



## Response to East Devon District Council

18 September 2023

This report provides responses by Devon and Cornwall Police to questions posed by East Devon District Council following the review of the independent Verita investigation at the full Council meeting held on 11 July 2023. The Verita investigation considered the actions of East Devon District Council following the allegations and criminal charges against John Humphreys.

### **1. Who you contacted at EDDC regarding this issue and when?**

#### Devon and Cornwall Police response

As part of the investigation into allegations against Mr Humphreys, the investigating officer made a LADO referral on 7 December 2015. An initial Managing Allegations Strategy meeting was held on 9 March 2016, chaired by Devon County Council, at which the East Devon District Council Monitoring Officer was present. In this meeting, details of the allegations against Mr Humphreys were shared with partner agencies including East Devon District Council.

### **2. Why you directed the case to the Council's Monitoring Officer at that time and not the Safeguarding Lead?**

#### Devon and Cornwall Police response

Our records do not clarify why the case was directed to the Monitoring Officer and not the Safeguarding Lead, nor which agency made this decision.

### **3. Why the Monitoring Officer was asked to keep the matter entirely confidential, outside normal practice and if this was due to the investigation, why the advice did not change once Mr Humphreys was arrested and questioned?**

#### Devon and Cornwall Police response

The minutes of the Devon County Council LADO/MAS meetings provide the official and most accurate written record of the conversations that took place within these meetings. There is no recorded requirement for the matter to be kept entirely confidential within these minutes.

Given the length of time since the LADO/MAS meetings took place, it is now not possible to categorically confirm the terms of the advice or instructions that police gave to attendees at these meetings.

Email correspondence between the investigating officer and the Monitoring Officer, which has already been shared, state that the Monitoring Officer should not share any information



with Mr Humphreys. The email correspondence does not include any request from the investigating officer to keep the matter entirely confidential.

- 4. Would the same approach take place now or have procedures been revised? If so, please can we have details.**

Devon and Cornwall Police response

The LADO meeting structure remains the appropriate and agreed means by which information should be shared where it is believed that a person who works with children may present a risk to them, or may have committed an offence against them. Once a partner agency has been informed of a risk it is for them to assess and manage the impact of that risk internally as they see fit. Whilst an investigation may be confidential in nature, this should not preclude those in an organisation tasked with safeguarding from being made aware of the risk, in order that mitigating actions can be instigated.

A referral to the LADO process would take place now should similar circumstances arise, as it did in 2015.