**Agenda No.6**

**Trust, Integrity and Ethics Committee**

**11 January 2017**

**Final Report on Historical Sexual Abuse**

You will be aware that at the last two meetings I have submitted two lengthy verbal reports on my protocol. I have attended Critical Incident Meetings and have had discussions with the PVP (Protecting Vulnerable People) Unit. I am persuaded, totally, that all efforts are being made to bring the perpetrators to justice, no easy task when a considerable length of time may have elapsed since the alleged abuse occurred. The problem is exacerbated by the requirements of Operation Hydrant in that a suspect may have committed the offence in another Force area, but the direction is that the Chief Constable for the Force in which the suspect resides when the offence is reported is responsible for the investigation, despite the fact that the investigation may cover an alleged abuse that occurred a number of years ago in another Force area.

It is pleasing to note however that the PVP Unit is adhering strictly to the College of Policing dictat that the suspect is not to be named until formal charges have been made, a lesson hard learned by other Forces

From a national standpoint you will be aware that at government level the Independent Investigation into Child Sexual Abuse is not proceeding as well as might be expected in that it now has it's fourth Chairman, and the legal team is in disarray. It is hoped that the Home Office will quickly resolve these difficulties particularly as Operation Hydrant remains the conduit for Forces to advise of prosecutions to be processed.

At a meeting with T/Supt Alison Davies(Hd PVP Unit) I learned that as a result of the recent disclosures of abuse in sports, cases are being investigated by the Warwickshire and West Mercia Forces. The investigations are in their early stages. I have attached the latest overall statistics produced by the PVP Unit for the information of Committee Members.

Finally, I have a concern in that the increasing number cases arising on a monthly basis will eventually become untenable for the current establishment and there may well be a need to increase the staff to cope with the increased demand.

I also believe that there is a real requirement to continue to ensure that the officers and staff involved in this area of policing have ready access to counselling in order to assist them to cope with the constant requirement to access the most vile and disgusting images in order to bring a prosecution.

I can only congratulate the officers and staff for their dedication and total commitment to the task in hand.

Colonel Tony Ward OBE

TIE Committee