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NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting	Children and Families Advisory Panel
Date and Time	Tuesday, 13th June, 2017 at 1.30 pm
Place	Chute Room, Ell Court, The Castle, Winchester
Enquiries to	members.services@hants.gov.uk

John Coughlan CBE
Chief Executive
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting may be recorded and broadcast live on the County Council's website. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the Filming Protocol available on the County Council's website.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 10)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.

4. DEPUTATIONS

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements the Chairman may wish to make.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE (Pages 11 - 16)

To receive a report from the Director of Transformation and Governance with a proposed update to the Terms of Reference for the Children and Families Advisory Panel.

7. INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES BRANCH

To receive a presentation from the Director of Children's Services with an overview and introduction to the work carried out within the Children and Families branch of Children's Services.

8. WILLOW- SPECIALIST MISSING, EXPLOITED AND TRAFFICKED TEAM (Pages 17 - 26)

To receive a report from the Director of Children's Services detailing the creation and progress of the 'Willow Team' which is Hampshire Children's Services specialist Missing, Exploited and Trafficked team.

9. FORWARD PLAN

To consider and approve the Children and Families Advisory Panel's Forward Plan.

Exclusion of Press and Public

Recommendation:

To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during the following items of business, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the reports.

10. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - EXEMPT (Pages 27 - 28)

To confirm the exempt minutes of the previous meeting.

ABOUT THIS AGENDA:

On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.

ABOUT THIS MEETING:

The press and public are welcome to attend the public sessions of the meeting. If you have any particular requirements, for example if you require wheelchair access, please contact members.services@hants.gov.uk for assistance.

County Councillors attending as appointed members of this Committee or by virtue of Standing Order 18.5; or with the concurrence of the Chairman in connection with their duties as members of the Council or as a local County Councillor qualify for travelling expenses.

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At a meeting of the CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADVISORY PANEL of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Tuesday 31 January 2017

Chairman:
p Councillor David Keast

p Ann Briggs
p Rita Burgess
a Roz Chadd
p Jacqui England

p Marge Harvey
a Chris Lagdon
p Jackie Porter
p Malcolm Wade

92. **BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

93. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Chadd.

94. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest and, having regard to Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

95. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of 18 October 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

96. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no announcements.

97. **UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S HOME'S RESIDENTIAL STRATEGY**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 5 in the Minute Book) regarding the update on the Children's Homes Residential Strategy.

The Panel heard that the overall vision for Hampshire's Residential Strategy is that Children's residential care should be a placement of choice, based on effective assessment of needs and careful matching. The provision and standard of care across the residential estate will not be less than expected from a large family home through confident, authoritative parenting within environments that demonstrate individual worth and value.

The Strategy has two main strands; the quality of buildings and the quality of staff. In order to improve the quality of the buildings, four of the existing homes are being replaced with six new homes; children and staff were consulted on their designs. The sixth new build has been delayed by difficulties in identifying a suitable site.

Quality of staff has been addressed through robust recruitment and management of staff with the embedding of an agreed model of practice. The Pillars of Parenting Model has been used since 2012 and the first two years were independently evaluated to have a significant improvement in experience of the children.

In response to questions members heard that:

- The number of children in Milesdown, Winchester will be reduced to reduce the disruption in moving to Cross Ways in Old Basing, particularly in relation to Education.
- A new Winchester based home was desired but the location can not be found so Milesdown is being reconsidered and concerns managed.
- The aim of Children's Services is to establish smaller homes with children who do not move from their local area, with a suitable mix of children.
- The sale of land in relation to the old homes offset the cost of the new homes.
- OFSTED assess the Children's homes in relation to them not feeling like an institutional setting, against the Quality Standards..
- There are children at these homes who have additional learning needs but if they were significant enough they would be in a more suitable environment.

RESOLVED: *That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note the update to the Residential Strategy and the improved outcomes associated with it.*

98. **UPDATE ON THE SUPPORTING (TROUBLED) FAMILIES PROGRAMME (STFP)**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) in regards to the update on the Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme.

The Panel heard how the principles of the STFP align with the County Council's own transformational ambitions up to and beyond 2020.

Phase 1 focused on families with children with poor school attendance, young people offending, family members committing anti social acts or claiming out of work benefits. Tracking of these families has shown sustainability of outcomes with 4 out of 5 families.

Phase 2, launched in December 2014 has significantly increased the number of families targeted for support and increased the criteria to include those experiencing domestic abuse or health problems. So far 65% of phase 2 families are nominated under the health criterion and 80% of these are in relation to mental health.

It is likely that there will be no Government funding for the programme after Phase 2 ends and so local investment will be crucial to the continuation of STFP beyond 2020.

In response to questions members heard that:

- Around 25% of families involved have an issue in relation to drugs or addiction. While not as large as mental health, these issues are often intertwined and there is commonly not a formal diagnosis.
- It is hard to keep the retention rate high as those who make good progress tend to disappear as support is no longer needed.
- Increasingly, social media and electronic communication is used to contact families.
- Work is being done with Housing Associations to get them involved with the STFP and to prevent evictions.
- The best professional for each family works as their STFP lead, it is not always Children's Services or Hampshire County Council staff as the scheme is multi agency.
- There is work to be done to bring in voluntary organisations and help make them more resilient.
- The programme is funded by Government up to 2020 and central funding is not expected after this point. There is a need to make the business case for investment in STFP beyond that point via the independent academic evaluation which will also assess the change in culture to whole family working brought about by the programme.

RESOLVED: *The Childrens and Families Advisory Panel are asked to note;*

- a) The positive independent evaluation of Phase 1 of STFP in Hampshire.***
- b) Sustainability of outcomes for families for whom a positive family outcome was claimed one and two years previously.***
- c) The strong performance in Phase 1 and in the first year (2015/16) of Phase 2 of the programme.***
- d) Promote STFP wherever possible to increase the numbers of families nominated to the programme.***

99. PARTNERS IN PRACTICE

The Panel received a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) with regards to the Partners in Practice Programme. Members heard that Hampshire County Council had been selected as one of eight Local Authorities nationally to be included in the programme. The purpose is "to innovate, to improve frontline children's social work and to develop new systems of delivering social care and trialling new ways of working with families".

Officers advised that the greater freedoms associated with the Partners in Practice innovation will not lead to upheaval, but small bureaucratic changes to allow the system to run more smoothly and improve outcomes for children and their families. Changes are needed as there is a national trend towards increasing need and rising demand alongside reducing resources; authorities therefore need to find new ways of working.

Officers have identified seven linked components to be the key principles for the changes to be made with an overview of trialling deregulation and removing bureaucracy, multi-disciplinary family interventions and developing a model of ongoing social support.

In response to questions members heard that:

- Currently Children's Services are largely operating on a 9-5 basis and this scheme will allow them to look into more flexible social work with partners for high risk times such as Friday/Saturday evenings.
- The scheme will allow for new methods to improve staff retention to go alongside the four weekly supervision and programme of emotional resilience.
- There can be further integration of volunteers to be an extra resource to carefully manage around the edges of the social care service.
- The key to kerbing the problem of increased demand was to target the groups who return for a further intervention.

RESOLVED: *That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note Hampshire County Council's involvement in the Partners in Practice scheme and the impact this will have on Children's Services.*

100. ANNUAL UPDATE ON SWANWICK LODGE

The Panel received a report of the Director of Children's Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) with regards to the Annual Update on Swanwick Lodge. The Panel heard that Swanwick Lodge is a Secure Children's home with 16 approved places for young people of either gender aged 10-17 years who are deemed to be a significant risk to themselves. Swanwick Lodge is a national resource and so children accommodated may not be from Hampshire.

Officers explained that previously four beds were offered under a block contract to the Youth Justice Board for young people who were remanded or sentenced to custody. This contract has since expired in light of concerns regarding the appropriateness of admission made though obligation rather than local placement matching.

The Panel were told that Swanwick Lodge had received a 'Good' Ofsted inspection for the third time in succession in May 2016 and that an interim inspection in November 2016 found that the service had "sustained effectiveness".

In response to questions members heard that:

- The average length of time that a Young Person is a resident at Swanwick Lodge is three months.
- Day release is possible and supervised, starting with a 1:3 ratio and going down to a 1:1 ratio.

- Recruitment is handled very carefully to ensure that staff are suitable and able to affect change, risk assess and deescalate behaviour. Due to the unique environment, psychological support is provided to the staff.
- The Young People in Swanwick Lodge are 12-17 years old, although 10-12 is possible with the approval of the Secretary of State.
- The Pillars of Parenting model is used to ensure stabilisation, focusing on routine. Trust can be developed in their three month stay that then enables them to access support when they leave Swanwick Lodge.

RESOLVED: *That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note the update on Swanwick Lodge.*

101. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION:

That in relation to the following items, the press and public be excluded from the meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for the reasons set out in the report.

102. ANNUAL UPDATE ON SWANWICK LODGE – EXEMPT APPENDIX

The Panel received an exempt appendix of the Director of Children’s Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book) in relation to Item 8.

Signed: _____
Cllr Keast
Chairman

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HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Children and Families Advisory Panel
Date:	13 June 2017
Title:	Update To Children and Families Advisory Panel Terms of Reference
Report From:	Director of Transformation and Governance

Contact Name: Barbara Beardwell, Head of Law and Governance

Tel: 01962 845157

E-Mail: barbara.beardwell@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide the Children and Families Advisory Panel with a proposed update to the Terms of Reference for the Panel to consider before presenting to a meeting of the County Council for approval.
- 1.2 This update has been made in light of the Terms of Reference remaining unchanged since the Panel's inception.
- 1.3 The current Terms of Reference are attached as Annex 1 for ease of reference.
- 1.4 The proposed update to the Terms of Reference is attached as Annex 2.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Children and Families Advisory Panel support the update to the Terms of Reference for consideration and approval by the County Council.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

N/A

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

N/A

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

N/A

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

N/A

Current Terms of Reference

To consider and advise the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services in relation to:

- (i) the development of further strategies that will enhance the safeguarding of children in Hampshire and ensure that children in care in Hampshire achieve the best possible outcomes.
- (ii) the performance of the Children and Families branch of the Children's Services Department and that of its partners in relation to such national and local targets as may be set.
- (iii) the outcomes of Ofsted inspection of safeguarding, children in care, children's homes, fostering services and adoption services as they may arise from time to time and any actions that are required to improve services
- (iv) excellent and innovative practice in children's social care settings from which others can learn.
- (v) any matters that may arise in relation to the council's requirement to be corporate parents for children in care.
- (vi) the views of children in care about the services they receive from the council.

Proposed Terms of Reference

It is recommended the County Council approves:-

- a) That the terms of reference of the Children and Families Advisory Panel (“the Panel”) be updated as follows:

The Children and Families Advisory Panel is an Advisory Panel made up of 9 Members appointed proportionally and meeting three times a year. The Panels function is to advise the relevant Executive Member in relation to:

- (i) The development of further strategies that will enhance the safeguarding of children in Hampshire and ensure that children in care in Hampshire achieve the best possible outcomes.
- (ii) The performance of the Children and Families Branch of the Children's Services Department and that of its partners in relation to such national and local targets as may be set.
- (iii) The outcomes of Ofsted inspection of safeguarding, children in care, children's homes, fostering services and adoption services, as they may arise from time to time and any actions that are required to improve services
- (iv) Excellent and innovative practice in children's social care settings from which others can learn.
- (v) Any matters that may arise in relation to the Council's requirement to be corporate parents for children in care.
- (vi) The views of children in care about the services they receive from the Council.

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HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Children & Families Advisory Panel
Date:	13 June 2017
Title:	Willow - Specialist Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Team
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Vanessa Johns, District Manager

Tel: 02380 816116

Email: Vanessa.johns@hants.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. A report detailing the creation and progress of the 'Willow Team' which is Hampshire Children Services specialist Missing, Exploited and Trafficked team.

2. Contextual Information

2.1. In March 2015 Hampshire County Council were successfully awarded funding from the Department for Education Social Work Innovation scheme. The innovation scheme invited Local Authorities to introduce a series of measures that challenge the traditional ways of working in children's social care, reducing bureaucracy while improving outcomes for children in need of care and protection, alongside seeking to reduce the demand for children's social services in the longer term.

2.2. Among the initiatives, Hampshire Children Services created the 'Willow Team' a multi-agency team to specifically address the needs of children and young people who repeatedly go missing, or are at risk of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

2.3. Hampshire, like every other area of the country, is faced with the challenge of tackling the issue of children going missing, being abused through child exploitation and/or being trafficked (MET).

2.4. Whilst we are clear that there is no evidence of any organised abuse within Hampshire such as those found in Rotherham or Oxford, tackling the issue of MET has been identified as one of the most important challenges for the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board and it is clear that the collaboration of all partners is required to ensure that exploitation of children is eradicated.

3. Team Establishment

3.1. The Willow Team launched in October 2015 and was initially comprised of a social care Team Manager, 3 social workers, 1.5 specialist nurses, 1 Barnardos worker and links with the specialist Goldstone Police Team.

3.2. The team was set up to develop support for children at risk of MET through:

- Improved identification of young people at risk
- Improved support to victims of or young people at risk of CSE
- Better quality investigations
- Increased awareness of MET within the professional community

3.3. The team accepts referrals via the Hampshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) alongside referrals for children who are currently open to social care, such as children looked after, or subject to Child in Need or Child Protection Planning.

3.4. The team provides specialist work such as:

- Direct specialist MET work with the child
- Direct work with the parent/carers/ residential workers
- Mentoring to professionals – e.g. education, social workers, school nurses to support them to undertake direct work with the child/young person
- Consultation advice and support to professional groups, i.e. attending High Risk Strategy Meetings to offer support on how to progress a plan or a child
- Undertaking awareness raising – i.e. if a group of children raised within an specific geographical area, the team could undertake work within schools/ youth groups to raise awareness
- Disruption of perpetrators - the team may seek to undertake work on tackling the perpetrator rather than working directly with the child

3.5. In 2016, a 'Swanwick Lodge MET' worker position was also added to the team. Swanwick Lodge is a purpose built local authority secure children's home with mixed gender units, providing care for up to 16 children aged between 10 and 17 years from over the UK.

3.6. It was identified by management within Swanwick Lodge that an increasing number of children residing in the unit were presenting as being victims of exploitation or trafficking and that there was a requirement to provide specialist support for these children during their stay.

3.7. The Swanwick Lodge MET worker was created therefore to offer 1-1 sessions with children within Swanick, exploring risk taking behaviour, their 'push' & 'pull' factors, their understanding of grooming and exploitation to help children better understand their previous experiences and help promote change. The worker engages in regular communication to the Local Authority

where the child comes from and supports in the formulation of a discharge plan for children when they are due to leave Swanwick at the end of their secure order to ensure ongoing support is provided.

4. Willow Team Case Examples

4.1. Below are five case studies of cases that the Willow Team has worked on within the last 18 months, demonstrating how positive multi-agency work has safeguarded children within Hampshire.

4.2. Case Study 1:

R was 15 and moved from London with his family to escape a male who was grooming him. The male followed him to the local area and again made contact. R was offered gifts and groomed over a period of years, he was raped and then coerced into further sexual acts and repeated instances of abuse. The case highlighted many 'Push & Pull' factors including a parent who was unaware of the risks or what to do when R went missing. The case was referred to the Willow Team following R making a disclosure in a youth group. Initially R did not want to make a disclosure, however with support and engagement from the Willow worker R made a full disclosure. The police arrested the perpetrator and a support plan pulled together services to keep R safe and support recovery. The Willow Team worker has continued to work with R regarding appropriate relationships and keeping safe.

4.3. Case Study 2:

The team received a referral from a school in Hampshire. The Willow Team attended the school with Police and uncovered that an unknown male, pretending to be a teenage boy, had targeted a 11 year old girl's Instagram account, going on to then target all of her friends. The male sought to groom all of the girls, gaining their trust and friendship. This later progressed to him requesting explicit images from all of the children. The police specialist team identified that two girls had sent explicit images and many of them had engaged in conversations of a sexual nature believing him to be of a similar age child. The Willow Team met with all of the children and parents identified. None of the parents were aware of the fact that their children were being groomed via social media and there was little evidence of any safeguarding in place regarding internet use. The Willow Team gave advice to each parent and child and support was provided to the school to undertake additional keep-safe work. Sharing of the information has meant that this exploitation has ended and the children are all safer and more aware of online risks.

4.4. Case Study 3:

A 14 year old high risk female with a history of going missing, drug and alcohol misuse, associating with adult males and poor school attendance was referred to the Willow team. The case was allocated to one of the specialist nurses in the team. Interventions included education regarding drug and alcohol use, contraception and sexual health information which included sexual health screening advice, healthy relationships, keeping safe and online

safety and promotion of positive emotional health. The child engaged well with the nurse, sharing information about the 'push' & 'pull' factors which influenced her decision making. This positive relationship enabled the specialist nurse to tailor the interventions to specifically meet the needs of the child. Education was provided at a level which met the child's learning needs and support was offered to the parents to improve the relationships and communication at home. The aim was to reduce the 'push' factors at home and increase the child's knowledge of the dangers of exploitative relationships and manage her anxiety. The risk has now been successfully reduced to low risk.

4.5. *Case Study 4:*

A 17 year old male was referred to the team after concerns were raised that he was 'working' in a much older male's home as a 'live in' housekeeper. The Willow Team investigation established that an 'uncle' figure was used to find the work as a 'domestic worker'. The parents did not know the man who their child was living with and had no details of his address or any ability to contact their son. It was established that the child was asked to undertake tasks as domestic chores which were considered by the Willow Team to be slavery and exploitative. The Willow Team worked with the local police to talk to the parents and outline the risks identified. Following this it was agreed that the child should return home. He is now safe back with his family and was being supported to start college.

4.6. *Case Study 5:*

The team received a referral for an unaccompanied child located in a lorry on the A34 as part of a larger group. He was assessed to be 15 years old and was placed into foster care in Hampshire. A trafficking assessment was completed by the Willow Team and the child informed the worker that his father lived in the north of England and he was going to be living with him. Children's Services undertook checks around the adult male and managed contact under a safety plan. Children Services advised the male that we would be seeking a DNA test to evidence a family relationship. Several weeks later Police in the north contacted the social work team to make them aware they were investigating the male claiming to be the child's father and had reason to believe he was part of a larger system of immigration fraud. Subsequently the male refused to provide DNA to prove his link to the child. This in our view kept the child safe and by sharing information we uncovered a larger network.

5. **Willow Evaluation**

5.1. Since the Willow team was established, it has worked with over 400 children and has an average of 150 children open at any one time. The team have delivered approximately 73 presentations to over 2300 professionals within Hampshire in their work to increase awareness of MET. The Team has also produced a quarterly newsletter to all agencies giving updates on the team, as well as highlighting up to date research and resources that all professionals can use for their learning.

- 5.2. The multi-agency team approach has meant that there has been a significant improvement in the professional connections and communications across Hampshire for our most high risk children. This improved communication has also allowed for an improved intelligence picture across Hampshire and ensures that all agencies have a better understand the impact of perpetrators and hotspot areas so we appropriately react to reduce risk.
- 5.3. As part of the Innovation scheme, the Department for Education (DfE) undertook a formal evaluation of the Willow Team, which allowed for support in identifying our strengths and areas for improvement. For the full report please see [Social care innovations in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight](#)
- 5.4. The DfE found that the Willow Project outcomes were successful and many professionals have appreciated the work of the Willow Team in relation to young people at risk of sexual exploitation, in particular:
- The responsiveness of the service
 - The specialist advice they've received from the team
 - Specialist assessments and, in some cases, interventions
 - Advice and consultation
 - Improving the overall knowledge of Social Workers in this specialist area, particularly recognising the signs and risks for CSE
 - Overall, 60% of respondents rated the Willow service as very good and 25% good - 85% overall
 - 100% of respondents believed that the intervention had helped to reduce the risk (of the child going missing, being exploited or being trafficked)
 - 100% of the respondents believed that the outcomes had been positive overall for the young person involved
 - The development of a specialist multi-disciplinary team is seen as very valuable.
 - The duty phone line is highly valued.
 - All agencies see the team as responsive, with good communication and giving good feedback from the work that they undertake.
 - The Willow Team is seen as having made a very significant difference to the response and understanding of CSE/MET issues in Hampshire. This includes achieving greater consistency and clarity on the response. The issue is now seen as firmly established on the multi-agency agenda.
- 5.5. This evaluation also sought feedback from children and their families working with the Willow Team. Some of the feedback gathered is as follows;
- *“She is much better at school now, has passed her first exam!”*
 - *“As a family, we are more aware – we’ve kept all the things in place such as turning off the internet at a certain time at night”*

- *“She showed me videos about exploitation and grooming. She watched them with me. I had to explain what it was about afterwards. I’m growing up a bit more now and I know not to go out with the wrong people, I hang out with my friends now. I’m changing – have learned my lesson”*
- *“She was really helpful. She helped me at school (I was being bullied). I’ve been well behaved, respecting my Mum, and also at school. Everything has changed, I am safe”*
- *“She came to meet my daughter, and offered advice to me as well. She reassured us that we were doing the right things. We are through it now. She is calmer, more measured, a lot happier. It’s nice to know the worker is still available”*

6. Future Priorities

6.1. From our own self-assessment and reviewing the learning from the DfE evaluation, we have identified a number of areas that we will continue to work on. These are;

- a. Ongoing promotion of intelligence sharing by all agencies to further improve disruption of perpetrators within Hampshire
- b. Supporting other services to develop their skills in delivery of preventative/ educational work regarding MET; which in turn will allow for;
- c. The Willow Team to increase support and intervention to higher risk cases
- d. Improve awareness of the emerging themes of other forms of exploitation i.e. exploitation via gang culture- drug running, exploitation via modern slavery

6.2. In November 2016 Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) awarded 18 months funding for the 2 full time nurse positions within the Willow Team and in June 2017 Hampshire Children Services also committed to a further 1 year funding, evidencing the strong commitment to the MET agenda.

6.3. The Willow Team has also been chosen to host the new ‘Frankie Workers’ project starting in June 2017. This is a joint funded project by Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire CCGs, in which counsellors will offer trauma counselling to children who have experienced sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. The aim of the project is to provide early intervention, reducing the requirement for access to mental health services later on in life.

7. Conclusion

7.1. Since its creation in 2015, The Willow Team has consistently strived to improve the lives of children at risk of MET in Hampshire. The staff within the team are dedicated to safeguarding children and have worked hard to foster

positive relationships with children, families and other professionals and promote the MET agenda.

7.2. As detailed above we believe that the team has been successful in identifying and safeguarding a number of children within Hampshire and we are keen to promote and develop our multi-agency working to ensure more innovative ways of improving the outcome's for children at risk of harm and disrupting those that wish to harm children in our county.

8. Recommendations

8.1. That CFAP recognise the work undertaken by The Willow Team

8.2. That the Willow Newsletter be distributed to CFAP members for future information

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	
<i>NB: Only complete this section if you have not completed any of the Corporate Strategy tick boxes above. If it is not applicable, please delete.</i>	

NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <http://intranet.hants.gov.uk/equality/equality-assessments.htm>

*Inset in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state*

- (a) why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- (b) will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions.*

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. N/A

3. Climate Change:

- a) How what does is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

N/A

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

N/A

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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