

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Child Exploitation Task and Finish Group – Scoping Document

Title of review	Child Exploitation Task and Finish Group
Scope	
Reason for review	<p>The work programme of the children and young people scrutiny committee has identified the issue of child exploitation as a topic to be undertaken by a task and finish group. The review into child exploitation will cover the issues of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child criminal exploitation (CCE).</p> <p>This topic has been identified by the scrutiny committee as a priority over concerns regarding county lines activity, as a form of child criminal exploitation, in the West Midlands. Furthermore it is felt to be a critical element of the work of the committee to scrutinise data relating to child sexual exploitation and examine initiatives/projects to address its incidence in Herefordshire.</p>
Links to the corporate plan	<p>The review contributes to the following objectives contained in the Herefordshire corporate plan and other key plans and strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep children and young people safe and give them a great start in life; and • Secure better series, quality of life and value for money.
Summary of the review and terms of reference	<p>Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive relevant data on the incidence of Child Exploitation in Herefordshire. • To learn from relevant agencies what projects and initiatives have been established to address Child Exploitation. • To assess partnership and joint working between agencies to address Child Exploitation. • To consider the introduction of the Child Exploitation disruption toolkit and examine its effectiveness. <p>The review will ensure that a focus is retained on the experience of children and young people to understand how work undertaken by stakeholders is focused on safeguarding and supporting them.</p>
	<p>Terms of Reference:</p> <p>The task and finish group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an understanding of the range of child criminal exploitation and the latest data and statistics in Herefordshire and comparable data from other areas. (Meeting One) • Develop an understanding of the different forms of child sexual exploitation and the latest data and statistics in Herefordshire. (Meeting One)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about legislative responsibilities and statutory guidance relating to child exploitation including the Child exploitation disruption toolkit (Meeting One) • Learn about the current CSE projects and initiatives at relevant local agencies in Herefordshire to combat Child Exploitation and receive performance measures detailing their effectiveness. (Meeting Two) • Learn about the current CCE projects and initiatives at relevant local agencies in Herefordshire to combat Child Exploitation and receive performance measures detailing their effectiveness. (Meeting Two) • Develop an understanding of the joint working between local agencies in Herefordshire and assess the effectiveness of partnership working. (Meeting Two) • To consider how the latest guidance from central government, <i>the child exploitation disruption toolkit</i>, is being applied by local agencies and assess its effectiveness. (Meeting Two) • To consider and agree recommendations to the children and young people scrutiny committee. (Meeting Three) <p>Membership (to be determined):</p> <p>Consideration could be given of the co-option of a representative of a children’s charity e.g. Children’s Society/NSPCC/Barnardos. Such a co-optee would provide specialist knowledge and expertise to the Group’s consideration of Child Exploitation.</p> <p>Group Leaders have been sent a summary of the task and finish group and have been asked to forward any expressions of interest from members. The membership will be agreed at the committee meeting on 16 September. Due to the community safety element of the work of this task and finish group it is proposed that a representative of the general scrutiny committee forms part of the membership.</p>
What will NOT be included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The examination of any individual cases concerning Child Exploitation. However anonymised case studies might assist the Group in completing the review.
Potential outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the current statistics and data in respect of Child Exploitation; • Assurance that partnership working between local agencies is effective and there are no gaps in the provision of services; • Assurance that appropriate projects and initiatives are in place at local agencies to address Child Exploitation and they are effective; and • Assurance that the latest guidance from Government is being applied and is effective in combatting Child Exploitation.
Key Questions	<p>To consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Child Sexual Exploitation and what is the latest data of incidence in Herefordshire; • What is Child Criminal Exploitation and what is the latest data of incidence in Herefordshire;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which local organisations and agencies have a role to play in combatting Child Exploitation and how do they work in partnership; • What projects/initiatives are currently in progress at local agencies focused on combatting Child Exploitation; • What preventative work is being undertaken to combat Child Exploitation; • How are agencies working with other local areas to understand patterns/trends and work on preventative measures; • How are local agencies seeking to implement the latest government guidance; and • Is the government's latest guidance an effective tool to combat Child Exploitation?
Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet member children and families Cabinet member housing, regulatory services and community safety
Key stakeholders / Consultees	Internal – Children's safeguarding – The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) External – West Mercia Police – Youth Offending Service – Community Safety Partnership – Local Safeguarding Children's Board (or its successor) – Children's Charities (E.g. Children's Society/NSPCC/Barnardos)
Potential witnesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from children's safeguarding, Herefordshire Council, to include the MASH. • West Mercia Police • The Youth Offending Service • Safeguarding Partners Board • Children's Charities (children's charities will be asked to present the voice of the child to the task and finish group) • Community safety partnership
Research Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends and statistics relating to Child Exploitation in Herefordshire; • Responsibilities of local agencies in respect of Child Exploitation; • Latest reports concerning Child Exploitation e.g. Counting Lives – Children's Society Report – July 2019; and • Latest guidance from government including the Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit.
Potential Visits	A site visit to the MASH may prove to be a useful exercise for the Group.
Publicity Requirements	Following the conclusion of the task Report back to the children and young people scrutiny committee.

Outline Timetable (to be determined): (following decision by the children and young people scrutiny committee to commission the Review)	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Confirm approach, Terms of Reference, programme of consultation/research/provisional witnesses/meeting dates	Committee meeting – 16 September 2019
Meeting One	November 2019
Meeting Two	November 2019
Meeting Three	December 2019
Present final report to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	January 2019

Group Members	
Chair	<i>Tbc</i>
Support Members	<i>Tbc</i>
Co-optees	<i>Tbc</i>
Support Officers	J Coleman M Evans