy.

Sharon referred to a conference held on this subject in May 2019 and another on 13 May 2020. She also takes part in a London wide network which is attended by other local authorities and representatives from the Home Office. The key themes from our Strategy are to - Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare.

She said Enfield is committed to managing this issue – we had a successful bid to set up a 'Modern Slavery Team' to start on 20 January 2020, working with the police. The aim is to raise awareness and provide a central point of expertise that can provide support. She explained that there is a lot of work to do in this area for the future.

The following issues were raised:

- A suggestion was made that a briefing note on this subject would be useful for Members. It should include both local and national contact details and pathways.
- It would be useful for the task group to be provided with figures to give an indication of what is happening in the borough.
- Training would be provided to raise awareness of this subject
- Important that awareness on this subject is raised – it was noted that this recently featured on TV - 'Coronation Street'

It was noted that Fiana Centala would provide a briefing note on Modern Slavery which would be circulated to members of the VYP Task Group for their information. *(Post meeting note – This briefing note was circulated to members on the 19.12.19)*

### **379. COUNTY LINES PLAY FEEDBACK**

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Councillor Brett referred to this production which has been played in schools which is an innovative way to engage with young people and is a good way to get 'important points across'.

Anne Stoker said it is intended to extend funding for another year for the production to continue to be shown in our schools.

### **380. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of the Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

### **381. MISSING CHILDREN UPDATE**

#### **MISSING CHILDREN UPDATE.**

A presentation was provided by Florah Shiringo, Head of Early Help and Protection on data in relation to children and young people who go missing and an update on the progress of the OFSTED recommendation.

Florah Shiringo was thanked for her presentation.

### **382. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING**

The date of the future meeting for the Vulnerable Young People Task Group is:

Tuesday 10 March 2020.

#### **Future Reports -**

The following items to be discussed at the March meeting-

1. Nexus – An update to be provided by Mervin Cato (Head of Behaviour Support Services)
2. The Police Exploitation Team to present an update (Luke G Marks).

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified.