

**Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore,
Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection**

Report to:	Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 January 2017
Subject:	Sexual Violence and Abuse

Summary:

This report considers the partnership approach to reducing Sexual Violence and Abuse in Lincolnshire. It also provides information on what role Lincolnshire County Council takes in supporting and protecting the victims and tackling the perpetrators of this crime.

Actions Required:

The Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on the report and highlight any recommendations or further actions for consideration.

1. Background

Sexual violence and abuse occurs across all society regardless of race, age, gender, sexuality or geography. It is vastly underreported and has long lasting effects for victims and their families.

The definition of sexual violence and abuse is any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work¹.

1.1 National statistics about Sexual Violence:

- In 2013/14 there were 64,205 sexual offences recorded by the police across England and Wales (20% increase on the previous year).
- Rape accounted for 20,745 of all sexual offences recorded 2013/2014.²

¹ World Health Organisation – 'Violence Injury Prevention' (Chapter 6 'Sexual Violence'), 2012

² Office for National Statistics – 'Violent Crime and Sexual Offences', 2015

- Male victims make up 15% according to the Crime Survey for England & Wales 2013/2014 although this is not reflected in reported incidents
- Females aged between 16-19 were most likely to be a victim of a sexual offence.³
- Females from a lower income bracket household (£10,000) showed an increased risk of victimisation as did full time students and the unemployed⁴
- Cyber enabled (online) sexual offences related to online dating has seen a six fold increase from 2009 to 2014⁵
- As little as 11% of those who have been raped, go on to report it.
- The cost to society of violence against women and girls is around £36.7 billion pounds⁶

2. Sexual Violence and Abuse in Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Statistics⁷:

- There has been a 55% increase in SVA offences in Lincolnshire between 2012 and 2014
- less than 10% were historical (over a year ago at time of reporting)
- Police data suggests 17.8% of offences alcohol is a factor (however this is considered to be lower than anecdotal evidence suggests)
- The perpetrator in at least 53% of SVA offences are known to the victim especially in relation to rape.
- There is an indication the night time economy plays a role in the top four wards including Lincoln and Boston.

This localised data comes from an analytical report about sexual violence & abuse in Lincolnshire using police data carried out by the Community Safety Analyst.

Police statistics show an increase in reporting (from 2012-2013 to 2013-2014) in every district apart from South Kesteven and West Lindsey. The biggest increase in reports to the police is in North Kesteven with a 10.49% increase over the previous year. Lincoln City and East Lindsey remain the districts with the highest reporting rates.

³ Crime Survey for England & Wales - 2013/2014

⁴ Ministry of Justice – 'An Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales', 2013

⁵ NCA, Emerging new threat in online dating, 2016

⁶ ACPO & Department of Health - 'Response to Sexual Violence Needs Assessments (RSVNA) Toolkit', 2011

⁷ Safer Communities Service - 'Scanning of Sexual Offences in Lincolnshire', 2016

3. Lincolnshire's Sexual Violence & Abuse Partnership and Strategy

Due to the rise in reported crimes Sexual Violence and Abuse was adopted as a priority by the Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) in 2015, as to tackle Sexual Violence & Abuse, a multi- agency approach is required. This is managed through the Sexual Violence & Abuse Strategic Management Board (SVASMB) which reports to the LCSP. The remit of the group is to address Sexual Violence and Abuse in the adult population. Sexual Abuse of Children remains with the Lincolnshire Children's Safeguarding Board. The SVASMB is supported by the Sexual Violence & Abuse Delivery Group and a Sexual Violence and Abuse (SVA) Strategy Coordinator resource who sits within the Safer Communities Team. The group was formed at the start of 2016 and has produced a Strategy and delivery plan.

The three year Sexual Violence & Abuse Strategy for Lincolnshire – 2016-2019 has been developed and has four strategic priorities:

1. Preventing Sexual Violence and Abuse
2. Provision of High Quality Sexual Violence and Abuse Services
3. Partnership Working
4. Pursuing Perpetrators

The key partners include:

- NHS England
- Police
- Local District Council (Community Safety Managers)
- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
- Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)
- The University of Lincoln
- Adult Safeguarding
- Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT)
- Victim and Survivor Support Services - there are four key providers in Lincolnshire:
 1. Trust House Lincolnshire, are based in Grantham (but cover the county) and are commissioned by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to provide Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) and counselling to both male and female victims of SVA.
 2. Lincolnshire Rape Crisis, who have been commissioned by MOJ to provide one to one support services and group sessions to Female victims only.
 3. Victim Support who provide general support to male and female victims but also have a child ISVA for those under 18 who have experienced SVA. This specific service is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

4. Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), is commissioned by the PCC and NHS England and includes adult and child ISVA services. SARC work with males and females who are going through the Criminal Justice System.

4. What contribution is Lincolnshire County Council making towards achieving the goals set out in the SVA Strategy?

Priority 1 - Preventing Sexual Violence and Abuse

- **Coordinator Resource**-The Safer Communities team which sits within Lincolnshire County Council has provided a SVA coordinator to support the SVA SMB and deliver on the strategy, ensuring gaps are identified and partners work together to meet the objectives.
- **Sexual Violence Policy for Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEV's)**- The SVA coordinator has devised a sexual violence policy for SEV's across the county in order to protect the workers from SVA. The aim is to work with local district licensing to implement the policy in all SEV's. This policy also aims to improve intelligence to the police and allow the standards within the venues to remain high and to ensure the dancers are aware of theirs and the clubs responsibilities in terms of SVA. So far this has been taken on by a venue in Boston and there are plans to introduce this to four other SEV's in the county.
- **Education**- Public Health within Lincolnshire County Council have commissioned Positive Health to provide 200 free sex and healthy relationships training sessions within schools identified as having a need. There is an extended offering to other schools not identified for a fee. So far 67 'Consent' and 'Healthy relationships' education sessions have been delivered in 59 schools across the county (43 chargeable and 24 Free within the Public health contract).

The Stay Safe Partnership which is a central education booking hub funded by LCC, supports the promotion and booking of 'Consent' and 'Healthy relationships' education sessions.

Priority 2 - Provision of High Quality Sexual Violence and Abuse Services

- **Commissioned services**- Lincolnshire County Council provides a partnership and contract management resource to contract manage the SARC Adult ISVA service on behalf of the PCC.

Priority 3 - Partnership Working

- **Analytical Resource**-The Safer Communities team (LCC) have committed an analytical resource to support the work of the SVA SMB. Part of this work includes collecting Partner data and analysing it along with police data.

- **Ask for Angela and #NoMore Campaigns-** The SVA Coordinator has developed task and finish groups to focus on awareness campaigns and messaging to create a culture change, promote services and provide people with the information they need to feel confident in reporting. The #NoMore campaign was developed within this group which launched in September along with the global success of 'Ask for Angela' which the coordinator developed and engaged with the night time economy (pubs and clubs) to implement across the county.
- **Overlaps with other Priorities-** Whilst the focus is primarily on SVA there is an overlap with the Substance Misuse priority with the Night time Economy and alcohol as well as the strong link with Domestic Abuse where over 50% of reports of SVA the victim was in a relationship with the perpetrator.
- **Communications-** LCC's communications team have worked to provide the awareness campaign #NoMore the best coverage throughout key weeks.

Priority 4 - Pursuing Perpetrators

- **Training** - SVA coordinator has arranged for some training for relevant professionals working in this area on National Ugly Mugs (NUM's) which is a system to protect Sex workers from violent customers.

5. Success

Ask for Angela, a poster campaign which was developed by SVA Coordinator and supported by the SVA SMB partnership launched in September's #NoMore awareness week. Ask for Angela was designed to direct customers on dates where they felt threatened or concerned for their safety to go to the bar and ask for support with 'Angela' being the code word. Bars and Clubs across the county placed the posters in their customer toilets to demonstrate they were there to help and ensured their staff knew what to do if someone asked for help or 'Angela'. This poster campaign went viral and gained the local, national and international media's attention. The scheme was then promoted to National pubwatch who have now backed the scheme and placed it on their website and encouraged all pubwatches across the country to support it. The Poster campaign has also been taken up by parts of Australia, the US, Canada, Germany and Argentina.

#NoMore Awareness Campaign, although 'Ask for Angela' overtook the success of #NoMore, it still had a huge impact online through social media, local print media and radio. Its biggest success was seen on University Campus where the student services team and students promoted the messages throughout the week.

Sexual Violence Policy for Sex Entertainment Venues (SEV), developed by the SVA coordinator to implement in Lap-dancing venues to provide clear guidance to

dancers and the management staff on what their responsibilities are to protect the workers and ensure the working conditions are free from Sexual violence and abuse. It will also assist with ensuring girls are supported with the police reporting process to enable the police to build intelligence on perpetrators. So far Boston licensing have supported the policy and requested their one SEV implements it within their venue.

6. Challenges moving forward

Increase in reporting, whilst it is positive people are feeling more confident to come forwards it means as a county we need to ensure we have the services to support the demand. Recent revelations about football coaches sexually assaulting young footballers, like the Jimmy Saville case it could bring many more people forward and the partnership need to be prepared for this.

Resources, as in all areas of public finance resources are being squeezed at both a local and national level, this places pressure on all activities and agencies but particularly on support services to victims and on targeted prevention activities within schools and the general public with awareness campaigns.

Implementing the Sexual Violence and Abuse Policy within SEV's- in Lincoln, Skegness and Grantham. Work is ongoing with local licensing officers.

7. Conclusion

Following the adoption of Sexual Violence and Abuse of adults as a partnership priority in Lincolnshire, there is now a greater understanding of the issue and impact within Lincolnshire. This has been driven by an analysis of the data and bringing partners together to understand the unreported picture. There is now confidence that by working in partnership we can act more effectively to prevent abuse happening and ensure that those who become victims get the support they need. It will be increasingly important that we use stretched and decreasing resources in the most effective way. Lincolnshire is not unusual in seeing a rise in the reporting of this awful crime, as it is repeated across the UK; however our history of strong partnership working stands will for help protect communities, support victims and bring offenders to justice.

8. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

9. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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