

Operation Central - Timeline

Summer 2008

Intelligence received and initial enquiries conducted by the local safer neighbourhood team. Joint agency meetings take place and the decision is made to place the girls in local authority care.

December 2008

The investigation is taken over by Rotherham's Public Protection Unit and interviews are conducted with the victims. Following extensive enquiries, and close working and co operation between police, social services, education, health, the safeguarding board and liaison with CPS, nine men are identified as possible suspects

25th March 2009

Police, with the assistance of social care, conduct simultaneous dawn raids at seven different addresses in Rotherham and Sheffield, which result in the arrest of six suspects. All are subsequently bailed for video identification parades and further enquires.

26th March 2009

A further man is arrested, interviewed and subsequently bailed

27th March 2009

A further man is arrested, interviewed and subsequently bailed

31st March 2009

A further man is arrested, interviewed and subsequently bailed

May 2009

Police present case papers to the Crown Prosecution Service for them to consider if charges are to be brought. One of the men is released from his bail with no further police action in respect of him.

May-November 2009

A number of points are raised by the CPS and further work is carried out and reports prepared by the police.

November 2009

CPS reach a charging decision and the police prepare the court papers and arrange for the suspects to answer their bail.

8th December 2009

Eight men are charged with a total of 15 offences of rape, one of inciting a child to engage in sexual activity, and sexual touching and are remanded to court.

9th December 2009

All eight men appear at Rotherham Magistrates' Court.

Police and CPS prepare the court papers and the judicial process begins.

13th September 2010

Trial begins at Sheffield Crown Court with 23 counts;

8 x rape

13 x sexual activity with a child

2 x causing/inciting a child to engage in sexual activity

2nd November 2010

Jury returns verdict on nine counts;

6 x guilty

3 x not guilty

4th November 2010

Jury returns remaining verdicts;

2 x guilty

12 x not guilty

Total;

8 x guilty – 1 x rape and 7 x sexual activity with a child

15 x not guilty – 7 x rape, 6 x sexual activity with a child 2 x causing/inciting a child to engage in sexual activity

5th November 2010

Five men are sentenced to 32-and-a-half years for eight serious sexual offences, with three other men cleared of all charges.