

## West Mercia Police and Crime Panel

### Briefing Note: Current and Non-Recent Sexual Offences

At the last Police and Crime Panel meeting (7th February 2017), members requested further information regarding current and non-recent sexual offences. This information has been collated by the Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and a Force response provided on behalf of the Deputy Chief Constable Amanda Blakeman.

The tables below show the breakdown of rape and other sexual offences and child sexual exploitation (CSE) offences (any offence assigned a CSE interest marker), by current and non-recent. Current offences are those recorded on police systems within 28 days of the committed date; non-recent offences are those recorded on police systems more than 28 days after the committed date.

**Table 1. Rape Offences by Current/Non-Recent**

	Current (less than 28days)		28day - 1yr		1yr - 5yrs		over 5yrs		Total
2012	159	39.2%	67	16.5%	43	10.6%	137	33.7%	406
2013	160	40.4%	71	17.9%	35	8.8%	130	32.8%	396
2014	264	37.9%	134	19.3%	92	13.2%	206	29.6%	696
2015	371	40.4%	179	19.5%	143	15.6%	226	24.6%	919
2016	438	40.4%	197	18.2%	153	14.1%	297	27.4%	1085

- There was an increase in the recording of current and non-recent rape offences in 2016 compared to previous years.
- Current offences accounted for 40% of total rape offences in 2016, comparable to the previous financial year.
- A slightly larger proportion of offences in 2016 were recorded more than 5 years after the committed date (27% compared to 25% in 2015).

**Table 2. Other Sexual Offences by Current/Non-Recent**

	Current (less than 28days)		28day - 1yr		1yr - 5yrs		over 5yrs		Total
2012	443	53.1%	170	20.4%	77	9.2%	145	17.4%	835
2013	495	55.1%	189	21.0%	76	8.5%	138	15.4%	898
2014	665	51.7%	270	21.0%	136	10.6%	216	16.8%	1287
2015	945	50.6%	394	21.1%	245	13.1%	282	15.1%	1866
2016	1108	53.6%	487	23.5%	166	8.0%	308	14.9%	2069

- There was an increase in the recording of current and non-recent other sexual offences<sup>1</sup> in 2016 compared to previous years.

<sup>1</sup> Other Sexual offences refers to all sexual offences that are not rape, such as sexual assault, sexual activity, abuse of a sexual nature and exposure/voyeurism. Typically half of all other sexual offences are sexual assault and over a third are sexual activity.

- Current offences accounted for 54% of total other sexual offences in 2016, a slight increase compared to the previous financial year (51%).
- There has been a reduction in the volume and proportion of offences recorded over a year after the committed date (28% in 2015; 23% in 2016).

**Table 3. CSE Offences by Current/Non-Recent**

	Current (less than 28days)		28day - 1yr		1yr - 5yrs		over 5yrs		Total
2012	2	28.6%	2	28.6%	1	14.3%	2	28.6%	7
2013	8	30.8%	7	26.9%	7	26.9%	4	15.4%	26
2014	67	34.7%	64	33.2%	36	18.7%	26	13.5%	193
2015	189	36.3%	161	31.0%	104	20.0%	66	12.7%	520
2016	273	47.1%	185	31.9%	60	10.3%	62	10.7%	580

- There was an increase in the recording of current and non-recent CSE offences in 2016 compared to previous years.
- Current offences accounted for 47% of total CSE offences in 2016; a significant increase compared to the previous financial year (36%).
- Despite an increase in offences recorded between 28 days and 1 year after the offence date, there has been a reduction in the recording of more historic CSE offences in 2016 (21%) compared to 2015 (33%).

The force response in regards to processes, procedures and resources to manage demand has been provided below:

*“The force has both a strategic lead and a tactical lead in this area. Where there is a larger scale single investigation it is challenging, as the size and the scale of non-recent investigations have the ability to impact on general capacity. Such reports are reviewed with appropriate oversight and investigative leadership, with suitably accredited officers allocated to manage this impact. Our witness and victim care team support us with quality of service, alongside Independent Sexual Violence Advisor and Child Independent Sexual Violence Advisor referrals. We continue to work with Child Safeguarding Boards at strategic level to ensure that children are safeguarded, and that the “voice of the children” is at the centre of all we do.*

*Tactically, we continue to invest in education and raising awareness within the partnerships across the force. The Detective Chief Inspectors responsible for Vulnerability escalate fluctuations in demand that cannot be managed locally, to the strategic lead. The strategic lead can then secure the appropriate resource allocation and oversight.”*