

The Daily Mirror Continues to Report Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham Inappropriately

The cover of a recent edition of The Mirror:

Girl, 13, told 'your rape complaint will spoil the police doctor's Sunday lunch'

The teenager was allegedly attacked in scandal-hit Rotherham and told her mother when she was drunk



Firstly, Rotherham is not "scandal-hit". This implies the city of Rotherham has been out committing petty theft or engaging in extra-marital affairs. Rotherham allowed long-term, serial child sexual exploitation of 1400 children to occur as many residents, from police officers to social workers to doctors to nurses and everyone else in between, chose not believe the young girls. What happened in Rotherham has happened all over the UK and continues to happen every single day because the culture of disbelief and victim blaming allows child sexual exploitation to continue. We need the media to cover the child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, as well as Glasgow, Edinburgh, Hull, Manchester, York etc, but it needs to do so in an appropriate manner.

This article in The Daily Mirror refers to a very serious allegation of police misconduct suggesting that a victim of child sexual exploitation was ignored by the police so as not to disturb the on-call doctor. It is one of 22 allegations against police which has delivered to the Police Complaints Commission. There are 14 officers under investigation due to their refusal to acknowledge the reports of child sexual exploitation. These other allegations need to be reported and they need to be contextualised within a victim blaming culture of male entitlement.

We need the media to hold the police to account but we need them to do so in a manner which is not salacious nor minimises the crimes which occurred. 1400 children were raped, abused and tortured in one community. There are thousands across the UK still experiencing sexual exploitation every day and people are still engaged in the wilful and malicious failure to recognise that abuse. This is why we need accurate media coverage of the 22 allegations made



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to the Police Complaints Commission: to protect other children and hold the police accountable for what has effectively become state-sanctioned child sexual exploitation.