

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020****Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES****SEXUAL ABUSE AND HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR INVOLVING  
CHILDREN IN CARE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with information regarding incidents of sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour involving children in the care of the Council and the response to such incidents.

**Information**

2. On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 Policy Committee received a report on the Council's initial response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. Contained in the report was an action plan including a commitment that a reporting process would be developed to provide oversight regarding incidents of sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour involving children in care, and the response to such incidents. This report provides details on such incidents that occurred during the period 1<sup>st</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. Further reports will be provided at six monthly intervals and three months in arrears.

**Local Authority Children's Homes – Allegations Against Staff**

3. No allegations were received by the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) about contemporary allegations of sexual abuse by staff members or volunteers relating to Nottinghamshire children in homes run by Nottinghamshire County Council during this period.

**Externally Commissioned Children's Homes – Allegations Against Staff**

4. One allegation was notified in relation to a staff member in a privately-run children's home relating to a Nottinghamshire child placed in Nottingham City. The allegation is that a staff member stroked a child's arm and that this made the child feel uncomfortable. This was referred to the LADO in Nottingham City and was fully investigated and in this case the LADO's recommendation was followed and further support, advice and training were given to the staff member concerned.

## **Allegations Against Local Authority Foster Carers**

5. No allegations were received by the Local Area Designated Officer about contemporary allegations of sexual abuse against Nottinghamshire children by Local Authority foster carers.

## **Allegations Against Foster Carers Working for Independent Agencies**

6. No allegations were received by the Local Area Designated Officer about allegations of sexual abuse against Nottinghamshire children cared for by carers from independent foster agencies (IFAs). Three allegations were received regarding carers in Nottinghamshire but none were caring for a Nottinghamshire child. These will be followed through to conclusion by the LADO and any findings that would impact on the safe placement of Nottinghamshire children in the future would then be acted upon.

## **Other Incidents and Allegations Relating to Children in Care during the period**

7. Three incidents have been reported in relation to online sexual exploitation. Two related to indecent images of the children being shared through social media initially by the young people themselves and one of an adult making a sexual approach via social media. In this case police enquiries were made but could not accurately lead to the identification of the adult or their location. Appropriate strategy meetings, investigations and safety plans have been put in place for the children in all cases.

## **Other Options Considered**

8. This report supports commitments made in the Council's initial response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and as such other options have not been considered.

## **Reason for Recommendations**

9. The recommendations support the role of the Children and Young People's Committee in providing oversight of this important area and identifying any actions that are required to provide further reassurance.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

11. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee considers whether there are any further actions it requires arising from the information contained in the report.

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### **Constitutional Comments (HD 05/03/20)**

12. The content of the report falls within the delegation to the Children and Young People's Committee and is consistent with the commitments made in the report to Policy Committee on 18 September 2019 setting out the Council's initial response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

### **Financial Comments (SAS 05/03/20)**

13. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse – Initial Response: report to Policy Committee on 18th September 2019](#)

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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