

The following queries arose at the Panel's workshop. The responses have been provided by the Suffolk Constabulary Deputy Chief Constable, Steve Jupp.

1. What was the impact of the 2015/16 precept increase of 2% in improving the solved rate performance of Serious Sexual Offences?

As a result of the precept increase 12 additional police staff posts were created in PVP. 3 police staff posts have been dedicated to domestic violence. The remaining 9 are 3 supervisors, 5 investigators (3 Ipswich 2 at Bury) and 1 admin assistant. 2 staff going into these posts already had experience in investigations or safeguarding and a full programme is in place for those staff who require further training. The additional investigators are currently providing resilience to the police investigators through low level enquiries but aspirations are for them to be PIP 'Professionalising the Investigation Process' level II trained having completed the Initial Crime Investigators Development Programme (ICIDP), Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) trained enabling them to conduct their own interviews with vulnerable victims and witnesses and for them to hold their own caseload of investigations. The supervisors attend multi agency meetings for children and vulnerable adults including Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO) strategy meetings and review meetings. They will also attend honour based strategy meetings in relation to children and vulnerable adult strategy meetings although their capacity to do this at this time is limited.

As the increase in reported serious sexual offences has continued throughout 2015 the number of investigations undertaken by Gemini teams and child abuse investigation teams has risen therefore the additional staff have been a real asset to the teams. In percentage terms the number of investigations has risen above the resources therefore going forward it would be desirable for this number to increase further for us to ensure we continue to provide a quality timely service to the public.

2. HMIC rape report (November 2015)

The Rape Monitoring Group report into rape investigation performance released in November 2015 gave a list of suggested questions for PCCs or others charged with scrutiny to ask of police forces. A response to each of these questions was included in one of the Appendices of the Sexual offences report.

3. How Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is being addressed

- What evidence is there of networked grooming activity?

There is no evidence at this time of networked grooming activity within Suffolk. There is a process of daily scanning of intelligence and crime to identify potential issues at the earliest opportunity. The process of scanning and analysis within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding hub (MASH) continues to be a work-stream that is being developed. A multi-agency case audit based on sixty cases where CSE would be expected to be present again did not highlight any networked activity.

- **What liaison takes place with the Metropolitan Police and with local agencies?**

There are strong regional links across CSE activity with the recent addition of a Regional CSE coordinator based within the Eastern Region Serious and Organised Crime Unit (ERSOU). A series of regional meetings are now in place to coordinate intelligence and disruption activity. A Regional assessment of CSE is now underway and this will in turn link to the development of a national CSE assessment. There is a network of Regional CSE coordinators that ensure dissemination of best practice.

Under the governance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board there is a multi-agency Exploited Children Group. This group works to a published strategy and associated action plan, it reports to the Board on its progress. There is strong engagement from a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies.

With regards to the Metropolitan Police Service specifically there is no regular liaison but where there is the need to do so on single or linked cases then there is good and effective liaison through the MASH or the police CSE Coordinator.

- **How effectively is the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) operating?**

From a Constabulary perspective the MASH is operating well. There are robust and effective processes for identifying and managing risk across referrals supported by strong multi-agency working practices. The MASH has recently been subject to Ofsted Inspection through there has been no published outcome of this to date.