## NCA Rotherham sex abuse investigation: Six go on trial for 27 offences

From the <u>Prosecutor Ms Ann Cotcher QC</u> said the men had often acted as a group and "shared" the girls around.

"These young men knew the girls were underage and more than that, they knew the girls were lacking in confidence and they would prey on their vulnerabilities," she said. "It was not unusual to park outside the schools where some of the girls went to, waiting to engage them in conversation and take them away from school or hang around in local parks or the alleyway behind Boots in Rotherham, the indoor market, or Clifton Park bandstand or the bus station – always waiting for girls to perform oral sex on them."

The prosecution claim between 1999 and 2002 when Saddiq was aged between 18 and 21 he had went from offending alone to offending in pairs or as part of a group. Saddiq is charged with raping a 15-year-old, referred to as Girl B, in the alleyway beside boots in 2000 or 2001.

Saddiq is also charged with raping another girl, Girl C, at Rotherham railway station while another defendant, referred to only as Defendant 6, indecently assaulted her at the same time.

Saddiq claims he had sex with Girl A when she was 18, which the prosecution say is a lie. The prosecutor said Saddiq had admitted to knowing Girl C but claimed he had consensual sex with when they were over the age of 16.

The men deny all the offences and the trial, which is expected to last eight weeks, continues.