

**To the Chair and Members of the
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

**UPDATE REPORT ON THE DONCASTER SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD
CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) ACTION PLAN**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
<p>Councillor Nuala Fennelly lead Member for Children’s Services</p> <p>Councillor Tony Corden, Support to lead Member for Children’s Services with a focus on Safeguarding.</p>	All	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report informs the Panel about the progress and impact of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board’s (DSCB) CSE Action Plan, which was presented to the Panel at its meeting on December 9th 2014, along with an assurance report by the Independent Chair of DSCB.
2. The report also provides the Panel with information about recent national policy developments and requirements in responding to CSE, following a number of national reports published since January.
3. A copy of the updated CSE Action Plan, along with a short evaluative commentary by the Independent Chair of DSCB is attached as Appendix A.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

4. Not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The Panel is asked to consider and comment on the progress made since December 2014 in the delivery of the DSCB CSE Action Plan.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

- 6. The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the Council’s key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy. This is achieved through making robust recommendations, monitoring performance of Council and external partners and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the borough.

BACKGROUND

- 7. John Harris the independent Chair of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board, presented *Responding to CSE in Doncaster – an Assurance Report* at the meeting of the Panel on 9th December 2014. His report concluded that, although there was significant progress in responding to CSE in Doncaster, there remained a number of areas for improvement: better quality intelligence and performance information about the incidence of CSE; more targeted outreach work with minority ethnic communities; strengthening of management oversight of the multi-agency CSE team; more effective long-term interventions with victims and those at risk; a more strategic approach to protecting looked after children (LAC) at risk of CSE; more robust arrangements for the care and support of children missing from home and care. These areas for development were addressed in short-term action plan, which was considered in detail by the Panel.
- 8. The Panel indicated that it was satisfied by the assurances provided in response to questions and concerns raised by Members, and requested that an update report be presented to the Panel at a future meeting.
- 9. The Independent Chair’s report was considered at a meeting of Full Council on March 3rd 2015. The Council resolved to raise awareness about CSE and work in partnership with other organisations and the wider community to protect children and young people. It requested that regular reports about progress in responding to CSE be made available to elected members.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 10. There are no specific options to consider within this report. It provides an opportunity for the Panel to discuss the assurance report and CSE Action Plan, and to make any recommendations for consideration by DSCB or individual partner agencies in Doncaster with statutory responsibility for safeguarding children and young people from CSE.

IMPACT ON COUNCIL’S KEY OBJECTIVES

	Priority	Implications
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1	<p>We will support a strong economy where businesses can locate, grow and employ local people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy through robust recommendations, monitoring performance of council and external partners services and reviewing issues outside the remit of the council that have an impact on the residents of the borough.</p>
2	<p>We will help people to live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>Responding to CSE is a key aspect of effective safeguarding of children and young people by the council and partner agencies. CSE can have a devastating impact on social integration, economic well-being and life chances of young people. It is also has a profoundly damaging effect on families and communities.</p>
3	<p>We will make Doncaster a better place to live, with cleaner, more sustainable communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
4	<p>We will support all families to thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
5	<p>We will deliver modern value for money services.</p>	
6	<p>We will provide strong leadership and governance, working in partnership.</p>	<p>Responding to CSE is a key area where effective partnership working is required.</p>

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

13. Section 149 Equality Act 2010 contains the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This obliges public authorities, when exercising their functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to:
 - a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct which the Act prohibits;
 - b. Advance equality of opportunity;
 - c. Foster good relations between people who share relevant protected characteristics and those who do not.
14. The relevant protected characteristics under the Equality Act are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The duty also covers marriage and civil partnerships, but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination. The relevant characteristics in to the issues in this report are sex, age and race.
15. The CSE Action Plan includes commitments to more direct and more frequent engagement with women and men from minority ethnic communities on the issue of CSE and other forms of abuse. It also seeks to address the under-reporting of sexual exploitation and abuse in minority ethnic communities.

CONTACT OFFICER AND REPORT AUTHOR

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Background Papers:

Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation in Doncaster – Assurance Report by the Independent Chair of Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board.

Schools, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel, 9th December 2015

Eleanor Brazil
Director, Learning and Opportunities: Children and Young People