Improving Responses to Rape and Sexual Assault: Delivering a Victim-Centred System

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Thursday 28th November 2013
10:15am – 4:30pm
Central London

Public Policy Exchange holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.
Overview

Recent high-profile cases of historic sex abuse and the exposure of child sexual exploitation by organised, predatory groups have highlighted how much work there is still to do to in order to prevent sexual violence and improve the way rape complaints are handled by the criminal justice system. Whilst progress has been made, it is estimated that 9 out of 10 cases of rape are still not reported and 38 per cent of serious sexual assault victims tell no-one about their experience; victims who do come forward continue to face a postcode lottery of service support.

Placing prevention at the heart of its action plan, the Government has stressed the need to challenge existing attitudes and behaviours that give rise to sexual violence and perpetuate the myths surrounding rape. Establishing a wider understanding of the nature and extent of rape and sexual assault amongst both the public and practitioners is vital to helping all partners prevent violence from occurring and hold perpetrators fully accountable for their crimes. The police must also take a leading role in preventing sexual violence within their communities, identifying and supporting vulnerable people particularly at risk of repeat sexual violence and strengthening the management and rehabilitation of sex offenders.

Prioritising the rights and welfare of victims, the Government is clear that every victim must have access to the support they need in the aftermath of abuse, regardless of whether or not they choose to press charges. Where a complaint of rape or sexual assault is made, the criminal justice response must also be improved, with every report of rape or sexual assault treated seriously and investigated thoroughly and consistently. Victims must be better supported, guided and communicated with throughout the judicial process to improve their experience of the CJS and increase conviction rates. Specialist training of police, GPs, forensic practitioners, clinical professionals and prosecutors, alongside better information sharing and case management, are also crucial to increasing conviction rates and building confidence in the CJS.

This timely symposium provides a valuable opportunity for local authorities and practitioners from across the police, social/health services and criminal justice system to examine how to improve responses to rape and assault, strengthen support services and ensure victims are placed at the heart of the system.

Progress is being made... Last year saw the highest Crown Prosecution Service conviction rate for rape since recording began, and for those offenders given a custodial sentence for rape, the average length in 2011 was over eight and half years – an increase of nearly 21 months since 2005. However, last year... around 400,000 were victims of sexual assault. Continued low reporting rates for rape and sexual violence show why we need to do more to encourage people to come forward and report these crimes, so that perpetrators can be punished. The events of the last year – the exposure of a number of historic abuse cases, and some of our most vulnerable girls groomed and exploited by predatory, organised groups – make it clear that there is still much to do”

- A Call to End Violence against Women and Girls - Action Plan 2013, March 2013

Why Attend?

✓ Explore how to identify and safeguard women and girls particularly at risk of sexual violence
✓ Consider how to challenge public attitudes towards rape and sexual assault
✓ Assess how to strengthen the management of sex offenders within the community
✓ Discuss how to work in partnership to improve the handling of rape cases from beginning to end
✓ Examine how to transform victims’ experiences of the justice system and their access to support services

Who Should Attend?

- Rape and Sexual Assault Support Centres and Specialists
- SARCs
- Sexual Offence Liaison Officers
- Sexual Violence and Abuse Investigation Teams
- Safeguarding Adults Teams
- ISVAs
- Local Sapphire Teams
- Victim and Witness Support Services
- Chief Constables
- Police Service
- Forensic Service Providers and Practitioners
- Probation Officers
- Prosecutors of Sexual Offences
- Social Workers and Social Services Officers
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Solicitors and Legal Advisors
- Drug and Alcohol Action Teams
- Judges and Magistrates
- Legal Professionals
- Children and Young People Services
- Children's Trusts and Children's Centres
- Community Safety Teams
- Community Support Officers
- Counselling Services and Psychologists
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
- Criminal Justice Practitioners
- HM Courts Service
- Domestic Violence Co-ordinators
- Equality and Diversity Practitioners
- Families Services Officers
- Family Justice Centres
- Family Protection Units
- Health Service Professionals
- Housing Officers
- Local Criminal Justice Boards
- Local Education Welfare Authorities
- Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- MAPPA Coordinators
- MARACs
- National Offender Management Teams
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams
- Operational Support Police
- Outreach and Support Teams
- Youth Offending Teams
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Central Government Departments and Agencies
- Local Voluntary and Community Organisations

Accommodation

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit www.HotelMap.com/MSNUZ/

Alternatively, if you would like to book your accommodation by phone, you can call Daniel Spinner at HotelMap, on 020 7292 2335 quoting Special Reference Code MSNUZ

Enquiries: 0845 606 1535
www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk
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Programme

09:30  Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:15  Chair’s Welcome and Introduction
10:30  Panel Session One: Tackling Sexual Violence through Prevention and Intervention: The Next Steps
      - Understanding the Latest Policy, Legislative and Funding Developments Designed to Tackle Sexual Violence, Improve Service Responses and Increase Personal Safety
      - Changing Public Attitudes Towards Rape/Sexual Assault - Establishing a Wider Understanding of the Nature, Extent and Effect of Rape, Healthy Relationships, Sexual Consent and Gender Equality
      - Identifying and Supporting Vulnerable/High Risk Individuals with Mental Health or Learning Difficulties, in Violent Relationships or from Difficult Backgrounds
      - Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and Preventing Gang-Related Sexual Violence
      - Improving the Management of Sex Offenders Within the Community and Strengthening Local Treatment Programmes
11:15  Morning Refreshments
11:30  Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One
12:30  Networking Lunch
13:30  Panel Session Two: Shaping a Victim-Centred System – Improving the Handling of Rape Cases from Beginning to End
      - Overcoming Barriers to Reporting and Improving Victim Experiences of the CJ System – Guiding, Supporting and Communicating with Victims throughout their Journey
      - Getting the First Response Right - Providing Specialist Training for Police, GPs and Clinical Professionals and Improving Forensic Practices
      - Rebuilding Lives – Strengthening Victims Services, Accessing Compensation and Ensuring Every Victim has Access to Mental Health Care and Support Services
      - Increasing Prosecution Rates - Extending Joint-Working and Information Sharing between the CPS, Police, LAs, Health, VCOs and SARCs to Strengthen Cases
      - Boosting Conviction Rates – Ensuring Representation by Specialist Prosecutors, Challenging Jury Prejudice, Supporting Vulnerable Witnesses
14:15  Afternoon Refreshments
14:30  Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two
15:30  Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments
15:40  Networking Reception
16:30  Close

**Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice**

Event Details

Date: Thursday 28th November 2013
Time: 10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue: Central London

Forthcoming Events

The Future Role of the Local Authority in Education
24th September 2013

Turning Around ‘Troubled Families’: From Crisis to Co-ordinated Action
24th September 2013

Transforming Accident and Emergency Services: Shaping a Framework Fit for the Future
25th September 2013

Fit for the Future: The New Role of Local Authorities in Public Health
26th September 2013

The Role of Local Authorities in the New Universal Credit System
8th October 2013

Child Protection in the Digital World: Safeguarding Young People Online
9th October 2013

Training and Skills: Widening Participation in Community Learning
10th October 2013

Beyond the Horsemeat Scandal: Restoring Public Confidence in Food Standards
15th October 2013

Dying with Dignity: Improving End of Life Care
16th October 2013

Biodiversity 2020: The Challenge for Local Authorities and Public Bodies
16th October 2013

From System to Service and Support: Putting Victims of Crime First
17th October 2013

The Role of Local Authorities in Dealing with Rogue Landlords
22nd October 2013

Surveillance by Consent: A New Code of Practice for CCTV and ANPR
24th October 2013

The Future of the High Street: The Next Steps Towards Revitalising Our Town Centres
24th October 2013

Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact Parvin Madahar on 020 3137 8630 or email parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk

Enquiries: 0845 606 1535  www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk  @PublicPolicyEx
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Conference materials

If you are unable to attend the conference but would like to receive the supporting documentation, then please send back this form with payment details and indicate the number of copies you would like to receive. (PDF = £95 & VAT, Hard Copy = £95 (VAT not applicable).)

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BACS: Bank: HSBC, Sort Code: 40-07-13, Account No: 22028328, Account Name: Public Policy Exchange Limited. Email BACS remittance to remittance@parlicentre.org

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Signed

Date

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