

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/aqh-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.

Contents

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	
	Bibliography	

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*)

ANSWER: In this essay, I will discuss an incident I investigated. I will consider the social and cultural issues which applied, before critically evaluating the approaches taken by the police and partner agencies in supporting vulnerable people. I will explore what works in terms of tackling repeat victimisation and repeat offending with a focus on evidence-based policing.

The incident in question was reported by the IP who advised she had been assaulted by her partner (DP). The IP was of No Fixed Abode and as such, officers attended to speak with her at a local homeless hostel. The IP was alcohol dependent, and her level of intoxication made it difficult to obtain an initial account. The IP was able to provide limited detail but alleged that at some point that day her partner had punched her to the face and the week before he had headbutted her. Arrangements were made to revisit the IP the following day to arrange for a statement to be taken.

The DP is a high risk, repeat Domestic Violence aggressor to the IP and one other victim. He is also of no fixed abode and alcohol dependent. He was located the following morning and arrested for common assault (s39 *Criminal Justice Act 1988*).

While familiarising myself with the file, I received a call from the IP who was already aware the DP had been arrested. She advised she wanted to retract her allegations as they were not true. She advised she had previously been assaulted by another (unrelated) male, and an argument with DP the following evening had triggered her trauma and she had mistakenly accused the DP of assaulting her. I visited the IP, found no injuries consistent with the alleged assault, a retraction statement was obtained. The DP was interviewed and released on bail as a precaution. As no evidence to support the initial allegation was obtained during my subsequent

investigation, the matter was closed with No Further Action being taken against the DP.

On the face of it, this could simply be looked at as a malicious report made during an alcohol fuelled argument. Without considering the social and cultural characteristics of the IP, that would be an overly simplistic conclusion to arrive at.

The IP is a white, British female, there were no ethnicity or language issues. As noted above, the IP was of No Fixed Abode and was moving between homeless hostels. It became apparent while speaking to her that her housing status was a significant stressor. Due to the limited provision of temporary accommodation, the IP had to attend a local housing office at 6pm each day to queue with other service users in the hope of being allocated a bed for the night. The IP advised she relied on DP to “protect” her as she felt unsafe around the other service users. Homeless women are at significant risk of violence, and many rely on this sort of informal arrangement with acquaintances to protect them while they are homeless. (Crisis, 2021, p.13.) I was aware this need for security may have been a factor in the IP retracting her allegations. I was also conscious the IP’s homeless status may have impacted how she perceived the police and may have influenced her decision to support a prosecution. In their 2021 paper, Townley et al highlight numerous factors which have caused homeless communities to have a lack of trust in the police (2021, p.2015.) While this is an American study, the findings are likely to apply to homeless individuals in the UK.

The IP’s homeless status brought with it additional risk factors. Alcohol “dependence can be both a cause and consequence of homelessness” (Public Health England, 2021). I suspected alcohol had contributed to the initial argument and the initial allegations. I considered whether the IP relied on the DP for access to alcohol and whether this could have been a contributing factor to her retraction.

The DP in this matter was a high-risk domestic violence perpetrator to the IP. I was acutely aware this factor could contribute to the IP seeking to retract her allegation. The Duluth Wheel of Power and Control (DAIP, 2016) highlights the ways domestic violence perpetrators manipulate and control their victims, often to the point where they will not report their abuser. This model can help us understand the under-reporting and withdrawal of domestic abuse complaints (Bryant & Bryant, 2020, p.301).

Considering these factors, and my concerns as to the motivation for IP’s withdrawal, it was clear a thorough investigation was required to establish if the alleged incidents had taken place rather than taking the IP’s retraction at face value.

There was reasonable necessity for the arrest of the DP, to allow for a prompt and thorough investigation, to prevent him causing physical injury to himself or any other person, and to safeguard a vulnerable person (*Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984*). Additionally, “police officers have a duty to take positive action when dealing with domestic abuse incidents. Often this means making an arrest” (COP, 2015). An arrest safeguards the victim for the short term while the suspect is in custody, this time can be beneficial in allowing the victim breathing space to consider how they wish to proceed free from fear and control. This can help the IP

“re-evaluate their relationship” which is a key stage of leaving an abusive relationship (Liz Kelly “Six Stages of Leaving” quoted in Women’s Aid, 2017.) The concept of “positive action means arrest” is an example of evidence-based policing in action. A study conducted in Minneapolis in the 1980’s found arrest was the most effective response to misdemeanour domestic abuse when compared to removal and mediation (Sherman & Berk, 1984, p.7). This study has shaped the way police respond to domestic incidents, but it is worth noting the authors added the caveat that further studies were required to test their findings. Consequently, a follow up study by Berk et al suggests that while arrest has a deterrent effect on employed perpetrators, there is limited evidence that arrest has a deterrent effect on the wider population and in fact there is evidence it can make things worse in the case of unemployed suspects (1992, p. 706.) It is worth noting the age of this research, more recent studies should be considered when developing modern police policy. Berk et al’s findings have been tested by Marciniak whose research indicated arrest has a detrimental effect in areas of greater social deprivation (2021, p.61) If, as this study suggest, arrest is not the most effective response to domestic violence, it is important the police safeguard victims beyond the 24-hours the suspect remains in custody.

In the longer term, bail conditions can be utilised to safeguard the IP and pro-long the re-evaluation period afforded to them. Home Office statistics suggest breaches occurred in only 1.29% of cases (Home Office, 2022). It is worth noting however that these statistics are experimental only, many forces have not provided their breach of bail statistics and the figures do not include “repeat” breaches. Breaches of pre-charge police bail are dealt with by arresting, detaining, and re-bailing the suspect, usually with the same conditions. It is arguable that this is little deterrent to a serial domestic abuse perpetrator and proper consideration should be given to remanding the suspect in custody to allow the longest possible period of safeguarding for the victim.

Further, officers can and should utilise Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN’s) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO’s) (*Crime and Security Act 2010*) to further safeguard victims and allow them time and space to seek support. Research conducted by Blackburn and Graca suggests the police are successful in obtaining a DVPO in 92-95% of cases (2021, p.32). It is worth noting this research does not comment on how widely they are being utilised. A Home Office study conducted in 2013 confirmed a correlation between DVPO’s and a reduction in breaches and re-victimisation, though this could not be solely attributed to the order and other factors may have contributed (p.6). Further, Blackburn and Graca highlight the difficulty of assessing the “success” of DVPO’s when considered against the dark figure of domestic violence (2021, p.32).

Domestic incidents are a multi-agency problem, and it is essential relevant partner agencies are notified of domestic incidents and any concerns via a DASH risk assessment which form part of the Public Protection Notice. Evidence based research was used by the College of Policing to develop the DASH risk assessment tool. Research was used to identify commonalities in domestic abuse cases to help identify the risk of future harm (COP, 2014.) The DASH tool is now widely used and is invaluable for identifying those suffering or at risk of repeat victimisation and bringing repeat offenders to the attention of partner agencies. A recent South Wales

Police internal review confirmed opportunities to submit a DASH/PPN are missed, it is likely the same is true of domestic violence cases and some victims are not being brought to the attention of the relevant agencies (Roderick, 2023.) Used effectively, DASH questionnaires allow agencies to put necessary support in place, this can include target hardening measures. Target Hardening is another practice which has benefited from applying the best available research, Hester and Westmarlander (2005, p. 78-79) highlight the effectiveness of pre-programmed mobile phones, personal alarms, and home security in reducing repeat victimisation.

In terms of professional agencies, domestic abuse charities offer support to survivors of domestic abuse. This can take many forms including temporary accommodation. "Women's Refuges" offer temporary accommodation to survivors of domestic abuse. While in refuge, information about their whereabouts is closely guarded and staff are available to support the survivor. The benefits of being kept safe and being surrounded by other survivors who understand your situation are evident (Turner, 2020). Refuge spaces are limited, and the cost of temporary accommodation is prohibitively expensive for those who do not qualify for housing benefits. As such employed survivors are placed in the difficult position of giving up work to obtain the required benefit or having to pay for their own accommodation. When we consider the Duluth Wheel and the fact many victims' finances are controlled by their abuser, this is often an untenable option (Day, 2021.) In the example I have been discussing, the IP had recently been placed in a refuge 25-miles away from her family. While this safeguarded her from the perpetrator, it removed an essential support network and ultimately, the IP left refuge and returned home, where the DP was able to get into contact with her.

As noted above, the IP's homeless status was a significant stressor and I believe this was placing her at more risk as she was engaging with the perpetrator to "protect" her from what she perceived to be more dangerous service users. The temporary accommodation provision for "rough sleepers" in the UK have reverted from COVID "Everyone In" levels (Shelter, 2021.) The IP in this example was required to queue outside a local housing office at the same time each evening to obtain a room for the evening, this meant she would be in the same place as the DP every day, and he would know where she was being housed for the evening.

As with many publicly funded or charitable services, many of the partner agencies are constrained by funding issues and, many agencies are struggling to meet the demands placed on them (St Mungo's, 2019.)

Unlike a lot of crimes, domestic violence occurs predominantly behind closed doors and as such policing strategies such as preventative "beat" policing and reactive policing are unlikely to have much of a deterrent effect. In a similar vein, domestic abuse is such a vast issue that Problem Oriented Policing is unlikely to be able to identify a suitably narrow root cause to tackle. Evidence based policing is defined as the use of the best available evidence, to inform and direct policing policy and practice (COP, 2013) The "Three T's", targeting, testing, and tracking can identify what works and what doesn't work in terms of police responses to crime (Sherman, 2018, p.455.) Sherman suggests a modern day repeat of his Minneapolis study could be beneficial in assessing the effectiveness of pro-arrest policies and suggests

restorative justice approaches may be preferable to victims, have a stronger impact on repeat offending and may be operationally preferable during times of budgetary constraints (2018, p.460.) Further, research conducted in Hampshire Constabulary would suggest imposing a requirement for arrested perpetrators to attend a Cautioning and Relationship Abuse (CARA) workshop could be effective in reducing repeat offending (Strang et al, 2017, p.171.)

In conclusion, there were several social factors at play in the example I have discussed which were considered in the initial stages of my investigation. The approaches from the police are theoretically sound, in practice PPN's, DASH assessments and DVPN/DVPO's need to be more widely utilised. Other agencies offer valuable support to this multi-agency issue, though they are hamstrung by funding issues. In my opinion, evidence-based policing has been useful in shaping police policy and more recent studies continue to show how policy can and should evolve to help tackle domestic violence.

Word count: 2,191.

Task 2

This is a reminder that this TASK 2 section is an opportunity for you to answer one question which should be relevant to the “advanced learning” area that you have chosen. The advanced learning lecture that you choose to attend will assist you in answering this task.

Choose 1 of these 5 options to answer

(Note for officers who have an interest in becoming a detective and wish to specialise in this role, you MUST choose option 5)

- 1. Response Policing.**
- 2. Policing Communities.**
- 3. Road Policing.**
- 4. Information and Intelligence.**
- 5. Conducting Investigations.**

Task 2 Option 5

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:

Conducting Investigations

You should choose an investigation that you have been involved in **that was of a complex nature**, in which you played a significant role.

Critically evaluate the processes employed in a complex investigation you have been involved in, and the fast-track actions that you have utilised.

Evaluate the support you have provided to victims, witnesses, and offenders (where appropriate) during a complex investigation and reference the management of your own personal values and attitudes in relation to this.

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

Answer: In this essay I will discuss a complex investigation I have played a significant role in. I will critically evaluate the processes involved in the investigation and the fast-track actions utilised. I will evaluate the support I provided to those involved and discuss the management of my own personal values and attitudes throughout the investigation.

The IP contacted the police in the early hours of the morning to report an alleged oral rape. The IP advised he had met the DP using online dating apps and that evening they had agreed to meet in a public place for consensual sexual activity. The IP advised that during this consensual activity he became uncomfortable and said he wanted to stop, but the DP ignored his requests and continued to penetrate the IP's mouth without his consent. This constitutes an offence of rape under s1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. The IP advised that following the incident the DP insisted they share a taxi to the DP's home address which he agreed to out of fear of further assault/abuse. While en route, the DP has jumped from the vehicle without paying, leaving the IP, who did not have any money and was unable to pay. When the incident was reported to the police, the IP was not at the scene and the DP was unaccounted for.

Immediate consideration was given to the use of an Early Evidence Kit (EEK.) As there was a risk the DP may not be found within the forensic window and we did not know what the DP would say once he had been found, an EEK was essential for securing forensic samples ahead of a more formal medical examination and to allow IP to eat, drink and wash. Smith et al opine EEK's are useful in detecting

spermatozoa following an alleged sexual assault though the effectiveness in respect of oral penetration remains unclear (2014, p.342). Shortly afterward, a Force Medical Examiner (FME) became available, and the IP agreed to undergo a medical examination at a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). Again, this is an invaluable process that helps secure material while the IP is within the forensic window. While this is something SOIT/SOFR officers routinely arrange, it is important we remember it can be a significant stressor for the IP, who has already been through a traumatic event, and there is a risk of re-traumatising them. Research suggests the best FME experience is achieved when the FME primarily offers healthcare advice/services and the gathering of evidence is a secondary function (Manning & Rattray-Te Mana, 2022, p.4.) In practice, the fast pace of an acute rape investigation often makes this impractical, but I will certainly take this on board and broach the topic with FME's at future examinations. Majeed-Ariss et al suggests a positive encounter with an FEM and Crisis Workers had a positive impact on victim's recovery (2019, p.36). It is worth noting this study only considered respondents who had attended a specific SARC (St Mary's SARC). Only 7% of respondents to the study were male, but this is proportional to male victims nationwide (Criminal Injuries Helpline, 2023.)

s.101 *Coroners and Justice Act 2009* and s.27 *Youth and Criminal Justice Act 1999* make provisions for victims of sexual offences to provide video recorded evidence in chief. The victim in this matter agreed to provide a video recorded Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interview. The aim of this process is self-explanatory, it seeks to allow the victim to provide the best possible initial account in a safe space, in a format that can be played at court. While they are habitually used in RASSO cases and there are clear benefits to the victim not having to repeat and relive the traumatic experience, Caroline Rees QC suggests video recorded evidence is less impactful on a jury than a victim giving evidence in person in court (Rees QC, 2022.) The IP in this matter gave a detailed account which provided several new lines of enquiry for us to follow.

The IP was able to confirm the location of the offence and this enabled CCTV enquiries to be carried out within 8-hours of the alleged offence. It also allowed us to secure the scene and CSI were able to attend and recover material from the scene.

During his ABE, the IP confirmed the direction in which the DP had run off and provided a description of the address he had entered. This allowed officers to attend the area and conduct house to house enquiries. During these enquiries, one male occupant was identified who partially matched the description provided by the IP, however he denied any knowledge of the incident stating that he was a straight male who did not use online dating apps. He also provided an alibi for the previous evening stating he had been at home all evening drinking with two friends. His details were taken and noted on the occurrence log. All other house to house enquiries were negative.

In his account of the pre-incident actions, the IP advised that he and the DP had been sending messages via Snapchat. Screenshots of these messages were

obtained and in one of the messages, the DP stated he was on his way to meet the IP in an Uber. The messages also confirmed where he was before leaving to meet the IP and confirmed the time he arrived at the location. This was valuable information, and I submitted an urgent data protection request to Uber asking for the details of the customer who had made that booking. Within 12-hours, Uber responded, and the details provided matched those of the male officers had spoken to the previous day while conducting house to house enquiries. On reflection, the officers who conducted the house-to-house enquiries readily accepted the DP's story without challenging it sufficiently. Having had the benefit of watching the ABE interview, listening to the descriptions of the suspect and his address first-hand, and later meeting the DP, it is my opinion there were sufficient grounds to arrest the male when house to house enquiries were conducted. He largely matched the description and he confirmed he was the sole-occupant of the address described by the IP. That said, I understand how officers who were only aware of the limited summaries on the occurrence log did not arrive at the same decision at the time. Going forward I will ensure descriptions are communicated more clearly, and officers who are assisting with enquiries have as full an understanding of the circumstances as possible. Regardless, the officers noted the male's details on file, and later that evening he was arrested.

An arrest was necessary in the circumstances. The DP was within the forensic window and arrest would allow for a prompt and effective investigation into the alleged offence (*PACE, 1984*). A section 32 search (s32, *PACE, 1984*) was conducted of the male and his home address and his clothing and electronic devices were seized. As the male had previously misled officers and suggested he had been with two friends at the time of the alleged offence, there were reasonable grounds to believe he would contact his friends and hinder the recovery of evidence connected with an indictable offence. As such, an Inspector authorised an Incommunicado Delay (Code C, Annex B, 2019, p.75) until the DP was interviewed. In interview the DP gave a full account of the incident. He maintained he was heterosexual but had seen the IP's social media account where he regularly asked for "meet ups" in the local area. The DP advised he was curious and initiated a conversation with the IP using a fake profile he set up specifically for that purpose. The DP confirmed he agreed to meet the IP, but maintained he had no premeditated intention as to what sexual activity they would engage in, if any. The DP advised the IP initiated the sexual activity and the DP did not enjoy it and asked them to stop. The IP arranged a taxi for them. The DP advised he was embarrassed and regretted his decision, and this prompted him to run away from the taxi without offering to pay. The DP admitted to lying to officers who attended his house, stating that he was embarrassed and thought it was only about the taxi fare.

From the outset, there were several issues which needed to be considered as part of the investigation.

The IP in this matter was known to us as he had reported several rape and other sexual offences in the past, all of which had been undermined by significant inconsistencies. The IP was also known to us as a suspect in a matter with similarities to the incident being reported on this occasion. I was mindful that any

prior knowledge of the IP did not influence how the matter was dealt with, and I was conscious of Dr Patrick Tidmarsh's research and his assertion that only circa 5% of rape allegations are false and most of those are not malicious (Tidmarsh & Hamilton, 2020.) It was of paramount importance the allegations were dealt with professionally, investigated thoroughly and no assumptions were made.

The IP in this incident identified as a homosexual male. Research suggests LGBTQ+ communities underreport more than other victim groups for fear of being treated in a discriminatory manner (Langenderfer-Magruder et al, 2020, p.1444.) It was important to me the IP was treated with respect and dignity from the outset and felt able to talk openly about the incident without fear of being judged. I feel this was achieved during the rapport building section of the ABE and the IP was able to give a detailed account despite the sensitive and intimate details he was discussing. The same could be said for the DP. While he identified as a heterosexual male, he confirmed during interview that he was "curious" about his sexuality and the incident in question had been his first experience with another male. It was clear to me from the DP's initial account in interview that he was reluctant to talk about the incident in detail and he repeatedly stated he was "embarrassed" talking about the incident. I was conscious that if he did not feel like he was being treated with dignity and respect, there was a risk he would either fail to give a full account, or worse, try to lie and undermine himself. I began the suspect interviewing by explaining that he would be treated professionally and with respect and I feel this reassured him and led to him providing a full account. I felt well placed to deal with the complainant and the suspect, I am the child of homosexual parents and the sibling of a member of the LGBTQ+ community. It was extremely important to me that both parties felt I had treated them fairly and respectfully. While I felt empathy towards the DP, as I know how difficult his situation can be (coming out/coming to terms with one's sexuality etc), my duty is to act as an impartial investigator, and I did not want this to change my approach to the investigation.

Finally, I was conscious of the nature of the offence I was dealing with. Rape survivors have been through a most traumatic experience, and many are reluctant to engage with the criminal justice system for fear of being re-traumatised or re-victimised. As a member of a specialist RASSO team, it is important to me that victims feel supported, confident they will be taken seriously, and their complaint will be investigated thoroughly regardless of the circumstances of their complaint. Maier (2008, p.793-794) highlights the damaging effect officer behaviour can have on victims and I am always conscious that I talk to complainants in an empathetic manner while remaining professional. In this investigation, while challenging a complainant's account, which is an essential part of the investigation, I took care to word any questions in a way that would not be construed as invasive or blaming.

To conclude, the fast-track actions in this matter allowed us to identify, arrest and interview a suspect who was initially unaccounted for. While many of the processes applied are routine for SOFR/SOIT officers, their impact on the already traumatised victim should not be ignored. The victim and the suspect in this matter required a great deal of support and my own personal attitudes and ethics came to the fore and required management.

Word count: 2,070.

Authentication signature:

Please sign to confirm that the work submitted is your own and has not been copied from another:

Signed: Christopher Wynn

Date: 26/04/2023

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