

For Information	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	5th January 2015
Report of:	Police and Crime Commissioner
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Agenda Item:	8

*If Non Public, please state under which category number from the guidance in the space provided.

Children's Safeguarding

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform the Police and Crime Panel (P&CP) of the operations that are currently operating with regard to historic child abuse within Nottinghamshire and associated matters

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The P&CP notes the current position.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 In order that the P&CP is able to satisfy its statutory scrutiny responsibility under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 The Force have submitted the most recent Section 11 Audit which takes place every two years in line with the process previously agreed by both Boards. This ensures that partner agencies are fulfilling their obligations in line with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 is a requirement placed on all Local Safeguarding Children Boards by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 (Chap.3 para.2) and this self-assessment is a key part of the process for the NSCB/NCSCB.
- 4.2 Nottinghamshire Police was subject to Her Majesty of Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) inspection programme into Child Protection. We currently await the final report of that inspection activity.
- 4.3 Public Protection's business case to support the Designing the Future (DtF) work continues to be managed alongside other key business cases such as Improving Investigations, Response, NHP and the Prisoner handling team. An agreement of 61 additional resources has been reached to support current establishment which relates to a net gain of 44 additional staff to deal with all domestic and sexual violence.

- 4.4 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has recently highlighted a concern into the staffing and investigative capability of Public Protection within Nottinghamshire
- 4.5 Operation Daybreak is a historic police investigation, launched in 2010 into allegations of physical and sexual abuse in the former Beechwood children's home. The number of allegations to date stands at over 100. We are currently in phase 4 of the operation which has yielded 11 names suspects. All victims' allegations are under investigation and all safeguarding procedures are being followed. As yet there have been no charges. Currently the Crown Prosecution are reviewing two individuals on advice files. During this same period 95 complaints within civil proceedings have been made against Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Councils. The allegations and complaints are in relation to alleged incidents within a period from 1960 to 2000. The investigation has continued to grow in its scale and complexity. A Strategic Management group has been instigated in accordance with the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Boards child protection procedures. The staffing from this operation has been taken from current Public Protection staff
- 4.6 In early November allegations were brought to light indicating that there were a number of complaints emanating from a series of care homes in north Nottinghamshire. Operation Xeres spans 40 years from the 1950s and concerns 8 children's establishments. 19 victims so far have been identified. There are 18 named suspects and 19 suspects who are yet to be identified. There are already links being identified with Operation Daybreak. The Force and the Local authority are currently establishing a joint investigation team.
- 4.7 There is a national operation established named Operation Hydrant whose role it is to establish a national HOLMES database and is being populated with data received by police forces and referrals from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) and the Home Office. Early assessment has found that a considerable number of cases being investigated across the Country and this is placing huge demands upon the service. There will be regular contact between this Operation and the secretariat of the Home Office inquiry into historic child sexual abuse.
- 4.8 The Force has reviewed its position in terms of activity after the 'Rotherham report' was published. We have also carried out a gap analysis of activity with this report and that of the Ofsted findings. We fair pretty well but are certainly not complacent. We recently elected to have a Peer review by the College of Policing and the NSPCC, whilst we await the final report, the findings shows us in a good light, the focus being on resourcing to enable more proactive activity within SEIU which was also a feature of the HMIC inspection on Child Protection. We are still dealing with Operation Notorise (national operation)

and have a number of items still under examination. We have also a large scale enquiry on us called Operation Nautilite, this is in its early stages but has around 4,500 IP addresses within the UK that have accessed indecent images of children. We are in discussion with the National Crime Agency in terms of any support for this. The Chief Executives and leaders of local authorities, The PCC, and the Chief Constable recently met to discuss opportunities around a 'CSE summit' which will be held in early January. This will; be a high level discussion of our position against national action plans and the work locally in order that we can improve or address any gaps.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 This presents clear financial and resourcing issues for the Force given the balance needing to be drawn in managing historical allegations and the reputational risk of not doing so versus the current risk of reported abuse particularly around child sexual exploitation.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 Whilst the Organisation works through the DtF business cases, there are clear implications around the movement of resources based on risk, harm and threat. The Public Protection resources have been agreed based on the need to maintain the trajectory for force efficiencies and the re alignment of roles and responsibilities, in order to manage enquiries of this nature locally will mean resources are moved from other areas of business within a finite financial structure

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 Resourcing of Operation daybreak already features on the Risk Register
- 8.2 Risks associated with the DtF are raised within the business cases for Public Protection and relate to the ability to manage the increased workload given the differential in staffing

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 9.1 Not applicable

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 Not applicable

11. Details of outcome of consultation

11.1 Not applicable

12. Appendices

12.1 None

13. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

13. None