

## **Graduate Diploma Professional Police Practice**

### **LEVEL 6 - 40 Credits**

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

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

**(SOUTH WALES POLICE, GWENT POLICE AND  
UWTSD)**

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**FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT  
PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMME**

***Module title: Policing in the Workplace 3 (DHEP) - BMPP6009D***

## Workbook Guidance

Please read these notes carefully. They provide essential information. The documents you will use in developing your workbook are on the following pages.

### What is the workbook for?

The purpose of this workbook is to enable learners to demonstrate and provide evidence of how they meet the learning outcomes set by the College of Policing, for the Graduate Diploma in Professional Policing Practice. You are being asked to outline your experiential learning based upon your theoretical understanding in a range of operational situations.

- Wellbeing and Resilience
- Criminal Justice
- Conducting Investigations
- Decision making and discretion
- Maintaining Professional Standards
- Leadership and Team working
- Policing the roads
- Information and Intelligence

You may wish to use the same incidents as you have outlined in the Occupational Competence Portfolio.

### How should the workbook be presented?

Blank electronic copies can be found on Moodle of this workbook. You must submit this document electronically therefore it is important that you save your work regularly and upload the final typed version through Turnitin on Moodle.

**Word count policy** can be found in chapter 7 of the Academic Quality under section 7.7 (this applies to presenting work above and under the specified word count).

[https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/media/uwtsd-website/content-assets/documents/academic-office/aqh-chapters/chapters---en/Chapter\\_07\\_Assessment-Taught\\_Programmes\\_Pages\\_72-79-UPDATED-05-11-2019.pdf](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](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](mailto: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.

### Contents

| Task   | Area of Professional Practice                             | Word count  |
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| Task 2 | <b>Conducting Investigations</b>                          | <b>2000</b> |
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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:

#### INTRODUCTION:

In this essay I will critically evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches in supporting and managing vulnerable people at risk of harm during the investigative process. I will also explore repeat victimisation and repeat offending within the context of one of my investigations. The investigation I will be focusing on for this essay is in relation to a high-risk domestic abuse case file, with multiple incidents between suspect and their ex-partner, and charges including Stalking involving fear of violence; Intimidate a witness; Criminal damage to property valued under £5000; Intentional strangulation; and Assault a person thereby occasioning Actual Bodily Harm.

Throughout this essay, I will utilise Gibbs' reflective cycle (Gibbs, 1988, cited in University of Edinburgh, 2020) to reflect upon my actions regarding this investigation.

#### DESCRIPTION:

My involvement in this investigation began after a male had been arrested following a report from ex-partner of ongoing domestic stalking, harassment, and threats, whereby she felt intimidated. The victim stated she was contacted by her ex-partner on her mobile phone, which was answered by one of her friend's children. The suspect shouted abuse directly down the phone to the victim, such as "YOU BETTER WATCH YOUR BACK".

The suspect has also spoken down the phone to the couple's three-year-old child. The suspect told them he was going to attack the child's mother and told the child to tell victim she is a "C\*\*\*, C\*\*\*, C\*\*\*, C\*\*\*, C\*\*\*". The suspect has then told the victim that they had paid a girl £3000 to attack her.

As a result of this interaction, the victim feared for their safety and moved with their child from their property to a friend's address which the suspect does not know.

Following this, the victim received a further call from the suspect, their child answered, and victim was told by suspect that they needed to drop the charges. This is in relation to a previous offence of Actual Bodily Harm, intentional strangulation, and criminal damage that victim had reported and which the suspect was wanted for by police. Victim has hung up the phone and suspect repeatedly attempted to call again. The victim has answered one of the calls and the suspect tells her "YOU WONT BE HAVING ALL THIS IF YOU DROP THE CHARGES, ITLL ALL BE FINE." Followed by "YOU NEED TO DROP THE CHARGES BECAUSE IF I END UP IN COURT YOURE GOING TO LOSE THE KIDS AS YOU WILL BE A DEAD WOMAN". This was followed by "WATCH YOUR BACK... YOU ARE A DEAD WOMAN".

In relation to the incident discussed, I ensured to consider social issues, including those of culture, language, and ethnicity. The victim's first language was English, and considerations were made as part of the victim's code of practice (Ministry of Justice, 2023) to ensure the right to understand and to be understood was adhered, alongside being provided with information regarding the investigation and support tailored to the needs of the victim. I provided regular victim updates to address any concerns raised by the victim, however no issues relating to cultural, language or ethnic concerns were raised. If there were difficulties relating to any of these, I would have ensured to provide a victim-centred approach (Ministry of Justice, 2023), and tailored my communication and support to the victim in line with the Victim's Code of Practice (Ministry of Justice, 2023) - for example by utilising an interpreter for any language barriers, or changing point of contact to a more appropriate individual such as an officer of the same gender as the victim if they would have felt more comfortable with this.

#### FEELINGS:

In order to provide management of risk for the victim, I initially considered the use of an evidence led investigation due to the victim's previous instances of not supporting formal police action, and I felt that I needed to complete a thorough evidential investigation to reduce the risk of further repeat victimisation and repeat offending by securing a successful prosecution.

Evidence-led prosecutions are provided when there is no victim support for domestic abuse cases, using forms of evidence outside of victim testimony to prosecute a case (CJJI, 2020). This will reduce risk of repeat victimisation due to prosecution continuing. However, evidence-led prosecutions can lead to reduced trust in the Police from victims who are not supportive, with the potential that evidence-led prosecutions could prevent further victim reports if they are victimised in the future. Generally, within the justice system there is a lack of standard process in identifying when domestic abuse cases could be evidence led (CJJI, 2020), and there is little research conducted on the impacts of evidence-led prosecutions on victims of crime. A strong emphasis was still placed on evidence-gathering as a key building block within the investigation (CoP, 2013), as such mobile phones were seized to provide evidence of communication, and statements were taken from neighbours of the incident locations too, alongside golden hour enquiries.

## EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS:

Domestic abuse accounts for almost one in five crimes, demonstrating the importance of prioritising domestic violence within policing (CPS, 2023; HMICFRS, 2019) and creating a victim-centred approach to domestic abuse investigations (Ministry of Justice, 2023).

Introduced in 2005 under the Labour government, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) are seen to have a positive impact in the support and management of those vulnerable to risk of harm (Taylor-Dunn & Erol, 2022). The use of IDVAs provide an independent source of professional support for victims of domestic abuse throughout the criminal investigation process and has been noted to provide high levels of victim engagement, positive reviews from victims and a 100% success rate in obtaining restraining orders (Taylor-Dunn & Erol, 2022), reducing the opportunity of re-offending and risk of repeat victimisation. However, the research referenced focused on cyberstalking victims in a limited sample size. The use of IDVAs nonetheless can be seen to fulfil Police requirements of the Victim's Code of Practice (Ministry of Justice, 2023), with IDVA provision linking to referrals from Police. The IDVA used in the investigation I have discussed has provided a high level of support for the victim, assisting in ongoing communications surrounding trial and special measures, and continuing to provide recommendations to Police in relation to how best to support the victim throughout the investigation.

It is held that multi-agency working provides the best response for victims of domestic abuse, with information sharing a key component in ensuring vulnerable individuals are protected (Safe Lives, n.d.). Within my investigation I ensured a Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Risk Assessment (DASHRA) was completed. Due to presence of children during the incident, I also ensured that a Public Protection Notification report (PPN) was completed. These referrals are shared at multi-agency meetings, including strategy discussions and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) (Safe Lives, n.d.). At these meetings, professionals from voluntary and statutory sectors discuss and determine the best support to provide vulnerable individuals at risk of harm (Safe Lives, n.d.). At MARAC meetings, the IDVA also plays a crucial role by speaking on behalf of the victim (Safe Lives, n.d.).

MARAC meetings appear to be successful in the support they provide to people at risk of harm, as it is noted that up to 60% of domestic abuse victims report no further violence following the intervention of MARAC and IDVA support (Safe Lives, n.d.). However, this statistic does not account for repeat victims not reporting future instances of violence against them. Furthermore, MARAC meetings require the threshold of risk of serious harm or murder to be met for a meeting to be completed, meaning that there will be vulnerable people at risk of some harm that will not receive assistance from MARAC (ONS, 2019; Safe Lives, n.d.). However, in the case I discussed, a MARAC meeting was implemented because of my DASHRA completion.

An alternative approach which has also been applied in this case is the provision by police of safeguarding through victim support pack and target hardening. This includes providing a CCTV doorbell, alongside advice regarding keeping doors and windows locked, and keeping a phone charged and on the victim's person at all times. During this case I also provided the victim with a police-provided phone to aid in communication with agencies and safeguarding. Situational crime prevention was theorised by Clarke (1980), and has since been applied operationally by Police, with College of Policing (2022) providing guidance on situational crime prevention. Therefore, the use of target hardening can be seen to provide an effective method in tackling repeat victimisation. The safeguarding advice I provided also was ensured to be individual to the aggrieved, fulfilling objective four of the victim codes of practice (Ministry of Justice, 2023).

In this investigation, the aggrieved had disclosed multiple abuse incidents from their ex-partner which using the NDM model (CoP, 2014) and considering criteria from S17 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (Legislation.gov.uk, 2022), suggested that the victim was eligible for special measures and may be classed as an intimidated witness. This is due to S17(2)(d)(i) taking into account the behaviour of the accused to the victim; and S17(4A)(c) where behaviour of the accused amounts to domestic abuse. I communicated the victim's eligibility for special measures with them, this provided the victim with clarity on court procedures, assisting in supporting the vulnerable person throughout the investigative process (CPS, 2022). The use of special measures also assists in the criminal investigation by increasing likelihood of continued support from the victim, which in turn increases the likelihood of a successful prosecution and reduces the risk of repeat offending by offender towards the victim.

Within this case, the suspect was a repeat offender, with charges brought by CPS following interview in relation to multiple occurrences. The suspect also had served previous time in prison for assaulting the victim. As a result of this, I applied for remand of the suspect in custody after discussing with the victim how they felt in relation to this, aiding in rapport building with the victim and assisting in gaining victim's support in the investigative process. I also used the NDM (CoP, 2014) to risk assess. The application for remand was granted, which I informed the victim of in line with Victim Codes of Practice (Ministry of Justice, 2023). The completion of remand for the suspect supports the victim at risk of harm by mitigating this risk, and tackles repeat offending during the investigation due to the suspect being in custody throughout the process.

It is believed that only 4 in 10 crimes are reported to Police (Crime Survey for England and Wales, 2024), and of domestic abuse, less than 24% is reported to Police (National Centre for Domestic Violence, 2024), suggesting that many crimes where people are at risk of harm go undetected. Additionally, according to Safe Lives (2022), on average victims live with domestic abuse for 4 years before getting help. In the case discussed, I was aware that the aggrieved had been a victim of the suspect previously, and that these offences spanned over a course of years. As such, repeat victimisation was a key concern throughout the investigative process. The prevalence of repeat victimisation in domestic abuse cases is echoed in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2019, cited by CoP, 2024), which showed that 34% of domestic violence victims were repeat victims. However, the Crime Survey for England and Wales covers approximately 75,000 addresses in England and Wales (Crime Survey for England and Wales, 2024), will not have a 100% completion rate, and those that do complete may not provide truthful answers on sensitive subjects such as domestic violence.

#### CONCLUSION AND ACTION PLAN:

Utilising a high-risk domestic abuse case file, with multiple incidents between suspect and their ex-partner, I have reflected using Gibbs' reflective cycle (Gibbs, 1988, cited in University of Edinburgh, 2020) upon my actions regarding this investigation.

In this essay I have critically evaluated the appropriateness of different approaches in supporting and managing vulnerable people at risk of harm during the investigative process, including the use of IDVAs, multi-agency meetings, regular communication in line with Victim's Code of Practice and special measures provision, situational crime prevention through target hardening, and legal safeguards such as remanding suspect in custody. Based upon my research, there are many approaches to supporting those at risk of harm, both by police and other agencies, with multi-agency working key to providing a comprehensive level of support to vulnerable individuals.

I have also explored repeat victimisation and repeat offending within the context of this investigation, where domestic violence victims are at substantial risk of repeat victimisation which is likely to take place even before first reported to police. The steps taken to support those at risk of harm also serve to protect against repeat victimisation and minimise risk of repeat offending.

2124 Words

## **Task 2**

### **Relevant areas of the National Policing Curriculum:**

#### **Conducting Investigations**

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

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

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

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

#### **Answer:**

##### **INTRODUCTION:**

In this essay I will critically evaluate the processes employed in a complex investigation I have been involved in, in particular with regard to the fast-track actions I have utilised. I will also seek to evaluate the support I have provided to victims, witnesses, and offenders during this investigation, with reference to the management of my own personal values and attitudes in relation to this.

Throughout this essay, I will utilise Gibbs' reflective cycle (Gibbs, 1988, cited in University of Edinburgh, 2020) to reflect upon my actions regarding this investigation.

##### **DESCRIPTION:**

Complex investigations typically arise from serious crime as defined in Section 93(4) of the Police Act 1997 as conduct which:

- (a) involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conducted by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose or
- (b) the offence or one of the offences is an offence for which a person who has attained the age of twenty-one and has no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three years or more.'

The specific investigation I will be referring to throughout this essay relates to a case of two counts of S18 Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent. Police received a call from Victim A, stating themselves and Victim B have been stabbed, they have attended an address in a taxi following phone conversations with another person who has told both victims to attend for a fight. Upon attendance there have been 7 people present and the victims have been attacked with a machete. Victim A states that they had been stabbed in their arm and that Victim B has had their back slashed. The victims were escorted to hospital.

Upon my introduction to the investigation, I ensured to appraise myself of the incident on Police systems and the profiles of each suspect, to understand warning markers, the circumstances of the case, and what actions were outstanding. At this time there were 7 suspects, one outstanding suspect (referred to as L), one suspect was in hospital for treatments to an unexplained arm fracture (referred to as K), and another suspect that had handed themselves into custody and was being dealt with by other officers (referred to as TB). The other 4 suspects had been arrested and released on bail. The weapon used had not been found at this point.

## FEELINGS

When first being involved in this investigation, I became the officer in charge of the case. This presented a high level of responsibility, with the potential for this occurrence to be referred to as a critical incident. A critical incident is defined as any incident where the effectiveness of the police response is likely to have a significant impact on the confidence of the victim, their family and/or the community (CoP, 2021). As such, this investigation was the largest I had dealt with so far, and I felt a duty to ensure a victim-centred approach was provided, in line with my own personal values and attitudes, and in adherence to the Victim's Code of Practice (Ministry of Justice, 2023). Compassion was required for the victims who had been subject to a violent attack with significant injuries, and an investigative mindset was paramount to ascertaining the events that had led to these injuries.

As such, I completed regular contact with victims to ensure they were aware of the investigation progress and to assist in their continued support of the investigation. I liaised with the victims during suspect custody procedures to ensure they were able to make representations on their views regarding bail and remand options, and to safeguard throughout the investigative process.

## EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS

ACPO (2006) state that there are five investigative building blocks to be used in murder investigations, however these principles can be seen as applicable to all investigations. The building blocks include preservation of life, preservation of scenes, securing evidence, identifying victims, and identifying suspects. I utilised these building blocks continuously as a guide during the progression of the investigation.

At the start of any investigation, a key process to be utilised can be seen as the employment of golden hour enquiries (CoP, 2013). The golden hour principle identifies positive actions that can protect, preserve, and gather material that is time sensitive, and increases opportunities to achieve the five building blocks (ACPO, 2006). Namely, golden hour

enquiries can assist in offender identification, and in securing a positive criminal justice outcome. The golden hour principle is applicable to any investigator involved in an investigation, and different opportunities may present themselves throughout the investigation such as discovery of a new scene or following the arrest of a suspect. In the investigation discussed, golden hour enquiries were completed and assisted in the detainment of L, where a large knife was found which became a further scene for forensic analysis.

More generally there are also actions that if completed immediately, can assist in fulfilling the investigative building blocks (ACPO, 2006), these actions are referred to as fast-track actions (CoP, 2013). The College of Policing (2013) identify multiple fast track actions for consideration in an investigation, and these are broken into the following categories:

#### Victim and witnesses:

During this investigation, there were two identified victims in line with the five building blocks (ACPO, 2006), however injuries to suspect K were unexplained and therefore I made consideration for K to be a victim in this incident as well. K's injuries were explored during their suspect interview; however no explanation was provided. As part of the investigative building blocks (ACPO, 2006), it was also ensured that K, alongside victim A and B, were provided with medical treatment prior to interviews taking place in line with preservation of life.

In line with special measures applicability for vulnerable and intimidated witnesses (CPS, 2022), ABE provisions were also offered to both victims, with Victim A agreeing to complete an ABE interview. Victim B did not want to complete an ABE, so a statement was completed by Victim B with colleagues. Forensic opportunities were also considered, with clothing seized and elimination DNA samples completed for use in comparison with any subsequent weapons found.

#### Location:

During this investigation, crime scenes were identified and cordoned, meaning scenes had been preserved in line with investigative building blocks (ACPO, 2006), considering Locard's exchange principle which states that every contact leaves a trace (CoP, 2020). Attending officers established multiple scenes including properties and a road, with items being seized including clothing and mobile phones. Photographs were taken and body worn video was utilised to provide scene walkthroughs, which I reviewed for evidential material to further assist in the investigation.

Section 18 PACE searches were also conducted at two properties following suspect arrests to assist in the investigation and search for items including the weapon used. Utilising the golden hour principle (CoP, 2013), I also obtained CCTV from the Council, as this is time dependent with CCTV being periodically deleted.

#### Suspect:

Suspects were identified following initial disclosure from the victims during their 999 call and upon first officer attendance. There were seven suspects initially under investigation for the assaults, one of which (K) was receiving hospital treatment for injuries which were unexplained. For suspect K, medical attention was provided in line with PACE 1984 Code H

(Gov.uk, 2022) and in line with the preservation of life investigative building block (ACPO, 2006). Clothing was seized from K as a golden hour enquiry (CoP, 2013) for forensic material; and following K's return from hospital myself and my colleague undertook the interview for K. This interview was to ascertain their involvement and knowledge of the offence, to gain an account of the injury sustained by K, and to assist in the location of suspect L who was still outstanding. K provided a no comment interview, and following consultation with the victims in line with the victim's code of practice (Ministry of Justice, 2023), K was bailed from custody with conditions to safeguard the victims, and to not impact on the investigation by communicating with the co-accused suspects.

Alongside forensic opportunities through clothing, another fast-track action to assist in suspect identification (CoP, 2013; ACPO, 2006) during this investigation was the seizure of phones from all arrested individuals and properties searched during S18 PACE searches; this was due to the internet-facilitated nature of the offence (CPS, n.d.). I completed authorisation forms to use data from the seized phones to review communication between the suspects relating to the offence. In doing so, I provided clear and proportionate parameters for what would be searched to ensure minimal intrusion and protect the suspects' human right to privacy (EHRC, 2021). This was also used to assist in locating outstanding suspect L.

To assist in the fast-track action of locating an outstanding suspect, I completed a production order request to court for the phone data belonging to L. From this information granted by the court, I was able to complete work to see the location of phone use by L, and I requested assistance from a specialist department to create mapping based on radio frequencies from L's phone. This was paramount to locating and completing arrest enquiries to further the investigation.

Liaising with a police force in a different area, L was arrested in England, with a knife matching the description provided by the victims in this investigation found on the bed L was sleeping on when Police entered. This knife, alongside a phone L had in their possession, were seized. I was able to conduct further fast track actions from this new material in the case, completing forensic submissions for the knife to ascertain DNA in line with the securing evidence investigative building block (ACPO, 2006). Doing so also considered Locard's Exchange Principle (CoP, 2020) and utilised the golden hour principle by getting the knife examined whilst still within forensic timeframes for limited degradation (CoP, 2013). L's phone was also authorised for a data download to assist in the investigation.

I interviewed L following their arrest and provided them support as required in PACE 1984 Code H (Gov.uk, 2021), arranging an Appropriate Adult for L and terminating the interview early as L appeared tired and unfit to continue. In consultation with the victims, I made the decision to apply for L to be remanded in custody, which was approved. During the remand period, this provided another opportunity for a fast-track action of surveillance of prison calls. Utilising this information assisted in the securing of evidence (ACPO, 2006).

Throughout the investigation my hypothesis was reviewed based on new information that was obtained through investigative actions. Based on the ABEs completed by victim A, and the statement provided by Victim B the following account was obtained. Victim B named L as responsible and stated that no other person had a knife. There were evidential difficulties due to Victim B never meeting L in person previously, and the person alleged to be L by Victim B was also stated by Victim B to be wearing a balaclava at the time, in a location at night

with minimal lighting. Due to this disclosure, it would not be possible to conduct an ID procedure with Victim B, which would have been a potential fast track action to support criminal proceedings in this investigation (CoP, 2013). Furthermore, Victim A did not know the name of the person that attacked them, and disclosed they believed it was L as they had been told this by Victim B.

Due to Victim B and Victim A's disclosures, L became the only suspect in the case, and the six other suspects faced no further police action.

## CONCLUSION AND ACTION PLAN

As the investigation progressed, forensics for the seized knife returned with DNA for L, but Victim B's DNA was not present, and Victim A's DNA profile was poorly represented. No blood or tissue was found on the knife when forensically examined. Although golden hour enquiries were completed and more generally these can assist in securing a positive criminal justice outcome, unfortunately in this case due to identification issues and limited forensic evidence, the CPS decided to drop criminal charges in relation to the remaining suspect L.

Throughout this essay I have critically evaluated the processes employed in a complex investigation I have been involved in, in particular regarding the fast-track actions I have utilised including utilisation of the five building blocks to investigations (ACPO, 2006), and encompassing digital and forensic opportunities. I have also evaluated the support I have provided to victims, witnesses, and offenders during this investigation, utilising PACE Code H and the victim's code of practice as reference in line with my own personal values and attitudes.

2106 Words

### **Authentication signature:**

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

**Signed: Colby SANDELLS**

**Date: 16.07.2024**

## 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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CJJI (2020) *Evidence led domestic abuse prosecutions*. Available at <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/cjji/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/01/Joint-Inspection-Evidence-Led-Domestic-Abuse-Jan19-rpt.pdf> (Accessed: 26 June 2024)

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