

Councillor David Stewart
Chair
Hampshire Police and Crime Panel

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<i>Date</i>	20 November 2015	<i>E-mail</i>	Sophie.butt@hants.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Stewart,

Hampshire Police and Crime Panel: 'Child Sexual Exploitation Proactive Scrutiny Report'

Thank you for your recent letter sharing the report and outcomes of the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel's Proactive Scrutiny Report into child sexual exploitation (CSE). I read the report with interest and was pleased to see the range of information that was submitted from such a number of organisations.

In my submission to the call for evidence I highlighted that whilst some good work has been achieved by the Constabulary and other multi-agency partners across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, there are some gaps in my view that require further strategic direction and co-ordination. The two reviews by Louise Casey, in particular her March 2015 reflections, coupled with my knowledge of what the most effective drivers have been in tackling CSE in Oxfordshire, indicates that the partnership needs to move swiftly from identification and support to victims, to a wider co-ordination across child protection partnerships and community safety groups. I am concerned that a number of key points raised in my submission have not been fully reflected in the recommendations in your report. I wanted to draw this to your attention at this stage and explore any opportunity to further strengthen the recommendations to cover the following points:

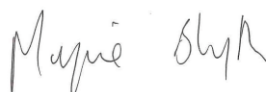
- Perpetrator profiling, including use of disruption methods of which there are now a wider number;
- Forming a stronger grip on taxi licensing, and, raising awareness of CSE with taxi drivers across the local authority areas. Your recommendations reference voluntary training for taxi drivers. I would encourage that CSE training be mandatory for taxi drivers when they apply for their licences. My

concern is that there is a lack of drive for voluntary arrangements and no real impetus to make taxi drivers complete a course;

- Commissioning gaps in providing interventions for those victims that disclose abuse or exploitation. The recommendations in the report do reference making commissioning funds available for projects to support victims of CSE, but I wanted to highlight a particular concern in Hampshire about the lack of therapeutic support available to children who have experienced CSE. I believe that different support and services are available in other areas of the county, but the provision in the locality of Hampshire LSCB / Local Authority is sparse due to a number of voluntary services having received funding cuts in March 2015.

These matters require robust strategic grip across the partnership, and the Police and Crime Panel have a key role in influencing and supporting. I would be more than happy to discuss any of the above in more detail if helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Blyth". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Maggie Blyth
Independent Chair
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Boards