

APPENDIX A

Case Study - Sexual Violence Engagement Manager

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Summary

In May 2016, the Commissioner promised the electorate that victims of historic abuse in local children's homes would receive both support and a public inquiry. This case study details a range of activity undertaken by the Commissioner his staff and others not only to help fulfil this pledge but summarises new developments which will enhance support services for victims of sexual crime.

Consultation and Engagement

Subsequently, the Commissioner and a number of his staff including the Chief Executive met with many survivors of sexual abuse to listen to their views and concerns.

In 2017, Limeculture was commissioned by the Commissioner¹ to deliver an independent review of sexual violence support across the Nottinghamshire as part of a wider project to overhaul almost all aspects of help services for victims and survivors of sexual violence. This included the launch of a victim survey, a literature review, focus groups with survivors and a consultation event with stakeholders. This work played a key role in transforming support services for victims of sexual violence in Nottinghamshire.

Limeculture's experience and specialist knowledge of sexual violence recovery care enhanced Nottinghamshire's response to victims and survivors of rape and sexual assault, ensuring services reflect the needs and vulnerabilities of those requiring help. As well as delivering projects on time, Limeculture was a continuous source of advice and expertise on all aspects of specialist victim care and Nottinghamshire benefitted significantly from this guidance.

Survivors Feedback

Following feedback and consultation with survivors the Commissioner agreed that:

- Work with survivors and survivor networks would be undertaken to help connect survivors to public sector organisations and service providers, facilitating easier communication and responses to service requests.
- A check and challenge function at a strategic level would be provided to identify service deficiencies, issues and gaps in delivery.

¹ <https://limeculture.co.uk/consultancy/>

Responding to the Feedback

In addition, in September 2017, the Commissioner established a new Sexual Violence Engagement Manager post within his office to lead on this new work stream funded jointly by the County Council, City Council and the Commissioner.

Furthermore, a specific service (called the Survivor Support Service) was commissioned to support survivors. Both are jointly funded by the City Council, County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Survivor Support Service has now been integrated into the PCC's wider Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) service and both initiatives are managed by the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that the work is effectively integrated into wider work locally to support survivors of abuse.

Key Developments

Collectively these initiatives have actively supported work to engage with survivors and have improved our local response. Key developments include:

- The co-development of the post's job functions and the nature of the support service with survivors
- Panels of survivors making definitive decisions about who was appointed to the SV Engagement Manager Post as well as helping to assess ISVA bids
- The development of a survivor advisory group to provide guidance on the future focus of the SV Engagement Manager
- On-going liaison with the Police, and partners to strengthen partnership working arrangements, develop clear pathways, ensure provision of appropriate support and provide parity of support across the city and county
- A pathway to support has also been identified for non-recent non-sexual childhood abuse through referral to Victim CARE
- Developing a pathway to support for offenders on their release from HMP Nottingham. Assessments and referrals take place prior to release to maximise availability of support and promote stability at this critical time
- A dedicated resource within Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) locally to address specific needs of survivors and reduce difficulties experienced with benefit claims

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

An active presence was maintained throughout the public hearing of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), both in Nottingham and London during October 2018 to ensure availability of appropriate support and signposting to specialist services as required.

Survivors reported that this was helpful and has created positive working relationships with individuals, peer support groups and wider partnerships. It is important to identify any elements that were highlighted during the hearing to ensure any learning is implemented as soon as possible. The IICSA report will be published in the summer of 2019.

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)

Commissioning activity has seen the contract for the regional paediatric SARC awarded to NUH, in partnership with Northants NHS Trust and NSVSS. There are two hubs, one in the QMC in Nottingham and one in Northampton. NSVSS are providing Crisis Worker support and a 24/7 helpline for the

region. In addition, up to 10 therapeutic support sessions are being provided for children and young people, delivered by NSVSS (13+) and Imara (0-12 year olds).

A new dedicated CYP (Children and Young Persons) forensic suite is being installed in the paediatric SARC at QMC.

The new SARC offers a single access point to health and other services for all Nottinghamshire children and young people for the first time.

The contract for the Nottinghamshire adult SARC was awarded to Mountain Healthcare Ltd, in April 2018. Mountain Healthcare is an experienced SARC provider which runs 11 other SARCs across the country. Mountain Healthcare will deliver a new model of support, providing forensic examinations (previously delivered by G4S) as well as crisis support. The new model has already proven that it is reducing the length of time that victims and survivors are waiting to be examined. Work is on-going to identify a suitable site, in order to develop a new facility in consultation with survivors.

Independent Sexual Violence Advisers

In July 2018, the OPCC commissioned an expanded ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisers) and CHISVA (Children's ISVA) service. Survivors were actively involved in development of scenarios and evaluation of bidders' responses, and their input had a meaningful impact on the selection of the successful provider. Notts Sexual Violence Support Services (NSVSS) successfully tendered for the adult service (18+) with Imara delivering the equivalent young people's service.

ISVAs provide practical, informational and emotional help including advocacy and support through the criminal justice process. Support may be with housing, finances, work or college or reporting to the police.

Specialist sexual violence counselling is funded by the PCC and Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils and Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Group, and provided by:

ISAS (Nottinghamshire County only): www.isas-notts.org.uk

Nottinghamshire SVS Services (City and County): www.nottssvss.org.uk

SHE (Nottinghamshire County only): www.she-uk.org.uk