

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/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.*
- *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 investigation that will be discussed for this essay is one, which initially began as a relatively simple and straight forward domestic common assault. Throughout the investigation it became a more serious and complex investigation, whereby the risk that the victim was under was escalating and becoming more prevalent.

A victim can be many things but one way of describing them would be A victim is defined as 'a person who has suffered harm, including physical, mental or emotional harm or economic loss which was directly caused by criminal conduct' (Dwyer, 2021)

The victim in this case was particularly vulnerable and at risk as a domestic violence victim who had a 3-month-old baby with the subject The College of Policing states "that a person is 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" (College of Policing, 2021). There has been extensive research into the increased risk for women when postpartum and in any form of abusive relationships, there has also been research which indicates that where physical violence may not have been used in the relationship previously, when postpartum between the 1-18 moth old stage is where physical violence may start or escalate. '69% stated that they had not been subject to abuse previously (Heddin L, 2000)' In addition to this the age of the victim also had an impact on her vulnerability as Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a leading cause of death among young women and women who are pregnant or postpartum (Chang, Berg, Saltzman, & Herndon, 2005)

In addition to the now physical abuse the victim had also been isolated from her friends and family by the subject, to do this, he had moved her away from her family and taken her car so that she could not see them. Prior to meeting the suspect the victim was in university and setting up a foundation for a career, this all came to an end when she met the subject, this is typical behaviour for a DV aggressor whereby 'DV often includes economic abuse, including preventing survivors from working or going to school, sabotaging their employment or housing, or ruining their credit'(Adams et al. 2008; Alexander 2011).

All these factors were identified in the initial enquiries and where the public protection notices were completed 'A PPN is a list of questions that is used to ultimately determine the vulnerability risk to a victim' (Justice Inspectorates, 2015). This identified from the start of the investigation that the victim was at high risk.

Furthermore, following the submission of a PPN there is a chance of it being looked at by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The MASH is comprised of multiple agencies and may include the council, police, probation, health, landlords and many more (Bridgend County Borough Council, 2022). The purpose of the MASH is to provide safeguarding from both the council and other services all in one place. A benefit of the MASH is that it provides a higher standard of safeguarding by providing the professionals with more information whereby more informed decisions can be made.

The subject in this case had a history of violence, including but not exclusive to domestic violence. He was a repeat offender which again increased the risk to the victim as he was displaying a repeated pattern of behaviour.

It was clear from the first statement that the victim provided that the subject was a volatile individual who was extremely controlling and intimidating. The initial incident was reported and due to the fact, the victim had left the subject and was being safeguarded by friends in a location not known to the subject, he was not arrested until two days after the incident. In this time, he had managed to convince the victim to come back to their home, using the child they had together as a reason for her to come back. Through his manipulation he also convinced her to withdraw her initial complaint against him.

This was a massive error on the police and safeguarding services, the delay in arresting the subject meant that a highly vulnerable victim was now back with the perpetrator and at risk if violence again.

Once the subject was arrested somewhat three days too late, he was interviewed and as expected answered no comment to all questions put to him, he was bailed with strict conditions which did not allow him to contact the victim.

The fact that the female had now withdrawn her statement made it difficult for officers to remand the male as at this point the level of injury was only amounting to a common assault.

Whilst the male was in custody officers liaised with the victim and adequate safeguarding was put in place and the victim moved back in with her family who were a great support network for her. Moving back in with family can be a great help

to victims of domestic violence as it can be the support that they receive that will inevitably mean that they successfully leave the relationship. In addition to this, support from family also increases the chance of victims proceeding with a prosecution.

Special measures were also explained to the victim which again gave her a great sense of relief in knowing she would be supported through the process 'The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (YJCEA) introduced a range of measures that can be used to facilitate the gathering and giving of evidence by vulnerable and intimidated witnesses. The measures are collectively known as "special measures"' (CPS, 2022).

Around a week after the suspect had been bailed the victim reported that she had been receiving several no caller id phone calls every day to the point where she had changed her phone number, she also had several attempts for contact through social media. The victim could not be sure if the phone calls were the subject due to them being no called ID, but the subject was using photographs of her and her child on the social media accounts. Due to this the victim decided that she wanted to reinstate her initial complaint and gave a further statement in relation to the breaches of bail. The male was then arrested again for his breach of bail.

When the male was arrested for the second time the severity and complex nature of this investigation began to unfold, to attribute the phone calls to the male we had to seize his devices, of which he had two. These were then examined by a kiosk trained officer and were reviewed by the officer dealing with the case, all of this was done within the 24 hours that police can hold people in custody.

On review of the mobile phones, it was noted that this investigation was more complex than initially thought, the male had called the victim hundreds of times over few days that he was on bail, some calls were from his personal phone and others were from his work mobile phone, all calls had been conducted using the no caller id function.

In addition to the extensive number of calls from the suspect there were also messages on multiple different social media accounts, some of which were accounts which had been made with no other intention other than to contact the victim. Most concerning for officers was that there was a note on his notes app which was documenting all the different online platforms that the victim was on and had time and date stamped each occasion that they were online. The behaviour of the suspect was escalating, and his behaviour was majorly concerning for officers.

The main concern here for officers was how quickly the male's behaviour had escalated.

The issue for investigators now though was that the victim had moved back home with her parents so was living in a different sector to which the investigators would normally cover, this meant that we had to liaise with partners and organisations that we were not familiar with to ensure that the victim was safeguarded.

The tracking of her social media accounts and constant calling escalated this investigation from being a common assault and breach of bail to an investigation which was looking at stalking and harassment.

Due to the escalating risk of harm as the male's obsessive and controlling behaviour officers decided that they were going to remand the male to custody to safeguard the victim further as he was clearly not adhering to his bail conditions and had no regard for them. The CPS agreed to charge the male with the assault and to further charge with Stalking due to the evidence found on his devices, this was of great relief to the victim as she felt that she was now safe to go out and that he would not be able to find her.

As the investigation progressed the victim was kept up to date with regular updates, as per the victim's code in addition to this several referrals were put in and explored to aid and support the victim through the process.

Throughout the investigation and from the initial report the victim accepted an IDVA (independent domestic violence advocate) the benefits of support from an IDVA have been documented in many studies whereby the support provided has had a positive impact on the victim in terms of, lower rates of withdrawal and support in order to leave the relationship and to not get back into another abusive relationship, in order to prevent repeating patterns of behaviour.

'Probably one of the most important aspects of the IDVA service is the emotional support they provide to victims to enable them to go through the court process' (Taylor-Dunn, H. 2016).

As well as the IDVA the victim was also receiving support from social services in regard to the child that they had together, they were able to advise the victim on the best course of action in terms of contact for the subject and whether or not it was going to be safe for the suspect to see the child.

At this point investigators were happy that the victim had sufficient support, this being through both family and external agencies and commenced the file in order for the court date. The courts had decided to keep the male remanded during this time as they could also see that the victim was highly vulnerable and that the subject was clearly a danger to her.

This was when the second error was made during this case. Investigators received a phone call from the victim who stated that she had received a letter from the male from prison, the letter had been addressed to their child and contained content which would be viewed as manipulative and an attempt to try and control the victim.

Investigators quickly investigated this for the victim and contacted the prison, the prison did not know how this letter was sent and believed that the subject must have had someone else send it for them. To prevent this from happening again the victim's address was put on a list of addresses that were not allowed anything to be sent to.

This understandably caused a vast amount of stress and anxiety for the victim, bringing back the fear that the subject does not care about trying to contact her or what ramifications this may have for him. Again, additional support and agencies were contacted for the victim which helped her to be able to process what had happened.

Due to the severity of the case the victim provided a very impactful Victim personal statement to be read out in court. There are several benefits to a victim personal statement, they allow the court to consider how the situation has affected the victim in their everyday life. It makes the victim seem more like a person and allows the

court to have an insight into how this event may impact the victim for the rest of their life. There have been many reasons why people disagree with the VPS some of which include the fact that they believe that sentencing may be harsher due to there being an element of personality to the statement and it often being more impactful than a regular statement which only outlines the specific incident. This has been proven not to be the case though as it 'suggests that victim impact evidence has not had this effect on sentencing outcomes' (Booth et al. 2018; Roberts 2012).

Overall, this investigation provided a lot of learning and insight into how things could be changed. The outcome was one of success as at court it resulted in a guilty plea from the suspect which meant that he would go to prison for several months. This gave relief to the victim that she was believed and that she had done the right thing in reporting in the first place.

The learning from this would be that we must understand the urgency in responding to these calls and not allowing the subject time to manipulate and influence the victims.

The victim in this case changed her mind and wanted to support the prosecution but this is not always the case.

Word Count - 2205

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:

The investigation in which I will be evaluating for this essay is one of an arson with intent to endanger life contrary to section 1 (3) of the criminal damage act 1971.

This investigation due to its serious nature had several fast-track actions which had to be utilised to establish who the suspect/s in this investigation were.

The initial call came through to police from the fire service stating that there had been a fire in an upstairs flat whereby four people had to be rescued.

The four people were rescued from a ledge outside the front window one story high due to the fire appearing to have been started in the entrance hallway at the bottom of the stairs which was the only entrance route in and out of the flat. This was where the first error was made, the officers who attended the scene did not liaise with fire in a manner which would have allowed them to establish who was in the flat, they did not obtain descriptions or names of any of the witnesses which later down the line became an issue for the investigators.

At this point in time, we were unaware as to whether the fire had been set by one of the people who were rescued whether this was accidentally or purposefully, or whether there was another person who could have done this and was currently unaccounted for.

The first action which took place was to identify where the scene was and to issue a cordon to preserve any evidence. The fire service made the scene safe, and we quickly liaised with CSI to obtain any forensic evidence that was available. With incidents involving fire, often a lot of evidence can be lost but there is always a chance that there may be forensic opportunities, this was why it was decided that this was a reasonable and proportionate line of enquiry. In addition to this we also liaised with the fire service to be able to have a fire investigator investigate the cause of the fire.

The first course of action in terms of witnesses and victims, was to identify who was in the flat.

This was where the management of our personal opinions and values had to be utilised. The victim in this case was far from your ideal victim 'an ideal victim as 'a person or category of individuals who – when hit by crime – most readily is given the complete and legitimate status of being a victim'. (Christie,1986). It was clear that the occupier of the flat and any of the other witnesses inside may be involved in criminality, the flat was well-known to police due to it being regularly used as a place for drug users to gather and take illegal substances.

This was where we realised that obtaining statements may prove to be difficult, due to this our plan as the investigators was to start with the occupier of the flat who we knew was present at the time of the fire and start from there.

By obtaining an initial account from him in the aim was to establish who the other people were in the flat at the time.

This proved less successful than we had hoped, the male was extremely difficult to take a statement from due to his addictions and mental health and told us that he was not sure who was present in the flat as he regularly has people staying with him.

This made things complicated for us as we needed to track down the other people who had been present as it was still unclear if some if not all were suspects or victims. Even though taking an account from the male proved difficult we still managed to refer him to several different agencies and assist with getting him temporary accommodation to ensure that he was safeguarded and had somewhere to stay. The aim for investigators in this case was not only to find the perpetrator but to be victim focused and ensure that we supported the victims through what would have been a significantly traumatic event.

Due to our initial plan not going as successfully as we had hoped our next course of action was to look at who had made the initial call to the fire service. This was massively helpful and allowed us to identify another person who was in the flat. The 999 call also gave us a lot of information as you could hear how the individuals in the flat were interacting.

From this we were able to track down the next person who had been in the flat at the time of the fire. This female was a lot easier to take a statement from and gave the names of the other people present, all were identified, and statements were taken, it was clear from these that they were all in fact victims in this case and we would not be treating any of them as suspects.

Whilst their statements were being taken an initial CCTV trawl was conducted of the immediate area. The location of the flat, being above a shop in a row of commercial properties meant that the likelihood of these buildings having some form of CCTV was going to be high. The aim of the CCTV trawl was to establish whether any person who was currently unaccounted for had entered or left the property during the material time frame, in the hopes that this would allow us to identify a suspect. A CCTV trawl in the early part of an investigation allows for any key footage not to be lost or written over by systems, and for investigators to establish lines of enquiry early on and for any potential suspects or witnesses to be identified. 'If CCTV is made available to investigators, then it is likely to be useful in a substantial proportion of cases' (Ashby, 2017).

The statements that had been obtained by the victims, all indicated that there had been a person who they had seen in the flat earlier in the night but was not present when they had to be rescued during the incident none of the victims could account for where he was during the fire, this meant that this person was now potentially a suspect.

As the investigation continued, as well as the statements, a fair amount of the CCTV had now been reviewed and luckily there was a camera which pointed directly at the only entrance to the flat.

The CCTV camera which was pointed at the flat entrance showed a person leaving through the door, and within 30 seconds of them leaving it was clear that the fire had started in the hallway and stair area of the flat. This was massively helpful for investigators as it lined up with the statements which had already been taken from the victims in relation to timings of when they discovered the fire.

The person in the footage was wearing a distinctive coat which would later be used to identify a suspect.

This was when officers began to investigate the individual who had been seen in the flat earlier in the day to establish whether they may be the individual who is leaving just before the fire started.

The first thing investigators did was to check this individual on our police system, it was at this point investigators noticed that the male had a very similar coat to the one in the CCTV on in one of his custody photographs.

This indicated to officers that this person may be the suspect and that we needed to get in contact with them and to establish whether they needed to be arrested.

Throughout the investigative process further information regarding this male was obtained and it was identified that he had been staying in this flat in one of the rooms in an informal agreement with the occupier, the male had though, had had an argument with him earlier in the week due to him not paying towards the rent.

The picture of the background between these individuals and their relationship was coming together and at this point all the available evidence was pointing towards the male.

Due to this, the decision to arrest the male was made, this was down to the fact he was the only person who had been seen in the flat that day and that he had a coat which was similar if not the same as the one in the CCTV it was decided that we had enough to go off for an arrest. We were satisfied that with this information we were acting within code G of PACE (Police and criminal evidence act) whereby 'to arrest a person who is involved, or suspected of being involved, in a criminal offence' (Police and criminal evidence act,1984)

Due to CSI attendance early on we were able to get fingerprints from inside the flat fast tracked to establish if we potentially had another unknown suspect. The prints came back and were not very strong so would only be able to be used for elimination purposes.

Now that the suspect had been arrested, we were able to do more fast-tracked actions to establish whether he had committed the arson. In order to do this, we seized his devices in order to get them digitally downloaded. In addition to getting the content downloaded we were also able to conduct a charter application which allowed us to use cell site data to establish where and when his phone was being used during the time in question.

We also fast tracked his fingerprints to the fingerprint bureau to establish if they were a match for the prints located at the scene and completed a section 18 search of the address that he was in this was to look for the coat which was seen in the footage and to seize any additional clothing which looked like the CCTV footage. This would allow us to send the clothes for forensic testing to establish whether any accelerants or remanence of the fire was on them.

The suspect was interviewed and gave his account that he was nowhere near the flat when the fire was set and that he was in a completely different location. He also stated that he did have a coat which looked like the one in the footage but had gotten rid of it a few weeks prior to the incident as it had broken. He also stated that he had been with his partner throughout the night and that her father had picked him up from the flat earlier in the day. These were all investigated, as relevant lines of enquiry given by the suspect in interview are as important as any other line of enquiry that is brought into the investigation.

The cell site data which had been requested came back in the time frame that the male was still in custody and showed that where the male stated he had been matched up with the masts that his phone had been connecting to when making calls and texts during the relevant time frame.

Investigators also spoke to his partners father who confirmed that he had picked him up earlier in the day and he had not returned to the flat that night. This was confirmed by using the CCTV which had been obtained throughout the investigation.

The male was released No further action and relevant referrals were put in for the male who had disclosed during his time in custody that he was suffering with his mental health. His belongings that had been seized were also expedited back to him as they were no longer needed for the investigation.

To evaluate the whole process of how this investigation took place, I would conclude that all lines of enquiry that were available at each stage of the investigation were followed up. I believe that the management and interviewing of witnesses would be an area which could have been improved on, each if the victims in this case had their own vulnerabilities which may not have fully been considered when taking their statements. I strongly believe that personal opinions of the victims and their lifestyle may have impacted on the quality of their statements, and this is something that would need looking at.

Adequate support was put in place, but I believe communication with the victims could have been better.

Overall, the investigation was conducted in a timely manner with all lines of enquiry followed up and thoroughly investigated. Enquiries are still taking place in order to establish who has caused the fire and more CCTV has identified another suspect who at this point has not been arrested yet. This investigation highlights the importance of CCTV and how it can aid both investigators and suspects during an investigation 'Footage is highly valued by investigators. Nine in 10 investigators reported using the footage when it was available, and two-thirds were able to use it for the reason they had requested it'.(C Dowling,2019)

Word count - 2172

Authentication signature: Ella Jones

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

Signed: Ella Jones

Date: 27/04/2024

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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