

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

### Purpose:

The purpose of the Elected Member Steering Group is to provide cross-party oversight of current safeguarding practice and the appropriate information detailing work that is being undertaken to seek justice and offer support to historic victims of child sexual abuse.

### Objectives:

The Steering Group will:

1. Not duplicate the scope of existing Boards in place but will work alongside the Council's existing governance arrangements including 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees improvements to Children's Social Care, the Independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity across the Borough and the newly established Victim Steering Group which oversees work to support historic and current victims of CSE
2. Be provided with assurance on the support to victims both present and historic by way of data and insight reports
3. Be provided with assurance on progress of Operation Sherwood and the support given by the Council to Operation Sherwood by way of data and insight report
4. Be provided with assurance on current complex safeguarding activity and practice within the context of wider children's social care activity by way of data and insight reports
5. With agreement by the Steering Group, request and receive detail in relation to current safeguarding practice and be able to make suggestions to improve processes and practice in place
6. Have the ability to refer any matters for additional information or advice to the independent Chair of the Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership

### Accountability and reporting arrangements:

The Steering Group will work alongside the existing governance arrangements already in place. The Steering Group will provide reports to Council summarising matters considered within the 12-month period. A minimum of one report within each municipal year will be presented however, there may be more should the Steering Group feel it has something to report. This will be subject to agreement by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group is not a decision-making body. Any proposed changes to process/current practice that requires a decision will be referred to the appropriate decision-making forum in line with the Council's Constitution/Schemes of Delegation. What actions the decision-making bodies make on such matters referred to them will be formally reported back to the Steering Group.

A summary will be provided to Group Leaders after each Steering Group has met for dissemination to their groups.

### Meeting arrangements:

The Steering Group will meet as a minimum four times within a municipal year.

The Steering Group will be chaired by the Chief Executive. The membership will be:

- Leader of the Council (Leader of the Administration/Labour Group) +1 Member from the Labour Group
- Leader of the Liberal Democrats +1 Member from the Liberal Democrat Group
- Leader of the Conservatives +1 Member from the Conservative Group
- Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party +1 Member from the Failsworth Independent Party

Given the roles in which the Cabinet Member and Shadow Cabinet Member(s) undertake, it is not recommended that the Cabinet/Shadow Cabinet Members responsible for Children and Young People form the Steering Group.

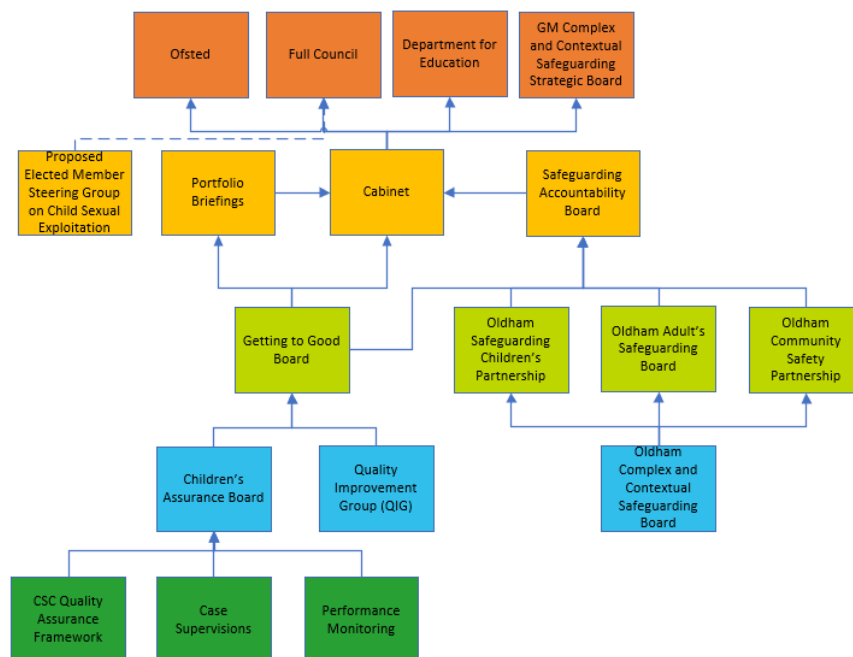
The Steering Group will be quorate with 50% of attendees (a minimum of 4 members) and preferably there will be representatives from each of the four Political Groups on the Council:

- Labour
- Liberal Democrats
- Conservatives
- Failsworth Independent Party

Roles and Responsibilities of Members of the Steering Group:

- Attend meetings of the Steering Group
- Always maintain confidentiality (within and outside of the Steering Group forum)
- Act within the purpose of the Steering Group as set out
- Consider the impact on children and young people, victims/survivors of CSE and children’s social care
- To declare any interests at the start of each meeting that may be relevant to the agenda items

Governance Diagram



The Terms of Reference for the Steering Group will formally be reviewed on an annual basis (May of each year) but will be subject to discussion within six months of the Steering Group operating. Any changes made to the Terms of Reference will be considered by the meeting of Annual/Full Council.