

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	<b>Education and Children's Services</b>
DATE	<b>17<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b>
LEAD OFFICER	<b>Director of Education and Children's Services</b>
TITLE OF REPORT	<b>Independent Multi-Agency Review</b>
REPORT NUMBER	<b>ECS/16/072</b>
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	<b>Yes</b>

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### 1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report brings to the Committee the conclusions and recommendations from the report produced by Andrew Lowe following his review of the circumstances surrounding the death of Bailey Gwynne.

### 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee resolves:

- i. to note the content of the summary document outlining the independent review's conclusions and recommendations;
- ii. to accept those recommendations in the report pertaining to the Council;
- iii. to note that officers will bring further reports on relevant matters to Committee as necessary; and
- iv. to note that the Chief Executive will share the summary document and the Council's decisions in relation to it with the Scottish Government.

### 3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The report has no direct financial implications.

### 4. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The independent review findings contain two recommendations addressed to the Scottish Government; these have been shared with the Scottish Government for their consideration.

## 5. **BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

Following the death at Cults Academy in October 2015 of Bailey Gwynne and the conclusion of the resulting trial at the High Court in Aberdeen, the principal public agencies with an interest in the issues raised by the case announced their intention on 11th March 2016 to commission an independent review.

The independent multi-agency review was commissioned by members of a Chief Officers Group comprising Angela Scott, Chief Executive of Aberdeen City Council; Malcolm Wright, Chief Executive of NHS Grampian and Campbell Thomson, Police Scotland's North East Divisional Commander. Other agencies were invited to contribute as required.

Andrew Lowe was appointed to lead the review. The outcome of the review was to be published during September 2016.

The overall aim of the review was to provide independent assurance to partners and the public that all circumstances in relation to the death of Bailey Gwynne had been reviewed and to make appropriate recommendations which can be applied for future practice.

The scope of the review was set out as follows:

- a) to establish the relationship between Child A and B prior to the stabbing incident together with any relevant circumstances;
- b) to develop a detailed timeline showing the statutory partners' historical involvement with Child A, and to review information sharing between agencies;
- c) to review and analyse whether the educational, pastoral, health and social care services provided were proportionate to the assessment of risk, in line with recognised good practice and compliant with statutory partners' own policies, professional frameworks and legislation;
- d) to establish what lessons can be learned from the case about the way in which local practitioners and organisations work individually and together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- e) to identify any necessary changes and developments needed within the current youth justice system operating within Aberdeen City and that the report, when published will be shared with the Scottish Government, which would then determine if there were wider issues for the whole of Scotland; and
- f) to produce a report and recommendations for consideration by the Chief Officers Group, with a view to publication by all three statutory

bodies (Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian and Police Scotland).

Attached as appendix 1 is the summary document outlining the conclusions and recommendations of Andrew Lowe's report.

## 6. **IMPACT**

The report (and the summary document) sets out 21 recommendations for the Aberdeen City Chief Officers Group to consider, including two addressed to the Scottish Government.

The final recommendation is

*R21 – Aberdeen City Chief Officers Group to develop an implementation plan to deliver these recommendations and keep progress under review.*

An operational group has been established to carry out this recommendation and this group met immediately following the completion of the report to develop and begin the implementation of the recommendations. This is a multi-agency group, representing the Chief Officers' organisations, and this group is chaired by the Director of Education and Children's Services.

An action plan is attached showing the development of work against each recommendation.

Appendix [to be completed]

Progress against the recommendations will be regularly monitored and progress reported through the ECS committee.

An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment is not required as this report is for information and noting only.

## 7. **MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

This report brings before the Council the results of an independent review of the circumstances surrounding the death of Bailey Gwynne. In being party to the commissioning of a multi-agency review, in learning the lessons outlined by the review and in committing to addressing the review's recommendations the Council seeks to mitigate identified risks.

## 8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## 9. **REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

Gayle Gorman

Director of Education and Children's Services