

- 4.1. The Council does not have a formal policy in relation to handling CSA claims as these are dealt with by the Insurer's solicitors. Please see statement of Steven Tinkler dated 5 September 2018.
- 4.2. The Council will assist in facilitating the smooth handling of CSA claims made against it by using its best endeavours to provide relevant records as quickly as possible and to swiftly provide all relevant instructions when required.
- 4.3. When the Council received notification of CSA or child safeguarding issue the Council put its Insurers on notice of the allegation. The aim of this is to ensure if a formal claim is subsequently received, the Insurers have a record of the original allegation, and enable the claim to be progressed without unnecessary delay.
- 4.4. A quarterly report in respect of all outstanding insurance litigation linked to children's or adults' safeguarding is provided to the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Board by the Insurance team (the civil claims report). The Board is chaired by the Council's Chief Executive, and attended by all Corporate Directors as well as the Divisional Directors for Children's and Adult Social Care, Legal and Insurance and receives reports regarding serious case reviews, safeguarding adult reviews and claims for damages arising from alleged failures to carry out the authority's safeguarding functions. This provides a forum for ensuring that the work of key officers is coordinated to ensure delivery of the Council's functions in relation to safeguarding. The civil claims report provides senior leaders with oversight of all legal claims and the damages involved. This is of particular importance in establishing whether there are any themes or patterns in respect of the claims, to enable any issues to be swiftly resolved at a high level, and mitigate any future risk.
5. **Since the litigation referred to above (St Leonard's) what significant changes have taken place in the practice and procedures for the handling of CSA claims?**
- 5.1. As set out above, MMI and its solicitors will be best placed to answer questions in respect of the practice and procedure for handling insurance claims and civil litigation relating to CSA.
- 5.2. In relation to the role of Children's Social Care, I have detailed current practice at Section 3 above.