

Joanne McCartney AM

Chair of the Police and Crime Committee
City Hall
Queen's Walk
London, SE1 2AA

26 June 2015

MOPAC25032015-18081

Dear Joanne

Thank you for your letter of 25 March regarding the Police and Crime Committee's recent report *Confronting Child Sexual Exploitation in London* which addresses a very important subject and makes a number of recommendations.

I can assure you that MOPAC, MPS and the range of London statutory partners with expertise in this difficult area of criminality and vulnerability have long been working on shared approaches to understanding and responding to the risks around child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Specifically, MOPAC has worked with London Councils, convening partners and developing analysis of the situation. In February, MOPAC hosted a workshop with relevant senior professionals from a number of agencies critical to supporting the development of a robust partnership response. You will be aware that on 10 June I convened a MOPAC Challenge which specifically focused on CSE. This was a significant step in building an improved picture and response to CSE in London.

Through these processes, MOPAC has been able to take a leadership role for four aims:

- To drive a better understanding to the level of risk with regard to CSE in London.
- To identify our collective gaps in knowledge and level of demand regarding CSE; and to put actions in place to address this.
- To have a better and shared understanding of the current multi-agency response to CSE.
- To reach a shared view and ambition amongst partners as to how this response can be further strengthened and improved.

I would encourage the Committee to examine the analysis presented at the meeting and the very positive responses from those attending.

Frank and honest discussions at the Challenge led to collective agreement on the need for an improved strategic response in relation to prevention (at risk), protection (reduction of repeat victimisation) and perpetrators (more effective enforcement and interventions, recognising the cross over between victim and perpetrator where appropriate).

Key trends presented by MOPAC highlighted the vulnerabilities of young people, specifically those between 15 and 16 who risk falling through the gaps of service provision. The need for

an effective Pan London data set (a recommendation in your report) and indeed many of your other recommendations were addressed.

I hope this gives you reassurance that the themes in your report are being taken forward.

Finally, you are right to say that MOPAC has a different performance monitoring approach to areas outside the MOPAC 7 priority crimes. In setting the MOPAC 7 target in the Police and Crime Plan, I was clear only to include those high volume, neighbourhood crimes where a volume reduction target would drive an effective police response. I was careful to avoid targets in under-reported crimes such as domestic abuse and CSE, or other areas of under-reported crime like hate crime or fraud as this can lead to perverse outcomes. In each of these areas, you will see from the performance dashboards, MOPAC strategies and sets of analyses published as part of MOPAC challenge that an appropriately tailored approach to performance management is being taken.

The responses to conversations started by MOPAC with regard to tackling CSE have been particularly encouraging. Partners in London are clearly committed to strengthening their response to address these challenges. We look forward to your support for this collaborative approach.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Greenhalgh
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime