Child Sexual Abuse
Public Perceptions and Media Coverage

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Public perceptions and media coverage

Overview of the input:

• Public perceptions - what is the public narrative?
• Why is it important?
• How do we influence it?
• Operation Hydrant – working together effectively
Operation Hydrant
What is it?

• Established August 2014.
• National coordinating hub.
• Remit – *Coordinates all live investigations* across the service into allegations of *non-recent child sexual abuse* against *persons of public prominence* or committed within *institutions*.
• Team of 48 police officers and police staff.
• Part of National Police Chiefs Council under CC Simon Bailey.
• Overseen by National Coordinator.
The Public Narrative

In the words of the news media
One in 14 adults in England and Wales were sexually abused in childhood - survey

New questions to annual crime survey reveal 11% of women and 2% of men were sexually abused as minors.

One in 14 adults in England and Wales were sexually abused as children, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics, the first research of its kind.

An average of 7% of adults — 11% of women and 3% of men — told the annual Crime Survey of England and Wales that they were sexually assaulted during their childhood. The proportion of child abuse was unchanged in the survey for

Third of sex convictions involve child abuse

Record numbers of defendants are being convicted of rape and sexual crimes, with more than one third of cases involving abuse of children, figures show.

Child sex abuse prosecutions rose by 82 per cent over the decade and make up one third of the 13,700 convictions over the past year for sexual offences across England and Wales — up 15 per cent on the previous year, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) says.

Police now investigating over 2,000 child abuse referrals in football

A specialist unit looking into complaints involving more than 330 clubs. Referrals relating to sports other than football reach a total of 27
Police spend £81m a year on historical crime probes: 875 officers and 500 civilian staff are dedicated to raking over the past

- The funds are used during inquiries into sex abuse and paedophile conspiracies
- A police chief warned that the resources are often taken from frontline budgets
- Details of the extraordinary cost comes as top officers warn of strained budgets
- Critics have questioned whether some of the historic inquiries are necessary

By CHRIS GREENWOOD, CRIME CORRESPONDENT FOR THE DAILY MAIL
PUBLISHED: 01/11, 1 November 2017 | UPDATED: 09/11, 1 November 2017

Police are spending £81 million a year on historic investigations, new figures revealed yesterday.

The money is being used during inquiries into sex abuse, paedophile conspiracies, undercover policing and the Hillsborough tragedy.

There are 875 officers - the equivalent of the entire Warwickshire force - plus another 500 civilian staff, dedicated to raking over the past.

One police chief warned that the resources are often taken from frontline budgets, suggesting everyday policing is being stretched even further.

Number of registered sex and violent offenders
England and Wales 2008/09 - 2015/16

Resources
Legacy of the past

Revealed: Failed investigations into disgraced Norfolk Police doctor accused of sexually assaulting 33 police officers as force pays out £270,000 in legal costs

NHS and social services fail child sexual abuse survivors, study reveals

Survey asked 400 survivors to rate support services and fewer than half said they felt listened to, believed or respected

Rotherham police dismissed abuse victims as ‘silly girls’

FAILED BY THE SYSTEM How the Rochdale grooming gang victims were let down by the authorities that were meant to keep them safe

From the council chief executive to social workers, incompetent leaders betrayed the teenage victims of a brutal sex trafficking gang

By John Shummas
30th May 2017, 5:06 pm | Updated: 16th May 2017, 8:23 pm

VULNERABLE girls who were left to be preyed upon by a sickening gang of sex traffickers were let down by so many

Teenage victims in Rochdale - whose stories are told in the new BBC series Three Girls - were failed by their police force, their community and their social workers.
Justice Today

St George's School teacher Gerard Singer jailed for sexually abusing boys

A former boarding school teacher has been jailed for 21 years for sexually abusing boys.

Former children's home worker jailed for 19 years over sex offences

Former priest jailed for 22 years for 'horrific sexual abuse' of children in London

Stuart Thornton was jailed today Credit North Yorkshire Police

A former children’s home worker from Cowling has been jailed for 19 years with an additional three years to be served on licence for non-recent child sexual abuse at a children’s home in Skipton.
Issues of debate

Operation Midland police fell for 'false claims' of VIP abuse, report says

Police need to believe victims when investigating a crime

9th December 2016

Victims' Commissioner said: "Referring to a victim of crime as a 'complainant' would be a great step backwards in the treatment of victims and survivors."

Ted Heath sex abuse investigation attacked for 'failing to dispel cloud of suspicion' over former PM

Campaigners say allegations against prominent figures have been dismissed 'far too often'

DJ slams ‘witch hunt’ historic sex crime accusations

False accuser victims Paul Gambaccini, pop icon Sir Cliff Richard and former Speaker of the House of Commons Nigel Evans join forces to call for law change in HSA cases

PAYOUT SCANDAL Fantasists who falsely claim they have been sexually abused are ‘allowed to keep THOUSANDS of pounds in taxpayer compensation’

"Nick", the man who falsely accused Lord Bramall and Lord tain of child sex abuse, has kept his £50,000 handout

Social media giants have 'moral duty' to tackle child abuse

Children as young as ten are sexting
Public narrative on child sexual abuse

Why is it important?
Victim confidence

- Publicity correlates with increased reporting by victims
- Victims are confident to come forward knowing they are not alone and will be believed
- Corresponding surges in reporting to third sector
Public Confidence

- Public confidence in public services – operating in partnership with our communities.
- Accountability and integrity – the public have a right to hold public services to account.
- Morale and wellbeing of frontline staff, advocacy and performance.

**The five most trusted professions, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>% trust to tell the truth</th>
<th>2014 score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientists</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairdressers</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Public Awareness

- Informing opinions and views, and creating understanding.
- Spotting the signs – safeguarding today.
- Influencing behaviour.
- Creating a safe environment.
- Volunteering information.
- Whistleblowing.

'Don't turn a blind eye' - Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day 2017

"Don't turn a blind eye to child sexual exploitation" – that's the message from Norfolk's most senior police officer as the force supports a national campaign.
Live investigations

• Publicity is an investigative tool.
• Protecting the integrity of live investigations.
• Protecting the vulnerable
• Staff feel under scrutiny and challenge – impact on performance and welfare.
• Ensuring learning and outcomes are fairly represented.
The Public Narrative – Child Sexual Abuse

How do we influence it?
Influencing the Public Narrative
Influencing the Public Narrative
Reporting trends in the news media

National news media

Local / regional news media
Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

- Accountability and Reparations
- Roman Catholic Church
- Children Outside the UK
- Lord Janner
- The Anglican Church
- Lambeth Council
- Rochdale
- Children in Custodial Institutions
- CSE by organised networks
- Nottinghamshire Councils
- Residential Schools
- The Internet
- Westminster
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