



PCC
Office of the Police
and Crime Commissioner
Devon and Cornwall

Feedback from Safeguarding Vulnerable People deep-dive meeting

May 2014



What is 'Safeguarding'?

- Safeguarding is about protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse or neglect.
- In relation to crime it encompasses a broad spectrum of offending including child abuse, domestic abuse, stalking and sexual offences including rape.
- Many of the offences and the harm they bring are hidden behind closed doors which poses some clear challenges to policing
- Potential for significant impact and harm to victims and their families
- Scrutiny ongoing in this area including inspections by HMIC and Ofsted



- Issues considered:

- *Safeguarding Vulnerable People Review pilot*
- *Development of multi-agency safeguarding hubs*
- *Effectiveness and availability of specialist roles*
- *Workloads in the public protection teams*
- *Support from the Crime Prosecution Service*
- *Impact of Saville on reporting of sexual offences*
- *Sexual Assault Referral Centre arrangements*
- *Management of child sexual exploitation cases and capacity to deal with cyber-based crime*
- *Police response to stalking*



•Key points:

- *Safeguarding Vulnerable People Review pilot went live in Torbay in May 2014, subject to evaluation at it's conclusion*
- *A new approach to safeguarding including a more detailed assessment of vulnerability (ViST)*
- *Co-ordination of police roles in multi-agency safeguarding hubs across Devon & Cornwall reflecting local working practices*
- *Evidence that high profile sexual abuse cases have specifically increased historic reporting of sexual abuse*
- *Child sexual exploitation and cyber-based offending increasing demand and complexity*
- *Area subject increasing inspection burden*



- Key strategic concerns:

- *Area of increasing demand and high risk*
- *Places emphasis clearly on risk management processes, both in individual cases and strategic decisions*
- *Potential for 'hidden risk' in cases graded as low risk*
- *Need to balance resources against risk*
- *Forcewide roll-out of Safeguarding Vulnerable People Review subject to outcome of evaluation*