



OFFICIAL

Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Problem Profile

Child Sexual Exploitation

Date of Report: 01/11/19

Commissioned By: Superintendent Elizabeth Hughes

Owner: Intelligence Grid – Development Hub

Analyst Contact: Victoria Kilpatrick

- **Our review of occurrences involving under 18's identified 276 offences which were child sexual exploitation. The most frequently linked offence type is rape. For these 276 offences there are 262 individual victims (not counting multiple offences against the same victim). The Topaz cohort has so far identified 479 children specifically at risk of CSE so extrapolating this data indicates that there are potentially 188 further victims and 174 offences that have not been reported.**

Current academic data suggests that between 12-20% of females experience sexual abuse (not all CSE). For males this figure is believed to be between 5-8%.

By extrapolating and estimating an approximate percentage of under 18's in the UK (21%)¹ and applying the same to the Avon and Somerset Force area, we have approximately 284,031² under 18's in the force area. Based on 12%³ of female children being the victim of a sexual offence this represents approximately 17,007 and at the highest estimate of 20% approximately 28,346 female children have been the victim of a sexual offence. For male children this estimate is 7,114 (5%) or 11,383 (8%).

Across the force 1252 individual⁴ under 18 victims reported a sexual offence in 2018. This demonstrates the under reporting that is believed to be happening with sexual offences as this represents 5.1% of the potential victims within the force area. From these 1252 individuals we have 160 individual nominals linked as victims to specifically CSE offences in 2018 which is 12.8%. Extrapolating this indicates that the force potentially have approximately 24,121 (using lower estimates) possible sexual offence victims of which approximately 12.8% are CSE which means that we are identifying 5.2% of possible CSE victims.

Current IICSA data has identified that approximately 4% of children in England are at risk of CSE (identified via child in need referrals). If 4% of children in the force are victims of CSE this equates to 11,361 children specifically at risk of CSE.

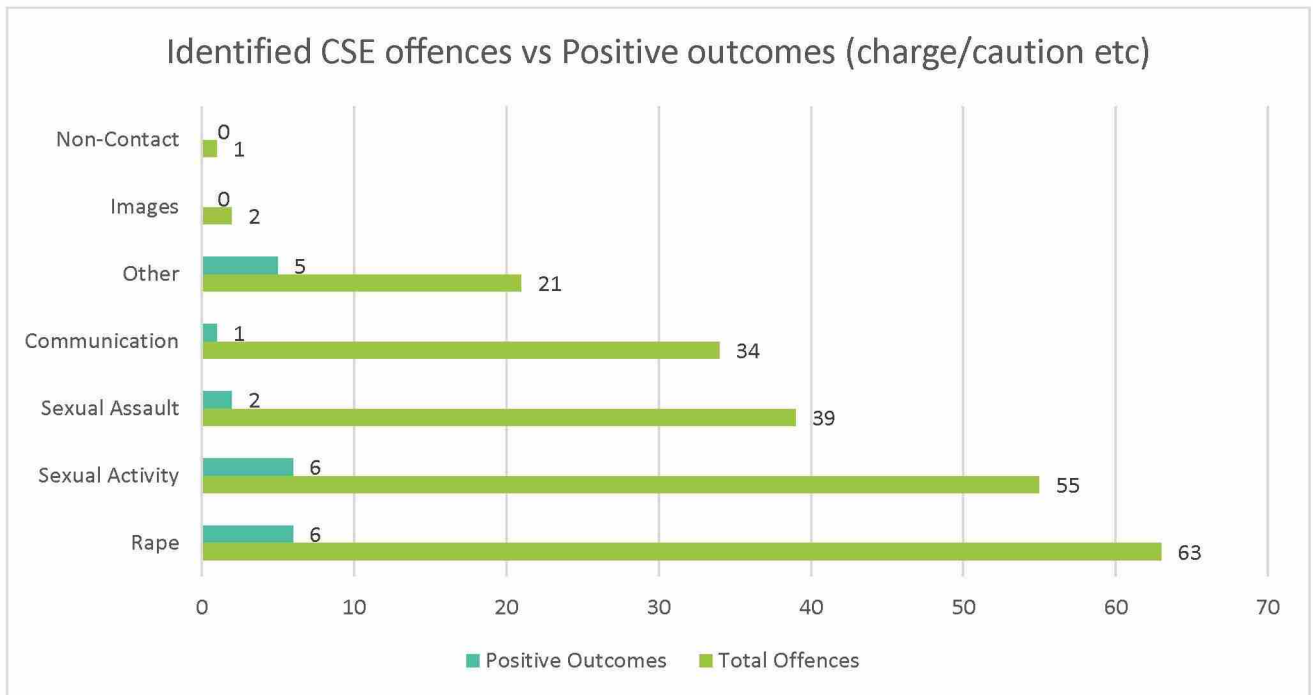
¹ Office of National Statistics

² Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Somerset West, Somerset East and Banes population data ONS

³ <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/csacentreprod/assets/File/CSA%20Scale%20and%20Nature%20full%20report%202018.pdf>)

⁴ 'Individual' means victims who have reported multiple offences have only been counted once for the purposes of data clarity

- The rate of charge, summons, caution and restorative justice result in respect of the offences we have identified as CSE is above the national average for sexual offences against adults.



The data in the above table indicates that the positive outcomes for rape offences which are identified as CSE is considerably higher than the national average of positive outcomes for rape offences in general. Data released in July 2019 suggests that only 1.5% of rape offences receive conviction, however the data in this document shows that CSE linked rape offences within Avon and Somerset receive a positive outcome in 9.5% of occurrences.

As a force we are above the national average for charge, summons, caution and restorative justice outcomes for sexual offences with under 18's as victims (6.5%). Although there is no immediately available data reflecting the nationwide rate conviction rate for sexual offences where the victim is under 18 to draw a direct comparison, this would appear to be a positive result for the force. It should also be considered that although conviction is a desirable result for the police that this may not be right result for the victim and there are many factors that go into charging decisions and work with the CPS.

There are a number of factors affecting the positive outcome rate in this data set – Operation Blisland the last major CSE operation prior to the commencement of Topaz, resulted in a number of charges for the suspects during this time period. There are also 2 additional CSE linked rape charges that resulted in a charge and a summons during the time parameters.

In general for CSE linked sexual offences (offences other than rape) our positive outcome rate is 9.2% which is still above national average for all sexual offences. This is strongly indicative that the new approach to CSE offences is resulting in increased engagement and positive results for victims.

Within the date parameters (2018) Topaz has had involvement with a wide range of offences linked to CSE (394 occurrences with Topaz staff as current officers in the case in total). The below table indicates the number of charges/summons and caution results by the Topaz team giving a positive outcome percentage of 14.2%. Not all of the offences are for sexual/CSE offences, this is due to the Topaz approach of disrupting suspects by any means necessary, so we see positive outcomes for violence, drugs and theft offences as a means of suspect disruption.