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Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, corporate director of people and communities at Peterborough City Council, said:

"We are pleased with this sentence today as it represents justice for the girls and young women who suffered at the hands of this vicious criminal.

"As we did a month ago when we got the original verdict we would like to pay tribute to the girls and young women who so bravely took the witness stand and gave evidence. Their courage in reliving some absolutely horrendous experiences at the hands of this criminal has enabled us to get the result we did today and means that other girls and young women are safer in our city.

"Today is an important day for these girls and young women. It is important because they have been believed. And because of this they can now get on with their lives and properly begin their recovery. That recovery may take a long time but we will help and support them in every way we can.

"I would also like to pay tribute to our social workers and the police. It was not until they won the trust of the girls, over many months and sometimes years, that they felt they could tell us what was really happening to them that the police were able to make arrests. And one of these arrests has led directly to today's very lengthy sentence for this vicious criminal.

"Today's sentence marks the end of Operation Erle. This has been a joint effort between the city council and the police over the last two years that has seen us put ten dangerous criminals behind bars for a total of 114 years and 9 months. I have no doubt that girls and young women are safer in our city as a result of this.

"Now that Operation Erle is at an end we will reflect very carefully on what it has achieved, what lessons we have learned and how we can work with other councils and police forces across the country to pool our learning so we continue to tackle child sexual exploitation, that exists in far too many of our communities."