

Learning from Operation Sanctuary and the Joint Serious Case Review into Sexual Exploitation with an emphasis on the innovative work with victims, particularly the work with Adults

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Introduction

- Prevalence not fully understood prior to 2014
- Victim disclosures to police – catalyst for Operation Sanctuary
- Police Lead Operation Sanctuary commenced January 2014, strategic buy in from across agencies and strong political support
- Model of abuse –targeting vulnerability both children and adults
- Joint Serious Case Review commissioned October 2015
- Published SCR February 2018

Operation Sanctuary successful prosecutions – Over 300 Years imprisonment



Sexual Exploitation Hub

- How it began
 - Home Office funding
 - Development of the team – not just co-location
 - Social Care, Police Victim Team, Health, Community and Voluntary Sector
- How we work
 - Everything we do is underpinned by Victim Strategy
 - Person Centered & responsive, with a focus on empowering the victim
 - Clear on each other's roles and responsibility
 - Long term support
- Transition
 - Close work between Children & Adult social care
 - Individual, holistic planning

Not fully understood (prior to 2014)

Need for multi-agency co-located teams

Transition

Long term support for victims

In Newcastle, decisions about taking action were not influenced by lack of concern or interest, misplaced fears about political correctness or fear of being seen as racist.

Criminal trial can be damaging

Impact on ability to form trusting relationships and parent children

Vulnerability not age

Need to disrupt perpetrators

Trauma informed approach

Specialist Advice

Victim Focussed

Effective safeguarding is a collective responsibility and requires a culture of robust interagency and professional challenge of practice and strategy.

Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board and Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board
Joint Serious Case Review Concerning Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adults with Needs for Care and Support in Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Independent Review Author – David Spicer
February 2018

No evidence of lack of action or fear of racism

Committed and Determined

Need for review of adults legislation

Need to develop perpetrator profile

Appropriate accommodation

Prevention depends on awareness and reporting

What difference are we making?

"I have support now – I now know what would happen much better. I could not have better support than Sanctuary. No-one can do more now."

"The support I have had has been exceptional. "

"The support from the Hub is brilliant."

"I appreciate the support now. Because I have had a bad time. Later (social worker) came to court. She was my rock."

Summary – challenges and lessons

1

Sexual exploitation happens to adults as well as children.

2

Effective support depends on seamless transition.

3

Requires strategic and resource buy-in from key partners.

Summary

- The contributions from victims have improved significantly understanding of vulnerability, the impact of sexual exploitation and the long-term nature of the support that is required.
- No evidence in Newcastle that decisions about taking action were affected by lack of concern or interest, misplaced fears about political correctness or fear of being seen as racist
- Tackling sexual exploitation must address the perpetrators – not only preventing their activities but understanding their motivation.

The review has reinforced the message to agencies that:

“if you do not recognise sexual exploitation of children and vulnerable adults in your area, it is because you are not looking hard enough”

Developments in Newcastle illustrate that determination and multi-agency victim focused services can make a significant difference.

What next?

- We are not complacent, Sexual Exploitation is still happening and we continue to tackle it and support victims
- We are committed to the Sexual Exploitation Hub
- We are progressing the Local Recommendations from the SCR
- We met with Victoria Atkins Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability and as a result are looking with her at how to implement the SCR National Recommendations
- And...

Holding a National Conference in Newcastle

Our experience in Newcastle and how we support victim's both adults and children:

Thursday 22 November 2018 – Crowne Plaza, Newcastle Stephenson Quarter

Key note speaker – Dame Louise Casey

For further information contact andrea.semple@newcastle.gov.uk

Thank you
Any Questions ?