1. Summary

1.1 This report provides background information to the Police and Crime Committee for its meeting with invited guests to discuss victims and vulnerability.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited guests on victims and vulnerability, and notes the discussion.

3. Background

3.1 This will be the Committee’s last thematic meeting during the Assembly’s 2013-16 term. The meeting will be used to follow-up on the work the Committee has previously undertaken on rape case handling; child sexual exploitation; and mental health and policing. It will consider how the Mayor, in his capacity as occupant of the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), is working with key partners to prevent these issues and review progress made.

3.2 The Committee’s investigation into safeguarding children highlights the particular challenges the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) faces in responding to child sexual exploitation. While, its report, *Keeping Children Safe*, recognises significant improvements in the way the MPS approaches child sexual exploitation, including improved cooperative working with many other agencies, it calls for increases in the number of officers dedicated to tackling the one third increase in reported cases of the sexual abuse of children in London. Following on from this, the Committee examined London’s approach to protecting children and young people from sexual exploitation and the key challenges partners face. Its report, *Confronting Child Sexual Exploitation in London*, asks MOPAC to set out a clear performance monitoring framework for child sexual exploitation and to work with the London Safeguarding Children Board to establish an agreed and consistent dataset across London.

3.3 The Committee examined how the MPS and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) handle rape cases in London at its meeting in June 2015. It discussed the report by the Rt Hon Dame Elish
Angiolini DBE QC, *The Report of the Independent Review of the Investigation and Prosecution of Rape in London*, \(^3\) and examined how the MPS and CPS provide support to victims, investigate offences and bring cases to court.

3.4 The Independent Commission on Mental Health and Policing\(^4\) was set up by the Commissioner, MPS, in September 2012, in response to criticism of how the MPS deals with people with mental health issues. Chaired by Lord Victor Adebowale, Chief Executive of Turning Point, the review sought to address the roles and responsibilities of the MPS in dealing with issues of mental ill health in custody; at street encounter; and in response to call from the public.\(^5\) It was tasked with considering the interface between policing and mental health services and set out to look at the roles and responsibilities of partner agencies and how information is shared between them. The Commission’s report contained 12 key findings and made 28 recommendations for change. The Committee reviewed the progress made by the MPS in implementing the recommendations at its meeting in December 2014.

4. **Issues for Consideration**

4.1 The meeting will be used to consider victims and vulnerability. It will be divided into three parts and follow-up on the work the Committee has previously undertaken on:

- Rape case handling;
- Child sexual exploitation; and
- Mental health.

4.2 Invited guests for the three parts include:

- Baljit Ubhey, Chief Crown Prosecutor, London;
- Detective Chief Superintendent Keith Niven, MPS;
- Mike Cooke, Chair, London Safeguarding Children Board;
- Commander Christine Jones, MPS;
- A representative from NHS Trust; and
- Samantha Cunningham, Head of Service Integrated Offender Management, Programmes and Neighbourhoods, MOPAC.

Other guests will be confirmed.

5. **Legal Implications**

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

5.2 Officers confirm that the scope for this thematic session falls within the Committee’s terms of reference.

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\(^4\) *Independent Commission on Mental Health and Policing*, May 2013

6. **Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

**List of appendices to this report:** None

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