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**Sarah Champion**  
**Member of Parliament for Rotherham**

**Immediate release**  
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**Sarah Champion MP calls for more support from the Government for Rotherham, six months on from the Jay Report**

Sarah Champion, Member of Parliament for Rotherham, called a debate today to demand much more support from the Government for Rotherham and its victims and survivors; and to lay out a 5 point plan for how to tackle child sexual exploitation nationally.

Exactly six months after the release of the Jay Report, Sarah secured a debate where she made a number of recommendations on how the Government could, and should, be providing support. One of those was a fully independent unit with the specific role of supporting victims and survivors of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham. Sarah highlighted that the unit would provide early intervention and one to one support, with the possibility of the model eventually being used across the country.

Sarah also called for an organisation to co-ordinate the witness statements of victims and survivors. Currently they are being asked to speak to South Yorkshire Police, IPCC and NCA, which can often become overwhelming for a person trying to deal with their past and rebuild their life.

She also used her speech to discuss other short term requests including a dedicated Crown Prosecution Service team for Rotherham to secure prosecutions and further funding for local voluntary counselling services.

Summarising the help given by the Government so far, Sarah said:

*"If there had been a natural disaster in Rotherham that effected 1400 people and the council and police had insufficient resources to deal with it, of course Government would intervene. I would expect a visit from the Prime Minister, national co-ordination of charities, Government experts to arrive and, as top priority, resources and support for the victims and survivors.*

*"To date we have had nothing."*

Sarah did give acknowledgement to the announcement made earlier today by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Eric Pickles MP said that he would make available £250,000 over the next two years for a 'Risky Business-style' service to be established. In response to that, Sarah said:

*"I am delighted that Eric Pickles announced £125,000 per year for two years to effectively re-form "Risky Business", but, without wanting to sound ungrateful, that is a drop in the ocean of the actual resources we need to allow the young people of my constituency to rebuild their lives."*

Sarah's speech also looked at how child sexual exploitation could be tackled on a national level and gave her 5 point plan on how to tackle the crime across the country. Those points are:

- To establish a national task force to combat organised CSE
- Mandatory PHSE to Key Stage 1 children teaching them about healthy relationships
- To make it mandatory that anyone employed to work with children has training in spotting the signs of child abuse and how to report concerns.

- For the Government to make it clear that there will be penalties if health, education, local authorities and the police do not share information to prevent child abuse.
- To create a culture where victims of child abuse are believed

Discussing her debate, Sarah said:

*“Child Sexual Exploitation is an issue that has affected thousands of people’s lives yet the Government is still not giving it anywhere near enough recognition. We are yet to see meaningful funding which will go any way to providing better support for victims and survivors and more charges brought against perpetrators.*

*“Today I have set out a number of ways in which the Government can better improve how we as a country move forward when dealing with this crime. We’ve had enough warm words and it is now time for action.*

*“In particular we still need to see action from the Government in relation to Rotherham. It appears that in many ways we have been left to fend for ourselves. Yes, we have seen funding given by Eric Pickles today, but at the risk of sounding ungrateful, this is just a drop in the ocean. We need to see long term investment both in Rotherham and across the country to prevent this horrendous crime and to support those who are victims of it”*

ENDS

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