

**PCC Domestic Abuse Position Paper 2020: Improving the Response to Domestic Violence and Abuse in Nottinghamshire**  
Action Plan

Key	
	Action is complete.
	Action has begun and has achieved progress expected at this stage.
	Action has not yet started.
	Action is sequential and not expected to begin until later in 2021.

Theme	Ref	Recommendation	Lead agencies	Status	Update January - March 2021
Policy context	1	The PCC to work with key stakeholders across the violence against women and girls sector to develop a whole systems Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and Action plan for 2020-2025 by March 2021. This should include indicators of success against which performance will be tracked.	PCC City Council County Council Violence Reduction Unit CCGs		The OPCC is currently developing a VAWG strategy and action plan. Initial consultation on the vision, aims and objectives was conducted in January and February, working through city and county DVA strategic groups and third sector forums. A draft strategy will be produced in March 2021. In addition, the OPCC has responded to the Government's national VAWG Call for Evidence.
Nature and prevalence of domestic abuse	2	The PCC to continue to work with local authority partners to co-commission professional development activity to embed coercive control, emotional abuse, economic abuse, parental abuse and technologically-assisted abuse through local training	PCC City Council County Council		This is ongoing work. The PCC continues to work with his local authority partners to co-commission this activity. Services are formally reviewed quarterly, however during Covid services are reporting weekly on pressures through the County's Operational Pressures Escalation Levels reporting and monthly on referral numbers and waiting lists to MoJ.
	3	As part of the VAWG strategy and action plan, the PCC to work with partners to take forward work to address the particular issues faced by migrants and children affected by domestic abuse, bidding for national funding if available.	PCC City Council County Council Violence Reduction Unit CCGs		This will be taken forward once the VAWG strategy has been completed.
Prevention	4	The PCC and local authority partners to continue to invest in universal and targeted education, prevention and awareness raising activities and campaigns across the city and county where there is clear evidence of impact, involving health agencies as delivery partners. Where possible, the PCC and partners to increase funding to ensure consistent city/county wide coverage	PCC City Council County Council CCGs		This is ongoing work. The PCC continues to work with his local authority partners to co-commission this activity. He secured MoJ funding in 2020-1 which increased the number of social media campaigns to highlight support services available. He will seek further funding for 2021-2 for targeted awareness raising.
	5	The PCC to work with the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit to continue to fund and then evaluate initiatives to respond to children and young people who have witnessed violence with knives.	PCC Violence Reduction Unit		In 2020-1 the VRU funded Juno Women's Aid and Nottinghamshire Women's Aid to deliver targeted support to children affected by domestic abuse involving a knife. The projects began part way through 2020-1 and whilst feedback has been positive, it is too soon to evaluate them. The VRU has allocated £60,000 in 2021-2 to continue to support the initiatives and will then assess their success.
Identification	6	Nottinghamshire Police to drive further improvements in the domestic crime and incident identification rate, with a focus on spotting the signs of abuse and ensuring routine enquiry as part of interactions with potentially vulnerable groups.	Nottinghamshire Police		Over 1400 front line officers and staff received updated training on Domestic Abuse Matters in 2019/2020, with over 140 DA Champions identified. This training was delivered by Women's Aid and updated knowledge and awareness of the changing knowledge of DA including coercive control behaviour and evidence led prosecutions. Maintaining momentum, spotting the signs of domestic abuse, coercive control etc was subject to a mandatory video input, one of a series of 7 force videos on vulnerability, as part of the 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business' delivered in early 2021. The correct recording of domestic abuse is closely scrutinised under the direction of the Crime Registrar.
	7	The PCC and City and County Councils to review front line capacity in view of any increasing identification rate. Further resource may be required.	PCC City Council County Council		The PCC continues to work with the local authorities to keep frontline capacity under review. Services are formally reviewed quarterly, however during Covid services report weekly on pressures through the County's Operational Pressures Escalation Levels reporting and monthly on referral numbers and waiting lists to MoJ. The PCC is aware that support services continue to be under pressure during the pandemic and will submit a funding bid to MoJ for additional IDVA capacity during March 2021.
	8	The PCC to work with the City and County Council and clinical commissioning groups to review the take up of support services across all of Nottinghamshire's communities and develop an action plan to improve access to support services from under-represented groups, including hidden harm in BAME and rural communities and amongst elderly and male survivors.	PCC City Council County Council CCGs		The PCC will include a strategic approach to improving access to services from under-represented groups in the VAWG Strategy. In the meantime, the PCC will apply to MoJ in March 2021 for additional funding for specialist DVA posts for specific protected characteristics including male survivors and BAME survivors.
Safeguarding	9	Nottinghamshire Police to lead work to improve the use of domestic violence protection orders.	Nottinghamshire Police		DVPO/DVPNs are the last resort of positive action. Typically, Nottinghamshire performs well in terms of good court conviction rates – being above national average for conviction rates for ALL of the past four months, but the use of orders for non-convictions have been historically relatively low. In order to complement prosecutions a safeguarding post has been recruited to look at improving the number of civil orders that the force obtains. This role will focus on all the civil orders however the priority is DVPNs. Numbers have dramatically increased as a result. We have provided training to Public Protection/Prisoner Handling teams/Superintendents/custody staff new recruits. There has also been a change to domestic abuse working practices within Neighbourhood Policing Teams which allows NPT's to focus on perpetrators, bail checks, DVPN/O checks, child at risk plans etc. and actively enforce the civil orders identifying breaches and further offending.
	10	Nottinghamshire Police to work with co-commissioned support services to improve the rate of take up of Claire's law.	Nottinghamshire Police		Nottinghamshire Police have recently introduced a number of measures intended to improve the number of DVDS referrals in order to safeguard victims. These include internal communications on the force intranet, training to staff, a standing agenda item for MARAC chairs to consider DVDS, inclusion in the Domestic Abuse investigation/victim booklet, promotion through the domestic abuse champions and promoted as an action for serial perpetrators on the IOM cohort /repeat victim. In 2020, a business case to formally request the resources to increase to use of the Right to Know DVDS disclosure was agreed at the July Force Executive Board. Two members of staff have been recruited into the DASU. This process now provides a systematic review of every domestic abuse case assessing victims eligibility for a DVDS across all standard/medium risk (high risk being considered at MARAC) and offer a right to know where required. This has resulted in a significant increase in the numbers of DVDS being completed and therefore improved safeguarding for survivors. The numbers had already significantly increased (doubled) from 2018 to 2019 and these will continue to rise as all offences are reviewed and considered for DVDS.
	11	The PCC to work with the City and County Councils to continue to co-commission high quality evidence based support services and monitor their capacity to provide high quality helpline, MARAC and IDVA support, reviewing the level of IDVA provision as necessary. To include work with CCGs to learn from hospital based IDVA provision.	PCC City Council County Council CCGs		This is ongoing work. The PCC continues to work with his local authority partners to co-commission this activity. The PCC is aware of the pressures on services, including IDVA and will submit an expression of interest to MoJ in March 2021 for additional IDVAs.
	12	The PCC and partners to work together to ensure that the forthcoming statutory duty for domestic abuse accommodation is properly funded and does not have a negative impact on other specialist services.	PCC City Council County Council		The local authorities were notified of their 2021-2 funding for the statutory duty in February 2021. Both local authorities are agreeing commissioning priorities at the time of writing. It is not yet clear what funding will be available in future years for the duty - this will be kept under review by the PCC.

Longer term support and recovery	13	The clinical commissioning groups to review their responsibilities for domestic abuse services through their partnership arrangements with the PCC, and City and County Councils.	CCGs PCC City Council County Council		The PCC met with the CCGs in mid January 2021 to agree a way forward. CCGs are consulting internally. This work will be taken forward after April 2021, when the CCGs are facing fewer Covid related pressures.
	14	The PCC and partners to improve understanding of the needs, experiences and service response to male survivors of domestic abuse, working with the existing male support service.	PCC City Council County Council CCGs		The PCC is aware of the need to enable greater numbers of male domestic abuse survivors to access support and together with the City and County Council has consulted with the commissioned male support service about gaps in provision. He is seeking additional funding from MoJ for the male support service in March 2021.
Rehabilitation and behaviour change	15	The PCC to work with partners to put a long term DVA prevention strategy in place, as part of the Violence Against Girls Strategy and Action Plan and informed by the VRU's literature review.	PCC Nottinghamshire Police Probation, Violence Reduction Unit Local authorities CCGs		This work will follow once the VAWG strategy and action plan has been developed.
	16	The PCC to ensure the successful roll out and evaluation of the new Respect accredited DV perpetrator programme	PCC		The PCC secured funding to pilot and evaluate a new domestic abuse perpetrator programme in November 2020. Since then he has awarded contracts to Freeva (Jenkins Centre) and Equaton to co-deliver the new perpetrator programme. Funding has also been awarded to Juno and Nottinghamshire Women's Aid to provide support to the partners of the perpetrators in the programme. Notts Police has agreed referral criteria for the programme and an evaluation specification is being developed.
	17	The PCC, Nottinghamshire Police, CRC and commissioned support services to consider expansion to build on the success of the DVA IOM Scheme.	PCC Nottinghamshire Police Probation		The wider IOM scheme is currently being reviewed in the light of the Government's new Neighbourhood IOM strategy, with partner views being sought on cohort priorities. The PCC's view is that IOM needs to maintain its focus on DVA, however there should be a way of achieved a balance between safeguarding, risk and volume.
Criminal Justice System	18	Improve oversight and scrutiny of the appropriate use of 'release under investigation' and pre-charge bail pending legislative/ guidance changes.	PCC Nottinghamshire Police		"RUI" is subject to the Improving Investigations Meeting chaired by the Head of Crime. It is also the subject of performance packs and force scrutiny. Notts Police is awaiting the potential changes to the Bail Act and the implications of RUI before establishing the next steps. These changes are currently in nationwide consultation by the Home Office.
	19	Ensure ongoing monitoring of domestic abuse satisfaction rates and support action to maintain strong levels of survivor satisfaction with police, particularly via improvements in follow up and feedback.	PCC Nottinghamshire Police		Feedback from victim satisfaction is shared with the Head Of Public Protection on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis. The weekly based feedback allows officers to be praised on positive feedback, whilst allowing supervisors to address service recovery when feedback is not positive. Victim satisfaction levels remain challenging but static in terms of keeping victim informed. Numerous efforts have been deployed to reinforce the importance of updates, including the introduction of Victim Code of Practice ("VCOP") compliance in teams performance packs. However, VCOP compliance does not seemingly always keep victims satisfied in these surveys. A business case is currently being developed to consider additional resources being invested for keeping victims informed for domestic abuse.
	20	Work with HM Courts and criminal justice partners to ensure access to justice and sufficient specialist DV provision across the city and county.	PCC Nottinghamshire Police Crown Prosecution Service		Nottinghamshire Police and the PCC have agreed a pilot "DA Partnership Car" initiative which aims to improve criminal justice outcomes. The pilot is based on a model which has been successful elsewhere in the country. It will run from April 2021-March 2022 and will be evaluated against identified measures of success.
	21	Police and CPS to explore opportunities to improve use and understanding of evidence-led prosecutions alongside appropriate training, messaging and sharing of best practice.	PCC Nottinghamshire Police Crown Prosecution Service		Evidence led prosecutions are part of an ongoing piece of work within Public Protection. The monitoring of such is a national problem for forces and CPS. However, in 2020, the force worked with criminal justice partners to ensure that these investigations are now identified and can be quantified. Nottinghamshire Police can now report on the number of evidence led prosecutions force wide. In terms of identifying missed opportunities, MI (management of information) have developed a search string which enables cases to be identified where the survivor is not supportive but where other evidence like officer statements, other witnesses and body worn video exist. These are dip tested as part of the Improving Investigations group chaired by the Head of Crime. The importance of evidence led prosecutions has been reinforced by an internal communication strategy. Posters have been placed in all custody suites/PP and PHT offices. The message has been reinforced in the Domestic Abuse video clip which is part of a series of 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business' videos on the intranet to inform officers and reinforce the importance of assessing vulnerability.
Covid 19	22	The PCC work with local authorities and Nottinghamshire Police to ensure that critical specialist support services can continue safely throughout and after the pandemic.	PCC City Council County Council Nottinghamshire Police		This is ongoing work. The PCC continues to work with his local authority partners to co-commission this activity. The PCC is submitting a funding application to MoJ for additional frontline support. In addition, the PCC has agreed to fund a domestic abuse partnership car pilot which will increase take up of support by survivors.
	23	The PCC to work with Nottinghamshire Police, local authorities and commissioned support services to identify and implement lessons learnt from Covid-19.	PCC City Council County Council Nottinghamshire Police CCGs		This is ongoing work. The PCC continues to work with his local authority partners to identify and implement lessons learnt. This is informing his March funding bid to MoJ for additional support.