

## Notice of Motion (Full Council)

Title of Motion: **Reaffirming Sandwell's Commitments to Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.**

Date of Council meeting the motion is to be submitted to: 4 November 2025

**Proposer: Councillor Amrita Dunn**

**Seconder: Councillor Natalie Weston**

### **Motion:**

“Council reaffirms its unwavering commitment to protecting children from all forms of sexual exploitation. Across the country, the shocking failures uncovered in places such as Rotherham, Rochdale and Telford — and through the Casey Review — have shown the devastating consequences when political, policing and safeguarding systems look the other way.

Council notes growing concern nationally that the Government's inquiry into organised child sexual exploitation is losing momentum. In recent days, two survivor representatives have resigned, citing a “*toxic environment*” and “*lack of urgency*”. These developments risk eroding public confidence and sending the message that victims are still not being fully heard.

Council recognises that while there is no evidence to suggest that organised, group-based child sexual exploitation is taking place in the West Midlands or Sandwell, we must never wait for tragedy to act. The failures seen elsewhere are a warning that prevention, transparency, and leadership must remain constant priorities.

Council therefore welcomes the positive steps already taken by Sandwell Children's Trust, West Midlands Police, and the Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) including improved inter-agency work, specialist exploitation and missing teams, and enhanced professional guidance. These efforts show that progress is being made.

Council further recognises that West Midlands Police already submit national data and that replicating this at an individual MASA level would be impractical. Council believes that local partners should still use data meaningfully — to spot emerging patterns, share learning, and build community trust — in line with the findings of the Casey Review. At a time when national systems are struggling to retain survivor confidence, Sandwell must lead in rebuilding it. This Council’s message to victims is clear: you will be heard, you will be believed, and you will be supported.

Council resolves to reaffirm its victim-first approach, ensuring that every child or survivor in Sandwell has a clear route to report abuse and access protection and support.

Council therefore calls on the Leader and Cabinet to –

1. Request that the Sandwell Children’s Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) reviews its communication and reporting mechanisms to ensure victims know how and where to seek help.
2. Support West Midlands Police in fulfilling their national reporting duties, while maintaining close local engagement on trends and lessons learned.
3. Monitor national progress on the CSE inquiry and press for the timely publication of its findings, so that local authorities can act without delay.
4. Promote transparency and public confidence, by communicating clearly the positive safeguarding work already underway in Sandwell.
5. Condemn complacency wherever it exists — because transparency, not denial, is how we keep children safe.

Council believes that while Westminster continues to debate, Sandwell must act as it is our duty to survivors everywhere to lead with compassion, vigilance, and courage.”