



# Borough of Telford and Wrekin

## Full Council

Thursday 30 November 2023

### CSE Inquiry - Update

---

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Lee Carter – Cabinet Member: Place (The Economy & Neighbourhood Services)
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
<b>Service Area:</b>	Policy & Governance
<b>Report Author:</b>	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01952 383219 <b>Email:</b> anthea.lowe@telford.gov.uk
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Report considered by:</b>	Full Council – 30 November 2023

---

#### 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 Delegates authority to the Director: Policy & Governance, following consultation with the Lived Experience Consultees, to write to the Independent Chair of the Inquiry to invite a review of the steps taking to implement the recommendations with the intention that this invite will be issued by the end of December 2023; and

- 1.3 Extends its thanks and gratitude to Holly Archer, Scarlett Jones and Joanne Phillips for their contribution to the work carried out to date on the recommendations.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide full Council with an update on the work that has been undertaken in relation to the implementation of recommendations contained within the report of the Independent Inquiry (“the Report”) and to understand the next steps.

## **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 In 2018, the Council commissioned an Independent Inquiry into CSE within Telford and Wrekin. This Inquiry was undertaken by an Independent Chair, Tom Crowther KC (a former Judge) who was appointed in 2019 and published the Report in 2022.
- 3.2 The Report comprised more than 1,200 pages and contained 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 Board (including health providers).
- 3.3 The Council has sole responsibility for implementing 29 recommendations, comprising 82 actions.
- 3.4 The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry include provision for the Independent Chair to return 2 years’ post-publication of his report to assess the progress of those organisations in the implementation of his recommendations. Following publication of the Inquiry report, the Leader confirmed that the Council would engage with three highly respected individuals with lived experience of CSE and commit as much time and resources as necessary to work with partners to enable the Independent Chair to be invited back 6 months earlier than originally scheduled.
- 3.5 Following the publication of the Report, the Council engaged with three individuals with lived experience of CSE to help shape its response to the recommendations. Each of these individuals has experience of working in the field of CSE, modern slavery and human trafficking, providing support to others who have experienced CSE, training professionals across the country and providing advice to the government and non-governmental organisations on such matters.
- 3.6 These individuals provide valuable insight through their lived experience, the contact they have with others and the work that they undertake which has enabled the Council to be inclusive of those with lived experience when shaping its response to the recommendations.
- 3.7 The Council is very mindful that it is the Independent Chair who will reach a position as to whether or not actions have been implemented effectively. That

being the case, the approach taken to date through our delivery plan is not to mark an action complete but, rather, to mark actions ready for assessment by the Independent Chair.

- 3.8 For each and every one of the Council's recommendations, the Lived Experience Consultees have been consulted with and have been provided with evidence to demonstrate that an action is assessment-ready. No action is considered assessment-ready until the Lived Experience Consultees have confirmed that they are satisfied with the steps that the Council has taken.
- 3.9 The work involved in implementation of the recommendations should not be underestimated with a number of services across the Council involved; licensing, policy, customer relationship, children's and education teams have all been involved and the coordination of the implementation is a key focus of both the Director: Policy & Governance and the Policy & Organisational Development Manager. The Lived Experience Consultees have also invested a significant amount of time in providing support to the Council attending weekly meetings with a number of officers for the last 7 months – this work continues..
- 3.10 As indicated in paragraph 3.9 above, this work continues with a high degree of confidence that the actions will be ready for assessment by the time the chair returns. As at the time of writing this report, the Council has 75% of its actions ready for assessment. Of the remaining 25%, 20% ought to be ready for assessment by the end of November with the remaining 5% due to be assessment-ready by the end of December. The 25% that are not quite ready for assessment are those that are complex and have required systemic change; for example, a change in contracts with suppliers of services.
- 3.11 Prior to inviting the Independent Chair to return to Telford & Wrekin, the Council's internal Audit team will review the evidence of implementation to ensure that the information to be provided to him effectively demonstrates what action the Council has taken in respect of each recommendation.
- 3.12 The Council will provide a narrative report to the Independent Chair setting out the methodology adopted in respect of implementation and summarising the evidence available in respect of each recommendation. This will enable the Chair to focus on the documentary evidence prior to meeting with any individuals he wishes to speak to as part of this review. The Director: Policy & Governance has agreed this approach with the Independent Chair.

#### **4.0 Summary of main proposals**

- 4.1 Given that we have now completed 75% of actions and have a delivery plan for the remaining 25% which sees the majority of actions being in a position to be assessed by the end of November, it is proposed that the Council writes to the Independent Chair at the end of December to invite him to return to Telford & Wrekin to assess the implementation of recommendations.
- 4.2 Given that there is no further Full Council meeting scheduled prior to the end of the year, it is proposed that authority should be delegated to the Director: Policy &

Governance to issue that invitation once satisfied that the Council is in a position to do so.

## **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. Legal 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 such implications particularly in regard to the improvement of physical health and mental wellbeing 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](#).
- 2 Report to Full Council 13 July 2023 available [here](#).

## 13.0 Appendices

None

## 14.0 Report Sign Off

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date signed off</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Legal	19/11/2023	20/11/2023	RP
Finance	21/11/2030	21/11/2023	MLB