

For Information	
Public	
Report to:	Strategic Resources & Performance Meeting
Date of Meeting:	6th November 2019
Report of:	The Chief Constable
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Agenda Item:	3

Force Public Protection and Safeguarding Report

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide an update to the Strategic Resources and Performance Meeting in relation to:

Domestic Abuse

Rape and serious sexual offences

Child Abuse

Vulnerability and safeguarding

Force activity and progress following the IICSA enquiry

HMICFRS PEEL Inspection and recommendations

2. Recommendations

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

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 To inform members of the Strategic Resources and Performance Board of Force activity and progress.

4. Summary of Key Points (this should include background information and options appraisal if applicable)

4.1 Please see attached briefing note

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

5.1 None

6. Human Resources Implications

6.1 None

7. Equality Implications

7.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

8. Risk Management

8.1 There are no risks highlighted in this report.

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

9.1 None

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

10.1 There are no relevant changes in legislation of 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. Appendix – 2018-2019 Update Report

13. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

13. None

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Strategic Resources and Performance Board

Public Protection and Safeguarding - 2018/2019 update

September 2019

Version 1

Author Detective Superintendent Andrew Gowan

1. Introduction

The overall approach to Public Protection continues to develop well in Nottinghamshire. In May 2019, HMICFRS awarded Nottinghamshire Police an improved grading of **GOOD** in its PEEL Inspection with regard to **how we protect vulnerable people**.

2. Domestic Abuse

2.1 There has been a clear upward trend in the recording of domestic abuse crime over the past year. In 2018/19, domestic abuse offences increased a further 3,656 offences, 35.2%, compared to an increase of 17.4% in 2017/18

2.2 There are many factors which have influenced this uplift in recorded crime. There is increased confidence in reporting to the Police and partners, as this is a key priority for the force, ensuring appropriate safeguards can be put in place. In 2018 the force took great steps to improve its crime recording and data quality. Having embedded these process changes, into the latter stages of 2018, domestic abuse recorded crime has remained stable over the past six months. This represents a step change and new benchmark in the recording of domestic abuse.

2.3 In March 2019, 37.2% of domestic abuse victims were repeat victims. This is compared to 33.4% in March 2018. Analysis shows a slight upward trend in the proportion of repeat victims of domestic abuse.

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. (76% of referrals in the City and 65% from the County are from non-police agencies.) This is seen as a positive step and sign of good partnership engagement. Chairing of the MARACs is shared between the partnership on a rotational basis and partnership attendance at MARACs is excellent.

2.5 Operation Encompass continues to be delivered in both City and County MASH, where details of children who live in domestic abuse households are shared with education and social care. These formal information sharing meetings occur every weekday. Over 4000 cases were shared in 2018/2019.

2.6 Our victim satisfaction surveys continue to reveal strong performance, consistently reaching over 90% of victims being satisfied with their whole experience with the Police.

2.7 In 2017, we received 242 requests under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) and 75 disclosures were made. In 2018, we received 250 DVDS requests with 76 disclosures made. We continue to promote this important facility, which is used to safeguard victims and empower people to protect themselves. In 2018 Nottinghamshire Police introduced satisfaction surveys on how we respond to Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme requests. This scheme is clearly well received and well delivered by Nottinghamshire Police, with regular 100% satisfaction returns.

2.8 All officers have completed domestic abuse training including bespoke HBA (Honour-based Abuse) and Voice of the Child input. Updated domestic abuse training ('DA Matters') is currently being delivered to all front line officers between September and November 2019.

2.9 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. The IDVAs are co-located within police stations on the County, with an IDVA supporting victims and advising officers in the City.

2.10 In October 2017 our Integrated Offender Management (IOM) teams began to manage a cohort of the highest risk serial perpetrators of Domestic Violence, adopting IOM principles to domestic abuse perpetrators. There are approximately 50 perpetrators on a cohort at any one time, with victim/survivor support provided by an IDVA throughout the process.

2.11 The force is proud of its commitment to working in partnership to tackle stalking. 2018/19 has seen a recruitment of a Stalking Safeguarding Officer to support the police response to these high risk crimes, alongside the introduction of multi-agency Stalking Clinics to focus on the management of perpetrators.

2.12 Public Protection has a dedicated HBA Safeguarding Officer increasing our professional knowledge and safeguarding expertise. Our success and increased engagement with these hard to reach communities has justified the need to recruit a further HBA/FGM Safeguarding Officer in April 2019.

3. Rape and Serious Sexual Assault

3.1 Recording of rape offences have been stable in 2018/19 with an increase of only 0.9%. The step change in demand experienced in 2017/2018 appears to have stabilised following a 51.2% increase in that year. 2017/18 was in line with the national trend, resulting from issues including data quality, increased reports of non-recent offences following the national independent inquiry into child abuse (IICSA) and campaigns including the Truth Project. Overall our recording of sexual offences has increased in 2018/19 by 1.1%.

3.2 We continue to prosecute a number of offenders for rape, achieving notable success. These prosecutions provide confidence to others to come forward, a situation we welcome. In spite of the high levels of crime recording, the conviction rate at court for rape continues to be strong when compared regionally and nationally.

		18/19-Q2	18/19-Q3	18/19-Q4	19/20-Q1	19/20-Q2
East Midlands CPS Area	% Convictions	57.50%	59.49%	51.67%	68.00%	80.77%
	Convictions	46	47	31	34	21
	Finalised	80	79	60	50	26
Nottinghamshire	% Convictions	73.68%	80.00%	70.00%	75.00%	85.71%
	Convictions	14	12	7	9	6
	Finalised	19	15	10	12	7
National	% Convictions	61.95%	64.79%	63.99%	65.09%	69.92%
	Convictions	503	438	359	386	165
	Finalised	812	676	561	593	236

3.3 In July 2017, Nottinghamshire Police commenced a new project of surveying victim satisfaction for rape victims in order to better understand the victim journey. The first annual report of this project has now been produced and fed into the improvement plan for investigation of rape. The key required improvement is one of keeping victims/survivors informed of the progress of the investigation.

3.4 We strive to improve our referrals into support mechanisms including the ISVAs and CHISVAs, commissioned by the OPCC, which have provided enhanced support for victims of rape and serious sexual assault since June 2018.

4. Vulnerability

4.1 The force Vulnerability Policy was updated in April 2018 and reflects Working Together and Making Safeguarding Personal guidance. This policy provides staff guidance on safeguarding vulnerable people under the headline of “Know it, Spot it, Stop it!”

4.2 In April 2019, the force conducted an extensive self-assessment of vulnerability, benchmarking against the National Vulnerability Action Plan. The force continues to engage with this national program and is seeking good practice from other areas, as well as sharing Nottinghamshire’s own good practice with others. Representatives of the national vulnerability lead, Chief Constable Simon Bailey, have highlighted good practice in Nottinghamshire including our vulnerability training, Complex Person Panels (City) and Vulnerable Person Panels (County), the Special Constables’ CSE disruption team and the Child Criminal Exploitation panels.

4.3 In 2019, the force delivered refreshed vulnerability training program for all front line staff providing practical guidance on safeguarding. As mentioned, an

updated training program for domestic abuse (“DA Matters”) is being delivered to all front line officers between September and November 2019.

4.4 Bespoke training continues to be delivered to specialist teams within the Public Protection department. Specific training inputs in 2019 include CPS inputs on sexual offence prosecution, the Care Act and the MASH.

4.5 The force has recruited new staff whose role is to reduce re-victimisation and safeguard vulnerable people including a stalking safeguarding officer and a second honour based abuse safeguarding officer.

4.6 The Mental Health Triage car is a joint Police and Health initiative with an input of 5 staff from the Police, now running into its 5th year. This team responds to potential mental health incidents reported into the Police. The service is designed to prevent harm to both the subject and the public. In 2018/19 the team dealt with on average 14 incidents per day and completed 1018 mental health assessments, of which 708 were referred directly into the NHS and 114 were safeguarded using s.136 MHA. In May 2019 Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust agreed with Nottinghamshire Police to expand the service and extend the service provision period to 08:30hrs until 01:00hrs.

4.7 In 2019 Nottinghamshire Police introduced a new policy and guidance in relation to Suicide Prevention and Risk Management for suspects of crime who are vulnerable.

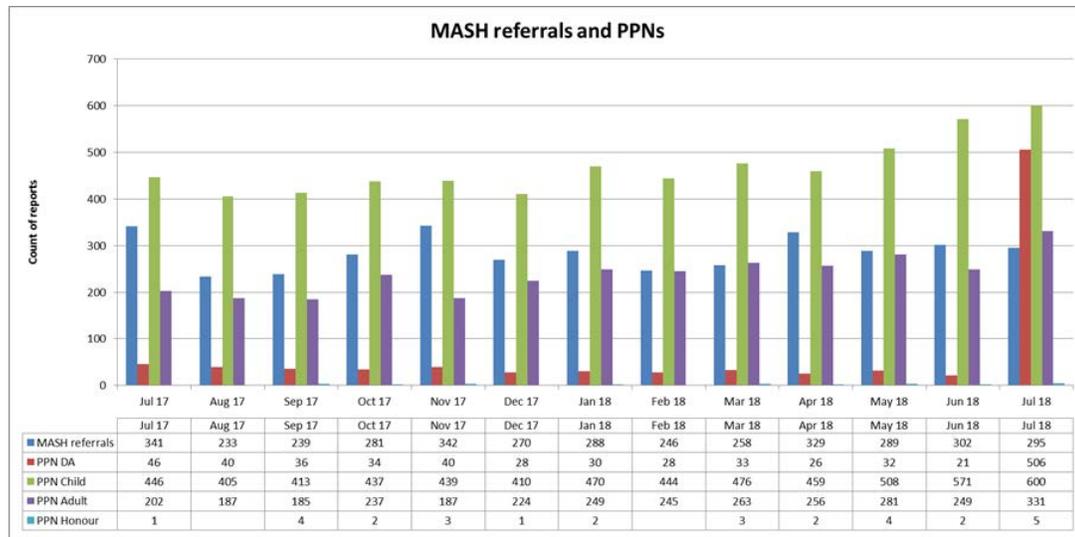
The Policy aims to provide guidance and support for suspects who are either in custody or voluntary interviewed particularly those for child abuse, sexual offences and indecent image investigations who are at the highest risk of suicide after police contact. The policy provides a step by step guide including conducting a Welfare Assessment which has been designed by academics at Nottingham Trent University who specialise in suicide prevention and forensic psychology.

As part of the Suicide Bereavement Pathway, all next of kin of suspected suicides are referred (with their consent) to the Tomorrow Project who give specialist support to those who are left bereaved in these circumstances. Research shows 65% of people who are left bereaved in this way go on to attempt suicide or take their own lives. 80% will leave employment or education within 12 months.

Working alongside the Highways department, Tomorrow Project Signage has been erected at suicide hot spots.

4.8 Public Protection Notices (PPNs) are used by staff to highlight vulnerability of both adults and children which is shared within the MASH. An electronic version of the PPN was introduced in July 2018, replacing the previous scanned paper

document, providing time efficiencies for front line officers and swifter sharing to the partnership. The number of PPNs for both adults and children continue to rise which demonstrates, in part, the increased awareness and focus on vulnerability by front line officers.



5. Harassment, Stalking and Cyber Bullying

Recent changes to legislation have impacted on the recording of these offences, with clear upward trends as identification of offences and the ability to safeguard individuals improves. We believe that this is still an underreported area with many victims not reporting online abuse and harassment.

Year	Annual Total	Volume Change on previous year	Percentage change on previous year
2016/17	3,818	-	-
2017/18	5,439	+1621	42.5%
2018/19	8,714	+3275	60.2%

6. Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage & Female Genital Mutilation

6.1 Nottinghamshire Police continues to improve our knowledge and engagement in respect of honour based abuse and female genital mutilation (FGM). In 2019, we recruited a second HBA/FGM safeguarding officer. Increased engagement will continue to increase our recording of crime committed within the UK (particularly HBA), alongside 'non-crime' which has been committed abroad (particularly relevant for FGM) where our core focus is the safeguarding and support of the victim.

Domestic Abuse Crimes	2018/19	2017/18	YTD Volume Change
Honour Based Violence CRIME	63	43	20
Honour Based Violence NON CRIME	58	30	28
Female Genital Mutilation CRIME		2	
Female Genital Mutilation NON CRIME	19	11	

6.2 The number of recorded Forced Marriage Prevention Orders (FMPOs) has risen from 2 in a previous four year period, to 25 in 2017/2018 and then 51 in 2018/2019. 8 Female Genital Mutilation Orders have been obtained in 2018/19. This is seen as encouraging progress. These are preventative measures and display our improvement in engaging with hard to reach communities and our investment of resources in this area.

7. Child Sexual Exploitation

7.1 Our work with partners in Nottinghamshire is increasing our knowledge and awareness with regard to child sexual exploitation. Demand from child sexual exploitation and abuse will continue to increase. A key vulnerability is when teenage girls go missing. Learning from good practice currently employed in Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire Police have deployed a second officer whose role is specifically to work with children to prevent them going missing and/or being vulnerable to exploitation.

7.2 We continue to have a strong Sexual Exploitation Investigation team (SEIU) who investigate reactively 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.

7.3 The CSE disruption team comprises of a team of Special Constables and Sergeant who work directly with the Sexual Exploitation Investigation team. They are directly tasked by SEIU supervisors and the CSE Coordinator with:

- **Safeguarding** – they regularly check a number of hotels with links to CSE to see whether there are vulnerable persons present and whether the hoteliers are adhering to the conditions of their licence. This team have successfully applied for the first civil order against a hotel in Nottingham. They visit suspected victims of CSE to check on their welfare.

- **CSE hotspot policing** – local parks, fast food outlets offering advice to staff to spot the signs of CSE.
- **Targeting of known perpetrators of CSE** – issuing of Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN) and visits to known or suspected offenders to establish their movements and who they are associating with.

7.4 Specific improvements have been made in 2018 in how we tackle distribution of indecent images of children through our Paedophile Online Investigation Team (POLIT) team. These have included the recruitment of a specialist digital investigation officer and an intelligence officer. These staff will improve our efficiency and effectiveness in tackling this fast changing cyber enabled crime.

8. Child Safeguarding

Adult and child safeguarding referrals increased to 5,593 in 2018 compared to 4,779 in 2017 and 3,147 in 2016. The majority of these referrals relate to child safeguarding with an increase of 1,240 (+44.7%). Early identification of concerns ensures that appropriate and timely safeguarding actions are put into place to minimise the risk of harm. These increases reflects positively on the continued campaign by Nottinghamshire Police, targeted at its front line officers, to identify vulnerability at any early stage and work with our partners through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The MASH is well established and seen as good practice by both HMICFRS and OFSTED in their recent inspections.

9. Child Abuse

9.1 Similar to other areas dealing with vulnerable people, we have seen a rise in the number of cases involving child abuse. Sexual abuse has in fact reduced by 2.5% but physical violence rose by 11.2%. 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.

9.2 The effects of domestic abuse on children continues to receive focus from Nottinghamshire Police, working closely in partnership through the MASH and particularly via Operation Encompass, a daily multi-agency information sharing meeting solely in respect to children experiencing domestic abuse. We have improved our efficiency in the City MASH with the introduction of video conference facilities for Encompass.

9.3 Knife crime is another key focus of concerted partnership activity in Nottinghamshire. Increased information sharing, via our Public Protection Notice

(PPN) has been introduced, highlighting children who are vulnerable as victims of, or perpetrators to, knife crime. These PPNs are now processed through the MASH and appropriately shared with partners.

9.4 Through the Child Criminal Exploitation Panels (CCEPs), the partnership, including the Police, have joint working arrangements tackling a number of 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

9.5 Nottinghamshire Police is committed to the statutory requirements of the Care Act and provides consistent attendance at both Safeguarding Adults Boards and the associated subgroups, including Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR). Our dedicated 'Audit and Compliance' Detective Chief Inspector has specific responsibility for SAR and DHR (Domestic Homicide Review) attendance and gathering of organisational learning.

9.6 New safeguarding arrangements for children are now in place, both in the City and County, following the introduction of Working Together 2018. Now known as the Safeguarding Children Partnerships, we are fully embedded in these arrangements, both at a strategic and tactically level.

9.7 Learning from reviews is now recorded on the Police '4Action' database where audit and scrutiny can be provided for organisational learning. A monthly monitoring and update process is in place, led by the Head of Public Protection and closure of recommendations are authorised by the Deputy Chief Constable. The EMSOU Regional Review Unit provides professional and independent reviews for DHR and SAR reports. Additional audit of organisational learning is provided by the DHR ALIG.

10. Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IISCA) – Operation Equinox

10.1 Operation Equinox was established in 2016 to address significant reporting of non-recent abuse of children within City and County Local Authority managed establishments. It additionally became the conduit for the Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse (IISCA) and Operation Hydrant, the National Coordination Centre for non-recent abuse. There has been an increase in reporting of non-recent offences following IISCA and campaigns including the Truth Project.

10.2 We continue to prosecute a number of offenders achieving notable success. In 2018 Operation Equinox was reviewed and, taking the learning from this enquiry and IICSA, the decision was made to mainstream Operation Equinox.

10.3 Following the recommendation from the IICSA report, published in August 2019, we will work with Nottingham City and other child protection partners in an independent external evaluation of our practices concerning harmful sexual behaviour including responses, prevention, assessment, intervention and workforce development.

10.4 In addition to this recommendation, Nottinghamshire Police will draft and deliver an action plan to improve the pathways, investigation and support for survivors of non-recent abuse.

11. HMICFRS

11.1 Our most effective and independent assessment of our activity can be found in the latest HMICFRS Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy inspection of Nottinghamshire Police. In that inspection, published in May 2019. It graded Nottinghamshire Police as GOOD in 'Protecting Vulnerable People'. It says

"Nottinghamshire Police is good at protecting people who are vulnerable. Officers and staff treat vulnerable people well. The force works with its partner organisations to understand people in the area who might be vulnerable"

"Nottinghamshire Police has a clear strategy for, and definition of, vulnerability. It communicates this effectively to its workforce. Officers and staff demonstrate that they understand how to identify and protect those who are vulnerable. They consistently treat vulnerable people well. This includes victims of human trafficking and domestic abuse and people with mental health conditions."

"The force has a good understanding of the nature and scale of vulnerability. It works with partner organisations responsible for health, and adult and child safeguarding. Together they use and share data to develop a deeper understanding. The force has recently updated its analysis of child sexual exploitation across Nottinghamshire. This now includes data from partner organisations. "

"Officers and staff take proactive steps to reveal hidden forms of child sexual exploitation. The force works with interested parties, such as children's services, youth justice and education, to prevent and reduce instances of children at risk of exploitation. The force assesses the risk, allocates actions to the most appropriate agency and monitors progress using a multi-agency tool which records activity that aims to divert children from risky situations."

“During this inspection, we found good examples of effective safety planning. These included recording details of children who live at the household – whether or not they were present at the time of the incident – to assess wider safeguarding needs. Officers and staff clearly understand that it is their responsibility to identify these children and make referrals to other agencies for assessment and support. Staff in the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) review the risk assessments to provide consistency and accuracy.”

“There are two MASHs: one covering the City area and the other in the County area. Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are comprehensive and accessible, with good sharing of information with partners at all levels. The force contributes well to both the city and county MASHs”

Only one Area For Improvement was recorded within the PEEL assessment, namely

“The force should ensure that DASH risk assessment is carried out for all domestic abuse incidents to reflect force policy.”

This has already been implemented and indeed was commenced in July 2018.

The full report can be read via <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/police-forces/nottinghamshire/>

12. Additional Internal Scrutiny and Audit

12.1 In 2018/2019 Nottinghamshire Police completed a number of audit and scrutiny reports in order to assess the implementation of recommendations or new processes. These are both quantitative and qualitative assessments. They include

- NCRS compliance for DA and Sexual Offences
- DASH
- MARAC meetings
- Missing People – Compact compliance
- Stalking and harassment
- CSE and POLIT
- MASH
- Victim Satisfaction Surveys for Domestic Abuse, Rape and Claire’s Law.

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