

**DRAFT Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Review Working Group of Multi-Agency Working
Against Child Sexual Exploitation**

January 2015

1.0 Background

It was agreed at the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 4 November 2014 that a working-group would carry out a review on Child Sexual Exploitation.

2.0 Membership of Sub Group

Cllr Kevin Guy (Chair)

Cllr Gill Green

Cllr Chris Turley

Cllr Roy Scammell

Mel Ward

If the Scrutiny Committee identifies any particular knowledge or skills gaps in the membership of the Review Group which could be filled by a co-opted member, parties with relevant skills or experience may be invited to participate in the Review as time limited co-optees for the duration of the review. Time-limited co-opted members will not have voting rights.

3.0 Chairing

Chair of CSE Review Working Group is the Chair of the CYP Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair of a Scrutiny Committee would usually have a casting vote if there is a difference of views within the Committee. As the Members of the working group aim to work through a process of consensus, the Chair's casting vote will be waived.

4.0 Quorum

Under most circumstances it is expected that there will be a minimum of two members at any working group meeting. However, there may be occasions where it is appropriate for one member of the working group to receive evidence accompanied by a Scrutiny Officer.

5.0 Political Balance

The Working Group is not required to be politically balanced, as the Group's findings and report will be considered and approved at a formal meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee which is politically balanced.

6.0 Scope

The focus of this Scrutiny Review is:

"How are organisations in Telford and Wrekin working together to prevent CSE, protect and support the victims and their families and prosecute perpetrators?"

Lines of inquiry

- How well have organisations implemented lessons learned from Operation Chalice and contributed to the development and implementation of the CSE support and protection pathway?
- How well are organisations responding to the findings and recommendations of national reviews and inquiries including the Jay Report (July 2014), Coffey Report (October 2014), DCLG Select Committee report (November 2014) and Ofsted Report (November 2014).

The Terms of Reference for this review will be published for public comment during January 2015. The Committee will consider the comments received and may amend the Terms of Reference for the Review or refer issues to the relevant organisation to respond.

7.0 Powers

The Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is the main mechanism by which Scrutiny members scrutinise and monitor the planning and performance of the Council's services to children and young people, and the Council's Corporate Parenting role. The Committee may also scrutinise the services of partner organisations in accordance with national legislation. All partner organisations included in this Review have agreed to participate on the same voluntary basis. However, the Council's Scrutiny Committees do have some legislative powers to scrutinise partners as follows:-

- The Police and Justice Act 2006 provides powers for scrutiny committees to investigate work being undertaken by Community Safety Partnerships (known locally as the Safer, Stronger Communities Partnership) as a whole rather than a power to scrutinise individual partners (eg the Police). Scrutiny of the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership is exercised by Scrutiny Management Board.
- Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Health and Adult Social Care Committee scrutinises and monitors the planning and performance of the Council's adult social care services and NHS services

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Working Group established to carry out the review will invite partner organisations to participate in the review on a voluntary basis.

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) endorse these terms of reference and all the partners commit to supporting this review. The LSCB agrees to co-ordinate the joint or individual organisational responses to the Scrutiny Committees recommendations. (Subject to approval of the LSCB.)

8.0 Timescales and Ways of Working

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will agree the terms of reference for this review having considered the comments from partner organisations and the public. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will receive evidence from partner organisations at Inquiry Day(s) to be held in February / March 2015. It is anticipated that the review will conclude in February 2016. The Committee may decide to publish an interim report if there are recommendations the Committee will want to make before the review has concluded.

The Working Group and the full Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee will work through consensus for the purposes of this Review. Where there are differing views within the Working Group these will be reflected in the public report.

The Working Group will follow the Centre for Public Scrutiny principles of good scrutiny when undertaking this review:

- Providing a "critical friend" challenge;
- Reflecting the voice and concerns of the public;
- Taking the lead and owning the scrutiny process; and
- Making an impact on the delivery of public service

The Inquiry Day(s) in February / March 2015 will be held as public Committee Meetings. The following organisational representatives will be invited:

- Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Telford & Wrekin Council
- Director of Children and Family Services, Telford & Wrekin Council
- Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding & Specialist Services, Telford and Wrekin Council
- Director of Public Health, Telford & Wrekin Council
- Chairman, Local Safeguarding Children's Board
- Chief Constable, West Mercia Police
- West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner
- Primary Heads Forum
- Secondary Heads Forum
- Chair / Chief Operating Officer, CCG
- Chief Executive, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust
- Chief Executive, Shropshire Community Health Trust
- Chief Executive, South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust
- Chief Executive, West Midlands Ambulance Service

- Chair/Chief Executive, Shrop Doc / GP Federation
- Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service

The Committee wants to ensure that children, young people, family and carers are appropriately involved in the review. Prior to the Inquiry Day(s) the Committee will request that the statutory organisations provide information about how they have engaged with children, young people and their families / carers to help shape the services in response to Child Sexual Exploitation.

Following this meeting the Working Group will determine the issues that will be scrutinised in more detail. The evidence for this stage of the review may be sought through meetings, focus groups, questionnaires etc. Members may seek the views of front line staff from partner organisations and local groups. It is at this stage that the views of children and young people may be sought in line with the Council's policies on consultation.

Minutes will be taken as a record of public meetings and a summary of the evidence received at working group meetings will be included in the Scrutiny Report.

9.0 Training

All Members of the working group will undertake the Council's on-line training module on CSE. There will be a follow up training / workshop session for the Members prior to the Committee Meeting.

10.0 Confidentiality and Safeguarding

The Scrutiny Review is not a Serious Case Review or full scale investigation along the lines of the Jay Report. It will not investigate previous or current cases of Child Sexual Exploitation. Any information received in the course of the Review regarding individuals will be managed in confidence in line with the Council's policies. However, if any information is provided about cases or allegations are raised in the course of the Review then those issues will be reported to the appropriate organisation in line with the Council's safeguarding policies.

The Committee recognise that CSE is an issue that directly affects some individuals, families and communities in Telford and Wrekin. The direct voice of victims and their families will not be actively sought again as it is acknowledged that providing evidence is a difficult process and some of their feedback has been included in published reports. However, if victims or their families express a wish to voluntarily engage in the review (either through commenting on the terms of reference or otherwise) that will be welcomed. In such an event, the Committee's final report will be anonymised in order to protect identities.

11.0 Resources for review

In order to devote sufficient time and focus to this Review, Members have agreed to postpone all other items on the Work Programme for Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee. In order to focus limited resources efficiently, the Review Working Group will only select witnesses and activities that are necessary to address the concerns identified in the scope.

The Scrutiny Management Board will oversee the allocation of scrutiny officer resources to the Scrutiny Committees, and will make decisions where there are competing demands for resources.

12.0 Background Publications

New Start - Child Abuse through Sexual Exploitation (CATSE) Learning 2008 – 2013 (October 2013)

LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Learning Overview Report (April 2014)

LSCB Annual Reports

Jay Report (August 2014) (Rotherham)

Coffey Report (October 2014) (Greater Manchester)

National Working Group Network: Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation – Summary of Recommendations (as referred to by the Jay Report) <http://www.nwgnetwork.org/>

Office of the Children’s Commissioner: If Only Someone Had Listened (November 2013) (includes the See Me, Hear Me Framework)

DCLG: Child sexual exploitation in Rotherham: some issues for local government (November 2014)

Ofsted, The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn’t happen here, could it? (November 2014)

DCSF: Supplementary Guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children

HMI Crime Inspection (November 2014)

IRO Report (May 2013) (Rochdale)

Birmingham City Council: We Need to Get it Right: A Health Check into the Council’s Role in Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (December 2014)

West Mercia Consortium Inter Agency Child Protection Procedures (October 2014)
http://westmerciaconsortium.proceduresonline.com/chapters/quick_guide.html