

1. Grooming gangs carried out abuse with 'arrogant persistence'

February 2018

Grooming gangs that preyed on hundreds of girls and young women in the north east of England carried out their abuse with "arrogant persistence" as they did not fear investigation, a report has found. The Serious Case Review, which was published to look into how authorities responded to child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Newcastle, found the perpetrators were "encouraged" to continue to abuse before a major operation was launched to stop them in 2014.

The report comes after a series of trials which saw 22 defendants sentenced for a range of offences including rape, drugs and prostitution.

The review estimated there were around 700 victims in total in the Northumbria Police force area, 108 of whom were from Newcastle.

The only abuser to help the inquiry was an asylum seeker who exploited a 15-year-old girl, who blamed his conviction on a "government conspiracy". The report said it was "unfortunate" there was not more input from other perpetrators.

Authorities in the region stepped up their response to CSE when they realised the problem was far worse than previously imagined.

Operation Sanctuary was launched by Northumbria Police in January 2014, a month after a young woman with learning difficulties told her social worker she had been sexually abused

Grooming gangs that preyed on hundreds of girls and young women in the north east of England carried out their abuse with "arrogant persistence" as they did not fear investigation, a report has found. The Serious Case Review, which was published to look into how authorities responded to child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Newcastle, found the perpetrators were "encouraged" to continue to abuse before a major operation was launched to stop them in 2014.

The report comes after a series of trials which saw 22 defendants sentenced for a range of offences including rape, drugs and prostitution.

The review estimated there were around 700 victims in total in the Northumbria Police force area, 108 of whom were from Newcastle.

The only abuser to help the inquiry was an asylum seeker who exploited a 15-year-old girl, who blamed his conviction on a "government conspiracy". The report said it was "unfortunate" there was not more input from other perpetrators.

Authorities in the region stepped up their response to CSE when they realised the problem was far worse than previously imagined.

Operation Sanctuary was launched by Northumbria Police in January 2014, a month after a young woman with learning difficulties told her social worker she had been sexually abused

Link: <http://www.itv.com/news/2018-02-23/grooming-gang-carried-out-abuse-with-arrogant-persistence/>

February 2018

2. NSPCC reveals details of grooming offences

AN eight-year-old girl was the youngest victim of child grooming in Warwickshire since a new law came into force on 3rd April last year, the NSPCC has said.

The charity said Warwickshire Police's figures show that there were 17 offences of Sexual Communication with a Child recorded in the county in the first six months of a new offence, which was brought in as a result of a campaign by the NSPCC.

The majority of local victims were aged 12 to 15.

Nationally, 1,316 child grooming crimes have been recorded.

Before the new law came into force, police could not intervene until groomers met their victims.

The NSPCC is now calling on government and social networks to develop technology already at their disposal to prevent grooming, and bring in grooming alerts for victims and moderators.

Tony Stower, NSPCC head of child safety online, said: "Despite the staggering number of grooming offences in just six months, government and social networks are not properly working together and using all the tools available to stop this crime from happening.

"The government's internet safety strategy must require social networks to build in technology to keep their young users safe, rather than relying on police to step in once harm has already been done."

Link: <http://www.stratford-herald.com/82303-big-projects-added-council-budget.html>

3. Need to know: What schools must do to keep pupils safe

The government is updating its guidance on safeguarding children in schools and colleges.

A consultation on changes to its key statutory document, Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE), has closed.

KCSIE was last updated in 2016. The DfE says the aim of the new changes is "to help schools and colleges to better understand what they are required to do by law and what we strongly advise they should do in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children".

Changes in the new version of the document have been prompted by a number of factors, such as worries about peer-on-peer abuse, "a coroner's concerns following the death of a child" and requests from schools for more clarity about exchange visits.

The new document, Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges, tells schools not to dismiss sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "part of growing up", "just having a laugh" or "boys being boys" – and to challenge behaviour such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia.

Link: <https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/need-know-what-schools-must-do-keep-pupils-safe>