

COLLEGE OF POLICING PEER REVIEW OF SERIOUS SEXUAL OFFENCES INVESTIGATION IN SUFFOLK

On the 9th of October 2013 the College of Policing commenced a Peer Review of Serious Sexual Offences Investigation in Suffolk, at the invitation of ACC Tim Newcomb. The review took place over a two day period and the College of Policing were asked to review current investigative practices and identify any opportunities for improvement, as part of an ongoing Constabulary Action Plan.

The Peer Review made a number of recommendations and agreed with many of the activities already put in place by the Constabulary (for example investment in additional Rape Investigation officers and a dedicated Detective Inspector). The College also acknowledged that the solved rate for Serious Sexual Offences had improved since the introduction of the Action Plan.

The Peer Review key recommendations were as follows:

- The Constabulary should develop a Serious Sexual Offences Problem Profile to provide a comprehensive understanding of all issues affecting this area of work. Victim satisfaction questionnaires will further inform this problem profile, working closely with the Independent Sexual Advisor Service.
- To conduct an analysis of attrition rates for unsolved rapes (accepting that 93% of victims could name or positively identify the offender).
- To consider a strategic review of the governance of Rape Investigation Teams within the overall collaborative Force structure and the best deployment of Sexual Offences Investigator Trained staff.
- The continued development of the Serious Sexual Assault Investigators Development Programme within Suffolk, leading to national registration.
- To further develop the continued partnership working with the newly formed CPS Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Prosecutions Unit.

December 2013.