

**CABINET RESPONSE TO CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE**

**SURREY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING UNIT REPORT**

(considered by C&ESC on 26 January 2015)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. 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.
2. 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.

**RESPONSE:**

**RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 1:**

In line with the National CSE Work Plan and Strategy: Surrey's CSE sub-group will be reviewing its own Action Plan. As part of that, it will ensure that there is Borough and District representation on the CSE Strategic Group. That it will agree a set of standards with the Boroughs and Districts on the vetting and assessment procedures for granting licences to a range of activities - including Licensed Premises, Taxi firms, Voluntary organisations offering leisure activities to children and young people, entertainment groups - both professional and amateur.

It will work with them to develop local leadership within each Borough and District on CSE, which will ensure awareness and appropriate skills amongst all staff. This is so that CSE becomes integrated into all the work they carry out.

Through the Section 11 audit processes, the Council will work with the Boroughs and Districts to identify if there are areas of weakness and help each them to develop an action plan to combat these.

The Council will also provide training and development for all staff that need it through the SSCB's and SCC's programmes on CSE and integrate this into the Learning and Development Framework for staff.

**RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 2:**

As public sector funding for local authorities reduces, it is necessary for the County Council to reduce costs and make savings on its budget. The CSF Directorate has therefore had to make savings and will probably need to make further savings in the short to medium term. In deciding where these savings are planned to be realised, consideration is given to key priority services. Supporting young people and children at risk of CSE and reducing the risk of CSE is seen as one of the most important priorities for the CSF Directorate and savings are carefully considered to ensure there will not be an impact. Investment of funding has been made into child protection and Children in Need, with £3.1m being invested in 2013/14 and a further £2m being invested over the next two years.

**Mary Angell**  
**Cabinet Member for Children and Families**  
**24 February 2015**