

**NOTE: THIS IS A WORKING DRAFT ONLY, NOT A FINAL VERSION. THIS DRAFT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THE DRAFT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO ADMINISTRATION FOR FEEDBACK, AND WE ARE NOW ALSO SEEKING INPUT AND FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC AND AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS, NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 10, 2018**

London Police Services Board Policy Title:  Sexual Assault Investigation Policy	
<b>Board Administration</b>	<b>Sexual Assault Investigation Policy</b>

## **PREAMBLE**

*TBD*

## **DEFINITIONS**

*TBD*

## **POLICY**

It is the policy of the London Police Services Board that:

- a) This policy will apply as a whole rather than in its constituent parts.
- b) All sections of this policy will consider the needs of diverse and vulnerable populations including but not limited to the following communities: indigenous, intellectually or developmentally disabled, and racialized.
- c) With respect to sexual violence the chief of police shall ensure experiences of reporting, disclosure and follow-up for survivors of sexual violence are trauma

informed, sensitive and do not perpetuate experiences of re-victimization intentionally or unintentionally.

To support this policy, the Chief of Police shall:

- a) develop and maintain trauma informed and victim centered procedures for undertaking and managing investigations into sexual violence occurrences that address:
  - i. Communications and dispatch
  - ii. Initial response, including blind reporting protocols, exploring ways to minimize need for victim to speak with multiple officers, and location of initial interview that is trauma informed
  - iii. Role of supervisors
  - iv. Enhanced investigative procedures
  - v. Laying of charges
  - vi. Occurrences regarding members of a police service
  - vii. Post-arrest procedures, including appropriate and trauma informed follow ups with sexual assault survivors
  - viii. Victim assistance
  - ix. Safety planning
- b) ensure that there is continuous training and skills development for all London Police Service, including civilian members that may have contact with victims of sexual assault. Training consider both formal and informal aspects of curriculum

and may be delivered by external experts, and mandatory training on the following topics:

- i. Sexual violence and consent
- ii. Violence against women, privilege, and power;
- iii. Trauma-informed approaches to police services and investigations
- iv. Gender bias and rape myths related to sexual assault
- v. Understanding the intersectionality of sexual violence in vulnerable and marginalized communities, and in particular, how history of colonialism and oppression impact Indigenous people in the context of sexual violence.

Those in the domestic violence unit shall receive additional training on sexual violence in a domestic context. All newly hired officers going forward shall be receive training specific to their role as a first point of contact for many sexual assault complaints.

- c) Work, where possible, with hospitals and agencies which provide services to victims of sexual assault, including Sexual Assault Treatment Centres, Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centres and Victim Services, as well as the local Crown, to ensure a coordinated and effective response to victims of sexual assaults, and to ensure that all victims of sexual assault are provided access to information on available community supports, including crisis numbers, counselling services and oversight agencies, at the earliest possible opportunity;
- d) Establish a Sexual Assault Advisory Committee comprised of community-based stakeholders including victim/survivor advocacy agencies, police and other direct service providers to survivors of sexual assault, whose purpose shall be:

- i. To ensure that survivors of sexual assault are provided with the best support possible and to feel empowered at every stage of the sexual assault investigation, including the ability to enter and exit an investigation at their absolute discretion
  - ii. To determine whether sexual assault cases are being classified as they should be, and
  - iii. To make recommendations to resolve any inappropriately classified case as well as any changes to policy, procedures or training to ensure that sexual assault cases are being classified as they should be;
- e) Establish a Victim Advocate Case Review system that provides for independent evaluation by community partners of all sexual assault cases classified as unfounded in order to assist the Service and the Board in ensuring that sexual assault investigations are in fact employing best practices and are appropriately classified;
- f) Ensure that LPS' response to sexual violence occurrences are monitored and evaluated by providing an annual report that includes recommendations of the Sexual Assault Advisory Committee, numbers of sexual assault cases reported, and numbers of cases independently reviewed by community partners.
- g) Ensure that the domestic violence unit works with the sexual assault unit when dealing with domestic violence that involve sexual assault to ensure a coordination of efforts.

- h) Work with agencies that specifically support and advocate for sex workers to ensure sex worker's unique perspectives are being heard.
- i) Explore the possibility of setting up a third party reporting system in collaboration with local victims services and community organizations.

### PRIVACY

With respect to privacy: the chief of police shall will work with victims to respect their desire for privacy or publicity of the name of the accused. Where the victim requests that the name of the accused be released, the Chief of Police shall endeavour to fulfill that request unless there are pressing legal, security or privacy issues of other victims. The Chief shall identify to the victim, where possible and to the extent possible, the reasons why the name of an accused is not being release.

### ACCESSIBILITY

This policy shall be made accessible to members of the public and for agencies to distribute. Accessible formats of this policy shall be provided in a timely manner upon request.

### ONGOING UPDATES

This policy shall be updated every (5) years to ensure it remains up to date.