Girls sexually abused by men who 'viewed them with contempt', court told

From the <u>Redditch Advertiser</u> and <u>ITV News</u> The next in a long line, and more to come from other towns, to be listed later this year.

SEVEN vulnerable teenage girls were sexually assaulted or exposed to attempted abuse by six men who "viewed them with contempt", a court has heard.

The defendants have gone on trial at Worcester Crown Court accused of sexual offences against the young girls — some as young as 13 — over a four-year period.

Opening the case, Mark Heywood QC, prosecuting, said: "This case is about seven girls in their early to middle teens who, during the period of March 2013 to March 2017, were sexually abused by these defendants. Some of those girls were simply and crudely groped. Some of them were lonely and wanted attention, so that they were willing to go along with whatever gave them that validation.

"Others had made poor lifestyle choices that made them vulnerable and willing to put themselves at risk in a way that perhaps responsible adults would recognise at once . . Drinking, taking drugs and being sexually available, they were easily taken advantage of by those who, in reality, viewed them with contempt."

Numan Mohammed formerly of Redditch, Worcestershire, is charged with rape, sexual activity in the presence of a child, four counts of sexual activity with a child, causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.

Arslan Tazarab, 25, of The Mayfields, Redditch, is charged with four counts of sexual activity with a child.

Ethasham Tazareb, 21, also of The Mayfields, is charged with sexual activity with a child, and four counts of attempting sexual communication with a child.

Abdul Hussain, 22, of Mount Pleasant, Redditch, is charged with engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child and two counts of sexual assault

Usman Asghar, of Sillins Avenue, Redditch, is charged with two counts of sexual activity with a child.

Usman Ali, 28, of Other Road, Redditch, faces two counts of sexual activity with a child.

The victims were under the age of 16.