

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION – PROGRESS REPORT**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider the progress that is being made being made in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015- 2017.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is recognised nationally as one of the most important challenges facing agencies today. CSE is an insidious form of child abuse that has a damaging and long lasting impact on those involved. While not a new problem, the extent and scale of this form of abuse has been exposed and our knowledge of the widespread nature and impact on all our communities continues to grow.
- 2.2 In order to address this problem, effective multi-agency partnership working is essential, where partners work to the principle that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and are clear on their respective roles and responsibilities.
- 2.3 Child Sexual Exploitation is a priority for Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) which in 2015 produced a Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy.

**3. Progress on priorities of the Learning and Improvement Plan:**

- 3.1 Gary Hetherington (Strategic CSE Coordinator) will be in attendance to provide a presentation on the progress being made on the Strategy. Stuart Douglass (Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety) will also be in attendance to discuss the role and impact of the Safer Sunderland Partnership in tackling child sexual exploitation.
- 3.2 A copy of the Sunderland Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015-17 is attached for information.

**4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the progress being made.