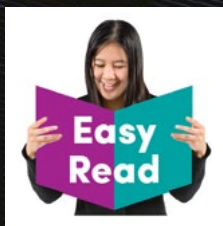


**OPERATION
SOTERIA
BLUESTONE
YEAR 1 REPORT
2021 - 2022**



Easy read version

Operation Soteria Bluestone Year One report

This is an easy read summary of the independent report, written by Professor Betsy Stanko, on the learnings from the first year of Operation Soteria.

You can read the full report here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/operation-soteria-year-one-report>

What the words mean

CPS – Crown Prosecution Service

This is an independent organisation.
The police tell them about the crimes they think someone has done.

The **CPS** decides which cases should go to court. It decides which offences the suspect should be charged with.

It prepares cases and shares them at court.

It provides information, help and support to victims and witnesses.

Suspect

A person who the police think has done a crime.

Investigation

When the police look into what happened when someone reports a crime. This could be if someone says they have been raped.

Prosecute

When someone suspected of doing a crime is charged with criminal offences.
Then they go to court.

What the words mean

Rape

This is when a person forces someone else to have sex. It could be by using physical force or by frightening them.

Sexual offences

Sex crimes like rape or touching someone in a sexual way. The person doing the crime can be a stranger, a friend, a partner or ex-partner, or even a family member.

Victim

The person who is harmed, frightened or abused by someone else.



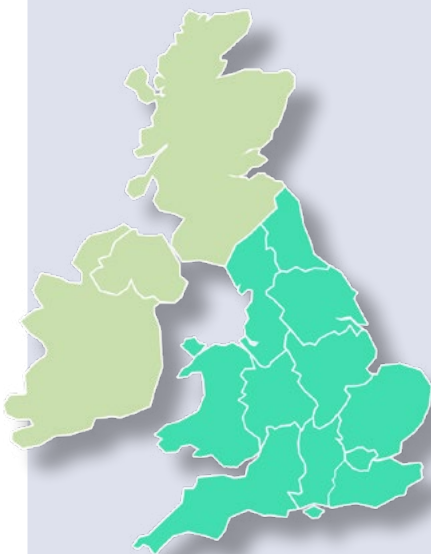
Operation Soteria is the project the police and Crown Prosecution Service are doing together. It will improve how the police investigate **rape**, interview **suspects** and better support **victims**.



The project is based on similar work which started in Avon and Somerset. The Home Office is paying for this work. The government want to double the number of **rape** cases that go to court.



The report is about finding better ways to respond to **rape** and **sexual offences**. It will help victims to get help and more people who commit these crimes go to court and get a sentence if they are found guilty.



A team of experts from universities looked at how the police responded to **rape** and **sexual offences** in 5 police forces. They were:

- Avon and Somerset Police
- the Metropolitan Police Service
- Durham Constabulary
- West Midlands Police and
- South Wales Police.



Between 2021 and 2022, the experts looked closely at the police records and how they work. They looked at case files and what training the police had. They also met with **victims** and groups who supported them. They listened to what they had to say about the police.

This is what the experts found out;



The police who look into **rape** and **sexual offences** need better training. It has been hard for police officers to get training as there are lots of cases to **investigate**.



They found a lot of effort was used to check what the **victim** said was true.



There needs to be more effort to **investigate** the **suspects** behaviour.



They found there is a link between police officers getting stressed and exhausted from their job and them not having the right training. This will affect how they **investigate suspects** and help **victims**.



The police need more information so they know how they are doing. For example, checking records to see if **suspects** have done crimes before.



The information in the report will be used by police officers so they can change how they work.



This report is about what the police must do. But to make long term changes, other organisations who are part of the criminal justice system must also change the way they work.



Listening to the voice of **victims** and survivors of **rape** is at the centre of Operation Soteria Bluestone's work. This will help to make long term change.