

CROP

A voluntary organisation working to end the sexual exploitation
of children and young people by pimps and traffickers
Company limited by guarantee no 4249272. Registered Charity no 10092560

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8 December 2003

The Rt Hon David Blunkett MP
The Home Secretary
The Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

Dear Mr Blunkett

Many thanks for your kind letter in response to the CROP conference report. We appreciate your ongoing support for our work and are very much looking forward to meeting your officer, [REDACTED], on December 18th.

We would, however, be extremely grateful if you had a chance to read the attached briefing paper before that visit. This paper was written by another of our trustees who was also involved in the earlier work in Rotherham. At our conference in June you referred to the need for a culture change. What we feel we are really up against in some places is in fact collusion with pimping operations. Our Parent Support worker is extremely effective in supporting parents but we and they are so often frustrated by the seeming failure to tackle the causes of the problems. If it is possible to uncover some of what we believe is going on, it might contribute to the ending of much misery for our beleaguered parents. Having met them in June, I know you need no persuading of the desperate nature of their situations.

Thank you again for your support

Yours ever

Hilary Willmer

Hilary Willmer
Chair - CROP

CONFIDENTIAL**Briefing Note on CROP for the Personal Attention of the Home Secretary****November 2003****Request for Assistance**

CROP is making significant progress in developing a Parent's National Network and local groups in four areas: Rotherham, Keighley, East Midlands, and Leicester. The first national parent's day meeting was held on 15 November 2003 and was greatly appreciated by those who came.. The Parent's Network is facilitating the flow of information on the organisation of and methods employed in pimping and the vulnerability of specific girls and young women. CROP anticipates making information from this work publicly available at a future date to assist with policy development and to raise issues about the functioning of public authorities in responding to pimps and procurers.

In addition to group work, CROP continues to be approached for individual assistance by families, girls and young women. Service users now almost outnumber our ability to offer the quality of intensive and lengthy individual assistance that is necessary. While we are quite clear that CROP's work would benefit greatly from an additional family support worker, at the same time it must never be forgotten that pimps are the cause of difficulties for families, and the vulnerability of girls and women must be reduced by more effective action against pimps. The primary problem is the lack of proactive responses by statutory services, beginning with policing. There are two geographical areas with increasing numbers of requests for assistance, Keighley and Rotherham. CROP has detailed knowledge of pimping activities in Rotherham from 1999 where no progress has been made in prosecuting pimps. We believe that some of the same men may be active in Keighley and probably elsewhere in England, although we have no knowledge of this as yet. This means that CROP service users continue to multiply rather than reduce as their abusers pass through a non-functioning criminal justice system.

If CROP is to fulfil its mandate, it urgently needs the assistance of a criminal investigator, preferably from central Government and definitely not from South Yorkshire. CROP recently established contact with Kevin Baron, MP who had no previous knowledge of pimping in Rotherham, although this is well known within the local authority. CROP first became involved in Rotherham with the local authority through a successful proposal to the Home Office Violence Against Women funding stream. The Home Office had no option but to terminate this project because of a lack of cooperation by Rotherham local authority officers with the Home Office appointed evaluators. As CROP is a national NGO, its involvement with families in Rotherham was able to continue.

CROP's current worker is now herself under threat from Rotherham pimps. . PLEASE send us someone with whom we can share our information and who will work with CROP to bring these men into the criminal justice system. This is very urgent as specific girls and families are being seriously threatened. CROP would like this to be seen as a pilot project to develop constructive approaches to men who victimise so many girls and young women.

**The Coalition for the Removal of Pimping
(CROP)**

Meeting of Management Committee 30 January 2004

There was a meeting of the CROP Management Committee at 10.45 a.m. on Friday 30 January 2004 at the CROP Office, Munro House, Duke Street, Leeds.

Present:

Directors: Hilary Willmer (Chair), [REDACTED] (Treasurer), Barbara Thomas (Assistant Treasurer), [REDACTED] (Secretary), Jalna Hanmer.

In attendance: [REDACTED] (Parent Support and Development Worker)

Apologies were received from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

The **Minutes** of the meeting of 25 November 2003 were signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising which were not already on agenda.

CROP Conference of 27 June 2003

1. Reviews and articles:

- [REDACTED] had sent a copy of the Report to *Community Care* asking for a review.
- Hilary had sent the Report to [REDACTED] but had received no response.
- Hilary will contact Colin Cramphorn.
- [REDACTED] will send a copy to the *Journal of Social Work* for review, and ask if they would welcome an article on work with families.

2. [REDACTED] had received a request from [REDACTED] to use the drama. [REDACTED] will seek a meeting with her. She may be a suitable future Management Committee member.

3. Website: [REDACTED] had had to cancel a meeting with [REDACTED]. It was decided that Hilary, Barbara and [REDACTED] will seek a meeting with [REDACTED] to discuss the matter.

The design is critical. [REDACTED] will be willing to be consulted. Maybe [REDACTED] will be able to join in if she is offered a definite task.

Future collaboration with Barnardo's

Hilary had spoken with [REDACTED]. She had not got clearance for a conference, but would be seeing her boss on 4 February. Hilary will contact her again after that. It was clear that any conference would be no earlier than the autumn. If it takes place, Barnardo's would be willing to do the administration, and there would be a sharing of the profits. CROP agreed to this. We wanted to plan jointly. This would need to take account of the context of the new laws, and might look at new ways of pimping. We might create a book of stories from parents and launch it at the conference. Jalna suggested one needed a quality tape recorder. Barbara was willing to type up in short bursts, and Jalna offered to lend a foot operated machine for transcription purposes. Jalna also said we needed to go beyond description and make a presentation on how to work with parents, extrapolating good practice from our experience. Jalna and [REDACTED] will develop a paper on this. [REDACTED] said we needed a focus on parents and the

internet; there is a Suzy Lamplugh Trust leaflet on the dangers. If the idea of a joint conference with Barnardo's does not work out, we can do it ourselves.

On 10 February [REDACTED] is going to Barnardo's conference on child victims of abuse on the internet.

Parent Support and Development Unit

[REDACTED] spoke to her written report (attached to the minutes). Special points:

- The case conference she had attended threw up the issue of treating parents with respect. There is a huge problem with Asian men in Huddersfield.
- The Keighley Parents' Group is likely to continue under the umbrella of CROP, but this has its dangers. It throws up the question of the remit of local groups and their relationship to CROP. We therefore need guidelines. [REDACTED] will look at SAMM guidelines, and Jalna at those of Women's Aid. The police seem to be withdrawing from the issues at Keighley. The new Superintendent apparently does not rank them highly, yet they should be part of Child Protection Strategy. We should write to him. We also decided we should ask for a meeting with Colin Cramphorn on Child Protection Strategy within West Yorkshire Police. It seemed that the issue was being confined to problems within families, whereas we had disturbing information coming to us about pimps outside the family. Hilary will write, and Hilary, Jalna and [REDACTED] go to any meeting.
- [REDACTED] showed the members a chart constructed by [REDACTED] of links between pimps and between them and their victims in Rotherham. Information is being given by agencies to the police, but no action is being taken. In particular, pimps are grooming children in food areas at Meadowhall whilst their parents are shopping, believing their children to be safe. Jalna suggested we should tackle South Yorkshire Police on this, and if the response was inadequate, we should ask the Inspectorate to intervene. It was agreed that [REDACTED] approach [REDACTED] of Vera Media to get advice and an estimate for making a video. She may know where to turn for funding. If we made a video under the heading of Personal Safety, this might make it easier for the Manager of Meadowhall to show it there.
- Hilary and [REDACTED] had had a good meeting with [REDACTED] and a nice letter afterwards, in which she promised the Home Office would give a high profile to the issues we raised. There had been no response yet on the specifics of Rotherham and the question of further Home Office funding. [REDACTED] had recognized that we are now national, but are funded on the assumption we are local. The Home Secretary is ready to read what CROP sends. It seemed that [REDACTED] is our best immediate contact at present.
- [REDACTED] had not been able to go to the Supporting Families Conference. But we did need to keep going to conferences. [REDACTED] is going as representative of CROP to the Birmingham conference.
- It was again recognized that it was crucial that we develop guidelines when working with any local self-help group.
- Telephone costs. We should make this a part of the guidelines.
- It was agreed that we should pay the costs of hiring a room for parents' meetings, to avoid having to meet in private homes.



Bill Rammell
Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive

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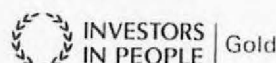
Key document UB1/2

Mr Peter Wanless CB & Mr Richard Whittam QC,
c/o Home Office
2 Marsham St
London
SW1P 4DF

Monday 15th September 2014

Dear Mr Wanless CB & Mr Whittam QC,

1. I am writing to you in relation to your review of the Home Office's handling of historical allegations of child abuse.
2. Specifically, we (the University of Bedfordshire) are in a position to support the review of Home Office documentation related to child sexual exploitation in Rotherham.
3. As you may know, the University's research in this area is world-leading. We were recognised in 2013 by the awarding of The Queen's Anniversary Prize for applied research on child sexual exploitation.
4. The University's research is guided by ethical principles, and is committed to increasing understanding of, and improving responses to, child sexual exploitation. Our work in this area is long-standing, and dates from our predecessor institution the University of Luton.
5. You will be aware that in 2000, the Home Office awarded funding through the Crime Reduction Programme (CRP) for 11 multi-agency pilot projects aimed, *inter alia*, at reducing the number of young people involved in prostitution.
6. Three of the pilot projects made up the young people and prostitution element. These related to Bristol, Sheffield and Rotherham, and were independently evaluated by an evaluation team from the (then) University of Luton.
7. *'Home Office Research Study 279: Tackling Street Prostitution: Towards an holistic approach'* (Hester & Westmarland, 2004) covers the background to these projects, draws on the evaluations of the projects, and makes its own findings and recommendations.
8. The University of Luton evaluation team started its work on the Rotherham project in January 2001. The evaluation of the Rotherham project did not run its full course, and was not analysed alongside Bristol and Sheffield, in the final above named Home Office publication.
9. Over the course of the evaluation of the three projects, Margaret Melrose (Principal Investigator) and her evaluation team drafted four reports for the Home Office.



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Bill Rammell



10. At a recent constructive meeting at the Home Office (4th September) between John O'Brien and Professor David Barrett and [REDACTED] (both University of Bedfordshire) it was confirmed that Home Office efforts to find these reports within their records had so far been unsuccessful.
11. At the meeting of the 4th of September, Professor Barrett gave Mr O'Brien hard copies of the following two reports:
 - Melrose M (June 2002) *'There are lots of places to talk and I feel safe': Tackling Prostitution - What Works? (Young People); An Evaluation of Young People's Projects in Bristol, Sheffield and Rotherham'*, Report 3 (unpublished).
 - Melrose M (July 2003) *Tackling Prostitution: What Works for Young People? An Evaluation of Young People's Projects in Bristol and Sheffield'* Final Report (unpublished).
12. These were Home Office commissioned, and funded, evaluations. From the conversation with Mr O'Brien, and in reading the 'Jay Report', it is unlikely that Professor Jay had access to these reports during the independent inquiry and in drafting the final report.
13. Therefore it is perhaps understandable that some of the references and language in the 'Jay Report' (Chapter 10) has contributed to unclear definitions of "*Home Office Research*", reports and researcher(s) in the media and in Parliament. Although it has become clearer to us what is meant, it is perhaps not so clear to those audiences.
14. Jay refers to the work of a "*researcher*" and what is "*often referred to as 'The Home Office Report'*" from 2002. We believe this to be the work of the 'research and development officer' employed by Rotherham Council through the Risky Business project. This is not the same evaluation work undertaken by the University of Luton evaluation team.
15. In paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 of the Jay Report, it seeks to set out the context of "*The Home Office Research*". It begins by referencing the CRP programme and 10.2 concludes that "*the Rotherham research was based on Risky Business, and the researcher was appointed by the Council on behalf of the local partners and was based in Council premises*".
16. Paragraph 10.3 then goes on to refer to the "*Rotherham project (funded) from January 2001 until July 2002*" and in the same paragraph refers to the "*final report... from the Home Office included a footnote, stating that the Rotherham was not funded for the second year due to 'implementation problems'. The University of Luton's final evaluation report did not include the Rotherham project.*"



University of
Bedfordshire

17. This section in the Jay Report doesn't delineate a separation between Risky Business as a project (funded beyond 2002), the University of Luton's evaluation work (which for Rotherham was funded until July 2002, whilst Bristol and Sheffield were funded full course until March 2003), and the work of the Risky Business research (referred to in Jay as 'The Home Office Report').
18. The Hester & Westmarland report (Home Office 279) provides a clearer description of these timelines and locus of the projects.
19. It states that "*the University of Luton's final evaluation report did not include the Rotherham project, and it has not been possible to include analysis of the Rotherham interventions here*". This is the (unpublished) 2003 Margaret Melrose report: '*Tackling Prostitution: What Works for Young People? An Evaluation of Young People's Projects in Bristol and Sheffield*' mentioned above.
20. The evaluation work was not funded post-July 2002, due to "*implementation problems*" and "*ethical considerations on part of an evaluation team*" (Hester & Westmarland 2004). As discussed and recalled by both Mr O'Brien and Professor Barrett, the Home Office in 2002 agreed to stand-down the University of Luton's evaluation team because of these "*problems*" and "*considerations*".
21. The evaluation team experienced difficulties in gaining access to the young people involved in prostitution. Professor Barrett recalls the frustration felt by the evaluation team in relying on "*gatekeepers*" in gaining access to the young people. These were the same "*gatekeepers*" (generally employed by Rotherham Council) who demonstrated a lack of interest when the evaluation team raised concerns regarding the rumours (off and on the record from Risky Business staff and others) that many of the taxi drivers had convictions for sexual offences.
22. During the 4th of September meeting with Mr O'Brien, Professor Barrett quoted from the (unpublished) 'Report 3' (Melrose M, June 2002) that South Yorkshire Police were hampered from acting on this information as they lacked a vice squad, disbelief about the problem(s), judgemental moral attitudes and a lack of resources. It was the view of sources in Rotherham that South Yorkshire Police had access to a lot of information regarding these previous convictions and other activities but was failing to act (this tallied with Professor Barrett's recollections from the time).
23. These frustrations were relayed at the time to the Home Office (as the commissioner and funder of the evaluation work) by Professor Barrett, on behalf of the evaluation team, but the team's concerns were passed around different authorities and agencies, without receiving a satisfactory response.
24. These difficulties and concerns in implementing a full evaluation led to the standing down of the University of Luton from the Rotherham element of the evaluation (but not Bristol and Sheffield elements). The term 'standing down' or 'stood down' was an agreed description of the decision at the time, between the University of Luton and the Home Office (relating to *the "implementation problems"* and "*ethical considerations*" described in the 2004 Home Office publication).

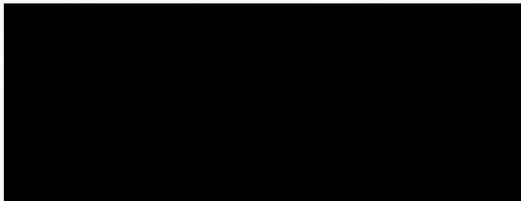


25. Therefore the final University of Luton evaluation report did not include the Rotherham project, and the Home Office publication (Hester & Westmarland) did not include an analysis of the Rotherham project.
26. It is our perspective that the Home Office's difficulties in tracking down the evaluation reports written during the course of the evaluation work has contributed to some miscomprehension of Home Office funded and commissioned research and evaluation. During questions in Parliament on the 2nd of September, The Home Secretary seemed to imply that the University of Luton's evaluation work was the same as the work of the 'researcher' who the Jay Report refers to as the author of 'The Home Office Report'.
27. Home Secretary (2nd September, House of Commons): *"The right hon. Lady asked about Home Office involvement. A report into child prostitution was funded by the Home Office and conducted by the University of Luton, which is now part of the University of Bedfordshire. As I understand it, the researchers were not employed by the Home Office, although the Home Office was providing funding. Since the connection first came up, the Home Office has been looking at the files to ascertain exactly what happened, and many Members will have heard the researcher herself being quoted on television and radio broadcasts in relation not only to her experience at Rotherham but the suggestion that she did inform the Home Office. The Home Office is looking into that internally."*
28. The Home Secretary was correct to say, in relation to "Home Office involvement", that "a report into child prostitution was funded by the Home Office and conducted by the University of Luton." Although the final evaluation report did not include Rotherham, there were evaluation reports written by the evaluation team that were funded by the Home Office (these are the ones that the Home Office has been unable to track down).
29. The Home Secretary is also correct to say that the "researchers" (those that were part of the evaluation team) "were not employed by the Home Office, although the Home Office was providing funding" (this was within CRP funding).
30. However in reporting that "the Home Office has been looking at the files" and that "Members will have heard the researcher herself being quoted on television and radio broadcasts in relation not only to her experience at Rotherham but the suggestion that she did inform the Home Office", it seems to suggest that the Home Office funded University of Luton evaluation team includes the "researcher... quoted on television and radio broadcasts". This is not the case.
31. The Risky Business/Rotherham Council funded work of this researcher (described as a "research and development officer" in the Hester & Westmarland publication), differed in funding source, methods, personnel and locus from the Home Office commissioned, and funded, work of the University of Luton evaluation team.
32. I trust that this letter provides clarity on the Home Office funded work of the University of Luton in relation to the evaluation of CRP 'young people and prostitution' projects, and in particular the Rotherham/Risky Business project.



33. Building on the constructive meeting with John O'Brien, and this letter, we will continue to support your review in any way we can. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



Bill Rammell
Vice Chancellor

This letter has been copied to:

John O'Brien, Director of Safeguarding, Home Office
Professor Alexis Jay OBE, (author) Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham

Ack by email
19/11/15
WRM



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Key document UB2/2

16 November 2015

Dear Jeremy

Re: Home Office Internal Rotherham Review

Thank you for your letter of 30 October. I have consulted with the relevant members of academic staff and can confirm that we have no further information to share regarding the investigation into child sexual abuse in Rotherham.



I wish you well as you bring your investigation to a conclusion.

Yours sincerely,



Bill Rammell
Vice Chancellor



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