

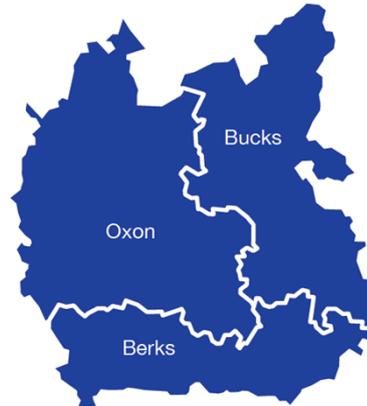
Background

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Report from the Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Sub-Committee

Date: 21 June 2019

Author: Chairman of CSE Sub Committee



A recent meeting of the Sub-Committee was held on 12 April 2019. This report includes a recommendation from this meeting on the future of the Sub-Committee in view of the widening of the landscape in relation to exploitation.

In addition, there were report backs from the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner on previous recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION:

It was recommended to the Police and Crime Panel, that the Preventing Child Exploitation Sub-Committee be disbanded in the next Municipal Year.

FORCED MARRIAGE AND HONOUR BASED ABUSE

The Sub-Committee was provided with a report which had been written in collaboration between the Scrutiny Officer and Thames Valley Police.

It was noted Honour-based abuse (HBA), forced marriage (FM) and female genital mutilation (FGM) share some common characteristics, but there were also some important distinctions. There were also overlaps with domestic abuse, child abuse and numerous types of crime as well as with human trafficking and modern slavery, which further blurred the edges in their definition.

The Sub-Committee noted that HBA was not linked to any one religion, culture or society. It had been identified as mainly occurring among populations from South Asia. However, it can occur in other cultures and communities, such as African, Middle Eastern, Turkish, Kurdish, Afghan, parts of Europe (including the United Kingdom) American, Australian and Canadian.

Reference was made to Police forces being under a continuing general duty to prevent, detect, and investigate all of these crimes when a report was made or where there was reason to believe they had been or would be committed. FGM was regarded as a child protection concern and the response would involve a range of agencies under the auspices of "Working Together to Safeguard

Children” government guidelines. Local Authority Children’s Social care teams usually take the lead.

In relation to FM and FGM, police officers, local authorities, other agencies and the victim themselves, can apply with permission from the Court, for a protection order (either a Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO); or a Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order (FGMPO)) to protect individuals identified as being at risk. The Sub-Committee asked for details on whether these Protection Orders had been used to protect individuals.

Details of the some of the work Thames Valley Police had carried out in relation to Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse were included in the report as follows:

- Phase 3 of the Hidden Harm campaign was launched in June and raised awareness of Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage to communities in the Thames Valley and internally to officers and staff. The campaign had an estimated reach of over 1.5 million people.
- Messaging from the previous two phases of the hidden harm campaign, which focused on modern slavery and child abuse, has reached 1.4 million people on social media.
- The Protecting Vulnerable People department is preparing content for SaVE (Safeguarding, Vulnerability and Exploitation) 3 training for officers and staff which focuses on missing people, stalking and harassment. The programme has been developed taking into account recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspections, College of Policing reports and internal audits.
- Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) has developed a “plan on a page” with the aim of supporting victims and providing a "first class standard of investigation" at its heart.
- New honour based abuse guidance has been published to assist officers and staff in dealing with honour based abuse incidents and providing support to victims.
- Through the SaVE programme there have been a number of dedicated communications plans which have looked to increase the knowledge and confidence of the public, police and partners in recognising these "hidden harm" crimes such as modern slavery, honour based abuse and domestic abuse, and so increase our ability to deal with them.
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Liaison Officers (LAGLO+) continue to deliver hidden harm training and information sessions at schools and public events across Local Policing Areas.
- Local Policing Areas are working with Force Intelligence Hubs to identify modern day slavery victims and those in brothels. Victims to be treated appropriately with support, diversion from offending and protection from criminals. awareness and
- Increasing the confidence of the communities where this type of crime is particularly prevalent is a priority and in July 2018 a targeted media campaign was launched.
- During the campaign period it is estimated that 3.7 million people were reached using outdoor advertising, the campaign YouTube video reached 225,000 people and was viewed nearly 60,000 times, 808,000 people were reached on social media, 1.5 million people were reached via the media and there were 3,126 Thames Valley alert banner clicks directing the public to the relevant pages of the TVP web-site.
- During the campaign months (July-September) Karma Nirvana (a charity which supports victims of HBA and FM) saw an increase in contacts from people in the Thames Valley Police area.
- TVP continue to respond to reports of Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse (HBA) in accordance with the refreshed guidance mentioned above, which focuses on the needs of victims and the ‘One Chance Rule’.

- Police may only have one opportunity to speak to a victim of this type of crime, one chance to identify that they are a victim of HBA and one chance to save their life. TVP are aware of the sensitivity of these cases and the lengths some family members will go to in order to discover information about a victim. As a result access to these incidents is restricted at the point of call and cases referred to specialist officers in the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit (DAIU) to manage the risks.
- In cases involving children support is also provided by specialists from the Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU) who work closely with colleagues in Children's Social Care and other partner agencies.
- Feedback from victims, partners and NGOs has been considered in developing police guidance and includes ensuring victim confidentiality, considering others who may be at risk, the use of trusted interpreters and a risk assessment process that focuses on the victim's experience and assessment of what risks they face. The guidance ensures adequate supervisory oversight in every case and encourages the use of appropriate risk management tools, such as Forced Marriage Protection Orders and referrals to partner agencies and NGOs.
- The priority for victims, police and partners when dealing with reports of HBA and FM is to keep the victim and any others who may be at risk safe, many cases do not result in prosecution because the police are often notified of concerns before any criminal offences have yet taken place and we are able to work with victims and partners to manage the ongoing risk.

Reference was made to the invaluable work which Victims First carried out.

Reference was made to forced arrangements which also took place within homosexual relationships, particularly in relation to men who were used as slaves for sex.

The practice of "breast ironing" was discussed and it was acknowledged that this should be categorised under honour based abuse. "Breast ironing" was an African practice of "ironing" a girl's chest with a hot stone to delay breast formation, and there was evidence that this was spreading in the UK.

The report was noted.

UPDATE FROM THE DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ON PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

- In relation to the Bullfinch recommendation relating to the perpetrator profile of those found guilty of group CSE, an update be provided from the PCC on developing research on perpetrator profiling with the Oxfordshire Children's Safeguarding Board CSE Sub Group.

The Deputy PCC reported that the Home Secretary announced in 2018 that research would be conducted into the ethnic background of CSE perpetrators. To date he had not seen any results of these investigations carried out by the Home Office. Thames Valley Police do not have publicly available information on perpetrator profiling but a number of studies do exist including from the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse at Coventry University (<http://tinyurl.com/y45o9e5k>)

- An update from the PCC on the review of the Berkshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs.

Members were informed that whilst all Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs were now operating well, work continued with the local authorities in Berkshire particularly, but not exclusively, to look at how the system could be further improved. The issue particularly in Berkshire was the staffing levels and this had been overcome by spreading demand over neighbouring MASHs to ensure resilience. Whilst the police component of the MASH was important, they were not 'owned' by Thames Valley Police. Therefore discussions were ongoing to find a consensual way forward with the unitary councils in Berkshire that may see a 'remote' service provided, where a dedicated team of officers were available to share information as required with other services, but without being physically co-located.

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The Deputy PCC to provide details on the proposal for logos for the Hotelwatch Scheme and whether the Hotelwatch Scheme was being consistently operationally across the Thames Valley. In addition whether consideration had been given to the Modern Slavery toolkit which had been developed by Oxford Brookes University.

The Sub-Committee was informed that the hotel watch scheme was working well across the Thames Valley. The scheme operated with each individual local authority and a common branding had been adopted. A Modern Slavery Investigation Toolkit is available to all officers.

Reference was made to automated keys which were used by some hotels which by-passed the processes put in place by Hotelwatch. The Deputy PCC referred to hotels having CCTV in reception areas which could monitor who was picking up the automated keys.

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PCC/Deputy PCC to update on the appointment of the Single Point of Contact Post (taxi licensing).

The Sub-Committee was informed that currently recruitment to the post had proved unsuccessful but was ongoing. It was noted that the funding by the PCC was only agreed for one year, after which it was expected that local authorities would fund the post. An assessment would be made part way through the year to understand the effectiveness of the new role and inform the future funding decisions.

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The PCC/Deputy PCC to provide an update on what he and TVP are doing to address the Louise Casey recommendations.

The Deputy PCC reported that there were not considered to be specific actions resulting from the recommendations of the Casey Review for either Thames Valley Police or the Police & Crime Commissioner. Much of the subject of the review considers business as usual matters for policing and TVP continued to strive to ensure community cohesion, fair policing of all communities and the sharing of information to safeguard the vulnerable.

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For the PCC/Deputy PCC to report back on whether it was considered helpful to give a more specific presentation at Annual Council Meetings to help raise awareness of key issues that need to be addressed such as Hidden Harm etc.

The Deputy PCC reported that the content of each Council presentation varied, depending on the local authority and topical issues at the time, but the issues of vulnerability featured in all presentations to raise awareness amongst councillors. Presentations were tailored to the audience

and issues relating to exploitation of vulnerable people would continue to be raised at Council Presentations by the PCC.

- The Deputy PCC to report back on the usefulness of the CSE Outcomes Framework used by Staffordshire and the Revolving Doors document which highlighted good practice from different PCC areas on preventing violence against women and girls.

Members were informed that these documents were reviewed; however, no specific recommendations were taken on board as a result. The Office of the PCC continued to work with TVP and local authorities on a variety of prevention work, including as part of the Early Youth Intervention Fund and with Community Safety Partnerships. The statutory changes to Child Safeguarding that came into force in 2018 as a result of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 placed a new legal duty on the Chief Constable for child safeguarding. The PCC continued to hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of this and other duties as required by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

FUTURE OF THE CSE SUB-COMMITTEE

Discussion took place on the future of the Sub-Committee and it was acknowledged that the landscape of exploitation had widened beyond sexual exploitation since the Sub-Committee had been set up.

RECOMMENDATION

It was agreed that the issues on exploitation should be explored through the full Police and Crime Panel and **it was recommended to the Police and Crime Panel, that the Preventing Child Exploitation Sub-Committee be disbanded in the next Municipal Year.**