

## **Five Rotherham men sentenced for serious sex offences**

The result is the culmination of 'Operation Central' – a child sexual exploitation investigation involving South Yorkshire Police, Rotherham Council and other agencies in the Rotherham area into serious offences committed in 2008.

Zafran Ramzan, 21, of Broom Grove, Broom, Rotherham, was convicted of one rape and two sexual activity with a child offences, while being cleared of two further rapes. He received a four-year sentence for the rape offence and two five-year concurrent sentences for the sexual activity offences, meaning he will serve a total of nine years in prison.

Adil Hussain, 20, of Nelson Street, Rotherham, received a four-year sentence for one offence of sexual activity with a child. He was cleared of three other counts of sexual activity with a child.

Razwan Razaq, 30, of Oxford Street, Clifton, Rotherham, was sentenced to five-and-a-half years for two offences of sexual activity with a child. These will be served consecutively, meaning a total of 11 years in prison. He was also given a three-year sentence for breach of a sexual offences order in 2008, to be served concurrently.

His brother Umar Razaq, 24, of the same address, was given a four-and-a-half year sentence for one count of sexual activity with a child but cleared of a further rape offence.

Mohsin Khan, 22, of Haworth Crescent, Moorgate, Rotherham, was found guilty of one offence of sexual activity with a child, receiving a four-year sentence. He was cleared of two other sexual activity with a child offences and also cleared of four joint rape offences with Shazad Akbar, 23, of Shirecliffe Lane, Sheffield.

Saeed Hussain, 29, of Hatherley Road, Eastwood, was found not guilty of two offences of causing/inciting a child to engage in sexual activity. Shalzaad Hussain, 22, of Clough Road, Masborough, was acquitted of one offence of sexual activity with a child.

All eight men denied the allegations throughout the trial.

The victims were aged between 13 and 16-years-old at the time of the offences in 2008 and are now aged 15 and 17-years-old.

### **Statement on behalf of South Yorkshire Police and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council**

This has been a very difficult two-year process for the four girls at the heart of this case and we hope they can now move on with the rest of their lives.

As agencies supporting the girls, we have only gained a limited insight into the trauma of their experiences but thankfully all four have started new lives and the conclusion of the case is another major step forward.

There have been significant changes over the past ten years in the way agencies deal with sexual offences, in terms of care and support for victims and victims' families, and the way police investigate allegations of this nature.

This case shows how seriously South Yorkshire Police and Rotherham Council treat the issue of child sexual exploitation. Often girls in these cases do not consider themselves victims and this is one of the difficulties agencies face in getting these cases to court. The girls demonstrated incredible bravery and without their courage, today's outcome would not have been possible.

Let us make it clear – these four girls were victims and the men convicted in this case were fully aware of their actions, exploiting the girls and taking advantage of their vulnerability at such a young age.

### **Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board statement**

Alan Hazell, Chair of the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board, said: "We are very pleased to see guilty verdicts being brought in this case following a long and painstaking investigation which has seen colleagues from different agencies both bringing people to justice and supporting the girls themselves.

"These men who have been found guilty, have selfishly preyed on these vulnerable young girls with no concern for the effect that their actions have had on their victims

"The biggest credit in this case must go to the girls themselves who have made huge strides forward in their lives since these incidents happened. To give very personal evidence in court is a very difficult experience, particularly for these young people when you consider what they have been through over the past few years. Without their evidence this case would never have come to court

"This has been a long and intensive investigation with colleagues in the Council working very closely with the girls themselves and with the police to bring the case to this positive conclusion.

"Unfortunately no matter how hard agencies work to protect young people there are those people in every town and city who will attempt to exploit our children. By bringing this case to court we are showing that in Rotherham it will not be tolerated. Thanks to the strength of partnership working between agencies in Rotherham we are in a strong position to safeguard our young people and bring perpetrators to court."