

To: City Executive Board
Council

Date: CEB - 12th March 2014
Council – 14th April

Report of: Executive Director, Community Services

Title of Report: OXFORD CITY COUNCIL'S REPORT ON ITS
INVOLVEMENT IN TACKLING CHILD SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION

Summary and Recommendations

To report on Oxford City Council's involvement in tackling child sexual exploitation.

Report Approved by:

Finance: Emma Burson

Legal: Jeremy Franklin

Policy Framework: Strong and Active Communities

The Committee is recommended to:

- i) Note the report**

Overview of the report

1. A paper on Child Sexual Exploitation in Oxfordshire was considered by the County Council's Cabinet on November 26 2013. Subsequently Local Authority Chief Executives in Oxfordshire agreed to report to their executive committees the role their organisations play in responding to child sexual exploitation.
2. Oxford City Council has played a significant role in the identification of, and development of services to support victims of, child sexual exploitation. From raising the issue back in 2009 to writing and delivering training materials on behalf of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board, the council has been committed to bringing these heinous crimes to the attention of statutory services and the public. The council's recent external review of our Section 11, Children Act 2004 requirements found that the city council, as a second tier local authority, has a robust response to safeguarding.
3. Oxford City Council takes seriously the findings of the Home Affairs Select Committee's second report into child sexual exploitation and response to localised grooming. The report states that district councils have an important role to play in tackling child sexual exploitation, particularly in terms of sharing

information and concerns from frontline workers, and in their strategic roles as housing and licensing authorities.

4. The report of Oxford City Council's involvement in tackling child sexual exploitation provides an overview of the work the council has been involved in, before and after, Operation Bullfinch. The latter led to the conviction of seven men for a variety of sexual offences against children. The report has four sections that describe:
 - Child Sexual Exploitation in Oxfordshire and the national context.
 - Key areas of activity by Oxfordshire County Council and the Oxfordshire Children Safeguarding Board.
 - Oxford City Council's contribution to tackling child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire.
 - Conclusion
5. For further information on the nature, extent and activities in response to child sexual exploitation, the Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet report can be found here:

<http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=3571>

Financial Implications

6. There are no financial implications in the report.

Legal Implications

7. There are no legal implications in the report.

Climate Change/environmental impact

8. There is no significant climate-change or environmental impact issues related to this report.

Equalities Impact Screening

9. An Equalities Impact Screening assessment is contained within the CEB report elsewhere on this agenda; Children and Young People's Plan 2014-17 (as the overarching Children's Plan for the Council).

Recommendations

10. The Committee is recommended to:
 - i. Note the report.

Name and contact details of report author:
Richard Adams
Environmental Protection Service Manager

Appendix One: Report: Oxford City Council's involvement in tackling child sexual exploitation