



## RASSO Action Plan 2022/23

### SUPPORTING RASSO VICTIMS

Working together and in partnership with specialist services to ensure victims receive the right information and support and feel listened to. Improving the quality of our communications to ensure they are timely and sensitive to the needs of particularly vulnerable victims and witnesses.

Action	Update	Complete?
1. Deliver joint training for the police and LOD on the impact of trauma on victims, to promote improved decision making and victim care.	Multi agency training in Trauma Awareness and Informed Approach to Victims of Sexual Offences commissioned and scheduled for Q3 of 2023.	In progress
2. Adapt *Operation Soteria Bluestone RASSO victim booklet and template letter where the decision is to take no further action to ensure consistency and quality of communications with victims of rape and promotion of the victim right to review scheme.  * <a href="https://www.npcc.police.uk/our-work/violence-against-women-and-girls/operation-soteria/">https://www.npcc.police.uk/our-work/violence-against-women-and-girls/operation-soteria/</a>	Victim Information Booklet designed and will be available to Officers to issue to victims and be published on the website in 2023. There has been a delay with publication as a result of additional stakeholder consultation.  Template letters not adopted in preference for face-to-face meetings with victims supported by ISVAs	In progress
3. Promote understanding of special measures and use of CJU form to notify the prosecutor of the need for measures to assist victims to give better evidence.	Special Measures was originally set for 2022 but will be re-scheduled for 2023 due to major incidents.	No
4. Implement use of Operation Soteria Bluestone victim communication plan template to	Agreement of frequency and method of communication and responsibility for updating the Victim is agreed by the Officer in the case in consultation with the ISVA and documented on the crime investigation file.	Yes



improve victim engagement and experience		
5. The AG should consider publishing information on the policy for prosecuting cases of rape to make it available to the public.	Guidance under review.	No

### CASEWORK QUALITY & PROGRESSION

Embed new guidance on seeking early investigative advice from LOD and undertaking reasonable lines of enquiry to ensure we build strong cases from the outset. Improving the implementation of action plans through effective communication, clear timelines and robust escalation points to ensure we significantly reduce the number of cases where no further action is taken and expedite bringing strong cases to court.

Action	Update	Complete?
6. Police must seek early investigative advice (EIA) in Rape and Serious sexual assault cases and record reasons for not asking for this.	Implemented with a process in place to seek early advice from LOD.	Yes
7. In cases referred to LOD there must be a meeting between the investigator and the prosecutor before deciding to take no further action.	Agreement in place that consultation between LOD and Police will take place prior to LOD 'No Further Action' decision being taken.	Yes
8. A clear escalation pathway will be available to both the Police and LOD where parties do not agree with decisions.	Escalation points agreed as Det Supt of Crime at Police and Head of Criminal Division at LOD for joint decision making.	Yes
9. Improve the effectiveness of case strategies & action plans following the submission of a CJU3, with clear target and review dates set	A further actions process is in place with updates and deadlines documented on Police case files. These case files are subject to supervisory scrutiny on a 14 and 28 day basis. The escalation process is through the Criminal Justice Department.	Yes



within a performance management process and an agreed escalation process.		
10. Enhance the collection of currently available data and how we draw and share insights from it, to support better understanding and monitoring of RASSO throughout Criminal Justice (utilising Project Bluestone case progression tracker and problem profile templates)	Jersey RASSO problem profile completed and presented to the RASSO Board (SoJP, LOD, SARC and ISVA Service). The profile will be used to better understand the current challenges and inform future action under the plan.	Yes
11. Ensure information on protected characteristics of RASSO victims is recorded accurately and forms part of the problem profile.	Some protected characteristics are already captured. However, this area is being reviewed nationally and SoJP will consider national guidance when issued.	No

## DIGITAL CAPABILITY & DISCLOSURE

Embedding guidance to help investigators and prosecutors balance the needs of an investigation with the right to privacy. Working together to help the public understand the impact of digital evidence on our casework, including how we decide what data to collect, how we collect it and how it might be used.

Action	Update	Complete?
12. Provide jointly delivered RASSO training to help investigators and prosecutors balance the needs of the investigation and disclosure obligations with the right to privacy.	<p>Joint training session held Jan and June 2022 delivered by UK Counsel</p> <p>Serious Sexual Assault Development Programme for police officers delivered in 2022 and due for additional delivery in 2023.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to adopting guidance issued by NPCC with regard to balancing the needs of the investigation and disclosure obligations with the right to privacy.</p>	Yes



13. Help victims better understand when and why digital evidence and third-party material is necessary and proportionate to investigations as per the AG Guidelines.	Digital Processing Contract and Information Leaflet designed and awaiting technical implementation, expected Q3 2023. The scope of device and account examinations will be agreed with Victims and Witnesses from the outset.	Yes
14. Ensure investigators identify the parameters for what material should be sought and reviewed in consultation with a Legal Adviser.	Forms part of Early Investigative Advice and regular case conferences with Police supervision during the case life.	Yes
15. Review and implement the revised College of Policing Guidance on the Extraction of Digital Evidence to ensure current practice is up to date.	Reviewed and implemented as per action 13 – awaiting technical implementation.	Yes

## OUR PEOPLE & EXPERTISE

Delivering specialist investigation and prosecution training in RASSO cases to promote consistency of approach and effective joint working.

Action	Update	Complete?
16. Deliver joint RASSO learning and development in key areas such as the offender centric approach, reasonable lines of enquiry and the changing nature of sexual behaviours and encounters	National Operation Soteria Bluestone Webinars (x5) delivered to CID and PPU Officers as ongoing CPD in 2022.  A Continuous Professional Development programme for First Responders is being developed, with training already commissioned for Sexual Offences Liaison Officers on the frontline.	Yes
17. Deliver College of Policing Specialist Sexual Offences Investigator training to all CID & PPU DCs.	All permanent officers in PPU & CID have received training in 2022. A further Serious Sexual Assault Development Programme has been commissioned for new Officers arriving in CID and PPU in 2022/23. Delivery in 2023.	Yes



18. Improve understanding and use of forensic evidence in RASSO cases through increased prosecution team engagement with Forensic Medical Examiners	Consultation with Force Medical Examiners is to be scheduled throughout 2023 in order to improve understanding and requirement of all parties involved in the criminal justice process.	No
19. Establish a RASSO panel process, including representation from LOD to scrutinise all no further actions decisions taken by Police.	Numerous RASSO panels convened in 2022 to scrutinise Police 'No Further Action' (NFA) decisions.	Yes