

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE & CRIME PANEL

PAPER MARKED

Report of	POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)
Subject	CSE REVIEW – UPDATE
Date	WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2015 – 1:00pm
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Purpose of Report

1. This report provides the Panel with an update on the review commissioned on Leicestershire Police's response to non-recent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) cases.

Recommendation

2. The Panel is asked to note the contents of this update.

Background

3. The Review, which the force named as Operation Sepia, considered a large number of suspected child abuse cases which the force had logged and investigated over the past 20 years or so. The Force examined three principal systems - those that record allegations of crimes themselves; one that records concerns over abuse for children; and one that records people who are reported missing.
4. The review encompassed specialist auditors researching records of 866 individuals, who made an assessment as to whether the person had been a victim of CSE and if so, whether the case had been fully and appropriately investigated at the time. Inevitably the names of other individuals appeared in this research and, in all, the team examined cases involving the names of almost 7,000 individuals.
5. The auditors identified potential concerns in 32 cases and these were evaluated by a team of accredited Detectives who conducted further research. As a result of this research 10 cases were passed to the Regional Review Unit. The investigators in the Regional Review Unit are experts in reviewing historical investigations.
6. As a result of the Regional Review Unit reviewing all the investigations, 5 cases of suspected non-recent child sexual abuse were re-opened and the investigation was undertaken by a dedicated team of child abuse investigators. The 5 cases date from different time periods and relate to different locations, different victims and different suspect backgrounds.

Investigation Update

7. One of the investigations remains live. The investigation has resulted in a suspect being identified and a file of evidence has been submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service. The case relates to a previous child abuse investigation where an offender was convicted of child abuse but no charges had been authorised in relation to a further potential suspect who had been identified at the time.
8. In two separate cases an investigation was completed and the victims were contacted but they did not make any disclosures regarding Child Sexual Exploitation.
9. In the fourth case a full investigation was completed and a suspect identified and interviewed but there was insufficient evidence to achieve the required standard for a prosecution and no further action was taken.
10. In the final case the investigation found that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute.

Conclusion

11. The reinvestigation of the 5 cases has taken a victim led approach with the welfare of the victim being of paramount concern with relevant support networks being engaged and the impact on the victim being considered.
12. The electronic trawl of police systems was extensive but only able to capture information held on Police systems, therefore the Police remain open to reviewing any additional information in regard non recent child abuse brought to the Police's attention.
13. The Operation Sepia commissioned review did not include live non recent child abuse investigations and these investigations are continuing.
14. Leicestershire Police has an established team of accredited child abuse detectives specialising in investigating non recent child sexual abuse in addition to having specialist rape investigation, child abuse and child sexual exploitation teams that are investigating reports of sexual offences made from within our communities now.
15. Child Sexual Abuse remains a strategic priority for the Police and Crime Commissioner and Leicestershire Police. This area of work continues to be developed and invested in despite the financial challenges and there is a strong partnership approach. This is evidenced through the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Boards working together to develop our response to Child Sexual Exploitation and being granted 1.2 million from the Police and Crime Commissioner Strategic Partnership fund.

Implications

Finance:	Not applicable to this update report
Legal:	Not applicable to this update report
Equality Impact Assessment:	Not applicable to this update report
Risks and Impact:	Not applicable to this update report
Communications:	Not applicable to this update report

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