

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

2ND SEPTEMBER 2015

**REPORT OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

**Scrutiny Inquiry to Assess Progress in Protecting Children from Sexual
Exploitation in Neath Port Talbot**

Purpose of Report

To inform the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee of the outcome of the One Day Inquiry to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot. The recommendations contained within the main report to be agreed by the Scrutiny Committee.

Background

Members of the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee had received several reports on Safeguarding and undertook an Inquiry to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot. The Inquiry was held outside the main Committee Cycle of meetings and considered information provided by different Council Services and relevant partners in relation to this matter.

The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board has adopted the Bedfordshire University “self-assessment tool” to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation and this formed the basis for the Inquiry.

The attached report provides a summary of the information considered by the inquiry group and makes several recommendations.

Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. An overview of the EIA has been included in this report in summary form only and it is essential that Members read the EIA, which is attached to the report at Appendix 2, for the purposes of the meeting.

There will be a positive or neutral impact on protected characteristics as the recommendations and potential actions will assist with strengthening arrangements and processes that are already in place.

Recommendation

Having given due regard to the EIA it is recommended that:

1. The recommendations contained within the main report are endorsed by the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee.
2. If the recommendations are agreed the Chairman of the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee writes to the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board, Council departments and other agencies to whom recommendations are addressed drawing their attention to the report and requesting that they:
 - a) Provide an indication that they accept the recommendations addressed to them.
 - b) Provide a response to the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee informing them of what actions will be taken and within what timescales.
 - c) Confirm any relevant actions have been included in strategic and business plans for the organisations.
3. If the recommendations are agreed that progress against the recommendations is assessed in six months by the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To strengthen the processes that are in place to protect children and young people from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Report of the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee - A scrutiny inquiry to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation in Neath Port Talbot.
- Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Inquiry Scoping Document

Appendix 3 – University of Bedfordshire Self-Assessment Tool to assess progress in protecting children from sexual exploitation
Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers

None

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COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Scrutiny Inquiry to Assess Progress in Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation in Neath Port Talbot

(a) Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

(b) Sustainability Appraisal

Community Plan Impacts

Economic Prosperity	No impact
Education & Lifelong Learning	Positive
Better Health & Wellbeing	Positive
Environment & Transport	No impact
Crime & Disorder	Positive

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	No impact
Sustainable Development	No impact
Equalities	Positive
Social Inclusion	Positive

(c) Consultation

There has been no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.