

OPERATION SHERWOOD

GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE



Annual update

June 2023

Operation Sherwood is an investigation into non-recent child sexual exploitation in Oldham. It was launched last year to investigate 11 cases which were studied and referenced by the independent team, commissioned to review historic safeguarding practices in the borough.

The investigation is led by GMP's CSE Major Investigation Team (formerly the Force CSE Unit) – a resource dedicated to investigating the most serious and complex cases and expanded specially to create additional capacity for Op Sherwood.

Senior Investigating Officer, Detective Inspector Jenny Zebrowski updates on the first 12 months, saying: "Our investigation has progressed in line with our expectations and those of our key partner agencies."

We have focussed on establishing relationships with those affected to give them the confidence to trust us and the criminal justice system.

"Our steps forward are being taken at a pace which is right for them and gives us the best chances of securing positive judicial outcomes. "As reassuring as it would be, we cannot share the specifics of the progress made since last June – this is because it is a live criminal investigation, and we are not prepared to jeopardise justice for survivors."

November 2019
Independent review
commissioned
by Oldham Council

June 2022
Independent review
published &
Operation Sherwood
launched



Oldham Police Station, Barn Street

Oldham Safeguarding Partnership was developed by GMP, the local authority, and the clinical commissioning group. It exists to ensure that all children and young people in the area get the safeguarding and protection they need in order to help them thrive.

On behalf of the partnership, Oldham District Commander, Chief Superintendent Chris Bowen said: "Whilst CSE MIT focusses on the criminal investigation, the partnership has been working really hard to make the improvements recommended by the review into historic safeguarding practices in the borough. "Having agreed mutual objectives and developed an in-depth understanding of each organisation's knowledge, skills and abilities, we are working together more effectively than ever before to consistently execute a best practice approach to safeguarding young people and equipping them to fulfil their positive potential."

If you or someone you know has been raped or sexually assaulted, we encourage you to report it to the police or a supporting agency. GMP can be contacted via gmp.police.uk or 101. **In an emergency, always dial 999.** Anonymous reports can be made via the independent charity - Crimestoppers.



Specialist support is available from:
St Mary's SARC, GM Rape Crisis and
We Are Survivors.