

## **Cambridgeshire Constabulary National Domestic Abuse action plan**

### **Leadership**

#### **Strategic ownership**

*A new domestic abuse group will be formed to bring departments together to improve the response to DA. The group will be the driving force behind this action plan which is primarily focused on operational policing. In order to maximise effectiveness, this group will be chaired by an Operations Chief Inspector rather than the lead for Public Protection. There will be mandatory attendance from all policing districts, contact management and investigations experts.*

### **Attendance**

#### **Get there promptly**

*Prompt attendance has an impact on victim attrition rates and evidential quality but more importantly, it is often the best method of keeping people safe. A clear improvement on prompt attendance at all incidents of DA will be achieved and there will be a greater prioritisation of threat, risk and harm by supervisors, the Force Control Room and the Police Service Centre.*

#### **Thorough information and intelligence checks**

*Comprehensive systems checks will be completed prior to / en route to attendance at DA incidents. Information and intelligence will be used appropriately to inform both officer risk assessments and DASH risk assessments which will be quality assured to a high standard by a supervisor and regularly reassessed when appropriate.*

#### **Ensure greater focus is on supporting victims**

*A clear and simple system of leveraging any / all appropriate multi-agency support will be promoted and used by all officers to support victims. This is to include support accessed via the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Victim's Hub as well as support at a level below the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) threshold.*

#### **Take positive action against perpetrators**

*There will be further training and briefing about the use of positive action and all officers will be clear about the meaning of this term. Encouragement will be given for use of innovative and creative methods of taking positive action and improving outcomes for victims.*

#### **Gather evidence effectively**

*There will be a drive to improve comprehensive evidence gathering at DA incidents. This will include better collation of evidence in the form of victim accounts, use of*

*photographs / body worn video, use of hearsay and gathering of corroborative evidence. This also will include more effective recording of crime and improvements in data quality.*

## **Investigation**

### **Improve specialism and knowledge in investigators**

*There will be a greater rotation of investigators into the Public Protection Department as part of the detective career pathway. Continuous professional development, including coaching and mentoring for specialist investigators within the Public Protection Department will be enhanced.*

### **Significantly increase the number of "evidence based prosecutions" (where there is no statement of complaint)**

*The knowledge of all investigators around evidence based prosecutions will be improved and evidence based prosecutions will be considered in every case by the gatekeeper where the victim declines to provide a statement. A bank of MG16s covering Bad Character Evidence will be created to assist such prosecutions.*

### **Work in greater partnership with the CPS, challenging decisions where appropriate**

*Local and national CPS groups will be utilised to improve the working relationship with CPS (including CPS-D) and encourage the use of evidence based prosecutions and innovative ways of utilising existing laws and other civil options. Where appropriate, robust challenging of CPS decisions will be considered.*

## **Learning**

### **Identify learning from both a local and national level**

*The use of positive and developmental feedback will be encouraged at all levels within the organisation and across all departments, ensuring that debrief, reflection and challenge is normal. The use of the Force Organisational Review Panel will be promoted as a vehicle for consolidating, disseminating and implementing national and local learning. There will also be encouragement for this to be replicated at a local level within existing structures, including appropriate cross-over with partners. There will also be effective oversight to check other elements, such as the appropriate use of out-of-court disposals.*

### **Incorporate the views of victims through surveys**

*In consultation with partners, a regular forum will be established through which partners and victims of DA can feedback their views on specific and general police performance. Options will be developed for specific victim monitoring and learning from views and outcomes via a survey mechanism.*