

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND DOMESTIC SLAVERY

Thursday, 12 May 2016

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Dennis Meredith (Chair); Councillor James Hill (Deputy Chair) Meredith (Chair), Councillor Rufia Ashraf, Muna Cali, Janice Duffy, Zoe Smith, Danielle Stone and Graham Walker

OFFICERS Phil Harris, Head of Housing and Wellbeing
Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all to the inaugural meeting of the Scrutiny Panel and thanked all for volunteering to join this in-depth Scrutiny Review. He highlighted the importance and sensitivity of the topic under review.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Brian Oldham. The Chair advised the Scrutiny Panel that Councillor Brian Sargeant had decided to come off the membership of the Panel.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESS

There were none.

4. DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL

It was proposed by Councillor Dennis Meredith and seconded by Councillor Graham Walker that Councillor James Hill is elected Deputy Chair of this Scrutiny Panel. Upon a vote it was AGREED:

That the Deputy Chair of this Scrutiny Panel is Councillor James Hill.

5. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

The Chair presented the draft scope of the Review for consideration. It was felt that Child Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking and Domestic Slavery was a very wide topic and it

would be more beneficial for this Scrutiny Review to focus on the Borough Council's role in tackling CSE.

The Scrutiny Panel scoped its review, making suggestions and additions to the draft scope. The scope would be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 13 June 2016 for approval.

It was felt that the title of the Scrutiny Panel should therefore be changed to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). It was also felt that the purpose of the Scrutiny Panel should be changed to "to ensure Northampton Borough Council (NBC) plays an active role in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)".

- AGREED:**
- (1) That it be suggested to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the title of the Scrutiny Panel is changed to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
 - (2) That it be suggested to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the purpose of the Scrutiny Panel is changed to "to ensure Northampton Borough Council (NBC) plays an active role in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)".
 - (3) That the scope of this Scrutiny Review is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 13 June 2016 for approval. A copy of the Scope is appended to the minutes.

The meeting concluded at 7:00 pm



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To ensure Northampton Borough Council (NBC) plays an active role in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of the work currently being undertaken by partnerships, statutory and voluntary organisations, and the Police to address these issues
- To investigate how NBC contributes to the above work
- To raise awareness of CSE, human trafficking and domestic slavery of children in Northampton
- To explore best practice elsewhere in identifying and providing support to victims of CSE
- To understand what NBC is doing outside the Scrutiny process in relation to human trafficking and domestic slavery of children

2. Outcomes Required

- To make evidence based recommendations to improve the role that NBC has in tackling CSE
- To make recommendations, as appropriate, regarding partnership working in tackling CSE

3. Information Required

- Background data
- Background reports
- Best practice data
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Site visits (if applicable)

4. Format of Information

- Background data, including:
 - Presentation to set the scene: To identify the prevalence of the problem locally
 - Relevant national and local background research papers
 - Definitions – CSE, human trafficking and domestic slavery
 - Case Studies

- Best practice external to Northampton

- Internal expert advisors:
 - Leader of the Council, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
 - Cabinet Member for Community Safety, NBC
 - Director of Customers and Communities, NBC and the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, NBC
 - Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
 - Service Manager, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit

- External expert advisors:
 - Head of Protecting Vulnerable Persons, Northamptonshire Police
 - Service Manager, RISE Team
 - Senior Manager, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Board
 - Director, Education Services, NCC
 - Representative, Children's Rights' Group, Corporate Parenting Board
 - Chief Officer, Northamptonshire Victim Support
 - Cabinet Member for Adult Services, NCC
 - Cabinet Member for Children's Services, NCC
 - Chair, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board
 - Service Manager, Barnardo's
 - Service Manager, Save the Children
 - Chief Officer, Service Six
 - Chief Officer, Lowdowne Centre
 - Manager, Free to Talk Group
 - Chief Officer, Rape and Crisis Centre
 - Chief Executive, Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH)
 - Chief Officer, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

- Site visit to the RISE Team, Northampton, MAASH, and other areas of the country that have been recognised for its good work in CSE

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-
 - Key witnesses as detailed in section 4 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Review

- Chair, Children, Learning & Communities Scrutiny Committee, Northamptonshire County Council, to be approached suggesting that they are co-opted to this Review for its life.

7 Community Impact Screening Assessment

- A Community Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the Review

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

May 2016 – March 2017

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| • 12 May 2016 | - Scoping meeting |
| • 7 July | - Evidence gathering |
| • 8 September | - Evidence gathering |
| • 10 November | - Evidence gathering |
| • 5 January 2017 | - Evidence gathering |
| • 16 March | - Approval final report |

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

9. Responsible Officers

Lead Officers Phil Harris, Head of Housing and Wellbeing
Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

10. Resources and Budgets

Phil Harris, Head of Housing and Wellbeing, to provide internal advice.

11. Final report presented by:

Completed by March 2017. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

12. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (approximately November/December 2017)