



House of Commons
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Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

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Sarah Champion MP welcomes new measures to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation

Sarah Champion, Member of Parliament for Rotherham, has welcomed news that the Government plans to adopt a number of measures she put forward to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation. Sarah was invited to 10 Downing Street today to give her views as part of a Summit into improving national responses to the crime. It was at this event that the Prime Minister made the announcement.

The new measures include tackling the culture of denial, consequences for those failing to protect children, prioritising child sexual abuse and providing more support for survivors. These are all points which have been raised by Sarah to the Government over recent months.

On February 4th, Sarah met privately with David Cameron to discuss providing further resources to help victims and survivors in Rotherham. She also used the meeting to raise the need for a national task force as the only way to deal with the crime. Following on from that meeting, Sarah then secured a debate in Parliament last week to demand much more support from the Government for Rotherham. In her speech she also able to set out her 5 point plan for how Child Sexual Exploitation should be tackled nationally. Those points were:

- 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

It was also announced by the Prime Minister today that South Yorkshire will receive £1.2 million to help in the fight against Child Sexual Exploitation, with further funding also being given to other areas of the country.

Discussing the new measures, Sarah said:

"I am delighted that David Cameron has clearly listened to my 5 point plan and taken on these new measures to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation. This is an issue much bigger than politics and the country needs to come together to help eradicate such a horrendous crime. I'm glad that the Government are finally treating this matter with the importance it requires; though it has been over six months since the release of Professor Alexis Jay's report.

"I am also pleased to see further funding coming to South Yorkshire and Rotherham, to help victims and survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation. I have been pressing the Government for more resources for months and £1.2 million will obviously be of great benefit. Long term investment is still needed however, to ensure that we can continue to help victims and survivors and ultimately get the justice they deserve.

"We now need to make sure these measures are scaled out across the country. Child Sexual Exploitation is not exclusive to Rotherham or any other town; it is a national issue. That can be seen today with the shocking news coming from Oxfordshire and the Serious Case Review held there. It's now vital that we move forward and tackle this crime with urgency."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Sarah's speech in Parliament – 26/02/2015 -
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150226/debtext/150226-0004.htm#15022652000430>

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