



Learning Together to Safeguard the City

26th November – 10th December 2015

The **Learning Together to Safeguard the City** fortnight is a new way of talking about how we all work together to keep people safe and well. It is delivered in partnership between the **Safeguarding Adults Board**, the **Local Safeguarding Children Board** and the **Safe in the City Partnership Board**, as well as Brighton & Hove City Council, other statutory partners including Sussex Police and Health, and a range of charities and community groups.

Find out more at www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/learning-together-to-safeguard-the-city

www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk
[@LSCB_Brighton](https://twitter.com/LSCB_Brighton)

www.safeinthecity.info
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Historical Allegations - How do we Investigate ?

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2nd December 2015



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Objectives

- Understand what a historical allegation is
- Know what information can be provided by partner agencies
- Be able to discuss the methods of obtaining third party materials
- Understand the difficulties arising from this type of investigation
- Gain an understanding of the investigation route and services provided by the police
- Consider how the investigation process impacts on working practice and how to signpost for support

Introductions



- Just provide a short explanation of who you are !
- Where you work !
- And involvement in Investigations !



Barriers to Reporting

- What do you feel would be the issues, that cause more difficulties in investigation of a historical allegation
???????

- Discuss

- Post it - Exercise

Barriers to Reporting

- WON'T BE BELIEVED
- DISTRUST OF POLICE
- PERSONAL SHAME
- NO EVIDENCE
- COURT PROCESS & CROSS EXAMINATION
- SEEING THE OFFENDER AGAIN
- FINANCIAL IMPACT (Domestic Abuse)

Evidentially

We also know that the experience of abuse can have a profound effect on victims which may manifest itself through chaotic lifestyles, drug/alcohol abuse, mental illness, or criminal behaviour/convictions.

Offenders exploit vulnerabilities when they choose their victims - the message is that we recognise this and will try to work through it, rather than it being an automatic barrier to prosecution.

We need to acknowledge that confidence in reporting to agencies and the police is a key factor - a common theme in sexual abuse cases is that the offenders have a coercive control over their victims and they abuse this to make the victims feel as though they will not be believed.

The recent increase in reporting is a reflecting of growing confidence and we need to maintain this.

Operation Kite

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE - OPERATION KITE

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse, it is where a young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in sexual activity. This could be as part of a relationship which to the child or to outsiders might appear loving and normal or, in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay.

It is vital that professionals who work with young people are familiar with the signs that can tell us that a young person is being exploited so that we can identify these children as early as possible. Often, victims are not aware they are being exploited which means that they cannot protect themselves.

Warning signs to look out for:



The child has unexplained gifts or unaffordable new things



The child often goes missing



They regularly miss school or have been excluded



They are associated with individuals/groups much older than they are



They self harm or make suicide /overdose attempts



They have substance misuse problems



The child has sexually transmitted infections or has become pregnant, has miscarriages or abortions

The more you know, the more you see.



Phone Sussex Police on 101 and quote Operation Kite, a log will be created which will be passed to the Brighton Safeguarding Investigations Unit. This is the agreed City-wide referral mechanism and information shared will be subject to multi-agency consideration.

Alternatively:

- Contact the Sussex Police, Missing Persons Coordinator, Vicky Morris, for informal advice on 101 extension 550834
- Seek advice from the What is Sexual Exploitation (WISE) project - 01273 222 583
- Speak to your local Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01273 290 400 or email MASH@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk

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Evidentially

- The evidence of first complaint is really important and should include:-
 - *What victim said*
 - *Where they said it*
 - *How they said it*
 - *Victim's demeanour*
- The person receiving should not question the victim in detail but should seek their views about informing the police.
- If the victim does not want the police informed then they can still report the details anonymously through Survivor's Network or self refer to the SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Clinic)
- If the victim does wish the police to be notified then they should be contacted asap.

Victim Focus

- Most RASSO offences are led by a Detective Inspector or Detective Sergeant. The investigation will take a **victim focused approach**.
- It is recognised how difficult it is for victims to report offences of this nature so it is imperative that they know they are **believed** and their concerns **listened to**.
- It is normal for some victims to wait years to report sexual abuse. The police recognise this and will investigate the report as thoroughly as a recent offence.
- Victims of RASSO are entitled to an enhanced service.
- Enhanced service means:-#####

SOLO

- On receipt of a complaint of a sexual offence, a specially trained officer called a S.O.L.O. will speak to the victim.
- (Sexual Offences Liaison Officer)
- A first account of what happened will be recorded in the SOLO's investigator's notebook so sufficient information is available for an investigation to start in earnest and fast track actions commenced
- This SOLO will remain as the single point of contact for the victim throughout the investigation and will be part of the subsequent ABE (achieving best evidence) interview of the victim.
- Victim Contract agreed

Achieving Best Evidence ABE

- **T.E.D (Tell Me, Explain, Describe).**
- **5WH (What, Where, When, Why & How).**
- **Minimal questioning to gain the Maximum information.**

EVIDENCE – IT’S NOT JUST ONE WORD AGAINST ANOTHER!

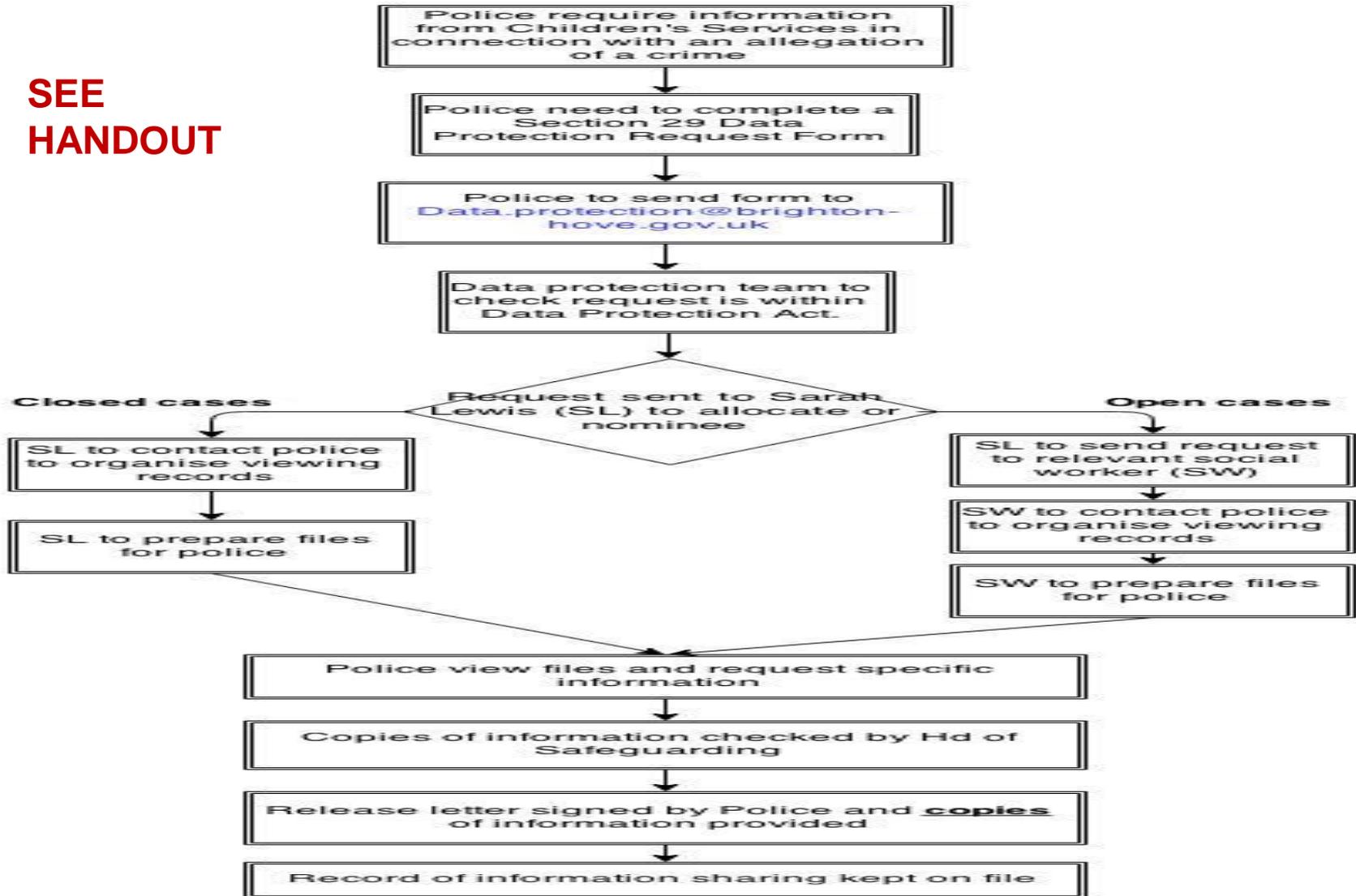
- **VICTIM’S ACCOUNT**
- **WITNESSES TO ALL OR PARTS OF THE OFFENCES**
- **CORROBORATION (linking victim to offender and both to location / opportunity / similar complaints from others – ie similar fact evidence)**
- **DISCLOSURES**
- **SUSPECT INTERVIEW**
- **SUSPECT’S ANTECEDENT HISTORY**
- **THIRD PARTY MATERIAL**

Third Party Material

- Where will it come from ?
- What will it look like ?
- What would strengthen the case ?
- What could undermine it ?

Police Section 29 Data Protection Requests for Information

SEE
HANDOUT



Agency Records

- **Consent from Victim/witness**
- Medical and Educational Records
- (again data protection forms are required)
- Counselling Notes
- Voluntary Agencies

Legal

- To enable the witness to provided the best possible evidence they can, the court can be asked to allow **“Special Measures”** (see handout)

Service User's View

- I am very happy and relieved that I was believed and justice was done not once but twice. After all these years I now feel safe and free to be able to move on with my life.
- "My message to other victims is that I am willing to use my name to show I am an ordinary person who got justice and the same can happen to you.
- "The SOLO" dealt with me from the start and I think having one person to deal with me made the process a bit easier. He treated myself and my children with such respect that we felt at ease to talk about very hard things in our lives.
- "Survivors Network is an excellent service through whom I met Helen, who has supported me and arranged counselling to help me through a difficult time.

Signposting/Support

The victim will be asked if they would like support from a number of agencies available to assist including:-

Survivor's Network
RISE
Mankind
Housing

CPS (Crown Prosecution Service)
Managing expectations
Maintaining support throughout
the wait for a decision
Right to appeal

Conclusions

In recent years far more Historical Investigations have been successful, over all the attrition rate, is still not good. Agencies are endeavouring to fully consider, ALL the options and evidence before “the too difficult light comes on”

Thank you for your time and involvement in todays presentation.

**ANY
QUESTIONS ?**



Safeguarding is Everybody's Business

**Date for diaries! 10 December 2015, 2pm – 4pm @ The Bridge
Finale Event for Learning Together Fortnight:**

What can the Safeguarding Boards teach one another?

This finale event will pull together the themes the Learning Together to Safeguard the City activities. It will be an opportunity for attendees to reflect on the themes, issues/barriers and areas of good practice that have been identified during the fortnight's eclectic events.

The finale event will be hosted by Graham Bartlett, the Chairperson of the **Local Safeguarding Children Board** and **Safeguarding Adults Board**, and will consider the ways in which the two boards can learn from, and influence, each other to help make Brighton & Hove a safer city to live in and be part of.

This is an opportunity for managers, frontline practitioners and professionals with an interest in developing and enhancing safeguarding to come together with senior managers and strategic leads.

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