

Sentenced: Teenage girl who lied about Alexandra Park rape

A teenage girl ended up in court after admitting making a false rape claim. Manchester magistrates handed the youngster, who cannot be named for legal reasons, a 12-month referral order after she admitted one count of perverting the course of justice.

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Manchester magistrates handed the youngster, who cannot be named for legal reasons, a 12-month referral order after she admitted one count of perverting the course of justice.

The girl told staff at her school she had been raped in Alexandra Park, Moss Side, in October.

Police officers who specialises in sex assault cases interviewed the girl, who claimed she had been grabbed from behind by a man with a knife.

She said she had been raped a number of times by the man.

Officers cordoned off a 'crime scene' and closed the park as they embarked on a major investigation.

Scenes-of-crime officers carried out a thorough forensic examination with the help of officers from the Tactical Aid Unit, who searched the area by fingertip. The search was so detailed officers had to guard the scene overnight.

Detectives also spent hours trawling through CCTV cameras in the area.

The girl was video-interviewed by more specially-trained officers and offered help by St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

But her story began to unravel as police uncovered a number of inaccuracies in her account.

When pressed further, the girl admitted that she had lied.

After the case, Detective Chief Inspector Dominic Scally said: “This false report not only wasted countless police hours but ultimately spread fear and concern throughout the community.

“These concerns, even though wholly unfounded, were very difficult to allay and we spent a lot of time and effort trying to reassure residents.

“The scope of our investigation in this incident proves how thoroughly we investigate all reports of rape and I hope this girl's inexcusable actions in no way deter genuine victims from coming forward.

“Today's sentence should also act as a warning that we will take action on anyone foolish enough to make up such an offence.”

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/sentenced-teenage-girl-who-lied-851217>