

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) **Date of Meeting:** 12 June 2018

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) 10 July 2018

Subject: Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group Final Report – June 2018 **Wards Affected:** (All Wards);

Report of: Head of Regulation and Compliance

Is this a Key Decision? No **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No
Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To provide a monitoring report setting out progress made against each of the recommendations formulated by the Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group and approved by Cabinet.

Recommendation:

That the report setting out progress made against each of the recommendations formulated by the Licensing/Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group and approved by Cabinet be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To comply with a decision of Cabinet to submit monitoring reports on a six monthly basis setting out progress made against each of the recommendations.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options were considered. Cabinet has requested the submission of monitoring reports.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 Regulations 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</p>

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.

Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable

Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable

Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable

Greater income for social investment: Not applicable

Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

Impact of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5141/18) has been consulted and has no comments on the report.

The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 4365/18) is the author of this report

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Contact Officer: Paul Fraser

Tel: 0151 934 2068

Email: paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

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 met on numerous occasions to gather evidence and produced its [Final Report](#) with associated recommendations; and which Cabinet approved at its meeting held on 5 October 2017. The approved recommendations are as follows:-

- (1) Sefton's Members of Parliament be requested to lobby the Home Secretary to strengthen the existing Regulations 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; and
- (4) 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.

In accordance with recommendation (4) above the table attached to the report sets out progress made against each of the recommendations.

PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE LICENSING/CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION WORKIN GROUP

Recommendation	Progress Made
<p>Sefton’s Members of Parliament be requested to lobby the Home Secretary to strengthen the existing Regulations regarding personal licences to Include:-</p> <p>a) A national data base of personal licences</p> <p>b) A fit and proper persons test</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Vicky Buchanan, Head of Children’s Social Care sent a letter to Sefton’s three Members of Parliament on 7 December 2017. A response from Mr. Dowd was received dated 6 February 2018 and which enclosed a letter from Nadhim Zahawi MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families (a copy is attached).</p> <p>The Head of Regulation and Compliance has the following comments in connection with the response from Mr. Zahawi.</p> <p>The Government consider that it would be disproportionately complex, resource intensive and expensive for the Government, local authorities, and magistrates' courts to create and administer a database of all personal licences.</p> <p>Unfortunately the letter from Mr. Zahawi does not make reference to a fit and proper person test</p> <p>The Council is well aware of the provisions that came into force on 6 April 2017 which allows the Council to revoke personal licences. One Licensing Sub-Committee hearing has taken place at which Members revoked a personal licence although the revocation did not involve CSE offences.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Vicky Buchanan, Head of Children’s Social Care sent a letter to Sefton’s three Members of Parliament on 7 December 2017. A response from Mr. Dowd was received dated 6 February 2018 and which enclosed a letter from Nadhim Zahawi MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families</p>

	<p>(a copy is attached).</p> <p>The Government believes that it is better to maintain the flexibility of the current arrangements, while ensuring local authorities are closely held to account for the quality of the accommodation they provide. Ofsted inspections under the Single Inspection Framework cover the quality of accommodation for care leavers, and they challenge poor practice where found. The Government will continue to monitor local authorities' performance in this area, and tackle poor practice where it is highlighted.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Mike McSorley, Head of Schools and Families sent an email to all schools (including academies and independent schools) Heads and Chairs in early December 2017 in accordance with the recommendation of the Working Group.</p> <p>Following contact with schools the Head of Schools and Families can confirm that the following schools have actioned the request as indicated:-</p> <p>Hudson Primary – newsletter St. Luke's Halsall CE Primary - website Sand Dunes Nursery - website St Philip's CE Primary - Website under Parents / local training events Impact - website St Johns Crossens Primary – the link was included as a one-off item on a newsletter Christ the King High School - website Shoreside Primary - website Lander Road Primary - website Summerhill Primary - website St Philips Primary Southport - website The Grange Primary - website</p>

	<p>Woodlands Primary - website under 'Keep Them Safe: Protecting Children from CSE'</p> <p>Range High School - website</p> <p>St Nicholas Primary - newsletter and website</p> <p>St Lukes' Formby Primary - website</p> <p>Hatton Hill Primary - website</p> <p>Melling Primary - website</p> <p>Forefield Community Infant & Nursery School - website</p> <p>Greenbank High School - website</p> <p>Formby High School - website</p> <p>St Oswald's Church of England Primary - website</p> <p>Bedford Primary School - website</p>
--	---