

**REPORT TO SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Police and Crime Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>11 September 2015</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>National Child Protection Inspection - Post Inspection Review</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Organisation:</b>	<b>Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire</b>

**5. Summary**

This report provides the Police and Crime Panel with information on the HMIC's National Child Protection Inspection - Post Inspection Review - and provides information on the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) actions resulting from the report.

**6. Recommendations**

**It is recommended that the Police and Crime Panel note the contents of the report and comment on any matters arising.**

## Proposals and details

### a) Background

The aim of the inspection programme was to:-

- assess how effectively police forces safeguard children at risk;
- make recommendations to police forces for improving child protection practice;
- highlight effective practice in child protection work; and
- drive improvements in forces' child protection practices.

The specific aims of the follow-up activity were to:-

- assess the extent to which the force is making sustainable improvements in child protection and safeguarding outcomes;
- assess the extent to which leadership and governance structures are robust and drive the successful implementation of necessary improvements;
- assess the extent to which the force understands and evaluates its own practice and performance and is taking steps to improve it, both immediately and for the longer term; and
- assess the overall progress of the force in responding to the findings and recommendations in the inspection report.

The focus of each inspection was on the outcomes for, and experiences of, children who come into contact with the police when there are concerns about their safety or well-being.

### b) Findings

As part of a rolling programme of child protection inspections of all police forces in England and Wales, HMIC published an initial report in September 2014, which found that South Yorkshire Police had an inconsistent approach to child protection and improvements to the care of children in custody.

Following a post inspection review in April 2015, inspectors were pleased to find:

- improvements to the force's initial response when attending incidents involving children at risk;
- child protection has been prioritised and there is a strong desire to improve outcomes for children who are at risk of harm; and
- the force is developing new joint working arrangements and structures to improve consistency across its four districts.

However, inspectors were concerned to find:

- that although the force had undertaken a review of arrangements with care homes and provided guidance to police staff, this had not resulted in improvements in practice;

- the force was still failing to recognise risks to some children and work jointly with other agencies; and
- that recording practices remained poor, which limits the ability of staff to make good decisions about children.

It is important to note that this report relates to child protection and not just child sexual exploitation.

c) PCC and Chief Constable Formal Response to the HMIC Report

Section 55(5) of the 1996 Police Act requires PCCs to prepare comments on any of HMIC's published reports that relate to their force, and then publish these in the manner they see fit. Section 55(6) requires PCCs to send a copy of these comments to the Home Secretary.

Attached at Appendix A is the Chief Constable's and PCC's response to the HMIC report.

d) PCC's Action Taken

The initial inspection took place in May last year, but was overtaken by Professor Jay's report which came out in August. For the first time the full extent of child sexual exploitation was revealed and to some extent this changed the focus of the Force.

As you are aware, the PCC is responsible for holding the force to account, including ensuring that recommendations made by the HMIC are implemented where it is reasonable to do so.

The PCC already holds a variety of performance meetings, and receives updates on a regular basis from the Chief Constable in respect of his priorities at his monthly Governance and Assurance Board (GAB), including protecting vulnerable people. However, to enhance this further, the PCC has asked that:

- The Performance report to GAB more robustly reports on the Force's approach to vulnerable people, including child sexual exploitation, progress against the Police and Crime Plan (and multi-agency action plan, put in place after the Professor Jay Report), as well as having 'standing item' status at all future GAB meetings until further notice;
- Consideration be given to the PCC's Independent Ethics Panel overseeing the Force's Compliance Unit in dip sampling public protection investigations/case files.

e) Mechanisms Already Put In Place

• **Additional Resources in the Public Protection Unit**

The PCC has put extra resources into work with vulnerable people, including victims of child sexual exploitation. However, he recognises that this is not enough and more needs to be done, particularly in relation to training of

officers and staff who work with vulnerable victims. The Victims and Survivors Panel is assisting in developing this area.

- **Victims and Survivors Panel**

The Victims and Survivors Panel consists of a group of survivors and their families who met previously to support each other. The Panel enables the Commissioner to better understand the way victims and survivors experience the work of the police (and other agencies) and how the work of the police (and other agencies) can be improved.

The survivors identified improvements to force training in child sexual exploitation as a key area for development. Police officers are now working with the Panel to hear directly from them about their experiences. This will enable the police to learn how to improve their response to victims, so they are treated with sensitivity and respect.

- **Independent Review of the Force's handling of child sexual exploitation**

Following the Professor Alexis Jay and Louise Casey reports, the PCC announced, that he was commissioning an Independent Review of South Yorkshire Police's handling of reports of child sexual exploitation.

Though the reports focus on Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, the references to the Force raised significant concern, as have revelations from parliamentary committee evidence sessions and in the media. The most recent of these revelations came from evidence heard by the Department for Communities and Local Government Select Committee (2015) and in a BBC programme televised in March 2015, featuring allegations by a retired police officer, about the Force's handling of child sexual exploitation reports in Sheffield prior to 2007.

This review will be led by Professor John Drew, and will establish whether South Yorkshire Police has understood and acted upon the findings of reports and inspections into matters of child sexual exploitation. It will also look at whether the Force's response to safeguarding children and young people has been adequate, not just in Rotherham, but across the whole of South Yorkshire.

- **Organisational Structure and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs**

Implementation of the new Public Protection Unit (PPU) structure across the force is currently underway as part of a phased process. This implementation includes the uplift in numbers of staff working within Child Abuse and CSE, the development of Safeguarding Adults Teams (SATs), establishment of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs in all four local authority areas and the creation of a new PPU Policy Unit. It is anticipated that all new structures will be in place by the end of the year.

Alongside these changes within the local PPUs, each of the local authority areas are implementing new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) structures, where PPU teams will work alongside Social Care, Health and other partner agencies to manage child referrals. There are clear advantages to the MASH structures, which have been explored elsewhere, including more efficient and effective partnership working and information sharing. Timescales for delivery are:

- Rotherham MASH      In operation since April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015
- Doncaster MASH      In operation since June 8<sup>th</sup> 2015
- Sheffield MASH      Go live expected first week in September 2015
- Barnsley MASH      Date dependent on location and infrastructure cost

- **Operational Developments**

**CSE Disruption Toolkit:** A CSE disruption toolkit has been developed in order to highlight powers available to police and partners that can be used in the fight against CSE. This toolkit focusses attention on a range of disruption tactical options and provides guidance on effective intelligence gathering and information sharing. It has been circulated widely via the intranet and disseminated directly to Commanders.

**Rotherham Offender Management Matrix:** Work continues on the Rotherham Offender Management Matrix pilot, in order to ensure it more effectively identifies risk. The pilot continues and consideration will be given to rolling this out force wide.

**CSE Problem Profile:** Our CSE Problem Profile has been developed and shared with partners, though does not yet include non-police data. A working group has been established to ensure that partner data is captured and incorporated in future problem profiles and this is supported by all four Local Authorities. This problem profile will provide updated information about CSE locations as well as victim and suspect profiles, enabling police and partners to deliver targeted disruption activity and awareness raising campaigns. *Use of a multi-agency CSE problem profile was highlighted as good practice by the Office of the Children's Commissioner's report into CSE in Gangs and Groups.*

**CSE Strategy:** A further recommendation of the CSE Review "What Good Looks Like" related to CSE Strategy. Work is underway to develop a pan-South Yorkshire strategy, led by Rotherham; this is being progressed via the Countywide CSE Board under the leadership of ACC Ingrid Lee.

**CSE Action Plan:** The force had in place a number of CSE action plans as a result of HMIC inspections, the Jay report and guidance from the College of Policing. In January 2015, these plans were merged into one overarching document and work is currently underway to streamline this further, led by the PPU Detective Chief Inspector. This will enable the force to identify and prioritise the critical gaps in their response.

**Support for Victims:** Several organisations within South Yorkshire have been successful in securing funding from the Home Office to develop support for CSE victims.

**Communications:** Partner agency communications teams have recently come together to agree a combined approach to CSE. The proposed approach encompasses separate strategies but joint key messages and this is now being progressed through the CSE countywide group. If approved, the force will move to Phase 2 of Spot the Signs, incorporating learning from Greater Manchester and Cheshire, while also working more closely with victims to raise awareness of earlier signs of harm. Phase 2 is a 2<sup>nd</sup> poster (and other media) campaign, in relation to prevention measures. The content is as yet unconfirmed but liaison is being undertaken with victims in relation to appropriate messaging.

f) Performance

This section gives you a break down into the number of referrals, live investigations and criminal proceedings currently taking place across the Force. Further information can be found on South Yorkshire Police's website at <http://www.southyorks.police.uk/>

**Referrals received monthly from April 2015**

A referral to police is any concern that has been reported and can come from a number of sources including a school, social services or a concerned family member. It does not necessarily mean there has been an offence committed.

Officers fully investigate all referrals and where an offence has been committed, an investigation will be launched. In other cases where no criminal offences have taken place other agencies may offer support to the young person referred.

DISTRICT	REFERRAL			
	April	May	June	July
Barnsley	9	11	13	12
Doncaster	5	10	14	14
Rotherham	20	27	15	31
Sheffield	15	12	12	11
Other*	5	4	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>68</b>

\* These are referrals that may have happened across more than one area and are being dealt with centrally and are not assigned to a specific district.

### Offences recorded monthly from April 2015

These are the number of offences that have been recorded monthly from the referrals received.

DISTRICT	OFFENCES			
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
BARNSELEY	1	1	4	1
DONCASTER	5	4	1	0
ROTHERHAM	4	2	4	5
SHEFFIELD	1	9	4	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

### Number of charges and cautions monthly from April 2015

This shows the number of people charged from April 2015 with offences committed at any time not just the ones reported within that time period.

DISTRICT	CHARGED OR SUMMONSED TO COURT				CAUTION			
	April	May	June	July	April	May	June	July
Barnsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	0	2	7	3	1	1	0	0
Rotherham	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	0
Sheffield	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Live investigations at the end of July 2015

This is the number of investigations we have across the force at this time.

DISTRICT	ACTIVE CSE OFFENCES
Barnsley	22
Doncaster	31
Rotherham	46
Sheffield	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>

## **Convictions**

Between April 2014 and July 2017 (correct at 27.7.15) there have been 35 convictions for CSE related offences across the force. 19 cases are ongoing in the crown court (thirteen of which are listed for trial) and there have been 10 not guilty verdicts. This represents a conviction ratio of 78%, which would appear to compare favourably with national criminal justice figures of a 54% conviction ratio for all sexual offences (including adult victims).

## **7. Background Papers and Consultation**

- HMIC Inspection National Child Protection Inspection Post Inspection Review

## **8. Contact**

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