

# Policy



<b>Youth Produced Sexual Imagery</b>			
<b>J-P-007 (previously known as SA0028)</b>			
<b>Version</b>	1.0	<b>Host Force</b>	Devon & Cornwall Police (DCP) Dorset Police (DP)
<b>Effective Date</b>	15/04/2021	<b>Host Policy Unit</b>	Devon & Cornwall Police (DCP) Dorset Police (DP)
<b>Version Date</b>	15/04/2021	<b>Policy Owner</b>	Supt for Prevent (DCP) Supt for Territorial Policing (DP)
<b>Review Date</b>	15/04/2022	<b>Policy Author</b>	Child Centred Policing Lead Inspector
<b>Associated Procedures</b>	<a href="#">DCP-OPr-003</a> , <a href="#">DOR-OPr-003</a>		
<b>Policy Summary</b>			
<p>This Policy is intended for staff within Devon and Cornwall Police (DCP) and Dorset Police (DP). Since the disaggregation of the Prevention Department, this Policy reflects a Working Together approach on Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (YPSI and formerly referred to as Sexting). Each Force’s individual Procedures will be contained within DOR-OPr-003 and DCP-OPr-003.</p> <p>The term YPSI is used to describe the sharing by young people (under 18) of indecent images, stills or videos, of themselves or of others (i.e. others under 18). Other terms do not have firm definitions- some children believe ‘YPSI’ means sending flirty written texts and describe the sharing of images as sending ‘nudes’ or ‘nudies’.</p> <p>YPSI can range from consensual sharing to exploitation. Criminal investigation and prosecution for reported offences of Youth Produced Sexual Imagery will be appropriate where there is a presence of aggravating factors (see relevant force</p>			

operational procedure) such as exploitation, coercion, a profit motive, adults as perpetrators or a significant age difference between the children involved. These would constitute Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). APP should be consulted in these instances.

If there are no aggravating factors present, it may be more appropriate to deal with reports of youth produced sexual imagery through education and intervention (see relevant force operational procedure). This approach is supported by The National Police Chief Council (NPCC) National Strategy for the Policing of Children and Young People.

We welcome any comments or suggestions you wish to share about the content or implementation of this Policy. If you would like to make contact to discuss further, please email: [Policies@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Policies@dorset.pnn.police.uk) or [ForcePolicyandProcedures@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForcePolicyandProcedures@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

## **1. Purpose, Standards and Legal Basis**

Both Forces are obliged to abide by all relevant UK and European Union legislation. The Forces shall comply with the following legislation and other legislation as appropriate:

- The Data Protection Act (2018) and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)
- Human Rights Act (1998)
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Authorised Professional Practice
- National Decision Model
- Visions, missions, values
- Equality and diversity issues included but not limited to the Code of Ethics and Standards of professional behaviour
- Equality Act 2010
- Protection of Children Act 1978
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Criminal Justice Act 1988

## **2. Roles and Responsibilities**

All reported offences of YPSI must be recorded as a crime in line with [Home Office Counting Rules \(HOCR\)](#).

In cases where a primary investigation takes place, the investigating officer may decide that it will not be in the public interest to conduct a full investigation and in those instances National Crime Outcome 21 should be applied when finalising the crime.

Where a young person has not been given education as part of the investigation, but it is deemed to be required, the investigator should task the Safer Schools & Communities Team (Dorset Only) to carry out education or words or advice.

### **3. Policy Information**

This policy relates only to youth produced sexual imagery (referred to here on as 'YPSI') produced and shared between under 18s, where there are no aggravating factors (please refer to relevant force operational procedure for guidance).

YPSI can range from consensual sharing to exploitation. Criminal investigation and prosecution for reported offences of YPSI will be appropriate where there is a presence of aggravating factors such as exploitation, coercion, a profit motive, adults as perpetrators or a significant age difference between the children involved. These would constitute Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). APP should be consulted in these instances.

If there are no aggravating factors present, it will likely be more appropriate to deal with reports of YPSI through education and intervention. This approach is supported by The National Police Chief Council (NPCC) National Strategy for the Policing of Children and Young People and reflects the force trauma informed and public health approach to dealing with incidents involving children and young people, specifically here for young people above the age of 13.

The creation, possession and sharing of indecent images of an individual under the age of 18 is a criminal offence under the [Protection of Children Act 1978](#) the [Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.13](#) and the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#). YPSI, where at least one individual involved in the incident is under the age of 18, falls under this legislation.

Children under the age of 13 are unable to consent to sexual activity. Any imagery containing sexual activity by under 13s should be referred to and investigated by the police. Sending 'sexts' is not necessarily classed as sexual activity. Please refer to the appropriate Force's Operational Procedure for further information.

Devon & Cornwall Police and Dorset Police adhere to the National Police Chief Council's (NPCC) position that no young person should be unnecessarily criminalised and that safeguarding should be at the forefront of all we do. It is acknowledged both locally and nationally that a criminal record for low-level offences can have a disproportionate impact on a young person's future.

In partnership with other agencies, appropriate education and restorative justice techniques should be utilised to enable young people to go on to live fulfilling lives.

Officers and staff can find further guidance of appropriate action to take from initial reports of YPSI within DOR-OPr-003 and DCP-OPr-003 Operational Procedure documents for each Force.

<b>4. Monitoring and Review</b>
<p>Review and amendments will be coordinated by the Policy Unit.</p> <p>The Policy Owner has overall responsibility for ensuring the content of the Policy is appropriate and up to date.</p> <p>This Policy will be reviewed annually subject to legislation/process changes.</p>
<b>5. Associated Documents</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">DCP-OPr-003</a> YPSI DCP Operational Procedure</li> <li>• <a href="#">DOR-OPr-003</a> YPSI DP Operational Procedure</li> <li>• <a href="#">Authorised Professional Practice (APP)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Code of Ethics for policing</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Decision Making Model</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mission &amp; Values</a> (DCP page)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Values</a> (Dorset pages)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Human Rights Legislation</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Records Management</a> (DCP page)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Records Management</a> (Dorset)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Freedom of Information Act 2000</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Government Security Classification</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">General Data Protection Regulations / Data Protection Act 2018</a></li> </ul>

<b>6. Document History</b>	
<b>Present portfolio holder</b>	ACC Local Policing & Connectivity (DCP) Chief Supt Territorial Policing (DP)
<b>Present document owner</b>	Supt for Prevent (DCP) Supt for Territorial Policing (DP)
<b>Present owning department</b>	Prevent (DCP) and Territorial Policing (DP)
<b>Below details required for version 1.0 and major amendments only</b>	
<b>Name of board</b>	DCP Business Board Dorset Business Board
<b>Date Approved</b>	18/03/2021 25/03/2021
<b>Chief officer approving</b>	D&C Deputy Chief Constable T/ACC M. Callaghan

<b>7. Version History</b>			
<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reason for Amendments</b>	<b>Amended by</b>
1.0	15/04/2021	Review and input into new templates.	Strategic Youth Co Ordinator, Child Centred Policing Lead Inspector

