

Report to COUNCIL

Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation: Terms of Reference

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Eddie Moores, Cabinet Member Children and Young People

Officer Contact: Gerard Jones, Managing Director Children and Young People (Statutory Director of Children's Services)

7 September 2022

Reason for Decision

At its meeting on 13 July 2022, Council considered a motion in response to the Independent Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Practice in Oldham.

This paper provides Full Council with an update on the All Elected Member Workshop held in August 2022 by way of an action plan responding to the Independent Assurance Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation and sets out the draft Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Steering Group for approval.

Recommendations

Full Council is asked to:

1. Note the contents of the report
2. By way of receiving the Council's action plan responding to the Independent Assurance Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation, note the priority areas of action and progress against the resolution agreed by Full Council on 13 July 2022. This includes dedicated additional support to the work of Operation Sherwood led by Greater Manchester Police, the Council's response to ongoing support to survivors of CSE including access to independent support, the establishment of a

Child Sexual Exploitation survivors steering/advisory group and the establishment of an Elected Member Steering Group. This is set out at appendix 1 to this report

3. Agree the Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation as set out in appendix 2 to this report
4. Note that the Council's response is to support victims, seek justice and provide assurance about current practice as set out within the Council's action plan

1.0 Background

1.1 At the meeting of Full Council on 13 July 2022, Full Council debated a motion in relation to an Independent Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation. In debating the motion, Council resolved that:

- Dedicated additional resource be recruited or redeployed to support the work of Operation Sherwood in fully investigating any historic CSE allegations across Oldham to seek convictions for those that perpetrated these terrible crimes and to ensure justice for victims.
- Ongoing support be given to victims of historic and current CSE including access to independent support from organisations like SARC and KOGs (Keeping Our Girls Safe). This support should include advice on how to secure independent advice on reparations and complaints.
- to advise on and oversee this vital support work a steering group of victim/ survivor charities and groups and survivors would be established.
- That a cross-party steering group is established to work alongside the existing Department for Education chaired 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees our improvements to Children's Social Care, our independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity in the borough and our newly established Victim Steering Group to oversee our work to support historic and current victims of CSE. The cross-party group would oversee each of their activity and report back to the Oldham public on progress.

1.2 Progress has been made against the resolution and further detail is attached as appendix 1 to this report by way of the Council's action plan responding to the Independent Review into Child Sexual Exploitation. This document details the priority actions that are underway. In addition, the Council has facilitated an All Elected Member workshop with information provided with:

- An overview of the issue of CSE nationally and in Oldham
- Detail of the Council's response to complex safeguarding cases in the Council
- An overview of Operation Sherwood
- An overview of our partnership led victims strategy and the work we are undertaking with local victims charities
- A draft set of terms of reference for the agreed Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation

1.3 The draft Terms of Reference for the agreed Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation are set out at appendix two of this report for agreement.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 There will be no impact on service budgets as a result of this proposal.

Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications contained within the report.

Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal

5.0 Human Resources Implications

5.1 Not applicable

6.0 Risk Assessments

6.1 Not applicable

7.0 IT Implications

7.1 Not applicable

8.0 Property Implications

8.1 Not applicable

9.0 Procurement Implications

9.1 Not applicable

10.0 Environmental and Health and Safety Implications

10.1 Not applicable

11.0 Community Cohesion and Crime Implications

11.1 Not applicable

12.0 Equality Impact Assessment Completed (EIA)

12.1 Not applicable

13.0 Key Decision

13.1 No

14.0 Forward Plan Reference

14.1 Not applicable

15.0 Background Papers

15.1 None

16.0 Appendices

16.1 None