

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)

ANSWER:

In this essay I shall use a domestic incident of Malicious communication and harassment to describe and critically evaluate the incident, using the Gibbs model (Gibbs, 1988), looking at social and legislative contexts and the appropriateness of different approaches used by the police to support vulnerable people. I shall then explore how repeat victimisation and offending is managed.

The incident I shall use as the basis for this essay was a domestic incident between two ex-partners. The incident was a case of malicious communications and harassment without fear of violence. This incident comprised of the victim's ex-partner sending persistent unwanted abusive messages via emails and social media and turning up at the victim's address. In a social context 10.4 million adults in the UK, that's 1 in 5 adults ages over 16 years of age have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 (ONS, 2022). The number of domestic incidents attended by police has increased since 2021 by 7.7%. This demonstrates that victims are more engaging with police and services about reporting domestic incidents (ONS, 2022).

This incident involved two offences, malicious communication and harassment. Malicious communications is defined as

"Any person who sends to another person a letter, electronic communication or article of any description which conveys a message which is indecent or grossly offensive; a threat; or information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender; or any, article or electronic communication, which is, in whole or part, of an indecent or grossly offensive nature, is guilty of an offence if his purpose, or one of his purposes, in sending it is that it

should, so far as falling within paragraph (a) or (b) above, cause distress or anxiety to the recipient or to any other person to whom he intends that it or its contents or nature should be communicated” (Malicious Communications Act 1988).

The messages sent directly to the victim via an electronic platform were of an abusive nature and causing the victim distress and anxiety. Both points mean that the points to prove for the offence were met. The second offence was harassment without fear of violence. Defined as “A person must not pursue a course of conduct (a) which amounts to harassment of another, and (b) which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of the other” (Protection from Harassment Act 1997). The victim requested that the ex-partner was not to contact her via any methods, including electronically. Repeated emails were sent to the victim of which a person would recognise this was intentionally repeated contact. This unwanted repeated contact on more than 2 occasions formed a course of conduct, meeting the points to prove of harassment.

There were no cultural or language issues.

There are multiple approaches used to support and manage vulnerable victims who are at risk of harm by the police and outside agencies. A vulnerable person is a person who is unable to care of or protect themselves or other from harm or exploitation because of their situation or circumstances (COP, 2021). I shall now critically evaluate these methods.

Outside of the Police Service there are woman’s refuges and Woman’s Aid. These are organisations and locations for woman of domestic violence to seek safety, support and shelter. Woman’s Aid provides free support from initial crisis to after care and recovery. The crisis support team is called RISE (Recovery, Information, Safety, Empowerment) and specialise in supporting and providing places of safety for woman and their children (Cardiff Women’s Aid, 2023). The advantages of this service are that provides a place of safety for victims allowing them to escape their current violent situation and seek support to change their circumstances. As the service is free for victims this ensures that it is inclusive for all members of the community. This prevents any community groups from isolated from being able to access the support. The disadvantage is that it requires the victim to be leaving the relationship and their location, therefore confronting their abusive partner. This means that before reaching this point of strength to leave they have been subjected to significant period of abuse. Refuges are places of safety where support can be obtained allowing victims to leave their abusive relationship. The location of these refugees is unknown by the public to ensure that the safety of the occupants is maintained, they are able to feel safe and comfortable (woman’s Aid, no date). The advantages of refuges are their unknown locations and therefore ex partners cannot find the victims when they have left the relationship. The charity also has refuges nationally so provides a wide and inclusive service, which allows victims the opportunity to move physical location if desired. The disadvantage is that they are not free for victims. This financial outlay can force victims to return to the abusive relationship. If they have been subjected to coercive control, they may not have financial independence to afford such facilities. The victim may also be in fear of leaving the relationship and due to the control from the ex-partner restricting their liberty they may not have the confidence to believe they can live independently (woman’s Aid, no date).

However, the Police Service has many approaches to support vulnerable people. These include Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence Risk Identification form (DASH), a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referral and in high graded cases of DV a Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) and Active Risk Management (ARMS). A DASH form is a consent driven risk assessment process which is offered to Domestic abuse victims, allowing officers to grade the risk an individual

is exposed to. DASH is a form of Person Protection Notice which is submitted to external partner agencies and internal Police departments to offer support to vulnerable victims. If graded high risk this determines if a MARAC meeting is required about the victim / situation (Safe Lives, 2015). A safety plan is provided at the time of the incident to safeguard the vulnerable person. However, Turner does not agree that the process is providing effective risk identification stating that the DASH is 27 questions where officers focus on the questions that apply to the incident they attend, and the risk grading is random from the DASH process. However survey results identify DASH is not effective for identifying high risk victims (Turner, 2019). At this incident a DASH was submitted looking at previous offending history to provide a risk grading. This was effective and submitted for a framework of support to be put in place for the victim with external partner agencies through referrals and a standardised framework. This went well as it is a standardised process for all partner agencies to be aware of to receive any information required about the victim's situation. The disadvantage to the process is that it is not possible without the consent of the victim unless there are severe requirements for a referral where officer discretion can be used to submit without consent. This can cause the abuse to continue as the victim remains in the relationship. A MARAC involves agencies including local Police, health, child protection, housing agencies, Domestic Violence Advisors, and other specialists. Each agency discusses how to safeguard and support the victim. Actions are then put in place to safeguard / support the victim including any children and to manage offenders' behaviour (Safe Lives, 2014). Under Section 8 of the Human rights Act an individual, including victims, have a right to live privately, a private family life and privacy in their home; without the involvement or interference of the government (Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2021). The European Institute for gender equality support the use of MARAC stating that MARACs significantly reduce repeat victimisation and increase victim engagement. 6 of 10 victims that used MARAC reported an end of the abuse within 6 months of the meeting and 4 of 10 victims were abuse free after 12 months (EIGE, 2003-2014). At this incident a MARAC meeting was organised supported by research highlighting MARAC are effective in the ending of abuse. Home Office Violent and Youth Crime Prevention Unit (VCYU) and Research and Analysis Unit (RAU) support that this multi-agency approach improves the partnership and inter-agency working so that all involved agencies are aware of the risks and actions that are put in place to support victims (VCYU, 2011, pg93). The disadvantages are that due to the victim and incident being discussed in a conference setting, the victims voice is marginalised from managerial and administrative responses to domestic violence. Individual restraints through budgets or resources may further reduce the victims voice through this process. At this incident the submission of DASH and a MARAC was the correct process to follow and worked well to ensure the victim was supported and actions were put in place to prevent reoffending from the offender. This went well as it involved multiple internal and external agencies. I feel that the detailed submission of the DASH ensured that the MARAC was organised with as much detail as possible about the victim and relationship. I would take this learning forwards to future incidents and consider a MARAC referral for future incidents due to the positive result it achieved. Further learning would be to ensure that the DASH process is always completed in as much depth as possible for future referrals so any support of further actions can be highlighted and put into place for the victim. MOSOVO is a role of specially trained individuals in the response and management of sexual or violent offenders. This includes a report being prepared following an investigation and offender management through the violent and sex offender register (ViSOR) to ensure further incidents do not occur and the individual is monitored with restrictions if required. MOSOVO work with the Multiple Agency Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to provide updates on offenders, update records and allow for involved public agencies to be updated (COP, 2023). Management of risk interventions can be restrictive or constructive. Restrictive minimise the risk or harm through monitoring or restricting activities. Constructive would-be involvement in programmes or diversion activities to try and reform

the offenders behaviour (COP, 2023). However, Criminal Justice Joint Inspection state that the MAPPA process is fractured leading to a poor understanding of its purpose and benefits. The documentation of meeting minutes is poor which is leading to essential information not being documented or updated. They also state that the MOSOVO pathway is not clear for domestic abuse offenders who commit low level offences over a substantial period of time, leading to long term abuse of victims (Criminal Justice Joint Inspection, 2022, pg 35). At this incident MOSOVO were not involved due to the low level of the offence, however, this action supports the research from the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection as the offender would not of been prevented from continuing the abuse to the victim in this domestic situation due to the low level offence.

I shall now explore approaches to tackling repeat victimisation. A repeat victim is defined as being the victim to the same type of crime, on more than one occasion in a 12-month period (COP, 2023). Evidence Based Policing is when the best available evidence is used to challenge and inform police policies, practices and decisions and can be used by everyone within the Policing organisation (COP, 2023). To tackle repeat victimisation there are 3 areas which can be covered. Targeting place, people and Problem Orientated Policing (POP). Evidence suggested that location targeting can be an effective crime reduction strategy and most effective against crimes such as violence, property crime, drug offences and disorder. This approach provides short term and unstable crime reduction, often leading to crime being moved elsewhere, and needs to be combined with other approaches to be successful (COP, 2021). The second approach is targeting people. This can involve focussing on the most vulnerable victims to provide support and resolve issues. Or the targeting of repeat or prolific offenders responsible for large proportions of the crime. These deterrence strategies are designed to change offenders' behaviour through targeting enforcement and support from partner agencies (COP, 2021). Evidence Based Policing for DV incidents involves police pursuing Evidence Led Prosecution. Evidence such as 999 recordings, demeanour of victims, injury photographs or witnesses is used to pursue prosecution without victim support (CPS, 2022). This provides the opportunity for offender prosecution and victim safeguarding, preventing repeat victimisation. The third approach is Problem Orientated Policing (POP), a targeted solution involving multiple partner agencies such as housing, justice agencies, local authorities, and charities. Results show a one third crime reduction where POP was used. However, this process is dependent on involvement of partner agencies as Police have limited resources (COP, 2021). This approach naturally includes people and location, providing a higher level of success ensuring that crime is dealt with effectively to prevent repeat victimisation.

In conclusion it is evident there are many procedures and approaches to support and manage vulnerable victims. These are externally from Police such as Woman's Aid and refuges and internally such as DASH forms, MARAC and MOSOVO teams. These would not function independently, however, combined all these different approaches help to manage and support vulnerable victims through the prosecution process and beyond. Evidence Based Policing provides the ability for repeat victims to be further supported through victimless prosecutions and the use of POP plans ensures that effective actions are taken to reduce crime and prevent victims becoming repeat victims.

Word count: 2124

Task 2

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 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)

ANSWER:

In this essay I shall critically assess the challenges that are associated with Domestic Abuse incidents and the strategies used for effective policing of these situations. I will select an incident which I attended and played a significant role in providing a response and use this to discuss the strategies used. I shall critically assess this incident using the Gibbs Reflective model (Gibbs, 1988)

Domestic abuse is defined as the behaviour of a person (A) towards another person (B) is domestic abuse if both individuals are ages over 16 and the behaviour is abusive. Abusive behaviour consists of physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, coercive or controlling behaviour, economic abuse and psychological, emotional, or other abuse. The abuse can be multiple incidents or a single act (Domestic Abuse Act 2021). 17.1% of all of offences recorded by the police in 2022 were domestic abuse related crime. This was a 7.7% increase from the previous year 2021 and a 14% increase in 2020 (ONS, 2022). At the incident I attended a daughter had assaulted her mother and caused damage to her property. Assault is defined as "An assault is any act (and not mere omission to act) by which a person intentionally or recklessly causes another to suffer or apprehend immediate unlawful violence" (CPS, 2022). The daughter had ripped out hair from her mother's head which constituted the offence. She then proceeded to damage the vehicle they were in. Criminal damage is defined as "A person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another, intending to destroy or damage any such property, or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged, shall be guilty of an offence" (CPS, 2022). The daughter had mental health issues and was living in supported living, this was not the first incident between them involving the police.

There are many challenges associated with Domestic Abuse incidents. Mental health impacts many police incidents, with 20-40% of police time being taken up by mental health related calls (West Midlands Police, 2020). This was a consideration how I proceeded at this incident with the offender due to flags for mental health and self-harm. If the offender lacks capacity or requires medical attention this would have to be sought by A&E or a mental health assessment. Collage of Policing define S136 of the Mental Health Act as a person suffering from a mental disorder, posing no danger to herself or others or in no need of immediate care or control (Mental health Act 1983 S136). However, in this incident a S136 was not applicable as the offender did have capacity but communication was difficult due to the female's emotional state being low. I feel this decision to not use S136 enabled the offender to receive medical attention before being taken to custody for interview. This enabled the offender to be issued bail conditions upon them to safeguard the victim. From this I learnt that the legislation behind mental health provides limited support when dealing with individuals suffering with low level mental health. As the criteria for a S136 to be applicable requires a serious mental disorder to be taking place, low level mental health concerns have limited powers for police to use at these types of incidents.

Another challenge is no victim engagement. This can be a challenge in many domestic violence (DV) incidents as the victim may be in fear of reporting or pursuing a prosecution. Without the victims formal complaint offender prosecution becomes difficult which can lead to further abuse and re offender / victimisation. Evidence based prosecution of offenders involves considering evidence available like 999 recordings, injuries sustained and the victim's reaction to police / the incident to secure a prosecution (CPS, 2023). However, the Police and Crime Commissioner of Avon and Somerset Police states that current systems within the Police make it difficult for officers to identify suitable incidents for evidence led prosecution suggesting that further training, domestic violence focus teams and a CPS lead would be required to ensure officers are able to identify and pursue evidence led prosecution (ASPCC, 2020). At this incident due to the injury, damage and victim's demeanour and previous domestic incidents, the victim was forthcoming with a complaint. I can relate this to this incident as due to the injury, victim's demeanour, previous incidents and fear an evidence led prosecution was a consideration if there was no formal victim complaint. I feel the

consideration of a S136 went well during the decision-making process and the use of the force control room Mental Health practitioner ensured that all options available were considered and rationalised. I feel this incident went well due to the involvement of the Approved Mental Health Practitioner (AMHP) and the consideration of all Police powers and options available. I have learnt that contact and involvement of the AMHP is essential at incidents where there are any mental health considerations as this expertise allows for clear and informed decision making by officers at the incident.

Another challenge with Domestic incidents is safeguarding the victim and offender. At this incident the victim was the offender's mother therefore safeguarding was crucial to prevent re offending and due to this not being the first incident, with each incident becoming more violent, safeguarding the victim was necessary. Due to the direct family connection safeguarding would be difficult without the consent of bail conditions from the victim. If the incident was concluded with no further action (NFA) then the submission of a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) can be considered to provide victim safeguarding. Police procedure states that a DVPN is to be sought for a NFA domestic incident and Collage of Policing state a DVPN should be issued if there are threats, violence and it is believed that the DVPN is necessary to protect the victim from further violence (COP, 2015). A DVPN places restrictions on the offender such as not to go within 50m of the premise, attend or reside at the address. The DVPN is granted in court and can last up to 28 days (GOV.uk, 2022). However, Smith states that DVPN's are not effective in preventing reoffending and further abuse. Smith states reoffending rates increased following the expiry of an issued DVPN and she questioned whether DVPN were an effective deterrent to prevent the offender reoffending or further abusing the victim (Smith, 2016). I can relate this to the incident attended as if there was no formal complaint from the victim, due to the injuries and demeanour of the victim, a DVPN would be submitted as safeguarding for the victim in the absence of bail conditions. However, in this instance a DVPN was not required. I feel that the DVPN submission does provide safeguarding for the victim however it is limited to a maximum of 28 days. This means that the offender can return to the victim with no restrictions, placing the victim in further risk of abuse. I feel the consideration of a DVPN went well at this incident as it demonstrates that all police powers are used or considered when safeguarding victims of domestic abuse. From this incident I learnt that when the victim does not wish to make a complaint the information officers gather from body worn cameras, witnesses and victim demeanour is critical to support evidence led prosecution and DVPN applications. I have also learnt that the DVPN does have limitations and does not fully safeguard victims from further harm which is a consideration to take to further incidents I attend.

There are multiple strategies developed for policing in challenging situations. In relation to this incident, firstly there is the Force Control Room AMHP. The AMHP is able to provide informed and legislative correct advice for officers at incidents, supporting and informing police decision making and problem solving. The AMHP also ensures that all options are considered to support the vulnerable person before admittance to hospital or being sectioned (COP, 2020). This process is regularly used by officers and is recognised across many forces. However, the National Health Service (NHS) Foundation Trust believe that Police powers for issuing S136 is not effective as officer training is inadequate and their role in the S136 legislation is not fully understood and it is costly due to the officers required and the AMHP. They also stated that the individual being detained through S136 is subjected to a very distressing experience feeling criminalised and punished for needing support. The NHS also stated that a mental health liaison service to the police, combined with the AMHP and S136, provides a better service with S136 rates dropping but the admission of people needing support increasing; highlighting that a multi-agency approach to mental health is more effective towards identifying those who require detaining for further assessments (BJPsych Bull. 2017 Apr; 41(2): 76–82).

The second strategy developed for policing challenging situations is the involvement of a Domestic Abuse Specialist Officer. Collage of Policing state that this role specialises in domestic abuse investigation advice, victim support, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) participation, implementing safeguarding strategies and identifying risk grade (COP, 2021). However Safe Lives state that the training issued to Police Officers is not sufficient and does not allow them to manage domestic abuse incident to a high enough standard, which is why the Domestic Abuse (DA) Matters training was introduced. This training is designed to upskill officers to provide them with the understanding and knowledge to respond to domestic abuse incidents and provide a positive and supportive support to the victim, whilst being able to identify all offences committed. Prior to the DA Matter training, which enhanced officers' knowledge, the training and knowledge of office was below standard (Safe lives, 2014). I can relate this to this incident as a Domestic Abuse Specialist Officer was not available and was therefore dealt with by officers. This meant that the officers were not as highly trained as a specialist would be and therefore this may have effected the initial response provided at the incident. I feel that the response to this incident went well, however, there was a lack of knowledge from some officers present. I have learnt that specialist officers provide a in depth understanding of the offence type and can provide officers with further information or strategies whilst investigation and responding to the incident. Therefore, going forwards I shall seek advice from any specialist where possible at future incidents.

Another strategy used to police challenging situations are MARAC. These are organised for use in domestic abuse incidents involving multiple agencies including housing, police, health, social services and other specialists such as Domestic Abuse Specialists. Required actions are discussed to safeguard the victim and provide a victim support strategy, including any involved children (Safe Lives, 2014). The Home Office Violent and Youth Crime Prevention Unit (VCYU) and Research and Analysis Unit (RAU) supports the use of MARAC within Domestic Abuse incidents stating it improves external agency partnership working ensuring that partner agencies are aware of the incident, any risk, safeguarding in place and any actions required (VCYU, 2011, pg93). However, a study completed by the University of Cambridge Institute of Criminology states the MARAC process and conference does not reduce further domestic abuse as believed. The report states if a MARAC meeting was organised for a low risk graded victim prior to the meeting, post MARAC meeting the level of victim harm and risk could increase due to the MARAC taking place. The report also states there are many inconsistencies in the implementation of the MARAC process between organisations, in relation to the attendance and effectiveness of meetings (Whinney, 2015, Pg 59,25). I can relate this to the incident attended as a MARAC meeting was conducted. Within this incident this further safeguarded the victim providing further victim support as the level of abuse was increasing with each incident. I feel the use of MARAC worked well on this occasion as it positively benefited the victim, however, I also appreciate how MARAC may also increase abuse for a victim if there is a poor safeguarding or the incident results in a no further action result and the offender returns to the address / relationship. I have learnt that MARAC do have limitations and the post MARAC meeting repercussions for the victim must be considered prior to the meeting taking place. They must not be carried out because it is the process, there must be impact consideration and risk assessment for the victim post MARAC.

In conclusion there are many challenges the police face when dealing with Domestic Abuse incidents including mental health, victim engagement and safeguarding. However, there are processes in place such as DVPN, MARAC and S136 legislation to overcome these challenges. Alongside these processes are strategies to effectively deal with challenging situations. These include the AMPH role for officer guidance and mental health legislation support, Domestic Abuse Specialists to provide enhanced knowledge around legislation and at scene for domestic incidents and MARAC meetings to safeguard victims involving many partner agencies. I believe these roles,

processes and strategies combined ensure the police can deal with challenging domestic incidents effectively and to a high standard.

Word Count: 2191

Authentication signature:

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

Signed: Nick Morris

Date:02/02/2024

Bibliography

The bibliography should only include sources referenced within the workbook using the Harvard referencing system. Information about referencing in written assignments and how to avoid plagiarism can be found on Moodle. It is important that you are aware of the importance of ensuring that the work submitted is your original work.

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