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Police & Crime Commissioner

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

DOMESTIC ABUSE

The attached paper sets out very fully the Force operational response to domestic abuse. This serious issue features in the priorities set out in the Police & Criminal Justice Plan and continues to be a Force priority.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY TO RESPOND TO DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SUPPORT VICTIMS

In addition to the operational response set out in the attached report, the PCC provides support to victims of domestic abuse through Victims First and through supporting numerous organisations across the Thames Valley. This includes work with Thames Valley Partnership who have been involved in developing covert smart phone apps to help protect victims.

The PCC has also funded Family Drug and Alcohol Courts (FDACs) in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. Discussions have continued with the judiciary in Oxfordshire and Berkshire and it is hoped to be able to establish similar problem solving courts in these areas as well.

Support for DA victims will feature heavily on the agenda for the VAWG Partnership Board to be chaired by the PCC next month. Work continues to try to find effective perpetrator programmes to tackle those who do commit abuse and reduce instances in the future.

The DA fast track programme, now back up and running in Aylesbury Crown Court continues to demonstrate great benefit and this is an area that the PCC will continue to lobby the CPS to support elsewhere in the Thames Valley.



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1. Introduction

Over 2 million¹ people a year in England and Wales experience domestic abuse. The impact of abuse can result in a range of negative and harmful effects on health, wellbeing and outcomes in life. Domestic abuse affects upon future generations and their ability, capacity and attitude towards relationships, parenting, self-esteem and mental health. It affects the whole family and prevention or responses much recognise both the immediate impacts which domestic abuse may have on an individual or family and its long-term consequences.

Many different services, both statutory and voluntary, work to support families and individuals across Thames Valley that are affected by domestic abuse. These services engage with the complex and often chronic nature of domestic abuse and collaborate to challenge it.

Thames Valley Police with our partners are working tirelessly to strengthen and coordinate our response across all our services. Working strongly in partnership, we seek to ensure that those at risk of, who have experienced domestic abuse have the support and service provision they need.

No person should have to experience any form of domestic abuse. Thames Valley are committed to preventing abuse from happening and to ensuring our service, provision is strengthened. We will ensure we learn from reviews and latest research and understand what works best to continually improve the effectiveness of our response to all our communities.

This paper aims to inform the reader what domestic abuse is, its prevalence and impact and how Thames Valley Police respond to incidents. It describes Thames Valley's vision, strategic direction and the priorities that will be set out in the new Domestic Abuse Strategy and the governance structures, which will ensure Thames Valley, deliver with our partners and work tirelessly to reduce domestic abuse.

2. Defining Domestic Abuse and its Impact

2.1 What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse includes different forms of abuse and may not include physical violence. Other forms include sexual, psychological and economic abuse. Each form is committed against someone to exert power and control over them. A current or former partner or family member can commit domestic abuse.

Honour based abuse and forced marriage are forms of domestic abuse.

On average, two women per week are killed in England and Wales and 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. The number of police recorded

¹ Office of National Statistics, "Domestic Abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales: year ending March 2019

domestic abuse-related crimes in England and Wales rose 6% in the year ending March 2021 to 845,734; this follows increases seen in previous years and may reflect the improved recording by the police alongside increased reporting by victims.²

It is crime, which disproportionately affects women; however, it can happen to anyone irrespective of sexuality, religion, gender, ethnicity, income or age.

2.2 What is the impact?

The impact can be long lasting, leaving both physical and mental scars. A survivor told officers recently “you live with it forever”. In addition, it often diminishes someone’s financial resources and ability to rebuild their lives and contributes towards poverty and homelessness.

Children are greatly impacted as it is deemed an Adverse Childhood Experience, which are known to have long-term impacts on health, wellbeing and development. It is not uncommon for children who have witnessed domestic abuse to learn to accept abuse as normal behaviour.

2.3 The Definition

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021³ introduced a new, wider definition of Domestic Abuse, which came into effect on 5th July 2021.

Part 1 of the Act sets out the new definition and is broken down into three Sections: –

- Domestic Abuse;
- Personally Connected;
- Children as Victims of Domestic Abuse.

Section 1 – Definition of “Domestic Abuse”

Abusive behaviour includes:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Violent or threatening behaviour
- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Economic abuse
- Psychological, emotional, or other abuse.

It does not matter if the behaviour is a single incident or a course of conduct.

“Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on the victim’s ability to:

- Acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or
- Obtain goods or services.

² Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2021 - Ons.gov.uk

³ Domestic Abuse Act 2021 – legislation.gov.uk

Note also (s1(5)) that A's behaviour may be behaviour "towards" B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B's child).

The definitions of "personally connected" and "children as victims of domestic abuse" can be found on the Government website – legislation.gov.uk

3. What do we know?

Domestic abuse is widespread and chronically under-reported. Although statistics are helpful in giving an indication of how far-reaching it is, the actual reported statistics are much lower particularly in some population groups. We know that individuals and families may live with domestic abuse for a significant period before asking for help and suffer a number of incidents. SafeLives suggest that on average high-risk victims live with domestic abuse for 2/3 years and medium risk victims for 3 years before getting help.⁴ On average victims, experience 50 incident of abuse before getting help.^{5 6}

In Thames Valley, we do recognise that there are still levels of domestic abuse not being reported and that people in different circumstances are impacted by domestic abuse in different ways. It is important that we work collaboratively with our partners to strengthen our collective knowledge of unreported abuse and form strategies to increase reporting.

3.1 Domestic Abuse Crime Occurrences January/February 2021/2022

The below data was sourced from the Thames Valley Police Recording System named NICHE RMS on 15th March 2022. The data is representative of valid crime occurrences where the Domestic Abuse flag is present and/or where the Occurrence Type is equal to 'Domestic Incident'. Out of Forces, figures and those figures not currently mapped to an LPA have been excluded. The data is inclusive of valid crimes only.

This data gives an indication of the number of crimes reported to Thames Valley in two calendar months and compares January and February 2021/22.

The data shows a **15% increase in 2021 and 16% increase in 2022** for recorded domestic abuse crimes. Milton Keynes continues to show increasing crimes, which in part is likely due to its continuing population growth as the town expands.

⁴ SafeLives (2015), Insights Idva National Dataset 2013-14. Bristol SafeLives

⁵ SafeLives (2015), Insights Idva National Dataset 2013-14. Bristol SafeLives

⁶ Walby, S. and Allen, J. (2004). Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: Findings from the British Crime Survey. London: Home Office

	Jan-21	Jan-22	Change	Feb-21	Feb-22	Change
BERKSHIRE	793	962	21%	749	873	17%
Bracknell & Wokingham	174	214	23%	145	177	22%
Reading	203	252	24%	175	212	21%
Slough	189	255	35%	199	249	25%
West Berkshire	128	122	-5%	100	118	18%
Windsor & Maidenhead	99	119	20%	130	117	-10%
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	412	471	14%	366	400	9%
Aylesbury Vale	136	173	27%	131	155	18%
Chiltern & South Bucks	106	131	24%	97	111	14%
Wycombe	170	167	-2%	138	134	-3%
MILTON KEYNES	320	428	34%	293	379	29%
OXFORDSHIRE	578	560	-3%	478	545	14%
Cherwell & West Oxfordshire	241	217	-10%	172	211	23%
Oxford	144	135	-6%	123	150	22%
South & Vale	193	208	8%	183	184	1%
Total	2103	2421	15%	1886	2197	16%

3.3 Domestic Abuse Arrests 2020/2021

Police officers have a duty to take positive action when dealing with domestic abuse incidents. Often this means making an arrest provided the grounds exist and it is a necessary and proportionate response.⁷ Officers must be able to justify the decision **not** to arrest in those circumstances. In some situations, other positive approaches may be more appropriate.

Some benefits of arrest include:

- Giving the victim some time to feel safer and improve the likelihood of them engaging with the police and other services;
- Disrupting an established pattern of controlling or coercive behaviour;
- Allowing time to pursue other lines of enquiry, such as support from Neighbourhood Teams and CCTV;
- Providing an opportunity to put in place services to support the family and relationship;
- Being able to impose bail conditions;
- Sending a message to the perpetrator that their behaviour is not acceptable and will not be tolerated, and that the victim is not alone;
- Giving an indication to the victim that they are being taken seriously.

The below data has been taken from the Thames Valley Service Improvement Portal and shows the total number of domestic abuse crimes, the number of arrests for those crimes and the percentage.

⁷ Domestic abuse. College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice. App.college.police.uk

Thames Valley Police over the past two years, set a strategic measure to ensure that 50% of attended (immediate and urgent, Grade 1 and 2s) domestic abuse crimes resulted in an arrest. The below chart shows that this has been consistently achieved since January 2021 and is far above the National arrest rate average of 33%.

Date	Total Number of DA Crimes	Total Number of Arrests	%
01/01/21-31/12/21	9931	5288	53%
01/01/22-18/03/22	2647	1419	54%

The police made 33 arrests per 100 domestic abuse-related crimes in the year ending 2021, the same as in the previous year (in the 38 police forces that supplied complete data in both years).⁸

3.4 Outcomes of Domestic Abuse Crime Occurrences 2020/2021

The below tables show the breakdown in the numbers and types of outcomes that have been applied to domestic abuse crimes and non-crime occurrences in 2020 and 2021.

This highlights that in 2021 the outcomes for both crimes and non-crime incidents fell in total by 1,565, 468 being crimes.

A significant effort is being made to improve domestic abuse outcomes across the Force. This includes collaborative working with CPS to increase the use of absent victim prosecutions.

2020			
Outcomes of DA occurrences (Stalking and Harassment removed)	Valid Crimes	Non-crime Occurrences	Grand Total
A1 charged	1128	3	1131
A2 summonsed	398	5	403
A2 summonsed - alternate offence rule	219	-	219
A3 charged - alternate offence rule	462	-	462
B1 Adult simple caution	307	1	308
B1 Adult simple caution - alternate offence rule	114	-	114
B2 Adult conditional caution	45	-	45
B2 Adult conditional caution - alternate offence rule	12	-	12
B5 youth caution	12	-	12
B5 youth caution - alternate offence rule	1	-	1
B6 youth conditional caution	7	-	7
B6 youth conditional caution - alternate offence rule	1	-	1
5 - Offender Dead - All Offences	2	-	2
9 - Prosecution not in the Public Interest - CPS	7	-	7
10 - Formal Action against suspect not in the Public Interest - Police	6	-	6
11 - Suspect Identified - Below Age of Criminal Responsibility	2	-	2
12 - Suspect Identified - Too ill (physical/mental health) to Prosecute	58	-	58

⁸ Domestic abuse and the criminal justice system, England and Wales: November 2021. Ons.gov.uk

13 - Suspect Identified - Victim/Key Witness dead/too ill to give evidence	25	2	27
14 - Suspect not identified - Victim Declines/Unable to identify suspect	149	2	151
15 - Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties - Victim supports action	5688	46	5734
16 - Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties - Victim not supporting	13306	50	13356
17 - Suspect Identified - Prosecution Time Limit Expired	667	-	667
18 - No Suspect - Investigation Complete. Filed pending further Information	469	7	476
20 - Other Agency dealing	153	4	157
21 - Investigation supports action against suspect - Police decide not in public interest	158	1	159
CMR1 Adult Restorative disposal	423	2	425
CMR2 Youth Restorative disposal	95	-	95
CRI1 3rd party report - alleged victim declines to confirm crime	-	36	36
CRI2 3rd party report - alleged victim cannot be traced	-	3	3
CRI3 incident being dealt with by another force	-	74	74
CRI4 NCRS/HOCR directs that a crime should not be recorded	-	30	30
CRI5 credible evidence to the contrary	-	5	5
E1 Fixed penalty notice	4	-	4
Investigation ongoing	269	14209	14478
NB no crime	-	4201	4201
No outcome recorded	-	10164	10164
Grand Total	24187	28845	53032

2021			
Outcomes of DA occurrences (Stalking and Harassment removed)	Valid Crimes	Non-crime Occurrences	Grand Total
A1 charged	774	5	779
A2 summonsed	192	2	194
A2 summonsed - alternate offence rule	109	-	109
A3 charged - alternate offence rule	239	-	239
B1 Adult simple caution	258	2	260
B1 Adult simple caution - alternate offence rule	89	-	89
B2 Adult conditional caution	34	-	34
B2 Adult conditional caution - alternate offence rule	6	-	6
B5 youth caution	5	-	5
B5 youth caution - alternate offence rule	1	-	1
B6 youth conditional caution	5	-	5
B6 youth conditional caution - alternate offence rule	2	-	2
5 - Offender Dead - All Offences	6	-	6
9 - Prosecution not in the Public Interest - CPS	9	-	9
10 - Formal Action against suspect not in the Public Interest - Police	7	-	7

11 - Suspect Identified - Below Age of Criminal Responsibility	2	-	2
12 - Suspect Identified - Too ill (physical/mental health) to Prosecute	98	-	98
13 - Suspect Identified - Victim/Key Witness dead/too ill to give evidence	17	-	17
14 - Suspect not identified - Victim Declines/Unable to identify suspect	177	-	177
15 - Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties - Victim supports action	6562	36	6598
16 - Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties - Victim not supporting	10832	29	10861
17 - Suspect Identified - Prosecution Time Limit Expired	687	-	687
18 - No Suspect - Investigation Complete. Filed pending further Information	481	11	492
20 - Other Agency dealing	230	3	233
21 - Investigation supports action against suspect - Police decide not in public interest	230	2	232
22 - Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, not in public interest to take further action	18	-	18
CMR1 Adult Restorative disposal	504	5	509
CMR2 Youth Restorative disposal	98	1	99
CRI1 3rd party report - alleged victim declines to confirm crime	-	20	20
CRI2 3rd party report - alleged victim cannot be traced	-	3	3
CRI3 incident being dealt with by another force	-	66	66
CRI4 NCRS/HOCR directs that a crime should not be recorded	-	21	21
CRI5 credible evidence to the contrary	-	4	4
E1 Fixed penalty notice	2	-	2
E1 Fixed penalty notice - alternate offence rule	1	-	1
Investigation ongoing	2980	10902	13882
NB no crime	-	5826	5826
No outcome recorded	-	9874	9874
Grand Total	24655	26812	51467

3.5 Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Occurrences and Arrests 2020/21

The response to victims of domestic abuse related stalking and harassment has continued to see improvements. However, more work is needed and funding has just been secured for the Suzy Lamplugh Trust to complete an in depth Peer Review of Thames Valley Polices response. This will include a comprehensive training package and it will assist with guiding the Forces future response to stalking.

The Chief Constables Management Team have also agreed to establish two full time dedicated Stalking Detective Sergeants, it is anticipated that they will be in post by summer 2022.

Number of DA Stalking / Harassment Occurrences Recorded	2020	2021
Valid Crimes	2730	2840
Non-Crime Occurrences	1093	1563
Total Occurrences	3823	4403

	2020	2021
Number of arrests	454	444

3.6 Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Occurrences Outcomes 2020/21

The below data shows that in 2021, Thames Valley charged a 110 more offenders with stalking and harassment offences.

2020			
Outcomes of DA Stalking and Harassment Occurrences	Valid Crimes	Non-crime Occurrences	Grand Total
A1 charged	93	-	93
A2 summonsed	39	-	39
A2 summonsed - alternate offence rule	6	-	6
A3 charged - alternate offence rule	31	-	31
B1 Adult simple caution	22	-	22
B1 Adult simple caution - alternate offence rule	4	-	4
B2 Adult conditional caution - alternate offence rule	1	-	1
9 - Prosecution not in the Public Interest - CPS	1	-	1
12 - Suspect Identified - Too ill (physical/mental health) to Prosecute	2	-	2
14 - Suspect not identified - Victim Declines/Unable to identify suspect	16	-	16
15 - Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties - Victim supports action	1033	-	1033
16 - Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties - Victim not supporting	1327	-	1327
17 - Suspect Identified - Prosecution Time Limit Expired	30	-	30
18 - No Suspect - Investigation Complete. Filed pending further Information	56	-	56
20 - Other Agency dealing	8	-	8
21 - Investigation supports action against suspect - Police decide not in public interest	9	-	9
CMR1 Adult Restorative disposal	22	-	22
CMR2 Youth Restorative disposal	2	-	2

CRI3 incident being dealt with by another force	-	2	2
Investigation ongoing	28	-	28
NB no crime	-	1091	1091
Grand Total	2730	1093	3823

2021			
Outcomes of DA Stalking and Harassment Occurrences	Valid Crimes	Non-crime Occurrences	Grand Total
A1 charged	64	-	64
A2 summonsed	18	-	18
A2 summonsed - alternate offence rule	10	-	10
A3 charged - alternate offence rule	21	-	21
B1 Adult simple caution	18	-	18
B1 Adult simple caution - alternate offence rule	3	-	3
B2 Adult conditional caution	3	-	3
9 - Prosecution not in the Public Interest - CPS	1	-	1
12 - Suspect Identified - Too ill (physical/mental health) to Prosecute	3	-	3
14 - Suspect not identified - Victim Declines/Unable to identify suspect	14	-	14
15 - Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties - Victim supports action	1057	-	1057
16 - Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties - Victim not supporting	1027	-	1027
17 - Suspect Identified - Prosecution Time Limit Expired	8	-	8
18 - No Suspect - Investigation Complete. Filed pending further Information	68	-	68
20 - Other Agency dealing	14	-	14
21 - Investigation supports action against suspect - Police decide not in public interest	7	-	7
22 - Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, not in public interest to take further action	1	-	1
CMR1 Adult Restorative disposal	35	-	35
CMR2 Youth Restorative disposal	3	-	3
CRI3 incident being dealt with by another force	-	1	1
Investigation ongoing	465	-	465
NB no crime	-	1562	1562
Grand Total	2840	1563	4403

3.7 Victim Satisfaction

Victim satisfaction surveys have been carried out by all Forces since the 1990s. For much of this time, the survey methodology (initially by post and then by phone) and question-set was mandated by the Home Office through the Annual Data Return (ADR).

In 2018, the requirement to survey in this way was replaced with a general expectation from HMICFRS that forces should engage with victims to understand their experience of reporting crimes and improve their service accordingly.

In May 2019, Thames Valley began conducting a victim and caller satisfaction survey by text message. The London School of Economics (LSE) conduct the text survey on our behalf, utilising the text messaging-platform SINCH. Once this methodology was established and tested, the telephone survey was phased out – except for domestic abuse victims who are surveyed by telephone on our behalf by Leicestershire Police, (surveying DA victims in this way is mandated in the ADR).

The below table indicates the response and satisfaction rate from Domestic Abuse victims over the past two years, which remains high in the 80% region.

	2020	2021
Satisfied	273	233
Satisfaction rate	82.7%	81.8%
Total Responses	330	285

4. Our Strategy

4.1 Our Vision

“To make Thames Valley a place where everyone can live safely and confidently, free of fear and can experience healthy relationships without the threat of domestic abuse and sexual violence. We will take a ‘whole story’ approach to understand the voice of the victim and have an understanding of perpetrator behaviour. This will be achieved through multi-agency working to effectively prevent harm, protect the vulnerable and meet the safeguarding needs of all victims across our diverse communities and through effective and robust offender management activities. Thames Valley Police are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and to building trust in Thames Valley Police through enhancing organisation, operational and community legitimacy in our vision to tackle domestic abuse.”

4.2 Our Strategic Direction

Our strategic direction is in line with the joint NPCC and APCC Policing Vision, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners Priorities and compliments the NPCC Strategy for Violence against Women and Girls. As well as other relevant cross-government strategies supporting policing. We have considered the impact of COVID-19, EU Exit and the context in which our staff police local communities.

Due to the changing nature of crime and society, the long-term consequences of COVID-19 and opportunities and threats posed by increasing technology, we will work collaboratively with partners and communities in a responsive and resilient way. Thames Valley Police has identified seven priority areas that we will aspire to achieve in our response to domestic abuse. These priorities are underpinned by a detailed delivery plan and governance structure that is hoped to be signed off by CCMT in the coming weeks.

4.3 Key Principles

- Domestic abuse in any form is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Everyone should feel confident to report their experiences of domestic abuse to the police directly or indirectly, safe in the knowledge that they will be taken seriously and that they will be treated with dignity and respect.
- The lived experiences of victims of domestic abuse will be heard and their opinions respected.
- We demand the highest standards of professional behaviour from all our staff and will deal robustly with cases where staff abuse their position and ensure internal accountability and legitimacy is upheld.
- The involvement and engagement of all our diverse communities and partners in this work is vital.

4.4 Our Approach

- Be perpetrator and prevention focused.
- Make the best use of evidence based data to:
 - Inform our understanding of the issues
 - Shape our response
 - Evaluate activities and progress.
- Employ a positive action policing approach where appropriate.
- Be clear on tone and language.
- Avoid victim blaming and set clear standards and expectations.
- Ensure that we listen to the lived experiences of domestic abuse victims.
- Hear the voice of the victim and consider what action is in their best interests.
- Take every opportunity to signpost victims and abusers to support services.

4.5 Seven Priority Areas

- Bringing Offenders to Justice
- Supporting Victims
- Working in Partnership
- Prevention
- Our People
- Engagement and Communications
- Performance, Governance and Quality

5. Who deals with Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes?

Tackling and responding to domestic abuse is a priority for Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

5.1 Receiving the report

First-hand reporting by a victim or witness is the most common way for Thames Valley to receive domestic abuse information. The majority of incidents are reported via calls to the police and to a lesser extent, through on line reporting or visits to the police station.

All reports of domestic abuse should be recorded in accordance with the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR) and where necessary, the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) (contained in the Homes office, counting rules for recorded crime). Accurate recording is essential to identify patterns, as well as to fulfil requests under the domestic violence disclosure scheme (DVDS – Clare’s Law).

Receipt of a report of a domestic incident is the beginning of the investigation. Officers and staff will establish as much detail as possible to ensure an effective investigation and accurate risk assessment is made.

5.2 Contact Management

Contact Management staff are trained to identify and grade domestic abuse incident appropriately. The inappropriate logging of incidents can cause delay and place victims at risk.

The first priority of the police in responding to a domestic incident is to protect the victims and any other persons at risk including children and police officers. A series of questions will be asked to assist with grading the response and deploying the appropriate officers.

5.2 Who will respond?

Thames Valley is currently divided into 12 Local Policing Areas (LPA), however shortly it will become 11 with the merger of Wycombe and Chiltern and South Bucks.

The majority of all domestic incidents are initially attended by the Incident and Crime Response Teams based on each of the LPAs. They will attend as either an immediate, urgent or by appointment.

First response officers have a dual role to play when attending. They should:

- Recognise signs of abuse and the need for safety planning to protect victims (or potential victims) and prevent offences from occurring in the longer-term.
- Identify criminal offences so that offenders can be brought to justice and dealt with robustly within the judicial system.

Officers should investigate domestic abuse proactively from the outset and build an evidence-led case which does not rely on the support of victims. This can be challenging, but effective.

Officers will complete a risk assessment with the victim, DOM5. The questions are based upon extensive research of domestic abuse. If the risk is standard or medium these are dealt with by Incident and Crime Response Officers on LPAs, (approximately 95% of total reported domestic abuse incidents are standard and medium)

High-risk cases are passed to the Domestic Abuse Investigation Team (DAIU), a dedicated specialist team who are also able to carry out public protection functions.

In 2021, the Chief Constables Management Team agreed to increase their establishment of Superintendents and created two new posts, Detective Superintendent for Rape and Sexual Offences and a Detective Superintendent for Domestic Abuse and Stalking.

The Detective Superintendent for Domestic Abuse and Stalking from 4th April 2022 will take over as lead for the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit as well as having overall strategic oversight for the Force.

5.3 Local Policing Area Establishment (April 2022)

Local Policing Area	PC	SGT	Insp	C/Insp	Supt	Total
Milton Keynes	295.70	37	12	2	1	347.70
Aylesbury	154.23	23	9	2	1	189.23
Chiltern & South Bucks	123.60	24	8	2	1	158.60
Windsor & Maidenhead	134.37	23	9.6	2	1	169.97
Slough	200.10	30	11	2	1	244.10
Wycombe	146.00	23	10	2	1	182.00
Oxford	191.43	34.50	10	2	1	238.93
South Oxon & Vale	173.00	30	9	2	1	215.00
Cherwell & West Oxon	212.90	29	10	2	1	254.90
West Berkshire	123.91	20.50	9	2	1	156.41
Reading	213	33	11	2	1	260.00
Bracknell & Wokingham	179.00	30	10	2	1	222.00
Total	2157.24	339	120.60	24	12	2653.84

5.4 Domestic Abuse Investigation Units Total Establishment (April 2022)

	Police Staff	DCs	DS	DI	DCI	D/Sup
Reading	2	11.17	2	1	1	1
Newbury	1	6	1	1		
Windsor	5	17.75	3			
Aylesbury	2.5	13.35	3	1	1	
MK	2.5	11	3	1		
Oxford	2	12.47	3	1		
Banbury	1	5.25	1			
Total	16	76.99	16	5	2	1

5.5 Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit Offices

West Berkshire

- Reading
- Windsor

Oxfordshire

- Oxford - St Aldates

- Banbury
- Buckinghamshire**
- MK
 - Aylesbury

6. Governance Arrangements

6.1 The National Intelligence Model

The National Intelligence Model (NIM) is a business model for law enforcement. It became the policy of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in 2000. NIM takes an intelligence led approach to policing and became a statutory requirement for forces to adopt in 2005.

NIM operates at three level of policing:

- Level 1 – Local crime and disorder.
- Level 2 – Cross border issues.
- Level 3 – Serious and organised crime.

6.2 Daily Management Meeting (DMM)

This meeting is not a TT&CG. The purpose of a DMM is to ensure that the conduct of each day's business is linked to the priorities and objectives set by the TT&CG.

This is done by:

- Looking ahead at the next twenty-four hours business to -
 - Reassess existing priorities for tactical resources against new demands
 - Deal with operational disruptions to plans currently being executed
 - Ensure balanced workloads;
- Looking back at the previous twenty four hours business to -
 - Check tasks have been completed
 - Assess the significant changes in the operational and intelligence pictures that may have implications for resources
 - Consider any performance issues;
- Examining -
 - Crime levels
 - Response times
 - The volume of quality of arrests, ensuring they are consistent with objectives and priorities
 - The management of incidents
 - Any issues that require media strategies
 - Any issues of criticality or community impact
- The following people attend the daily management meeting -
 - Commanders and/or deputy
 - Detective Chief Inspectors or head of department
 - Intelligence
 - Duty Inspector
 - Duty Sergeant

The management team may permit anyone else to attend whose presence will contribute to the meeting, including partners.

6.3 FDMM - Force Daily Management Meeting

The FDMM meets twice daily. At 0900 following the LPA and department DMMs and again at 1600.

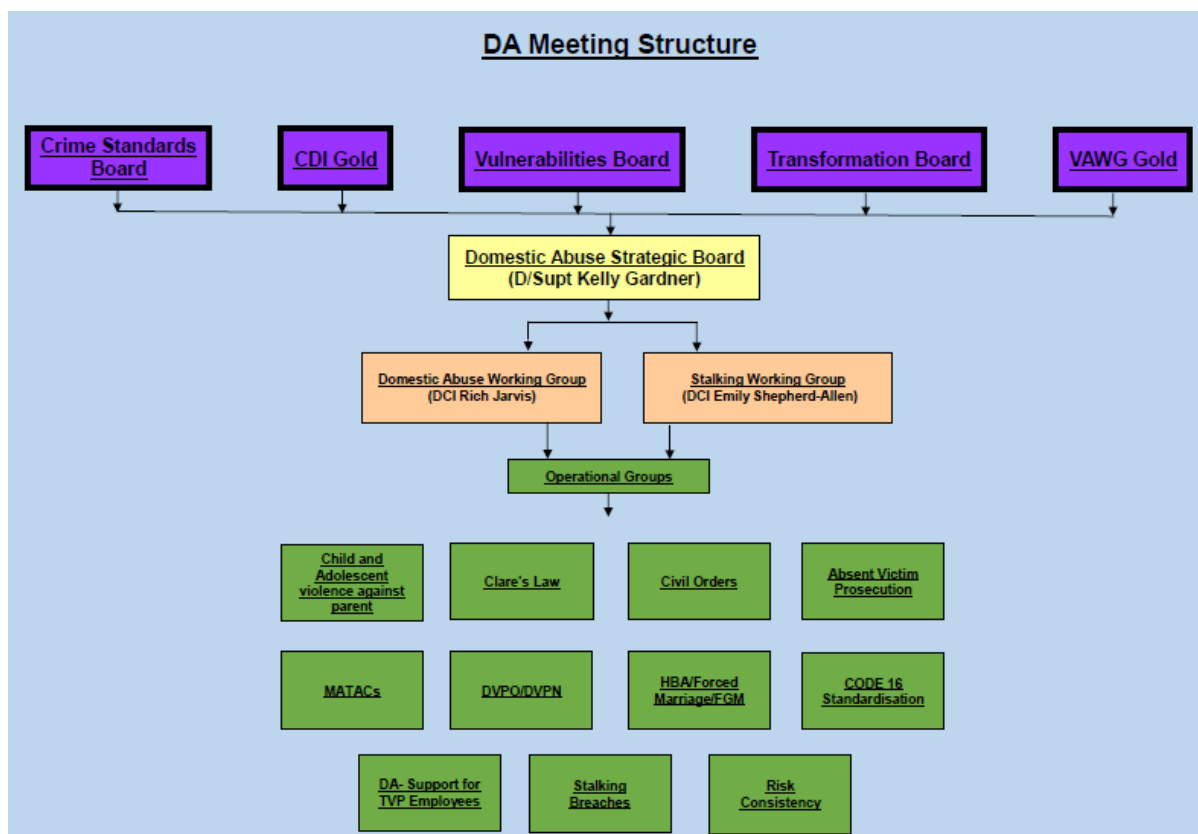
Representatives from all departments, including members of Chief Constables Management Team discuss the following areas:

- Emerging issues of criticality
- Updates and actions on matters identified at morning DMM
- New and emerging LPA incidents for early discussion
- Demand assessment (grade 1, 2 & 3)
- Crime and investigation matters by exception
- Actionable and developing intelligence and tasking by exception
- Custody resilience & capacity
- POPS incidents and Op Reserve tasking
- Resourcing picture - capacity, capability and resilience
- Priority and emerging media & communication matters
- Updates or urgent matters from Gold Commander.
- Confirmation of force operating & resilience status
- Actions - now and carried forward to DMM

6.4 Domestic Abuse and Stalking Governance

With the introduction of the new Detective Superintendent for Domestic Abuse and Stalking, a new governance framework has been designed. The purpose is to ensure that the Domestic Abuse and Stalking Strategy for 2022-2023 is delivered through a comprehensive four Ps delivery plan (Prepare, Prevent, Pursue and Protect).

The below meeting structure demonstrates the governance arrangements which will ensure that key priority areas of work (operational groups) will be held accountable for delivery through a mechanism of reporting through the working group, strategic board and then into the relevant Board, which are Chaired by Chief Officers and the Performance Groups Chaired by the Chief Constable.



7. Training

The capture and maintenance of all available knowledge, staff profiling and methods of communication influence requirements for training, intelligence and communication strategies.

Thames Valley has a comprehensive training strategy, which identifies continuous training requirements for all departments.

7.1 Contact Management

- **Call handler** – DA lesson within and then practiced as a call handler – from 2019 to present
- **Radio Course** – DA Scenarios dealt with and practised as a radio op and dispatcher– from 2019 to present
- **CMP Call handler conversion** – DA scenarios practically dealt with on CMP – from 2019 to present
- **CMP Deployment** – DA Scenarios practically dealt with on CMP– from 2019 to present
- **CMP Officers course** - DA lesson within and then practiced – from 2021 – probably won't be used again
- **CMP Deployment refresher 2** - DA Scenarios dealt with and practised From 2020 – not be used again

- **TIA Spring 2020 – Data Integrity lesson** – DA Scenarios discussed, debated and reviewed - Jan 2020 – March 2020
- **TIA May 2022** – Review of crimes where Domestic is recorded but not the assault or criminal damage associated to it – May 2022 – July 2022

7.2 LPA – Post Foundation

- **DA Matters** – has been delivered from Jan 2020 until present (with ongoing delivery planned for foundation and CM new starters). Over 3000 member of staff have been trained to date
- **Coercive Control** – This package was delivered throughout 2016-17
- **HBV/FM/FGM** – This package was delivered from Oct 2015-Nov 2016 and plans are ongoing for a further packaged to be delivered in 2022
- **PVP SaVE** – This package was delivered between 2016-2017. Although this was about safeguarding it did cover abuse of Children and vulnerable people including within a domestic environment
- **SaVE2** – This package was delivered between May 2017-Oct 2017. Again although this was a safeguarding package it did cover safeguarding children at DA incidents as well what to do with historic reports of victims of DA and recognising unique challenges that HBA/FM presents at a DA incident
- **SaVE3** – This course was delivered between Aug 2019-Oct 2020. There were two parts to this course one covered Domestic Abuse and the other covered Stalking and Harassment
- **Domestic Abuse Course** – Five-day course designed for staff, DCs and DSs who join the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit. This gives an in-depth insight into investigation strategies, risk assessing and partnership arrangements
- **Vulnerabilities Training** – A new five year training strategy, that includes areas of Domestic Abuse and Stalking has been designed for delivery to front line staff. This begins in the summer of 2022.

7.3 Strategy Unit

The Policing Strategy Unit work with force leads and across geographical and organisational boundaries to create operational guidance for officers and staff. This guidance is held in full form on the force intranet and in short form, or SnapGuides, on officers' mobile phones. The team members all have strands or themes for which they are experts and will predominantly focus on these areas. One of the main areas for constant development and improvement is the guidance for domestic abuse to ensure the force delivers the best possible service to victims.

8. Operational Response

Domestic abuse calls are received in a number of different ways into TVP via Contact Management;

- 999/101 call
- Single On Line Home Platform
- Front Counters

Most reports come direct from the victim, but some can be from a third party such as a neighbour or an agency such as Crime Stoppers.

8.1 Grade 1 – immediate threat to life

Thames Valley Police receive approximately 180 reports of domestic abuse per day. The call handler will ascertain initially if there is an *immediate threat to life* and a requirement for an officer to attend immediately, in which case they will apply a Grade 1 response and deal with the situation that presents to them, considering the safety of the victim and children and factors such as weapons, location of the offender, etc.

8.2 Grade 2 – urgent attendance

Thames Valley would only ever apply a minimum of a grade 2 response at the point of call and the incident would sit within the control room. The call handler will obtain enough information about the current situation, as well as any background information, risk factors and then only a control room supervisor can decide whether an appointment with an officer is a more appropriate response.

8.3 Grade 3 - appointments

If an appointment were deemed appropriate this would be a grade 3 response that is owned by the LPA.

Contact Management should not make appointments outside 24hours ideally and most take into account the needs of the victim. On average around a third of domestic abuse, incidents are downgraded to an appointment.

8.4 Escalation Process

A Domestic Abuse incident should be escalated to the Oscar 2 if they are unable to resource in 2 hours and then to the FIM if we are unable to resource within 4 hours for them to make contact with the LPA inspector.

8.5 Call handling times

Thames Valley Police 999 service delivery average speed to answer is around 6 seconds. Our average speed to answer 101 calls fluctuates, on 18th March, for example, it was just over 3 minutes, however on exceptionally demanding days such as when Storm Eunice hit in February 2022 it went to 8 minutes.

8.6 Single on line home

Single on Line home is the on line platform that allows the public to report on line. There is a specific report for domestic abuse. Each different classification has a code so the operators can determine straight away, what it relates to.

There are staff triaging the queue 24/7, in order to make fast time assessments and place the report into one of the 3 queues:-

- Urgent
- COVID
- General

Any domestic abuse report will be placed in the urgent queue to be picked up first, if it contains significant risk; the operator will put it straight into CMP rather than putting it in any queue. The Duty Manager in the Contact Management Centre has oversight of the queue and will add additional operators to deal with the demand as necessary.

8.7 Contact Management Daily Management Meeting

Contact Management hold a Daily Management Meeting and assess the number of domestic abuse incidents they are holding. A supervisor will highlight details of any domestic abuse incidents that have not been attended of over 24 hours or any that contain significant risk. This allows the team to have early over site and task the Force Incident Manager to oversee and intervene if operators are struggling to resource, and if necessary contact the LPA commander to ensure they are sighted.

9. Risk Assessment

9.1 DOM5

When meeting with victims of domestic abuse after an incident, officers conduct a risk assessment of those involved using a form (known as the DOM5) with a series of questions to help to identify the risk posed to victims and children by the perpetrator. These questions include whether there has been previous violence against the victim, children or anyone else, whether there has been any sexual assaults and risk factors such as drug and alcohol misuse. There is also an additional section should there be any indicators of stalking to enable officers to identify and manage this risk.

A history of other offences involving the suspect are also taken into account along with any warnings about the suspect having access to such as firearms or a violent past. Once an assessment has been made of either standard, medium or high then the risk is managed in a variety of ways such as flagging the victim's address for all calls to be attended straight away, offering detailed safety planning or even moving the family in higher risk circumstances.

9.2 The risk levels

Standard risk - current evidence does not indicate likelihood of causing serious harm.

Medium risk - there are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The offender has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, for example, failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, and drug or alcohol misuse.

High risk - there are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

Risk of serious harm (Home Office 2002 and OASys 2006):

'A risk which is life threatening and/or traumatic, and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible'.

Where there are offences, officers are expected to make arrests and investigate offences thoroughly. Should the suspect not be charged then further tools are considered such as the Domestic Violence Protection Order to keep perpetrators away from victim's homes or the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law) to inform victims of a suspect's violent history. All of this is part of managing the identified risk.

9.3 Role of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The MASH use Robotic Process Automation (RPA) to review research and prioritise each DA incident to ensure that the highest risk incidents and those that involve children are managed first. RPA ensures attending officers adhere to the TVP Risk Consistency policy, linking existing RMOs and extending person flags and location markers or creating new RMOs, flags and markers where required within 4 hours of the MASH task being received. This ensures that Control Rooms have up to date information to assist with identifying risk and informing their deployment decisions

Research is conducted by RPA on adult nominals to check for expired high-risk flags to support safety planning and searches for associated children that may have been missed during the DOM5 completion to ensure the impact on them has been considered. Operation Encompass notifies schools that children may have witnessed a DA related incident, enabling teachers to support their pupils should the need present itself. The robot will identify children that have no school details saved on Niche, and is able to obtain these details from local authority partners via email and amend the Niche record.

MASH staff ensure that relevant onward referrals are shared with Children's Social Care, Child health, Adult Social Care and SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors and Airman Families Association) and facilitate any statutory multi-agency meetings convened due to Domestic abuse including strategy meetings and child protection conferences. High and medium risk incidents involving children are always shared with Children's social care, whereas standard risk incidents are subject to a triage process.

10. Civil Restraint and Protective Orders

Civil Restraint Orders and Protective Orders and are issued by a Magistrate or a Judge to prevent a person causing harm or annoyance to another person. They put different restriction on a person depending on the severity of the case. The most common order are non-molestation orders, occupation order and restraining orders.

The police are able to apply for a number of orders; these are paid for at our expense when there is a risk to public safety or disruption to ordinary life through anti-social behaviour. Once Police have successfully applied for such an order, it is incumbent on us to monitor and enforce these. The risks of not doing so could result in serious harm to members of the public and a loss of confidence in Thames Valley Police. It is also wasteful of police resources and public money.

Protecting Vulnerable People Related Orders

- Domestic Violence Protection Notices/Orders
- Stalking Protection Orders
- Domestic Abuse and Harassment Injunctions – (non-Molestation, Occupation, Prohibitive Steps and Restraining Orders, and Harassment Injunctions)
- Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme

Orders for Sexual and Violent Offenders

- Sexual Harm Prevention Order
- Sexual Risk Order
- Notification orders
- Serious Crime Prevention Order
- Violent Offender Orders

Community Orders

- Criminal Behaviour Order
- Civil Injunction
- Closure Notice/Order
- Child Abduction Warning Notice
- Community Protection Warning/Notice

10.1 Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) and Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO)

A DVPN is an emergency non-molestation and eviction notice, which can be issued by the police, when attending to a domestic abuse incident, to a perpetrator. The DVPN is police issued; it is effective from time of issue, thereby giving the victim the immediate support they require. Within 48 hours of the DVPN being served on the perpetrator, an application by police to a magistrate's court for a DVPO must be heard.

DVPOs are a civil order that fills a "gap" in providing protection to victims by enabling the police and magistrates courts to put in place protective measure in the immediate aftermath of a domestic violence incident where there is insufficient evidence to charge a perpetrator and provide protection to a victim via bail conditions. A DVPO can prevent the perpetrator from returning to a residence and from having contact with the victim for up to 28 days. This allows the victim a degree of breathing space to consider their options including applying for a non-molestation and an occupation order. Both DVPN and DVPO contain a condition prohibiting the perpetrator from molesting the victim.

In 2021, Thames Valley's dedicated Court Presentation Team applied for 267 DVPN across the four courts. 248 DVPOs were granted, giving a 92.88% success rate. Figures for 2022 are at this stage on par.

YEAR TO DATE											
	Oxford Court		Reading Court		Milton Keynes Court		High Wycombe Court		Totals		
	Hearings	Granted	Hearings	Granted	Hearings	Granted	Hearings	Granted	Hearings	Granted	
January	1	1	6	6	5	3	0	0	12	10	83.33%
February	5	5	11	10	14	11	0	0	30	26	86.67%
March	4	4	6	6	7	6	0	0	17	16	94.12%
TOTAL	10	10	23	22	26	20	0	0	59	52	88.14%

In HMICFRS 2019 inspection of Thames Valley, they have said that the force should reassure itself that it was making proper use of ancillary orders as they found that domestic abuse protection orders were still not considered in all applicable cases. The force also makes less use of the domestic violence disclosure scheme (DVDS), than most other forces in England and Wales. This may mean that opportunities to prevent further harm are being missed.

This area is now a priority area for improvement with an operational group led by the domestic abuse and stalking Detective Superintendent.

11. Partnership Arrangements

Cooperation between agencies is important to help reduce the risk of cases slipping through the safeguarding system and stopping domestic abuse at an early stage and preventing it from happening in the first place. It makes it possible to see the whole picture, facilitating:

- Early effective risk identification
- Improved information sharing
- Joint decision making
- Coordinated action to assess, manage and reduce the risk.

Thames Valley have strong and well developed multi-agency links across local authorities, domestic abuse forums, specialist domestic abuse courts, multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs) and specific project initiatives undertaken to improve responses to domestic abuse. This includes monitoring the services delivered through clear information sharing agreements and service level agreements with partner agencies.

11.1 Safeguarding Adults Boards

Each local authority area has a Safeguarding Adults Board to oversee the services provided to adult at risk. These are adults, who are at risk due to such as,

- Bullying, harassment and hate crime
- Domestic abuse
- Antisocial behaviour
- Scams, doorstep and other organised crime
- Financial theft and fraud
- Sexual exploitation
- Slavery and trafficking

Safeguarding Adults Boards are required to publish a strategic plan that covers each financial year. The strategic plan must specify how the board will seek to prevent abuse and neglect and how it will help and protect people with care and support needs at risk of

abuse and neglect. The Safeguarding Adults Board must engage and consult with the local Healthwatch and the local community in preparing its plan.

11.2 Safeguarding Children Partnerships

Each area in TVP has a Safeguarding Children Partnership, which is the overseeing body for the multi-agency plan to protect children and safeguard their welfare. The core objectives of the Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) is to coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure the effectiveness of what the member organisations do individually and together. The specific objectives are to:

- Develop and agree inter-agency policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, consistent with Working Together to Safeguard Children, including:
 - i. The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 - ii. Training of those working with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 - iii. Recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 - iv. Investigation of allegations concerning persons working with children;
 - v. The safety and welfare of privately fostered children;
 - vi. Cooperation with neighbouring children's social care services authorities and their safeguarding partners.
- Participate in the planning of services for children in the local authority area;
- Communicate the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child;
- Develop procedures to ensure a coordinated response to unexpected child deaths;
- Monitor the effectiveness of what is done to safeguard and promote the welfare of children - see Section 10, Monitoring and Inspection;
- Undertake appropriate reviews of serious cases and ensure lessons are understood and acted upon;
- Collect and analyse information about child deaths.

11.3 MATAAC

The MATAAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination) aim is to decrease the demand and offending of standard/medium risk high harm serial domestic abuse perpetrators and to safeguard the victims and families. The RFG(S) matrix (Recency, Frequency and Gravity and serial victims) was introduced as an early intervention tool to identify perpetrators to prevent escalation to high risk or crisis point. Domestic Abuse perpetrator engagement opens up the opportunity to seek help, support and guidance. Non-engaging perpetrators are targeted by using evidence based preventions and disruption tactics.

TVP are in the process of imbedding the MATAAC process throughout the force for a consistent robust approach to dealing with domestic abuse.

11.4 MARAC

The MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) is an information sharing meeting where high-risk domestic abuse cases can be referred into via Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, health, child protection, housing practitioner's, police and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. Once these victims have been identified as high-risk, the professionals discuss all relevant, proportionate information and risks to develop a co-ordinated action plan to reduce the risk to victims and families. All the actions are timed and based on a good quality assessment of risk and potential harm.

11.5 MAPPA

Multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) are in place to ensure the successful management of violent and sexual offenders. The Responsible Authority is the primary agency for MAPPA. This is the police, prison and Probation Trust in each area, working together. The Responsible Authority has a duty to ensure that the risks posed by specified sexual and violent offenders are assessed and managed appropriately. There are also other agencies involved with a Duty to Co-operate, such as Housing and Education. Each area has a monthly MAPPA meeting with the function for an emergency MAPPA meeting when there is a risk, which requires urgent attention. There are three levels of management depending on the extent of the agency involvement required. Those managed at level two and three are discussed at a MAPP meeting. Domestic abusers who have caused serious physical or sexual harm, for which they have been imprisoned, may be subject to MAPPA. This enables agencies to manage the risk the offender poses to their victim/s and the public at large. Should the offender move to another police area, they would be transferred to MAPPA for that area.

11.6 Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards

As part of the new Domestic Abuse Bill, every local authority in England has to carry out certain duties, including creating a Local Partnership Board.

The new board will advise the Council on domestic abuse matters, including the level of support needed and evaluating how effective that support is.

The board will include a wide range of organisations, including those representing victims and their children, health care providers and the police, as well as domestic abuse charities and voluntary organisations.

Each board will design a strategy to reduce domestic abuse in its area.

11.7 Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts

Specialist domestic abuse courts deal with only domestic abuse cases and they operate across Thames Valley. They provide a coordinated approach to prosecuting domestic abuse cases, and involve the police, prosecutors, court staff, probation and specialist support for the victims.

Each court has IDVA (Independent domestic violence advisors) to provide support to and act as liaison with the victim.

In January 2022 in collaboration with HHJ Sheridan from Aylesbury Crown Court, CPS and HMCTS the fast tracking of domestic abuse cases from Magistrates Court to Aylesbury Crown Court was implemented, following a successful pilot pre-COVID. Cases deemed appropriate are fast tracked from Magistrates to Crown within 7 days, rather than waiting potentially up to 12 months to be heard.

11.8 CARA (Cautioning and Relationship Abuse) Programme

Thames Valley Police did not have a domestic abuse perpetrator programme in operation. The OPCC previously commissioned the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) to run the Positive Relationship Programme (PRP). Following evaluation in March 2020 by the Centre for Public Innovation, the PRP was paused and then ceased due to there being no evidence that *‘the PRP as delivered in its entirety*. The conclusions did suggest value in offering a brief intervention for low to medium risk perpetrators. This left Thames Valley with a gap in the existing force response to domestic abuse.

CARA originated in Hampshire and is aimed at lower risk, alleged first time perpetrators. CARA is an alternative to a simple caution or prosecution. Perpetrators attend two workshops, 4 to 5 weeks apart, designed to raise awareness to help them to make better choices in their relationship. Domestic abuse is a complex societal issue and we know that victims frequently express the view that they do not want to leave the relationship but do want their partner to get help. A simple caution does not challenge a perpetrator to reflect on their behaviour or have any rehabilitative element. Victim engagement is managed through existing third sector agencies across the area alongside police contact. Eligibility criteria is set as past or present intimate partners with no convictions or cautions for domestic abuse in the previous two years. Eligible offences are minor assaults (common assault and battery), criminal damage, harassment, domestic theft related offences and threatening behaviour). It is not available or suitable for coercive or controlling behaviour. The perpetrator must make a full admission and the DOM 5 assessment must be standard. Victims must agree and are contacted following completion of the first workshop and prior to commencement of the second workshop.

The workshops aim to give perpetrators an understanding of domestic abuse and the impact of their behaviour on others, including the victim and any children. Work is done on recognition of personal risk factors, management strategies and how to access other services that may be of benefit, such as substance misuse. The approach to perpetrators is based on extensive experience of the facilitators who are trained to deal with feelings of shame, anxiety, anger and remorse as well as challenging entrenched behaviour and views.

Victim feedback from CARA work with Leicestershire Police in 2019-20 indicated that 63% of victims felt there had been positive changes in their partner / ex-partner’s behaviour towards them and 85% of perpetrators reported that the workshops had changed their attitude towards their own behaviour.

CARA launched in TVP on 13th December 2021 for both male and female perpetrators, aged 18+, intimate partners/ex-partners, standard risk DASH grading. It is in its infancy in

TVP. CARA is running in pilot areas of Milton Keynes and South Bucks only, however early signs are suggesting it is successful and there are plans to seek funding to expand across Thames Valley.

TVP are taking part in a multi-site CARA evaluation lead by Dr Sara Morgan of Southampton University as well as having in force quarterly scrutiny panels.

12. Conclusion

Many factors influence and impact the ability of Thames Valley Police to meet the needs of domestic abuse victims.

This paper was written to give an overview of some of the key areas relating to Thames Valley Police response to domestic abuse. There is much more work that is going on everyday across the Force which has not been highlighted. Every department from Contact Management, Front Counters, Criminal Justice, Policing Strategy Unit and those on the front line in Incident and Crime Response and the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit is working tirelessly to support victims and to relentlessly pursue offenders whilst working in partnership with multiple agencies and our communities.

The service provided to victims can be enhanced by supporting our officers to be professional and demonstrate 'good policing'. This will result in the victim experience procedural justice, which in turn legitimises police authority to the extent that victims are more likely to engage with the police. In order to be 'good' officers needs support, clear communication, mentoring, effective leadership, training and scrutiny to improve their ability to identify, assess and manage risk. This will lead to enhanced experience of procedural justice for survivors of domestic abuse increasing the likelihood of victim engagement.

Whilst Thames Valley are performing well in some areas, but there is more to do, particularly with regards to positive outcomes, and increasing our use of Civil Orders and disclosing to victims at risk of harm. The new Domestic Abuse Strategy and governance arrangements will drive performance in these areas and more.