

Public Report
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 20 April 2022

Report Title

Operation Linden - Learning and Recommendations: Update from South Yorkshire Police

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

At the meeting held on 12 January 2022, Council considered a motion regarding the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) report *Operation Linden - Learning and Recommendations*. It resolved that the progress of South Yorkshire Police against IOPC recommendations published in November 2021 be regularly monitored, with scrutiny arrangements to be determined by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as a matter of urgency. South Yorkshire Police have been invited to this meeting to give an update.

A progress report from South Yorkshire Police with details of actions in response to the recommendations is attached in Appendix 1

Recommendations

1. That the update of South Yorkshire Police in respect of progress to date against the recommendations of the Independent Office for Police Conduct report *Operation Linden - Learning and Recommendations* be noted.
2. That consideration is given to future monitoring arrangement in respect of the implementation of the IOPC report.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 - South Yorkshire Police progress report to the IOPC Operation Linden Recommendations
- Appendix 1A Section 10(1)(e) recommendation record
Section 28A recommendation and response record
- Appendix 2 *Operation Linden - Learning and Recommendations*, IOPC November 2021

Background Papers

- Motion – Current concerns over the South Yorkshire Police response to Child Sexual Exploitation as agreed by Council on 12 January 2022

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required.

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Operation Linden - Learning and Recommendations: Update from South Yorkshire Police

1. Background

- 1.1 Operation Linden was the name given to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) investigation of a significant number of complaints and allegations relating to the police response to non-recent child sexual exploitation in the Rotherham area. Operation Linden began in 2014 and included 91 separate independent investigations, involving 265 separate allegations, covering the period from 1997 to 2013. There were 51 complainants, 44 of whom were survivors of abuse.

The report was published in November 2021 and identified areas for learning and made recommendations for improvement to South Yorkshire Police and other key agencies, including the Law Commission and National College of Policing. These are detailed in the IOPC report attached as Appendix 2.

The Operation Linden hearings have recently concluded and a final report from the IOPC on the findings and outcomes of the investigations is expected shortly.

- 1.2 Following a motion to the Council meeting held on 12 January 2022, it was resolved that the progress of South Yorkshire Police against IOPC recommendations published in November 2021 be regularly monitored, with scrutiny arrangements to be determined by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as a matter of urgency.

The meeting has been scheduled at the earliest possible opportunity.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The report from the Deputy Chief Constable outlines South Yorkshire Police's response to IOPC recommendations for improvement and is attached as Appendix 1. The formal record of actions is detailed in Appendix 1A.

- 2.2 In broad terms the recommendations highlight the following themes:

- VICTIMS – the provision of quality victim care and updates in line with the rights of victims laid down in the Victim Code.
- COMMUNITIES - continue to build trust and confidence with local communities.
- PARTNERS - build strong working relationships with Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVA) and continue to improve how we collaborate with partners and effectively share information.
- OUR PEOPLE - ensure SYP staff have regular training and their skills are up to date.
- PROCESSES – compliance with Home Office Counting Rules when recording crimes related to CSE.

In addition, the report also highlights next steps and challenges for South Yorkshire Police.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Members of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to consider the information herein; scrutinise progress to date and determine any recommendations in relation to the progress of South Yorkshire Police against the recommendations and learning outlined in the IOPC report.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 All papers supporting this item are published on the Council's website.
- 4.2 There is no consultation required in respect of this item.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Any recommendations arising from this item would be forwarded to the Chief Constable and other relevant agencies for consideration and response.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this item,

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this item. Any recommendations which may have legal implications will be forwarded to the relevant agency for consideration and response.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no human resource implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Any recommendations emerging from this item which have implications for children and young people and vulnerable adults will be forwarded to the relevant agency for consideration and response.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Any recommendations emerging from this item which have direct equalities and human rights implications will be forwarded to the relevant agency for consideration and response.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Any recommendations emerging from this item which have implications for South Yorkshire Police and other key partners will be forwarded to the relevant agency for consideration and response.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Should this meeting not take place, opportunities to scrutinise areas of learning and improvement may be missed. South Yorkshire Police's co-operation and attendance ensures that these issues can be explored fully.

Accountable Officer(s)

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