



POLICE
SCOTLAND

Keeping people safe

POLICE SCOTLAND : RESPONSE TO AND ENGAGEMENT WITH ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD ABUSE

Presentation will cover

- Police Scotland
- Public Protection
- Survivor & Partnership Engagement
- Information for Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuse
- Reporting Abuse
- Child Abuse investigations/convictions



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Police Scotland

- Police Scotland established on 1 April 2013
- Amalgamated 8 legacy Forces into one Service
- Second largest Police Force in the United Kingdom
- 13 Local Policing Divisions



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Police Scotland

➤ Our Focus

To keep people safe

➤ Our Purpose

To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland

➤ Our Values*

Integrity, Fairness and Respect



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Public Protection

- ‘**Protecting People at Risk of Harm**’ is one of six national Policing Priorities for Police Scotland
- To achieve this Police Scotland will work with partners to protect people and prevent/respond to all forms of **abuse, neglect and exploitation**
- Each Local Policing Divisions has a Public Protection Unit (PPU), which deals with:
 - Rape and Sexual Crime investigation
 - Child Protection
 - Adult Protection
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Offender Management
 - Risk and Concern



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Public Protection

- Divisional PPU's are supported by a range of specialist, national departments including:
 - Rape Task Force
 - Domestic Abuse Task Force
 - National Child Abuse Investigation Unit (NCAIU)
- NCAIU:
 - Provides a dedicated, specialist investigative resource directly to Divisions
 - Undertakes and supports complex and high level cases, including:
 - Child abuse: recent and non-recent, including institutional*
 - Child death
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Online child abuse and grooming offences



Survivor & Partnership Engagement

- Police Scotland is committed to effective engagement with adult survivors of childhood abuse and collaborating with partners to ensure continuous improvement of the service we provide to adult survivors of childhood abuse
- Our intention is to increase public confidence in the police, increase our visibility/accessibility and remove barriers to reporting
- We aim to do this both nationally and locally through local PPU's



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Survivor & Partnership Engagement

- 2017 - Lack of information available to advise adult survivors of childhood abuse of the process involved in reporting to police, the resulting criminal justice process and availability of support services
- Information leaflet developed in consultation with survivors and partners (positive response)
- 2018 - Following constructive feedback, leaflet updated following extensive consultation with survivors and partners
- Information is intended to enable survivors to make an informed choice about reporting the abuse they have experienced
- Advice can also be found on Police Scotland's internet site: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/child-protection/adult-survivors-of-childhood-abuse/>



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Information for
Adult Survivors
of Childhood Abuse



Survivor & Partnership Engagement

- Consultation with survivors/partners, e.g. re information products
- Creation of Digital Media Product
- Attendance at local Survivor Support services & group meetings
- Introduction of feedback process
- Attendance and Representation at national meetings
- Attendance at and Presentations to survivor events
- Enhancing understanding of and interaction with Scotland's survivor support services
- Creation of Corporate Mailbox



Why make a report to Police?

- Police Scotland understands that not every person may feel ready or able to speak about the abuse they have experienced
- However we are here to listen to them and let them know about relevant support services when they feel ready
- A report will enable Police to assess the current risk posed by the abuser and ensure no other persons are at risk of harm
- A report may also lead to the abuser being brought to justice



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How Can Abuse be Reported to Police?

- Police Scotland is fully committed to thoroughly investigating child abuse no matter where or when this happened or who was involved
- Our priorities are to ensure Survivor's welfare and wellbeing, identify persons who may pose a risk to children and protect any person who may be at risk of harm
 - In urgent cases use 999
 - In non urgent cases use 101
 - Attendance at a Police Station
 - Crimestoppers*



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What Happens Next?

- Brief circumstances **only** will be obtained to allow accurate allocation of the report
- The report will be passed to the PPU with geographical responsibility for where the crime occurred
- An immediate risk assessment will be conducted to determine if the suspect(s) currently has/have direct access to children
- The survivor will be contacted by a trained, experienced investigator who will arrange a convenient date/time/place to meet
- A statement can then be obtained and an investigation commenced
- Survivor will be signposted to relevant Support Services



Reporting Abuse to Police

- All reports of abuse are treated with absolute discretion and compassion
- Survivors will not be judged
- Survivors can nominate the gender of Police Officer who will speak to them
- A statement will be obtained by a suitably trained officer (SOLO for sexual abuse/offences)
- Vulnerable Witnesses Act allows victims to choose to have someone present with them at their police interview, unless police have particular reasons for refusing, e.g. person is a witness.
- An Enquiry Officer will be appointed
- We will conduct a thorough investigation



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Police Investigation

- Other people identified during the investigation may have to be spoken to as witnesses
- The survivor will be kept up to date on progression by the dedicated Enquiry Officer
- Once all information has been gathered, if there is enough evidence, the suspect will be reported to Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)
- COPFS will then assess and decide if a case should proceed to court, taking into account requirements for:
 - Victim Information and Advice
 - Special Measures
- If there is insufficient evidence to report to COPFS, this will be explained to the survivor



Child Abuse investigations

- Over recent years, there has been an increase in the reporting of non-recent childhood abuse in all settings and against persons of public prominence
- This has included an increase in non-recent CSA within institutional settings, e.g. within football, religious institutions and residential care
- In 2017, NCAIU led Scotland-wide investigation into non-recent CSA within football
- NCAIU currently undertaking investigations into all forms of non-recent abuse within residential care establishments linked to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry (SCAI)
- In recent Policing Performance report to SPA, Police Scotland reported a rise in crimes of 'Cruel and Unnatural Treatment of Children'. This rise was attributed to crimes related to SCAI



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NEWS

Scotland

South Scotland

Hawick man jailed over 1970s sexual abuse

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HE MESSED UP MY LIFE
Scots paedophile who raped and tortured children in care homes – including forcing one boy’s head under water – jailed for ten years

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Nuns charged in Smyllum Park child abuse investigation

Football coach jailed for 'horrific' sexual abuse

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'150 victims' in Scottish football abuse inquiry

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Mum’s shock after her Dundee dad convicted of abusing her three daughters for eight years

Iqra Farooq 2 months ago

OAP convicted of historic sex abuse of two young boys

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Catholic monk found guilty of brutal and degrading abuse in 'regime of fear' against pupils at Scots residential school

MICHAEL Murphy, 82, was known as Brother Benedict or Brother Ben to children at St Joseph's List D School in Tranent where he perpetrated indecency and violence.

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NEWS

Scotland

Glasgow & West Scotland

Ex-teacher arrested over Kerelaw School abuse claims

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Mother is jailed for 'harrowing' physical abuse against her sons

Conclusion

- Police Scotland is committed to thoroughly investigating all forms of child abuse, no matter **where** or **when** this happened or **who** was involved
- Police Scotland is committed to engaging with adult survivors of childhood abuse and collaborating with partners to ensure continuous improvement of the service we provide
- ***“Child abuse past and present tears at the very fabric of the society we are trying to build. It’s amongst the most important things Police do. Please have faith, if you have been abused you can seek support and come forward with confidence”***
- ACC Malcolm Graham tweet in response to comments made by Boris Johnson



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Questions?

For further info/queries, please contact:

survivorsofchildhoodabuse@scotland.pnn.police.uk



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