

Mrs Pat Frost,
 Chairman of the Local Committee Chairman's Group
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Dr Zully Grant-Duff
 Chairman of the Children
 and Education Select
 Committee
 Surrey County Council
 Room 122, County Hall
 Penrhyn Road
 Kingston upon Thames
 KT1 2DN

12 March 2015

Dear Pat

**Children and Education Select Committee:
 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Local Committees**

In recent months, the Select Committee has been focused on the issue of CSE, and its scrutiny has been informed by the investigative reports of Alexis Jay and Louise Casey on the events in Rotherham.

On 27 November 2014 the Committee questioned key officers and partners, including the Chair of the Surrey Safeguarding Children Board and Surrey Police Head of Public Protection, on issues such as raising awareness, prevention and protection of young people in relation to CSE.

The Committee felt strongly that these issues would benefit from closer working with our district and borough partners and made recommendations to that effect to the Cabinet. A copy of these recommendations and the response received is attached for your reference.

The Committee wishes to encourage Local Committees to engage actively with this matter. In order to support this, I would like to suggest that you invite senior officers Nick Wilson and Caroline Budden (Children, Schools and Families directorate) to discuss this matter at a Local Committee Chairman's Group meeting. Indeed, I believe this is matter for each Member of Surrey County Council and there is no room for complacency.

The Local Government Association has produced an excellent set of resources, 'Tackling child sexual exploitation: A resource pack for councils' which I also attach for your reference. I draw particular attention to Councillor David Simmons' foreword, where he states:

“This is not just a job for the lead member for children’s services or the local director of children’s services. This pack is aimed at elected members at all levels. We all have a role to play in keeping children safe, and councils cannot stamp out CSE without the help of the wider community. Councillors have a key role to play in this, and should not be afraid to raise these issues within the communities they represent.”

I hope that you and your colleagues are in agreement that Local Committees have an important role to play in helping to tackle this serious issue, and I urge you to give consideration to how this may be best undertaken.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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

Cc. Mrs Mary Angell, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Surrey County Council
Mr Nick Wilson, Director of Children, Schools and Families, Surrey County Council
Caroline Budden, Deputy Director , Children, Schools and Families, Surrey County Council
Alex Waters, Chair of the Surrey Safeguarding Children Board