



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -  
3 NOVEMBER 2014**

**ACTION TAKEN SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY  
INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN ROTHERHAM**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**Purpose of report**

1. This report shall set out the steps taken thus far following the publication of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, led by Professor Alexis Jay, in August 2014. That report had been commissioned to consider the extent of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham and the response of that Council and its safeguarding partners.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. This report is made within the context of national guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', published by the Department for Education 2013, and the formal duties set out for the Lead Member for Children and Family Services and the Director of Children and Family Services published by the Department for Education in 2012.

**Background**

3. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham investigated that Council and its safeguarding partners responses to the incidence of child sexual exploitation from 1997 until 2013. At the point of publication the report received considerable attention from national media.
4. In view of this the County Council has initiated a number of internal checks in relation to some of the conclusions of the Inquiry.
5. In addition, the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has commenced a multi-agency audit to ascertain local progress in relation to the conclusions of the Inquiry.

**Action Taken So Far in Relation to the Inquiry**

6. An immediate audit to determine whether any children known to the County Council had been placed by us in Rotherham, or had moved there with their family. The purpose of this was to determine whether in the light of the Inquiry any further steps were required regarding any such children's welfare. The initial result of this check has been that in the past five years one child has been placed in Rotherham. This was in a special school placement and no indicators of concern regarding this child's welfare have come to light.

7. A check has been made of staff employed by the Children's Social Care and Early Help Service to determine whether any employee had previously been employed in Rotherham. The purpose of this check was to consider whether any of the allegations being voiced in the media about current and former Rotherham employees required action within the County Council. The result has been that there is no record of any employee in Children's Social Care or Early Help Services having been employed in Rotherham.
8. A further check was made to determine whether any children in the care of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council that may have been placed in the County. This has shown that we have not been notified of any placement of this kind.
9. In addition to the above a review of complaints made by children and young people into our Children's Rights Team or the formal complaints process is underway. This will seek to determine whether there are any matters raised as complaints that require reconsideration.
10. The LSCB has commenced an audit of the main conclusions of the Inquiry. This is to determine the extent to which the multi-agency partnership has addressed the conclusions of the Inquiry and whether any further action is required. This will be reported to the LSCB on 31 October 2014.

### **Action Already Taken**

11. In April this year, an all-Member briefing took place regarding child sexual exploitation which focussed on the role of elected members in their constituencies, as Corporate Parents and as scrutineers of County Council's policy and practice. Subsequently the newly formed Children's Social Care panel has agreed that child sexual exploitation shall be its priority.
12. This year staff from the County Council have joined with the Police to form a multi-agency operational team specifically dealing with child sexual exploitation.
13. As part of the awareness raising campaign in Spring this year, entitled 'Can You Spot the Signs?' more than 8000 children in schools locally benefited from a theatre based workshop called 'Chelsea's Choice'. This production was also seen by staff and a small number of Elected Members. In the wake of this a number of disclosures of abuse were made and responded to, an emergency advice line was established for school staff, and designated safeguarding training for schools was refreshed to include signs of child sexual exploitation.

### **Resource Implications**

14. Resources required to respond to Child Sexual Exploitation are yet to be fully understood. As a provisional step three members of staff have been placed within the joint team with the police. This can only be regarded as a provisional step and resource requirement will require further analysis.

**Background Papers**

15. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham can be found at:  
[http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1407/independent\\_inquiry\\_cse\\_in\\_rotherham](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1407/independent_inquiry_cse_in_rotherham)

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None.

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**Equality and Human Rights Implications**

16. This report considers matters arising from an Independent Inquiry in another council the focus of which is a very vulnerable group of children and young people.

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