

Graduate Diploma Professional Police Practice

LEVEL 6 - 40 Credits

Workbook title: Competency Based Workbook 2 (DHEP)

**(SOUTH WALES POLICE, GWENT POLICE AND
UWTSD)**

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FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMME

Module title: Policing in the Workplace 3 (DHEP) - BMPP6001D

Workbook Guidance

Please read these notes carefully. They provide essential information. The documents you will use in developing your workbook are on the following pages.

What is the workbook for?

The purpose of this workbook is to enable learners to demonstrate and provide evidence of how they meet the learning outcomes set by the College of Policing, for the Graduate Diploma in Professional Policing Practice. You are being asked to outline your experiential learning based upon your theoretical understanding in a range of operational situations.

- Wellbeing and Resilience
- Criminal Justice
- Conducting Investigations
- Decision making and discretion
- Maintaining Professional Standards
- Leadership and Team working
- Policing the roads
- Information and Intelligence

You may wish to use the same incidents as you have outlined in the Occupational Competence Portfolio.

How should the workbook be presented?

Blank electronic copies can be found on Moodle of this workbook. You must submit this document electronically therefore it is important that you save your work regularly and upload the final typed version through Turnitin on Moodle.

Word count policy can be found in chapter 7 of the Academic Quality under section 7.7 (this applies to presenting work above and under the specified word count).

https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/media/uwtsd-website/content-assets/documents/academic-office/agh-chapters/chapters---en/Chapter_07_Assessment-Taught_Programmes_Pages_72-79-UPDATED-05-11-2019.pdf

Reflective practice is a core aspect for your workbooks and although there is a variety of useful resources on Moodle, there is one particular book, that is specifically based on reflective practice in policing, here is a link to one chapter from Selina Copley's Reflective Practice for Policing Students:

https://moodle.uwtsd.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/298870/mod_resource/content/1/Reflective%20Practice%20for%20Policing%20Students%20-%20Selina%20Copley%20Chapter5.pdf

How is the workbook assessed?

Advice and support about the completion of this workbook is available to you. Please contact Kelly Andrews direct using k.andrews@uwtsd.ac.uk with any questions or queries you may have.

Dates of workbook submission can be located within the General information tile within Moodle.

Once submitted your workbook will be assessed and marked independently. You will be provided with individual feedback once the work has been marked.

Confidentiality

It is important that no individual can be identified either directly or indirectly from the information in the workbook. However, you must:

- adhere to guidance in the Candidate Handbook about confidentiality.
- not identify individuals including witnesses, victims, or offenders by name.
- not write information that enables any individual to be identified indirectly through the description you provide. This includes references to names, colleagues, places (including hospitals, schools, town, villages, streets) specific incidents which were high profile and could be identified due to past publicity, other professionals or any other personal information including medical or other conditions.
- take personal responsibility for adhering to confidentiality rules.
- not include any dates of any incidents or anything that specifically identifies an actual incident.

Please be aware that any content that is deemed to be inappropriate, disrespectful, or abusive will not be tolerated. Following review of any content of this nature the information will be shared with the employer of the student responsible.

Should any health and wellbeing concerns be raised because of disclosures made by the student within this workbook, the employer of the student will be informed.

NOTE

Your workbook will be submitted electronically via Turnitin on Moodle. Guidance on this is in the Candidate Handbook.

Remember that the workbook is YOUR responsibility you must not rely on the assessor or anyone else to pick up any confidentiality breaches as this is your work and you must accept full responsibility for confidentiality. Meeting all the confidentiality requirements is particularly important.

Dyslexia and other special circumstances

If you have any condition that you feel may affect your ability to deal with any part of the programme, please see the Candidate Handbook for further guidance. The University has a Student Services Unit that may be able to help but ***it is the learner's individual responsibility to contact them.***

Competency Based Workbook 2 - Learner Workbook

Guidance:

- Your workbook must contain items 1 - 5 below (in the order given).
- You should use the pro-forma to insert your text within each section.
- Note that this module has 2 components with each weighted at 50% of the overall 100% marks total.
- You should upload your completed document as a saved pdf file of this workbook; if this is not possible then a Word Doc file is acceptable. Do not send a scanned file from a photocopier, an apple.dot file, or a Microsoft publisher file as Turnitin will not be able to assess them, despite you being able to upload them.

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Component 1 50%	Area of Professional Practice	Word count
Task 1	Vulnerability and Risk Evidence-based policing	2000
Task 2	Choose only 1 of these 'advanced learning area' options. It should be one that has been agreed with the force to study in year 2.	All options are 2000 words
Task 2		2000
Option 1	Response Policing	
Option 2	Policing Communities	
Option 3	Road Policing	
Option 4	Information and Intelligence	
Option 5	Conducting Investigations	
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Task 1

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum: Vulnerability and Risk, Evidence-based policing

You must choose **a policing incident** in which you played a significant role with a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour and reflect on what happened.

Give a brief description of the incident including social and legislative contexts and any relevant cultural, ethnicity and language issues.

Critically evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches (by professionals and the police) in supporting or managing vulnerable people or people at risk of harm.

Explore what works in relation to tackling repeat victimisation and repeat offending. Consider the use of evidence-based policing.

2000 words (+/- 10%: include your actual word count at the end of each section)

During this essay, I will evaluate a policing incident that I have attended in which I have had a central role within the incident and the resulting support that the victim has received from the police and the external agencies. Throughout, I will use the Gibbs Reflective Cycle (1988) to critically evaluate my response to this incident as well as the support that was offered to the victims, and any subsequent follow up. The Gibbs Reflective Cycle was developed in 1988 by Graham GIBBS, with the idea of giving a structure to allow a user of the Cycle to learn and develop on what either went well or could be improved from a given situation.

The incident that I will be referring to during this essay is that of a domestic nature, whereby a female ex-partner was continually sitting on the front doorstep of the property that belonged to her ex-partner. Whilst en route to the incident, my colleague and I were updated that the male at the address was vulnerable, due to his previous domestic history with the female. As part of my involvement in this

incident I attended the address with a colleague. Once in attendance I located the ex-partner sitting on the front doorstep, crying, and clearly distressed. The ex-partner spoke with my colleague, and I entered the property to speak to the male occupant.

The male had been experiencing issues from his ex-partner in relation to child contact which had led to her constantly turning up at his address and waiting outside in the hope that he would let her in. Upon checking the relevant police systems, she was a Domestic Violence aggressor, and he was the victim, for all their previous history. In a study by the American Journal of Public Health, they had found that in relationships that were non-reciprocally violent, “women were the perpetrators in more than 70% of the cases” (Whitaker, Daniel J et al., 2007).

Upon speaking with the female, she disclosed to myself that she had recently had a mental health breakdown, which is why her children were staying with the male at the address she was outside of. The female said that she didn't feel that she had been given appropriate support from the Mental Health Service in the local area, after expressing concerns in relation to the stress that she was currently under. Due to the vulnerabilities of this female, I contacted the Mental Health Service and they advised that they had set a weekly plan for 'check-in' phone calls to be made with the female to see how she was getting on. Nationally, all services (Police, Fire, Ambulance, and the NHS) are under extreme pressure, with budgets being cut it is unsurprising that the UK's “Mental health services are often not equipped to respond appropriately to domestic abuse”. Research shows that only “10-30% of cases are identified... many mental health services are ill equipped to enquire about abuse and respond appropriately to disclosures from victim/survivors, and from those

perpetrating abuse". (Howard, Trevillion, & Agnew-Davies, 2010) (Trevillion, Corker, Capron, & Oram, 2016). It was clear that there was a failing in the support that had been offered or put in place, which had led to the current situation with the female crying on the doorstep wanting to speak with her children. Both my colleague and I had a long conversation with the female and the male occupant; it was up to us to decide on the best course of action to resolve the situation.

Once it was decided that there were no offences committed on this occasion, my colleague and I decided that the most appropriate action to take was to ensure the female was taken to her home address. This would then ensure that there was no risk of escalation and that both parties were safeguarded and separated, thus meaning positive action had been taken.

The College of Policing has instilled the 'Positive Action' approach that is the norm in policing now, which means that police "... have a duty to take positive action when dealing with domestic abuse incidents.". This can either mean making an arrest, or there are circumstances whereby "...other positive approaches may be more appropriate" (The College of Policing, 2015). In this situation, an arrest was not justified as there were no offences, however it was clear to my colleague and I that both parties needed support and would benefit from referrals that we were able to submit. With both parties separated there was limited risk of escalation.

In relation to the forms and referrals that can be submitted, there are two that are extremely useful in situations such as this. One is a Public Protection Notice (PPN) which "...allows officers to record safeguarding concerns when identified." (South

Wales Police, 2021). A Public Protection Notice is always submitted when attending a domestic incident and is then reviewed by an officer from the Public Protection Unit and forwarded to relevant partner agencies for their information and action. One critical part of the PPN is a set of questions called DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment), which are asked of the 'subject' of the DASH form. In this incident, the male ex-partner was the subject of the DASH form, however both my colleague and I had updated the form to reflect our concerns for both parties.

DASH was first used in UK Policing in March 2009, and is the standard risk assessment questionnaire carried out when attending Domestic Abuse related incidents. DASH was initially accredited by the ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) and is a set of questions that "...focus on coercive control...stalking and ... honour-based abuse". These questions form part of the risk assessment and are extremely useful when grading the risk of the domestic incident. (Richards, 2009)

To ensure that both parties can access the full support available to them, I offered both parties another referral, which is called a Victim Focus Referral (VFR). The VFR is a service provided by an external agency from the police which is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, which is designed to "...understand their personal support needs..." and offer a more targeted support package for the referred person. In this incident, the VFR will be able to ensure that the relevant support is given to both persons and provide the correct advice in relation to ensuring that the same type of issues do not re-occur, along with ways to appropriately manage their childcare situation, ultimately benefiting themselves and their children to a suitable outcome (South Wales Police, 2016).

Throughout our attendance at the address, it was clear that both the male and female were struggling with the breakdown in their relationship, and it was noted that both wanted the best for the children that they had together. This centralised my decision not to arrest the female for any offences as it was clear that they both needed suitable support to move forward, which would, in turn, stop the same issue reoccurring.

Whilst at the incident there were different approaches that were available to us in relation to resolving the situation. However, as with any incident, one must realise the appropriateness of different approaches taken. Whilst the College of Policing (2018) states that in “every case” arrest should be considered, it may not be an “appropriate response”. The College of Policing (2018) also states that “...sometimes the victim just wants the perpetrator to leave the premises temporarily or the situation can be defused by removing the perpetrator from the location.”

In this instance, one approach could have been to arrest the female who was at the door for a ‘breach of the peace’ offence, which is an offence under Common Law. It would have been justified to use this police power to arrest for this offence if my colleague or I believed that the female used “behaviour with intent to provoke a breach of the peace or whereby a breach of the peace is likely to be occasioned”. If we did not believe that the female would take our advice on board and would keep returning to the address to speak with her ex-partner, we would have been justified to arrest her to prevent this breach of the peace. However, we did not believe it necessary to arrest the female. As explained before, I was fully aware that both

parties needed support to resolve the issue, rather than placing the female in a police cell for the night. It is important to note that, had the roles been reversed, I do not believe that my colleague or I would have acted any differently in this situation. Regardless of who was the aggressor in this situation, both parties needed support to resolve the issues at hand, and not a night in custody.

In relation to any action that Police take, there must always be evidence behind the use of that action being taken and that action corresponding with a positive outcome. This can also be supported by evidence-based policing (EBP), which is further supported with research and analysis and collaboration with academics and other agencies to prove what works effectively. Professor Robinson from Cardiff University was a central member of the group that devised the DASH risk assessment questions and states that “since its implementation across police forces in England and Wales in 2009, DASH has been used to identify approximately 100,000 high-risk victims each year for enhanced risk management.” (College of Policing, 2022)

With this information, it is proved that it is imperative that attending officers complete the DASH questions to the best standard possible as they are vital to identify potential risk and support options to reduce repeat offending from taking place. Whilst the female in this case is classed as the subject, DASH was completed from both persons views (one DASH questionnaire for the female, and one for the male), to ensure that any support could be put in place for both persons.

In terms of evaluating what has worked during this incident, and steps that have been put in place to tackle repeat victimisation, which is defined as the same type of

incident occurring to the same person within a year, and repeat offending by the female ex-partner, I am overall satisfied that during my attendance at the incident I put suitable support in place. (Chainey, 2021)

At the time of writing this essay, there have been limited incidents between the pair in the past six months since the incident, which is testament that the support put in place has helped reduce the risk of repeat offending taking place. The PPN that was submitted, along with the DASH risk assessment questions, was shared, and as a result further support has been put in place in relation to child contact and counselling for the pair to allow them to work on any issues or concerns that they have.

This corroborates that the correct action was taken in relation to this incident, in that the female was taken home, with positive action being taken. The female and male involved were asked the DASH questions and, as a result, suitable support was put in place and the appropriate referrals were made to relevant agencies to offer them both support and assistance going forward.

If there were more resources and time available, it may have been beneficial to speak to both parties in more detail to further understand the long-term impact the female's mental health may have on her and ways that she can avoid the incident taking place again, however due to low resource numbers this was not possible. This is largely due to the reduced number of Police Offices on the street due to recent budget cuts, with the number of Police Officers in the UK falling from 143,700 officers in 2006 to 123,200 officers by 2019. (The University of Warwick, 2020)

From this incident it is clear to see the importance of taking the appropriate action when dealing with an incident and ensuring that the correct decision has been made, and all support options considered. In relation to this incident, I am confident that the right decision was made to not arrest the female for a breach of the peace and that positive action was taken in relation to taking the female to her address. All safeguarding was completed (DASH, PPN) and there has been a reduction in the volume of calls between the pair since this incident.

If I attended the same incident again, I think there are limited number of aspects that I would alter, as it seems that the actions taken were suitable and have resolved the issue in the short term and have implemented long term solutions and support as a direct result of my colleague and I attending the incident.

2132 Words

Task 2 Option 1:

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum: Response Policing

A core part of the policing mission is to prevent crime and disorder. Domestic abuse causes both serious harm and constitutes a considerable proportion of overall crime.

You should choose **a domestic abuse incident that was of a complex nature**, in which you played a significant role in providing a response.

Critically assess the challenges associated with a domestic abuse incident that you have attended, and the strategies developed for effective policing in such challenging situations.

2000 words (+/- 10%: include your actual word count at the end of each section)

In this essay I will be utilising a domestic abuse incident that I have attended. I will then critically assess and discuss the challenges that were associated with the incident, and the strategies that I implemented during the incident.

I will use Borton's Development Framework during this essay to describe the incident. I will utilise three sections to complete the above: What?, So What?, and What Now?. (Borton, 1970)

There are a multiple of different challenges associated with a domestic abuse incident, which makes them complex and multifaceted. Victims of domestic abuse can sometimes face significant barriers to reporting incidents and accessing the support that is available. It is estimated that, on average, a high-risk victim of abuse will live with the abuse for 2.3 years before reaching out for support, and a medium risk victim will take 3 years. (SafeLives, 2015). The Police must be acutely aware that victims of domestic abuse may be afraid to report the abuse for fear of

retribution from the perpetrator, or the victim simply may not be aware that they are being abused. (Victim Support, 2019)

A further challenge is that domestic abuse cases can be difficult to prosecute. Since 2017, the number of CPS prosecutions in England and Wales has decreased steadily from 93,593 cases in 2017 to a mere 53,207 cases in 2022 – a 43.2% decrease in prosecutions (Office for National Statistics, 2022). Victims of domestic abuse may also have a lack of trust in the Police and the CPS which may have stemmed from previous negative experiences with the Police in general, or the victims may have heard stories from others about how the Police or CPS did not get a successful conviction. Victims of domestic abuse may also fear the unknown of leaving their relationship due to a variety of factors, such as financial dependence on their abuser, as mentioned a fear of retaliation, or a lack of support if they do leave. (Victim Support, 2019)

Another main challenge in relation to domestic abuse incidents, is that they can be inherently difficult to investigate as, in most cases, the abuse happens in private. Therefore, there may be no witnesses to the abuse, or the victim may be reluctant to provide a statement and attend court against their abuser. These factors can make it difficult to secure a conviction in court. The introduction of Body Worn Cameras helps in this case, as it is policy to utilise the body worn cameras at certain incidents to capture initial disclosure from the victims, and any potential injuries and/or damage to property upon initial attendance. (South Wales Police, 2023)

Domestic Abuse is a serious and widespread problem, with these incidents being some of the most frequent incidents that Response Officers in the Police will face on a day-to-day basis. There are almost 2 million people in the UK suffering from domestic abuse in some way, with “1.3 million female victims (8.2% of the population) and 600,000 male victims (4%)” (The Office for National Statistics, 2015).

As with all domestic abuse incidents there are procedures and strategies in place to effectively police such situations, which are instilled in national Policing directives and local Policing policies. The Police take a victim-centred approach to domestic abuse incidents which focuses on the victim’s account of the abuse, and actively working with the victim to develop a safety plan and to ensure suitable safeguarding is in place for the victim. Attending officers at domestic abuse incidents carry out a risk assessment, known as Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH). (Police and Crime Commissioner South Wales, 2021)

In this incident, Police had received a 999 call from the female after her husband had kicked her out of the house and locked the door. Two double crewed units attended the address and began speaking with a female who was outside the address. She had disclosed that the couple had argued due to the male taking umbrage to the fact that when he had asked her to follow him upstairs, she had said no. This, in turn, had angered him to the point that he had then allegedly strangled her. Upon checking the female’s neck, it was clear that there was evidence of a red mark in the shape of a handprint. Due to this myself and other officers on scene needed to speak with the male and arrest him for DV Non-Fatal Strangulation.

The offence of DV Non-Fatal Strangulation came into force on 7th of June 2022 as part of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The definition of this offence is that of a “perpetrator strangling or intentionally affecting their victim’s ability to breathe in an attempt to control or intimidate them.” (Domestic Abuse Act, 2021), for which, if convicted, perpetrators face up to 5 years in prison.

When speaking with the male, he has said to officers that he would not speak with them, nor would he open the door. Due to the male needing to be arrested and him not complying with officers’ directions to open the door, it was clear that we would possibly need to force entry to effect the arrest of the male. When deciding on if entry should be forced or not, there are multiple factors that need to be considered. These include whether there is a legal power to enter to the address. In relation to this incident, the answer to this question is ‘Yes’. This is because, under Section 17 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 a “...constable may enter...any premises for the purpose of ... arresting someone for an indictable offence”, of which this new offence is. (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, 2020)

The other attending officers and I spoke with the subject and asked to enter the property to speak with him multiple times, however he in no uncertain terms said words to the effect of “No”. After a long conversation the subject let officers into the address to speak with him, however he would not offer any information regarding the events. Due to this and the disclosure from the victim we had decided to arrest the subject for DV Non-Fatal Strangulation.

After informing the subject that he was under arrest for the above alleged offence, he began to immediately resist the handcuffs being placed on him, which Police Officers can use under Section 117 of PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, 2017). Given that, at the time of the arrest, the subject was in the kitchen, with access to multiple knives and objects, it was imperative that he was placed in handcuffs as soon as possible to protect the other officers and I, and himself from any injury. Whilst being placed in handcuffs, the subject had a split second of freedom with his left hand, which he took advantage of and attempted to punch one of the attending officers. Fortunately, the subject missed, and PAVA was deployed to protect my colleagues and I and the subject. The deployment of PAVA was extremely effective at changing the subject's behaviour and allowed him to be successfully placed in handcuffs. The use of PAVA is also covered by Section 117 of PACE, and also under Section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967, whereby someone can use reasonable force "... in the circumstances... to effect the lawful arrest of offenders". (Criminal Law Act 1967, 1991) Unfortunately, assaults on Police officers are on the rise, with an 11% increase on assaults on officers in 2022 compared to 2021 (Home Office, 2022).

In relation to this incident the subject was arrested for a multitude of offences and was later interviewed. During the interview he admitted all offences and the case is currently waiting to go to trial. The initial outcome of our attendance at the incident was that the victim was safeguarded from the suspect, and subsequently took use of a refuge, and has since moved to a different area. There is ongoing support with the victim in relation to counselling and I am involved in regular checkups as to the progression of the case.

Whilst initial attendance at an incident can be difficult and time consuming, there is a lot of work that happens after the initial attendance, such as victim support and then victim follow up. In relation to domestic abuse incidents, officers will submit a Public Protection Notification which can highlight areas for support and concern that will then be sent to the relevant support agencies for their review, and if applicable, contact with the victim to offer further support.

Further to this, Police will also give information on organisations that are available to the victims of domestic violence. Some organisations that are applicable to victims are, but not limited to, Women's Aid which is the largest domestic violence charity in the UK. Women's Aid provides a range of services to victims of domestic violence, including refuge accommodation, support groups and counselling. Other organisations are Refuges for victims, who provide a range of services to victims of domestic violence, including refuge accommodation, support groups and counselling and finally the National Domestic Violence Helpline which is a 24-hour helpline that provides support to victims of domestic violence.

Over my career with the Police so far, I have learnt that support for domestic violence victims is extremely important as, if the victim feels supported, they will likely trust the process with the police investigation throughout and proceed with the case at court. It is therefore important that during the initial attendance at an incident officers make victims aware of these services, which is clearly happening, as in the year ending March 2022, the Welsh Women's Aid 'Live Fear Free' helpline received 35,491 phone calls from victims requesting and receiving support, which was an

18.1% increase compared to March 2021 (Office for National Statistics (ONS), 2022).

From attending the incident, I have learnt that it is important to ensure that both persons are separated, as they were, to ensure that officers are able to gather the best information possible to formulate a plan of action to ensure that any victim is safeguarded from the perpetrator. In this case, based on the disclosures, the suspect was arrested, and further safeguarding was put in place, as detailed above. In relation to the arrest of the suspect, I feel that the learning point here is to ensure that no officers are potentially injured during the arrest. Fortunately, in this case, there was no injury, however the suspect had a second to move their hands around which resulted in them attempting to assault an officer. Quicker action in this regard could have avoided this.

In conclusion, I am overall pleased with the current outcome of this incident. I am very confident that the attending officers and I had put in all the safeguarding possible that could have been available to the victim, and that they have felt like they have remained supported during the investigation. However, I was to attend a similar incident again I would focus even more on the safety of officers at the scene when arresting the suspect. Obviously, there is a duty of care to all involved, including the victim and the suspect, however with assaults on officers on the rise, it is important to protect the protectors.

Throughout my service to come, there will always be opportunities for self-reflection and thinking 'how could I have done better', however in this situation, I think that

realistically I had done all I was able to do. I have since been able to put the aspects of this incident that worked into further practice, and refine them, and ensure that I am always learning and building on my past experiences to support the victims of crime.

1955 Words

Authentication signature - Please sign to confirm that the work submitted is your own and has not been copied from another.

Signed: R. OWEN

Date: 29/10/2023

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