

**REPORT OF THE POLICE SERVICE
TO
THE CHATHAM-KENT POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

Board Report Number: 5. 4 (Regular)

Date of Report: April 5, 2017

Date of Board Meeting: April 18, 2017

Reference: 2016 Child Abuse Investigation Team Annual Report

Recommendation: Receive the report for information purposes.

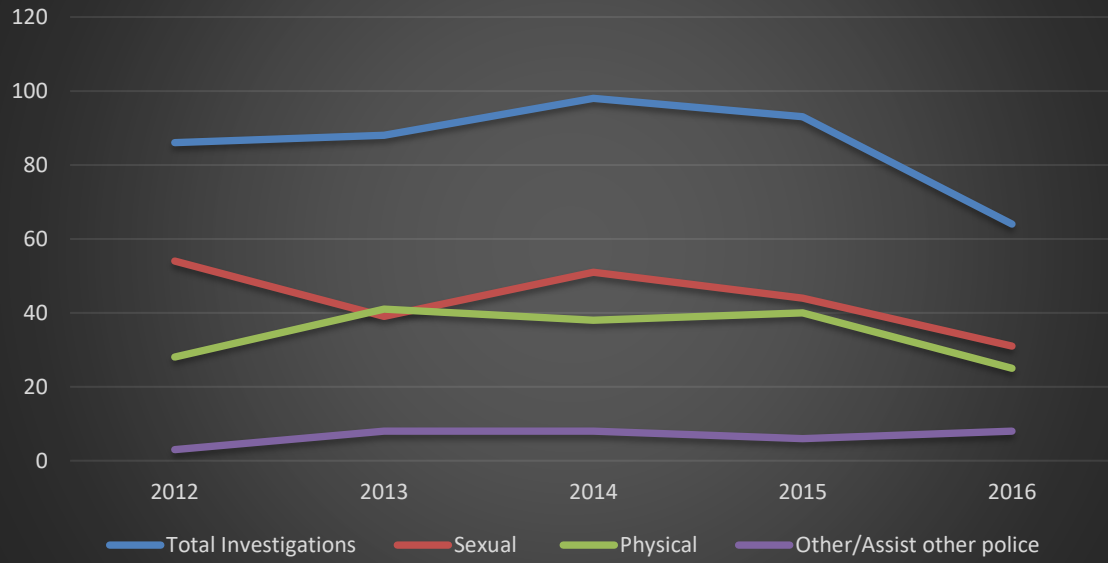
The Child Abuse Investigation Team investigates incidents of alleged physical and/or sexual abuse, where the victim is less than 16 years of age and the abuse is caused by a caregiver. The team of one Officer and one Child Protection Worker is based out of the Chatham-Kent Children's Services facilities on Grand Ave. West in Chatham. The team is part of the Investigative Support Section of the Criminal Investigation Branch.

The Child Abuse Investigative Team Officer, partners with a Chatham Kent Children Services Intake Social Worker, and the investigation is conducted jointly and in parallel. This allows each agency to be able to respond to its own mandate while conducting interviews and investigations one time with victims and witnesses; instead of several times. This helps reduce the trauma associated to this very sensitive work. When the actual team is unavailable, the investigators of the Major Crime Unit of the Criminal Investigation Branch, who are also qualified in sexual assault and child abuse investigation, conduct investigations with the Social Workers of Chatham-Kent Children Services as required.

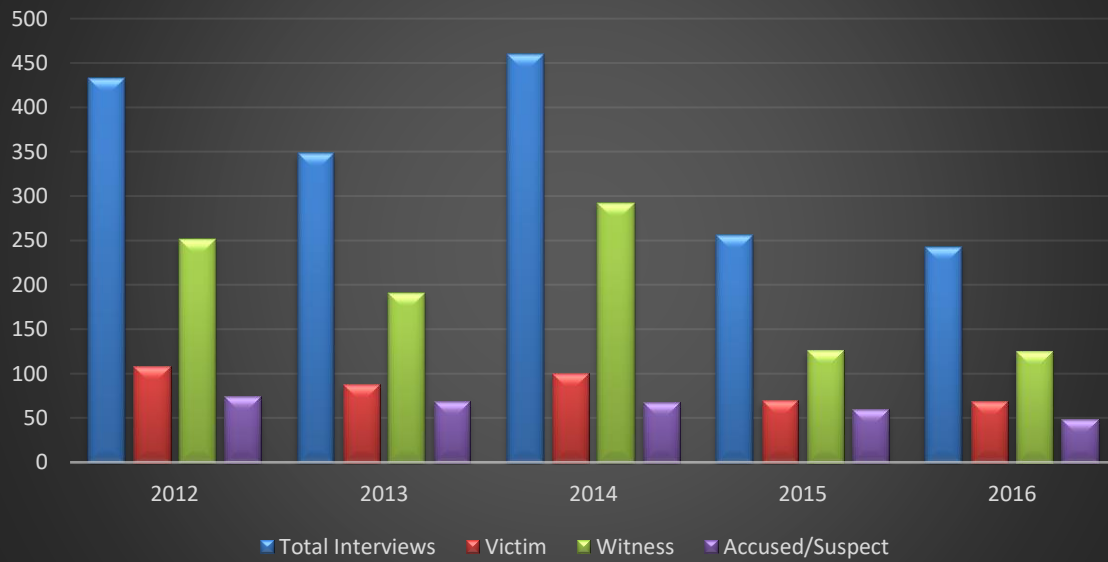
Interviews are videotaped in child-friendly environments (whenever possible). There is a private child friendly video interview room located at Chatham-Kent Children Services. The advantages of this is that there is child care also available in the building if more than one child is involved. The integrated teams work closely with our schools, the Crown Attorney's Office, the C-K Health Alliance, and other social service agencies and partners.

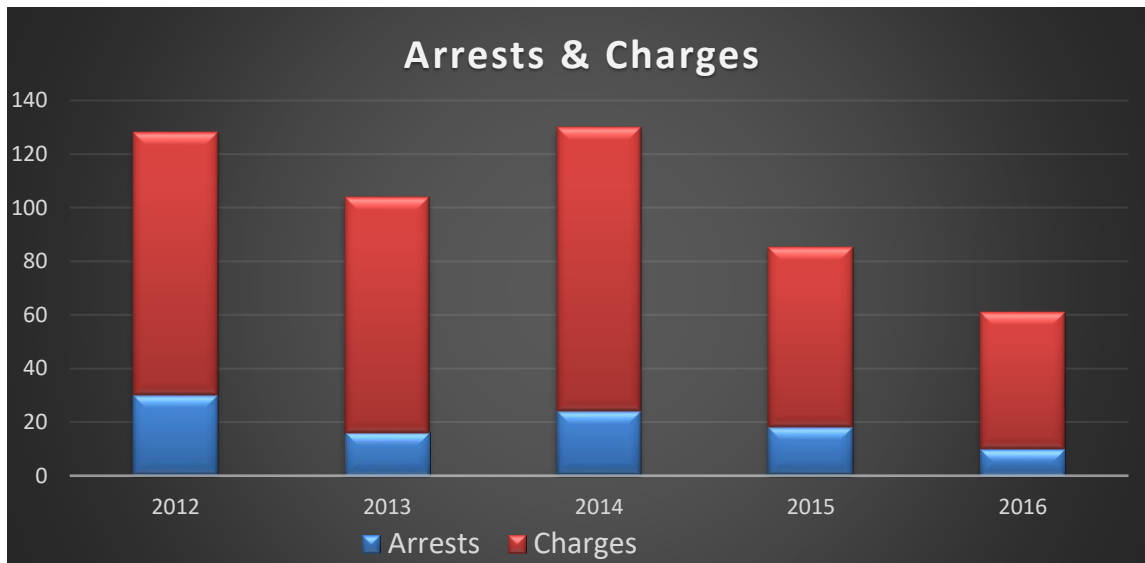
In 2016 the Child Abuse Investigation Team consisted of Constable Jennifer Jacobson and CAS Cristina Ruscica. Constable JACOBSON is in her 5th year in this role and CAS Cristina RUSCICA is in her 4th year. They have developed a positive working partnership and work together cooperatively as they investigate the complaints they receive. In 2016 the Child Abuse Team was involved in multiple child physical and sexual abuse investigations.

Overview 2012-2016



Interviews 2012 -2016





Quick Glance of 2015/2016

Child Abuse Team	2015	2016
Total Investigations	93	64
Sexual Assaults Investigations	44	31
Physical Assaults Investigations	40	25
Assist other Police Services, Follow up Investigations	6	8
Total Interviews	256	243
Victim Interviews	70	69
Accused Interviews	60	49
Witness Interviews	126	125
Total Arrests	18	10
Total Charges	67	51

CONCLUSION

In 2016 the Child Abuse Team was involved in multiple child abuse investigations with a year very similar to 2015 in numbers. The most significant change in data was in regards to physical abuse investigations in 2016. The decline was approximately 38%, this in part may have been due to better screening of 'abuse' calls by CAS prior to having police involvement.

Overall Sexual Abuse Investigations have remained quite consistent in numbers and are the bulk of the investigations by the unit. The Team conducted a total of 243 interviews throughout the year, a slight decline of 256 from 2015.

Approved by: _____
Deputy Chief Jeff Littlewood

Recommended by: _____
Chief Gary Conn