



## **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - CSE**

**5 JANUARY 2017**

#### **BRIEFING NOTE: REPORT BACK FROM VARIOUS SITE VISITS**

##### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its inaugural meeting, Scrutiny Panel 3 (Homelessness) agreed that it would undertake a variety of a site visits to inform its evidence base.
- 1.2 Site visits were scheduled :
  - Two representatives of the Panel to observe a meeting of MASH
  - Two representatives of the Panel to visit the RISE Team
  - Representatives of the Scrutiny Panel to visit a variety of temporary accommodation around the borough

##### **2 MEETING OF MASH**

- 2.1 Councillors Dennis Meredith and Rufia Ashraf visited the MASH Team on 14 September 2016. They were given a guided tour. There are over 100 employees, including Call Centre staff, Social Workers, Police Officers and Liaison Officers.
- 2.2 Some departments, such as the Police Officers, deal directly with cases coming in from:
  - CAN
  - Schools
  - Social Services
  - General public
- 2.3 Should an individual have concerns that they may commit a crime, such as child abuse, they can contact MASH for help. MASH monitors such situations.

2.4 There are rigorous systems in place to protect children.

2.5 The Chair has requested the following information

- Details of the number of calls received per year
- Details of funding for MASH

As soon as the details have been provided, the Chair will advise the Panel.

### **3.1 MEETING OF THE RISE TEAM**

3.1 Councillor Rufia Ashraf observed a meeting of RISE on 20 September 2016. Information providing the visits will be provided to the Panel at the meeting on 5 January.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

5.1 The main conclusions from the site visits:

5.1.1 There are rigorous systems in place to protect children.

5.1.2 The site visit to MASH was extremely useful in informing the evidence base of this Scrutiny Review; however, the Chair was concerned by the number of reports of abuse. The MASH also deals with reports of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); which is illegal in the UK. MASH monitors the situation and Officers, such as trained Social Workers, investigate.

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 That the findings from the various site visits informs the evidence base of the Scrutiny Review – Homelessness.

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3 - Homelessness