

**Joint Meeting of Safer and
Stronger Communities and
Children and Young People
Overview and Scrutiny Committees**



24 July 2018

ERASE

**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and
Partnerships**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members with background information in advance of a presentation by Lisa Wood, Operations Manager and Detective Sergeant Ian Haddick on partnership work to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) through the ERASE brand.

Background

- 2 'Protecting vulnerable people from harm' is an objective within the current Council and Safe Durham Partnership plans. To which, within the Altogether Better for Children and Young People element of the Council Plan includes the following objective 'Children are safeguarded and protected from harm' and an action to 'Work with the Local Safeguarding Children Board to protect children and young people from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse'.
- 3 Within this context, this topic is linked to the remit of both the Council's Children and Young People's and Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees who also receive information on the number of children at risk from CSE within their quarterly performance reports.
- 4 CSE can deprive children of their childhood and can have a serious long-term impact on every aspect of their lives, health and education. It damages the lives of families and carers, which can lead to family break-ups. Sexual exploitation of children and young people is completely unacceptable and this may not stop at the age of 18, with many young adults and vulnerable adults also requiring help and support.
- 5 Within County Durham and Darlington, a partnership approach has been introduced under the branding of 'ERASE' which stands for Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation. The partnership involves a number of agencies including the Council and Durham Constabulary who work together to promote safety, increase awareness and end abuse.

- 6 In July 2016, a joint meeting of both Committees was held and considered a report and presentation on the ERASE team. The presentation provided an overview of the team's activity, profile of CSE within the County and approaches to raise awareness with elected Members. Building on this work, Lisa Wood, Operations Manager and Detective Sergeant Ian Haddick will be in attendance at the joint committee meeting to deliver a presentation on current and future activity of the ERASE team and respond to member questions.

Recommendation

- 7 Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within the report and presentation and comment accordingly.

Background Papers

ERASE Team Update –Working with agencies to help keep young people safe from abuse, Joint Meeting of Safer and Stronger Communities and Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committees – July 2016.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder –The report and presentation includes information on within the Altogether Safer element of the Council and Safe Durham Partnership Plans.

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None