

Children & Education Select Committee

Items under consideration:

Surrey Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2013-2014
Surrey County Council Safeguarding Unit Report

Date Considered: 27 November 2014

- 1 The Children & Education Select Committee considered the annual report of the Surrey Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) and the report of the Council's Safeguarding Unit. Copies of these reports are available in the [agenda papers](#)¹ for the Committee meeting.
- 2 The Committee heard from witnesses on a range of matters connected to safeguarding and how the Council works with its partners to protect children and young people from harm. In particular, the Committee noted the following:
 - Recent events in Rotherham and other local areas in the country have led to an increased awareness of the presence and impact of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The SSCB has also had CSE as one of its four targeted priorities since 2011.
 - The role of different partners in identifying those at risk of CSE, and how a multi-agency approach is required to reduce this risk, protect those affected by CSE and prosecute those who seek to exploit children and young people. In connection to this, the Committee discussed the role of district and borough councils and Surrey Police in working to educate and support local communities, and reduce the risk of CSE.
 - The value of one to one support and relationship building between professionals and children and young people at risk of CSE, in order to ensure they feel able to share concerns and are adequately supported and protected from harm. In particular, the Committee discussed the role of the Youth Support Service in supporting vulnerable young people.
- 3 The Committee supports the work of the Safeguarding Unit in promoting understanding and risk assessment in relation to CSE, and in the development of support services for children and young people deemed to be at risk. It recommends:

¹ Children and Education Select Committee. 'Surrey Safeguarding Unit Report'. 27 November 2014

<http://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=335&MId=3638&Ver=4>

(Accessed 27 November 2014)

- That Surrey County Council actively engages with District and Borough councils and Surrey Police to consider how the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation can be reduced through regulatory licensing, in particular taxi licensing and in respect of activities described as "Licensable Activities" by the Licensing Act 2003.

The Committee requests that an update on the progress of this work is brought to a meeting in six months time. It further recommends:

- That, given the crucial work of the Youth Support Service and Children's Services in supporting young people and children at risk of CSE and in reducing the risk of CSE, any future strategy and financial planning by Cabinet ensures that both services are suitably resourced to address CSE and safeguarding in Surrey.

Dr Zully Grant-Duff
Chairman of the Children & Education Select Committee