

**COUNCIL SEMINAR
18th October, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Albiston, Allcock, Allen, Andrews, Atkin, Bird, Councillor Maggi Clark, Cusworth, Elliott, Ellis, Fenwick-Green, Jarvis, Jepson, Mallinder, Napper, Price, Russell, Sansome, Sheppard, Short, Walsh, Williams and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Elliott and Simpson.

CSE OPERATIONS AND TRIAL - UPDATE

The Leader welcomed Members to the seminar and introduced the following officers:-

Lee Miles, Deputy Officer in Overall Command, National Crime Agency
Rob Odell, Chief Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police
Martin Tate, Temporary Chief Inspector, Operation Clover
Steve Smith, Detective Sergeant, Operation Clover

As previously reported, the National Crime Agency was conducting an independent investigation on behalf of the Chief Constable and the Interim Chief Constable at the request of South Yorkshire Police. Whilst it was an independent investigation, it was a multi-agency investigation and worked closely with many stakeholders and partners particularly the Council.

Lee Miles gave a powerpoint presentation which included:-

- Terms of Reference and Priorities
- Phases of Investigation
- Scale, complexity and operational update
- Partnership working and demands on resources
- Outcomes and priorities

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- It was anticipated that Rotherham would feature in the work of Alexis Jay in her new role as Chair of the national inquiry into child sexual abuse
- Assessment of perpetrator's flight risk and the possible removal of passport
- Staffing levels within the National Crime Agency
- The lengthy preparation work necessary to secure Crown Prosecution Service agreement to prosecute

REPORT FOR INFORMATION - 18/10/16

- Any potential misconduct/criminal issues of past/serving Police Officers referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission
- Ethnicity of perpetrators
- Investigations into issues across the country
- Individualised co-ordinated assessment to ascertain if/how/the victims should be approached
- Any current risks identified by the National Crime Agency through their investigations were immediately investigated by South Yorkshire Police
- 3 major investigations currently underway
- Media embargo imposed by the Judge until sentencing (4th November) for Operation Clover 2
- Development of a victim engagement process to support the victim when going to Court that was receiving national interest
- Legal obligation to ensure that every piece of information/document was scrutinised so as not to let the victim down when the case went to Court
- Further criminal proceedings in the New Year
- South Yorkshire Police were receiving support from the Crown Prosecution Service
- Crown Prosecution Service lawyers attached to the National Crime Agency for Operation Stovewood
- Monthly meetings between the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Crime Agency to forward plan and anticipate when increased resources would be required
- Availability of post-abuse services for victims and survivors
- Increased referrals to the MASH Service following Operation Clover 1; similar increase was anticipated following Clover 2
- Following conviction discussions took place with the Probation Service regarding informing victims of what happened once the perpetrator had served their sentence. They would be registered sexual offenders and there was a process they had to go through before they were released from prison. There were a number of control mechanisms the Police could put in place prior to release

REPORT FOR INFORMATION - 18/10/16

- Post-abuse support contracts had been let for 3 years with the potential to extend for a further 2 years. The contracts would be reviewed if it was found that demand was outstripping the services

The Leader thanked Martin and Steve for their commitment and support to the victims at Court.

The Leader also thanked Lee, Rob, Martin and Steve and to Members for their attendance.