

**CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**  
THE MORE YOU KNOW THE MORE YOU SEE

**G Division PPU Development and Compliance Unit**

**Briefing Paper**

**Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week  
Op Toledo**

**Originator:** DS 2468 Paul Burnside

**Date:** Friday 20th September 2013



## OVERVIEW

The Constabulary, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and many partner organisations worked closely together through Op. Toledo to achieve a highly effective CSE Week of Action, which commenced on Monday 9th September. Our main objectives for Op Toledo were to keep children in Lancashire safe from abusers, provide our communities with confidence in the service and protection we provide and focus attention on our commitment and effective, innovative approaches to tackling CSE & bringing offenders to justice.

To achieve these objectives during Awareness Week, we delivered a range of activities focusing on prevention, awareness, enforcement and community engagement. These included a major conference held at the Dunkenhall Hotel, attended by 200+ Partners/Police, at which experts in their field identified and shared best practice. We also engaged with a diverse range of communities to raise awareness about CSE and focused on making sure the information reached young people. We did this through an innovative marketing campaign designed by the office of the PCC. In addition we arrested 22 individuals for offences of using the internet to view, share and distribute indecent images and these arrests identified many further safeguarding concerns.

Overall, the many and wide ranging activities highlighted how collaborative working in effective partnerships provides powerful tools with which to successfully tackle CSE across Lancashire.

I would like to thank everyone involved in planning, organising and undertaking the many varied actions and activity that took place during the week. We now have a further opportunity to build on what we do well in Lancashire in tackling CSE and protecting children from being exploited and abused, whilst recognising there is more we can all do.

Ian Critchley

## Results

Each dedicated CSE team collated information about their daily core activity. These statistics were then disseminated to all partners and to the media via our corporate communications department.

The County figures collated from the six CSE teams between 09<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> September are as follows:-

<b>Number of Children Missing from the family home</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Number of Children Missing From Care</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>New CSE Referrals</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Safeguarding Measures</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Section 2 /49 Notices8 (S2) 1 (S49)</b>	
<b>Warrants</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>CEOP Packages</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Arrests (not relating to above)</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Persons Charged</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CII Arrests</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Court Cases</b>	<b>2</b>

The 10 CSE related arrests included investigations into the following;-

**1** – Sexual activity with Child 12yrs **4** – Downloading indecent images of children **1** – Rape/Sexual touching (2 victims 14yrs) **1** – Rape. **2** - Physical Assault of 2 CSE victims. **1** -Grooming Offence

**(See arrest area on page 8)**

**Lynne Asbridge** PPU Compliance Manager facilitated a ‘Cover it Live’ session supported by Lancashire Constabulary Corporate Communications at Police HQ. A number of Partners attended the session, where they were able to receive typed messages from schools / public/ parents / children, asking questions on the area of E-Safety. The group then discussed the questions and prepared replies. All questions and answers will remain on the Constabulary site for a period of a few days after the event and the Media Unit are able to provide stats on how many reviews we have received.

**DS Paul Burnside** PPU Compliance Manager arranged 2 events delivered by Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE) at the Legacy International Hotel, Preston. The events were attended by 87 partners from across Lancashire and the 2 Unitary Authorities. The speakers included the mother of a victim, who portrayed very openly the wider/distressing effects of one of your own children succumbing to CSE.

Evaluation comments snapshot:

- ***The case was excellent. I’m a student social worker. CSE is a new topic area for me and this was a very important viewpoint from a parent’s perspective. Thank you.***
- ***Very powerful to hear directly from a parent about how CSE affected them.***
- ***The parent experiences shared and the personal account given by the parent of K was so powerful and something I will never forget. Thank you very much.***



**Det. Supt Ian Critchley**, Head of Public Protection, Lancashire Constabulary, facilitated a conference which was attended by over 200+ multi - agency delegates. The event was arranged through CJS events and was deemed a great success. The speakers included, **ACC Andy Rhodes**, Ibrahim Master, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Lancashire Constabulary, **Louise Taylor**, Interim Executive Director of Children and Young People, Lancashire County Council, **Nazir Afzal OBE**, Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS North West, a former **victim** from Children's Society, **Sue Berelowitz**, Deputy Children's Commissioner, **Stephanie McCourt** CEOP, **DCI Sion Hall** Lancashire Constabulary, **Det. Supt Neil Esseen** Lancashire Constabulary, **Naomi Walker**, Head of Communications and Engagement, Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, **Nick McPartlan**, Team Manager, Engage Team, **Emma Jackson** Victim's Story, **DCI Jonathan Holmes** Lancashire Constabulary and **Alyas Karmani**, Co-Director, STREET UK.



A fully joined up approach to the development and implementation of a new and impactful communications campaign for CSE in Lancashire was delivered by the Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This covered all aspects of communication, both traditional and digital, and saw a new brand emerge with the focus on creating a long standing message which would resonate with not only young people but also the wider communities of Lancashire.

The brand itself, which carried the strapline 'The More You Know The More You See' and the hashtag# 'Know the Signs', was developed in consultation with young people, enabling the right look and feel to be created and the young person's voice to be heard clearly. The aim is as to provide an overarching call to action about pan Lancashire agencies working together to tackle CSE, specifically concentrating on internet safety, MFH, groups and gangs and trafficking.

Conference evaluation comments snapshots:

- ***All very interesting especially real life cases and police investigations, great conference!***
- ***Both victims were extremely brave in sharing their stories in their own words: (e.g. not young people but kids) I agree! Excellent speakers overall. All passionate about the topic. We need to meet CSE head on, not be afraid, call it what it is Child Abuse and deal with it very strongly. Well done - this information needs to get into Schools to educate the children, make them aware as they don't recognise this as abuse. Get the message to them and hopeful you may also target some of the potential offenders.***
- ***An excellent informative thought provoking conference. Emma Jackson's courage is inspirational. Her journey has been harrowing so brave. Thank you for sharing and giving us an insight. I wish her well in her life. Thank you for today.***

A significant communications strategy and action plan was developed and included a wide range of products and tactics. Highlights included:

- Branded products including posters, leaflets, business cards, mouse mats and stickers provided to all partner agencies for use and dissemination;
- Refreshed web banners and content;
- A full media plan, utilising all operational activity to encourage press interest and reporting. This was complemented by a wider internet safety piece which had been months in development with the BBC;
- The production of a new DVD which included comments from Tim Loughton MP, ACC Rhodes, Det Supt Critchley, Louise Taylor and a young man, who was a victim of CSE at the age of 15;
- A full social media plan, with pre-agreed Facebook and Twitter messages being published daily across all partner accounts;
- Webchats and on-line discussions on the issue of CSE and internet safety;
- A daily update of activity using the digital app, Storify;
- Messages on library screens across the county;
- Delegate packs for the conference and pull up banners;

- A video produced by Burnley Football Club outlining the signs of CSE which is played on game days and is available on YouTube, complemented by information in match programmes.

The full evaluation of this activity is still being developed but early indications show that the following was achieved;

- Media coverage was extensive, positive and accurate. Coverage was secured across all outlets nationally, regionally and locally both prior to and during the week and included a significant piece on the BBC 6 o'clock news, Radio 4 and 5 Live;
- An estimated digital audience of hundreds of thousands with the Constabulary alone achieving over 87,000 individual views of its Facebook postings, a daily Twitter audience of over 27,000 (with shares and retweets greatly increasing this basic figure) and a web audience in the region of 46,000 people at least. Content was replicated across most partner websites and via the media's digital outlets so the potential reach is hugely significant given the amount of messages and information used.

The range and diversity of awareness raising activity during the week attested to the strong commitment by partnership organisations and helped to disseminate important information to frontline workers. It is clear that there is now a much greater opportunity to forge stronger working relationships, for example awareness briefings to bus station security staff in Preston resulted in intelligence about CSE concerns being provided to Deter. The more established areas of support for operational activity were also covered in divisions and joint visits to follow up on support to victims, work around licensing activity and the nighttime economy and awareness raising events amongst the community all featured in the week's activity. A number of good examples highlighted below.

**Awaken-** The Awaken Team delivered a number of CSE presentations to Partners from Health and CSC.

Three males from the Blackpool area were arrested for offences under the Protection of Children Act 1978.

A total of 8 S2 Abduction Notices were executed on potential perpetrators.

**Breakthrough-** Lancaster Policing area did a Facebook live Q & A session with DS Simon Coates and intensive support worker Wendy Croston relating to issues of internet safety and CSE.

PCSO's spent a shift stood in the foyers of Sainsbury's and ASDA in Lancaster and Morecambe distributing leaflets and posters and advice to members of the public.

Numerous Visits to CSE visor nominals living in Lancaster and Morecambe made and suitable advice/ checks made.

Partnership presentation given to staff and residents at Ashdean children's home regarding internet safety.

Q & A session held at the Dallas Road Mosque, over 100 people present.

**Cherish** – A number of visits to key stakeholders/local businesses informing them of CSE concerns in the area.

NHPT officers distributed posters and leaflets for display at local retail outlets. Officers also visited Taxi ranks and handed out Op Toledo cards.

**Deter** – A number of partners and the Deter team patrolled the Moor Park Area and engaged with young people. The team were accompanied by a reporter from the Daily Mirror. The evening generated a number of intelligence reports and disruption opportunities.

MAPS/Early Action Teams together with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service conducted licensing/safety visits to hotels on Fishergate Hill and takeaways that have been linked with CSE.

The Deter Team and partners delivered a number of CSE presentations at Preston Railway Station to Northern Rail, Virgin and British Transport Police, none of whom had any previous input on CSE. CSE presentations also given to Scout Club Leaders.

Media interview given with Rock FM to raise awareness.

**Engage**– Assemblies delivered to Year 7 and Year 8 at Norden High School around internet safety, about 250 young people in total. This coincided also with the NSPCC Child abuse national launch. Awareness delivered to professionals in the health sector to encourage early identification of risk to CSE and promote referrals.

Neighbourhood officers, with Media Representatives from the BBC, Granada & Lancashire Evening Telegraph, conducted a high visibility initiative around Blackburn Bus Station. The officers displayed posters on all bus shelters and entered into dialogue with bus drivers and passengers in respect of raising awareness around child vulnerability and sexual exploitation. A total of 12 bus drivers and approximately 20-30 passengers were spoken to during this initiative.

Awareness material delivered to Brook, Sexual Health Clinic in Blackburn and Accrington. Partnership agreement signed between Engage and The Children's Residential Network in BWD to plan joint activity in respect of Children in Care in the Blackburn with Darwen Policing Area.

Engage Team conducted a vast amount of activity within Eastern Division. Of note 54 children were open to Engage at the start of the week with a further 7 referrals received in the 5 days. All referrals responded to and allocated within 24 hours, 47 (87%) of children were visited during the week, with all high risk children visited on at least 2 occasions. Parents of 28 children visited and supported during this week.

Engage Officers attended Darwen Vale High School and completed an awareness raising presentation to approximately 200 Year 10 students. The presentation involved providing an understanding of CSE and vulnerability of young people, including internet awareness.

Multi agency mini can safe operation. High risk CSE located. At the time of the young person, she was not in immediate risk of CSE, however the intervention of calling parents and getting her home prevented a CSE opportunity for any potential perpetrator. In addition the parents of 6 further children were visited following previous referrals and all agreed to Section 2 notices being served on risky peers, with whom their daughters are associating.

**Freedom**- All Neighbourhood Offices within Pennine Division were visited and given posters and leaflets. Neighbourhood staff distributed this documentation to local schools, libraries, youth groups and doctors surgeries.

All secondary schools were revisited during the week by the Youth PCSO's who distributed CSE awareness material and gave information/spoke to teachers and pupils around CSE related

matters/concerns. A CSE presentation was also completed to Early Break staff to increase awareness of CSE related issues.

Awareness briefings were given to staff in the park rangers department and joint patrols were completed with park rangers with further documentation relating to sexual exploitation being distributed. Photographs were taken and shared with local media and passed out on Lancashire Constabulary's twitter feed.

Care homes were visited by Operation Freedom staff and Donna Horsfall Pennine Divisions Missing Person Coordinator to outline issues regarding sexual exploitation and care homes responsibilities to protect vulnerable residents from the risk of exploitation and reducing missing episodes involving care home residents.

Presentation completed by Op Freedom staff at St Mary's chambers Rawtenstall to SWIIS foster carers highlighting issues faced by young people in foster care and the link to CSE. Details passed to the media and photographs of the course were circulated to the media and on Lancashire Constabulary's twitter page.

## **Operation Toledo**

Operation Toledo was a Lancashire based week of activity aimed at protecting those at risk from Child Sexual Exploitation. It ran from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013 inclusive and consisted of four stands of activity; publicity, education, prevention and enforcement.

In order to prepare for the operation, and the week of enforcement activity, Public Protection Unit officers worked alongside officers from the Special Operations Department to produce in excess of twenty investigative packages for subjects throughout Lancashire. These packages identified paedophiles who prey on the most vulnerable that are unable to protect themselves, the main thrust of the operation was identify those children at risk from sexual harm and initiate immediate safeguarding measures along with identifying contact offences. During the recent investigations into the tragic murders of Tia Sharp and April Jones it was identified that the perpetrators had viewed child pornography hours before committing the murders.

The investigative packages were of an extremely high standard which identified 'every move' of the offender. The quality was such that the majority of offenders have already admitted their involvement.

The operational week proved to be a huge success which was professional executed by officers throughout the county. Colleagues from 'H' Division planned the entry, arrest and search side of the operation, with the planning being meticulous throughout the week and all warrants executed in a robust and professional manner, highlighting the quality work carried out by the H Division staff who worked on the planning side of the operation.

## **Result**

Twenty warrants executed throughout Lancashire resulting in 22 arrests and over 1000 exhibits seized. Many offenders made admissions on arrest which will ease the post arrest investigation.

Below are some of examples from Operation Toledo and other internet investigations –

- ***AG 14/05/1966 , Colne.***



This male was arrested on 04/09/13 for possession of indecent images of children and as a result the following PVP referral has been made:

*Referral was made from social services after they were contacted by Airedale hospital that one of their patients KE (1 year) requires a blood transfusion. KE was taken into care 2 Days ago and has been presented at Airedale by Foster parents and it has been found that his Haemoglobin levels are extremely low and he needs an urgent blood transfusion. The Consultant is describing the requirement for a transfusion as a near miss and he wants to know why medical attention was not sought sooner. There are no safeguarding concerns as the child had been taken to a place of safety after a warrant was executed at the home address for indecent images. KE Is currently under the supervision of Dr Maudsley for anaemia. 10/09/13.*

Although the plan of the local authority was to initiate proceedings due to the risk of sexual harm KE health has made this all the more important. We received the medical report from Dr Mawdsley yesterday in which 'severe neglect' is mentioned and that had the foster carer not sought medical attention KE could have died.

- **MB 25/07/86 Lancaster.**

During Operation Toledo a warrant was executed at the home address of MB where computer equipment was seized and examined. The examination revealed images of SAP levels 1 to 4. MB is so severely disabled it was not appropriate to arrested him and so special measures for his arrest have been put in place. During the course of the investigation it was identified that MB had been visited on a regular basis by a female from the West Yorkshire area, during the visits she was accompanied by her two children. Safeguarding was instigated regarding the children who have now disclosed contact offences. Investigation ongoing.

- **JE22/05/89 Fulwood.(live abuse detected)**

Initial interaction was on 07/04/11 where JE engaged with whom he believed to be a 13yr old female and attempted to groom the same. An intelligence package was forwarded to Preston Division and as a result of a warrant and subsequent protracted investigation JE was charged on 02/05/2012 with 15 x offences relating to inciting children (one 9yrs old) to engage in sexual activity and making indecent images of children. JE appeared at Preston Crown Court on 14/08/12 and was convicted for making indecent images of children and inciting a child under 13 years to engage in sexual activity. On 14/09/12 JE was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment, SOPO for 5 years and is disqualified from working with children.

- **AW 11/10/1962 Preston.(Dentist)**

Initial interaction was on 16/03/11 whereby over a period of time AW engaged with whom he believed was a 13 year old female over the internet and arranged to meet the female outside Blockbuster Video on Corporation Street, Preston. He was arrested at the meeting point and subsequently charged with inciting a female to engage in sexual activity. AW was a Dentist based at the clinic at Preston. On 18/01/2013 AW was found guilty by unanimous decision of attempting to arrange or facilitate the commission of a child sex offence. He was sentenced on 08/03/13 to 12

months imprisonment suspended for two years, disqualified from working with children and has to sign the Sex offenders Register.

### **Divisional Arrests**

Awaken (Western Division) **3**

Breakthrough (Northern Division) **2**

Cherish (Southern Division) **2**

Deter (Central Division) **1**

Engage (Eastern Division) **1**

Freedom (Pennine Division) **1**

A total of **32** arrests were made during the week as part of Op Toledo.

### **Finally.....**

Some comments from officers/Police staff that were involved in the week long activity:

*I'm sure everyone is aware that over the past week the Constabulary has come together with partners to undertake a week of action aimed at preventing child sexual exploitation. I have been fortunate enough to work with Divisional searchers and colleagues from DASOU, Special Operations and the High-Tech Crime Unit throughout this week undertaking enforcement activity against suspected offenders, and at risk of sounding overly sentimental it has done my heart good this week to see colleagues taking such delight in their work. This is not because we have enjoyed turning suspected child sex offenders out of bed at 5am (although that has been a bonus.....), but because it has reminded us all of the reason why we joined the police service in the first place- to protect the people who cannot protect themselves. Recently there has been a pleasing move away from a target-driven culture toward one which puts those most at risk of harm at the top of our agenda and activity such as this has been a timely reminder of the need to ensure we best align our resources to protect those most at risk of harm.*

*Having worked the full week on Op Toledo executing the warrants and completing the searches has been for me a very rewarding week and no doubt for everyone else involved, I hope there will be more weeks like this and would be first in line to volunteer my services. A great week great results and great teams.*

*I worked as a member of the search team for Operation Toledo, even though at times this was a challenging experience, this was an immensely worthwhile operation which I was proud to be part of and hopefully will continue on and in my opinion should continue with a dedicated team.*

*I was lucky enough to be involved in the search aspect of this operation and I have to say that it was one of the most rewarding and best-run operations that I've been involved in. The feeling of satisfaction we got from targeting high-end offenders, who would otherwise have been completely undetected, more than made up for the early starts. I would happily volunteer my services for any further operations that the force runs.*

*Having worked the full week as part of the search team on Op Toledo, I found the experience very rewarding and worthwhile, targeting offenders who prey on innocent victims causing a lifetime of hurt.*

*It has been very emotional seeing the effect that this has on the families of the offenders and despite the early starts and late finishes I would jump at the opportunity to volunteer for future operations*

*Good idea to hear from people on Toledo how they thought it went because of the threads on the performance culture and the negative aspect of 'chasing the numbers'. Toledo isn't about a numbers game it's about tackling sexual abuse of vulnerable children, wherever in the world they may be. So nobody is asking or demanding that we put effort into this apart from ourselves. We are never going to stop locking up burglars etc., nobody wants to be burgled - my point here is that this type of work IS performance - high quality, victim impact performance that everyone joined the job to do. It's purposeful and it's what protecting vulnerable people is all about. We don't need to hit any reds or greens with this type of work but our staff need to know how much we value what they are doing in this area of work just as much as locking up burglars and prolific criminals etc. . Personally I've enjoyed being told at 7am every morning this week that we've locked up paedophiles, I would like to hear that every day. Glad you enjoyed being on the op there are more planned.*