

Graduate Diploma Professional Police Practice

LEVEL 6 - 40 Credits

**Workbook title: Competency Based
Workbook 2 (DHEP/DET)**

***To be completed by DHEP Detective students
only***

**(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.
- 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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Task 1

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:

Vulnerability and Risk, Evidence-based policing

You must choose **serious and complex investigation** in which you played a significant role with a victim of crime and reflect on what happened.

Give a brief description of the **investigation** 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 during the **investigative process**

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

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

ANSWER:

“The harm caused to victims and society by violence against women and girls (VAWG) in all its forms – including but not limited to harassment, stalking, rape, sexual assault, murder, honour-based abuse, coercive control – is immeasurable.”

(National Police Chiefs' Council, 2024b)

Introduction

In this essay I discuss an investigation, in which I was Officer in Charge (OIC), into a report of long-term historic sexual assaults – a crime identified in the VAWG Strategic Threat Risk Assessment as carrying one of the biggest threats to women (National Police Chiefs' Council, 2023b).

The Investigation

To help address the harm caused to individuals and society by VAWG, a “transformative new approach to rape investigation and prosecutions” (National Police Chiefs' Council, 2023a) was rolled out across England and Wales in 2023. Operation Soteria, a key response in ensuring effective investigations into VAWG and Rape and Serious Sexual Assaults (RASSO) was developed in conjunction with academia using an evidence-based policing approach. Two new National Operating Models (NOM) for the investigation and prosecution of RASSO offences were created.

The nature of this crime meant its investigation appropriately followed, in turn and in parallel, the fifteen stages of the ‘Investigator’s Journey’ defined within the NOM for the investigation of RASSO:

1. First contact and recording
2. Initial conversation
3. Victim-centred
4. Suspect-focused
5. Initial investigation planning
6. Advice
7. Plan victim interview
8. Victim ABE interview

9. Investigation planning
10. Investigation and evidence assessment
11. Suspect interview
12. Early advice
13. Organising evidence for submission to the CPS
14. If your investigation is not referred to the CPS
15. Reflective practice

(College of Policing, 2023)

The investigation started following the report by a family member of two sisters, to the police non-emergency line 101, that they had disclosed a history of sexual assaults by a family friend.

Response officers made first contact, recording an account from each victim via a PPD3 - the initial investigation booklet used in all RASSO reports which provides the necessary briefing information for the FME, SIO, OIC, and other officers and staff (South Wales Police, 2023).

Both victims disclosed long-term, repeated sexual assaults by the family friend, from now referred to as 'the suspect'. They described regularly staying at the suspect's flat for childcare purposes, sleeping on sofas and, since age 13/14 years, regularly waking during the night to find the suspect with his hands down their trousers, touching them in and around their groin and genital area, and one victim reporting him penetrating her vagina and anus with his fingers.

Given the seriousness and complexity of the allegations, it was deemed a matter requiring adoption by the Criminal Investigation Department. I was allocated the case for progression.

I first reviewed the victims' accounts and considered the legislative context of this report, identifying two substantive offences:

1. Sexual Activity with a Child contrary to section 9 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, specifically the offences of –
 - a. Offender 18 or over engage in penetrative sexual activity with a girl 13 to 15; and
 - b. Offender 18 or over engage in non-penetrative sexual activity with girl 13 to 15
2. Assault by Penetration contrary to section 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003

(Sexual Offences Act 2003)

The government has included VAWG within the strategic policing requirement which sets out national threats to public safety, placing it on a par with terrorism and serious organised crime (National Police Chiefs' Council, 2024a, p.3). Effective investigation of VAWG is a national focus in policing and the effects on victims in these cases cannot be underestimated. According to the Office for National Statistics (2021) this can include "significant and long-lasting impacts such as mental health issues, suicide attempts and homelessness" - serious impacts on individuals and society.

It is well documented that sexual abuse victims can perceive or experience a societal stigma, potentially further isolating them and intensifying their sense of vulnerability. This can discourage open and supportive communication with family members after disclosure (Theimer and Hansen, 2018). I therefore ensured I applied empathy, sensitivity, and a profound understanding of the impact such discussions can have on mental wellbeing (Cohen, Mannarino, & Deblinger, 2017) in the conversations I had with the victims. I ensured that where possible and where it wouldn't adversely affect the investigation, I allowed the children the opportunity to converse with family members, helping them understand their situation and receive extra comfort and support.

Supporting and Managing Vulnerability

The above highlights the high level of vulnerability of the victims in this case. The services provided by the police, CPS and criminal justice system to support them through the criminal

investigation are vital to their wellbeing; without their support there will likely be no case. It is essential that holistic and long-term recuperative support is offered and provided to reduce the risks of repeat victimisation and other long-term risks that come with such experiences.

Supporting vulnerable victims throughout the investigation and criminal justice process is critical. A variety of approaches can be employed, the appropriateness of each one being assessed based on the specific needs of the victim and investigation.

Communicating with the Victims

Recounting an ordeal, sometimes repeatedly, can exacerbate already intense emotional feelings. I felt it was important to mitigate against feelings of secondary victimisation. I approached the victims delicately during the interviewing stage, being mindful that the retelling of their experiences may evoke distressing memories and lead to further emotional distress. Unfortunately, retelling is essential to capture necessary evidence. To reduce the impact on the victims I thoroughly planned and prepared for the interviews based on their PPD3 accounts, doing my best to ensure that this would be the only interview they had to do, and ensuring my verbal and body language was developmentally appropriate and as honest and supportive as possible.

Multi Agency Working (MAW)

MAW is vital to successfully managing vulnerability. This includes support from and collaboration with first/public sector organisations such as social services, health, and education as well as third sector organisations such as Victim Support and community-based outreach teams (National Police Chiefs' Council, 2020).

At the point of first contact a public protection notification report (PPN) was submitted; standard practice in any cases where vulnerability is identified. This submission notes and documents relevant concerns for sharing with the relevant public protection unit. Risk assessors read the contents, identify risk level and share with relevant external agencies. This process is mostly 'silent' to the submitting officers. Once a PPN has been submitted, it's assessed and shared with little to no feedback to the originating officer. Challenges can often arise in the co-ordination of multi-disciplinary teams with issues relating to communication, information sharing, and differing priorities. This is particularly prevalent in the submission of the PPNs in complex cases such as these, due to the one-way nature of them.

In this case, I felt that the PPN process did not provide the most appropriate level of care to the victims. As such, I directly engaged with social services and initiated a section 47 joint investigation to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of the victims. This enquiry began with a joint visit (social services and I) to the children and their family where open conversation between them was encouraged, one-to-one conversation with the victims took place and available support was offered. A full understanding of support offered was clear to both agencies and streamlined conversation between all parties ensured that no support was missed or duplicated.

An additional example of MAW was the referral of the victims to the sexual assault referral centre for confidential medical, practical, and emotional support from medical professionals and support workers. Victims are allocated an independent sexual violence advisor (ISVA) who provides specialist tailored support and impartial advice to them based on their individual needs (Home Office, 2017).

Positive Action – Arrest & Bail

Another method of managing the vulnerability of the victims was taking positive action with the suspect at an early stage. Legally, the arrest was lawful and necessary via the powers conferred in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) to allow for a prompt and effective investigation and to protect a vulnerable person. Arresting the suspect very shortly after the initial report showed the victims that the police were taking the allegation seriously,

promoting the feeling of being listened to. Although this wasn't the necessity or reason to arrest, timely actions provide trust and confidence in the police and their response.

The suspect was interviewed and provided an account denying all aspects of the allegation. At the end of his detention, PACE and the Bail Act 1976 provided powers to release him under pre-charge bail (PCB). Taking this positive action is a primary means of safeguarding the victims, placing conditions on the suspect for the duration of the investigation, preventing him (amongst other measures) from contacting or approaching them. When releasing a suspect on bail, a careful balance must be struck between the restriction of the suspect's liberties and the necessity to bail to safeguard the victims, this was managed by ensuring only appropriate and proportionate conditions were put in place.

Some critics argue that PCB is not an effective tool and Gibbs (2023) describes it as "punitive, bureaucratic and stigmatising" and that it is "unenforceable" as a breach of PCB is not an offence despite there being a power of arrest for it. The arrest can lead to a charge for the original offence but as described by Gibbs (2023) "that necessitates the police finding the so far missing evidence to charge". This however is a myopic attitude towards PCB; should a suspect breach any of their PCB conditions, there are likely to be substantive offences committed which they can be arrested for and even charged with. Such offences may include stalking, harassment, or witness intimidation. This can then provide opportunities to charge and remand the suspect or release with post-charge bail conditions which breaches of are substantive offences.

Additionally, according to research by Furlong, Richardson and Feist (2021) on behalf of the Home Office, victims who were aware of suspects being released on PCB generally felt safer, particularly in the cases where they knew the suspect was not able to contact them whilst the investigation was ongoing. I believe that all this shows the use of PCB can be effective in managing suspects and protecting vulnerable victims and witnesses.

Tackling Repeat Victimisation & Reoffending

Repeat Victimisation

As discussed throughout this essay, sexual offences, particularly on children, can have wide-ranging and serious consequences on the victims. In the case of repeat victimisation, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse et al. (2018) reports that these victims are two to four times more likely to become victims of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse again in their lifetime.

The effects of such abuse can also be a major contributory factor in the child being at risk of a wide range of health-harming behaviours, evidenced by the theory of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) (Bellis et al., 2015). With multiple ACEs, these victims could be at significantly heightened risk of a multiple of factors ranging from being 4 times more likely to be a high-risk drinker, 6 times more likely to have sex under the age of 16 and have or caused an unintended teenage pregnancy, to being 20 times more likely to be incarcerated at any point in their lifetime (Bellis et al., 2015).

It is therefore obviously clear that early intervention is vital in cases such as these to reduce the chances of repeat victimisation and/or becoming a victim of the health-harming behaviours, and to improve their mental health and wellbeing. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) can be used to introduce strategies for coping with emotional distress and help reduce the negative impact of sexual abuse on children (Macdonald et al., 2012). It has been shown that CBT in such cases may have a positive, but unproven, impact on symptoms such as depression, PTSD, and anxiety (Macdonald et al., 2012).

Reoffending

Equally as important as protecting against repeat victimisation, is preventing suspects reoffending. Research suggests that there is an "overly stereotyped and generally mistaken characterisation of the offender population" (Finkelhor, 2009). Additionally, the notion that

offenders of child sex offences are habitual offenders is also an oversimplification. The latest data from the Ministry of Justice (2024) shows that the overall proven reoffending rate was 25.1% for adult offenders, and the lowest rate of reoffending by offence was for sexual offences with a rate of 13.1%.

Notwithstanding this, given the significant harms caused by these heinous crimes, it is still vital that appropriate safeguards and methods are put in place to protect against reoffending. Initiatives for offender management have and do include the registering of sex offenders, sexual harm prevention orders (SHPOs), appropriate recording of any allegations and convictions for inclusion in DBS checks (generally via the Police National Database), imposing longer prison sentences, and strict post-sentence supervision (Finkelhor, 2009). In addition to these statutory and punitive measures are other intervention methods such as psychotherapy for those sentences for sexual offences against children. The College of Policing (2019) has published an EBP review of such interventions, reviewing 14 studies, which show mixed findings.

Word Count – 2188

Task 2

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:

Conducting Investigations

You should choose a **serious and complex 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:

Introduction

In this essay I will discuss an investigation where I was allocated as the Officer in Charge (OIC) into a complex investigation. This essay will delve into certain intricacies of the case, critically evaluating the investigative processes and fast track actions I employed. I will evaluate the support provided to the victim whilst also addressing the importance of managing personal values and ethical considerations throughout a complex investigation such as this.

Overview of the Investigation

This investigation revolves around a serious assault whereby the victim narrowly escaped fatal injuries; the avoidance of a murder investigation in this case was more attributable to sheer luck than judgement, with the knife narrowly missing vital arteries in the victim's neck. The altercation, stemming from a previous verbal dispute between the victim and suspects, highlighted the potential danger posed by the perpetrators, their capabilities, and total disregard for the law.

The incident itself lasted but minutes, with a rapid escalation of events, initially categorised as a firearms-led incident. The investigation faced complexities from the outset, with multiple suspects and a dynamic crime scene. Furthermore, the investigation required co-ordination with various stakeholders including other emergency services, social services, forensic experts, and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and their lawyers.

This incident is particularly topical, with knife crime being a "persistent problem in the United Kingdom" (College of Policing, 2023b). Between 2014 and 2020, the amount of knife-enabled crime increased year on year; it then dropped by around 10% in 2020/2021 (during the COVID pandemic), before beginning to increase year on year again since (Allen, Carthew and Zayed, 2023). It is important that incidents such as this are investigated thoroughly and seriously as the "societal, economic and health implications of knife crime are both significant and highly concentrated" (College of Policing, 2023b).

Investigative Processes and Fast-Track Actions

The Major Crime Investigation Manual (MCIM) defines three distinct strategic phases of an investigation. However, these can be applied to almost all investigations that are of a serious and complex nature and are –

1. Instigation and initial response

2. The investigation
3. Case management

(NPCC Homicide Working Group, 2021)

The first stage, being the instigation and initial response first starts with the report in whichever form that may be. In the case of this investigation, it was a 999 call to South Wales Police. The initial response then immediately follows based on the information and intelligence provided by the reporting person (RP). These actions undertaken by the first attending officers can often be critical to the success of an investigation and this period immediately following the report is known as the 'golden hour'.

The responsibilities and priorities of the first attending officers in this golden hour period are –

1. Preservation of life & prevent harm
2. Preservation of scenes
3. Secure material (and to minimise the amount of material that may be lost & maximise the chance of securing evidential material)
4. Identify victims and witnesses
5. Identify and where appropriate, arrest, suspects

Whilst police officers are trained and aware of these priorities, navigating a multi-agency response can pose challenges in this regard. In situations such as this, where the police lead the response but require attendance of the ambulance service and critical care doctors in the air ambulance, there are a potential for complications and competing priorities. Unlike police officers, these personnel may lack training in evidential and forensic protocols, thus increasing the risk of loss or contamination of evidence. Notwithstanding this, prioritisation of the preservation of life and limb greatly outweighs these risks, necessitating acceptance as an unavoidable compromise. To mitigate against this, officers must complete accurate records of the scene and any actions taken and consider approaches such as establishing a single route into and out of the scene for all personnel (a common approach path).

In addition to the 'golden hour', certain actions known as fast-track actions, are often required at various stages, but most commonly during the initial phase of an investigation. These fast-track actions if pursued immediately can help to establish important facts, identify and arrest suspects, protect and identify victims and witnesses, secure and preserve evidence, and ultimately expedite the conclusion of the investigation (College of Policing, 2024b).

In this case the two primary fast-track actions that were deployed were around the victim and forensic examination of the scene. The victim himself was taken to hospital in an ambulance where he received treatment for his injuries. He was conscious the whole time and was transported to the hospital in an ambulance with medical practitioners only. It was later when he was at the hospital that officers re-visited the victim and obtained a statement from him in relation to what happened and sized his clothing. Upon reflection, and with a better understanding now of the MCIM, I would in the future request that an officer, ideally a detective, accompanies the victim to the hospital. This is threefold, firstly being to provide evidence of continuity for any evidence obtained from him, secondly to co-ordinate any initial investigative actions from the hospital and to pass information more quickly across the investigative team, and finally to develop a rapport with the victim to ensure the best possible outcome (NPCC Homicide Working Group, 2021, p.25).

The second fast-track action I will discuss is around the deployment of the Crime Scene Investigators (CSI). Following the initial response to the incident and the victim had been taken to hospital, a clear scene was identified. This scene being the dwelling that the stabbing had taken place in, there was a clear disturbance inside and blood staining throughout. As such, I ensured that the scene was secured by officers and requested the immediate attendance of CSI. There was an inherent difficulty in the management of this scene in that the address was not the residence of the victim, so positive engagement was required with the owner so that it was possible to get consent to examine the scene without having to apply for a section 8

warrant under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. Once CSI had attended and gathered all the necessary evidence, it was possible to close the scene and allow the occupant access again back to their home.

At first, we did not know the direction of travel for the suspects, or indeed who they were. We also didn't know exactly what type of weapon had been used in the commission of this offence. Despite this, there were limited routes in and out of the street where the scene was. The knife used by the suspects was never recovered even following searches of their home addresses following arrest. Having discussed various options available, I now feel that a cordon of the surrounding street and side alleys may have been a proportionate option to employ. This would have then provided opportunities to carry out searches of possible disposal sites for this valuable piece of evidence.

Shortly after the initial report, with the victims statement the suspects were identified. They were named by him as the persons responsible. At this point they were raised to suspects by the SIO and I completed an arrest strategy. Their arrest was lawful under section 24 of PACE and necessary under the statutory provisions of Code G of the act. It was necessary to arrest the individuals at the earliest opportunity due to the risk they clearly posed to the victim. Given the circumstances of the offence, a firearms policy was sought, and an authority granted for firearm-led arrest enquiries which went on for a number of days before the suspects were eventually apprehended. They were both interviewed and exercised their right to provide no-comment interviews and at the end of their detention were charged with the offence of grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent contrary to section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

The investigation went on for several months through the investigation and case management phases. Despite two suspects being identified and charged with the offence, it was still my statutory duty under the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 Code of Practice (Ministry of Justice, 2015) to pursue all reasonable and relevant lines of enquiry, irrespective of whether they pointed towards or away from the suspects.

Victim Support & Management of Personal Values

The College of Policing (2023c) defines a witness as "a person, other than a defendant, who is likely to give evidence in court. All victims are also witnesses and should be treated as such". Victims and Witnesses alike are vital to the success of any criminal investigation and requires their co-operation to succeed. This is demonstrated by the notion of policing by consent, which is a backbone of British policing referred as the 'Peelian principles of policing' (Tudor, 2023).

The Victim's Code of Practice sets out the rights that victims have during and after criminal investigations and is the code by which the police, prosecutors, and wider criminal justice system (CJS) must abide by (Ministry of Justice, 2020). Ultimately, from my perspective as an investigator, knowing the importance of victims and witnesses to the success of the CJS I must ensure that I provide the best possible service to them so that they remain engaged with the system; thus, helping avoid mostly preventable issues such as non-attendance at trial. All round, effective engagement with victims and witnesses are a key player in narrowing the justice gap (HMCPs Inspectorate, 2003).

I always ensure that in the course of my investigations I recognise the needs of victims and witnesses and address these needs accordingly. If they feel like they are being listened to and are being taken seriously, their confidence in the police and CJS is likely to increase, and they will be more likely to remain engaged in the investigation. I ensure to maintain regular contact with my victims throughout my investigations, keeping them abreast with all investigative updates.

In this case, the victim provided a statement outlining the incident and naming the persons responsible at an early stage in the investigation. Following the initial report and first contact

with the victim, I made sure to speak with him whilst he was still in hospital and introduce myself as the OIC of the investigation. I referred the victim to South Wales Victim Focus which are a third-party organisation that provide free and confidential help and support to persons who have been a victim of crime (South Wales Victim Focus, 2024).

Given the level of violence used in the commission of this offence on the victim, it was also vital that I ensured that appropriate safeguards were put in place for him. Immediately following his transport to hospital, I ensured that there was a password set up between the police and hospital to ensure that only persons with this password were able to get information about his whereabouts. Whilst the suspects were outstanding, I also requested that there was a uniformed officer on a watch at the hospital should they or anyone else turn up who posed a risk to the victim.

As per the fourth right within the Victim's Code of Practice, I carried out a victims need assessment, this identified him as being eligible for enhanced rights within the code as an intimidated victim. The victim was also classified under statutory provisions as an intimidated witness, specifically under section 17(6) of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (YJCE) (*Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999*) this applied to him under Schedule 1A of the act which places provisions for victims of crimes involving knives.

This meant that the victim was entitled to have access to special measures when giving evidence in court. I submitted a request to CPS to apply for special measures to the court with respect to this victim. Specifically in this case I requested that the court consider allowing the victim to provide his evidence via a live video link. This would mean that he could give evidence from another room within the court. According to the research (Hamlyn et al., 2004, p. 112) special measures have been found to be beneficial for victim and witnesses wellbeing and the quality of their evidence.

Throughout the investigation and in providing this support to the victim, my personal values align closely with the principles within the College of Policing Code of Ethics. Central to my approach is employing respect and empathy; one of the three central pillars to the new 2024 Code of Ethics (College of Policing, 2024a), ensuring that the victim feels heard, understood, and supported throughout the investigative process.

I always treat the victim with respect and responding to their individual needs, being cognisant of the emotional impact and trauma they have endured. Furthermore, I act with integrity and transparency in my interactions with the victim, both by being honest with them even when there are difficult conversations to have as well as recording all interactions with them which is key to the smooth progress of the inquiry.

Ultimately, my commitment to providing the highest of standards in relation to my service to the victim and upholding the ethical principles required of policing. I do this in my every action in providing support to victims of crime.

Word Count – 2198

Authentication signature:

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

Signed: **L.Clarke**

Date: **29/04/2024**

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