

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) - BMPP6009D

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:

In this essay I am going to discuss a policing incident that I have attended and explain and examine any relevant social and legislative contexts' during the course of my investigation. I will also relate my investigation to the Victims Code of Practise, explaining what this is, how I have used this throughout this investigation to effectively support my victim.

The incident I attended involved a mother and son with a long history of domestic abuse, well known to the police. The son, who was the aggressor in this case, had entered his mother's home while she was out shopping with her partner. His purpose was to steal money to fund his alcohol and drug habits. Upon her return, the mother found her son in her house, leading to him assaulting her by hitting her in the face. This was not the first time the son had burgled his mother's home; he had done so repeatedly, though she never reported these incidents to the police. In addition to burglary, the son had committed numerous offences, including assault and threats

against his mother and other family members. To effectively investigate this incident, I recognised the need to handle the sensitivities and complexities present in a domestic situation involving a close family member who had repeatedly assaulted his mother.

In the realm of policing, there isn't a universally accepted definition of "domestic abuse" (CPS, 2022). Instead, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 provides a framework, defining domestic abuse as abusive behaviour by one person ("A") towards another person ("B"), provided both are aged 16 or over and are personally connected. Abusive behaviour can take various forms, including but not limited to physical and sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, and psychological or emotional abuse. This abuse can manifest as a single incident or a pattern of incidents over time. This was clearly evident as demonstrated above throughout my case as the offender resorted to physical abuse and threats, repeatedly intimidating his mother to comply with his demands or face severe consequences.

Domestic abuse is evidently on the rise in the UK and remains one of the police's most frequently attended calls. The Office for National Statistics (2022) reports that 5% of adults aged 16 and over (2.4 million) experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2022. The number of domestic-related crimes has increased in recent years, with the latest figures showing a 7.7% rise compared to the previous year. This highlights the prevalence of domestic-related incidents and underpins the urgent need for more effective measures to address and reduce these rising statistics.

In my policing incident, I quickly realised that the offender's domestic abuse against his mother was driven by a desire to fund his alcohol and drug habit. This falls under the definition of "economic abuse," where one partner controls the other's access to financial resources, thereby hindering their ability to support themselves and

often forcing the victim into isolation to depend financially on the abuser (UK Government, 2023). In this case, the offender frequently stole money or bank cards from the victim without permission, threatened violence if she didn't provide money, and manipulated her into giving money voluntarily. According to Surviving Economic Abuse (2024), economic abuse often accompanies other forms of abuse, thereby severely impacting victims' long-term financial stability and independence. This has been evidenced through my victim, as they have reported that this wasn't the first incident of her son taking her money, which had placed her in financial hardship on numerous occasions.

The offender continually displayed violent, controlling, and coercive behaviour towards his mother, as a result of alcohol and drug misuse. The offender not only burgled his mother's house to steal money for his substance habits but was also highly intoxicated at the time of the incident. This intoxication critically contributed to the assault on his mother and the damage to her front door to gain unauthorised entry. Gadd et al (2019) highlights strong evidence linking alcohol to domestic violence, with Finney (2004) estimating that alcohol is a contributing factor in a third of all domestic violence incidents, where many aggressors have consumed alcohol prior to an assault. Moreover, the victim informed me that her son became extremely aggressive when he consumed alcohol, which escalated the severity of the incident. Research by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (2021) confirms that alcohol is a common factor in domestic violence, often exacerbating aggressive behaviours. This was evident in my case, as the offender, intoxicated during the incident, became verbally abusive, demanded money, and ultimately assaulted his mother.

To support the victim in my case, I needed to understand her needs and provide appropriate support. This aligns with the Victims Code of Practice, which outlines the rights and entitlements of crime victims in England and Wales. The Code aims to

ensure that victims are treated with respect, dignity, and sensitivity, and receive suitable support throughout the criminal justice process (CoP, 2021). This was especially important in my case, as the victim was classified as a "vulnerable" repeat domestic violence victim, having suffered abuse from her son for around 15 years. When I first visited her address, I conducted a Domestic Abuse, Stalking, and Harassment (DASH) risk assessment. This assessment allowed me to gauge the current risk to the victim and provided a comprehensive understanding of her abusive history. It became clear that she was a repeat victim of domestic abuse, with the abuse from her son worsening over the years. The responses indicated that she was at "high risk," necessitating the arrest of her son to protect her from further harm. Ensuring his prompt and effective arrest was my priority, given the high likelihood of him returning to her address. Research has shown that the DASH is an effective assessment tool for officers in the UK, as it quickly identifies high-risk domestic abuse cases and fosters a shared understanding of the severe impact of domestic abuse on victims' lives (SafeLives, 2024).

Due to the high-risk rating from the DASH assessment, I ensured a referral was made for a multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC). A MARAC is a meeting where information is shared among various agencies, such as social services, police, health services, and independent domestic violence advisors, to enhance the safety and well-being of victims (Hammersmith and Fulham Council, 2024). Given the high-risk status of the victim in my case, it was appropriate to consider a multi-agency action plan to provide ongoing support and continually assess the risk posed by her son as the investigation progressed. Initially, the victim was hesitant to consent to sharing her information with various support agencies. However, she recognised that due to her age and poor health, she needed to take action to stop her son's abuse. MARAC referrals have been shown to improve victim safety and reduce re-victimisation by facilitating better identification and

mitigation of domestic abuse risks (Steel et al, 2010). In addition to the MARAC referral, I also connected the victim with support agencies such as Women's Aid and Refuge, which specialise in supporting domestic abuse victims. The victim was unaware of these direct support lines prior to this case and expressed relief at being able to speak with someone who understood her situation. Providing tailored support to victims helps them feel safer, more informed, and empowered to take action against their abusers (Victim Support, 2024).

In addition to providing immediate and long-term support to my victim, I prioritised her prompt and effective safeguarding. This was crucial, as the subject had not yet been located and arrested when I arrived at the victim's address. I needed to ensure effective protection for the victim in case an arrest could not be made on that day. As such, I advised her to stay at a friend's house, someone her son did not know, which she agreed to as an effective immediate safeguard. Besides temporary relocation, I provided safeguarding advice, such as locking doors, keeping her phone fully charged, and calling 999 if her son turned up at the address. Additionally, I decided to place a critical marker on her address, alerting other officers to prioritise any calls from that location and take decisive action against the subject. This measure ensured that officers would be aware that her son was a domestic violence perpetrator, and that quick and effective intervention could be made.

The victim in my case was classified as a "repeat victim" because she had been subjected to the same or similar offences two or more times within a 12-month period (Surrey Police, 2022). The Home Office (2002) notes that domestic violence has a higher repeat victimisation rate than any other crime. Walby et al (2004) found that 42% of domestic violence victims have been victimized more than once, with some experiencing up to 20 incidents of violence in a year. This underpins the necessity of preventing and addressing repeat victimisation which was a priority in my investigation. One action of tackling repeat victimisation is through the use of positive action. Police officers in the UK have a duty to take positive action in

domestic abuse cases, which often involves the prompt arrest of offenders when there are grounds, and it is necessary and proportionate (CoP, 2015). In my case, the offender had committed burglary, making his arrest necessary. Arresting him allowed me to take a positive statement from the victim, investigate the extensive history of domestic violence, and pursue additional lines of inquiry needed to remand him into custody. This also disrupted his pattern of violence and controlling behaviour, demonstrating that there are consequences for his actions.

By arresting the offender, I was able to speak to the victim and provide words of encouragement that what she has experienced is not ok and is not normal for a son to be abusing his mother. By continuously providing emotional support to the victim via regular updates in person and via phone, I was able to establish rapport and increase trust in the police. I made sure to update the victim when the subject was arrested, interviewed, charged with Burglary and when sentencing of the subject at court. This has been supported by UK Government (2024) whereby continuously updating the victim about the progression of a case can reduce anxiety and uncertainty. My victim felt empowered that she was finally being taken seriously and felt heard. This is a common issue within repeat victims, whereby they will not report incidents of domestic abuse due to the fear of not being taken seriously. By providing emotional support and continual reassurance to victims of crime, this will increase confidence in the criminal justice system which in turn increases active participation as they feel their case is being handled sensitively and diligently (UK Government, 2024).

Another way to tackle repeat victimisation, is to provide appropriate support that is tailored to the victim's needs. As previously evidenced, I referred my victim to various agencies such as Women's Aid and Refuge which specifically supports victims of domestic abuse. This enables victims to understand that what they are

going through is not acceptable and provides support to empower victims of such crimes to come forward to the police. This in turn, will prevent and reduce repeat victimisation as they will be educated and informed of the variety of ways domestic abuse can take form. Additionally, due to my victim being considered vulnerable and a persisted targeted victim, she was entitled to special measures. Under S.16 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999, a victim classed as vulnerable is an individual who is over the age of 18, those who may suffer fear or distress due to giving evidence at trial, a victim of domestic abuse. My victim clearly met the criteria of a vulnerable victim, and she was automatically entitled to special measures which when discussed my victim was happy to attend court as long as screens were put in place she could not see her son. By providing support through the entire criminal process, this will prevent a lack of support or engagement by the victim and will empower them to follow through with criminal action.

In terms of tackling repeat reoffending in my investigation, I utilised positive action by arresting the offender for burglary as well as later further arresting for a number of other offences against his mother. I believed that by utilising positive action for the prompt arrest of the offender, this mitigated the offender from returning to the victims address and assaulting her. I was aware that my offender had a long extensive history of domestic abuse against his mother, as such, I knew I needed to complete all lines of reasonable enquiry in order to succeed in an CPS charge for numerous offences and remand offender into custody. I completed a positive statement of complaint, photographic injuries to the victim, CCTV enquiries capturing incident as well as a disclosure statement from victims partner detailing the long history of abuse from her son. By completing all reasonable lines of enquiry, I was able showcase to the CPS that the victims son was guilty of the

offences pushed forward and that the refusal of bail is necessary for the safeguarding of an vulnerable victim.

Refusal of bail is another option in tackling repeat offending. It was found that in my case, the offender's previous criminal history of domestic abuse as well as previous breaches of bail confirmed that bail with conditions was not an appropriate option. I provided the CPS with an extensive history of the offenders previous criminal convictions, a through insight into the DV relationship between himself and his mother, the fact my victim was vulnerable as well as the continual breaches of previous bail conditions. This confirmed that due to the seriousness of the case, refusal of bail was necessary and was key in preventing my offender from being released and reoffending against my victim. By presenting all available information to the CPS and demonstrating that bail was not realistic option, my offender was remanded into custody and further remanded at court. This stopped any further potential of my offender reoffending and in turn enabled my victim to be provided with peace of mind, that the offender was finally being dealt with accordingly.

Word Count: 2380

Task 2

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:

Conducting Investigations

You should choose an **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:

The significance of effective and thorough police investigations is widely recognised in the policing community. Ensuring that police officers maintain an "investigative mindset" throughout any investigation promotes a systematic approach to gathering and assessing evidence, which is fundamental to a successful investigation (CoP, 2021). According to the Code of Practice to the Criminal Procedures and Investigations Act (1996), a criminal investigation is defined as “an investigation conducted by police officers with a view to determining whether a person should be charged with an offence, or whether a person charged with an offence is guilty of it.” The main objective of any criminal investigation, whether complex or simplistic, is to identify the suspect and bring all involved to justice (CoP, 2024). Furthermore, the College of Policing (2024) asserts that effective policing reduces future

offending, enhances public confidence in the police, and decreases both crime and the fear of crime.

However, complex police investigations have become increasingly critical throughout UK policing in response to evolving crime and criminal behaviour. Such investigations require officers to adapt quickly to the complexity of the crime and to adopt a holistic approach, utilising specialised departments within the police and other agencies. The use of specialised experts maximises evidential opportunities and provides additional reasonable lines of inquiry for officers to investigate (CoP, 2021).

In the UK, fast-track actions for complex police investigations are essential for promptly establishing key facts, identifying suspects, preserving evidence and facilitating early arrests. These actions are typically pursued immediately upon responding to a crime to maximise the chances of a successful investigation. This was particularly evident in a case I was involved in, where a 15-year-old male was seriously assaulted by his aunt and cousin in a public place, resulting in significant injury from the violent S.18 assault. The incident I was assigned as Officer in Charge (OIC) occurred during my attachment in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Due to the incident's seriousness and violence, I needed to act swiftly to gather as much evidence and material as possible, aiming to remand the two suspects into custody pending whether CPS would charge for an S.18 GBH assault.

Briefly, the Control Room received a call reporting that a 15-year-old boy had been assaulted by two family members while picking up his two 9-year-old sisters from school. Response officers were the first to arrive at the scene and made the quick decision to take the victim to the hospital. The victim had suffered multiple punches to the head and a broken jaw, so our main priority at the time was to ensure he received medical attention. As soon as the victim was taken to the hospital, "Golden Hour" enquiries began, with Response Officers and detectives promptly arriving at

the scene to gather crucial material for the investigation. The "Golden Hour" principle refers to the critical period immediately following a traumatic injury or the commission of an offence, during which prompt action can secure significant evidence that might otherwise be lost (HMICFRS, 2023). In my investigation, I applied this principle by obtaining initial accounts from identified witnesses, conducting house-to-house and CCTV enquiries in the area to capture any evidence of the assault, preserving the crime scene, and swiftly locating and arresting the suspects. However, mindful of the suspects being at large, I instructed attending officers to prioritise their safety while conducting these enquiries. This approach is supported by HMICFRS (2018), which highlights the need to balance the importance of golden hour enquiries with the safety of the officers when a threat is present.

The utilisation of "golden hour" principle led to further reasonable lines of enquiries. In particular, by obtaining accounts from witnesses at the scene, I was able to identify the suspects in the case. The accounts provided me with the suspects name, the relationship to the victim and also provided me with a background into the complex history of the victim and subjects. By obtaining first accounts from numerous witnesses, it provided clarity that an offence had occurred and provided me the exact location as to where the offence materialised. The Collage of Policing (2020) states that the primary purpose of obtaining initial accounts immediately after an incident has occurred is to; protect life and property, identify offenders and securing and preserving evidence, establishing whether an offence occurred and assessing the risk to the victim and witnesses. In total, I obtained 5 initial accounts (victim and four witnesses) that enabled me to establish the offenders and in turn, conduct enquiries into the offenders for effective arrest of the subjects. It's important to note, that I have gone back to retrieve written witness statements at a later date when it was appropriate to do so.

As well as obtaining first accounts, the use of House-to-House enquiries enabled me to locate CCTV footage that captured the entirety of the incident. Although the keeper of the CCTV did not want to provide a statement, I respected the wishes of the witness and instead exhibited the CCTV footage myself. The reasoning behind not wishing to come forward as witness was due to protecting his family and not wishing for any grievance or consequences of providing such footage to fall back on him. Reluctance to provide a statement or evidence by identified witnesses is a widely recognised issue that needs to be handled sensitively. Although I provided reassurance that I would try my hardest to protect and safeguard the witness, he was very reluctant to provide a statement. According to the Collage of Policing (2013), witnesses will often refrain from coming forward in police investigations for numerous reasons which can be varied based on personal, social and systematic factors. Although I tried to provide reassurance and sympathise with the witnesses' reasoning for not providing a statement, I was able to still have the CCTV footage which was key to showing an offence had occurred.

Additionally, I recognised that the use of forensics was an urgent action that needed to be utilised within my investigation. As such, I asked the victim if I could have his clothing, specifically the top and bottoms worn during the incident, in order to check for the presence of the suspects' DNA. Despite the victim and various eyewitnesses identifying the suspects as his auntie and cousin, I understood that forensics would be crucial to confirm or refute their involvement if I were to remand them in custody and await a charge for an S.18 assault. Forensic evidence via DNA is vital in any police investigation for linking the perpetrator to the crime and determining the innocence or guilt of the accused (Prasad, 2023). A study by Ling et al (2020) shows that the use of forensic evidence in complex investigations leads to more guilty verdicts at plea hearings and trials and increases confidence in those verdicts. Therefore, I

prioritised the seizure of the victim's clothing, recognising that while swift action was needed, forensics would be crucial in proving the suspects' involvement if the case went to be brought to trial.

Another immediate action taken was photographing the victim's injuries after he received medical attention. The victim had extensive bruising on his face and body and a broken jaw. I ensured that photographic evidence was captured to illustrate the severity of the attack and confirm that the assault met the criteria for an S.18 GBH assault. This approach is supported by Rohatgi et al (2014), who state that photographic evidence can effectively depict the injuries sustained by a victim and serve as compelling evidence of the assault's severity. The photographs were intended not only for submission to the CPS but also to aid in the interview of the suspects. Presenting the photographic evidence to the suspects would allow me to question them about how and why the victim sustained such injuries and whether they had any plausible explanations.

To ensure an effective and prompt arrest, I reviewed both offenders prior intelligence history. Initially, Response Officers checked the home addresses of both subjects but were unable to locate them. Therefore, at that time, both subjects were considered to be at large. Upon further review of their intelligence history, I discovered that both subjects frequently visited an abandoned farmhouse to exchange and supply controlled substances. This information was corroborated by the victim's mother, who mentioned that the subjects often bragged about selling drugs to other family members. Based on this intelligence, I visited the farmhouse with Response Officers, where we found and arrested both subjects for a Section 18 GBH assault. As such, utilising intelligence as a fast-track action in a complex investigation provides crucial information that might not be otherwise uncovered, whether from police or community sources. According to the National Crime Agency (2024), integrating intelligence into police investigations helps address the rising

crime threat in the UK and is instrumental in detecting, preventing, and shaping operational activity in complex cases. Without implementing intelligence, the victim would have been at risk of the offenders returning to his home address, and the prompt arrest of the subjects would have been delayed.

While fast-track actions are crucial for detaining and arresting suspects, officers must also focus on supporting victims. By prioritising victims, officers can provide necessary support and refer them to other agencies to mitigate the effects of crimes. Officers should be aware of the various negative impacts crimes can have on victims, including physical, emotional, financial, and overall well-being, as well as on employment or education prospects (Victim Support, 2017). Since the impact varies for each individual, officers must offer tailored support. This aligns with the Victims Code of Practice, which outlines the services and minimum standards organisations must provide to victims, encompassing 12 rights (CoP, 2021). The Victims Code of Practice guides victims on what to expect from the criminal justice system and the level of service they should receive (UK Government, 2024).

In my incident, the assault's impact on the victim was clear through medical reports and the emotional and psychological toll. The victim expressed from the outset that if his aunt and cousin were not arrested, they would continue to harm him. Therefore, I needed to assure and support him effectively. To meet his needs, I informed the Crown Prosecution Service that, as a "vulnerable" and "intimidated" victim, he should receive special measures if the case went to trial. Under S.16 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (YJCA), a vulnerable victim is under 18 at the time of the offense. Under S.17 of the YJCA, an intimidated victim is someone whose evidence might be affected by fear or distress. My victim, being 17 and related to the perpetrators met this criteria, so I discussed special measures with him to reduce stress. He ultimately provided evidence via video link, which was highly appropriate given the circumstances.

Another way that I provided support was through the use of constantly updating my victim via phone calls and in person. I have found that by providing regular updates regarding the progression of the case enables the victims to be in the loop at all times and makes them feel as though they are being taken seriously. I made sure to let my victim know when the subjects were arrested, interviewed, remanded in custody and also the progression of court dates and sentencing. I found by updating my victim on a regular basis, I was able to establish a rapport and gain trust with not only the victim but the other family members. This has been supported by Office for Victims of Crime (2022) whereby updating victims of crime provides psychological support and trust which in turn helps to reduce anxiety and uncertainty in the Criminal Justice System. Furthermore, their report determined that timely and accurate updates can significantly alleviate the emotional and psychological impact on victims by providing them a sense of control and involvement in the process.

Under the Victims Code of Practice, I offered the victim to complete a Victim Personal Statement (VPS) which is enshrined within the Victims Code. I expressed to the victim that an VPS is their time to voice how much of an impact the incident has had on their life, both physically and psychologically. Although my victim was apprehensive at first to complete an VPS, I used words of encouragement to make him understand the importance that this will be his time to take control and to show the offenders how he really feels. According to the Ministry of Justice (2011), an VPS empowers a victim by giving them a voice in the Criminal Justice Process. It allows them to express the emotional, physical and financial impact of the crime, which in turn, fosters a sense of involvement and acknowledgement. This is further noted by the CPS (2018) whereby an VPS informs the court about the harm caused to the victim which ensures a more comprehensive view when determining appropriate sentences. This was especially evident in my incident whereby the VPS provided emotional healing to my victim and lead to my offenders being served a longer sentence due to the impact it had on my victim.

Providing support to crime victims through referrals to various agencies ensures they receive a comprehensive range of services tailored to their specific needs. In my case, I adopted a holistic approach by collaborating with the victim's social worker to better understand the necessary support specific to my victim. I referred the victim to support agencies like Victim Support and ensured regular visits from the social worker. By visiting the victim's home with the social worker, I built a stronger rapport, leading to increased victim engagement. This enabled the victim to open up and express to me about his fear of leaving the house due to the violent assault. From this, I thought it was best to refer him to psychological support via therapy. My victim now has regular therapy sessions to address the incident's effects and has since informed me that he now feels more confident to leave his house without the constant fear of the offenders returning to assault him. Therefore, it's I have found that it is crucial to provide tailored support and referrals to address the specific needs of any victims.

Overall, I was able to effectively investigate a complex investigation by utilising key fast-track actions in order to charge for an S.18 GBH assault. Although fast track actions are critical in any investigation, it's necessary to bear in mind the importance of placing the victim at the heart of the policing. I provided appropriate support to my victim that was tailored to his needs, and I was mindful at all times, that I needed to be level-headed and focused in assessing the risk and prioritise safeguarding of my victim.

Word Count: 2450

Authentication signature:

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

Signed: Holly Griffiths

Date: 04/08/2024

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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