

- 3.12 The specifics regarding witness, suspect management, arrest and interview strategies does not appear to have been managed at the outset of the investigation and now needs to be addressed as a priority.
- 3.13 The grounds and buildings situated at 376 Woodborough Road are potential crime scenes, however due to the historic nature of the complaints there is limited opportunity for harvesting forensic material. At this early stage the premises have been photographed by a CSI and are currently secured by means of SITEX.
- 3.14 All significant witnesses are being video interviewed in order to capture the best opportunity of the evidence that are providing.
- 3.15 In this second phase of the investigation there are currently 54 identified victims alleging physical assaults of varying degrees with 7 alleging serious sexual assaults of rape and buggery, 28 named staff and 11 members of staff who are yet to be identified. To date, 33 persons who were identified as victims have been seen and their evidence obtained. 2 of the alleged victims are now deceased.
- 3.16 The investigation has received significant local media publicity, along with enquiries being made with some complainants to participate in a documentary about the home. The Head of Corporate Communications has been briefed and has produced a comprehensive communications strategy which includes having Operation Daybreak as a standing agenda item at the Editors' meeting held every eight weeks at Police Headquarters. This strategy also includes key messages and identifies potential threats.
- 3.17 Partnership strategic meetings are being held on a bi-monthly basis with the Police and Heads of Safeguarding for both the City and County Local Authorities, these are supported by a briefing note being produced and shared with relevant leads in the police and local authorities.
- 3.18 From a local authority perspective the insurers are currently estimating that there is a potential for high levels of compensation on the basis of £100k per claimant.

#### **4 RISKS:**

- 4.1 The Police are taking primacy for the investigation assisted in part by other key agencies. A number of high-level strategic meetings have taken place to coordinate the approach, and to manage the differing agency needs and requirements. Most of the victims have submitted a claim for compensation against the local authority. Initially, it was thought the civil claim process could be suspended pending the finalisation of the criminal process. However, the likelihood is that the local authority will be unable, due to the position of 'vicarious liability', to significantly delay this process and often the settlement figures will increase due to delays.
- 4.2 Recent history suggests that historic child abuse investigations involving local authority-run children's homes often attract significant media coverage (such as the States of Jersey Police historic child abuse enquiry – Operation Rectangle). There has already been media coverage surrounding the investigation which has heightened public knowledge and identified a need to