

For Information	
Public	
Report to:	Strategic Resources & Performance Meeting
Date of Meeting:	2nd November 2021
Report of:	The Chief Constable
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Agenda Item:	3

Nottinghamshire Police Public Protection and Safeguarding Report

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to:

- Domestic Abuse
- Rape and serious sexual offences
- Child abuse
- Vulnerability and safeguarding
- Force activity and progress following the IICSA enquiry
- Scrutiny

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the contents of the attached report are noted.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 To inform the Police and Crime Commissioner of Force activity and progress in relation to this area of business.

4. Summary of Key Points

4.1 The attached appendix provides the detail regarding force performance in relation to public protection and safeguarding.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

5.1 The budget for the department is managed by the Detective Superintendent and monitored frequently. There are no matters to report to the Strategic Resources and Performance meeting.

6. Human Resources Implications

6.1 The attached appendix highlights how the Public Protection department is responding to changes in demand through constant assessment of the structure of the unit. Further detail is included in Appendix A.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 The Public Protection Department endeavours to increase the representation of officers and staff of those who identify with minority protected characteristics in order to be more reflective of the communities we serve.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 Any risks associated with this area of business are assessed and scored appropriately. They are managed by the T/Detective Superintendent head of department.

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

- 9.1 The four main strategic priorities of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan 2018 to 2021 are central to public protection and safeguarding, specifically (i) protecting people from harm, (ii) helping and supporting victims, (iii) tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, and (iv) transforming services and delivering quality policing.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 There are no relevant changes in legislation or other legal considerations with regards to this report.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 There is no requirement for consultation as a result of this paper, which is for update only.

12. Appendices

- 12.1 Appendix A – Public Protection and Safeguarding 2020/21 Update.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
POLICE
PROUD TO SERVE

Strategic Resources and Performance Board

Public Protection and Safeguarding – 2020/21 update

October 2021

Version 1

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1. Introduction

The overall approach to public protection continues to develop well in Nottinghamshire. Whilst at the time of writing the outcome of the forces PEEL Inspection is not known there has been 4 HMICFRS published reports of great significance in terms of the future policing of vulnerability which are referenced where relevant below.

The conviction of serving Metropolitan Police Officer Wayne Couzens for the brutal murder of Sarah Everard has rightly attracted enhanced scrutiny to the Police approach to tackling violence against women and girls. The long-term impact on public confidence is at present difficult to assess but has to be a serious concern.

Despite emerging from lockdown COVID-19 is still having effect on recorded crime and access to service provision some of which is still being remotely delivered.

2. Domestic Abuse

2.1 Domestic abuse calls to service and recorded crime are reduced. This is expected to remain the position (assuming no further lockdown period emerges) until the annual anniversary of the most recent lockdown easing is reached

Recorded	Dates between 01/10/2020 & 31/09/2021	% Proportion of Total	Dates between 01/10/2019 & 30/09/2020	% Proportion of Total	YTD Volume Change	YTD % Change
Domestic Abuse Crime & non crime	19,472		20,397		-925	-4.53%
Domestic Abuse Crime	14,254	73.20%	14,946	73.28%	-692	-4.63%
Domestic non crime	5,218	26.8%	5451	26.7%	-233	-4.3%

2.2 In terms of domestic abuse, violence where injury has occurred has reduced by 13.4% which follows a 15.3% reduction the year before. Whilst encouraging this

must be taken in the context of an overall reduction of recorded domestic abuse crime created by lockdown. Positive outcomes for Domestic Abuse are 15.1% (around 12%) which is above the national average and places Nottinghamshire in front of our regional neighbors and most similar forces. Nationally HMG has urged forces to consider their possible disproportionate use of Outcome 15 and 16 in Domestic Abuse and Rape/Serious Sexual Offences Cases. Nottinghamshire Police currently sit below the national average in our use of Outcome 16 however work is underway to further improve this. Interestingly, victim satisfaction rates in Outcome 16 cases are high which might suggest an imbalance between what is considered a positive outcome and what the public want from the service. i.e. many victims wishing for the removal perpetrators but not the ensuing CJ process or perpetrator prosecution.

Domestic Abuse Crimes	Dates between 01/10/2020 & 30/09/2021	Dates between 01/10/2019 & 30/09/2020	YTD Volume Change	YTD % Change
Domestic VAP	10,756	11,387	-631	-5.54%
- <i>Domestic Violence without Injury</i>	4,045	4,130	-85	-2.1%
- <i>Domestic Violence with injury</i>	3,280	3,789	-509	-13.4%

2.3 In September 2021 the number of repeat victims stood at 32.99% which is a reduction of 1.7% from 2020's figure of 35.6%. Whilst COVID's influence upon reporting might have influenced this the introduction of repeat victim MARAC's has been a positive contributor in reducing repeated victimisation.

2.4 We continue to work with partners to ensure that all high-risk cases are reviewed at a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) with up to 175 cases per month heard across Nottinghamshire. Partnership working is strong within the MARAC process, with more referrals being received from our partners, than those generated by the Police, which is again positive. Police generated MARAC referrals are likely to rise in line with an anticipated increase in reporting as we recover from lockdown. MARACs have continued throughout the pandemic using video conferencing. The high number of cases heard in Nottinghamshire was referenced as an area of good practice in the 2021 HMICFRS report "Policing Domestic Abuse During the Pandemic".

2.5 Operation Encompass continues to grow in both City and County MASH, where details of children who live in domestic abuse households are shared with education and social care, to provide further safeguarding opportunities. In the last 12 months Nottinghamshire Police have shared information with partners in support

of 5576 cases which is a significant increase on 3500 the previous year. This has been particularly important given the amount of time children have spent at home and out of reach of some services.

2.6 Victim satisfaction has fallen slightly with 88% of victims satisfied with their whole experience. Pleasingly ease of contact (98.2%) and treatment (94.6%) were areas of real strength however kept informed (73.7%) remains an area of focus and has dragged the overall percentage figure downward.

2.7 Following investment the forces delivery of DVDS is an area of significant strength. Throughout 2020 Public Protection considered 625 cases. In 2021 the newly introduced systematic scanning of DAPPN's for persons meeting the criteria for disclosure has increased that number to 1095.

2.8 We continue to work in close partnership with Women's Aid in supporting victims of domestic abuse, with the OPCC commissioned Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs). The IDVAs are now co-located within police stations on both the County and the City. This provision has been strengthened through the provision of an "IDVA Car" on both City and County which sees an IDVA available to attend scene on Friday and Saturday nights and provide immediate support to victims. Evaluation of the car's effectiveness is planned for December 2021. Looking to the future, the force has funded an internal IDVA services for its police officers and staff which will launch in December 2021. Only the second force in the country to offer this provision, any Nottinghamshire police employee vulnerable to Domestic Abuse can access this confidential service and receive support.

2.9 Continuing a theme of prevention, the force has introduced a perpetrator programs, working alongside the OPCC and the VRU (Violence Reduction Unit). Because it is voluntary the program has been challenging in terms of meeting its aspirant cohort number however a broadening of the schemes criteria to include multi-agency and self-referrals has earned a funding extension until Sept 2022.

2.10 The force is proud of their commitment to working in partnership to tackle stalking. Following the recruitment of a Stalking Safeguarding Officer and Stalking Clinics in 2018, the force has obtained 17 Stalking Protection Orders since the introduction of the new legislation in January 2020. This places the force as a high outlier in its use of this protective measure a matter recognised by the Minister for Safeguarding Rachael Maclean MP in her letter to the Chief Constable in early October 2021.

2.11 The force continues to develop its use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO). The comes at a time when HMG via HMICFRS are calling for forces to implement better use of protective measures (HMICFRS - Police Use of Protective Measures July 2021). The force has doubled its total's over the last year which now

average at around 20 per month and places Nottinghamshire in a middle regional position. The quality of those applications is however very high with Nottinghamshire achieving a consistent zero refusal rate throughout 2021.

3. Rape and Serious Sexual Assault

3.1 Recording of rape offences have been increased in 2020/21 by 6.37% representing 64 additional offences on the year before. Given that a proportion of this period was under lockdown conditions this number is assessed to be COVID influenced, and an upward trajectory is anticipated as life returns to “normal” with the re-invigoration of the night time economy and re-opening of universities significant local influencers on recorded crime in this area.

	Dates between 01/10/2020 & 30/09/2021	Dates between 01/10/2019 & 30/09/2020	YTD Volume Change	YTD % Change
Sexual offences				
<i>All Sexual Offences</i>	3,025	2,928	97	3.31%
<i>Other Sexual Offences</i>	1,956	1,923	33	1.72%
<i>Rape</i>	1,096	1,005	64	6.37%

3.2 The HMICFRS and HMICCPs Joint Thematic Inspection of rape report called for Police and CPS to work more closely together in addressing victim attrition in rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) cases. Crest audit work had already been commissioned on this theme in 2020 resulting in a local RASSO action plan and greater supervisory scrutiny. Since implementation the force has reduced the number of RASSO cases exceeding 12 months from 211 to 107. Whilst 12mths might if only considered superficially be perceived as a long time it must be borne in mind that this number includes *all* recorded rape including offences against children and historic reports which by nature are complex and often require significantly more third party material acquisition and examination before a case can be made for charge. In terms of charge rate and acceptance of first triage rate the force sits first and marginally second regionally which is a significant improvement.

3.3 The report recommends that ***“Immediately, police forces should ensure information on the protected characteristics of rape victims is accurately and consistently recorded.”*** Locally work is underway to create a webform within NICHE to capture this data for adults and is scheduled for implementation before the end of the year (ahead of the March 2022 recommendation).

3.4 The report recommends that ***“Police forces and support services should work together at a local level to better understand each other’s roles. A co-ordinated approach will help make sure that all available and bespoke wrap-around support is offered to the victim throughout every stage of the case. The input of victims and their experiences should play a central role in shaping the support offered.”***

Locally victims access support via the commissioned Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) Service subject to Police referral. To enhance this service, by bringing ISVA’s in earlier in investigations in the hope of reducing attrition an agreement has been reached for ISVA’s to co-locate with Public Protection Teams.

3.5 The report recommends that ***“Police forces should collect data to record the different stages when, and reasons why, a victim may withdraw support for a case. The Home Office should review the available outcome codes so that the data gathered can help target necessary remedial action and improve victim care.”***

In the Summer of 2020 Nottinghamshire Police undertook an extensive audit of Rape and Domestic Abuse cases with the specific objective of identifying and remedying the reasons for victim attrition. This work is referred to in this report as the CREST audit.

433 rape cases were audited. The sample was selected based on finalisation code and focused only on; 15: Police – named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties, 16: Victim declines / withdraws support – named suspect identified, 18: Investigation complete, no suspect identified.

In 274 cases the victim was supportive of police action at the time of the report. In 97 of those cases the victim later withdrew that support.

The median number of days for this to occur was 58. To addressing this the force has developed a RASSO specific victim needs assessment and embedded this into NICHE to support officers in offering the full range of victim services and special measures bespoke to a victim needs. This is complemented by the development of a victims booklet with the same information to support victims in have needs based discussions with investigators.

Victim attrition in rape has been adopted as an ongoing audit theme by the Improving Investigations Group which will ensure that the impact of the co-location can be measured for effectiveness. Public Protection have developed a 4P’s RASSO plan to monitor and track progress against these and other self-defined actions.

3.5 A summary of recommendations 4 and 5 from the report call for Police to work more closely with the Crown Prosecution Service. The force has entered into a regional agreement which defines the criteria upon which the Police can request early investigative advice from prosecutors in RASSO cases. This provision is now live

and a training product is in development to support supervisors to use the provision effectively and in a victims best interests.

3.6 Linked to victim attrition is the requirement to examine a victim's mobile device. This is an intrusive line of enquiry and if not handled sensitively can often be misunderstood as Police investigating the victim. The HMICFRS Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) report calls upon police to reduce the amount of time a RASSO victims' handset is in Police possession. At present RASSO cases are turned around in DFU within 48hrs (average). Aspirationally the force seeks to come into line with HMICFRS recommendations to reduce this further to 24hrs. To support this the force has successful in the NPPC Transforming Forensics programme which will secure 2 x Digital forensic vans and 4 x Mobile device kiosks.

The 2 unmarked mobile digital forensic units are equipped with all the kit to enable forensic recovery and 'at scene' triage examination which together with the additional kiosks will assist in achieving expedited review of victim devices.

3.7 Collectively the impact of these initiatives on outcomes for victims is positive. Between 01/04/2021 and 17/10/2021 the force has achieved 63 Positive Outcomes for Rape (10% recorded crime) and 222 Positive Outcomes for Sexual Offences (11.6% recorded crime). This figure more than doubles the rape outcomes achieved in the same period in 2020 (30 = 5.8%) and 2019 (22=3.3%). The trajectory is similarly positive for sexual offences with 142 (10.2%) and 163 (8.7%) being achieved in 2020 and 2019 respectively.

4. Legislation

4.1 On 29th April 2021 the Domestic Abuse Bill received Royal Assent and became law. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 will provide further protections to the millions of people who experience domestic abuse and strengthen measures to bring perpetrators to justice, as well as transform the support we give to victims ensuring they have the protection they deserve.

4.2 Only a small proportion of the act became law at this point with the remainder commenced by secondary legislation made relevant by the secretary of state. Those area's enacted: -

- Removal of "rough sex defence". Enacted upon Royal Assent this clarifies in law that it is no longer a defence to claim that a person consented to serious harm in pursuit of sexual gratification.
- Extension of the offence which covers the disclosure of private sexual images (often referred to as "revenge porn") to cover making threats to disclose.

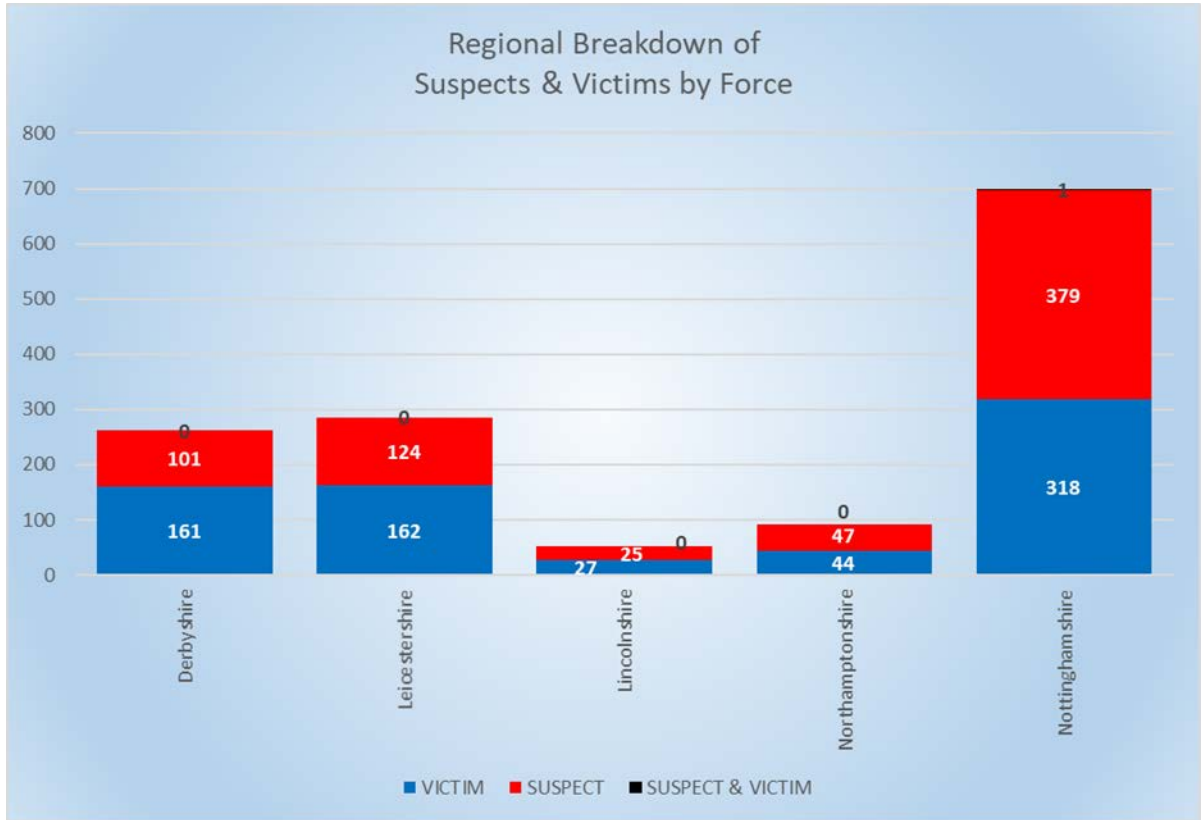
- Extension of the extraterritorial jurisdiction of UK courts to bring to trial in this jurisdiction UK Nationals and Residents accused of committing certain violent and sexual offences abroad.
- Place a statutory duty on local authorities to accommodate victims of domestic abuse. Leads for both our authority's have been appointed with governance provided by the requisite adult safeguarding boards.

4.3 The act has also provided an opportunity for 13 areas to be used as pilot districts to utilise polygraph technology in the context of licence conditions for domestic abuse perpetrators. Whilst not a pilot area the forces investment in a polygraph capability to support the management of registered sex offenders places Nottinghamshire at the forefront of this technology and in a strong position to use it creatively in a domestic abuse context when the national work has published it's conclusions.

5. Independent Enquiry Into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

5.1 The force retains its specialist capability for non-recent/historic child sexual abuse (Operation Equinox) with an establishment of X2 Detective Sergeants, x12 Detective Constables and x2 Disclosure Officers. Resourcing this area is a challenge given the number of vacancies and 38% PIP II ratio across public protection causing resources to be retained in areas where the investigations are acute.

5.2 Operation Equinox provide SPOC capability for Operation Hydrant.



5.3 The above table provides regional perspective in terms of the demand presented by this area of Public Protections capability. Public confidence in Nottinghamshire Police’s approach to non-recent child sexual abuse is high given it’s survivor engagement strategy which has resulted in an established survivor group.

6. Child Sexual Exploitation

	Recorded Crimes Year to Date Performance				Recorded Month to Date Performance			
	Dates between 01/10/2020 & 30/09/2021	Dates between 01/10/2019 & 30/09/2020	YTD Volume Change	YTD % Change	Sep 21	Sep 20	MTD Volume Change	% change
Sexual offences								
<i>All Sexual Offences</i>	3025	2928	97	3.31%	335	234	101	43.16%
<i>Other Sexual Offences</i>	1956	1923	33	1.72%	231	152	79	51.97%
<i>Rape</i>	1069	1005	64	6.37%	104	82	22	26.83%
- <i>Child Sexual Abuse</i>	1414	1257	157	12.5%	130	96	34	35.4%
- <i>Indecent images</i>	384	428	-44	-10.3%	34	32	2	6.3%
- <i>CSE tagged Crime*</i>	166	139			15			
- <i>CSE tagged non crime*</i>	348	260			18			

6.1 CSE recorded crime has seen a reduction as children have been out of school and not accessing services however non-crime CSE has seen an increase.

This is attributable to a rise in online safeguarding concerns being referred from CEOP, particularly a rise in self-generated IIOC as children have spent more time online during lockdown. Online safety is a priority curriculum area for the schools early intervention officers.

6.2 The force has invested significantly in prevent capability having recruited a CSE and Missing From Home Co-Ordinator who coordinate our activity and referrals to the multi-agency exploitation panels conducted within the City and County Partnerships. Following the recent Annual Departmental Assessments further investment has committed in the establishing of an Intervention Officer to enhance our approach to preventing perpetrator behavior.

6.3 We continue to have a strong Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit (SEIU) who reactively investigate and proactively safeguard children. They use a risk assessment tool to identify people at risk of CSE and work with our partners in the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panels.

6.4 Online Child Activist Groups (aka 'paedophile hunter groups') activity has slowed significantly over the previous 12 months with many groups restricted by lockdown. This is likely to see a spike in demand as COVID recovery continues.

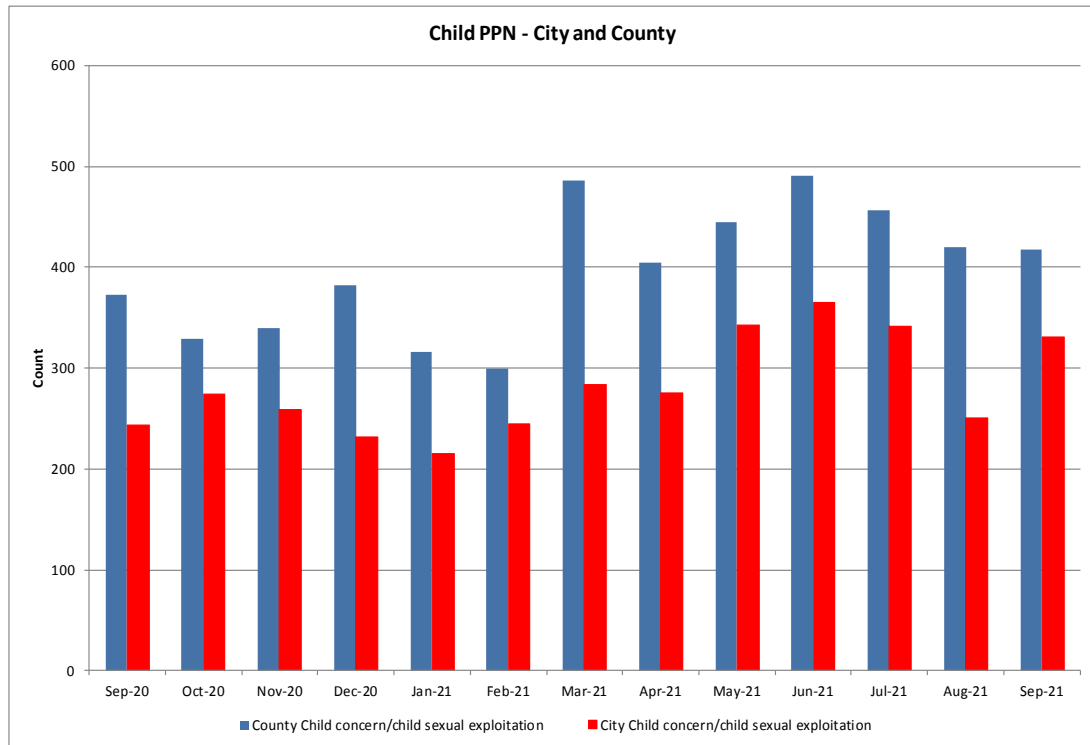
6.5 Public Protection has invested significantly in its pro-active approach to mitigating the risk presented by known sex offenders living in our communities. The introduction of a Digital Monitoring officer in MOSOVO has created an opportunity to pro-actively check for compliance with registration conditions. The post holder accompanied MOSOVO officers on 299 offender visits October 2020 to July 2021 achieving a 32% success rate (success measured by the detection of condition breaches) resulting in 11 prison recalls. This temporary post was established following the recent annual departmental assessment.

7. Child Abuse

7.1 The number of cases involving child abuse in 2021 has increased by 12.5% the previous year but with a 5.76% reduction in recorded violence against children featuring injury. It is likely that 2020 data was affected by the amount of time children were out of school and not accessing services.

7.2 We work closely with partner agencies, often within the MASH, to ensure proportionate and appropriate investigation is conducted, jointly identifying the lead agency to investigate. Processes within the MASH are currently under review to ensure continued effectiveness against the evolving local picture.

7.3 Knife crime continues to be another key focus of concerted partnership activity in Nottinghamshire. Public Protection Notices (PPNs) submitted by our front-line officers highlight children who are vulnerable as victims or perpetrators of knife crime. These PPNs are processed through the MASH and appropriately shared with partners. The overall number of police generated child PPN's features in the table below.



7.4 Child Criminal Exploitation Panels (CCEPs) continue to operate across the Partnership tackling areas in which young people are put at risk of criminal exploitation both through participation in and as a victim. Key crime types are:-

- Knife crime
- County Lines activity
- Carrying weapons
- Gangs

8. Additional Internal Scrutiny and Audit

8.1 In 2019/2020 Nottinghamshire Police completed several audit and scrutiny reports in order to assess its efficiency and effectiveness in relation to areas of public protection. These are both quantitative and qualitative assessments. They include

- Voice of the Child
- Victim Satisfaction Surveys for Domestic Abuse, Rape and Claire's Law.
- Adult Rape Crest
- Child Rape Crest
- Domestic Abuse Crest

The result of this work is currently being worked into thematic 4P plans for each area of PP business. Governance of these plans is assured via a monthly meeting chaired by the Head of Public Protection.

8.2 Both the Children and Adults Safeguarding arenas have ACC scrutiny via Quarterly internal boards.

8.3 This scrutiny, alongside the Public Protection department performance framework and the Safeguarding Boards' own Quality Assurance Groups, provide a robust performance framework for safeguarding in Nottinghamshire.

8.4 The force continues to participate in the statutory audit regime under the criteria laid out in Section 11 Children's Act 2004. This section places an obligation on statutory child protection agencies to ensure they are discharging their duties as specified by the broader content of the act. The criteria headings: -

- Leadership & Organisational Accountability
- Rapid Reviews & Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Safer Working Practices
- Training
- Supervision
- Policies & Procedures
- Think Family Approach
- Voice of the Child
- Local Standards

In the most recent audit (May 2021) Nottinghamshire Police's self-assessment of good across the set criteria was ratified by the local children's safeguarding partnership.