

Managing vulnerable victims, witnesses and suspects in an investigation - conference

Identifying and managing vulnerable victims and witnesses to ensure a professional investigation

As an SIO, are you geared up to dealing with vulnerable witnesses and suspects and formulating an effective strategy?

The growing complexities of today's investigations puts greater onus on you the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) to be able to identify and manage vulnerable people to ensure a fair and professional investigation that holds up to scrutiny in court.

History has been littered with examples of cases that have failed due to issues around vulnerability. Forces are now formally assessed around their approach to vulnerability and the buck stops with the SIO who is responsible for the overall effectiveness of an investigation.

Exclusive conference! Book your place now

The Investigator is hosting this exclusive conference that is specifically tailored to investigators who have the responsibility of managing vulnerability issues.

During the day, we will look at what the whole area of vulnerability means for the SIO. How does it impact on the management and strategic direction of your investigation?

How can you ensure you identify and manage the needs of vulnerable victims, witnesses and suspects to ensure a professional investigation?

What are the problems and pitfalls as well as current legislation and thinking?

Topics covered include:

- An exclusive look at the new definition of vulnerability and national training package that is being launched by the College of Policing this year with a discussion about what it means for the SIO
- Exclusive input from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary about the nature and extent of the current challenge and picture around the country
- Practical advice from an experienced SIO on formulating your vulnerability strategy to ensure an effective investigation including a lot at the problems and pitfalls and how to mitigate them
- A discussion around the differing interpretations of PACE Code C – mentally vulnerable - and the need for appropriate safeguards
- A look at the role of the registered intermediary
- Key considerations around investigative interviewing
- A look at the Psychological challenges around understanding vulnerability and risk and advice on Safeguarding your investigation and case building for court

Booking and venue details

Venue: Rothley Court, Rothley, Westfield Lane, Rothley, Leicestershire, LE7 7LG. Accommodation is available at the hotel for a discounted price of £74 B&B, please call the hotel on 0116 237 4141 (option 4) and quote The Investigator. Always check on comparison websites first as the rooms may be cheaper.

Details: Registration 9am, start time 9.30am, finish 4.15pm. Refreshments and lunch are included in the price

Cost: £195 per delegate or two for £350.

Booking: Please send the delegates name(s), email address and purchase order to info@the-investigator.co.uk or telephone 0844 660 8707 for further information.

Payment can be made by debit/credit card.



Our expert line-up of speakers include:

David Tucker, Head of Crime and Criminal Justice, College of Policing. David is leading the current work to formulate the official definition of vulnerability and will be responsible for rolling-out vulnerability training to investigating officers across the country. Prior to this role, he was a Met officer for 30 years and worked at the forefront of the force vulnerability work in areas including counter terrorism, diversity and community policing. He was also Head of Policy at the NSPCC where he championed the rights of vulnerable children and young people.

Mike Cunningham QPM, is Her Majesty Inspector of Constabulary with responsibility for effective leadership and local policing. His recent inspectorate report raised concerns about how forces are dealing with vulnerable people and he has strong views about how the policing response can be improved. Prior to his role at the HMIC, he was deputy chief constable at Lancashire Constabulary and was then appointed as Chief Constable of Staffordshire Police



Brendan O'Mahony is a Registered Forensic Psychologist, a Registered Intermediary, lecturer and trainer who is considered to be one of the leading authorities on vulnerability within criminal investigations as well as providing input to police forces around Achieving Best Evidence.



He is a Specialist (psychologist) Member of the Parole Board for England and Wales, a committee member of the British Psychological Society's Expert Witness Advisory Group and a Panel Member of the Health and Care Professions Council Tribunal Service. As an expert witness, Brendan has been given the opportunity to review and comment on police witness interviews where vulnerable witnesses have had a Registered Intermediary present.

He also examines police suspect interviews as part of his overall assessment for court reports. Brendan completed his Professional Doctorate in Criminal Justice at the University of Portsmouth. His research focused on the role of intermediaries with vulnerable defendants. He has published a number of academic papers and book chapters about vulnerable witnesses, defendants and intermediaries.

Gary Ridgway a former Detective Superintendent with Cambridgeshire Constabulary where he led a number of high profile complex multi-agency proactive CSE operations including Operation Erle – the high profile investigation into sexual grooming in Peterborough which led to the conviction of ten offenders.

He was the PIP 4 SIO for Operation Clover in Rotherham, a successful multi-agency complex non recent sexual exploitation enquiry which concluded in February 2016.



While a serving police officer he was an active SIO and has a broad range of experience across public protection, generic investigation work and covert policing. His areas of responsibility include supporting good quality multi-agency working, ensuring that statutory processes are flexible enough to respond to adolescent victims of CSE, and developing victim management structures able to respond effectively to large numbers of adult survivors.

He is now an independent Assistant Director with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. He is contracted by the Council, South Yorkshire Police and the National Crime Agency to provide tactical and strategic advice to these organisations in respect of current and non-recent Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham.

DI Gary Stephens, Avon & Somerset Police, SIO Operation Brooke

Two groups of Somali men have been found guilty of grooming and sexually exploiting under-age girls in Bristol.

It follows Operation Brooke, the largest investigation into child sexual exploitation in Avon and Somerset Police's history.

In two separate trials, 13 men were found guilty of charges including rape, paying for sex with a child, and arranging for that sex to happen.

In total, there were six victims. The youngest was just 13 years old and lived at home with her mother.

Area covered

- Initial response/background
- Staff selection/MIR set up
- Engaging with victims
- Support systems for victims
- Managing community engagement
- Victim and perpetrator dilemmas
- Telling other victims
- Selection of Counsel
- Court arrangements
- Housing arrangements for victims
- Court management
- Press management