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**April 6 2004**

A long running investigation into historic cases of child abuse at a former children's home has resulted in the conviction of a 66-year-old man.

Operation Shogun – a joint investigation between Gloucestershire Constabulary and Social Services – originally began in 1998.

The investigation centred on Sedbury Park School, at Sedbury, in Gloucestershire, which was a community home under the control of the Gloucestershire Local Authority between 1973 and 1986.

The home, which no longer exists (the building now houses a nursing home for the elderly which is entirely unconnected with the investigation), catered for up to 85 adolescent boys between the ages of 13 and 16 who were referred by local authorities throughout the South West.

The convicted man – 66-year-old Geoffrey John Ward Allen - was employed as residential care worker at the home.

Allen, from Worcester, worked there from 1976 to 1984 and lived in staff accommodation on the premises.

During a trial heard at Bristol Crown Court in October 2003 Allen pleaded not guilty to one count of indecent assault on one victim, indecent assault and indecency with another victim and buggery and four separate indecent assaults on a further victim. All victims were under 16 at the time of the incidents.

Allen was found guilty of one count of indecent assault, committed in 1977 at the Sedbury home, and sentencing was delayed pending a further trial.

Allen then appeared at Bristol Crown Court between March 9 and 11 2004 to face two indictments of indecent assault. These offences were alleged to have been committed in the Worcester area in 1994/5.

On March 11 Allen was found guilty of both offences. He was sentenced to three and a half years imprisonment in total for the three offences.

Details of the case have not been publicised until now due to reporting restrictions imposed at Bristol Crown Court, which have

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now been lifted.

DCI Pete Davis said, who led the investigation, said: "Operation Shogun has been one of the longest running enquiries mounted by Gloucestershire Constabulary, involving methodical and detailed investigations into offences committed up to thirty years ago.

"The commitment of my team and our partner agencies does everyone great credit and I hope the outcome will be of comfort to the victims of such abuse."

ENDS

**Note to editors: This press release was issued by Kate Nelmes, Senior Press Officer, Gloucestershire Constabulary. (01242) 276071.**

**The nursing home now housed on the Sedbury site is completely unconnected with the case and should not be contacted or visited by the media.**