



# Borough of Telford and Wrekin

## Full Council

Thursday 13 July 2023

### CSE Inquiry - Update

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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Lee Carter - Cabinet Member: Place (The Economy & Neighbourhood Services) & Cllr Shirley Reynolds – Cabinet Member: Early Years, Children & Young People
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance
<b>Service Area:</b>	Policy & Governance
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Report considered by:</b>	Not Applicable

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Full Council:-

- 1.1 Notes the progress made by the Council against the actions contained within the report of the Independent Inquiry into CSE in Telford published on 12 July 2022;
- 1.2 Notes the Annual Report of the CSE Joint Review Action Group attached at **Appendix A** to this report; and
- 1.3 Notes the update provided by those with lived experience as to the progress of implementation of recommendations.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to enable Council to gain an understanding as to the work that has been undertaken in relation to the recommendations contained within the report of the Independent Inquiry (“the Report”).

## **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 In 2018, the Council commissioned an Independent Inquiry into CSE within Telford. The Independent Chair of this Inquiry, Tom Crowther KC (a former Judge) was appointed in 2019 and work on the Inquiry commenced in the summer of 2019.
- 3.2 The Independent Chair published his report, comprising more than 1,240 pages on 12 July 2022. This report comprised 47 recommendations, which can be broken down into 148 actions. These recommendations and actions are shared across the Council, West Mercia Police, West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner and the Integrated Care System (including health providers).
- 3.3 The Council has sole responsibility for implementing 29 recommendations/82 actions with a further 6 recommendations/30 actions requiring involvement from the Council.
- 3.4 The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry included provision for the Independent Chair to return 2 years’ post-publication of his report to assess the progress of those organisations in implementation of his recommendations. Following publication of the Report, the Leader confirmed that the Council would ensure all of its recommendations are implemented by the end of 2023.
- 3.5 Following the publication of the Report, the Council considered the best method for ensuring recommendations were implemented whilst, at the same time, providing some independence to the process. The Council has engaged an independent chair of the strategic implementation group (the group monitoring progress comprising those with lived experience, elected members, senior officers of the Council and other organisations) and an independent chair of the partners’ group which oversees the implementation of the joint partner actions.
- 3.6 Since publication of the Report, the Council has engaged with three individuals with lived experience to support it through the implementation process. Each of these individuals have experience of working in the field of CSE, providing support to others with experience of CSE, training professionals across the country and providing advice to government on matters relating to CSE, modern slavery and trafficking.
- 3.7 These individuals provide valuable insight through their lived experience (and that of those that they have contact with), present constructive challenge and contribute information, research and examples of best practice that can be incorporated into the work that the Council has undertaken and continues to undertake. They have also been consulted in relation to some of the recommendations that fall to partner agencies.

- 3.8 These individuals with lived experience have provided the Council with a video reflecting on their involvement in this work (<https://youtu.be/GZUDaLUViE>). They also wanted to commend the Independent Chair coming on board after the team had been established. This would have been quite daunting however she has exceeded all expectations and hasn't shyed away from confronting and raising challenges amongst the partners.
- 3.9 Of the actions that are ready to be reviewed, many of them are related to the taxi licensing and night-time economy recommendations made by the Inquiry. This responsiveness and desire from the Council's Licensing Team to progress their actions should be commended and has meant greater awareness within the community about the work of the licensing team, how to identify a taxi licensed in Telford and Wrekin and how to make complaints. Those with lived experience wished to express their thanks to the team for this work which they believe can only help protect children, young people and the wider community.

#### **4.0 Summary of current position**

- 4.1 As set out above, the Independent Chair will be returning to Telford and it is intended that the Council will issue an invitation for him to return at the end of this calendar year.
- 4.2 With that in mind, it has been important that the Council can see progress on an ongoing basis. As at the time of publication of this report:-
- 42 / 82 (51%) actions are ready for assessment by the Independent Chair;
  - 13 further actions are on track to be ready for assessment by the Independent Chair by the end of July.

This will mean that 67% of actions will be ready for independent assessment by the end of July.

- 4.4 It is recognised that there remains a lot of work to do to achieve the earlier timescale of the end of the year and this also requires input from partners. We are, however, cautiously confident that we are on track to send an invitation to the Independent Chair at the end of this year.
- 4.5 Across the 47 recommendations, 5 related entirely to the publication of an Annual Report from the 'Joint CSE Review Group', a partnership group, required by the recommendations. In addition, some actions for other recommendations also require information to be published in the annual report. This report is crucial in ensuring a multi-agency understanding of CSE within Telford, the profile of victims and the profile of suspected perpetrators. Attached at **Appendix A** is the Annual Report of the Joint CSE Review Group.

## **5.0 Council Priorities**

5.1 This report links to the following Council priorities:-

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community;
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live; and
- A community-focussed innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

6.1 Any financial implications arising from this report will be managed through the usual budget-setting process. Advice on individual proposals has been, and will continue to be, provided throughout the implementation process.

## **7.0 Legal and HR Implications**

7.1 There are no legal and / or HR implications directly relating to this report. Advice has been given, and will continue to be given, on individual proposals throughout the implementation process.

## **8.0 Ward Implications**

8.1 Whilst there are no ward implications directly relating to this report, individual proposals arising out of the implementation of recommendations may have ward implications and, where appropriate, these will be reported to Cabinet and / or Council in the usual way.

## **9.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications**

9.1 Whilst there are no health, social or economic implications directly relating to this report, individual proposals arising out of the implementation of recommendations may have ward implications and, where appropriate, these will be reported to Cabinet and / or Council in the usual way.

## **10.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

10.1 Whilst there are no equality and diversity implications directly relating to this report, individual proposals arising out of the implementation of recommendations may give rise to equality, diversity and inclusion considerations. Where appropriate, these will be reported to Cabinet and / or Council in the usual way. It is considered that the involvement of those with lived experience will support the Council's inclusivity aims.

## **11.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

11.1 There are no climate change and environmental implications directly relating to this report.

**12.0 Background Papers**

- 1 Report of the Independent Inquiry into CSE in Telford available [here](#)

**13.0 Appendices**

- A Annual Report of the Joint CSE Review Group

**14.0 Report Sign Off**

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date signed off</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Finance	05/07/2023	05/07/2023	MLB
Legal	05/07/2023	05/07/2023	RP