**Accountability Report: Thematic Reports: Support**

**C2: Improving Victims and Witness experiences of the CJS**

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| **RAPE INVESTIGATIONS – DEMAND PROFILE** |
| Reports of Rape and serious sexual offences have increased steadily since lock down was released and are now marginally higher than pre pandemic levels. This can be seen on the graph below which tracks volume of recorded crimes on a quarterly basis since the beginning of 2020.  The below data is representative of reporting of rape and sexual offences and highlights in more detail the significant increase in both rape (16.5%) and sexual offences (16.3%) from the previous year. Whilst this can be seen as positive in terms of public confidence, we are also anticipating that this demand will increase for this and next financial year.          Data obtained from April 2022 highlights Nottinghamshire nationally ranked 6th, with 72.2% of pre-charge decisions submitted resulting in a charge. This is despite the demand increase seen above.  The rolling 12-month positive outcome rate being 8.4% (highlighting consistent high performance).  Since April 2021 we continually see a gradual increase in positive outcome rates which is reflective of some of the initiatives and partnership working detailed below.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Current Period** | | **Last Period** | | **Previous Period** | | |  | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | |  | 01-Apr-22 | 03-Jul-22 | 01-Apr-21 | 03-Jul-21 | 01-Apr-19 | 03-Jul-19 | |  | **Positive Outcomes** | | | | | | |  | **01/04/22 to 03/07/22** | **%** | **01/04/21 to 03/07/21** | **%** | **01/04/19 to 03/07/19** | **%** | | Sexual Offences | 102 | 10.10% | 76 | 8.70% | 80 | 8.90% | | Rape | 27 | 8.10% | 21 | 7.40% | 11 | 3.60% |   The chart below illustrates the mean and median scores for Adult Rape for each month and highlights the number of crimes per month.  The graph is projecting timeliness of investigations and clearly shows the decrease following improvements and focus having been implemented in this area. This area of performance is continuously monitored through the below processes:   * Monthly Scrutiny panels chaired by RASSO DI lead, the panel reviews all Adult Rape cases 365 days plus to ensure that investigations are being progressed in a timely manner and appropriate resourcing is allocated. * Further scrutiny work is conducted through monthly RASSO MI data which details those cases now of 365 plus days by DCI lead. * Public Protection departmental performance meetings are held monthly and chaired by Superintendent and again data is reviewed. * Force OPR meetings are held monthly whereby this is scrutinised and reviewed by ACC Griffin.     March = 5 rape offences charged  April = 9 rape offences charged  May = 8 rape offences charged  June = 2 rape offences charged  **Quarterly Figures from Q2 2021 – 2022 – file submission and CJ process**   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 21/22 – Q2 | 21/22 – Q3 | 21/22 – Q4 | 22/22 – Q1 (April only) | National Ranking | | Passing first Admin triage | 56.4% | 62.2% | 75.0% | 66.7% | 19 | | Average number of admin triages per file | 1.45 | 1.66 | 1.41 | 1.38 | 10 | | Average number of lawyer reviews per file | 2.77 | 2.39 | 2.78 | 3.54 | 43 | | Charge Rate | 87.2% | 77.8% | 62.7% | 69.2% | 13 | | NFA | 12.8% | 16.7% | 21.6% | 30.8% | 32 | | Further investigation Awaited | 0% | 5.6% | 13.7% | 0% | 1 | | Admin - other | 0% | 0% | 2.0% | 0% | 0 | | Action Plans | 63.0% | 72.3% | 57.4% | 66.7% | 31 |   We have been working closely with CPS to improve file quality and the number of RASSO action plans. This performance is managed through monthly JOIM meetings with senior CPS RASSO leads. Nottinghamshire have made significant improvements with regards to their file quality and to ensure that files are accepted upon first submissions thus reducing action plans. Results of which are reflective above in both the average number of admin triages per file (National ranking at No10) and the charge rate (National ranking at No 13).  Together with CPS leads we aim to reduce the average number of lawyer reviews per file (which subsequently impacts on action plans) with further training in relation to early advice meetings. A regional joint conference with police and CPS is planned for October 2022 and this will form one of the learning and development areas for both Police and CPS.  All investigations that are filed with ‘no further action (NFA)’ are reviewed by a Detective Inspector prior to being closed. All victims in these cases are offered the right to appeal and have a consultation with the relevant Detective Inspector, if the decision is made by CPS then this offer is extend to a meeting with the lawyer.  The charge rate for cases submitted to the CPS has been consistently within the top 10 nationally and at 76% over the last 12 months.  Nottinghamshire’s Rape positive outcome figures have been dependably rising over the past 2 years and figures for the period April – December 2021 show Nottinghamshire at 9%.  In comparison, the National average for the same period is 4% and the region, 5%.  April 2022 data shows Nottinghamshire as ranked 6th Nationally with 72.2% of pre-charge decisions submitted resulting in a charge. This further demonstrates the increased use of early advice with CPS (an area on the agenda for the regional RASSO conferences – heads of Public Protection and RASSO lead for CPS).  The rolling 12month positive outcome rate is currently at 8.4% (again highlighting consistent high performance).  **Victim Satisfaction:**  The chart below shows the outcomes from victim satisfaction surveys.  For crimes reported during January 2021 to the current date, a total of 37 survivors have been engaged with thus far, and this engagement activity continues at the time of writing. Keeping the survivor informed is a key performance area and priority that is being driven through the RASSO scrutiny boards.    Summary:  Over the last two years Nottinghamshire Police Public Protection department continue to drive the following pieces of work and engagement through a variety of performance and partnership meetings:   * Increase in Early Advice Submissions * Collaborative strategic meetings with Police / CPS and local rape support services including ISVA’s to understand challenges and address stereotypes and myths in relation to rape offences – this includes reviews of outcomes where victim / survivor withdraws from prosecution support. * Introduction of the Police RASSO monthly scrutiny meetings chaired by the DCI in Public Protection where reporting is given through the governance structure of the Force OPR chaired by ACC Griffin. * Training and investment with STO officers (increase of STO provision across the force from 27 – 102 available officers) * The Public Protection DCI and DI leads of RASSO attend the monthly RASSO JOIM meetings – CPS / Police where a review is conducted of all RASSO performance and opportunities provided to address specific challenges with cases. This has led to the first annual conference to be held for both CPS lawyers and Police with attendance from specialist RASSO barristers and high court judges. * We continue our engagement with the National RASSO meetings led by NPCC and OP Soteria. * We continue to contribute to the sexual violence action network and consent coalition (SVAN). This has led to a number of initiatives aimed at crime prevention and increasing community confidence   **Action plans and future development**  We have an established action plan for the continued improvement of RASSO investigations. This aligns with the National Police and CPS Joint National Action Plan (JNAP). Much of the above activity is held within the plan, but in addition there are other projects ongoing, which include:   * Improved communication with ISVA/CHISVA services via regular ISVA panel. This is a key part of improving survivor services and allowing survivor voices to influence Police decision making. * We have recently launched the provision of two unmarked mobile digital forensic units, equipped with the technology to enable forensic recovery and ‘at scene’ triage examination. This provides a ‘RASSO specific digital forensics service’ with a 24 hour turn-around time for extracting data from victim’s mobile devices, benefiting the investigation and the return of handsets to victims and witnesses.   This provision of the digital forensic units will not only provide a better service to survivors but will also be utilised effectively in line with the recommendations in the Information Commissioner’s Opinion ‘Who’s Under Investigation’ and the revised Attorney General’s Guidance on disclosure. |