

## Children and Education Select Committee

### Item under Consideration:

Responses from the Cabinet to issues referred by the Select Committee

**Date considered:** 26 January 2015

### Areas of Scrutiny:

Surrey Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2013-2014

Surrey County Council Safeguarding Unit Report

(Considered by the Committee on 27 November 2014)

1. The Children and Education Select Committee noted the responses provided at the Cabinet meeting on 16 December 2015. With regards to the response to the first recommendation, the Committee emphasized the need to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) amongst Surrey's districts and boroughs authorities and communities, at both strategic and operational level, in order to protect children and young people from the risk of harm. The Committee is of the view that whilst the response from the Cabinet Member for Children and Families covered operational aspects, it did not address the strategic aspects of the Council's work with districts and boroughs.
2. Members also noted the response did not address the second recommendation made in connection with CSE.
3. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families drew the Committee's attention to the thematic report on CSE, *The Sexual Exploitation of Children: It Couldn't Happen Here, Could It?* (Ofsted, November 2014). It was highlighted that it was an area where all Local Authorities faced challenges, and that the report had set out a number of key recommendations for tackling CSE. The Committee was informed that the Corporate Parenting Board had requested a report on CSE in Surrey; this would be used to identify possible patterns and trends, in order to agree further actions.
4. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the recommendations concerning Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) would be referred back to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families for a more detailed response.
5. The Committee recommends:
  - a) **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.

- b) 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**