

MINUTES of the meeting of the MONITORING OF RECOMMENDATIONS TOPIC GROUP held on Tuesday 16 February at 10.00 AM

ATTENDANCE

Members Of The Topic Group

R H Beeching (Chairman), M Cowan (substituting for M A Watkin), M B J Mills-Bishop, L R Kercher,

Officers

Nicola Cahill- Democratic Services Officer
 Marion Ingram - Operations Director Specialist Services
 Debbie Orton - Head of Integrated Services for Learning (ISL)
 Nicky Pace- Interim Operations Director, Safeguarding
 Natalie Rotherham – Scrutiny Officer
 Sarah Taylor - Programme Manager Domestic Violence and Hate Crime

Other Members in attendance

T W Hone

ACTION

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group Meeting held on 15 September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

Nicola Cahill

2. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION TOPIC GROUP

2.1 Members were provided with an update report which outlined progress made against recommendations since the Topic Group had considered a report at its meeting in September 2015.

2.2 The Topic Group were advised that Child Sexual Exploitation had been the subject of further scrutiny as part of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board in October 2015.

Nicky Pace

2.3 There has been a considerable amount of activity concerning CSE with further work being undertaken in relation supporting the victim via at home interviews and a particular focus by the Police to identify the perpetrators.

2.4 In relation to recommendation1 members were advised that a comprehensive review of Sexual Exploitation and Runaway Children (SEARCH) had been completed along with an updated audit which had been used to inform the review. Members heard that a multi-agency plan had been developed alongside partners where there were

particular concerns for children. The Group were pleased to learn that the effectiveness of the SEARCH would be subject to ongoing review.

- 2.5 In relation to the Police CSE Peer Review and 'A Problem Profile for CSE' Members heard that the CSE profile had been completed, Members were pleased to learn that thorough investigation work had not led to the identification of organised CSE groups in Hertfordshire, but noted that it had raised concerns regarding specific urban areas with regards to CSE. Members requested that an Executive Summary be provided to the Topic Group when available. Nicky Pace
- 2.6 Members were pleased to learn that the Safeguarding District Councils Representative was part of the Strategic Safeguarding Adolescents Group, and had proven a useful addition. The representative provided regular updates from District Councils on training and awareness raising. Whilst it was acknowledged that each district and borough differed in their responses, the role added value to the process.
- 2.7 In response to the news that 'Chelsea's Choice' continued to be funded for all secondary schools in Hertfordshire, Members requested the number and names of schools who had yet to respond to the invitation, as well as the number of schools engaged with the campaign. Officers advised that they would continue to attempt to engage with those schools who had not taken up the offer. Nicky Pace
- 2.8 The Executive Member for Children's Services had written to the Secretary of State for Education regarding DBS checks for freelance tutors. The group were advised that it appeared a response had not been received, the Topic Group requested that a follow-up letter be sent¹. Nicky Pace

Conclusions

- 2.7 The Topic Group signed off the recommendations of the Child Sexual Exploitation Topic Group subject to the following;
- Against recommendation 2.1 a copy of the action plan following the audit be made available;
 - 2.2 Executive Summary to be provided when available;
 - 2.5 Members were keen to know the number of schools that have taken up Chelsea's Choice. They requested the number and names of schools which had not responded;
 - 2.6 members requested that the DfE be approached for a copy of the missing letter.

¹ Following the meeting a response from the Department for Education was circulated to members of the Topic Group.

3. AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER TOPIC GROUP

- 3.1 The Topic Group were advised as to the progress made following the Autistic Spectrum Topic Group held in December 2014, members were reminded that they had previously considered an update at their meeting in September 2015.
- 3.2 Members heard that the All Age Autism board had been established and had a membership of approximately 45. The group welcomed the success of the September 2015 public meeting attended by people on the spectrum, their parents and carers.
- 3.3 The Topic Group were advised that a national awareness raising campaign would take place in April. It was intended that Hertfordshire would utilise this as an opportunity to raise awareness locally.
- 3.4 Members received an update regarding actions on the 7 strategic objectives. The single county-wide clinical diagnostic pathway for children and young people was in draft format and under review by NICE guidance.
- 3.5 Members heard that a working group had been established to concentrate on improving education services for children with autism. Members were advised that the Local Offer had been updated to include 60 recommendations relating to autism, 9 of which had been identified as key priorities.
- 3.6 Members heard that the 0-25 complex needs programme board monitored 8 stands of activity in relation to the creation of a 0-25 service. Members were pleased to note that although the new team would be called '0-25' that the service would support individuals until they were ready for a review of their support services, at which point they would be transitioned into adult services.
- 3.7 The Topic Group noted that the OSC work programme included a scrutiny of autism in 12-18 months' time.

Conclusion

- 3.8 The Topic Group signed off all recommendations as completed.

4. CRIME AND DISORDER – HATE CRIME TOPIC GROUP

- 4.1 The Topic Group considered the update provided which detailed work undertaken since the Topic Group had taken place in December 2014.
- 4.2 Members were pleased to learn that the recommendation to increase awareness of Hate Crime through publicity such as posters at bus stops, churches and community centres had taken place, noting that further publicity work would be undertaken.
- 4.3 The Topic Group were provided with an update regarding the

awareness week held in June. The week which consisted of a variety of activities such as a well- attended conference, stands at a number of venues, school assemblies and coordinated social media and press releases. National hate Crime Awareness Week had taken place during October 2015; the County Community Safety Unit (CCSU) intended to continue to engage with the initiative.

In response to the recommendation to create a county-wide strategy and policy for tackling Hate Crime, it was noted that the CCSU were working with colleagues from the equalities department and partners to produce a strategy and policy framework. An early draft strategy document had been produced which awaited the outcome of the victims' research project underway by the University of Leicester on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office which was as anticipated to further enrich the strategy.

Conclusion

4.4 The Topic Group welcomed the progress made against each of the recommendations and signed them off as completed subject to the following:

- Against recommendation 2.2 Members requested a copy of the strategy when available;
- requested the outcomes of the review outlined at recommendation 2.3 be circulated;
- that a letter raising concerns regarding the proposed transformation of the CCSU be sent to the Executive Member highlighting the importance of Hertfordshire County Council retaining focus upon hate crime within any proposed new structural arrangements.

5. OVERVIEW DATABASE

Conclusion

5.1 The overview database was noted.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

6.1 Members requested that relevant Topic Group Chairmen and Executive Members be contacted prior to each future meeting.

6.2

The work programme was agreed for the April 2015 meeting as follows:

Public Health Integration Topic Group
 School Repairs and Capital Projects Topic Group
 OSC Traffic Regulation Order Topic Group
 Ringway Topic Group
 Property Asset Management Topic Group
 Herts Welfare Assistance Topic Group

Natalie
 Rotherham/
 Nicola Cahill
 to note

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

21 April 2016 at 10.00 am – Mimram Room
7 July 2016 at 10.00 am – Mimram Room

Dates of future meetings would be set following the agreement of the programme of meetings by full Council in March.

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

