

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD (OSB) (CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE)	AGENDA ITEM 6.1
<p>DATE OF MEETING: 5TH MARCH 2019</p> <p>REPORT OF: INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR – POLICY, COMMUNITIES & ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>REPORT AUTHOR: EUNICE LEWIS-OKEOWO – DEMOCRACY AND SCRUTINY OFFICER</p> <p>VICKY HAWKES – SERVICE MANAGER NEIGHBOURHOOD DELIVERY TEL: 01582 546159</p> <p>SUBJECT: BRINGING ON-STREET SEXUAL EXPLOITATION TO AN END</p>	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Crime and Disorder Committee request the Bedfordshire Police to report on their action plan and proposals to tackle on street sexual exploitation with the aim of addressing the impact on victims and bringing on-street sexual exploitation to an end.

BACKGROUND

2. At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) held on 14th January 2019 a report of the Community Safety Partnership Executive was considered entitled “Bringing On-Street Sexual Exploitation to an End Strategy”.
3. The Strategy follows the conclusion of the Sex Trade Strategy 2013-2018 and it summarises the Community Safety Partnership’s (CSP) ongoing aim of working towards ending on street sexual exploitation with focus on the impact on the local community and ensuring the quality of life for residents. The Community Safety Partnership Manager explained that the response to exploitation involved in the sex trade was contained within the Ending Adult Exploitation Strategy submitted to Executive meeting in March 2018. She further explained that all partners were fully in support of the Strategy and had all signed up to it.
4. A member of the Board questioned the effectiveness and the implementation of the Strategy as the previous issues of on street sexual exploitation were still predominant and had not been necessarily addressed by the previous Strategy. She enquired whether there was an assurance that this Strategy will definitely tackle these issues and provide protection and safety for victims.

5. Members were informed that Bedfordshire Police will continue to work with the Community Safety Partnership in terms of their response actions. There were plans to explore number of options including the detection of car number plates as well as plans to send letters directly to perpetrators. It was hoped that these plans once in place will deter people who use and exploit the trade.
6. It was stated that the sex trade was complex and require extensive and robust approach to address its complexities. The Community Safety Partnership will continue to work closely with the Bedfordshire Police to gather intelligence to ensure relevant and prompt response to issues.
7. Members expressed concern that the approach undertaken to address the on street sexual exploitation and sex trade in the last 5 years appear to have been ineffective and therefore it was important that the main issues were addressed by this Strategy. It was suggested that there was need for a real focus on deterrence and an assurance to completely eradicate the demand for the trade.
8. Members also felt that the Crime and Disorder Committee should hold to account the Bedfordshire Police in terms of their action plan, proposals, involvement and support in terms of working with the Community Safety Partnership to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy.

PROPOSAL AND OPTION

9. Following the submission of the report and the issues expressed by members of the Board, it was felt that there was need for the Crime and Disorder Committee to hold to account Bedfordshire Police.
10. Consequently, the Overview and Scrutiny Board made the following proposal:-

“That the Crime and Disorder Committee request the Bedfordshire Police to report on their action plan and proposals to tackle on street sexual exploitation with the aim of addressing the impact on victims and bringing on-street sexual exploitation to an end”.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

11. To consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 14th January 2019 in respect of the Bringing On-Street Sexual Exploitation to an End Strategy”.

Proposal

12. That the Crime and Disorder Committee is requested to consider the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 14th January 2019.

APPENDIX (if any)

- Report to Overview and Scrutiny Board on 14th January 2019 regarding “Bringing On-Street Sexual Exploitation to an End Strategy”

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS (if any)

- Minutes from Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on 14th January 2019