

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)	Date of Meeting:	12 September 2017
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)		26 September 2017
	Cabinet		5 October 2017
Subject:	Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group Final Report	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Report of:	Head of Regulation and Compliance		
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes	Is it included in the Forward Plan?	Yes
Exempt/Confidential	No		

Purpose/Summary

To present formally the final report of the Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group.

Recommendations:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory Compliance and Corporate Services and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)

That Cabinet be recommended to:-

- (1) request Sefton's Members of Parliament to lobby the Home Secretary to strengthen the existing Legislation regarding personal licences to Include:-
 - a) A national data base of personal licences
 - b) A fit and proper persons test
 - c) In particular provision to allow a Council to defer determination of a personal licence where the Individual is currently involved in a Police Child Sexual Exploitation investigation where a licenced premises is central to those investigations;

- (2) request Sefton's Members of Parliament to lobby the Secretary of State for Education to ensure that Care Providers who offer residential

placements for 16 – 18 year old children and young people are inspected by a regulatory body;

- (3) in order to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation issues with Sefton parents, request the Head of Schools and Families to promote the Child Sexual Exploitation e-learning tool with all schools and governing bodies and with a request that school e-newsletters contain a hyperlink to the e-learning tool;
- (4) Rather than the Merseyside local authorities dealing with licensing/CSE issues in a piecemeal or individual way, the Liverpool City Region be contacted to seek the adoption of pan-Merseyside standardised policies particularly bearing in mind the cross boundary nature of taxi/private hire journeys; and
- (5) request that the Head of Regulation and Compliance and the Head of Children's Social Care submit a joint monitoring report to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Resources) and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) to be held on 16 and 30 January 2018 respectively, setting out progress made against each of the recommendations set out in the report and that thereafter, monitoring reports be submitted to the Committees on a six monthly basis.

Cabinet

That:-

- (1) Sefton's Members of Parliament be requested to lobby the Home Secretary to strengthen the existing Legislation regarding personal licences to Include:-
 - a) A national data base of personal licences
 - b) A fit and proper persons test
 - c) In particular provision to allow a Council to defer determination of a personal licence where the Individual is currently involved in a Police Child Sexual Exploitation investigation where a licenced premises is central to those investigations;
- (2) Sefton's Members of Parliament be requested to lobby the Secretary of State for Education to ensure that Care Providers who offer residential placements for 16 – 18 year old children and young people are inspected by a regulatory body;
- (3) in order to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation issues with Sefton parents, the Head of Schools and Families promote the Child Sexual Exploitation e-learning tool with all schools and governing bodies and with a request that school e-newsletters contain a hyperlink to the e-learning tool;
- (4) Rather than the Merseyside local authorities dealing with licensing/CSE

issues in a piecemeal or individual way, the Liverpool City Region be contacted to seek the adoption of pan-Merseyside standardised policies particularly bearing in mind the cross boundary nature of taxi/private hire journeys; and

- (5) the Head of Regulation and Compliance and the Head of Children’s Social Care submit a joint monitoring report to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Resources) and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) to be held on 16 and 30 January 2018 respectively, setting out progress made against each of the recommendations set out in the report and that thereafter, monitoring reports be submitted to the Committees on a six monthly basis.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

The Working Group has made a number of recommendations that require approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services), the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) and the Cabinet.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options were considered. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) established the Working Group to review the topic of Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation and the Working Group has performed this task.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report. The implementation of recommendations that result in efficiency savings and any necessary financial investment will be the subject of separate reports.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report. The implementation of recommendations that result in efficiency savings and any necessary financial investment will be the subject of separate reports.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Financial	
Legal	
Human Resources	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: The terms of reference and objectives of the Working Group were selected to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review the Council’s legal and safeguarding position in relation to the issue of any licence following allegations of child sexual exploitation; • consider whether all relevant pathways, methods of referral are sound with respect to escalation of CSE referrals; • ensure that key sectors are informed, aware of how to raise concerns concerning CSE; and • liaise with the Home Office and lobby for legislative change should the need arise. <p>The Working Group’s recommendations have been formulated with the aim of strengthening the existing Legislation regarding personal licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003; to ensure that Care Providers who offer residential placements for 16 – 18 year old children and young people are inspected by a regulatory body; and to make parents/guardians in Sefton aware of an online learning tool that amongst other things, provides them with a valuable source of information to learn the signs and indicators of when a child might be being exploited. It is anticipated that the recommendations will help to protect the most vulnerable in Sefton.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The Working Group’s recommendation to make parents/guardians in Sefton aware of an online learning tool to learn the signs and indicators of when a child might be being exploited will create the capacity and motivation for parents/guardians to get involved and create an environment in which they are less reliant on public sector support.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment: Not applicable</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener: Not applicable</p>

Impact of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 4727/17/17) has been involved throughout the review work.

The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 4011/17) has been consulted and has no comments to add to the report.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection

Introduction/Background

At its meeting held on 21 June 2016 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) approved the establishment of a Joint Working Group to review the topic of Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation with the following objectives:-

To review the Council’s legal and safeguarding position in relation to the issue of any licence following allegations of child sexual exploitation;

To consider whether all relevant pathways, methods of referral are sound with respect to escalation of CSE referrals;

To ensure that key sectors are informed, aware of how to raise concerns concerning CSE; and

To liaise with the Home Office and lobby for legislative change should the need arise

Accordingly, the Working Group has met on numerous occasions to undertake such review and its Final Report, together with associated recommendations, is attached.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services), the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) and the Cabinet are requested to support the contents of the Working Group Final Report and approve the recommendations contained therein.