

REPORT TO SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1.	Meeting:	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
2.	Date:	11th September 2014
3.	Title:	The implications of the recent report by Professor Alexis Jay OBE into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, for the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner
4.	Organisation:	The South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner

5. Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Panel members with a summary of my position on the issues for discussion at the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on the 11th September 2014, namely:-

Reassurance on my response to the recent report by Professor Alexis Jay OBE into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham and pursuance of my duties as Police and Crime Commissioner.

6. Recommendations

That the Panel consider my report, together with any reassurance I provide at the meeting.

7. Proposals and details

Reassurance on my response to the recent report by Professor Alexis Jay OBE into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham

- a) On Tuesday 26 August 2014, a report was published on Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's website ('The Report') following an Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham between 1997 and 2009, and between 2009 and 2013. The author of this report was Professor Alexis Jay, and the report was commissioned by Rotherham MBC.
- b) Following the publication of the Report on Rotherham MBC's website, I chaired my monthly Governance and Assurance Board meeting at my office premises, at which I made an announcement at the beginning of the meeting, which is recorded in the draft minutes, as follows:

“ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commissioner made reference to the publication of the Independent Inquiry into historical cases of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham (1997 – 2013) carried out by Ms Alexis Jay OBE, the former Chief Social Work Adviser to the Scottish Government, who was commissioned to lead this work by the Chief Executive of Rotherham Council. He requested the Chief Constable consider the findings of the report and identify any additional “lessons learnt”, over and above those identified by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of the Constabulary in their bespoke inspection commissioned last year by the Commissioner.

ACTION:-

The Chief Constable to urgently provide a report to the Commissioner setting out any further actions to be taken in light of the findings of the Independent Inquiry into historical cases of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham (1997 – 2013).”

(Draft Governance and Assurance Board minutes, 26 August 2014)

- c) I then approved a media release for publication on the Police and Crime Commissioner’s website, and for release to the media. A copy of this press release appears at **Appendix 1**.
- d) On 5 September 2014, I wrote to chairs of the four Safeguarding Children Boards in South Yorkshire – Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield – asking for certain information to allow me to assess gaps in ways of working and resources to inform later decision-making in response to Professor Jay’s report. I also wrote to Mr Martin Goldman, Chief Crown Prosecutor, with the same aim. A copy of the letters can be found at **Appendix 2**.
- e) My office meets regularly with the Chief Officer from South Yorkshire’s Victim Support, the latest meeting being 8th September 2014. These aim to consider existing services, to identify gaps and to develop future services to be delivered in South Yorkshire. In addition to this I have written to various other established third sector organisations which deliver supportive services to victims of crime to seek their views on any gaps in existing services or resources which could be addressed to aid historic or current victims of child sexual exploitation cope and recover from their experience
- f) On becoming Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire in November 2012, Panel members will recall that they approved my Police and Crime Plan priorities on 13th March 2013. One of the three Strategic Priorities I set out in my Police and Crime Plan (2013/17) was Protecting Vulnerable People. ‘*Child Abuse/Sexual Exploitation*’ featured first under this heading in my Plan (page 14), with a commitment to doing the following:-

- Supporting the Force and partners in work involving CSE by investing £0.5 million to fund additional Public Protection Unit officers & specialist training for staff
- Bringing together key partners to improve communication, develop joint protocols and share good practice around CSE
- Ensure the Government's 'Child Sexual Exploitation National Action Plan', the recommendations made by the National Children's Commissioner and Barnardos recommendations in their 'Cut them Free' campaign are implemented and embedded within the Force
- Working with key partners to increase the number of successful outcomes for violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, sexual assault, rape, stalking and harassment
- Investing in providing enhanced services for young victims of crime
- Work with key partners to ensure the Government Action Plan for Violence Against Women and Girls is delivered
- Support active monitoring and management of serial perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence, and stalking
- Establish a countywide CSE Forum
- Develop more effective working with the CPS to secure more successful outcomes for victims

(Police and Crime Plan (2013/17, p.15)

- g) I have thus prioritised the tackling of child sexual exploitation in the strategic objectives I have set for the force and its work with partners, and in the grants of funding I have made to partners and other agencies involved in this area of protection. South Yorkshire Police spending on resources to combat this crime were originally in the bottom quartile, and the resources committed to deliver the Platinum Model will take the South Yorkshire Police into the top quartile of all forces in England and Wales. I have also launched a county-wide campaign with other partners. The number of officers in post to deal with this type of horrendous crime has been increased from 8 to 62. In particular, I have done the following:-

Date	Issue
January 2013	Established a Countywide Child Sexual Exploitation Forum made up of Local Authority Lead Members, Directors of Children's Services, Local Children Safeguarding Board Chairs, Police Commanders, the National Health Service, and the Crown Prosecution Service. So far we have agreed a joint risk assessment tool, a joint information sharing protocol and a joint awareness campaign 'Say Something if You See Something'.
February 2013	Invested £0.5 million into South Yorkshire Police's Child Sexual Exploitation team.
April 2013	Developed a voluntary and community sector grant scheme £208,100 to date on 7 projects specific to child sexual exploitation £1.5 million to date on projects relating to domestic violence, sexual violence (including child sexual exploitation) e.g.

	<p>GROW £21,200</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with families dealing with potential/actual Child Sexual Exploitation • Worked with 8 families and 30 young people <p>Golddigger Trust £10,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and intervention support around issues of self-esteem and child sexual exploitation • Supported 75 young women aged 11 to 20 years
April 2013	<p>Commissioned Victim Support to form a Young Witness Service – £300k (3 year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched 15 August 2013 • From August 13 to 31 March 14 454 individual services to 277 individual referrals
August 2013	<p>Commissioned the Chief Constable to establish an historic investigation team and consult with the Crown Prosecution Service to review all historic allegations of Child Sexual Exploitation and make sure that past allegations were dealt with appropriately in order to address any injustices.</p>
September 2013	<p>Commissioned HMIC report on effectiveness of South Yorkshire Police approach to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.</p>
October 2013	<p>Became a member of the Home Office National Taskforce on Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable Adults</p>
November 2013	<p>Supported the introduction of police polygraph testing for those on the sex offenders register (only the second force in the country to do so).</p>
February 2014	<p>Launched the multi-agency 'Know the Signs' Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Campaign</p>
February 2014	<p>Committed to £5 million investment over 2014 – 2016 in a 'Platinum Model'. Increasing from 13 dedicated Child Sexual Exploitation officers to 62 in 2014/15. By the end of 2016 there will be 102 officers in public protection units dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation, Domestic Violence, Hate Crime, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour-based Violence and Forced Marriage. The investment made will take South Yorkshire Police from the bottom quarter of police forces spend in terms of spending on this area of crime to the top quarter.</p>
May 2014	<p>Invited HMIC back to further review the implementation of previous recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMIC revisited SYP in June 2014 to assess progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conclusions were that SYP reacted well to the recommendations, but there is a journey to be had and the force acknowledges this ○ SYP need to construct a robust and accountable implementation plan
May 2014	<p>Took a report to Police and Crime Panel on tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and the findings of the HMIC Inspection. Appendix 3</p>
June 2014	<p>Requested a comprehensive report from the Chief Constable on the implementation of the platinum model, recommendations from HMIC,</p>

	numbers of investigations, convictions and barriers to improvement. This report is due to be presented in October.
July 2014	Commissioned Women's Aid to conduct focus groups - To discuss service received from police and victims of domestic and sexual violence need in the form of supportive services. Report due imminently
July 2014	The above interventions have resulted in a huge amount of work being undertaken by South Yorkshire Police. From January 2013 to July 2014 there has been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68 persons charged or summoned for Child Sexual Exploitation offences (26 of those in Rotherham) • 40 offenders are on bail • 179 live Child Sexual Exploitation investigations (60 in Rotherham) (7 significant investigations involving multiple perpetrators and victims – 2 of these in Rotherham) • 37 convictions • 62 staff/officers deployed on Child Sexual Exploitation work

- h) Panel members will recall the report that I brought to the Panel meeting on the 2nd May 2014 – 'HMIC Report – South Yorkshire Police's Response to Child Sexual Exploitation'. The Panel also approved my Annual Report at its last meeting on 30th July 2014, which included performance against the strategic objectives contained in the Police and Crime Plan.

Reassurance of my work as Police and Crime Commissioner going forwards.

- a) I remain committed to the public, and to delivering their priorities through the Police and Crime Plan. I will continue to engage at every opportunity, to keep the public and Panel Members fully informed of my work and progress towards the Police and Crime Plan priorities and to continue to work professionally and proactively with all partners who are committed to taking this agenda forward. My planned governance framework revision will further ensure that OPCC activity is delivered.
- b) Local public views are fundamentally important to me. The people of South Yorkshire are the reason I have dedicated the last 20 years to public life. Recent polls in the media and online/social media show a variety of opinions. I am the same person now as I was at the 2012 election; the same values, the same priorities and the same commitment to drive improvements in the areas most important to those I serve; in this respect, nothing has changed.
- c) My record as Police and Crime Commissioner in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation speaks for itself and I am therefore best placed to take the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation forward. The public can trust that I will drive forward that agenda.

- d) I am also sure that all partners involved in tackling this issue, will work with the OPCC to do just that for the sake of past victims and for the sake of safeguarding potential future victims.

8. Contact

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