

**CABINET – 26 MAY2015****The council's response to the findings of the Serious Case Review of Children A-F and further action taken in response to Child Sexual Exploitation in Oxfordshire****Statement to Cabinet from the Performance Scrutiny Committee**

At its meeting on 26 March 2015, the Performance Scrutiny Committee considered the report, before Cabinet on 26 May 2015, that outlines the council response to the serious case review.

The Committee considered the recommendations made by the serious case review and reviewed the actions taken by the council since 2010. They examined the sufficiency of those actions to meet the recommendations that have been laid out.

This statement is presented to Cabinet in order that they can take the opinion of the performance scrutiny committee into account when considering the Oxfordshire County Council response to the serious case review.

Overall the committee were satisfied that the response outlined appeared to be sufficient. However, there were several areas where the committee felt that more work would be required.

Firstly, that there is an urgent need to give further consideration to supporting the lead member more with their safeguarding responsibility. For example, referring to paragraph 54 of the report and the Need to Know report, concern was expressed that this was to be shared only with the Lead Member. It was suggested that this was a heavy burden for one councillor and it would be better for there to be some support from other councillors. The committee felt that it was crucial to improve resilience and accountability. In addition, the committee felt it was essential that members in a significant role, i.e. the lead member, receive appropriate training.

Members highlighted the importance of the Corporate Parenting Panel, whose role and visibility needed to be strengthened.

Lastly, the role of scrutiny was discussed. There is a need to further strengthen the role of scrutiny to enable them to provide robust assurance that the council's actions in relation to vulnerable children are sufficient, particularly in relation to the early identification of possible concerns. The committee undertook to take forward a plan around the information that should be regularly reported, enabling them to fulfil their responsibility.

The committee also identified issues that would need to be taken forward by other scrutiny committees. The Education Scrutiny Committee will include scrutiny of work around perpetrators. The Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee will take up issues around sexual consent and health indices.

The committee would urge the Cabinet to ensure that further action is taken to address their concerns in these areas.

**Cllr Liz Brighthouse**  
**Performance Scrutiny Committee Chairman**

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