

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

2 MAY 2017

SUBJECT: Child Sexual Abuse

Joint Report of the Chief Officer Team and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This joint report outlines the Force's current position in relation to Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and outlines the work being undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and West Yorkshire Police (WYP) to safeguard children and achieve the outcomes set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner uses this report to scrutinise Force activity in respect of Child Sexual Abuse.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

3. In the Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2018, CSA was recognised under 'safeguarding against violent and serious crimes' with CSA specifically recognised as one of the highest priorities for the police and other partners in West Yorkshire. This is an extremely important issue that cannot be tackled by the police alone and is rightly an important area of work that is subject to significant national scrutiny, guidance and policy.

Child sexual abuse including child sexual exploitation (CSE) remains a key priority in the Police and Crime Plan 2016 – 2021. There has been an increased focus on safeguarding the vulnerable which has led to significant increases in the number of investigations, successful convictions, and confidence in victims coming forward. Safeguarding people was considered the greatest priority by respondents to the consultation with 70% of people saying it was important to them.

KEY INFORMATION

4. The PCC appointed a dedicated Safeguarding Advisor to lead, deliver and advise on the PCC's strategy for a coordinated, cohesive and consistent response to Safeguarding, in particular to CSA, in West Yorkshire.

WYP were graded GOOD by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) for being effective, efficient and legitimate at keeping people safe and reducing crime. Inspectors were pleased with the improved response to newer threats such as child sexual exploitation.

20 projects tackling CSE have been awarded monies through the PCC's Safer Communities Fund totalling £103,096 since 2014

PARTNER CONTRIBUTION

5. As previously reported in September 2015 and March 2016, the PCC has been working in with partners to tackle CSE since his election in 2012. Including hosting meetings and campaigns dedicated to CSE with senior safeguarding stakeholders in West Yorkshire to establish how we can work better together.

A joint week of action was held in Safeguarding week (17 to 23 October), in partnership with West Yorkshire Police, the British Transport Police and the five local authorities to raise awareness of the signs associated with a young person who is being exploited and the ways in which it can be reported.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Chief Constable's report on Child Sexual Abuse](#) (PDF 314KB)
- [PCC's Update](#) (PDF 300KB)