

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 9 (b)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

29 MARCH 2016

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. Since the last report to OSB, the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel have met on one occasion on the 14 March 2016.
3. At that meeting, the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Children's Care was in attendance to provide an update to the panel on the topic of Child Sexual Exploitation. The panel was advised that between October 2015 and December 2016 there were 10 young people assessed as being high risk of CSE within Middlesbrough; 1 young person recorded nationally as trafficked, 12 young people classed as regularly missing from home or care and 17 young people assessed as vulnerable.
4. The Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) Practitioner Group (VPG) discussed 16 perpetrators or suspected perpetrators of CSE in Middlesbrough.
5. The panel was informed that the VPG is also witnessing higher levels of online 'sexting' (i.e. the sending of self-generated indecent images). The panel is keen to assess the problem profile in Middlesbrough in respect of this issue. A briefing paper and written evidence provided by the Council's Risk and Reduction Manager on this particular issue will be considered by the panel at its April 2016 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

6. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report and the updated position.

**COUNCILLOR FRANCES MCINTYRE
CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

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