

## South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

### REPORT

<b>Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership</b>	<b>Integration Joint Board</b>
<b>Held on</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020-2025</b>
<b>Summary:</b>	
The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020 – 2025. The report summarises the development of the strategy, the consultation that took place to develop the strategic priorities and the implementation plan.	
<b>Presented by</b>	<b>Tim Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care</b>
<b>It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i. Approves the Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020 – 2025;</b></li> <li><b>ii. Remits the Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020 – 2025 to Community Planning Partners for approval through their own governance processes; and</b></li> <li><b>iii. Supports the implementation of the strategy permitting six-monthly progress reports to be presented to Performance and Audit Committee for scrutiny.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Route to Meeting:</b>	
<b>Endorsed by Child Protection and Adult Protection Committees.</b>	

<b>Implications checklist – check box if applicable and include detail in report</b>									
Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ICT	<input type="checkbox"/>						

<b>Directions required to NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran South Ayrshire Council, or both</b>	1. No Direction Required	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2. Direction to NHS Ayrshire and Arran	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3. Direction to South Ayrshire Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4. Direction to NHS Ayrshire and Arran and South Ayrshire Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP  
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Report by Director of Health & Social Care**

**SEXUAL EXPLOITATION STRATEGY 2020-2025**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020 – 2025. The report summarises the development of the strategy, the consultation that took place to develop the strategic priorities and the implementation plan.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:**

- i. Approves the Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020 – 2025;**
- ii. Remits the Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020 – 2025 to Community Planning Partners for approval through their own governance processes; and**
- iii. Supports the implementation of the strategy permitting six-monthly progress reports to be presented to Performance and Audit Committee for scrutiny.**

**3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group evolved from the multi-agency Sexual Exploitation Reference Group set up in 2015. Initially intended to be a short-life working-group to provide support and guidance on the development of work to prevent/tackle sexual exploitation, it developed a more permanent status. It continues to operate as a sub-group of the Violence Against Women Partnership.
- 3.2 The Joint Action Group developed South Ayrshire's Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 2017 – 2022 which focused predominantly on awareness raising and training.
- 3.3 In April 2019, the Interim Child Protection Committee Lead Officer assumed Chairing responsibility for the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group with the primary aim of supporting the group in the re-draft of the Sexual Exploitation strategy. Since this time, support has been agreed from the Policy and Performance Team to ensure the redrafted document meets the requirements of a strategy.

3.4 The Sexual Exploitation Strategy was due to be completed earlier this year but due to changes in staff and the Covid-19 lockdown, this work was put on hold.

#### 4. REPORT

4.1 The Joint Action Group felt it was important to ensure that the Sexual Exploitation Strategy for 2020 – 2025 ([Appendix 1](#)) applies to all children and young people and adults at risk of sexual exploitation.

4.2 It is known that some groups of people are more vulnerable to targeting by perpetrators. These include young people who go missing or are looked after, people with learning disabilities, children and young people who are excluded from school or people who misuse drugs and alcohol. Care experienced children and young people have additional vulnerabilities.

4.3 The conditions which allow sexual exploitation to take place are often complex, and require a multi-agency approach to robustly understand and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions. This requires staff working across services to be ambitious for the people they are working with and ensure the services they are planning, commissioning and delivering are of a high quality.

4.4 The Partnership is aware of the potential for the COVID-19 lockdown to have had an impact on the most vulnerable and for the risk of exploitation to have increased in some instances. We will work with our partners to consider the increased risk.

4.5 We have based this strategy on evidence that we gathered in a number of ways:

- A public consultation which took place from 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
- A staff consultation.
- Focus groups led by South Ayrshire Champions for Change Champions Board.
- Information provided by with the members of the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group.
- Through the review of strategies and policies that direct how our services should work.
- Feedback from the Child and Adult Protection Committees.
- Building on the evidence in South Ayrshire's Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 2017-2022.
- Through the Equality Impact Assessment and Children's Rights Impact Assessment.

4.6 In line with the [National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation Update](#), the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group has agreed that this strategy is working towards the same strategic priorities and including vulnerable adults:

1. The risk that children, young people and vulnerable adults are exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early identification.
  2. Children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high quality support.
  3. Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and less likely to re-offend.
  4. Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling sexual exploitation are reduced.
- 4.7 An Implementation Plan has been developed to take forward actions to achieve the strategic priorities.
- 4.8 Once the Strategy is approved by the Integration Joint Board, it will then be remitted to Community Planning Partners to progress through their own governance structures. The Sexual Exploitation Strategy Implementation Group will then take forward the Implementation Plan.
- 4.9 Reports on the progress made to deliver the strategy will be required every six months and will be presented to the HSCP Performance and Audit Committee. Progress reports on the Strategy will also be provided to the Child Protection and Adult Protection Committees and the Violence Against Women Partnership on a quarterly basis.

## **5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

- 5.1 This report is strategic in its nature. The strategic objectives of the Integration Joint Board's Strategic Plan supported by the Sexual Exploitation Strategy are:
- We will protect vulnerable adults and children from harm;
  - We will work to provide the best start in life for children in South Ayrshire; and
  - We will improve outcomes for children who are looked after in South Ayrshire.

## **6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial Implications**

- 6.1.1 There are no financial implications arising from the consideration of this report.

### **6.2 Human Resource Implications**

- 6.2.1 There are no human resource implications arising from the consideration of this report.

### **6.3 Legal Implications**

- 6.3.1 There are no legal implications arising from the consideration of this report.

## **7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

- 7.1 The Sexual Exploitation Strategy was developed in partnership with the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group. A public consultation was carried out as well as focus group sessions by the Champions Board.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 The level of risk arising from this report is low. However, consideration must be given to the level of risk of not implementing the strategy.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no equalities impacts arising from this report. A full Equality Impact Assessment and Child's Rights Impact Assessment have been carried out on the Sexual Exploitation Strategy and can be found at Appendix 1.

## **10. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no sustainability issues arising from any decisions made on this report.

### **REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT**

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

31.08.2020