

## **Scrutiny Inquiry Report on Child Criminal Exploitation - Executive Commentary**

We extend our gratitude to the Chair and members of the committee for their diligent work on the Scrutiny Inquiry Report on Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). Your commitment to understanding the challenges faced by vulnerable children in Birmingham is truly commendable, and your insights have aided our thinking on how to better protect our youth.

Your thorough examination of the issues surrounding CCE has provided us with invaluable insights, which I would like to highlight:

- The importance of effective partnership working, as mandated by legislative duties, in safeguarding children from harm.
- The reliance on regional definitions due to the absence of a national definition for CCE, emphasising the need for a shared understanding among partner organisations.
- The challenges in determining the scale of CCE in Birmingham, highlighting the need for nuanced understanding and data-driven strategies.
- The recognition of diverse environments influencing children's experiences and the emphasis on tailored interventions through contextual safeguarding.
- The link between CCE and organised crime, underscoring the need for robust enforcement measures.
- The strategic approach of the Birmingham Contextual Safeguarding Board, emphasising data-driven analysis to prevent exploitation.

Your detailed examination has laid a solid foundation for making tangible changes that will reduce the number of children at risk of CCE and improve partnership working.

We are committed to using the findings from the Scrutiny Inquiry Report to make a real difference. We will collaborate with stakeholders to implement the report's recommendations and provide regular updates to protect our children and young people from exploitation.

**Councillor Karen McCarthy**  
**Cabinet Member for Children,  
Young People and Families**

**Councillor Nicky Brennan**  
**Cabinet Member for Social  
Justice, Community, Safety & Equalities**