

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.

Contents

Component 1 50%	Area of Professional Practice	Word count
Task 1	Vulnerability and Risk Evidence-based policing	2000
Task 2	CHOOSE ONLY 1 OF THESE 'ADVANCED LEARNING AREA' OPTIONS. IT SHOULD BE ONE THAT HAS BEEN AGREED WITH THE FORCE TO STUDY IN YEAR 2.	All options are 2000 words
Task 2		2000
Option 1	Response Policing	
Option 2	Policing Communities	
Option 3	Road Policing	
Option 4	Information and Intelligence	
Option 5	Conducting Investigations	
	Bibliography	

Task 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANSWER:

Throughout this task I will be discussing an incident I was involved with, whereby the victim was subjected to coercive and controlling behaviour, threats and physical violence from her then partner. Coercive or controlling behaviour is defined in Section 76 of The Serious Crime Act 2015 as repeated or continuous behaviour that is controlling, where the victim and suspect are personally connected. In this case the victims ex-partner controlled where she went and what she did, constantly checked up and who she was with and would rarely let the victim go places alone. When the victim did something which the perpetrator did not like he would verbally or physically abuse her or make threats to damage her property or injure her. This essay will look at how I interacted with the victim throughout the investigation and adapted my strategies to best suit the victims needs and why this was done.

I will be reflecting on the approach I took when communicating with the victim initially and how I engaged with her throughout the process whilst taking into account the victim's vulnerabilities and any other important factors which played a part in the contact I had with her. I will also be looking at the steps taken to protect the victim,

what actions were taken with the perpetrator what was done in an attempt to stop any repeat offences.

Officers who attended to obtain a first disclosure from the victim initially spoke to her in Welsh as this appeared to be the victim's preferred language. The Victims code of practice states that all victims have the right to report a crime in a language that they understand (Ministry of Justice 2020), and therefore I initially thought this may have been an issue, as I am not a fluent Welsh speaker and would not be able to converse with the victim through this medium. When I initially spoke to the victim and introduced myself as the officer in case, I explained that I was not able to speak Welsh however would happily get Welsh speaking officers to assist if this would make her feel more at ease, as per the South Wales Police (2021) strategy which promotes the use of the Welsh language within the police force. The victim then explained to me that she would prefer to have contact in English and was only speaking Welsh in front of her partner as he could not understand Welsh.

Tipton (2021) explores the ways in which officers can build rapport when there are language differences, and the effect which police demeanour has on a victim's willingness to interact with officers and engage in the process of the investigation. The journal reiterates the importance police contact has on the willingness for victims to engage and the impact it has on a victim's feelings, both are factors which I feel are very important to consider when communicating with victims. Although in the end there wasn't a language barrier, I feel that it would have been important for me to make every possible effort to ensure the victim felt comfortable and understood should there have been a language or cultural difference and ensure I also complied with the codes of practice.

It was mentioned by initial attending officers, that the victim would be best suited to a video interview due to her vulnerabilities as per the guidance by Ministry of Justice (2022), however upon speaking to the victim and considering her views, she stated her preference would be to give a verbal statement. Although guidance stated that she would be eligible for a video interview, it was important for me to ensure that the victim felt comfortable when giving her account, especially due to the nature of the incidents the victim had initially disclosed to officers.

The College of Policing (2021) defines a person as vulnerable if “as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care of or protect themselves or others from harm or exploitation”. This is quite a broad definition and allows officers to make their own judgement as to whether they feel a person is vulnerable based on the level of risk. The victim I will refer to throughout this task, was perceived as very vulnerable due to her age and physical health as well as the risk of repeat abuse from the perpetrator.

During my initial training in South Wales Police, we covered the topic of vulnerability several times and have since had regular emails from in force training on the topic as well as having access to numerous documents. I have however found it difficult to judge how best to approach vulnerable victims in practice as this has been down to my discretion and varied for each individual's circumstance and being a new officer it is difficult when you have no previous experience to base judgements from. When attending calls which involve vulnerable people, I have also found it difficult to establish the best way to support victims and am unsure as to how both specialised internal staff and external agencies work with these victims after initial contact as this doesn't appear to be information we are given in day to day work. Keay & Kirby (2018) have also found that officers felt that there should be a clearer concept of who is responsible for responding to vulnerability and should work more closely with other agencies.

Throughout the calls I have attended, it is officer discretion and their use of risk analyses which allows us to decide how to handle incidents involving domestic abuse. Myhill & Johnson (2016) have found however, that discretion as a response to domestic violence possibly leads to poorer results and response by officers but this often is due to officers ignoring or failing to identify issues. Throughout my experience I have found that whilst it is very important to listen to victims and try to take action, however it is often very difficult to get victims to engage which very often leads to no further action being taken due to evidential difficulties. Often no further action could be seen as a poor result and could affect how a victim chooses to engage with police in the future (Mind, 2013). In this incident the victim was very willing to engage throughout and therefore I did not have any issues and felt that an

honest and invested style with this victim was be the contrary with some incidents, I have found that taking a step back and allowing the victim time and space to consider the options and waiting for them to approach you have given them the best case as they are sometimes weary of police and are unsure of what steps they want to take, however this is something I consider on a case by case approach.

Many police forces across the UK, including South Wales Police, have adopted the DASH model (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour-based violence) in order to assess the risk level of victims (Robinson et al. 2016). During this incident a public protection notice was submitted, and DASH questions were undertaken with the victim resulting in the victim being assessed as High Risk, meaning that the victim was eligible for a MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) referral. Although a referral was input to MARAC in order to establish a safety plan for the victim, I also explained to her that an IDVA (independent domestic violence advisor) would be in contact with her for support, however as discussed by Taylor-Dunn & Erol (2021) there are limitations to IDVA's also such as funding and staffing levels. It was important for me to give the victim options as well as the support she would already get, in order to allow her to feel in control especially after disclosing that she had not felt in control of her own life for so long due to the abuse.

The study by Almond et al (2017) shows the importance of the DASH questions we ask victims, and in my experience, I have found it beneficial to spend time with the victim to ensure the answers are accurate, but also so that the victim feels valued and is being taken seriously. However, Barlow & Walklate, (2021) point out that often victims don't feel that the DASH model allows them to voice their true concerns about the risk or their actual opinions, which is something the college of policing are looking into. I feel that that is something I also agree with and have noticed when completing the DASH questionnaire, as although I understand there are reasons for certain questions, I also feel that in cases many questions are often very irrelevant and can make the victim feel uncomfortable due to their personal nature.

Although assessing the current risk of the victim is important, I also feel that trying to stop re-offending is important to ensure that nobody else is put through what the victim has gone through. The study by Phoenix (2021) states that there is no conclusive option which is best in relation to re-offending, however, one of the

options available to police is to take a positive approach and to arrest the perpetrator (College of Policing, 2016). In this case, we felt that arrest was in fact the best option, and I have found that very often, especially when the victim and perpetrator do not live together and there are no children involved, this is an effective option to deter re-offending. College of Policing (2016) provide guidance and training on the initial actions that police officers should take when attending a domestic violence incident. Although this is something which we had training on, I feel that it is often quite difficult to assess the situations and apply the approaches especially when those involved are not forthcoming.

One of the factors which we decided to implement in order to try and mitigate the risk posed by the perpetrator by re-offending and to protect the victim from repeat victimisation, was to impose bail conditions at the time of the perpetrators release from custody. Ng & Douglas (2016) explore how imposing bail conditions is a core aspect of protecting victims of domestic violence, however, also point out that it is important to manage the balance between the victim's safety and the perpetrators rights. Taking this into consideration, conditions imposed on the perpetrator were not to approach or contact the victim and not to attend the victim's street. In this case there were no children involved, the perpetrator did not live with the victim and resided some distance away and therefore we were able to justify the bail conditions, as they safeguarded the victim but did not have a substantial effect on the perpetrator's daily activity.

In relation to this incident, this was the first time both the victim and perpetrator were involved with the police for any sort of domestic related incidents. Although there were no prior reports, 2022 statistics have shown that on average, the length of time for which a victim suffers abuse is 2.5 years, which suggests that even when there are no previous reports it does not necessarily mean that this is the first incident. (Safe Lives 2022).

Almond et al. (2017) found that only 18.7% of domestic abuse perpetrators went on to re-offend within a 12-month period, however each of these re-offenders could be linked to four specific questions which were asked on the DASH questions.

Findings by Phoenix (2021) found that 51% of victims of domestic abuse are repeat victims, however the data was inconclusive as to whether certain types of police intervention and action was more successful in reducing the frequency of abuse than others. The study hopes to aid evidence-based policing with its more precise way of recording domestic violence, which allows for more accurate data and in turn will allow us, as police officers, to act more appropriately and effectively at each domestic violence incident.

In my opinion, it is clear when looking at both information and research based on victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, that there is no one rule fits all approach and that as police officers a huge amount of integrity and discretion is needed. In my experience I feel that this places a large amount of pressure of the officers, and especially as an officer with limited experience, this is particularly difficult.

Throughout this incident care was taken to ensure that the victim was at the centre of the investigation and to ensure that enough support was given through both myself and the domestic violence team. It was also important that consideration was given on how to stop the perpetrator re-offending whilst protecting the victim, something which I feel was done particularly well in this case as to date the victim has had no further issues and the perpetrator has had not further involvement with the police.

WORD COUNT: 2147

Task 2

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

Choose 1 of these 5 options to answer

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

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

Task 2 Option 5

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:

Conducting Investigations

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

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

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

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

Answer:

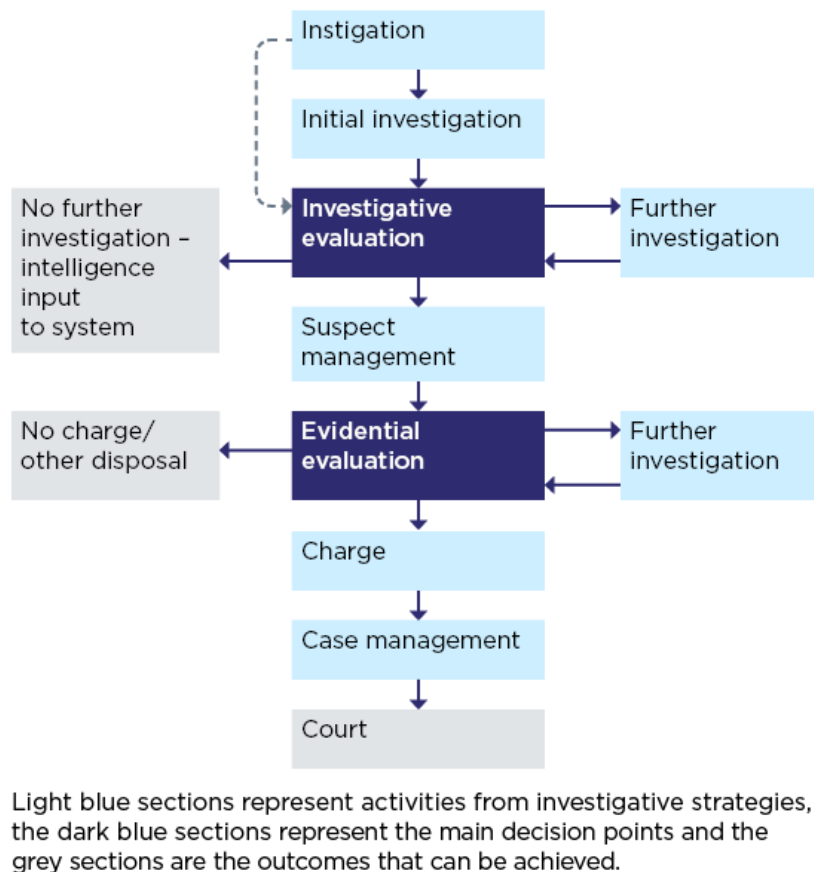
Throughout this task I will be focussing on an incident for which I was the officer in case, where the suspect was charged with Arson with intent to endanger life and Arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered under Section 1(3) Criminal Damage Act 1971. The suspect lived on the ground floor of a block of flats which consisted of seven floors and lit a fire within his flat, directly below the gas mains, therefore endangering the life of others within the 40 flats in the block.

I will be reflecting on the actions I took throughout the investigation and the importance of working alongside the multiple external organisations who were also involved in the incident which was deemed as a complex investigation. College of policing (2018) states that PIP level 2 investigators are trained to deal with serious and complex investigations and although there is no definition of complex or serious crimes, circumstances should be looked at on a case-by-case basis to understand what falls under this category. Due to the repeat offending by the suspect and the

danger to life, it appeared to the team that this was to be classed as a more serious crime and therefore would come under the category of a complex investigation.

College of Policing (2023) show the process of an investigation (Figure 1) and although each investigation differs there are similar stages throughout.

Figure 1.



Process of Investigation Diagram - College of Policing (2023)

Due to the nature of the incident, there were several external professionals involved in the investigation including fire and the local housing association and therefore this added a level of complexity to the case. Brown et al. (2016) point out that in order to reduce crime it is important that local agencies such as local authorities, council and probation must work together and in this case it seemed to me that this was pertinent. Although in this case the crime had already occurred, it was still important for myself and these organisations to work together to prevent any further crimes

being committed and to help rehabilitate the offender and keep others safe, as discussed by Penney et al. (2022).

The initial report came from the suspects neighbour who reported to police that the suspect had been both verbally and physically threatening towards him but had also said words to the effect of 'watch this place go up in smoke'. This was disclosed by the neighbour during the initial call to police, and although it appeared that the comment was odd and was noted by the call handler, the true meaning and importance of this comment was not realised until the fire was discovered a short while later when that neighbour called back explaining he could see smoke coming from the suspects flat. Fire crews attended alongside the police and ambulance service and extinguished the fire before removed the suspect to safety. The suspect was checked over by paramedics as concern for his wellbeing was the most important factor, before he was promptly arrested and the scene of the fire preserved by police officers to allow investigations to begin when safe. In this case the suspect had already been identified by both his neighbour and by the fact that he was the only person present at the scene of the incident, therefore the suspect management phase was extremely quick and required a few simple initial actions as explained by Chou & Nguyen (2020).

Scene preservation by officers was particularly significant at this incident in order to preserve evidence before in-depth inquiries could fully commence as explained by Ludwig & Fraser (2014). This was one of the most important fast track actions which was taken throughout the investigation as it prevents scene contamination and allowed us to preserve investigative opportunities. Fast-Track actions are defined by the College of policing (2023) as any actions which if carried out as soon as possible, are likely to preserve evidence and assist the investigation.

The initial consideration was for the safety of the occupants of the building, however it was quickly established that there was only one occupant of the flat which was on fire, and all other flats were unaffected. This meant that we were then able to focus all our attention on the investigative strategy and identify all opportunities which presented themselves.

Crime scene investigators and fire investigators were contacted as part of the initial investigation. This was the most important part as it allowed experts to enter the flat and evaluate how the fire started and essentially rule out whether the fire was an accident giving me a base on which to interview the suspect. Fire investigators identified the seat of the fire and explained that although there did not appear to be any accelerants use, there also did not appear to be any electrical equipment close by, any candles, smoking equipment or other items which could have accidentally caused the fire. They therefore concluded that the fire was started by a naked flame being directly applied to a combustible object, in this case a jumper. Crime scene investigators also analysed the scene and produced photos showing the extent of the damage, which I was able to exhibit during the interview with the suspect.

As the incident took place in a local authority owned building, there was also extensive CCTV covering the communal area outside the suspects flat. This was invaluable as it showed that throughout the entire day, the suspect was the only person to enter his flat and also showed smoke filling the corridor minutes after he left his flat. This again was important evidence which would be used to question the suspect during interview to allow him to give his account of what happened.

The suspect was well known to several officers involved in the investigation due to his chaotic lifestyle choices and long list of prior convictions, however he was also deemed as a vulnerable adult due to his learning disabilities and drug and alcohol addiction, therefore it was very important to ensure that he was fit for interview. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 states that anyone who is deemed vulnerable should be interviewed in the company of an appropriate adult and that the appropriate adult is there for support and to ensure that the suspect understands (Gov.uk, 2019). It was important to ensure that the suspect was adequately supported not only during interview but also throughout his time in custody, both in accordance with PACE but also in relation to his mental wellbeing due to his vulnerabilities. Suspects are usually given leaflets or details of helplines and groups which they can contact to help them deal with drug and alcohol dependencies and a range of other issues when they leave custody. This is a hugely important for their welfare and relies upon the integrity of the officer, ensuring that there are no

prejudices against the suspect and that help is given regardless of what they are suspected of having done.

After the interview I also ensured I submitted a public protection notice (PPN) under the category of “Adult at Risk”. An adult at risk, amongst other things, is deemed as someone who “has needs for care and support” and as explained by South Wales Police (2008), a PPN allows officers to express their concerns regarding the adult at risk. On this form I filled in details of the suspects housing situation as although I was there to investigate the damage caused by the suspect I also had a duty of care and felt that the suspects living situation was not suited to him. As the suspect was vulnerable due to learning difficulties and his addictions, it did not seem that a flat on the ground floor of a block with no support was sufficient, and although the suspect had committed several offences whilst living there, it appeared that he needed support to help him through these situations and to guide him to finding other coping mechanisms rather than committing crime. Concern regarding this was also expressed by his appropriate adult during interview and was documented on the PPN as I felt this made my case for suitable housing stronger.

It was known to us that the suspect had only been released from prison 5 days prior to the arson within in his flat for the offence of criminal damage on several occasions, again within his flat. Prior to interview I had obtained a statement from the housing officer on behalf of the council, to detail the damage caused to the flat and get a brief antecedent of the suspects tenancy at the building. The housing officer told me of the countless issues the suspect had caused with other neighbours and the numerous times he had caused thousands of pounds worth of damage to the flat. Although this formed part of our questioning within the interview, it was very important that my personal views and opinions on the matter did not interfere. Yesufu (2021) draw reference to the attestation which all officers take upon joining the police, this states that they will, amongst other things, act with impartiality and fairness and in certain cases, such as this one, I have found that I have to make a conscious effort to ensure that a persons past and your personal opinions to not cloud your judgement, however as pointed out by Stolzenberg et al (2014) previous convictions can often affect policing decisions.

The suspect was interviewed and questioned based on the findings by the investigators. During this interview I built up a rapport with the suspect, which is identified by Vanderhallen & Vervaeke (2014) as an important part of interviewing. I believe that it is possibly due to this rapport that the suspect freely gave me an account of what happened, and this led me to further avenues which I had to explore for evidence. The suspect stated that he had no knowledge of the fire until he was told by 3 separate people the following day, and that should there have been a fire the only reason he could think was that he had left a candle in the kitchen which he had borrowed from a friend.

Although the account of the candle went against expert opinions and evidence within the flat, following up on the information he gave regarding both the candle and the people who told him about the fire were important fast track actions as they had the potential to provide further invaluable evidence.

Several of the names given during the interview were friends of the suspects who lived in the same block of flats. As part of my investigation, I conducted house to house enquiries in the surrounding flats to see if anyone had seen or heard anything on the night of the fire. Not only was this important to the investigation to gather further evidence, but I also used this as an opportunity to support and reassure the occupants of the flats that the suspect had been apprehended and there was no further risk of danger posed by him. For several of the residents this took more reassurance than others, due to the previous issues which had been caused by the suspect and their concerns about their more vulnerable neighbours. Millie and Herrington (2005) state that in general people may be more worried about the risk to others and the community which in the case of this is particularly relevant.

Due to the involvement of several external agencies, the repeat offending history and the seriousness of the crime which took place there were several complex factors to this investigation which had to be considered. Throughout the investigation I made sure to keep the wellbeing of the suspect, victims and witnesses in mind whilst also remaining impartial. At times during the investigation impartiality was difficult due to knowledge of prior incidents involving the suspect and the severity of the incident, however it was important that I did not let this get in the way

of my investigation and the actions which needed to be taken to obtain evidence of the offence, something which I feel I managed well during the case.

Throughout this reactive investigation care was taken to ensure no evidence was missed, whether this pointed towards or away from the suspect. This was one of the first complex investigations I was made officer in case for and therefore I did feel that there was quite a lot of pressure, however I ensured all details were looked at meticulously to secure a positive outcome. Overall, I feel that all parties involved worked together very well and evidence was collected very diligently which was corroborated by the suspects charge and remand in custody post arrest.

WORD COUNT: 2125

Authentication signature:

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

Signed: Corrie Lawford

Date: 01/05/2023

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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