

- 2.5 Once an account was obtained from a child victim or a victim reporting non-recent child sexual abuse the information was collated into a file and then shared with the local CID department for investigation.
- 2.6 Information provided by retired Senior Investigating Officers suggests that the policing culture at the time of these past investigations was focussed on evidential outcomes and not primarily on victim support and wellbeing. Victim strategies existed but their focus was on supporting the victim to court. There is limited evidence from the Holmes system of some victims being referred to counselling and support services during past investigations.
- 2.7 Contact has been made with the National SIO adviser to try and establish what training curriculum was in place for Senior Investigating Officers in the 1980's and 1990's. The anecdotal feedback is that victim care was not prioritised in investigative training in the same way it is today. This view has been supported by the College of Policing who state that in the 1980's and 1990's there would have been little or no victim care content in the Senior Investigating Officer programme. In 2003 the Professionalising Investigation Programme (PIP level 3 SIO) was implemented and was mainly homicide focussed with victim care being limited to family liaison.

### **(3) Past practices - Victims and survivors:**

#### **(4) Past practices - Support and assistance during and after criminal investigations and prosecutions**

- 4.1 From the 1980's North Wales Police had designated officers to deal with the initial report of sexual abuse on children. These officers were responsible for obtaining an account from the victim, supporting the victim through any necessary medical examination and supporting the victim to court.
- 4.2 An investigation into the abuse of a child should have necessitated a strategy meeting between the police and the relevant Social Services department. This strategy meeting would ordinarily be completed by the Detective Sergeant and a member of Social Services. During this meeting information would be shared

and investigative primacy decided upon. Pathways for support were more limited and there was a reliance on Social Services to ensure that signposting and support was in place.

- 4.3 Historically police focussed on criminal justice outcomes and not on victim support and wellbeing. Victim strategies that existed would have been focussed on supporting the victim to court.
- 4.4 The anecdotal feedback from the National SIO adviser is that victim care was not prioritised in investigative training in the 1980's and 1990's in the same way it is today. This view has been supported by the College of Policing who state that in the 1980's and 1990's there would have been little or no victim care content in the Senior Investigating Officer programme.

**(5) Past practices - Applications to CICA/B - Criminal compensation orders - Civil claims**

- 5.1 We have been unable to locate any documents or guidance that accurately defines how CICA/B, criminal compensation orders and civil claims were processed historically within North Wales Police.
- 5.2 Retired officers have been spoken to who have provided the following anecdotal information.
  - The CICA/B process was explained largely in the order we follow today in that victims were advised of their right to apply for compensation from CICA/B, once an application was made the investigating officer was required to complete a form that was returned to the CICA/B and in some cases it was necessary for an officer to attend a hearing.
  - It is believed officers did not routinely discuss or encourage the claiming of compensation until the conclusion of the criminal justice process. This was due to a belief that the victim's authenticity would be undermined by the fact they were seeking compensation.

- It is reported that officers involved in the investigation of child sexual abuse at Care Homes were cross examined regarding soliciting complaints by offering compensation to victims.
- We have not been able to find any information in relation to any formal barriers that were put in place to deliberately frustrate the claiming of compensation or any civil claim.

## **The North Wales case study**

### **(6) Brief summary of investigations and outcomes**

- 6.1 A summary of the main policing investigations into abuse at Children's Care Homes in North Wales is detailed as follows. This information has been obtained by speaking to retired officers, reviewing documents that formed part of the investigation and reviewing the findings of subsequent investigations.
- 6.2 In 1974 Clwyd and Gwynedd Councils were created by local government reorganisation.
- 6.3 Between 1976 and 1984 a number of Police investigations took place into allegations of abuse within care homes in North Wales. A total of six men were convicted during this time for various sexual offences. A similar number of investigations did not meet the charging standard at the time and did not proceed to court.
- 6.4 In February 1986 the first major police investigation into reports of sexual abuse was commenced. This followed reports made by Alison Taylor (previously an officer in charge at Ty Newydd Home, Bangor, Gwynedd). The investigation lasted until April 1988 with the DPP concluding the available evidence did not merit criminal proceedings. This investigation was the subject of a review by the then West Midlands Chief Constable, Sir Ron Hadfield as part of Waterhouse tribunal in 2000. The investigation was subject of some criticism concerning its set up, lack of involvement of other agencies and issues around witness assessment.

- 6.5 Over the following period up until the second Police investigation in 1990 there continued to be a number of successful convictions for sexual offences relating to a number of care homes in both Gwynedd and Clwyd.
- 6.6 In June 1990 a second major investigation was set up to investigate reports of abuse by Stephen Roderick Norris and others in relation to the Cartrefle care home in Clwyd. This investigation formed part of Sir Ron Hadfield's review and he was satisfied the inquiry was taken, "As far as I would have expected at that time."
- 6.7 In December 1991 former North Wales Police Superintendent Gordon Anglesea was named as a suspect for assaulting children at Bryn Estyn Home in an Independent on Sunday Article. As a result of the request by both local authorities and growing concerns over abuse, a major investigation was launched. This was a complex and widespread inquiry, carried out against the backdrop of considerable media and political interest. This inquiry was reviewed by Sir Ron Hadfield and he found that it was conducted "thoroughly and impressively." He did comment on a number of issues specifically around the use of trained officers in interviews and arrangements for how witnesses were approached.
- 6.8 In July 1994 Peter Norman Howarth, a former Deputy Principal at Bryn Estyn, was convicted of seven offences of indecent assault. These were committed between 1974 and 1984 against seven boys who were resident at Bryn Estyn at the time. He was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.
- 6.9 In February 1995 John Ernest Allen was convicted at Chester Crown. Allen, the founder of the Bryn Alyn Community residential schools, was convicted of six offences of indecent assault against six young male residents at the schools between 1972 and 1983. He was acquitted of four other counts of indecent assault involving four different residents. Allen received a total sentence of six years imprisonment
- 6.10 On the 17th June 1996 the Secretary of State for Wales Rt Hon William Hague informed the House of Commons that a North Wales Abuse Tribunal would be

set up under Sir Ronald Waterhouse to examine the abuse of children in care in the former council areas of Gwynedd and Clwyd since 1974.

6.11 In February 2000 the Waterhouse Tribunal report was published. The tribunal made 72 detailed recommendations about continuing areas of concern and the measures necessary to address them. The recommendations identified five key areas;

6.11.1 Children's Commissioner;

6.11.2 Advocacy services for looked after children;

6.11.3 Complaints procedures and whistleblowing;

6.11.4 Human resources issues;

6.11.5 The future role of children's residential care as a placement choice.

6.12 In 2001 following on from the Waterhouse report a fourth major Police investigation commenced in relation to numerous outstanding reports of abuse in care homes in respect of John Ernest Allen. The inquiry ran for approximately two years; proceedings were stayed by Judge John Rogers after a successful defence argument that John Allen could not receive a fair trial due to the extensive publicity around the original investigation.

6.13 On [DPA] 2012 the BBC Newsnight programme broadcast an interview with [AR-A95] a victim of sexual abuse whilst in care in Wrexham during the 1970's. [AR-A95] spoke of his experiences in care and was critical of the Waterhouse inquiry that was set up to look at such abuse.

6.14 As a result of the concerns that had been raised, the Chief Constable of North Wales Police Mark Polin, requested the assistance of Mr Keith Bristow the Director General Designate of the new National Crime Agency. Mr Polin instigated an independent investigation into these matters with agreed terms of reference. This investigation commenced under the name of Operational Pallial. Whilst Pallial was being created North Wales Police set up Operation Jowter to risk assess and support victims of sexual abuse.

## **(7) Operation Pallial**