

For immediate use

15 February 2019

Cabinet approves independent chair recruitment process

An independent chair for the independent inquiry in to child sexual exploitation in Telford is set to be recruited. Telford & Wrekin Council's cabinet approved recommendations from the Commissioning Body to start the recruitment process at its meeting on 14 February.

Eversheds Sutherland started working as the Commissioning Body last month. They will manage the recruitment process which will begin with immediate effect. Keeping children and young people safe from harm is the most important thing that Telford & Wrekin Council does. It has invested in its safeguarding service and will continue to do so to ensure the right support and help is available for victims and survivors.

The council remains committed to ensuring the inquiry is as independent and thorough as it can possibly be. The double independence process, with an independent commissioning body and independent chair, has been established to help maximise public confidence in the fairness and integrity of the council-commissioned inquiry.

Additionally the council has worked closely with the survivor's committee, established to represent survivors and victims of child sexual exploitation in Telford, throughout the commissioning process.

In parliament last week Home Office minister Rishi Sunak MP praised the council's "openness to scrutiny" and acknowledged the work being done to support victims. He added that "the council has rightly commissioned an independent body to oversee the process and appointing the right chair will be key to this process."

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