

Birmingham City Council

Report to Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4 December 2024



Title:	PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION (CCE) INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS
Lead Members:	Councillor Mick Brown, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families Councillor Nicky Brennan, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities
Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Not Applicable.
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Is this a Key Decision?	No.
If this is a Key Decision, is this decision listed on the Forward Plan?	Not Applicable.
Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan:	Not Applicable.
Is this a Late Report?	No
Reason(s) why Late:	Not Applicable.
Is this decision eligible for 'call in?'	Not Applicable.
If not eligible, please provide reason(s):	Not Applicable.
Wards:	All.
Does this report contain exempt or confidential information?	No.
Has this decision been included on the Notification of Intention to consider Matters in Private?	No.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook an Inquiry on Child Criminal Exploitation. The report was taken to City Council on 16th April 2024.
- 1.2 The report made a series of recommendations, and this report provides an update on progress made.
- 1.3 It also provides an update on wider work taking place in this area and the Tackling Child Exploitation Strategy.

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

- 2.1 No observations.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 3.1 Notes the contents of this report and the update on the recommendations made in the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry (Appendix 1).
- 3.2 Provides feedback and agrees a schedule for future updates.

4 KEY INFORMATION

Context

- 4.1 An Inquiry on Child Criminal Exploitation was agreed as part of the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 and this work continued into 2023/24. The Inquiry considered evidence from 12 organisations and services using a combination of face-to-face sessions and written submissions.
- 4.2 The Inquiry and its recommendations were taken to Full Council on 16th April 2024. Work has taken place to address the recommendations, and the update (Appendix 1) sets out the progress made.
- 4.3 The recommendations made in the Inquiry are closely linked to the Tackling Child Exploitation Strategy 2023-26 (Appendix 2) and progress on this is set out below.

Tackling Child Exploitation Strategy

- 4.4 The Tackling Child Exploitation Strategy is a whole partnership strategic approach to tackling child exploitation in Birmingham. The governance and accountability lies within the Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Board and is set out in Appendix 3.
- 4.5 A summary of progress against this Strategy is set out below.
- 4.6 Governance and Strategy recommendations

- 4.6.1 Most of the Governance and Strategy recommendations have progressed with some completed and others in continuous progress.
- 4.7 Priority 1 (Increase reporting of children identified as being at risk of exploitation and being referred to services):
- 4.7.1 Increased reporting has been seen in relation to children either experiencing or vulnerable to child exploitation with a clear process and pathway of support and intervention (inclusive of advice and guidance being provided).
- 4.7.2 Hoteliers have undertaken the train the trainer programme to ensure early identification and awareness around exploitation.
- 4.7.3 The impact of this is two fold; whilst we now see more reporting within hospitality; it has lessened as perpetrators are now booking properties through Airbnb which is less regulated.
- 4.7.4 The EMPOWER U Hub in partnership with the Community Safety Partnerships and the Children Society are also looking at ways to address this as well as the mandatory awareness raising required in relation to transport specific to taxi drivers.
- 4.7.5 Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS) has arrangements in place to tackle exploitation through its Exploitation Reduction Health Group.
- 4.8 Priority 2 (Ensure the needs of those children, young people and families identified as being at risk are appropriately and effectively met with the right help and the right time)
- 4.8.1 Through the Violence Reduction Partnership, the Faith Alliance has been established with a Faith Alliance Toolkit that identifies training and awareness not just around exploitation but also the role they can play in terms of safeguarding, being a trusted adult and providing safe space for children vulnerable to or being exploited.
- 4.8.2 There are also a number of awareness raising campaigns and a clear training package for staff within the Trust and through the Birmingham Safeguarding Partnership for partners to access. This leads to a workforce that is more equipped in the identification of exploitation (as well as being trauma informed and culturally competent) leading to increased reporting.
- 4.8.3 The threshold document Right Help, Right Time has been updated to reflect the indicators of both child exploitation and serious youth violence with a clear clarity as to what action needs to be taken dependant on the level of risk/severity, giving consideration to the context and circumstances.
- 4.8.4 A review of arrangements for referrals/joint working with Adult Social Care /Preparation for Adulthood will be progressed. The service is considering an all-age service to ensure consistency for children turning 18 as it is recognised that risk does not stop when your chronological age considers

you by law to be an adult. This will form part of the next step plans over the next two to three years.

4.8.5 In addition, the plan and implementation of extra familial conferences is also yet to be progressed.

4.9 The Violence Reduction Partnership has supported the council to complete their strategic needs assessment and problem profiling which provides a good analysis of the data to support the partnerships in reducing exploitation and understand and respond to risk. It also assists with the commissioning of services and the implementation of the Violence Reduction Commissioning board aids with scrutiny when looking at commissioning services.

4.10 As part of the implementation of the Serious Youth Violence Pilot team (which will ensure that the service is also meeting the Serious Violence Duty); the Children's Trust's recording system is currently being reviewed to ensure forms built are trauma informed and can gather data and evidence impact.

4.11 Continued work with parents and carers to ensure that they are seen as safeguarding partners has been successful. The initial pilot parent/carers group in the Newtown and Lozells area is now becoming an independent community interest company funded through the Youth Endowment Fund. However, what is now required is for the service in partnership with partners to also look at how this can be replicated in other areas across the city.

Next steps

4.12 A review of the governance arrangements in this area is underway, in consultation with key stakeholders and partners. This will ensure scrutiny in relation to the Tackling Child Exploitation key priorities and plan.

4.13 In addition, to review the Tackling Child Exploitation and ensure key priorities are added in relation to the Serious Violence Duty and how the service intends to meet this duty by aiming to respond, prevent and reduce serious youth violence. The review of the governance arrangements will incorporate oversight of the implementation, delivery and impact of this team.

5 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Best Value

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Legal

5.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

5.3 The legal duties placed on Councils in this area were set out in the Inquiry report taken to Full Council on 16th April 2024.

Equalities

- 5.4 There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Procurement

- 5.5 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

People Services

- 5.6 There are no staffing recommendations arising from the recommendations of this report.

Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

- 5.7 There are no climate change, nature, and net zero carbon implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Corporate Parenting

- 5.8 There are no direct implications or opportunities in relation to the Corporate Parenting responsibility arising from the recommendations in this report.

Other

- 5.9 There are no other implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Update on the recommendations of the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry

Appendix 2: Tackling Exploitation of Children and Young People 2023-26

Appendix 3: Governance arrangements for delivery of the strategy

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Report of the Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to City Council 16 April 2024

[CCE Scrutiny Inquiry Report to City Council | Birmingham City Council](#)