

COUNCIL REPORT

25 November 2015

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN MIDDLESBROUGH

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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel has been examining a range of issues relating to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Middlesbrough. This work began in December 2013. An Action Plan was agreed and subsequently absorbed into the Tees Strategic Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) Group strategy plan which has been implemented across the four Tees authorities. Councillors have also been briefed on the Rotherham Inquiry and have recently been invited to a briefing on CSE at the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.
2. Whilst the Scrutiny Panel has been examining the nature of CSE and how local agencies respond within Middlesbrough, this report has been provided as a vehicle to further debate and discussion and examine how Middlesbrough Council will continue to raise awareness and demonstrate the high priority that both elected members and council officers accord to this important area of work.

BACKGROUND

3. It is recognised that child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a terrible crime with destructive and far reaching consequences for victims, their families, and society. It is not limited to any particular geography, ethnic or social background. All Councils should assume that CSE is happening in their area and take proactive action to prevent it and to support victims and others considered to be 'at risk'.
4. This is not just a job for the Lead Member for Children's Services or the local Director of Children's Services. All Councillors have a role to play in keeping children safe and Councils cannot eradicate CSE without the help of the wider community. Councillors have a key role to play in this, and should not be afraid to raise these issues within the communities they represent.

5. Recent inquiries have again highlighted the scale of the problem, and some local agencies risk appearing to be unaware of the true extent of CSE in their area. It is vital that all partners work closely together to develop and implement robust, coordinated activity at all stages of a child's journey, from identification to protection to treatment. Councils and their partners must use evidence and information to understand what is happening locally, develop a strategic response, support victims and facilitate police and other agencies' disruption activities and prosecutions.
6. Recent events have shown that all areas need to be prepared to respond to this challenge effectively, and there are many good examples of effective work to be found around the country for local government to share and learn from.
7. The report on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham was published in August 2014, generating national interest in Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Whilst the report estimated that 1,400 young people within Rotherham have been the victims of CSE, it was recognised that this was an ongoing problem, not only for Rotherham, but every community. The report particularly highlighted findings and failings within Rotherham Council relating to Officer and Councillors lack of responses, negative attitudes relating to CSE, alongside a culture of denial.
8. Directors of Children's Services within the region are committed to working together to explore areas of existing good practice and also establish where practice can be strengthened in response to the challenge facing the region regarding the sexual exploitation of children and young people.
9. The Chief Executive of Middlesbrough Council and the Corporate Director for People's Services, Redcar and Cleveland Council were nominated as Lead Chief Executive and Lead Director for tackling the sexual exploitation of children in Spring 2015.
10. Since the last meeting of the Regional Chief Executives Group, meetings have taken place with the three Chief Constables in the region (Mrs Cheer – Cleveland, Mr Barton – Durham and Mr Ashman – Northumbria).
11. Operation Sanctuary is an ongoing operation involving Newcastle City Council and Northumbria Police to address exploitation of vulnerable children, young people and adults. A "Lessons learnt from Operation Sanctuary" day was held led by Newcastle City Council and Northumbria Police for Chief Execs, Directors, LSCB Chairs and Lead Members / Portfolio holders with the aim of sharing best practice and reporting on the progress that has been made by Northumbria Police and Newcastle City Council in response to the extensive issues raised within this investigation.
12. As a result, it is proposed that the remit of the regional work is extended to include vulnerable adults.

13. To maximise the possibility of agreeing a future regional work plan including the pro-active engagement of the police and other agencies it is proposed that a North East Tackling Exploitation Board is created. This board would look at the issues facing local authorities and the police in tackling this issue for children, young people and vulnerable adults.
14. A representative has been sought from Northumbria Police, Cleveland Police, Durham Constabulary, NHS England as well as one local authority per Police Force footprint.
15. Confirmed representatives are **Mike Robinson** (Lead Chief Executive), **Sally Robinson** (Lead Director and LA rep for Cleveland Police footprint), **Ewen Weir** (Director – Newcastle - LA rep for the Northumbria Police footprint), **Jacqui Old** (Director – North Tyneside – LA rep for the Northumbria Police footprint), **Carole Payne** (Head of Children’s Social Care, Durham – LA rep for Durham Constabulary footprint), Detective Superintendent **Steve Barron** (Northumbria Police), Detective Superintendent **Paul Goundry** (Durham Police), Detective Superintendent **Alistair Simpson** (Cleveland Police) and **Gill Harris** (Chief Nurse – North, NHS England).
16. The first meeting of the Board is planned for 16 November 2015 and it will seek to:
 - i) Develop a ‘Pledge’ to children, young people and vulnerable adults that defines what we collectively consider is best practice.
17. It is proposed that the next steps following the Board meeting of 16 November 2015 are:
 - i) To conduct a self-assessment of our current processes and procedures, measured against that Pledge.
 - ii) Develop a process of ‘peer challenge’ that identifies how agencies operate, in practice, against the self-assessment. (Possibly led by independent Children Safeguarding Board Chairs).
 - iii) Develop a regional suite of improvement plans to be considered by Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards monitored by the ‘Tackling Exploitation Board’.
18. It is intended that these actions will establish where there is good practice within the region, what transferable initiatives there may be and, ultimately, serve to protect vulnerable people as effectively as possible.
19. It was recognised that it is important to seek the endorsement of regional Chief Executives, regional Directors and the Leaders & Elected Mayors Group for the formation of the Board.

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

20. Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (eg food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes,

affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet or mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child or young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social, economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

What is the Scale of CSE?

21. Recent high profile court cases, local inquiries and reports have raised awareness of the extent of child sexual exploitation. The Independent Inquiry into CSE in Rotherham estimated that 1,400 children had been sexually exploited over the 16 year period covered by the Inquiry. Ann Coffey's report into CSE across Greater Manchester identified 260 'live' investigations into CSE in June 2014, with 14,712 recorded episodes of children missing from home and care between January and September 2014.
22. The Office of the Children's Commissioner's two year Inquiry into CSE found that a total of 2,409 children were known to be victims of CSE by gangs and groups between August 2010 and October 2011; the equivalent of every pupil in three medium sized secondary schools. It is generally agreed that these figures are an under estimate. With each new inquiry that is published society is becoming more aware about the extent of CSE and the scale of this horrific form of abuse in our communities.
23. A number of 'live' investigations are ongoing across the Cleveland Police area and a Strategic Partnership Group of Directors, senior police officers and LSCB Chairs receive briefing updates on a periodic basis to ensure that appropriate agency support can be provided as required.

Why do Councillors need to be Aware?

24. CSE has a devastating impact on children, young people and their families. It should be a concern for everyone. CSE is largely a hidden crime, and raising awareness of this type of abuse is essential to preventing it or stopping it early when it does happen.
25. Councils play a crucial, statutory role in safeguarding children, including tackling child sexual exploitation. However, they cannot do this alone; it needs the cooperation of the wider community and our partner agencies. Councils can use their links with police, schools, health professionals, and community and faith groups to highlight the signs and ensure people know where to turn if they have concerns. Child sexual exploitation is a difficult and unpleasant subject to discuss, but having these conversations is crucial to ensuring the extent of the problem is understood and that interventions are as effective as they can possibly be.

Statutory Responsibilities

26. The statutory responsibilities of local agencies, including Councils, are set out in the 2009 supplementary guidance on CSE. The 2011 National Action Plan further clarifies these, and also brings together a range of commitments from national and local partners. Statutory requirements from these documents include:

- Mechanisms should be in place to collect prevalence and monitor cases of CSE
- CSE is assumed to be present, and is prioritised if believed to be a significant issue
- Preventative activity should be put in place, helping those being exploited and targeting perpetrators
- Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) should have specific local procedures to cover CSE (eg a strategy)
- Children and young people should be involved in the drafting of CSE strategies
- Assess and identify patterns of exploitation (problem profiling) and amend interventions to reflect the local picture
- Training should include warning signs of CSE, how to report concerns, how to safeguard and how to prevent
- Training should also include advice on evidence gathering
- Awareness raising activities should be aimed at young people and the general public, including where to obtain help and how to report.
- LSCB sub groups should be established to lead on CSE, with close links to other groups (eg trafficking, missing children)
- LSCBs should ensure there is a lead person in each organisation to implement guidance.
- Arrangements should be in place for either a dedicated coordinator or co-located team
- Arrangements should be in place for cross border working across neighbouring local authority areas
- There should be periodic audits of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

Council Responsibilities, Tools and Powers available to Tackle CSE

27. The Council has the following tools and powers available to tackle CSE:

- Civil Injunctions
- Closure Orders associated with Nuisance and Disorder
- High Court Injunctions to stop predatory men contacting children and exclude individuals from specific places
- Section 222, Local Government Act 72, injunction for public nuisance
- Enforcement of regulatory functions – taxis, takeaways etc.
- Enforcement of planning powers
- Multi-agency disruption strategies
- Robust multi-agency perpetrator management processes
- Robust prosecution policy
- Creative use of related powers, e.g. Mental Capacity Act

28. Councillors have a significant role to play within their communities and wards. They sit on Boards or are members of groups which could be used to spread the message about CSE and particularly address some of the emerging myths. Councillors could also provide intelligence for the police by submitting information to the police about any aspects of CSE which may concern them relating to premises, vehicles and locations. There is a balance that needs to be achieved in relation to raising awareness and vigilance, but at the same time ensuring that panic is avoided.

LOCAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS CSE

Tees Strategic VEMT Group

29. This group is chaired by a Senior Officer from Cleveland Police and is an amalgamation of representatives from the four Tees LSCBs (Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees). The Boards agreed to address the issues of vulnerable, exploited, missing or trafficked children through the Tees Strategic VEMT Group which meets on a quarterly basis. This group was established to provide strategic direction across Tees for professionals working with children and young people who may be at risk of or vulnerable to exploitation, or who by way of going missing, may be at risk.

MSCB Strategic VEMT Group

30. The overall purpose of the MSCB (Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Board) Strategic VEMT Group is to ensure a multi-agency response to sharing information, monitoring risk and analysing data for children and young people who may be vulnerable, exploited, missing or trafficked. This group reports to the Tees Strategic VEMT Group and the MSCB on a regular basis, as the chair is a member of both forums. The group also oversees the work undertaken by the MSCB VEMT Practitioners Group (MSCB VPG); this is an operational group that addresses risk and provides actions to support vulnerable children and young people.

MSCB VEMT Practitioners Group

31. The VEMT Practitioners Group (VPG) looks to support/enhance frontline practitioners in their role of supporting the child/young person by formulating an action plan, which can support an existing plan for the child/young person whether they are subject to child in need, child protection or looked after (either voluntarily or subject to a care order). The group is based upon partnership problem solving and ensuring positive outcomes for children and young people. In Middlesbrough the VPG is an amalgamation of two pre-existing groups that considered additional support for children/young people at risk of sexual exploitation (previously known as MSCB Practitioners Group, Victims) and children and young people who are 'Running/Missing from Home/Care' (previously known as RMHC). The amalgamated group continues to discuss and support children/young people who are identified as vulnerable.

32. At the time of writing this report, there are currently 21 young people who have been assessed as being high risk within Middlesbrough, including 6 young people who are regularly missing from home.

Taxi Licensing

33. In March 2015, Officers from the North East Strategic Licensing Group, a group comprising representatives from the region's twelve local authorities, met with officers from Northumberland, Cleveland and Durham Police to look at ways to raise awareness of CSE issues within the taxi trade and improving passenger safety. The group has given a commitment to jointly investigate a number of proposals aimed at improving standards across the region.
34. A working group has been established to explore regional working on licensing and CSE work is also underway in the Tees Valley to establish a package of measures to address the issues in a shorter timescale. These measures involve:-
- All Tees Valley Authorities introducing CSE training as a mandatory requirement for all new applicants for taxi driver licences. All existing drivers seeking to renew their licence will be required to undertake the same training within a 12 month period. It is felt that making this a mandatory requirement will avoid the problems encountered by other Authorities which introduced training on a voluntary basis and encountered low driver take-up. Mandatory application of this training condition will require a formal change to the Taxi Licensing Policy.
 - The training will be in the form of a bespoke web-based package for the taxi trade, incorporating a test element to ensure that drivers understand the content and their responsibilities. The web-based training package will be produced in partnership with Barnardo's, with input from a working group made up of officers from Licensing, Child Protection and Adult Vulnerability from across the Tees Valley Authorities. It is estimated that the training package will be ready for implementation by the end of 2015.

Signs of Safety

35. It is proposed that Wellbeing Care and Learning, Safeguarding and Children's Care adopt the 'Signs of Safety' framework. It is a tool which is intended to assist practitioners with risk assessment and safety planning in child protection cases. Whilst it is primarily aimed at Social Workers, it will be rolled out to a wider group of professionals to share essential messages around identification and appropriate responses.

Awareness Raising

36. The VEMT has led two awareness raising campaigns:

i) Say Something if you See Something

This was a campaign aimed at licensed premises, hotels, bed and breakfast accommodation and taxi drivers to promote awareness of CSE and asking businesses to report suspicious behaviour which may lead to or involve exploitation of children and young people.

ii) In the Wrong Hands

This campaign was developed to raise awareness of CSE and encourage the public to report worrying behaviour or incidents to the police.

Key Lines of Enquiry for all Councillors

37. Evidence indicates that CSE is prevalent across the country, occurring in both rural and urban areas with perpetrators and victims coming from all social and ethnic backgrounds. All Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and Councils should assume it is happening in their area, unless there is clear evidence to the contrary.¹
38. The experiences of Rotherham Council demonstrates the key role that the Leader/Mayor of the Council, the lead member for children's services, scrutiny committees and all councillors have in questioning and challenging responses to CSE in their local area.
39. The 2014 Communities and Local Government (CLG) Select Committee report, "CSE in Rotherham: Some Issues for Local Government"², also highlights the vital role of scrutiny in challenging officers and the executive when there is evidence of a problem which the council has failed to address. All councillors should ask questions and ensure that plans are in place to raise awareness of CSE, understand what is happening, develop a strategic response, and support victims of exploitation and help to facilitate policing and prosecutions.
40. There are 8 key questions for Councillors to ask of officers, the LSCB or other agencies. The list is not intended to be exhaustive, but aims to provide prompts to enable discussions about how the issue is being addressed locally.

i) What is the extent and profile of CSE in our local area? How do we know?

It is impossible to develop an effective response to CSE without a detailed understanding of the scale and nature of the problem locally. Learning from national studies can be a useful aid, but cannot substitute for an in-depth understanding of local trends. The LSCB should have a clear process in place for mapping the extent and profile of CSE in its area. The mapping process

¹ Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation 2009, Statutory Guidance www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-from-sexual-exploitation-supplementary-guidance

² The Communities and Local Government Committee, (2014). Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham: Some Issues for Local Government. www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmcomloc/648/648.pdf

should include a profile of children identified as at risk, a profile of offenders and an understanding of 'hotspots' or vulnerable locations.

ii) Do we have a local CSE strategy and action plan? Are these multi-agency and how is progress monitored? How does this link to other plans and strategies?

The need for local areas to have appropriate policies and procedures to tackle CSE is a common theme of national research and guidance. These must be specifically tailored to the needs of the local, and should provide a framework that allows all agencies (including the voluntary sector) to identify their role and understand how others will contribute to tackling CSE locally.

It is not enough to simply have a suite of plans in place – it is vital that they are working effectively, have full buy in from all agencies and are regularly reviewed and updated. Elected Members should consider what mechanisms are in place to ensure that strategies are actually implemented in practice, and how their impact is evaluated. This is where council scrutiny panels or committees can play an important role in questioning strategies, plans and progress. It is also important to consider the extent to which CSE features in other council plans and strategies, and those of partner agencies. Is there sufficient join up with the overall CSE action plan and strategy?

iii) How effective is the Local Safeguarding Children Board? Are all agencies engaged at a senior level, and is CSE an area for priority focus?

CSE cannot be tackled by one agency operating alone. They will hold only partial knowledge of the issues, and will be unable to deliver anything more than a partial response. Effective responses must be built on a holistic understanding of the problem, which will only come through a shared commitment to partnership working. A multi-agency response does not develop naturally, it must be systematically embedded at all levels and fully integrated through multi agency forums and work plans.

The LSCB is the key body for fostering and co-ordinating this multi-agency work, and an ineffective LSCB will have a major impact on the extent to which a local area is able to tackle CSE in a co-ordinated way. This relies on full engagement from all partners at a senior level and elected members should question the extent to which this is the case in their local area. Do key partners such as the police and health provide consistent, high level representation at LSCB meetings, or do they regularly send junior substitutes? Statutory guidance, for example, is clear that the chief officer of police must be included on the LSCB. Is this the case locally, and how often do they attend? How strong is voluntary sector engagement? To what extent are partners involved in the Board's wider work, chairing sub-groups or taking actions. Is this a true partnership, or does one agency dominate proceedings?

Most LSCBs will also have a CSE sub-group of the main Board, or a sub-group that considers CSE as part of a wider remit – perhaps linked to missing children or trafficking. Neither approach is preferable to the other, but it is important that the LSCB is able to demonstrate that the sub-group's work is both focused and effective. The CSE sub-group should provide the LSCB with regular updates on actions taken and impact. In Middlesbrough these arrangements are provided by the Tees VEMT.

iv) Does the relevant scrutiny panel receive the LSCB's annual report and use this to challenge local priorities and outcomes?

Council scrutiny processes are a vital tool in holding the local partnership to account and the annual report of the LSCB is a key document to consider when assessing the effectiveness of local work to tackle CSE. Reports should be outcomes focused, with a clear assessment of progress over the past year and identification of key priorities for the year ahead. These should be considered carefully by scrutiny members and the panel should hold the Independent LSCB Chair to account for delivery.

v) What other multi-agency forums exist to facilitate joint working?

At an operational level, it is important to consider what other multi-agency forums are in place to encourage a holistic, co-ordinated response. Some areas have implemented regular multi-agency practitioner meetings with a specific focus on CSE, which can be a good way to keep a focus on local trends and profiles of both victims and offenders. Many areas have also introduced multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASH) or similar, which co-locate partner agencies to encourage quicker and more effective information sharing from the point that a referral is received.

No individual system or structure should be seen as a silver bullet solution to improving responses on CSE, but it is important that members understand how these processes are contributing to wider strategic objectives and consider the impact that they have on local practice.

vi) How is CSE incorporated into local training programmes and who is able to access this training? Does this include training for a wider cohort than just those professionals working directly with children and young people, such as licensing officers, environmental health officers or elected members? Are outcomes measured and are changes made as a result?

Tackling CSE requires all partners to understand how to identify children at risk, respond appropriately when concerns arise, and ultimately ensure that children are protected. A sustained programme of single and multi-agency training is central to this and it is vital that knowledge is comprehensively disseminated across all channels of identification and response.

Local areas should think creatively about who should access this training, rather than simply focusing on social workers, teachers, health staff or police officers who work directly with children. Licensing officers, for example, will benefit from a working understanding of CSE risks when considering licensing applications; environmental health officers may identify potential victims of CSE when inspecting takeaway outlets; and some councils have begun to offer CSE training to all elected members. This is not to imply that this is the right approach for all areas, but there should be a clear understanding of the rationale behind offering (or not offering) training to specific groups.

The LSCB should have oversight of the local training offer and members should question how this is operating in practice. Do all partners attend multi-agency training sessions, or is one agency conspicuously absent? Importantly, is there a robust mechanism in place for monitoring the outcomes of local CSE training beyond simply counting who attends each session? What has changed as a result?

vii) Is an awareness raising programme in place for children, families and the wider community? Is this reaching the right people?

As with any form of child abuse, statutory services cannot tackle CSE without the support of the wider community. Social workers and police officers can only respond to issues that they are aware of and while professionals such as teachers and health workers have a key role to play in identifying children at risk; it is within families and the wider community that many of the key risk indicators will first come to light. It is vital that everyone is aware of the signs of CSE and knows how to refer concerns through to the relevant agency. A co-ordinated awareness raising campaign is an essential means to achieving this.

Any awareness raising programme must be informed by a full understanding of the local context around CSE and should be effectively targeted to take account of local profiles of victims and offenders. In some areas, this may involve a concerted effort to engage with particular ethnic groups; in others it may involve a targeted approach in particular wards. Members should question which groups, if any, are the particular focus for awareness raising around CSE and the rationale behind this, and whether members can facilitate in engaging with particular communities.

Parents and carers should be central to an awareness raising programme and should be equipped to understand the key risk factors that their children may exhibit. Awareness raising must also be targeted at children and young people themselves, most often through schools, to ensure they have a full understanding of the risk factors and the support available to them.

viii) What support is available to current, potential and historic victims of CSE?

An effective awareness raising campaign will naturally increase the number of children and young people identified as potential or actual victims of CSE, and

may also encourage adults who were abused as children to come forward for support. It is vital that sufficient services are in place to provide for the needs of these groups and members should question what is currently available – and whether there is sufficient capacity to meet expected demand.

CSE can have a devastating impact on a child's life and victims may present with extremely complex needs. Services must be in place to meet these needs and may include:

- Individual therapeutic work
- Group based therapeutic work
- Family counselling
- Youth work support
- Education, training and employment support
- Sexual health and relationship education
- Drug and alcohol support
- Supported placements

This list is not exhaustive.

Child Sexual Exploitation: Myths vs Reality

41. Recent media attention on specific cases of CSE has led to sector wide concerns that stereotypes and myths about this crime could lead to a narrow focus on one particular form of CSE. The danger of this is that attention can be diverted from crimes which do not appear to match that model, with the risk of victims not receiving the help they need.
42. There are many myths surrounding CSE and the examples provided in **Appendix 1** are taken from the interim report of the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) Inquiry into CSE in Gangs and Groups.³

PROPOSALS

43. Councillors acknowledge their responsibilities and demonstrate that they continue to take CSE seriously.
44. Councillors endorse and support the regional initiative to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation via the Tees VEMT Strategy and the Regional Chief Executives' initiative to tackle Child Sexual Abuse.
45. Councillors acknowledge their responsibilities to tackle CSE within the community and ensure there is sufficient capacity within the Council to address any gaps in services and provision.

³ The myths in this report were put together for a 2013 briefing in conjunction with the NWG Network: Tackling CSE and the Office of the Children's Commissioner. Berelowitz, S. et al (2012) "I Thought I was the Only One. The Only One in the World" The Office of the Children's Commissioner Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation In Gangs and Groups Interim Report. http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_636

46. Councillors ensure that the Council uses its full range of powers to reduce and prevent CSE in Middlesbrough.
47. Councillors support further training and regular briefings for elected members on CSE in Middlesbrough.
48. Councillors support the roll out of the assessment process and awareness raising related to Signs of Safety.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

49. An Impact Assessment is not required as this report does not request a decision. The report is being provided for information and explains the responsibilities of members and officers.

OPTION APPRAISAL

Option 1 – Do Nothing

50. This is not an option; central government has clear expectations that local Councils will address Child Sexual Exploitation within their communities.

Option 2 – No Change

51. The Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel continues to examine this issue and provide a challenge to the Council and its partner agencies.

Option 3

52. Middlesbrough Council acknowledges that there is a need to build on the systems and processes that have been introduced across Tees and within the town to address CSE and ensure Middlesbrough is a safer place for vulnerable children and young people, and it will use all the powers at its disposal to disrupt perpetrators of CSE.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

53. It is not anticipated that there will be any immediate financial considerations. It is possible that a more interventionist and radical approach to tackling CSE may require further resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

54. The Council adopts the approach described in Option 3 and requests six monthly updates to the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel, and an Annual Report to Council in 12 months time.

REASONS

55. The recommendation provides a platform to develop a robust response to CSE within Middlesbrough which will ensure Councillors are aware of the prevalence of CSE and the measures that are being taken to address vulnerability and disrupt perpetrators.

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