

South Wales Police - Domestic Abuse Action Plan – April 2016

This specific Action Plan supports the detailed Action Plan for tackling all aspects of violence against women and girls which was published following joint work by Police Commissioner Alun Michael and Chief Constable Peter Vaughan. The domestic abuse action plan sets out how South Wales Police will PREVENT domestic abuse, PROTECT victims of domestic abuse, PREPARE to tackle domestic abuse and PURSUE domestic abuse offenders. It follows from the priorities for South Wales Police set out in the Police & Crime Plan for 2016-2021 published earlier this year.

The plan spells out how we are working to protect the most vulnerable in our communities, by developing our understanding of the issues faced by victims of domestic abuse, and using the principles of early intervention and co-operation with partners to identify and help those who need it most.”

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. We believe that working in partnership is essential to ensure that domestic abuse becomes everyone’s business. We will work closely with a number of statutory and voluntary sector agencies in South Wales to tackle domestic abuse and the many forms of violence against women and girls.

Our ongoing commitment to working in partnership will extend to continuing to fund and establish creative and innovative services to ensure that that we are able to provide the best possible services to victims and their families. We are proud to have pioneered a number of initiatives with our partners to improve victims’ safety and hold perpetrators to account including:

IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety)

We have jointly funded IRIS implementation within Cardiff and the Vale and Cwm Taf University Health Boards through investing in general practice-based domestic abuse and sexual violence training and advocacy referral programme. We are the only police force area to have this unique service. IRIS enhances responses and access to support and advocacy for victims within a primary health care setting. IRIS is now operational within 25 General Practices located within Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, and because of its success is now being implemented across the 46 General Practices within Cwm Taf.

DRIVE Project

We believe we need to change the public narrative from ‘why doesn’t she leave’ to ‘why doesn’t he stop’? The Commissioners commitment to innovation and developing new ways of working has resulted in funding being allocated to develop the DRIVE Project in South Wales, with Cwm Taf being selected as the pilot site. The three year pilot aims to identify effective interventions through multi-agency working that challenge perpetrators of domestic abuse, and in

turn reduce the number of victims. The DRIVE Project will develop, test and evaluate a new model to fundamentally change perpetrator behaviour to make victims and families safe

Wales Integrated Serious and Dangerous Offender Management (WISDOM)

The Police & Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) services have jointly funded activities to improve multi-agency working. The collective desire to improve multi-agency working in order to maximise resources and improve outcomes for families, victims and communities has led to the development of an innovative, and multi-agency case management system.

As a result, 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

This scheme aims to reduce offending and reoffending by women by providing an integrated approach which focuses on the specific needs of women. The Diversion scheme diverts low risk women away from the criminal justice system and into comprehensive packages of intervention and support at the earliest opportunity.

Partnership working between the Commissioner, Integrated Offender management, National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company saw the development of the Women's Pathfinder Scheme launched in Cardiff in July 2014. The Commissioner provided funding for the project and its subsequent expansion to include service provision in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

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.

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. This detailed action plan fulfils that requirement as well as fulfilling the commitments made by the Commissioner and the Chief Constable.



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 REQUIRED	SOUTH WALES POLICE 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 REQUIRED	SOUTH WALES POLICE 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 REQUIRED	SOUTH WALES POLICE 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 REQUIRED	SOUTH WALES POLICE 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.	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.	March 2019	BCU Commanders/ Public Protection Department.

		<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> <p>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.</p>		
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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