

## NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

Thursday, 7 July 2016

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillor Dennis Meredith (Chair); Councillor James Hill (Deputy Chair); Councillors Rufia Ashraf, Zoe Smith, Danielle Stone and Graham Walker

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

#### 1. APOLOGIES

The Chair advised the Scrutiny Panel that due to conflicting priorities, Councillor Brian Oldham had decided to step down from the membership of this Panel.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Janice Duffy and Brian Sargeant.

#### 2. DEPUTATIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

There were none.

#### 4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2016 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

#### 5. PRESENTATION TO SET THE SCENE

Phil Harris, Head of Housing and Wellbeing, gave the Scrutiny Panel a presentation that set the scene:

The presentation covered the following key areas:

- Definitions – CSE, human trafficking and domestic slavery
- The role of District and Borough Councils
- Statistics and Data
- Action being taken to prevent CSE

The Scrutiny Panel asked questions, made comment and heard:

- In response to a concern regarding the commercialisation of exploitation and the need for understanding of this; Phil Harris advised that it would be hoped that this would be picked up by the Police and the RISE Team by sharing intelligence.
- It was confirmed that CSE is everyone's responsibility.

- The Salvation Army estimates that there are between 10,000 and 13,000 victims of human trafficking living in the UK. Since 2011, it has worked with, and supported, around 3,000 victims of human trafficking in the UK.
- A Modern Slavery Group, chaired by the Police, is in existence.
- Concern was raised regarding HIMO's and vulnerable children, particularly where there are shared facilities.

**AGREED:** That the information informs the evidence base of this Review.

## **6. CORE QUESTIONS**

The Scrutiny Panel devised its list of core questions to be put to expert witnesses. A copy of the finalised version is attached to the minutes.

## **7. SITE VISIT**

The Scrutiny Panel discussed site visits to inform its Review.

It was **AGREED:**

- (1) That Councillors Dennis Meredith and Rufia Ashraf observe a meeting of RISE.
- (2) That Councillors Dennis Meredith and Rufia Ashraf visit the MASH.
- (3) That the findings from the site visits are reported to a future meeting.
- (4) That the findings from the desktop research exercise are reported to a future meeting.

## **8. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The Scrutiny Panel approved the Community Impact Assessment for this Review. The document would be published on the Scrutiny Webpage.

The meeting concluded at 7:00 pm

## NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY



## SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

### CORE QUESTIONS – EXPERT ADVISORS

The Scrutiny Panel is currently undertaking a review that is investigating 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

The expected outcomes of this Scrutiny Review are:

- 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

## CORE QUESTIONS:

A series of key questions have been put together to inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny Panel:

1. Please provide details of the work currently being undertaken by your organisation to address child sexual exploitation (CSE)
2. Is there a clear and robust multi-Agency strategy for information sharing, preventing and managing CSE?
3. What other multi-Agency forums exist to facilitate joint working?
4. What is the extent and profile of CSE in Northampton? How do we know this?
5. How does NBC contribute to the above work (**question for internal witnesses.**)
6. To raise the Scrutiny Panel's awareness, please supply details of what NBC is doing, outside the Scrutiny process, in relation to human trafficking and domestic slavery of children (**question for internal witnesses**)
7. How effective has NBC, its partners and the Police, been in engaging with the local community and other organisations in raising awareness of CSE?
8. How can awareness be raised further of CSE, human trafficking and domestic slavery of children in Northampton?
9. How is CSE incorporated into local training programmes, and who is able to access this training?
10. What support is available to current, potential and historic victims of CSE?
11. Do you have further information regarding the role of NBC in tackling CSE?