

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/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.*
- *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	Area of Professional Practice	Word count
50%		
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:

Vulnerability and risk, evidence-based Policing

A policing incident in which I played a critical role with a victim of crime occurred when I attended the scene of a burglary. The original occupant of the building had died a few weeks prior to this incident and his next of kin had inherited ownership of the property. The next of kin had called police when they noticed the door to the rear of the property had been visibly forced open. Upon my arrival at the scene, I spoke with the family members as a small group had gathered outside, I requested that they remain outside whilst I inspected the building.

Inside the property were the usual signs of a burglary with cupboards open and items strewn over the floor. I took care not to disturb the scene as much as possible as I liaised with Crime Scene Investigators, taking care not to tread on any boot marks on the floor or add any of my own and leaving the tables and cupboards in the same state they were found. Once I confirmed that the burglar was not still inside the property, I returned outside and spoke with the family reassuring them that we would do our best to find who is responsible.

After speaking with detectives, it was decided that a single family member be allowed inside the property to briefly determine what items had been stolen, on the condition that the inside be disturbed as little as possible. Doing so revealed that a collection of air rifles along with a crossbow had been stolen from the address along with various electronic devices and cash which was stored in cupboards. This complicated matters as a number of antique knives and two more air rifles were still inside the address which could not be secured. This meant these items had to be seized and taken into police property. The thought of more items being taken from the property greatly distressed the owners of the property as these held sentimental value and the thought of losing more was unbearable for the family. I assured them that the property would be taken care of and that this was only a temporary measure, but that it was necessary for the protection of the community as we couldn't risk the offender returning and stealing more weapons which could potentially be used to harm others. Also seized was a mysterious brown leather glove which was located on the floor just inside the property, the victim did not recognise this glove as having belonged to her late father and so this was carefully seized as evidence. Following this I took statements from the victims, and I spoke with the surrounding neighbours asking what they had heard and if they were in possession of any CCTV cameras that may have captured the incident.

There were no cultural, ethical or language barriers in this case, however if there were this incident would have been reacted to differently by police. Firstly this would have been looked at as a potential hate crime, as perhaps this house was targeted as the perpetrator was aware that the occupants originated from a diverse background and as such targeted this house in a deliberate attempt to cause harm to that particular group or characteristic. This would identify lines of enquiry as the occupants could have been the victims of other forms of hate crime, and this incident would be regarded as an escalation of those crimes. This was however not the case and other lines of enquiry were explored.

The offence of Burglary is covered under the Theft Act (*Section 9 Theft Act 1968*) specifically this case relates to:

Section 9(1)(b) – having entered any building or part of a building as a trespasser he steals or attempts to steal anything in the building or that part of it.

As the perpetrator has broken into the property and stolen items therein the offence of burglary has been satisfied. In cases such as these the first priority are securing evidence and obtaining the details of victims and witnesses, also known as Golden Hour enquiries, however following the initial investigatory work the focus must shift to protecting the victim and their property. The property must be made secure again, by either replacing or repairing the broken door, but this alone will not put the victims mind at ease as the perpetrator has already broken through one door. Angel, C. et al. (2014, p.292) describes how victims of burglary can experience “*physical manifestations*”, which negatively impact a person's physical and mental health. Officers offer reassurance to victims and provide safety advice, in more extreme cases pro-active patrolling around the victim's dwelling can also be undertaken. Wadley, S. (2003, p.12) states that “*a visible police presence would increase public confidence and therefore would improve public reassurance and reduce levels of fear of crime*”, however this approach is severely limited by the resources of the police, as proactive patrolling around a specific area is very resource intensive and is not sustainable in the long run. Other tactics would need to be explored in this instance.

Another tactic used by the police is the use of Target Hardening Johnson, S. et al. (2017, p.506) describes that when an address has been burgled, not only is that address at an increased vulnerability of being burgled again, but the surrounding addresses are also at an elevated risk and as such they need to be “*Target Hardened*”, the theory behind this is to make homes more resistant to repeat offences or at the very least to appear more resistant. This is a clear implementation of evidence-based policing as it has a noticeable and statistical effect on burglary rates reducing the likelihood of further burglary incidents in and around the area. This is achieved through studier locks, CCTV cameras outside doors and windows and directed at property such as vehicles. However, the weakness of this approach is that it is a more long term solution as installing cameras and installing

better doors, windows and even walls comes at a great financial cost and takes time to implement, successful implementation of this can reduce a persons feeling of vulnerability, however this is likely to take time in order to come to fruition.

Vulnerability as described by Millie, A (2008, p.184) can be used in two different ways, firstly is a persons risk of victimisation, how susceptible they are to further crime and the “*potential impact of victimisation*”, which is how a person is physically and emotionally vulnerable. Millie goes on to state that victims of domestic burglary have a “*disproportionately physical or emotional impact on people*”. Maarten Kunst, et al. (2013, p.111) describes how burglary victims feel the sanctity of their home has been disrupted and that they feel personally violated as a result. In order to combat this, effective policing involves keeping the victim informed of the ongoing investigation, as the knowledge that the Police are working to find and convict the perpetrator can help to alleviate the stresses involved with being a victim of crime. Other organisations could also be involved, the council for instance could be informed of a potentially vulnerable adult in the community who requires further protection. Victims can directed towards charities and support groups to help them overcome the stress and anxiety they now face.

In this case the investigation progressed quickly as the brown glove recovered from the scene did indeed belong to the perpetrator and DNA analysis was able to link the offender to the crime scene. Once the suspect was arrested and taken to custody he gave a full confession in his interview, stating that he knew the original occupant of the house and was on friendly terms with him, the untimely death of the original occupant provided an opportunity for the perpetrator to break into the house as he knew it would remain empty overnight and that there were multiple items of value stored within. As the perpetrator gave a full confession, the attention shifts into prevention as it becomes necessary to prevent forms of reoffending, this is often provided in prisons themselves or in support workers. The victim in this case being the daughter of the deceased man was extremely happy that the perpetrator was found so quickly, the knowledge that it was a friend of her fathers whom committed the crime, surprisingly brought her comfort as she had always thought of him as a shady character. The victim

also felt relief that this was an opportunistic crime and not the beginning of a spree of burglaries in the area. The seized air rifles and antique knives were returned to the possession of the victim, who was initially frustrated by the police having seized them in the first instance, however this was necessary at the time for the protection of the community at large.

The fact that the perpetrator was caught so quickly, resulted in less resources being dedicated to this area. If the perpetrator was still unknown and if more burglaries had been reported in the surrounding homes, then the response from police services would have been different. Firstly proactive patrolling would have been a priority, particularly at night. Secondly a campaign of target hardening would have been enacted, whereby safety advice would have been given to multiple homes and in some cases police would pay contractors to install CCTV in vulnerable homes. Another possibility would be social media appeals and organising a neighbour watch group among the residents who live in the area, this would be organised by the Neighbour policing team who would liaise with prominent members of the community and offer a direct line of community with the police. The downsides of this approach is that the community may target individuals and encourages members to take the law into their own hands, therefore such an approach must be carefully managed.

In conclusion when supporting victims of crime, it is important to recognise the psychological effect, not just on the victim, but on the community. Many people will feel vulnerable and will want a swift police response in order to feel safe again. The Police have a responsibility to not only find and detain the perpetrators, but also advise the victim and the community on how to better protect themselves from future incidents. Target hardening is key, the appearance alone of additional safety measures could be enough to deter a would be burglar and prevent further crimes from taking place.

Neighbourhood watch groups can impose a sense of security in the community and will assist police in future investigations, however they must be carefully maintained so as not to ostracise residents. The involvement of charities and social services can also be introduced in certain situations, helping to take the pressure of police services, yet support the victims of crime in social and psychological

means. The crime scenes themselves should be secured and evidence seized quickly so as to assist with a speedy investigation and deliver closure to the victims and community at large.

Word count 1833

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Task 2

Choose 1 of these 5 options to answer

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

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

Task 2 Option 1:

Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:

Response Policing

A core part of the policing mission is to prevent crime and disorder. Domestic abuse causes both serious harm and constitutes a considerable proportion of overall crime

You should choose **a domestic abuse incident** that was of a complex nature, in which you played a significant role in providing a response.

Critically assess the challenges associated with a domestic abuse incident that you have attended, and the strategies developed for effective policing in such challenging situations.

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

ANSWER:

Task 2 Option 1 Response Policing – Domestic Abuse

This essay will critically assess a complex domestic abuse incident which I have attended, in which I played a significant response along with exploring the strategies developed for effective policing in such challenging situations. This incident occurred as I was starting a night shift, a social services worker had called police as she feared for one of her clients. The victims in this incident were a woman and her three children and the perpetrator was an ex-partner of the woman and father to one

of those children. To protect the identities of those involved I shall refer to the Victim as Female A and the perpetrator as Male B.

Communication between Female A and Male B was facilitated by the social worker in the form of a group chat on a messaging app, this was enacted to arrange child contact for Male B, however this group chat devolved into an argument between the couple in which Male B threatened to “SMASH YOUR TEETH IN”, towards Female A. This was the limit of information provided to police, given the time of night I decided to call Female A, she informed me that on the advice of social services she had booked a room in a hotel with her three children as a safety precaution.

Upon arrival at the Hotel, I was able to speak to Female A in private as her father had taken the children into a separate room. When attending Domestic Incidents, a key tool is the use of a DASH (Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment) form as Barrow-Grint et al. (2022, p. 31) states these were introduced in 2009 and they *“acted as a aid memoir for assessment at the scene as well as a data source for recognising repeat offences”*. A DASH form is a tool in which a person’s level of risk can be graded and is an effective strategy in tackling domestic cases as it neatly follows into statement writing since the topics raised in the DASH can be included as a history of the relationship and help identify the offences that have been committed.

Female A told me that social services first became involved after Male B assaulted her years ago whilst she was pregnant with his child, on this incident he had threatened to suffocate her in front of her other two children. Before this incident however Female A told me that the relationship was very strained, Male B would frequently shout at her and break furniture in fits of rage, he would claim that she was cheating on him and that she should be thanking him for sticking around as no one else would want to be with her. Female A found herself isolated from family and friends and living in fear of what he might say or do to her.

Speaking to the victim she had disclosed several offences which needed to be addressed. Firstly, were the malicious communications which had been sent most recently, the threats to “SMASH

YOUR TEETH IN", whether genuine or not fall under the Malicious Communication Act 1988 whereby it is an offence for "Any person who sends to another person-

(a) a letter, electronic communication or article of any description which conveys-

i) a message which is indecent or grossly offensive;

ii) a threat....

Is guilty of an offence if his purpose, or one of his purposes, in sending it is that it should, ... , cause distress or anxiety to the recipient or to any other person to whom he intends that it or its contents or nature should be communicated."

Along with the Malicious Communication, Female A had disclosed historic domestic assault, Threats to Kill and Coercive and Controlling behaviour. The threats to kill and assault would be the most challenging to prove as they occurred one year prior to this incident and without any digital evidence such as photographs or recordings or without an independent witness who can confirm that this took place, then the allegation would be one person's word against another which is highly unlikely to result in a conviction.

The final offence is one of coercive and controlling behaviour. As stated by McMahon, M. and McGorrey, P. (2016) a new offence of Coercive and Controlling was introduced in the Serious Crime Act 2015, the purpose of this act was to generate an offence which was not covered by the current laws for assault, threats to kill or stalking and harassment. Specifically this new act was designed to target conduct in a domestic setting such as family or intimate relationships whereby the accused undertakes behaviour designed to control or manipulate the victim. This provides a unique challenge in policing as such long term patterns of behaviour are hard to prove as they tend not to be documented.

Given this information I graded Female A as a high-risk domestic abuse victim and as such Male B should be located and arrested immediately to protect Female A and her children from him. I spoke

with my supervising Sergeant who agreed my with grading and myself and several officers were dispatched to the address of the perpetrator in order to enact an arrest. During his arrest and whilst under caution Male B made the significant comment “I MAY HAVE THREATENED TO TAKE HER TEETH OUT”. This was significant as it was captured on my Body Worn Video and could be used in the event that the Male pleads not guilty.

The Male was booked into custody and a solicitor was arranged to be with him during his interview, in which Male B pleaded not guilty and gave a prepared statement whereby he accused his partner of manipulating him and using their child as a weapon against him, the prepared statement also addressed the Threats to Kill and Historic assault as these allegations had previously been investigated when the incident occurred, therefore Male B was advised by his solicitor not to answer questions relating to these, finally the statement concluded that screenshots of the messages provided by Female A were out of context as they did not show the messages that she was sending. Following this prepared statant all other questions asked of Male B were responded with, “NO COMMENT”. This is one of the greatest challenges in Domestic cases that I often come across, as the offences have taken place behind closed doors and in private settings where no witnesses or physical evidence exists the Solicitor will often recommend that their client answers No Comment to questions posed to them as it forces Officers to effectively put together a case file of evidence which will support a prosecution. Without sufficient evidence this case becomes one persons word against another. I therefore became the Officer in Charge of this case and for the next several months I would be gathering evidence and building a case against Male B.

There are many challenges faced when tackling domestic abuse as Couto, L et al (2023, p.1) writes that victims are usually hesitant to contact police in the first instance “*Reporting was impeded by difficulty recognising abuse and experiencing feelings of shame*”. However, for this case the victim was more than willing to engage with police as Female A had told me, she wishes to never see Male B again, but as they share a child together some form of contact is necessary.

Given the level of risk that Male B was presenting it was vital that Female A be supported by partner agencies, social services were well aware of the situation, but I also passed along Female A's details to Women's Aid with her consent. Female A was also given refuge for herself and her children outside of the Gwent Police Area. This is an important strategy used by Police services across the UK, as in many cases where convicting the perpetrator is difficult, attention must shift instead to protecting the victim and taking positive action in order to safeguard the victim. In this case once Female A had returned to reside in the Gwent Area, a tag for Domestic Abuse Victim was placed on her new address so that in the event a emergency call was made from her home address, Officers would immediately be notified of the past domestic history.

A key part of any investigation is the use of statements, these are taken from not only the Victim, but also Witnesses and attending Officers. In this case the social worker for Female A and her children was able to give a witness statement based on the text messages received from Male B and Female A, however further witnesses are available. The children of Female A were also witness to the domestic abuse that she suffered, however as the eldest child was Six years of age a statement could not be taken from him. Fortunately Police services have a strategy in this circumstance in the form of a WIB (Witness Interview Booklet). A WIB is less formal than a standard statement as is reserved for a vulnerable or intimidated witness, who requires an appropriate adult to be present. In this case however the children were too nervous to speak with police, which resulted in only two statements being obtained from the social worker and the victim herself.

The final challenge with this case was obtaining the evidence of Malicious Communication, this was overcome under *Section 22 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984*. Under this law Police have powers to seize property which is relevant to an ongoing investigation, which in this case related to the mobile phone owned by Male B. With this device in Police possession the contents on which can be downloaded and submitted as evidence.

Compounding the challenges faced with this investigation are also the time restraints which come with placing a suspect on bail. Once a suspect has been bailed from custody, they are presented with a date by which they must return to the police station, this is set 3 months following their arrest and during this time bail conditions will have been implemented, these include conditions such as not to communicate with the victim directly, indirectly or by other means and not to attend their home address or place of work. Such conditions are vital in protecting victims of domestic abuse and should the perpetrator break them, they are once again subject to arrest. However, they present a challenge within policing to complete all lines of investigation and submit a case file to the crown prosecution service before this date expires. Elsewise the perpetrator would be Released Under Investigation (RUI) and those conditions which protect the victim would no longer apply. In this case Male B had broken his conditions on three separate occasions by attempting to contact Female A. As such these breaches were recorded in the case file and help to prove the level of risk he presents to the Victim.

In conclusion Domestic Abuse cases are never simply and often present unique challenges specific to each case. Victims of Domestic Abuse are often unwilling to make a complaint in the first instance as they normalise and rationalise the behaviour of their partner to the extent that they become unable to see the abuse that is inflicted upon them. Alternatively, Victims who contact police must go through the long and gruelling legal process laid out before them, in which Officers must take care to properly gather or collate evidence to support a conviction. In either instance Police Officers have a duty of care to protect victims of Domestic abuse, imposing bail conditions so as to deter the behaviour of the perpetrator and directing Victims to the relevant support networks and charities. Finally, each instance of domestic abuse should be properly recorded so that a pattern of abuse is documented to ensure that the Victims level of risk is correctly graded, and the appropriate response is undertaken.

Word Count 1980

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Authentication signature:

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

Signed: Aaron Crawford

Date: 05/02/2024

Bibliography

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