

Statement No.	4
Date Signed	21 st March 2018
Date Filed	22 nd March 2018

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**In the Matter of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse established
by the Home Secretary on 12 March 2015**

**Investigation - The Sexual Abuse of Children in Custodial Institutions
Investigation: Request for supplementary statement – Rule 9, Inquiry Rules
20016**

Witness Statement

Confidential – This report has been prepared for the Court and should be treated as confidential. It must not be shown nor its content revealed to any person other than a party to these Proceedings or a legal advisor to such a party, without the permission of the Court.

I, Yvonne Gordon, am employed by Staffordshire County Council as the Strategic Lead for Specialist Safeguarding Delivery, Early Help and Youth Offending and am based at Stafford Central Offices. I am a qualified social worker. I hold the following qualifications; BA (Hons), MA, DipSW, PQSW Child Care Award, PG Certificate (Child Care), PG Diploma Leadership and Management.

I make this statement based on Local Authority records.

I. Background

On 1st March 2018 Michelle Rowe, Senior Solicitor, was sent a written request from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) requiring Staffordshire County Council to provide a witness statement to be responded to. I have been asked to respond to the following questions:

1. What policies, systems and procedures are in place which relate to the protection of children detained in HMYOI Werrington from sexual abuse, for

which Staffordshire County Council is responsible? For example, what policies, systems and procedures do you have as to how an allegation of sexual abuse should be responded to? Please provide a link to any publicly available document, or a copy of any document which is not available publicly.

2. Does Staffordshire County Council require those who work for it, to have any training relating to the protection of children detained in HMYOI Werrington from sexual abuse? If so, please explain what training occurs, for who, how long it is, and how often it takes place. If any document is provided during the training to those being trained, please provide a copy of it. I would be grateful if you could please provide a copy of it.

2. Response of the Local Authority

2.1 Staffordshire County Council Social Workers are required to work according to procedures which are compliant with relevant primary legislation and statutory guidance. Whilst this is wide-ranging, the most significant primary legislation with regards managing allegations of child sexual abuse is the Children Act 1989 and the most significant statutory guidance is Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, 2015).

2.2 Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) has approved policies and procedures which pertain to both the management of child protection enquiries and the management of allegations against people who work with children.

2.3 All SSCB policies and procedures are publicly available at www.staffsscb.org.uk/procedures

2.4 I would respectfully direct the Inquiry to the SSCB procedures found at Section 3, Managing Individual Cases, Part C, Undertaking Assessments and Investigations and Section 4, Part A, Managing Allegations of Abuse against a Person who Works with Children.

2.5 Staffordshire County Council (SCC) employs two qualified social workers, one of whom is a senior practitioner, to work within Werrington YOI. These positions are funded by the Youth Justice Board but employed and line managed by Staffordshire County Council. Copies of their job descriptions are supplied.

2.6 SCC require all qualified social workers to complete Level 1 (recognition and response, ½ day) and Level 2 (multi-agency working in child protection, 1-2 days) child protection training. This training is delivered via SSCB. Werrington social workers have undergone this training. The senior practitioner has also received MAVIC training which enables them to undertake joint child protection video interviews with the Police. I do not have copies of the practitioners training

certificates but have viewed their training records and received written confirmation from the senior practitioner that the above training has been undertaken.

2.7 All Prison staff are required to complete YOI managed training in; adolescent development (1 day), child protection (1 day), emotional well-being (1 day) and speech language and communication (1/2 day). The two social workers have completed all elements of this required training. I am advised that documentary evidence of this training has not been provided.

2.8 Having viewed the available training records, (some are archived and were not accessible to me), for the social worker and senior practitioner based at Werrington I can confirm they have both accessed a further range of available training opportunities offered by both SSCB at level 3 and also the Local Authority. Examples of further training they have attended are;

- CSE Awareness
- Working Together to safeguard Children
- Substance Misuse and parenting Capacity
- Managing Allegations made against a person who works with children.
- Understanding suicide and Self-Harm Behaviours
- Understanding the Needs of Children and Families Affected by parental Offending
- Serious Case Review Learning – Child B – Your Views Count
- Court Rooms Skills
- Age Assessment Awareness
- Risk Assessment, Analysis and Management
- Mental Health Workshops
- Parenting Assessment Framework

3. Signature

Signature	
Name & professional title	Yvonne Gordon Strategic Lead – Specialist Safeguarding Delivery
Dated	21 st March 2018