



14 January 2025

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES

HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR BY CHILDREN ANNUAL REVIEW 2024

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides an outline of the progress and challenges of the work being undertaken by the Local Authority and relevant partner organisations regarding sexually harmful behaviour by children during the year April 2023 - March 2024 and the commitments for the following 12 months.

Information

2. Nottinghamshire has adopted the NSPCC's definition of harmful sexual behaviour by children:

'One or more children engaging in sexual discussions or acts that are inappropriate for their age or stage of development. These can range from using sexually explicit words and phrases to full penetrative sex with other children or adults.'
3. Nottinghamshire is committed to working together with partners to improve the lives and experiences of children, young people and families by empowering them to make their own choices, being fair, open, and honest and building safe and nurturing relationships.
4. This includes children who display harmful sexual behaviour receiving a consistent multi-agency response focused on achieving the best outcome for the child and their family whilst reducing the risk of any further harmful sexual behaviour and addressing the needs of the child who has committed harmful sexual behaviour and those of the child who is the victim.
5. The full annual report written for the Safeguarding Assurance and Information Group and the Cabinet Member for Children and Families is attached as **Appendix 1**. It contains information regarding the governance of Harmful Sexual Behaviour work in Nottinghamshire, the work being undertaken, as well as reflections upon achievements and areas of challenges and their impact. There are clear ambitions set out for the next 12 months and a plan to achieve these is in the process of being agreed within the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Steering Group.

Other Options Considered

6. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information that forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its duties in respect of children who sexually harm others.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. The report provides an opportunity for the Panel to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. 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

9. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the information contained in the report and provides any feedback.

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Constitutional Comments (CD 11/12/24)

10. The recommendations proposed falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (CDS 06/12/24)

11. There are no financial implications arising directly from the 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.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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