

MINUTES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK GROUP - CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

MEETING DATE Thursday, 10 November 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Roy Lees (Chair), Councillor (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Margaret Lees, Alistair Morwood, Kim Snape, Richard Toon and Hasina Khan

OFFICERS: Louise Elo (Head of Early Intervention), Chris Moister (Head of Legal, Democratic and HR Services), Graeme Walmsley (Senior Human Resources & Organisational Development Consultant), Rachel Austen and Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

APOLOGIES: Councillor John Dalton and Mark Jarnell

16.CSE17 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 27 October 2016 of Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Child Sexual Exploitation

AGREED – That the minutes of the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – CSE meeting were confirmed as a correct record.

16.CSE18 Declarations of Any Interests

No declarations of interest were received on any of the agenda items.

16.CSE19 DBS Checks

In response to a request made by the Task Group at its last meeting, the Director of Partnership and Governance submitted a report which set out the legal requirements to enable disclosure applications to be made through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for elected members. In conclusion the report found that applications made on behalf of elected members would not be lawful as their councillor duties/role did not fit the eligibility criteria. Although an alternative provision did exist through Disclosure Scotland, it would not provide as much information or level check and was unlikely to be recognised as being comparable to a DBS Disclosure certificate.

The Task Group welcomed the Head of Legal, Democratic and HR, and the Senior HR and OD to the meeting who attended to respond to any questions raised by members through debate.

The Senior HR and OD Consultant added that by the end of November 2016, the Council was likely to have its registered body status for applying for disclosures from DBS cancelled due to insufficient number of disclosures being requested within any 12 month period. Therefore the Council would have to use an external organisation to undertake DBS disclosures in the future that would ensure the application criteria was strictly adhered to.

The Chair thanked the Head of Legal and Democratic and HR and the Senior HR and OD for attending the meeting and their contribution.

AGREED –

- 1. That applications' for disclosures are not to be submitted to the DBS in respect of elected members as it would likely be outside the legislative framework relating to DBS disclosures, as detailed in the report.**
- 2. That basic disclosure applications' through Disclosure Scotland not to be submitted as they would only provide details of any unspent convictions, and elected members were currently legally required to disclose all unspent convictions and there would be no mechanism to enforce elected members to complete applications.**

16.CSE20 Interview - Education Sector

The Chair welcomed Natalie Fairhurst, the Safeguarding and Intervention Manager for Parklands Academy to the meeting to provide members of the Task Group with an insight in to the work done in regards to raising awareness of CSE and the help and support offered to those who had suffered CSE.

Parklands Academy had a comprehensive approach to tackle CSE, which included –

- A term dedicated to CSE during PSHE lessons, including the dangers of sexting
- Targeted sessions with vulnerable groups
- Feeling safe sessions
- Workshops for both pupils and parents (Chelsea's Choice)
- Safer internet sessions
- Work in partnership with the Deter team, Children's Society and other relevant partners
- Work with partners to deliver training to staff
- Regular meetings with other schools
- Liaise with other schools
- Ensure all schools policies are reviewed annually
- act as a supportive body, and work with pupils to reassure them that they had not done anything wrong.

For those families who were hard to reach, staff would continue to try a variety of ways to get in contact with parents or guardians, which included house visits. Community drop-ins were also taking place at a supermarket for those parents/guardians who wanted to meet on neutral ground. It was important for the Academy to make their pupils aware that they were cared for and protected, and that they could confide in any member of staff without fear of ridicule or not being believed.

Members of the Task Group were also informed that every high school had a legal requirement to have a safeguarding designated person and a back-up designated person, although their general day to day role could be different in each high school.

The Task Group discussed various aspects of the presentation, and commended Parklands Academy for the work they were doing to support their pupils.

The Chair thanked the Safeguarding and Intervention Manager for Parklands Academy for her valuable contribution and attending the meeting.

16.CSE21 Chorley Council - Roles and Responsibilities

The Chair welcomed the Intervention and Prevention Officer to the meeting to detail the council's roles and responsibilities in regards to the prevention of CSE.

The main responsibilities for the council included –

- Raising awareness (targeted delivery)
- Working with other partners and sharing information
- Supporting national and local initiatives
- Ensuring that relevant officers of the council undergo regularly training on CSE
- Ensuring that the reporting pathway for suspected CSE cases were know

Officers from the Early Intervention and Support team had undergone train the trainer courses which would allow them to train other members of staff on a regular basis.

The council had introduced a requirement that those people applying for/or renewing a taxi drivers license had to undergo regular CSE training as part of their application/or renewal process.

The Task Group were informed that as a representative of the Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership Task and Finish Group on CSE, the Early Intervention and Prevention Officer also played an important role liaising with other partners trying to raise awareness with parents and guardians as well as the children and young people.

The Chair thanked the Intervention and Prevention Officer for attending the meeting.

16.CSE22 Early Recommendations

The Chair invited members of the Task Group to put forward potential recommendations for the final report.

Members of the Task Group considered the information that had be presented to them over the course of the review and put forward a number of potential questions that they wished to propose for the final report for further consideration at the next meeting.

16.CSE23 Date of next meeting

The final meeting of the Task Group will take place on Wednesday, 16 November at 3pm.

Chair

Date