



Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board

Date: 9th September 2013

Subject: Tackling illegal money lending in Leeds

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Purpose of this report

1. At its July meeting, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board raised concern about illegal money lending activity within Leeds and expressed an interest in undertaking further Scrutiny of the activities being undertaken by the Council and its partners to address this issue.
2. The national Illegal Money Lending Team is run by Birmingham City Council Trading Standards department. It has been operating in the Leeds area since 2007, working alongside the Council and partners as part of the Councils overall financial inclusion strategy.
3. The attached report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) provides an annual progress report of the work of the Birmingham based Illegal Money Lending Team and also includes an action plan for work to be undertaken to address this issue. This was also reported to Executive Board in June 2013.
4. In consideration of this report, the Board is asked to consider what, if any, further Scrutiny it wishes to undertake around this area of work.

Recommendations

5. Members are asked to note the attached report and decide what, if any, further Scrutiny it wishes to undertake around this area of work.

Background papers¹

6. None used

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.