

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) – Summary of Referrals

Of the 32 referrals identified 7 were referred by the religious setting, 2 from Youth Offending Team, 18 from the Police, 4 from Children's Social Care and 1 from the NSPCC.

In terms of outcomes 12 were substantiated, 11 were unsubstantiated and the other 9 were recorded at the time for information only (other).

Those recorded as information only (other) are where the LADO referral may have been initially opened up but then not progressed as a LADO and in three of the cases the investigations could not be progressed as the subject of the allegations had left the country.

There are a range of concerns within the referrals identified which include concerns raised about professional boundaries and potential 'grooming' behaviours, allegations of sexual touching, sexual assault, rape and possession of indecent images of children. A number of the referrals were related to historic sexual abuse allegations where adults were reporting abuse that happened when they were children.

22 of the referrals had Police involvement and of these 6 resulted in a conviction, the sentences ranging from 6 months to 21 years, inclusion on the Sex Offender Register and Sexual Harm Prevention Orders being made.

Details of these cases.

1 – Referral 2011 re: Church volunteer – Police investigation following disclosure of sexual touching by female child aged 8 years. Child playing in another room following church service and under pretence of playing a game volunteer touched child sexually over and under clothing and asked child to touch him, child disclosed resulting in Police investigation. Volunteer was convicted of sexual assault of female U13, sentenced to 3 year Community Order, Sex Offender Register (SOR) and Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) for life.

2 – Referral 2011 re: Religious Teacher/home tutor – Police investigation following disclosure of sexual touching (over clothes and kissed) by female aged 12 years in her own home whilst being tutored by religious teacher. Convicted of sexual assault of female U13 x3, sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, SOR for 10 years and SOPO for 5 years.

3 – Referral 2012 re: Priest – Police investigation following disclosure of sexual touching over a period of 2 years by 17 year old female. Concerns re 'grooming' behaviour and breach of trust i.e. buying gifts, giving lifts home, visiting home address. Convicted of sexual assault, sentenced to 6 months imprisonment.

4 & 5 - Referral 2014 (2 referrals for same person) re: Minister – Police investigation following historic allegation of sexual abuse by adults. Initial allegation made by female who was 15 years old when the abuse started and female disclosed that the sexual abuse continued into her adulthood. Allegations of sexual assault and rape related to initial victim and a number of other females in different locations and spanned from 1980 -2010. Some of the abuse was perpetrated with/conspired with another adult male and there were additional charges of conspiracy to rape for both adult males. The Minister's wife was also involved

and charged with sexual assault, aiding and abetting, counselling/procuring indecent assault relating to abuse by her husband (Minister).

Minister was convicted offences of indecent assaults, sexual assaults, rape/conspiracy to rape and was sentenced to 21 years in prison, SOR and Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) for life.

The other adult male was sentenced to 8 years and 2 months imprisonment, SOR and SHPO for life.

Minister's wife was sentenced to 22 months suspended for 2 years, SOR and SHPO.

6 – Referral 2015 re: Religious (Madrassah) teacher – Police investigation following allegations by male child of sexual assault, touching child sexually inside clothing when he was at the teacher's home/madrassah for a "prayer sleep over". Allegation made by another male child that he was touched inappropriately at Madrassah by the teacher.

The teacher was charged with sexual activity with a child x3 and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, 10 years SOR and SHPO.

The remaining referrals no further action was taken either due to insufficient evidence being available and/or following initial enquiries there is deemed to be no crime.

Children's Social Care had involvement in 17 of the referrals and S47 investigations and assessments were undertaken and safety plans were put in place where the person subject to the allegation had children of their own or had contact with other children in the family such as grandchildren. There were a number of cases where CSC was already involved with the child/children who made allegations due to safeguarding reasons related to their own families. Children's Social Care has also offered support/avenues of support, to children/families in a number of the recorded referrals.