

VICTORIA CLIMBIE INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS – PROGRESS MANAGEMENT

	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS</u>	<u>3 MONTHS</u>	<u>6 MONTHS</u>
91	Save in exceptional circumstances, no child is to be taken into police protection until he or she has been seen and an assessment of his or her circumstances has been undertaken. (paragraph 13.7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Police Notice 46-01 issued on 14th November 2001 revising old Police Notices from 1991 and 1993. On 29/01/03 an instruction was issued to amend the Police Notice that designated officer must be an Inspector. ❖ The start date for SCD5 officer's to be retrained in police protection in duties of the designated officer was 1st November 2001. Half are currently trained. ❖ All newly promoted Inspectors now receive special officer training from an SCD5 trainer on their promotion course. ❖ SCD5 has given training modules to Human Resources so that they can be fed into locally based training on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) child protection issues generally b) existing Inspector's designated officer role training. ❖ Chapter 4 of the MPS SCD5 Professional Standards Manual states that both the child and informant must be interviewed. ❖ Training is on going. Our existing Inspectors are under going a programme of designated officer training. 		
92	Chief Constables must ensure that crimes involving a child victim are dealt with promptly and efficiently, and to the same standard as equivalent crimes against adults. (paragraph 13.24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In September 2001, SCD5 issued Professional Standards for Crime Investigation involving inter familial child victims set against critical success factors drawn from the ACPO Murder Manual. These have been subsequently re-inforced in SCD5's Professional Standards Manual within specific Standard Operating Procedures. ❖ In the Metropolitan Police, officers in SCD5 now attend a 4 week Centrex investigator's course, 1 week SCD5 specialist child protection training, 1week Achieving Best Evidence training and 1week multi agency training. 		

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93	Whenever a joint investigation by police and social services is required into possible injury or harm to a child, a manager from each agency should always be involved at the referral stage, and in any further strategy discussion. (paragraph 13.52)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Since 2001, The Metropolitan Police Service has incrementally introduced additional Sergeant's to each child protection team with the new role of Referral Manager. This Sergeant is the first point of contact with the Social Services Manager so that a strategy meeting can be held in relation to new matters arising. Child protection units are sub-divided into investigation teams of 1 Sergeant and 4 Constables. ❖ The Sergeant uses a prescribed supervision model from the MPS manual to supervise each case. ❖ Experiments are about to start in the City of Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham, The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Redbridge will be positioning a Referral Manager, Care Officer and MET IT inside social services. In some cases representatives from Health and Education will undertake assessment of referral. 		
94	In cases of serious crime against children, supervisory officers must from the beginning, take an active role in ensuring that a proper investigation is carried out. (Paragraph 13.55)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Steps taken in 92 and 93 are the same. 		
95	The Association of Chief Police Officers must produce and implement the standards-based service, as recommended by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in the 1999 thematic inspection report, Child Protection. (Paragraph 13.66)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ This requires a national response from ACPO. The Metropolitan Professional standards based service is accepted nationally as best practice. It is currently being amended to a national document format. 		
96	Police forces must review their systems for taking children into police protection and ensure they comply with the Children Act 1989 and Home Office guidelines. In particular, they must ensure that an independent officer of at least an Inspector rank acts as designated officer in all cases. (paragraph 13.68)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It is now Metropolitan Police Service policy that the designated officer will be Inspector rank. 		

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97	Chief Constables must ensure that the investigation of crime against children is as important as the investigation of any other form of serious crime. Any suggestion that child protection policing is of a lower status than other forms of policing must be eradicated. (paragraph 14.15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Since 3rd July 2000 the Metropolitan Police Service has brought all child protection investigation within the remit of the Serious Crime Group, which also investigates homicide, kidnapping, armed robbery and other serious crime. ❖ The numbers of detectives have risen, and the target is to turn the whole command into almost an entirely detective one. 		
98	The guideline set out at paragraph 5.8 of <i>Working Together</i> must be strictly adhered to: whenever social services receive a referral which may constitute a criminal offence against a child, they must inform the police at the earliest opportunity. (paragraph 14.46)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Pan London Procedures are in draft and will be produced in the near future. 		
99	The guideline set out at paragraph 5.8 of <i>Working Together</i> must be strictly adhered to: whenever social services receive a referral which may constitute a criminal offence against a child, they must inform the police at the earliest opportunity. (paragraph 14.57)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Whilst this is a department of Health/Home Office action, the Metropolitan Police Service Professional Standards Manual has already implemented the spirit of this recommendation. This is in line with police primacy. 		
100	Training for child protection officers must equip them with the confidence to question the views of professional in other agencies, including doctors, no matter how eminent these professional appear to be. (paragraph 14.73)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Whilst we have highlighted the issue of training, we believe this is a development area for SCD5. 		
101	The Home Office, through Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, must take a more active role in maintain high standards of child protection investigation by means of its regular Basic Commands Unit and force inspections. In addition, a follow-up to the Child Protection thematic inspection of 1999 should be conducted. (paragraph 14.132)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ This is a recommendation for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. 		

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102	The Home Office, through Centrex and the Association of Chief Police Officers, must devise and implement a national training curriculum for child protection officers as recommended in 1999 by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in its thematic inspection report, <i>Child Protection</i> . (paragraph 15.16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Whilst this is a Home Office/ACPO matter the Metropolitan Police Service has contributed to a national training module to be issued to Centrex standards. 		
103	Chief Constables must ensure that officers working on child protection units are sufficiently well trained in criminal investigation, and that there is always a substantial core of fully trained detective officers on each team to deal with the most serious inquiries. (paragraph 15.24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Only 8 (new recruits) of the 400 SCD5 officer's area waiting training 'fit for purpose' for child protection investigations. ❖ The total number of detectives in the child protection units is 115.35. ❖ The Monthly Management Report monitors the number of officers and detectives per team. 		
104	The Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) should evaluate the child protection IT systems currently available, and make recommendations to chief constables, who must ensure their police force has in use an effective child-protection database and IT management systems. (paragraph 15.40)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Whilst this is a national recommendation for PITO. ❖ 'PROtect' is a linked system that allows police staff to input information and search for children at risk (including their families) and other vulnerable victims. ❖ 'MERLIN' (Missing Persons Enquiries and Related Linked Indices) is an MPS system accessible to all staff who need to search for missing persons, children at risk, prostitute and juvenile cautions. ❖ Criticism made in DCS Kelleher's report, including deficiencies in basic IT, have now all been rectified. ❖ SCD5 now has a dedicated IT manager. 		
105	Chief Constables must ensure that child protection units are fully integrated into the structure of their forces and not disadvantaged in terms of accommodation, equipment or resources. (paragraph 15.45)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Since 3rd July 2000 the Metropolitan Police Service has an independent command of child protection units, major investigation teams and paedophile unit under a dedicated Borough Command Unit management structure. ❖ Additional funds were found to raise the resourcing levels to those found in other parts of the Metropolitan Police Service. ❖ Mechanisms are in place to ensure that SCD5 competes on a competitive basis with all other Borough Operational Command Units. 		

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106	The Home Office must ensure that child protection policing is included in the list of ministerial priorities for the police. (paragraph 15.46)	❖ This is a Home Office action.		
107	Chief Constables and police authorities must give child protection investigations a high priority in their police plans, thereby ensuring consistently high standards of service by well-managed and well-motivated teams. (paragraph 15.46)	❖ Since 2001/2002 the Metropolitan Police Service has given child protection high priority in the policing plan. It is the first force to do so and it continues to be included in 2002/03 and 2003/04 plans.		
108	The Home Office, through Centrex, must add specific training relating to child protection policing to the syllabus for the strategic commands course. This will ensure that all future chief officers in the police service have adequate knowledge and understanding of the roles of child protection units. (paragraph 15.53)	❖ This is a specific recommendation for the Strategic Command Course and a matter for Home Office and Centrex.		