



# RESPONSE TO HAMPSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

## Child Sexual Exploitation Proactive Scrutiny Report

### Recommendations

From Mr Simon Hayes

The Police and Crime Commissioner for  
Hampshire

Prepared

12<sup>th</sup> January 2016

By

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Police and Crime Commissioner's response to Police and Crime Panel recommendations:

### 3. Recommendations

#### *Legacy Review*

**a. Once the outcomes of Hampshire Constabulary's legacy review of case files are known that they are shared fully and transparently with the Panel, who would seek assurance that a wide spread or unknown issue of exploitation, like that seen in Rotherham, does not exist within the Hampshire policing area.**

The Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner) is fully committed to being transparent and open. The public have a keen interest in this sensitive area however the need to be transparent and open needs to be balanced with the need to protect vulnerable victims particularly if the outcomes of the review include sensitive information.

Once the Commissioner has been made aware of the outcomes of the legacy review he will determine how best to share those findings with members of the Panel and the public whilst attempting to strike a balance between protecting victims and raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Until the outcomes of the review are known the Commissioner is unable to provide an assurance that a wide spread or unknown issue of exploitation, like that seen in Rotherham, does not exist within the Hampshire policing area.

**b. That the outcomes of this review are published and the lessons learnt shared with the public to increase public awareness of CSE and increase confidence in the approaches taken by the Commissioner and Hampshire Constabulary to tackle it.**

See response to question A.

**c. Through liaison with Gold Group partners, that the Commissioner ensures that the six executive commitments set by the group are met, and that any learning from the legacy review is embedded into future practice.**

The Commissioner will hold the Chief Constable to account and ensure the six executive commitments set by the group are met. The Commissioner will oversee any learning from the legacy review is embedded into future practice within the constabulary.

#### *Multi-agency working*

**d. That the Commissioner should take a lead, through the work of the Willow Project, in ensuring pan-Hampshire and IOW consistency in the assessment of children at risk of CSE. This should be complemented by the current work of Hampshire Constabulary in reviewing the risk assessment process/scoring.**

The Willow Project is not one of the Commissioner's projects therefore he can not directly lead on it. The Commissioner will both support and work in partnership with others to encourage consistency in the assessment of children at risk of CSE. This is not the case currently as local authorities use slightly different risk assessment forms, Hampshire,

Southampton and the Isle of Wight use the sexual exploitation risk assessment form (SERAF) whilst Portsmouth use the Derbyshire risk assessment (model) form.

**e. Through engaging partners, the Commissioner should seek to increase the use of shared technology to support the automation of the risk assessment process and to simplify the process and encourage the reporting of safeguarding concerns.**

A pan-Hampshire Information Management Board is now chaired by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The OPCC has undertaken a comprehensive Information Management review which has led to a renewed strategic commitment to information sharing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The OPCC is currently assessing what system improvements are needed to SafetyNet to encourage use across a range of services and organisations. The Commissioner is and remains a strong advocate of Safetynet as a tool to be used to share information and data between partners which can help identify and protect vulnerable individuals. Despite several attempts to have a consistent approach to the use of shared technologies not all partners are currently using Safetynet, the Isle of Wight are shortly due to move to a new case management system called Paris whilst in Portsmouth they use their own system called Case Works Plus.

The Commissioner will explore whether it is possible to make available the nationally recognised sexual exploitation risk assessment form (SERAF). Used by practitioners to identify young people at risk of sexual exploitation on Safetynet. This will speed up the process of making referrals, allow partners to share up to date data on those at risk and provide an audit trail and record of all those assessed and identified.

**f. That through work with partners, the Youth Commission and using nationally recognised research, the Commissioner should encourage and increased understanding and awareness of how perpetrators are utilising the internet and smart phone - based technology to facilitate CSE, and use this increased understanding to inform engagement and prevention strategies.**

The Commissioner is committed to following an evidence based approach to tackling major concerns such as CSE. The Commissioner through the work of the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner (APCC IOW) is kept fully informed of the latest national and international research into tackling CSE. The APCC IOW is engaged in national research looking at models to tackle CSE including the Child Sexual Exploitation Funders' Alliance (CSEFA), "Hub and Spoke" programme and was recently interviewed by Barnados as part of research into CSE.

The Commissioner has utilised his Youth Commission to engage with young people and raise awareness of CSE. A priority work area for the Youth Commission is abusive relationships which encompasses CSE and the internet. The Youth Commissions research has shown that abusive relationships are the 2<sup>nd</sup> most important issue for young people behind legal highs.

The Commissioner has used his engagement opportunities to raise awareness of CSE and highlight how easy it is for a perpetrator to use modern technology to groom and control a young person. The Commissioner has funded projects such as Chelsea's Choice, a play which is used to engage with young people. To increase understanding and awareness of the dangers of the internet and new technologies (such as smart phones) being used by perpetrators to groom children. The play also promotes the safe use of the internet and other technologies by young people. A member of the Youth Commission attended a performance of the play and subsequently wrote a blog about it.

The Commissioner welcomes further applications from partners or other organisations to deliver similar awareness raising.

### *Commissioning*

**g. That the Commissioner should continue to make commissioning funds available for projects which provide early intervention against and support victims of CSE, utilising an evidence based approach.**

Funding is allocated in line with priorities within the Police and Crime Plan. The OPCC currently funds a number of services which are directly relevant to supporting victims of CSE and many others that cater for victims of CSE among other sexual crimes.

The OPCC has recently launched a Sexual Crime Strategy and CSE is a key component. The Commissioner will be looking for external funding to add to OPCC funding to continue to develop services ensuring that victims are given every possible opportunity to cope and recover from the crimes committed against them.

As examples of work the Commissioner is currently engaged in the Commissioner supports Cisters, an organisation providing ongoing support to victims of sexual abuse as children. The OPCC is a major contributor to the Southampton CSE Hub.

**h. Further that consideration is given to encourage bids for funding which include provision of support to adult survivors of childhood sexual exploitation or to support those victims who are being used by perpetrators to engage other younger children in further CSE.**

We are currently looking at priorities for new funding in 2016/17 and CSE will be a priority for new investment, where consistent with the Sexual Crime Strategy.

In addition the OPCC is currently preparing an application for Police Innovation funding, in partnership with Hampshire's Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). This application will focus on the mental health issues faced by survivors of sexual crime, in particular, as children.

**i. That following APCC IOW's review of CSE prevention and support programmes which are being delivered in other parts of the UK, commissioning funds are made available to pilot those programmes which are considered to be effective/successful within Hampshire and IOW.**

The recommendations put forward by the APCC IOW following her review of national CSE prevention and support programmes will be carefully examined. If it is felt such programmes can be successfully piloted and delivered within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and are appropriate for the local policing area. Commissioning funds will be made available to support the delivery of these programmes.

### *Engaging partners and the wider community*

**j. That the Commissioner should seek to increase engagement from partners within the public and other industry sectors, including:**

**a. health partners, in raising awareness of and encouraging the reporting of CSE concerns, particularly with front line sexual health staff.**

The APCC IOW recently spoke at the annual Mental Health Paediatricians conference on the subject of CSE. The APCC IOW highlighted current issues affecting young children particularly those who are at risk of going missing, being exploited or trafficked. Guidance was shared with mental health practitioners to help them recognise the signs of CSE. The APCC through the Local Safeguarding Children's Board has disseminated information to health and other partners to help raise awareness of CSE and increase reporting levels.

**b. education providers, through encouraging primary schools to deliver age-appropriate CSE awareness and ensuring that efforts to raise awareness in secondary schools is delivered consistently pan-Hampshire and the IOW.**

The Commissioner cannot solely be responsible for increasing engagement with schools, there must be a commitment from schools and local education authorities to open up schools to raise awareness and encourage reporting of CSE. An example of this is Chelsea's Choice, an innovative and powerful production highlighting the very serious and emotional issue of CSE which was funded by the Commissioner and delivered in some schools across Hampshire and the IOW.

The Commissioner will seek to roll out the Education Charter across Hampshire, if it is successfully piloted on the IOW and to extend it to junior as well as secondary schools. An important aspect of the charter is a commitment from schools to raise awareness of CSE amongst teachers, staff and young people through discussions about what is / is not a healthy relationship.

Some members of the Commissioner's Youth Commission are currently working with colleagues from Hampshire County Council's education department to peer review CSE packages which are to be delivered in schools with the Hampshire County Council area.

**c. Taxi and licensing authorities, supporting the Commissioner's suggestion that the taxi drivers across Hampshire and the IOW are encouraged to complete a voluntary CSE awareness course. Further that, through liaison with local authority partners, consideration is given to incorporate safeguarding awareness specific to CSE within any briefing provided when licences are to be issued/renewed.**

On the IOW, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, MET sub group has recently been joined by representatives from the council's taxi licensing service. Following the inclusion of the taxi licensing representatives on the group, it has been agreed all taxi drivers on the island will complete CSE awareness training before being granted a license as part of the new licensing renewal policy for the island.

Discussions are continuing in the remaining three local authority safeguarding boards to introduce voluntary CSE training for taxi drivers. In Portsmouth, Hampshire Constabulary's Goldstone Team is working alongside Barnados to deliver a CSE training package to taxi drivers. In addition there are plans to supply literature on CSE to all taxi drivers in the city.

**k. That the Commissioner identifies further organisations that may benefit from the expansion of the CSE awareness raising training, in partnership with Hampshire Constabulary, with particular focus on the health and education sectors**

The Commissioner will use his extensive network of contacts across the criminal justice system and beyond to identify organisations which would benefit from receiving CSE

awareness raising training. The Commissioner will use his Alliance meetings to raise the need to expand CSE awareness with partners and seek their help to identify organisations within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. In particular the Commissioner would welcome any suggestions from the Panel or its members of any organisations which they feel would benefit from CSE awareness raising training.

Both the Youth Commission and the APCC IOW will support and complement the work of the Commissioner to raise awareness of CSE training.

**l. That the Commissioner encourages and supports Hampshire Constabulary in identifying opportunities to increase engagement with BAME communities and faith group leaders across the two Counties in relation to preventing and identifying CSE.**

The Commissioner notes the recommendation and will strive to work with Hampshire Constabulary to identify and engage with BAME communities to raise awareness of CSE and prevent it. The Constabulary have made initial links with Barnados to develop how it can enhance its work and engagement in this area. Barnados already employ a BAME specific project worker with whom the Constabulary are seeking to deliver some targeted work in diverse communities.

**m. That the Police and Crime Panel is included as a stakeholder in the review of the 'Sexual Crime Strategy' before its publication.**

At the time of receiving these recommendations, the Sexual Crime Strategy content had already been agreed following an extensive year of consultation with partner agencies from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The strategy had been sent to graphic designers to design and print, so it could be formally launched by the Commissioner at an event on the 13<sup>th</sup> November. Members of the Panel were invited to attend the strategy launch event and to help deliver the strategies recommendations.