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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Public Petitions Committee Clerking Team  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP



Chief Constable  
Sir Stephen House QPM

Tulliallan Castle  
Kincardine  
Fife  
FK10 4BE

Telephone No: 101

[ACC.CrimeMCP@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ACC.CrimeMCP@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE ON CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION –  
POLICE SCOTLAND SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN EVIDENCE**

As the lead for Public Protection for Police Scotland, on 25 June 2013 I provided oral evidence to the Public Petitions Committee as part of its inquiry into CSE in Scotland. This was supported by previous written submissions.

Following my attendance at the Committee, Anne Peat from the Scottish Government requested further evidence by way of specific examples of the ways in which the police are working with the third sector to tackle CSE both within and outside of formal Child Protection Committees.

I have attached an appendix to this letter which details some of the positive initiatives where the police work in partnership with the third sector to develop a shared understanding and improve collective responses to CSE in Scotland.

I trust you will find this information useful, however please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Graham  
Assistant Chief Constable

## **APPENDIX**

### **Return Home Welfare**

The legacy force of Grampian Police (Aberdeen Division) was at the forefront of working with partner agencies to develop and implement a consistent response to children missing initially from local authority care under the auspices of the Young Runaways service in partnership with a dedicated worker from Barnardos Scotland.

This work was further enhanced in April 2009 with a Scottish Government funded trial which not only dealt with young LAC children and those on supervision orders but also covered young people under the age of 16 missing from their own homes.

The Return Home Welfare Interview (RHWI) consisted of a dedicated police officer and a support worker with SWD experience supported by an admin officer undertaking cognitive comprehensive return interviews on a one to one basis with these missing persons, to collate intelligence and inform any identified child concerns. The use of the same officers/personnel visiting repeat missing persons allowed the establishment of a rapport and invariably led to superior intelligence/information being obtained from the juvenile missing persons.

At the conclusion of the funding in September 2010 the legacy Grampian Police (Aberdeen City Division) continued the RHWI unit, staffing it with two Police Constables. Barnardos restructuring at this time, did not allow for the provision of a dedicated worker for RHWI but young people referred to them would be dealt with on an identified needs basis.

There is currently one officer fulfilling this role due to restructuring on the merging to Police Scotland, with a view to an additional member of staff being identified in the near future.

The unit liaises closely with SWD and Education and works with Barnardos, SACRO, Aberdeen Foyer and APEX (training young people for skills to work).

### **Fife Young Runaways Scheme**

The Young Runaway Scheme seeks to improve each child's/young person's individual situation by reducing the level of risk they face whilst missing, and assisting with achieving positive outcomes for them. Furthermore, the Scheme can provide the child/young person and their family with essential services and support through a co-ordinated approach. Police and other statutory agencies work closely with Barnardo's and Clued Up (drug/alcohol agency).

## **Fife Care Home Forum**

Quarterly Youth Issues Care Home Forums are held, whereupon all care home staff within Fife attend to discuss good practices and any problems that they may be having through multi-agency consultation.

Through this Forum, a Pilot scheme was introduced in the Starley Hall Residential Care Home. The Young Runaways Co-ordinators facilitated local Officers to create direct links with the young persons and staff at the home, facilitated information sharing, created individual plans that assisted further searches which reduced future absconding, and ensured positive links and continuity with the staff and young persons residing within.

Officers also visited and spoke with the young persons whenever they could, sometimes joining them for outdoor activities and lunch times, showing that links are also made for the “positive” and not just when a young person was portraying “bad behaviour”. Respect and rapport was built between the young persons and the Officers doing this, this helped when speaking with said young persons after an absconding incident, or if the young person offended and either needed to be charged or spoken to. This pilot has already evidenced a substantial drop in missing episodes from Starley Hall. Future Care Home Forum’s will identify which facilities the pilot should be rolled out to next.

When issues are identified they are referred to Barnardo’s and Clued Up.

## **Forth Valley Young Runaways Project**

A Young Runaways project has been implemented involving Police, Social Work and Health, with a view to including Education in the near future. This project provides a forum for information sharing and undertakes joint return home visits.

Since 2011, legacy Central Scotland Police has linked-up with the charity ‘Missing People’ to help proactively protect young runaways via their mobile phones. This allows the missing person to be contacted via their mobile phone with a message offering access to confidential and neutral help and advice. The message is delivered by the charity rather than the police.

Legacy Central was the first in Scotland to use the TextSafe system in conjunction with Missing People.

## **Young Runaways Initiative in Renfrewshire**

Police in Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire CPC have worked in partnership with Barnardo’s to develop improved local processes for managing young runaways from local residential establishments. This includes the establishment of a local multi agency operational group to improve information sharing, risk assessment and ongoing care/support plans for vulnerable young

runaways. The model focuses on victims, offenders and locations. Barnardo's have been involved in delivering local training in support of this initiative.

### **The Scottish Coalition for Young Runaways**

Police Scotland works closely with the Coalition to work towards promoting the welfare and protection of children and young people who run away or go missing in Scotland. The Coalition membership includes representation from an Area Child Protection Office, Police Scotland, the Association of Directors of Social Work (ADSW), the Scottish Children's Reporters Administration (SCRA), Barnardo's, Childline, Streetwork, Who Cares? and Aberlour Child Care Trust who chair the Coalition.

### **Streetwork Runaway Project**

The Streetwork Runaway Action Project (RAP), supported by the Railway Children, works in schools, on the streets and one-to-one with vulnerable young people to reduce the risk of running away and homelessness. They provide advice, support and assistance to the most vulnerable people on the streets of Edinburgh and have developed a number of interventions to help reduce the incidents of, and the potential harm to, young runaways. Those interventions include educational workshops, one to one support and outreach work on the streets of Edinburgh. Referral can be by any means, self, third party or professional. Any concerns identified will be reported to police. Their statutory involvement comes in the way of referrals from social work and Early Intervention teams.

### **Aberlour Child Care Trust**

Aberlour facilitate Scotland's only refuge for children who run away from home and are based in Glasgow. They work in partnership with the Scottish Refugee Council to deliver a dedicated guardianship service to separated young people seeking asylum or to those who have been trafficked. The guardianship service has close links with the Glasgow City Council Child Protection Team and the Police Vice and Anti-Trafficking Coordination Unit. Aberlour is closing its entire Glasgow operation due to a lack of funding.

Following a 2010 pilot in the legacy Grampian area, Aberlour has worked in partnership with other Local Authority partners to deliver improved services for young runaways. This includes Aberlour involvement in return interview processes. The pilot has been fully evaluated and recommended for national rollout.

Between May 2012 and April 2013 officers in BA sub division of legacy Strathclyde worked in partnership with Aberlour to develop improved local processes for young runaways. This included Aberlour involvement in return interviews and enhanced Intelligence gathering opportunities. This local pilot has now been suspended due to funding constraints.

The Aberlour Young Runaways Service provided support to young people in the Edinburgh area until it closed in June 2013.

### **Angus Child Sexual Exploitation Short Life Working Group**

Early discussions have taken place between police and other statutory agencies to set up a SLWG to undertake a scoping / mapping exercise to understand the prevalence of CSE in Angus. This group will also involve 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector representation.

### **ASSIST**

Police Scotland works in close partnership with ASSIST who provide advocacy and support services to victims of domestic abuse and their families. This includes victims of CSE where this occurs within a domestic context.

### **Barnardo's Training**

Barnardo's is currently involved in delivering education programmes to school children across Glasgow and Dundee, and is involved in delivering the Safer Choices Service (multi agency training).

The West of Scotland Consortium consisting of the 12 Local Authority CPCs in legacy Strathclyde plus Dumfries & Galloway (including Police representation) have secured assistance from Barnardo's to develop a guidance document and learning/development materials for use across the West of Scotland. Once agreed, it is proposed that 4 representatives from each Local Authority will be trained by Barnardo's staff and will cascade training amongst multi agency professional groups.

### **Bridges Project** (East and Midlothian)

The Bridges Project is a charity that provides a number of services to assist young people manage transitions into adulthood and life beyond school. They help young people with improving their employability, training and education related skills managing their move to independent living, developing skills which will help them to manage a job, a house, relationships etc becoming active members of their community realising their potential. It offers young people a wide variety of informal learning opportunities through activities, trips, visits, European exchanges and events. Young people are encouraged to be involved in the development of the programme. This with a view to broadening young people's horizons and to assist them in acquiring the skills for self-reliance and employability. Skills such as, planning and organising, working with others, using initiative, leading, taking positive risks, learning, thinking critically and creatively and problem solving.

Police within East and Midlothian will refer directly into this service.

## **CEOP Training Ambassadors**

Police Officers and partner agencies have received training directly from CEOPS to empower them to deliver online safety training inputs to professionals and local community groups. The co-ordination of the activities and contribution of CEOP Ambassadors is currently under discussion.

## **Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Partners Group**

A Police led multi agency strategic partners group has been established to consider learning from previous CSE investigations in Scotland and to improve collective responses. There is representation from Barnardo's on this group. The remit of this group was previously restricted to the 12 Local Authorities in the West of Scotland however the terms of reference and membership of the group is currently under review, with a view to developing a national remit, and inviting broader representation from other third sector organisations.

## **Dundee Womens Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre (WRASAC)**

Dundee has a Comic Relief funded project hosted by WRASAC which involves Dundee City Council, Barnardo's and Police. This is an 18 month research project looking at the scale and nature of sexual exploitation in ages 11 to 25.

## **Forth Valley Pilot**

Clackmannanshire, Stirling & Falkirk Child Protection Committee are working with partners in support of the Scottish Government Pilot to scope CSE locally and to evaluate the use of the self assessment tool developed by the University of Bedfordshire.

Forth Valley CPC have held a Sexual Exploitation Development Event which included inputs from Women's Support Project, Glasgow and Violence Against Women.

## **Glasgow Community Improvement Partnership Training**

Police officers in Glasgow work in close partnership with Glasgow Community Improvement Partnership and deliver public protection training presentations, including an awareness of CSE, to local housing providers.

## **Glasgow Community Safety Services Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA)**

TARA is a charitable organisation formed by Glasgow City Council and the legacy force of Strathclyde, to prevent crime, tackle anti-social behaviour and promote community safety (including Glasgow services to support women out of prostitution).

TARA has supported a small number of young women who were initially assessed as over 18, however in most cases, age assessment resulted in referral to Social Work Services.

### **Managing High Risk Champions Group**

The High Risk Champions Group play a role in evaluating, promoting and disseminating best practice in respect of effective interventions for children and young people who pose a high risk to others through violent behaviour and young people who display sexually harmful behaviour. Members include Police Scotland, SCRA, Scottish Government, CAMHS, NYJAG (National Youth Justice Advisory Group), ADSW, SPS, & National Development Team.

### **Ministerial Working Group on Child Sexual Exploitation**

A Ministerial Working Group has been established to specifically tackle Child Sexual Exploitation. This group is chaired by Children In Scotland with representation from Police Scotland, COPFS, Social Work, Barnardo's, Care Inspectorate, Aberlour, Scottish Government and Education.

### **MYPAS (Midlothian Young People's Advice Service)**

MYPAS cover the following issues or aspects of health for young people:

- Sexual health information, advice and clinics.
- The links between sexual health and alcohol / other drugs
- Counselling on a range of issues such as bereavement, bullying, family relationships, depression
- Art therapy, providing support on issues similar to counselling Alcohol and other drugs, including advice for parents
- Youth participation to give young people a stronger voice and greater involvement in Midlothian

MYPAS work closely with police to reduce underage drinking by running operation "esplanade". Police and MYPAS workers take children who they find drinking alcohol back to the police station where their parents are contacted. MYPAS then offer counselling to parents and child.

### **Operation Dash**

In February 2013 Police established a research cell to scope the scale and extent of CSE in the 12 Local Authorities of the legacy Strathclyde Police force area. Police officers worked in close partnership with Barnardo's to encourage the submission of Intelligence information. As a result of the Intelligence information obtained, in April 2013 a full multi agency investigation was established to investigate criminality associated with CSE.

Officers of Police Scotland continue to work in close partnership with representatives of 12 Local Authority CPCs, 12 local SWDs, 4 Health Board

areas, Education services, UKBA and Barnardo's to continue developing improved awareness, prevention, intervention and investigative responses.

### **PENUMBRA (Scottish Borders )**

Penumbra provide a counselling service to children who are the victims of sexual abuse. Police in the Scottish Borders work closely with this service and refer children to this service directly.

### **Roshni**

Roshni has been working with minority ethnic (ME) communities for over a decade to tackle issues surrounding child abuse. They are striving to engage directly with communities to raise awareness about CSE.

Roshni currently deliver training to Police and multi agency resources. Work is ongoing to promote their 'Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse – A Basic Awareness' training DVD via Police Scotland Intranet.

### **Scottish Guardianship Service**

The Scottish Guardianship Service is delivered in partnership between Aberlour and the Scottish Refugee Council. It helps support unaccompanied young people going through the asylum system and provides 'Guardians' who act as independent advocates. The service provides support to children and young people who have experienced sexual exploitation abroad and in the UK. The guardianship service has close links with the Glasgow City Council Child Protection Team and the Police Scotland National Human Trafficking Unit.

### **Stop It Now! Scotland**

Stop it Now! Scotland was established in 2008 and is funded by the Scottish Government. They work closely with the Government, the Police, local authorities, the voluntary sector and others to promote good practice and policies designed to better protect children and young people at the earliest stage, to change the behaviour that might cause harm to children and to make communities safer.

Police officers across Scotland work in partnership with representatives of Stop It Now! in order to promote awareness and recognition of child sexual abuse including sexual exploitation. The 'UpStream' Community Engagement Toolkit has been developed and the resulting training has been delivered to over 800 community police officers across Scotland. Steps are underway to mainstream and embed this in the training programme for all community police officers in Scotland.

### **With Scotland**

With Scotland supports child protection practice, policy and research by working in collaboration with partners, connecting research with practice;



exchanging knowledge and ideas and coordinating activities across Child Protection Committees.

With Scotland host a National Child Sexual Exploitation Group which is currently attended by representatives from Police Scotland, CPC lead officers, NSPCC, Violence Against Women (VAW), ROC Project, Barnardo's, Scottish Government, Children 1<sup>st</sup>, Safe Space and Roshni.