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Pitsea: Liar! Girl, 16, made up rape story

A 16-year-old girl who claimed she was the victim of a brutal rape in Pitsea has admitted she lied.

Police set up a major inquiry into the alleged attack, including an incident room and roadside interviews.

Now they have reassured people living on Pitsea's Felmores estate that there is not a rapist roaming their streets.

A new investigation has been launched to establish whether charges should be brought against the young girl instead for wasting police time.

The teenager claimed she had been the victim of a brutal rape after being approached by three strangers late on July 17.

The youngster said she was forced into shrubbery and subjected to a horrific attack as she walked home from a night out with pals.

She claimed she was then followed home by the three teenagers.

Police set up roadblocks the following week around Malyons Green to try to pick up information from possible witnesses.

Det Chief Insp Paul Kreyling, leading the case, said on Thursday: "We are no longer pursuing a rape investigation. We will not be prosecuting anyone for rape.

"We have now got to consider carefully what action, if any, to take regarding the allegation. We are not definitely looking to prosecute. If we were to prosecute it would be for wasting police time."

Police count the cost after false claim sparks major investigation

Police launched a full-scale investigation to try to track down the "Felmores rapist".

An E-fit was circulated and an incident room set up.

Mr Kreyling said: "We launched a full stranger rape investigation. That involved a lot of police officers and resources. We did everything we could.

"This is not down to time, money or resources - although they are the areas we consider for wasting police time charges. The public have been led to believe there is a rapist loose in their neighbourhood.

"It also gives the wrong message to potential victims. We do not want to put these women off reporting these sexual crimes because they think they will not get help from us. We have launched a major investigation, regardless of what the outcome has been."

Officers are now to interview the young girl to establish what action to take.

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http://www.chelmsfordweeklynews.co.uk/news/5525165.Pitsea__Liar__Girl__16__made_up_rape_story/