

Report Calls for National Debate on Muslim Sex Grooming

I thought if I waited a couple of hours this would come out from behind the paywall at The Times via another news site. From [serious case review](#) into the systematic abuse of more than 370 girls in Oxfordshire. The recommendation has been backed by senior police and council staff, who have called for more research to be undertaken.

The review concluded that “a worrying lack of curiosity and follow through” on the part of police and care professionals led to the “indescribably awful” abuse of more than 370 girls in the Oxfordshire region over 15 years.

Its author, Alan Bedford, found that “the association [of group-based child sexual exploitation] with mainly Pakistan heritage is undeniable.” He recommended that “prevention will need both national understanding, communication and debate, and also work with faith groups at a local level.”

...although the report refers to Pakistani men, it also notes “In this report the word ‘Asian’ is used more than ‘Pakistani’. This is not to hide any specific ethnic origin, but because this was the description mainly used by the victims and in agency case records. It is believed that when the term ‘Asian’ was used it did very often refer to those of Pakistani heritage, but ‘Asian’ seems to be the word used in common professional parlance.”

The pattern of predominantly Pakistani men abusing white British girls is identical to that seen in Rotherham, where 1,400 girls were abused over 15 years, and also seen in Rochdale, Derby, Telford and Birmingham. However, in contrast to recent reports into the abuse at Rochdale, Bedford found “no evidence” of “any agency not acting when they should

have done because of racial sensitivities.”

The report highlights the work being done to bolster community relations as a way of tackling the issue, much of which seems to revolve around outreach to mosques. Examples include police officers attending Friday prayers, meetings between police and mosque leaders, working with mosques and their linked madrassas on safeguarding children and briefing faith leaders (of all faiths) on child sexual exploitation.

But a 2006 poll shows that nearly half of all British Muslims never attend mosque at all, and a further six percent only do so for special occasions. Yet officials seem lost as to how else to reach the British Asian community, perpetrating a sense of lack of direction which pervades the report.

Further bolstering that sense, Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Murray, head of Thames Valley CID, told the [here.](#) Rotherham, derby, Telford, Birmingham, Rochdale, Bristol. Regular readers of the NER will remember more.