

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

8 January 2018

SUBJECT: CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, SEXUAL ABUSE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

Report of the Chief Constable

<p>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</p> <p>1. This report provides an update to outline the Force's current position in relation to the policing of Child Sexual Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Domestic 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 Child Sexual Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Domestic Abuse.</p>
<p>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</p> <p>3. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, it can be financial, emotional, or physical. The PCC will continue to work across all partner agencies including the Domestic Abuse Board to target offenders, challenge dangerous perceptions, raise awareness, encourage victims to come forward and provide the right support to them when they do.</p>
<p>KEY INFORMATION</p> <p>The PCC has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established a Domestic Abuse Board in 2015 following a commissioned review to bring partners together to identify how, by working together, a Yorkshire wide approach can be taken. Work areas include a study into how domestic reviews homicide are undertaken by partners in West Yorkshire, and the commissioning of a perpetrator programme for low to medium risk cases. Following a partnership consultation event in June 2017, a domestic and sexual abuse strategy has been published and can be accessed here.• 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.

- 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, the PCC has commissioned a fully functioning adult (16+) Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), which started operating from 1 April 2016, with an independent provider, Mountain Healthcare.
- The PCC has funded 68 projects tackling these three priorities a Safer Communities Grant totalling more than £341k since 2014. A full list of successful project is on the website and can be accessed [here](#).
- Early in 2017, the PCC submitted a proposal for funding to the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Transformation Fund made available by the Home Office. The bid was partially successful – in June it was announced that funding had been provided to support the use of domestic violence protection orders. HMP New Hall also received funding to strengthen referral pathways.
- Work is currently underway to develop much better facilities for SARC services, including more integration of therapeutic support, and improved linkages with the courts where this is relevant. The work includes consultation about the views of service users.
- The PCC has played a key role in the development and delivery of an improved Child Sexual Assault Assessment Service (CSAAS) for West Yorkshire and in 2017 brought the providers of the service together with senior figures from local authorities and Social Care of West Yorkshire to share information about the service and with a view to strengthening partnerships and improving working practices.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

4. On the 5th October 2017 the PCC hosted a Safeguarding Conference which was the first event to bring together district Community Safety Partnerships, Adults Safeguarding Boards and Children’s Safeguarding Boards from across West Yorkshire. This event asked partners to highlight what they’re top priorities were and to generate some joint actions to provide more collaborative working.

On the 21st November 2017, the OPCC held a consultation event with key partners on the new SARC Building proposals. Colleagues to work closely with service users were invited to enable us to obtain feedback in relation to the building layout and user requirements from a victim, survivor, family member and witness perspective.

ATTACHMENT

- [Chief Constables update report – Child Sexual Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Domestic Abuse](#) (PDF 338KB)