

Office of the Chief Executive

City Hall, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 1HY

Tel: 01274 432002
E-Mail: Kersten.England@bradford.gov.uk

Dame Justice Lowell Goddard
Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
(Via email)

Your ref:
Our ref: CE/KE/
Date: 29th July 2016

Dear Justice Goddard,

Child Sexual Exploitation in Bradford

I am writing as Chief Executive of Bradford Council to make contact between the Council and yourself as leader of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

As you will know Bradford District has faced and continues to face significant challenges in relation to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and young people. Recently Ms Angela Sinfield, who is the mother of one of the local victims of child sexual exploitation, wrote to Bradford Council's leader Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe, calling for an independent inquiry into child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Bradford.

I thought it would be helpful to share the Leader's response with you and this is attached. In that response Cllr Hinchcliffe makes clear our wish for a continued open and transparent approach to the issue, whether that be in relation to historic or current cases or in terms of our actions to prevent the lives of children being destroyed in future by this hideous and pernicious crime, hence our desire to share our position with you.

Protecting our children is the most important thing that the Council does and in doing so we have to be honest and self-aware about the presence of CSE in our District and about its scale and seriousness both now and in the past. We know that the challenge of CSE continues to exist in Bradford, as it does in many other places, and that the lives of our young people continue to be at risk of corrosive, often irreparable and lasting damage. There can be no room for complacency.

The Council, its political and managerial leaders, the Police, the multi-agency Child Safeguarding Board and our frontline officers and workers share an implacable resolve to detect, disrupt and prevent CSE, to bring perpetrators to justice, support victims and encourage reporting. Our determination is reflected in our current in-depth review of the past, our action planning for the future and the deployment of additional resources.



I attach with this letter a report to the Council's Executive from September 2015 that provides details of the arrangements made by the Council and its partners to tackle CSE.

We understand that we must learn from the past while working across organisational and geographical boundaries to learn from others and to develop new thinking and approaches that enable us to tackle the issue in the future for perpetrators will constantly seek new methods.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in the course of your inquiry in order to share our experiences and knowledge and to invite robust scrutiny of our record and arrangements. We understand that you have a programme of work underway but myself, the Director of Children's Services and the Police Commander for the Bradford District would be happy to meet you for an initial discussion at your convenience. Through working together we have more chance of ensuring that we are all better placed in future to protect children, not just in Bradford, but across the country and I would hope that you would seek to visit Bradford District as you pursue your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,



Kersten England
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Cc Michael Jameson, Strategic Director Children's Services
Chief Superintendent Simon Atkin
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe, Leader of the Council

