

To: Cabinet
Date: 17 April 2024
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Adult Exploitation

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Lucy Pegg, Scrutiny Committee Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Mark Lygo, Cabinet Member for Safer and Inclusive Communities
Corporate Priority:	Support Thriving Communities
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 11 April 2024 to consider a report concerning Adult Exploitation. It was recommended that the Panel consider the report and agree any recommendations.
2. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Mark Lygo (Cabinet Member for Safer and Inclusive Communities), Richard Adams (Community Safety Service Manager) and Nicola Bell (Anti-Slavery Coordinator Oxfordshire) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

Summary and recommendations

3. Cllr Lygo, Cabinet Member for Safer and Inclusive Communities introduced the report, which provided an update on the prevalence of adult exploitation and modern slavery and the range of partnership work being undertaken to address it.
4. The Committee asked a range of questions, including questions relating to the aftermath of brothel closure orders; the prevalence of 'repeat victims' of adult exploitation and modern slavery; concerns about particular groups which may be being exploited and work being done to engage with them; how Oxford compared to other areas nationally in terms of types of exploitation and nationalities of those exploited; local trends which did not match national trends; training; and communications.
5. In particular, the Committee queried whether there was training available for Members in relation to spotting the signs of adult exploitation and modern slavery and how to report it; and similarly whether there was an active social media campaign to raise public awareness.

Recommendation 1: That the Council develops and delivers training for all Members related to spotting the signs of adult exploitation and modern slavery and how to report it.

Recommendation 2: That the Council rolls out a social media campaign related to spotting the signs of adult exploitation and modern slavery and how to report it.

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