

South Wales Police - Domestic Abuse Action Plan – April 2016

Background:

Her Majesty's inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) undertook a national inspection of the police's response to domestic abuse in 2014. The report titled *'Everyone's Business: Improving The Police Response To Domestic Abuse'* highlighted a series of both national and local recommendations for each force to progress and publish as part of a Domestic Abuse Action Plan.

Domestic abuse is core police business and we are committed to tackling this crime - from call taking and first response by officers, to the investigation and the subsequent action to protect victims. A number of statutory and voluntary sector agencies in South Wales are involved in tackling domestic abuse and the many forms of violence against women and girls, and to supporting victims. It is therefore essential that we work positively in partnership with these agencies.

Our commitment to tackling domestic abuse is clearly laid out in two key South Wales Police plans: [South Wales Police and Crime Reduction Plan 2016/21](#) and [South Wales Police Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Plan 2014-17](#)

One of the six priorities identified within the South Wales Police and Crime Reduction Plan 2016/21 is to 'work to protect the most vulnerable in our communities', which means that we will develop our understanding of the issues faced by our communities to provide the support they need, using the principles of early intervention and co-operation with partners to identify and help those who need it most.

In relation to domestic and sexual abuse, this will be achieved through the delivery of these plans, the main objectives of which are to: Improve early identification and intervention; Ensure a victim centred approach and; Encourage prevention

Our organisation:

South Wales Police is reshaping the way we do things and transforming how we organise our people, processes and systems to tackle domestic abuse and give victims the best possible service. This includes greater cross departmental working within the Force and the launch of the key initiatives detailed below:

Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) model

A general practice-based domestic abuse and sexual violence training and referral programme, this model was launched in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan where the programme was launched with the health board in November 2014. Following the success in this area, the IRIS model was launched in the Cwm Taf in November 2015, and a similar programme is to be introduced in partnership with higher education.

DRIVE Project

The DRIVE Project challenges perpetrators of domestic abuse. It will develop, test and evaluate a new model to fundamentally change perpetrator behaviour to make victims and families safe. To reduce the number of victims, we must reduce the number of perpetrators. The aim is to change the public narrative from 'why doesn't she leave' to 'why doesn't he stop'?

The Drive Partnership is made up of Respect, SafeLives and Social Finance. The pilot programmes will be delivered in Essex, South Wales and West Sussex. It is funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales, Tudor Trust and the Police and Crime Commissioners in all three areas.

Wales Integrated Serious and Dangerous Offender Management (WISDOM) model is a development of the Integrated Offenders Management (IOM) Cymru All Wales project. The intention is to apply IOM principles of integration, innovation and efficiency, with an overall focus on improving outcomes for families, victims and communities.

A multi-agency pilot is based in our Northern BCU (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff) focusing on an offender cohort which includes those who pose a High or Very High Risk of Serious Harm and are at High Risk of Serious Re-offending. This will include violent, sexual and serial domestic abuse offenders.

Women's Pathfinder Scheme

The Women's Pathfinder Scheme, launched in Cardiff in July 2014, aims to divert low risk women, many of whom have been victims of abuse themselves, into voluntary support and intervention in the community

South Wales Victim Focus

South Wales Victim Focus is the new name for the service provided in South Wales by Victim Support. They are funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and continue to provide the main support service for Victims of Crime in South Wales.

The re-modelled service ensures a holistic victim-centred approach. Recognising that each victim is unique, they will work with them to understand their personal support needs, prioritising the most vulnerable in our communities.

Three new Victim Focus Teams have been established offering a localised service that provide intense, face to face support. Led by Victim Focus managers, the teams are committed to developing partnerships with statutory and partner agencies within each Victim Focus area.



KEY CRITERIA OF HEADINGS WITHIN DOMESTIC ABUSE ACTION PLAN

PREVENT	Raise awareness and understanding of Domestic Abuse within South Wales Police and amongst all communities to help prevent incidents and repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse.
PROTECT	Safeguard and support victims of Domestic Abuse.
PREPARE	Provide strong leadership and effective systems whilst working with partners to tackle Domestic Abuse.
PURSUE	Disrupt, arrest and prosecute Domestic Abuse offenders whilst ensuring a victim centred approach.

PREVENT

REF	ACTION	RESPONSE	TARGET	LEAD
1.	The force to undertake a training needs analysis to review the training already delivered to staff, and establish future requirements of domestic abuse training.	Existing training has been mapped and gaps identified. A future plan has been developed and the delivery of this is an ongoing process. Mandatory public protection training has been introduced for all response and student officers.	Training of all staff is a continuous and ongoing process.	Learning Development Services and Public Protection Department
2.	The force to deploy domestic abuse risk assessors and specialist domestic abuse staff equitably to match demand.	A 2015 review of the force's Public Protection Units was undertaken and an uplift in Risk Assessor posts identified and agreed to further enhance capacity to match demand.	October 2016	ACC Specialist Crime
3.	The force to review current MARAC capacity and agree a process with partners that does not disadvantage victims of domestic abuse. The force to review the MARAC support with partners across the force area and provide equitable support to provide better outcomes for victims	Phase 1 has been completed with a review of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) processes. Phase 2 is in progress where the recommendations from Phase 1 will be taken forward with partner agencies in order to achieve best outcomes, and ensure victims are not disadvantaged at any stage.	April 2017	Public Protection Department / BCU Commanders / Key partner agencies

PROTECT

REF	ACTION	RESPONSE	TARGET	LEAD
4.	The force to change the instruction on the '10 Point Plan' and replace with guidance that is more supportive of those who may not wish to continue with the criminal prosecution.	The plan has been amended to ensure a victim focused approach. All South Wales Police Officers have been updated as to their responsibilities in this regard.	Embedded practice subject to continuous review	ACC Specialist Crime
5.	The force to ensure officers physically check on the welfare of children present in households where domestic abuse is reported and review compliance.	This has been incorporated into force policy and guidance, and is adopted practice.	Embedded practice subject to continuous review	ACC Specialist Crime ACC Territorial Policing
6.	The force to internally market the awareness of the roles and duties of the specialist domestic abuse staff and risk assessors.	Internal force wide communication channels utilised to market the roles and duties of specialist domestic abuse staff and risk assessors.	Embedded practice subject to continuous review	Public Protection Department/Corporate Communications
7.	The force to introduce a maximum time period within which the victim risk grading should be defined and recorded.	Frontline officers risk assess at scene and record accordingly.	Embedded practice subject to continuous review	ACC Specialist Crime
8.	The force to conduct a review of the force wide alarm provision and implement a policy to support the consistent provision of alarms to victims.	A review of the alarm provision has taken place and an enhanced service has been agreed. The roll out of the alarms will follow initial staff training in their improved technology and revised use.	Embedded practice subject to continuous review	ACC Specialist Crime

PREPARE

REF	ACTION	RESPONSE	TARGET	LEAD
9.	Every police force in England & Wales should establish and publish an action plan that specifies in detail what steps it will take to improve its approach to domestic abuse.	South Wales Police have undertaken a peer review of our Domestic Abuse action plan with the other three Welsh forces. South Wales Police will make this action plan available to the public on their website.	May 2016	ACC Specialist Crime
10.	South Wales Police to have a work place domestic abuse policy.	<p>South Wales Police work place policy is published on the force intranet for all officers and staff to access.</p> <p>Officers/staff that are identified as either victims or perpetrators are dealt with accordingly.</p>	Embedded and subject to continual review	ACC Specialist Crime
11.	Chief Constables should review how they and their senior officers give full effect to their forces' stated priority on improving its response to Domestic Abuse.	<p>There is a meeting structure and performance framework that scrutinises the force's response to domestic abuse at all levels of the organisation. This is underpinned and summarised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Domestic Abuse features as a priority area within internal performance processes. 2. Force policy and guidance has been refreshed and publicised internally. 3. Selection and promotion processes include assessing knowledge and understanding of protecting the public and the Police and Crime Commissioners priorities. 4. The force has attained White Ribbon Status and recruited 24 White Ribbon Champions to support/raise awareness around this priority. 5. Introduction of Victim Satisfaction surveys to inform continued improvements. 	Embedded and subject to continual review	Chief Constable / Police and Crime Commissioner

12.	Data collected on domestic abuse needs to be consistent, comparable, accessible and accurate so that it can be used to monitor progress. This requires the Home Office to develop national data standards in relation to domestic abuse data. The data should be collected by police forces and provided to the Home Office for the annual data return.	Domestic Abuse data is collated and there is effective oversight via internal governance structures.	October 2016	Corporate Development
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PURSUE

REF	ACTION	RESPONSE	TARGET	LEAD
13	Link with the perpetrator programme work being carried out by Probation, Integrated Offender Management Cymru and South Wales Prisons to consider how best to use this within a policing perspective.	<p>A perpetrator programme (DRIVE Project) which holds perpetrators of domestic abuse to account is being piloted in South Wales for the next three years.</p> <p>The Priority Perpetrator Identification Tool (PPIT) has been developed to help front line practitioners to identify a subset of perpetrators who are considered the most dangerous. This is used within the DRIVE project and plans are now in place to consider roll out more dynamically within day to day operational policing.</p> <p>The Wales Integrated Sex and Dangerous Offenders Management (WISDOM) project has commenced a multi-agency pilot within South Wales Police, aimed at reducing re-offending amongst dangerous offenders and will include a cohort of convicted perpetrators of Domestic Abuse.</p>	March 2019	BCU Commanders/ Public Protection Department.
14	Set plans to develop a problem solving approach to repeat and serial perpetrators.	<p>Perpetrators programmes such as DRIVE, Wales Integrated Sex and Dangerous Offenders Management (WISDOM) and the Priority Perpetrator Identification Tool (PPIT) are being piloted within the South Wales Police force.</p> <p>Daily Management Meetings are held each morning to ensure that officers and staff are aware of offenders who pose a current and continued risk. The opportunities to discuss and enable positive action is taken at the earliest opportunity.</p>	March 2019	BCU Commanders/ Public Protection Department.

		The number of Domestic Violence Protection Notices/Orders (DVPN/O) are monitored by Chief Officers to ensure the force is using a range of methods to tackle offenders and reduce the risk of repeated incidents.		
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ACRONYM	DEFINITION
ACC	Assistant Chief Constable
BCU	Basic Command Units (Delivery of Operational Policing within a specific geographic area)
DMM	Daily Management Meeting
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
DVPN/O	Domestic Violence Protection Notice/ Order
PPU	Public Protection Unit
PPD, HQ	Public Protection Department, Headquarters
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
WISDOM	Wales Integrated Serious and Dangerous Offender Management Project
PPIT	Priority Perpetrator Identification Tool