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## Report to the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

<b>Title:</b>	Tender of Child Sexual Exploitation Service Draft Business Case
<b>Committee date:</b>	Tuesday 12 April 2016
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<b>Cabinet Member sign-off:</b>	Lin Hazell

### Purpose of Agenda Item

This is the draft business case for the re-tendering of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) & Missing Services. It is for the committee's information and to enable them to comment before the project group finalise work on the specification.

### Background

The select committee produced a report, PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INQUIRY REPORT 3 November 2015 which was background to a report which went to cabinet and the cabinet member decision was to approve the re-tendering of CSE & Missing Services.

### Summary

CSE is a high profile issue both nationally and locally and in the CSC&L business unit plan it says, "The challenge to protect children who are at risk of CSE and radicalisation is a high priority for the Local Authority".

In Buckinghamshire we have been developing our understanding of CSE and as awareness has been raised more young people have been identified as being at risk and the demand for services is growing. Going missing has been acknowledged as a significant indicator of CSE and Thames Valley Police have funded a pilot project in Buckinghamshire to ensure that all young people who go missing are offered an independent return interview.

CSE & Missing Services in Buckinghamshire, currently provided by Barnardo's R-U-Safe?, are due to be retendered for a new contract to be in place in April 2017 in order to comply with Council Standing Orders and procurement law. There is a widely held assumption that BCC commissions all of the services provided by R-U-Safe? but almost half of their funding comes from other sources, mainly from Barnardo's own voluntary funds (VF). These funds are not guaranteed and, although CSE is a high priority for Barnardo's, their funds could be diverted into other areas. The current BBC budget available for this commissioned service only covers 50% of the whole service costs therefore BCC will also need to consider its investment in this high priority area so that these vital services can be maintained and that the retendered service has sufficient budget.

### Key issues

- CSE is a high priority issue for all partners in Buckinghamshire (Missing is recognised as a significant indicator)
- Offering Return Interviews (RI) for all young people who go missing is the statutory responsibility of the LA
- The BSCB has to report annually on its assessment on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to child sexual exploitation.
- All partner agencies are facing budget constraints

### Resource implications

We could re-commission on a reduced scope or seek value added through committed funding from other organisations.

### Next steps

Cabinet member has already agreed that the re-tendering process should go ahead with the following timescales but funding levels and specification priorities to be confirmed.

Date	Milestone
March 2016	Business case signed off
March 2016 – May 2016	Market, public and stakeholder engagement including scrutiny committee
June 2016	Service specification signed off
August 2016	Invitation to Tender
September 2016	Evaluation
November 2016	Contract award
November 2016 – March 2017	Implementation
April 2017	Service goes live

Scrutiny committee comments would be welcomed by the project group.