

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

2 May 2017

SUBJECT: SEXUAL ABUSE

Report of the Chief Constable

<p>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</p> <p>1. This report outlines the Force's current position in relation to the policing of Sexual Abuse in West Yorkshire.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) uses this report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Sexual Abuse.</p>
<p>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</p> <p>3. Sexual violence and abuse is any harmful sexual behaviour which is unwanted and takes place without consent or understanding. This type of crime can have a devastating effect on the person's health and wellbeing. The PCC works with the police and partners to target offenders, give victims the confidence to come forward and report these crimes, and make all forms of sexual abuse and violence unacceptable. He makes sure that the services that victims of sexual abuse need to cope and recover are provided.</p>
<p>KEY INFORMATION</p> <p>4. The PCC has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following his election in November 2012, made sexual abuse a priority in the Police and Crime Plan, and since then delivered a step change improvement in the services available to all victims and survivors of both recent and historic abuse, outlined below.• Commissioned the first West Yorkshire wide Independent Sexual Violence Adviser service, which started operating from July 2015• In collaboration with NHS England and the three other PCCs in Yorkshire and the Humber, commissioned a fully functioning adult (16+) Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), which started operating from 1 April 2016, with an independent provider, Mountain Healthcare.• Worked with NHS England to provide a consistent West Yorkshire wide SARC service available to those under 16, replacing an inconsistent offer prior to then by 5 NHS trusts; this new service also became operational from 1 April 2016• Provided grants to a range of relevant third sector organisations providing services to this group of victims and survivors, including rape crisis centres and others.• Encouraged the development of the services available to male victims, including a dedicated ISVA for male victims and funded other initiatives such as Survivors West Yorkshire's new facility, Ben's Place, and Survivors UK's on line services.

- Ensured that more generic victim services are aware of the specialist services available to survivors of sexual abuse, and how to refer victims to them
- Publicised the available services more effectively, through the Help for Victims website and in other ways
- Significant challenges remain to be overcome, in particular to ensure that ALL victims are aware of the services available, and that they can be supported regardless of whether they wish to report the crime to the police. Further service improvements are in development.
- 14 projects have been funded through the Safer Communities Fund to tackle Sexual Abuse totalling £76,056.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

5. The PCC has extended the remit of the earlier Domestic Abuse Board to cover both domestic and sexual abuse. He has organised a Planning Workshop for Wednesday 7 June 2017 to bring together a wide range of stakeholders. The new Board will have 3 members from the third sector as well as the Police, Community Safety Partnerships, the CPS, the Fire Service and other parts of the criminal justice system. Meetings of the new partnership board have been arranged to the end of 2017.

In developing the services for under 16s, the PCC has engaged directly with Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.

ATTACHMENT

- [Chief Constables report – Sexual Abuse](#) (PDF 271KB)