1. Meeting: Cabinet

2. Date: Wednesday, 18th December, 2013

3. Title: Feedback on reports into CSE:
The Barnardo’s Rotherham Practice Review Report
The HMIC Report into South Yorkshire Police’s Response to Child Sexual Exploitation

4. Directorate: Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

This report describes the two recent reports into CSE in Rotherham; and the work which will be carried out in response to them by all partner agencies engaged in CSE work in the borough and across South Yorkshire.

6. Recommendations

For Cabinet to note the reports and the responses to them.
7. Proposals and Details

(a) The Barnardo’s Rotherham Practice Review Report

In the summer of 2013, the local authority commissioned Barnardo’s to carry out a practice review into the current work in the Borough on Child Sexual Exploitation. The review was scoped in July and August, and took place in September. The report was published by RMBC and Barnardo’s on 11th December 2013. Appendix A is the full Barnardo’s report.

The review included a desktop review, followed by interviews with key professionals and council members, including an on-site visit to Maltby Public Protection Unit where the CSE team is based.

The review of current practice, which was commissioned as part of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board action plan, found positive examples of how agencies are working well together to tackle CSE. They were commended for their “transparency, openness and honesty” throughout the review process.

Good practice identified in the review report includes:­-

- A specialist, co-located multi-agency team dedicated to tackling CSE with those young people at greatest risk;
- Leadership through so-called Gold and Silver CSE groups driving a clear strategy and plan of action;
- A robust training strategy for key professionals and frontline staff, and recognition that this should be rolled out through a “train the trainer” programme and online training packages for the wider workforce;
- Partnership working across wider social networks, including businesses, social landlords and communities.

The review also commended the links between Rotherham Council’s Youth Service and local Protecting Young People Police Officers (PYPPOs), with their combined work in identifying and reducing the numbers of vulnerable people in the community, in schools and identified “hot spot” areas.

It is recommended that this approach is expanded to include links with faith groups, migrant communities and the local business community, including hotels and bed and breakfast accommodation; housing and social landlords; taxis and public transport; takeaways and food outlets, shopping centres and public spaces, pubs and clubs.

The review identified a number of areas for further development, including:­-

- Improved access to the team, including continued use of outreach from the team’s Maltby premises and opportunities for self-referral;
• Developing the network of professionals able to identify and work with young people deemed to be at low and medium risk, and the development of a South Yorkshire-wide risk assessment tool;

• The sharing and analysis of information and intelligence, and the need to progress the appointment of a dedicated police analyst to the co-located team;

• Involving children and young people in the development of approaches to tackling CSE;

• A more co-ordinated approach to communicating through the media with local people and other stakeholders.

Work to address these has started, and Rotherham’s Local Safeguarding Children’s Board will consider the report at its meeting on Friday 13th December and the outcome of the discussions will be presented to Cabinet as a verbal update to this report on 18th December. The response and future developments will also take into account the diagnostic carried out by the Chair of the LSCB which will be subject of discussion at the LSCB meeting on 13th December.

(b) The HMIC Report into South Yorkshire Police’s Response to Child Sexual Exploitation

Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) led inspection of South Yorkshire Police’s response to CSE has been conducted. There was recognition of the considerable efforts being made to improve South Yorkshire Police’s response to victims and potential victims of CSE, however concern was raised about the inconsistent approach across the four Districts.

A number of time specific recommendations have been made and these are being managed through a Force Action Plan.

The following recommendations related directly to Rotherham:-

(i) Immediately fill the vacancy within violent and sexual offenders unit, to reduce potential risk. This has been completed.

(ii) Transport difficulties within the public protection unit should be addressed. This has been addressed.

(iii) Difficulties in sharing information within the CSE team, because of incompatible information and intelligence IT systems should be resolved. Work is in progress to address this issue through appropriate secure email groups.

In addition, the Council will be seeking assurance that SYP have addressed concerns in the HMIC report around workload management; clear objectives for the CSE team in Rotherham and the need for a CSE outcome framework that has safeguarding children at its forefront.
HMIC recognised the current Sheffield model as good practice and it was recommended that other areas follow their model. Further examination has identified the key difference between the Rotherham and Sheffield models being the location of multi-agency teams. Work is being progressed to consider similar arrangements in Rotherham. Appendix B is the full HMIC report.

The findings from the Barnardo’s and HMIC reports will be incorporated into the Rotherham delivery plan. This plan was presented to Members at the Cabinet of 18th September 2013.

The delivery plan will be discussed at the extraordinary RLSCB on the 13th December 2013.

The Sub Group and Silver Tactical group continue to meet every 4 weeks and have good representation from the partnership.

Further progress has been made with the local performance framework and this will be brought to a future RLSCB meeting.

A county wide communications strategy has been agreed across the partnership and this is due to be launched in February 2014.

As reported separately, RMBC has committed to an Independent Inquiry of historic CSE cases and this commenced in November 2013.

8. **Finance**

   The response to the recommendations from both reports will be managed through existing resources.

9. **Risks and Uncertainties**

   Ofsted are bringing in a new framework for inspection which will go live from November this year. There will be a strand of this inspection looking at CSE.

10. **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

    The multi-agency Performance Framework which accompanies the CSE Strategy and Action Plan has been simplified to ensure that accurate, timely information about key aspects of CSE and safeguarding children and young people is collated and used to inform practice. New government guidance on the collection of data relating to CSE is anticipated and will be incorporated in the performance data; which will be presented to members as part of the regular updates on performance. This was covered in the Cabinet Report of 18th September 2013.
11. **Background Papers and Consultation**

- Reports to Cabinet on 28th June and 3rd July
- Members briefing on 4th July.
- LGA publication, June 2013 'How councils are raising awareness of child sexual exploitation'

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