



REPORT / SUMMARY DECISION SHEET

PURPOSE: COMMISSIONER DECISION

Timing: Urgent / Pressing / Routine
(Specify date required and why, where possible)

Title: Research to analyse and understand the increase in reporting of rape and sexual assaults within Dyfed-Powys Police

Category of Decision / Business Area Impact: Performance

Executive Summary:

Over the last three years, there has been a significant increase in the reporting of rape and sexual assault within the Dyfed-Powys Police force area. The increase in the number of sexual offences has been a concern of the Commissioner for some time and has been closely monitored by the Commissioner at the Policing Accountability Board.

In 2014, Dyfed-Powys Police produced a paper on the Impact of Operation Yewtree on the reporting of historic sexual offences across Dyfed-Powys. This paper concluded that since April 2014, there had been a distinct upward trend in the reported volumes of non-historic sexual offences. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that the increase is attributable to high profile cases such as 'Operation Yewtree' and the perceived increased confidence of victims to report such matters to Police.

According to the latest Office of National Statistics data, for the year ending September 2015, Dyfed-Powys showed an increase of 53% in sexual offences compared with the previous year. This was higher than its Most Similar Group force and Welsh forces. Since the 12 month year end September 2012, recorded sexual offences has increased in Dyfed-Powys by 134%, again higher than its Most Similar Group force and Welsh forces.

Dyfed-Powys Police propose to conduct research, in partnership with the University of South Wales, with a view to understanding the reasons for the increase in reporting. This research will provide information that will allow the force to develop prevention plans, ensure the relevant support from partner agencies is available, assist in the prioritising of resources and ensure continuous service improvement within the force. Dyfed-Powys Police has approached the Commissioner's Office to request funding for this research.

The total cost of the research will be £11,038 and will be conducted in 2016.

Recommendation:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner funds research, led by Dyfed-Powys Police, to understand the increase in reporting of sexual offences within Dyfed-Powys.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the NOLAN Principles for Conduct in Public Life. The above has my approval.

Signature:

Date: 22/03/2016