

ESC Select Committee Inquiry Scope:

How are we preventing CSE and supporting young people in Buckinghamshire?

Title	Child Sexual Exploitation in Buckinghamshire
Signed-off by	Val Letheren (ESC Select Committee Chairman)
Author	Reece Bowman, Committee Adviser
Date	Formal sign-off by ESC Select Committee on 5 th June 2015
Inquiry Group Membership	Margaret Aston, Dev Dhillon, Phil Gomm, Val Letheren (Chairman), Wendy Mallen, Robin Stuchbury, David Watson.
Member Services Resource	Member Services will provide the following officer support: Sara Turnbull, Head of Member Services – Policy advice and report quality assurance Reece Bowman Committee Adviser – Policy lead & project management Estimate of 2.5 days per week between May to December 2015. Committee Assistant – Administrative support (as needed)
Lead Cabinet Member	Lin Hazell, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services
Lead HQ/BU Officer	Mr. David Johnston, Managing Director Children’s Social Care and Learning
What is the problem that is trying to be solved?	Organised child sexual exploitation has been exposed in several local authority areas in recent years. High profile reports on the subject have been published, including by the Children’s Commissioner, Baroness Jay and Louise Casey’s best value inspection of Rotherham MBC. The CLG Committee has released its report on the role of Ofsted in relation to Rotherham. As the issue is considered to be widespread, a review of provision in Buckinghamshire would be of value to ensure that everything that can be done is being done to prevent CSE in the county.
Is the issue of significance to Buckinghamshire as a whole?	In May 2013 Operation Bullfinch, focussed on Oxford, resulted in the prosecution at the Old Bailey of seven men who were found guilty of offences including rape, facilitating child prostitution and trafficking. The Serious Case Review arising from this was published by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board in March 2015. The document provides a valuable insight into the role of the agencies concerned, including Thames Valley Police, which covers Buckinghamshire.
Is the topic of relevance to the work of BCC?	Children’s Services in Buckinghamshire was recently assessed by Ofsted as ‘inadequate’. Improvement work is underway and the prevention of CSE is a critical aspect of this. The role of the County Council is largely preventative – therefore the review will be focussed on prevention as opposed to enforcement or prosecution. Some time may be devoted to evaluating the County Council’s contribution to police investigations, although the investigations themselves will be out of scope entirely.
What will not be considered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific enforcement action / operations being undertaken by the police • Any aspect of the handling / processing of criminal investigations, including the gathering of evidence and supporting victims and witnesses.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prosecution of cases, including the role played by the CPS, HMCTS and victims services (including any victim support role played by social care staff / other local authority staff) • Aftercare of victims by social care, following the court process • Any aspect of work with offenders
Is this topic within the remit of the Select Committee?	<p>The protection of children is a priority within the Select Committee's remit.</p> <p>The subject falls within the remit of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Cabinet Member for Education & Skills.</p>
What work is underway already on this issue?	<p>The majority of work underway within Buckinghamshire is undertaken by the well-established RUSafe? Service, which is commissioned from Barnardos by Buckinghamshire County Council. Individual agencies have their own approaches to the issue; part of the Thames Valley Police response has been in supporting the development of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs across the force area (including in Bucks). The Bucks Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has a role in developing multi-agency procedures and awareness-raising – CSE is one of its four priorities; it also has a CSE Sub-Group. The Chief Executive of the County Council is involved in frequent meetings with partners to address the issue. The R U Wise 2 It? campaign aims to raise awareness of the issue in the county.</p>
Are there any key changes that might impact on this issue?	<p>The change in government, particularly if new duties are introduced. Any unexpected new case/s of CSE in Buckinghamshire that emerge during the Inquiry would have a major impact on the issue and on the Inquiry itself.</p> <p>Section 5 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 includes various requirements.</p>
What are the key timing considerations	<p>CSE cases that are being brought to trial.</p> <p>Timing of partner and BSCB inquiries into the same subject.</p> <p>MTFP process of the County Council.</p> <p>Publication of any Serious Case Reviews.</p> <p>The general election.</p>
Who are the key stakeholders & decision-makers?	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Children's Joint Executive Team</p> <p>Safeguarding Children Board</p>
What might the Inquiry Achieve?	<p>A stronger and more joined-up approach to the prevention of CSE within the county.</p> <p>The Inquiry aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> establish what factors make children and young people particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation within Buckinghamshire establish what factors facilitate the internal trafficking of children and young people for the purpose of sexual exploitation within Buckinghamshire establish levels of professional awareness of this issue consider what interventions there are, which of these are currently

	<p>being utilised in Buckinghamshire and whether there are any gaps in provision</p> <p>v. identify any examples of good practice</p> <p>vi. raise public awareness of this issue</p>
What media/communications support do you want?	Press releases at the launch and close of the review. Guidance from the communications team throughout the Inquiry on media handling as well as directly to the chairman of the Inquiry.

Evidence-gathering Methodology

What types of methods of evidence-gathering will you use?
<p>Desk based research, involving benchmarking of current practice in Bucks against the findings of recent Serious Case Reviews, national reports, statutory guidance (<i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i>) and identified best practice elsewhere, etc. Will involve the evaluation of policies, plans, etc. Checking the implementation of practice through consultation with the relevant practitioners, e.g. Social Workers, C&F workers, etc.</p> <p>Site visits to / input from: schools / school governing bodies, sexual health services, RUSafe?, MASH, Swan Unit, Kingfisher Unit (Oxon), Social Work Units, visit a performance of Chelsea's Choice, YOS, Youth Service, taxi drivers, licensing, police areas, school nurses, paediatric nurses, safeguarding nurses, action for youth, GPs, GUM clinics, rape crisis, Young Addaction, Women's Aid, Blast Project, faith groups, IDVAs, ISVAs, foster carers, care home managers / workers, community safety teams, youth clubs, early help providers (Family Resilience, etc.).</p>
How will you involve service-users and the public in this inquiry?
<p>The engagement of faith groups will provide some public participation.</p> <p>The engagement of children will provide an insight into the effectiveness of preventative activity in schools. Input from parents will complement this.</p> <p>A decision would need to be made around whether it is appropriate to involve victims of CSE in the inquiry – advice will be sought on this.</p>

Outline Inquiry Project Plan

Stage	Key Activity	Dates
Scoping / planning	Inquiry Scope and plan agreed by Select Committee	Initial sign-off by email
Evidence-gathering	Combination of Inquiry Group meetings and meetings of the ESC Select Committee to gather evidence. Conduct site visits.	May – September
	Final evidence gathering / report development session	September
Developing Recommendations	Inquiry Group/SC meeting – Key Findings Report & Possible Areas of Recommendations considered	22 nd September
	Testing & developing recommendations with stakeholders	October
Reporting	Final Inquiry Group report with recommendations signed off by Select Committee / agreement to submit to decision makers	3 rd November
	Report published	November
	Decision makers consider recommendations	Nov/Dec