

Jim Stokoe SMI7

From: Kathleen Taylor
CS3A
Date: 24 January 1991
Copy: Mr Hughes
Martha Wooldridge
(HO)
Susan Wilmington
(HO)

**DISCUSSION PAPER FOR PROCEDURES &
ADOLESCENTS SEX OFFENDERS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

I would be very grateful if you could give urgent consideration to the attached paper. Could you consult your statistician colleagues in the Home Office to see if they can give any very broad indication of the potential numbers of cases which might be encountered, not specifically in Nottinghamshire but expressed as per thousand population. I am fairly persuaded by the reasons given in Para 1 of the papers but I am very concerned that there may be resource implications which would mean an unattainable expectation is generated by the proposals.

As you can will see I have been asked for comments by the 28th January. I will try to find out the status of the paper and what happened to it when the ACPC considered it.

fax
- A Jones ✓
Status letter

DPA *Stokoe ✓*
DPA *Wooldridge*
DPA *Hughes*

*Mr Jones out 24/1/91
left message to ring
either K. Taylor or me
to forward.*

DPA

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Handwritten: 21/1/91 1990

DISCUSSION PAPER FOR PROCEDURES AND ADOLESCENT SEX OFFENDERS IN NOTTS

1. The local Child Protection procedures are about to be re-drafted. Guidelines on children under 17 who are thought to be adolescent sex offenders need to be incorporated into the general re-write of child sexual abuse procedures for Nottinghamshire.

The reasons are as follows:-

- a) Sometimes these young children are dealt with only as Schedule 1 offenders but their needs as children are not currently addressed in the procedures.
- b) Often, because of denial or current use of a caution they are not recorded as Schedule 1 offenders. They may still represent a risk but quickly disappear from view.
- c) If they are not classified as member of the household or caregiver they may not be considered under the procedures at all. Many of these young people fall through the net without us having a chance to assess both the risk they pose and the reasons for their offending.
- d) We believe they may well be victims themselves warranting careful investigation of their own circumstances
- e) We believe where there is an adolescent sex offender there may be an adult sex offender.
- f) What may appear as a sexual offence e.g. US1 or Rape may involve a wider network of multi-generational abuse. Case Conferences should share all known information before assumptions of low risk are made

2. In outlining these reasons we are conscious of the following considerations

- The Police have so far not been obliged but often do share concerns about adolescent sex offenders with SSD. We'd like this to be a more formalised and consistent practice for all adolescent sex offending.
- There is now, in this area, a major overlap between the Juvenile Justice system and the Child Protection system. The differences need to be addressed and any conflict in attitudes fully explored and resolved.
- New procedures should have a view in these cases on management beyond the Case Conference and recognise the multi-disciplinary approach that is needed at that stage.

Kathleen Have discussed this via RSSI for Nottinghamshire SSD. Alan Jones is asking for comments. Have you any thoughts which you would wish me to convey to him? I'd wish to reply on 28/1/91.

Rosemary
21/1/91

- Known adolescent sex offenders should no longer be housed with other children without very careful consideration of the risks.

3. We realise there are many grey areas in the definitions of what is abusive within adolescent sexual behaviour. There are several training implications but meanwhile we call for greater awareness of current knowledge about patterns of sex offending. Most adult sex offenders say they began in their early teens.

A simple definition of sexual abuse by juveniles usually involves an age gap of 2 or more years, coercion or force, lack of consent. It is often but not always age-inappropriate contact or can involve victim(s) in voyeurism or exposure.

We hope to consult a range of agency representatives from the A.C.P.C. before expecting the A.C.P.C. itself to take this forward.

Our recommendations should form an integrated part of any newly drafted procedures on child sexual abuse in Nottinghamshire. They should not be processed separately.

M. Riddell
J. Holloway Vine
D. Fisher
S. Buck
J. Bradley

MR/ALM/3 September, 1990

Suggested Recommendations - for Adolescent Sex Offenders under the age of 17 years.

1. Consultation between Police and SSD or NSPCC be mandatory at the point of an allegation of child sexual abuse/assault involving an adolescent as perpetrator.
2. A decision is recorded on whether or not to proceed with a joint investigation.
3. Investigating Officers should be alert to the difficulties young men/boys have in particular in disclosing their own abuse. Sensitivity to both race and gender issues should be apparent at all times and inform the planning and conduct of an investigation. Mixed gender and/or race teams where appropriate, should be allocated when possible and appropriate.
4. Investigations should record the degree to which they considered other children at risk within the ambit of the juvenile offender and other adults who could also be implicated or have failed to protect.
5. Case Conferences under the procedures should fully address the needs and risks posed by these young people and make recommendations re disposal.
6. If the Offender is not of the same family as the victim then a separate Case Conference should be convened to consider the offender in the context of his own family.
7. Allegations regarding children who are suspected of abusing other children in SSD or Education Residential establishments should be the subject of joint external investigations by Police and SSD.
8. Child Protection Case Conferences should be convened on children who are thought to have abused others in residential schools or homes.
9. Probation officers should attend Case Conferences on adolescent sex offenders and their victims if there is a possibility the

Probation officer will assume responsibility for assessment or supervision.

10. We recommend these guidelines apply to girls as well as boys.
11. Treatment services should be developed as a matter of urgency. Under ACPC guidance. We appreciate resources are scarce and offenders are currently competing with victims for what is available. But unless we address the needs of these young people we ignore the damage they can do within months let alone years.
12. If adolescents are suspected of being abused as well as abusing their names should go on the Notts Child Protection Register.
13. Suspected adolescent perpetrators should not be accommodated with other children within the family nor within SSD homes if possible. Thought should be given to alterantive schemes such as hostels. specialist fostering or supervised lodgings.
14. The procedures should require all professionals and Agency staff to report suspected/known sexual offences committed by adolescents to the police.

Dave Fisher - Amberdale DOC
John Bradley - Educ. Psych.
Sandra Buck - Comm. Paed.
Judy Holloway-Vine - SSD
Mary Riddell - NSPCC

MR/ALM/3 September. 1990