



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

23 September 2020

Report Title:	Spotlight Review of County Lines Issues Within St Helens Task and Finish Group Report
Cabinet Portfolio	Community Safety
Cabinet Member	Councillor Jeanie Bell
Exempt Report	No
Reason for Exemption	N/A
Key Decision	No
Public Notice issued	N/A
Wards Affected	All
Report of	Cath Fogarty Executive Director of Corporate Services cathfogarty@sthelens.gov.uk 01744 676885
Contact Officer	James Morley Scrutiny Manager jamesmorley@sthelens.gov.uk 01744 676277

Borough priorities Please mark X for any priority supported by this report	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	
	Promote good health, independence and care across our communities	
	Create safe and strong communities for our residents	X
	Support a strong, diverse and well-connected local economy	
	Create a green, thriving and vibrant place to be proud of	
	Be a modern, efficient and effective Council	

1. Summary

This report presents the Spotlight Review of County Lines Issues in St Helens Task and Finish Group's report to Cabinet.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i) Receive the Spotlight Review of County Lines Issues in St Helens Task and Finish Group Report for consideration;
- ii) Provide a response to the recommendations in the Task and Finish Group Report to be presented to the Place Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 24th November 2020.

3. Background /Reasons for the recommendations

- 3.1 The Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel commissioned a task and finish group to review the County Lines issues within St Helens as part of its work programme for 2019/20. The Task and Finish Group carried out research and held meetings with officers to develop its conclusions and recommendations as set out in the report. The Task and Finish Group's report was approved for submission to Cabinet by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 20th July 2020.
- 3.2 Since the report was approved the Council's Scrutiny Committee Structure has been amended, with responsibility for issues within the former Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel's remit now within the remit of the Place Services Scrutiny Committee. As such, Cabinet's response will go to the Place Services Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 The Council's Constitution provides rules regarding the submission of reports by Overview and Scrutiny to Cabinet and the provision of a response to reports by Cabinet; as set out in Sections 8 and 9 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules contained in Part 4 of the Constitution. In summary, the Constitution requires Overview and Scrutiny to submit reports to Cabinet, with a response from a member of the Cabinet, nominated by the Leader, and officers to be provided within one month of receiving the report.
- 3.4 This report to the Cabinet meeting on 23rd September 2020 acts as the submission of the report to Cabinet. The response of Cabinet will be presented to the Place Services Scrutiny

Committee meeting on 24th November 2020 where the nominated Cabinet Member and Officers will be requested to present the response.

4 Implications

- 4.1 Legal Implications - The recommendations for Cabinet to consider this report and provide a response adheres to the rules within the Constitution and comply with legislation relating to overview and scrutiny as outlined above.
- 4.2 Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Implications
 - 4.2.1 Social Value - The impact of any of the recommendations within the Task Group Report on employing local people, spending in the local economy or local procurement would depend on how the recommendations are implemented, if accepted/supported by Cabinet.
 - 4.2.2 Sustainability and Environment - It is unlikely that the implementation by Cabinet of any of the recommendations within the Task Group Report will result in impacts on sustainability or the environment.
 - 4.2.3 Health and Wellbeing - Reducing levels of Child Criminal Exploitation through County Lines related crime and disorder would have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the victims, their families and any others negatively affected by such crimes.
 - 4.2.4 Equality and Human Rights – Equality and Human Rights implications will have to be considered if Cabinet chooses to accept and implement any of the recommendations within the Task Group Report.
- 4.3 Customers and Resident - Implications on the customer/resident have not been taken into consideration for the purposes of submitting the Task Group Report to Cabinet for consideration. As mentioned above, reducing child criminal exploitation related to county lines would have a positive impact for those residents who have been victims previously or could have been victims in the future.
- 4.4 Asset and Property - It is not expected that the implementation of any of the recommendations within the Task Group Report would have an impact on the Council's asset base or its occupation.
- 4.5 Staffing and Human Resource - Some of the recommendations within the Task Group Report could have workforce implications if accepted. Consultation with Senior HR Officers will need to take place if the relevant Task Group recommendations are accepted and implemented by Cabinet.
- 4.6 Risks - No risks have been identified within the Task Group Report. Consideration of risks should be carried out as part of Cabinet's consideration of the recommendations within the Task Group Report to inform the decision to accept/support the recommendations or not.
- 4.7 Finance - Some of the recommendations within the Task Group Report will have financial implications if they are accepted and implemented by Cabinet. These implications will need to be considered by Cabinet when deciding whether to accept/support the recommendations or not.
- 4.8 Policy Framework Implications - The Task Group Report includes some recommendations related to new or existing policies and strategies. If the recommendations are

accepted/supported then Cabinet and Officers will be required to develop new policies/strategies or update existing ones.

5 Background papers

Overview and Scrutiny Commission Agenda and Minutes of meeting held on 20th July 2020

6 Appendices

Spotlight Review of County Lines Issues in St Helens Task and Finish Group Report