

## REPORT TO SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
2.	<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 9 June 2016
3.	<b>Title:</b>	The 'Drew Review' and the Police and Crime Commissioner's response
4.	<b>Organisation:</b>	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire

### 5. Summary

This report provides the Police and Crime Panel with information on the 'Drew Review' and the Police and Crime Commissioner's response to it.

### 6. Recommendations

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

### 7. Details

#### a) Background

The Police and Crime Commissioner ('the Commissioner') commissioned an independent review of South Yorkshire Police's response to child sexual exploitation across South Yorkshire in September 2015. The need for a review had been announced in March 2015 following revelations in a Panorama TV programme that month, which posed the question of whether the failings of agencies identified in reports by Professor Alexis Jay (August 2014) and Louise Casey (February 2015) were mirrored elsewhere in South Yorkshire. Professor John Drew was identified to carry out the independent review and he sought to answer the following questions:

- 1) Has the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation been adequate in the past?
- 2) Has South Yorkshire Police (SYP) understood and acted on the findings of and recommendations in previous reports and inspections, in the media and during parliamentary questioning?
- 3) Is the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation adequate now?

a) Findings

- 1) Has the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation been adequate in the past?

Professor Drew's overall judgement was that the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation in the past was inadequate, especially in Rotherham where he simply repeated the criticisms already made by Professor Jay and Louise Casey. Professor Drew commented:

*"Some, but only some, of this failure can be linked to the lack of awareness, nationwide, of child sexual exploitation in the early 2000s. Opportunities to explore the prevalence of sexual exploitation in more detail regularly presented themselves and were regularly missed. SYP did dedicate some resources from the earliest of days to combatting child sexual exploitation, most notably in Sheffield, where significant work was undertaken by a number of officers, both from SYP and their partners, particularly in the Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service."*

- 2) Has South Yorkshire Police understood and acted on the findings of and recommendations in previous reports and inspections, in the media and during parliamentary questioning?

Professor Drew was satisfied that SYP had understood and acted both on the general direction of previous criticism and also on most of the specific recommendations of previous scrutinies of its performance. Professor Drew commented:

*"This is reflected in the considerable progress that has been made. This is monitored by the force in an Action Plan, regularly updated, which sets out what needs to be done and charts progress."*

- 3) Is the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation adequate now?

Professor Drew believed that the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation is now adequate. Indeed, some recent work undertaken by SYP appeared to be of high quality.

Professor Drew made 11 recommendations arising from his investigations. See Appendix A for a copy of the full report.

b) Commissioner's response to the Drew Review

The Commissioner commented publicly on receiving the Drew Review report:

*"This report now gives me a much better idea of how the police have dealt with issues in the past and how their processes have changed in recent times. I am satisfied that during his review, Professor Drew has involved a wide selection of*

*victims, partners, police officers and police staff in order to reach his conclusions and recommendations and I am confident that practices within the Force have changed for the better.*

*Improvements can always be made, but I am assured that the Force, at all levels, has learnt from past mistakes and has taken action to correct and address those issues. I hope that this is a step forward in restoring public confidence in South Yorkshire Police.”*

The Commissioner received a detailed response from the Chief Constable to the individual recommendations.

The Chief Constable welcomed the report and the recommendations made by Professor Drew and acknowledged that, *“whilst there has been significant progress in the response to child sexual exploitation by the Force and partners, there is still work to be done”*.

Indeed, the report identified that South Yorkshire Police has been subject to over 220 actions arising out of a number of significant and major reviews following the identification of issues in relation to its response to child sexual exploitation. The Force accepts this and intends to conduct a further refresh of the plan and overarching strategy to make this a more coherent plan. The Force has also acknowledged that appropriate resources need to be allocated for undertaking this work.

The Commissioner asked the Chief Constable to provide regular updates on progress against all the recommendations at his 6-weekly Governance and Assurance Board (now a Public Accountability Board) meeting. This is where he holds the Chief Constable and Force to account on a range of issues, and this will be a standing agenda item.

Finally, the Commissioner has asked the Chairs of the Joint Independent Audit Committee and Independent Ethics Panel about how further assurance might be provided from their involvement in activity including the dip sampling of cases and engagement with victims and survivors, where this does not duplicate or undermine ongoing Force improvement actions or live investigations.

## **8. Background Papers and Consultation**

- “An independent review of South Yorkshire Police’s handling of child sexual exploitation 1997 – 2016”, Professor John Drew
- Commissioner’s media statement – 23 March 2016

## **9. Contact**

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