

Response to Instructions: (I have included in brackets at the end of each point the reference number of the question in the letter of instruction my answer responds to).

HMYOI Werrington

1.1 I can confirm that the information contained in the letter of instruction in regards to the information contained in SFC00007 and NOM000009 are examples of the issue raised in relation to initial 'suspicion' in regards to allegations made. (2)

1.2 I can confirm that the information contained in the letter of instruction in regards to the information contained in regards to the allegation made on the 28.1.14 is a further example of the issue raised in relation to initial 'suspicion' in regards to allegations made. (2)

1.3 I can confirm that the issue outlined in paragraph 2.1.12, namely the absence of records relating to entering a child's cell; is reflected in regards to the allegations outlined in NOM000009, p1-20, 18.11.11; 18.3.15; 24.2.16; and 20.3.16 in respect of Werrington YOI and 19.2.12 and 14.6.15 in respect of Feltham YOI. Furthermore I can confirm that the issues of the absence of CCTV coverage/clarity is reflected in regards to the allegations linked to Werrington YOI dated the 22.6.15 and in relation to Feltham YOI dated 9.9.09; 28.11.12 and 6.7.13. (3)

1.4 I can confirm that the note of the discussion, as inserted in the letter of instruction between the prison officer/social worker and the boy concerned is the record referred to in 2.1.16 of my report. I can further confirm that there is evidence with the records examined of the difficulties that arise when children are disclosing allegations of sexual abuse, and the associated challenges in respect of the professional responses, (as outlined in respect of NSP000028). (4)

1.5 The issue of training given to those who a) work directly with children in terms of how to respond to allegations made to them in such a manner that does not impact upon any potential criminal or civil actions associated with the allegations, but enables the child/young person to 'tell their story' is a key feature, given that children and young people may disclose allegations at any point to any person on duty. (4)

1.6 There is an issue, in my opinion regarding the definition of 'investigation' associated with allegations within the secure estate. There is a need for clarity in regards to the processes and practice in relation to 'investigation' of allegations. For those child protection professionals who interview children following a disclosure of child sexual abuse the achieving best evidence training is required in regards to ensuring that the principles and practice of interviewing vulnerable children and young people are fully understood. (4)

1.7 The issues raised in my report that focused upon the use of the 'complaints leaflet' in regards to children and young people being asked to complete this leaflet in regards of allegations against members of staff, can be perceived as being indicative of the anxiety that some agencies and professionals employed with those agencies experience in regards to how to respond to allegations at the point of disclosure. The use of forms to record and collate information in regards to allegations is not consistent across the secure estate. The use of