

For Consideration	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2013
Report of:	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
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Agenda Item:	8

Domestic Violence: "Protect, support and respond to repeat female victims of medium risk domestic abuse" Update Report

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report presents the Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) with an overview of progress to date on one of the key priorities of the Police and Crime Plan, Domestic Abuse, which is being led by the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (Deputy Commissioner), Chris Cutland.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Panel note and discuss the Deputy Commissioner's Report.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner has made a commitment within the Police and Crime Plan 2013-18 to prioritise budgets to protecting, supporting and responding to repeat female victims of domestic abuse, especially medium risk, which will be led by the Deputy Commissioner.
- 3.2 The Panel of the 24 June 2013 meeting requested an update on Domestic Violence from the Deputy Commissioner to be presented to the each of the Panel meetings.

4. Summary of Key Points (this should include background information and options appraisal if applicable)

4.1 National Overview

The 25 November 2013 marked White Ribbon Day¹ and the UN Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women². The Home Secretary, the Rt Hon

¹ [White Ribbon Campaign.co.uk](http://WhiteRibbonCampaign.co.uk)

² [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](http://InternationalDayfortheEliminationofViolenceagainstWomen) By resolution 54/134 of 17 December 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and invited governments, international

Theresa May, announced on this day the intention to roll-out two initiatives to tackle domestic violence and abuse across police forces in England and Wales from March 2014:³

1. Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme: Clare's Law

This is a scheme allowing the police to disclose to individuals details of their partners' abusive pasts, which will be extended to police forces across England and Wales from March 2014. It follows a successful 14 month pilot in four police force areas,⁴ which provided more than 100 people with potentially life-saving information.⁵ Every request under Clare's Law is thoroughly checked by a panel made up of police, probation services and other agencies to ensure information is only passed on where it is lawful, proportionate and necessary. Trained police officers and advisers are then on hand to support victims through the difficult and sometimes dangerous transitional period. Clare's Law, or the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, has two functions:

'right to ask' - this enables someone to ask the police about a partner's previous history of domestic violence or violent acts. A precedent for such a scheme exists with the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme;⁶ and **'right to know'** - police can proactively disclose information in prescribed circumstances.

2. Domestic Violence Protection Orders

This is a national extension from March 2014, to provide further protection to vulnerable victims. The Domestic Violence Protection Orders approach has two stages:

Where the police have reasonable grounds for believing that a perpetrator has used or threatened violence towards the victim and the victim is at risk of future violent behaviour, they can issue a Domestic Violence Protection Notice on the spot, provided they have the authorisation of an officer at Superintendent rank.

The magistrates' court must then hear the case for the Protection Order itself – which is the second step – within 48 hours of the Notice being made. If granted, the Order may last between a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 28 days. This strikes the right balance between immediate protection for the victim and judicial oversight.

4.2 Local Overview

Between September 2012 – September 2013, the Force took part in the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (also known as "Clare's Law"). The pilot was deemed as a success, after the Force was able to arm 10 women

organisations and NGOs to organise activities designed to raise public awareness of the problem on that day

³ [Home Office Schemes announced](#)

⁴ Gwent, Wiltshire, Nottinghamshire and Greater Manchester

⁵ [Home Office: Pilot for Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, also known as Clare's Law](#) – the pilot scheme followed a successful Home Office public consultation which received more than 250 responses from a wide range of high profile statutory and voluntary organisations

⁶ [Gov.UK Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme](#)

with information which could protect them from violence. The Clare's Law pilot, started with Gwent and Wiltshire, with Nottinghamshire and Greater Manchester joining the pilot which ran up to September 2013.⁷

4.3 Performance against the Police and Crime Plan

The Police and Crime Plan identifies repeat victims of domestic abuse as a priority activity to focus on. The following performance to October 2013 has been reported in the Force Performance and Insight Report and highlighted in the Police and Crime Commissioner's Update Report:

Theme 1: Protect, support and respond to victims, witnesses and vulnerable people

- **Measure: % reduction of people that have been repeat victims within the previous 12 months.**
 - Year to date (April to October 2013) there has been an 11.1% reduction in the number of people that have been repeat victims of Domestic Violence, Hate Crime or Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) within the previous 12 months when compared to the same period of last year. This equates to 679 fewer repeat victims.
- **Target Profile: Reduce the number of repeat victims of Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour by 5% year on year compared to 2-12-13.**
 - ASB accounts for the majority of the volume on this measure, strong performance in terms of ASB repeat victims is serving to mask an increase in repeat victims of domestic violence with the Force currently experiencing an increase of 9.7% (103 victims) when compared to last year. This is linked to an overall increase in Domestic Violence in the Force area. This increase in repeat victims of Domestic Violence continues to be seen on both the City and the County, with the City experiencing increases on all three operational areas year-to-date, the largest being City Central with a 41% (34 victims) increase. On the County, Ashfield, Gedling and Rushcliffe district areas are all proving successful in reducing repeat victims of Domestic Violence, however, performance in the Newark and Sherwood Area is of concern, with an increase of 33.3% (24 victims).⁸

4.4 Through working with partners the Force aims to reduce the number of repeat victims by providing effective intervention at the time of the first incident. This situation will be monitored with a detailed report to be included in the January Performance and Insight report.

4.5 The Deputy Commissioner has commissioned a further piece of work for the Force to conduct on providing an overview of where Domestic Violence has increased the most geographically, and to do more analysis on the levels of

⁷ [Gov.UK: Clare's Law pilot to stop domestic violence](#)

⁸ Nottinghamshire Police's Performance and Insight Report

repeat victimisation for specific locations to gain further understanding on the proportion of first time Domestic violence incidents compared to the number of repeats.

- 4.6 The Force has also launched its 'Alliance Against Violence' campaign which addresses all aspects of violence.
- 4.7 At the Safer Nottinghamshire Performance Board (SNB) on 30th August 2013, a review of Partnership Plus areas was commissioned by ACC Simon Torr. The aim of the review was to make recommendations to the SNB for actions that could add more value to current activity to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in local communities.
- 4.8 Key outcome measures will include domestic abuse victim's satisfaction and reduction of fear together with the measures to report through to the Deputy Commissioner as part of the ongoing monitoring of service delivery. **Appendix A** provides an overview of the Performance framework.

4.9 HMIC: Domestic Violence

The Home Secretary has commissioned HMIC⁹ to conduct an inspection into how police forces are responding to Domestic Violence.¹⁰ This inspection will cover all police forces in England and Wales and will report in April 2014. The Home Secretary has asked that HMIC consider the following issues in their inspection:

- The effectiveness of the police approach to domestic violence and abuse, focusing on the outcomes for victims.
- Whether risks to victims of domestic violence and abuse are adequately managed.
- Identifying lessons learnt from how the police approach domestic violence and abuse; and
- Making any necessary recommendations in relation to these findings when considered alongside current practice.

- 4.10 The on site inspection took place between 4-7 November 2013. The draft report for Nottinghamshire will be sent prior to its production as part of the thematic report in April 2014.

4.11 Progress Assurance

The Deputy Commissioner is continuing to monitor the progress of the Force's Improvement Plan outlined from the work of the Police Authority's Scrutiny report.

4.12 Commissioned Academic Review of Repeat Victims of Medium Risk Domestic Abuse

⁹ HMIC: Home Secretary Commission: Police response to domestic violence and abuse

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-review-of-police-response-to-domestic-violence>

The Deputy Commissioner launched a tendering process in August inviting academic organisations to submit a bid for the project, which will assess service provision to vulnerable domestic violence victims and identify gaps where support could be strengthened.

- 4.13 Following a formal selection process, it was announced that the project had been awarded to a joint bid from the Department of Criminology, University of Leicester, which will be led by Dr Rebecca Barnes and Dr Clare Gunby in conjunction with Professor Carol Hedderman, Dr Sarah Hodgkinson, Tammy Ayres and Jo Roberts. The team of academics will also be working with Kerry Sullivan from Nottingham-based domestic violence agency Equation.

4.14 'Nottinghamshire County' Review of Domestic Abuse Services

The Deputy Commissioner has allocated funding to undertake a time limited piece of work in April 2013-14 to:

- Comprehensively map current domestic violence resources in order to fully understand what is currently being spent across Nottinghamshire.
 - Review the evidence of what works in tackling domestic violence.
 - Conduct qualitative research to include focus groups with victims of domestic use, services users and service providers across Nottinghamshire.
 - Identify any gaps in current provision.
 - Assess prioritisation of resources and evidence of effectiveness.
 - Review evidence of what works from the City study, Police Scrutiny Committee outcomes, Literature review and Summary of NICE recommendations.¹¹
 - Identify options and recommendations for improvement.
- 4.15 It is anticipated that a wide range of stakeholders will be consulted as part of the review and that it will be overseen by a small steering group. The review will be complimented by including the City Domestic Violence Review, and will be completed in time to feed into the 2014-15 budget preparations for the refreshing of the Police and Crime Plan.

4.16 Next Steps

The 2013 Joint Partnership Strategic Assessment has been completed and has identified that tackling repeat domestic violence remains a top priority for the Police and Crime Commissioner as it does across the community safety partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

5 Financial Implications and Budget Provision

¹¹ [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence - guidance](#)

- 5.1 A substantial amount of money is invested in domestic violence activity and historically this has come from and through a variety of different sources and agencies and has often been time limited. There is currently work being undertaken to develop the Commissioning model to inform the Refresh of the Police and Crime Plan and feed into the 2014-15 budget.

6 Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 This will be monitored through the service provision and reviews.

7 Equality Implications

- 7.1 There has been a requirement to conduct an Equality Impact Assessment for the development of the Police and Crime Plan, together with the inclusion within Service Specifications that the delivery of commissioned services around 'protecting, supporting and responding to repeat victims of domestic abuse' must be able to meet and reflect the needs of a diverse range of service users to ensure that there is no one disadvantaged due to their cultural background, linguistic ability, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion, marital status, pregnancy or age.

8 Risk Management

- 8.1 The risk for repeat domestic violence has been identified through Performance monitoring and remains a priority within the Police and Crime Plan.

9 Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 9.1 In September 2012, the Home Office announced that the definition of [domestic violence](#) (DV) and abuse would be widened to include those aged 16 to 17 and wording to reflect coercive control. The decision followed a consultation which saw respondents call overwhelmingly for this change.

10 Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 In November 2012 the Home Office made clear their ambition to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG) by introducing two new criminal offences for stalking. Additionally, in March 2013 the definition of DV changed to include under 18s and a full review of the VAWG action plan was published by the Home Office.
- 10.2 On 25 November 2013 the Home Office announced the roll-out of two initiatives to tackle domestic violence and abuse across police forces in England and Wales from March 2014:
- Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme: Clare's Law
 - Domestic Violence Protection Orders

11 Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 Through the Joint Partnership Strategic Assessment 2012, repeat Domestic Violence was identified as a priority action under the strategic theme of: Protect, support and respond to victims, witnesses and vulnerable people.
- 11.2 This has been also identified as a priority in the 2013 Joint Partnership Strategic Assessment.

12 Appendices

- 12.1 Appendix A: Performance Measures

13. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

- 13.1 None

Appendix A: Performance Measures

The Deputy Commissioner has developed performance measures through consultation which will be managed, monitored and reported in the following way:

Targets	Measure
Protection	
Positive feedback from at least 85% of service users to be measured through provider designed satisfaction form to reflect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in feelings of fear • Improved Feelings of safety • Improved Confidence in accessing support • Improved quality of life • Reporting of fewer repeat incidents of domestic abuse • Less medium risk women being murdered. 	Annually
Reduction in repeat medium risk survivors in each area by 5 %	Annually
Support	
50% of those who use the service to have reduced risk over a period of 6 months	Annually
Engagement with 40 women survivors over a one year period for each area	Quarterly
Attendance at 90% of appropriate Vulnerable Persons Panels (VPP) / CDAP meetings	Quarterly
Response	
30% to have maintained reduced risk over a period of 6 months	Annually
Contact with Service User within 2 working days of referral in 80% of cases	Quarterly