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| Item No. 10. | Classification: Open | Date: 29 October 2019 | Meeting Name: Cabinet |
| Report title: | | Response to Recommendations from Community Safety Scrutiny Commission Report, Modern day Slavery and Trafficking Scrutiny Review | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| Cabinet Member: | | Councillor Victoria Mills, Finance, Performance and Brexit | |

FOREWORD – COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND BREXIT

I welcome the recommendations made in the Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking Scrutiny Review which was extremely timely considering the work underway in developing a Community Harm and Exploitation Hub.

Modern day slavery and child trafficking is an emerging priority for the council and wider safeguarding partnership. Southwark Council signed up to the Cooperative Party Modern Slavery Charter last year and modern slavery is a recently adopted priority for the Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board. Trafficking will also be addressed as part of the emerging Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy; the original impetus for this review.

Modern day slavery and trafficking in all its forms is unacceptable. It affects all communities and has an incalculable impact on the lives of those individuals affected, their families and the wider community. The Home Office has described modern slavery as “a serious and brutal crime in which people are treated as commodities and exploited for criminal gain”. In Southwark, those most at risk of modern slavery are people involved in UK drug gangs, who are employing modern slavery methods to exploit people on ‘county lines’, where often vulnerable urban young people are controlled and exploited by drug gangs to sell drugs in towns outside of the city. The council is working with around 200 children at risk from modern slavery through ‘county lines’, directly or indirectly. This is an area of particular focus at the moment.

Modern slavery and trafficking is a complex, serious and often organised crime. Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act councils have a duty to do all that they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in their areas, which will include tackling modern slavery and trafficking. There are a range of crimes where councils may come across victims and perpetrators of modern slavery, including county lines drug dealing, child sexual exploitation, gangs, violent crime, forced labour and begging, amongst others. Tackling exploitation is therefore ‘everybody’s business’. Southwark benefits from the diversity of its statutory, voluntary and community partners whom contribute to tackling exploitative behaviour. We acknowledge that support networks provided by friends, family and faith groups have an important role to play in our response to tackling modern day slavery and trafficking. Through working in partnership and building on the community foundations we already have in place, I am confident that by working together we will achieve our vision, and reduce the harm caused by exploitative criminal behaviours for future generations. I am also clear in my vision that modern day slavery and trafficking

should not be seen in isolation to other forms of violence and vulnerability and thus we require a collective response to all forms of community harm and exploitation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet notes the response to the Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking Scrutiny recommendations as set out in Table 1.
2. That the cabinet instructs officers to bring back an annual report on Modern Slavery and Trafficking in Southwark.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. In October 2018 the Community Safety Scrutiny Commission announced it would be conducting a review on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), which included modern slavery and trafficking. Following evidence presented at this meeting, the Commission decided to separate out modern slavery from VAWG and look at it as an area in its own right.
4. The Commission chose to focus on three areas:
 - Child trafficking; nearly half of all victims of modern slavery and child trafficking are children, with a high percentage being unaccompanied minors.
 - Modern day slavery through the exploitation of young people through exploitation by criminal gangs.
 - Targeting business at risk from modern slavery, including rogue landlords.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The review put forward 12 recommendations for the council. These are detailed in Table 1 below with the considered response.

Table 1. Response to Modern Slavery Scrutiny Recommendations

| Recommendation | Response |
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| 1. Set up a task and finish Modern Slavery & Child Trafficking group, that would include housing, and would ensure that there is an integrated and comprehensive plan pulling together the current work on modern slavery and child trafficking, including a referral process, reporting to the above recommended CHEB. | Agreed In January 2019 a comprehensive review of all forms of exploitation was commissioned by the SSCP (Southwark Safeguarding Children’s Partnership). It was led by the Violence and Vulnerability Unit of the Home Office. A multi-agency project board has been established to implement the principle recommendation that there is a need for strategic leadership and co-ordination of all forms of exploitative behaviour. Modern Slavery and Trafficking intersects with many other types of harm and exploitation and cuts across most front facing parts of the council. A Community Harm and Exploitation Hub is in development. |
| 2. Create specialist council leads on Child Trafficking / Child Sexual Exploitation, | Agreed A CSE and Missing Manager within Children Social Care and a CSE Coordinator post within Community Safety and |

| Recommendation | Response |
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| and that they are the same person or work together closely. | Partnership. |
| 3. Consistently treat all unaccompanied children as potential victims of slavery | <p>Agreed The local authority's service for unaccompanied children has specialist roles who are well experienced and trained in identifying signs of slavery.</p> |
| 4. Make sure Section 47 is done for all those children | <p>Agreed Full child safeguarding processes are undertaken for any young person where there is a concern about slavery.</p> |
| 5. Ensure that the council flagging and data collection on child trafficked / unaccompanied children meets best practice | <p>Agreed Children Social care uses the Children in Need (CiN) census guidance for trafficked young people as a key data field. which includes -</p> <p><i>“the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”</i></p> |
| 6. Pay particular attention to the risk of Domestic Servitude and link up with AFRUCA, who are doing excellent work to tackle child trafficking | <p>Agreed to pay particular attention to Domestic Servitude and child trafficking AFRUCA's (Africans against child abuse) funding from the Home Office has ended and they no longer operate in Southwark.</p> <p>The Children's Society are working in partnership with the council to engage young people specifically to get their views on how we should be approaching this area of work. Also working in collaboration with Safer London, who have a specialist trauma worker who works with young people who have been impacted by the effects of exploitation.</p> |
| 7. Conduct council wide mandatory training for all staff and members to raise awareness, provide effective support to victims where appropriate; including a protocol advising on the duty to | <p>Agreed Two specific courses are available for all council staff, as well as the wider partnership, including voluntary sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery and adults exploitation • Child trafficking and Modern Slavery Level 2 and 3. <p>Both courses include information on the duty to notify and referral process, but are not mandatory.</p> |

| Recommendation | Response |
|---|---|
| <p>notify and process to follow, explaining the reporting mechanisms for safeguarding adults and children.</p> | <p>The Children's Society will be delivering training on the National Referral Mechanism which is targeted at social workers.</p> <p>In addition, wider exploitation training is also available, including Barnardos training all night time economy front line staff to recognise Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), in particular, but also other signs of exploitation, including human trafficking.</p> |
| <p>8. Create Modern Slavery Champions within the Council (similar the mental health champions) and identify a SPOC in different teams.</p> | <p>Agreed All members of the Community Harm and Exploitation Hub will be Champions for all forms of exploitative behaviours, including Modern Slavery. However, to enable SPOCs to be identified in different teams across the council, support will be required corporately.</p> |
| <p>9. Create a named lead officer and cabinet lead on slavery</p> | <p>Agreed Lead officer: Stephen Douglas. Director of Communities Cabinet Lead: Councillor Victoria Mills</p> |
| <p>10. Consider creating an Adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)</p> | <p>Working alongside the Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the Community Harm and Exploitation Hub will develop a referral pathway for criminally exploitative behaviours such as Modern Day Slavery, and will support vulnerable adults and families.</p> |
| <p>11. Pull together the annual report on the Cooperative Charter by July; ensuring there is an action plan to complete the commitments, with a timeline.</p> | <p>A number of the commitments contained in the Charter have already been completed.</p> <p>In addition, subsequent to the scrutiny commission meeting in May 2019, central government has committed to strengthening section 54 (transparency in supply chains requirements) of the Modern Slavery Act. Southwark responded favourably to the proposed measures intended to increase transparency and compliance, improve reporting quality and extend the scope of the legislation and will comply with the proposed timelines for publicising such information.</p> |
| <p>12. Review the highest risk industries for modern day slavery as a prelude to running an awareness raising campaign across Southwark on modern slavery with the public, statutory partners, local businesses and the voluntary sector.</p> | <p>Agreed Landlords have been identified as a high risk area, with some flouting Housing Legislation, and engaging in other forms of negligence and exploitation. A Rogue Landlord Partnership Task Force has been set up to investigate landlords who are involved in a number of criminal activities, including tax evasion, trafficking and modern day slavery, abuse of immigration regulations and money laundering.</p> |

Implementation

6. These recommendations will be incorporated in the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and associated delivery plan. The strategy and delivery plan will be implemented and monitored by the VAWG Strategic Group which reports to the Safer Communities Delivery Group.

Policy implications

7. There are no policy implications arising from this report. A separate report on the Community Harm and Exploitation Hub will also be considered by cabinet and any relevant implications will be set out in this report.

Community impact statement

8. An equalities analysis will be carried out on the Community Harm and Exploitation Hub. Initial consultation undertaken with stakeholders indicates that the Community Harm and Exploitation Hub will have a significant positive impact on the community.

Resource implications

9. There are no resource implications arising from this report. A separate report on the Community Harm and Exploitation Hub will be considered by Cabinet and any relevant implications will be set out in this report.

Legal implications

10. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial implications

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report. A separate report on the Community Harm and Exploitation Hub will be considered by Cabinet and any relevant implications will be set out in this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Extended Learning Review | Southwark Council 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH | Caroline Thwaites 020 7525 0805 |
| Web link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s82118/Southwark%20Extended%20Learning%20Review.pdf | | |

APPENDICES

| No. | Title |
|------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking Scrutiny Review Web link for report (copy and paste into browser): http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s83194/Modern%20Day%20Slavery%20and%20Trafficking%20scrutiny%20review.pdf |

AUDIT TRAIL

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|---|--|--------------------------|
| Cabinet Member | Cllr Victoria Mills, Finance, Performance and Brexit | |
| Lead Officer | Michael Scorer, Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities | |
| Report Author | Hannah Edwards, Safeguarding Partnership Manager | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | 21 October 2019 | |
| Key Decision? | No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comments Sought | Comments included |
| Director of Law and Democracy | Yes | Yes |
| Strategic Director of Finance and Governance | Yes | Yes |
| Strategic Director Children and Adults' Services | Yes | Yes |
| Cabinet Member | Yes | Yes |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Team | 18 October 2019 | |