



Heddlu Police  
**DYFED  
POWYS**

**Force Response to the OPCC Report and recommendations from their deep Dive report into Stalking & Harassment (June 2023).**

Dyfed Powys Police would like to thank the OPCC for undertaking a thematic review of Stalking & Harassment. The force acknowledges the content of the report, especially the victim feedback.

It's pleasing to see the report acknowledges the work which is underway in force, and moving forward the recommendations will be integrated with our force plans, as we strive to improve our response.

**The Stalking & Harassment response in Dyfed Powys Police:**

The strategic response to Stalking and Harassment is led by the Assistance Chief Constable with support from the Detective Superintendent for Protecting Vulnerable People.

The operational response is provided by the force control room and response officers. The management of investigations and suspects are the responsibility of local investigation and offender management units with support from centralized functions.

The longer term management of stalking remains with the officer in the case and their supervisor unless the risk is transferred to integrated offender management or multi agency public protection arrangements. The force makes use of civil orders to manage perpetrators in the community.

Over the last 12 months the Domestic Abuse & Stalking Perpetrator Coordinator has worked with officers, staff, and external organisations to improve the knowledge of the perpetrator programme. In the last 15 months we have seen an increase in the number of perpetrators entering the programme.



Prif Gwnstabl Chief Constable Dr Richard Lewis

Pencadlys Heddlu, Blwch SB 99, Llangynnw, Caerfyrddin. SA31 2PF  
Police Headquarters, PO BOX 99, Llangunnor, Carmarthen. SA31 2PF

[www.dyfed-powys.police.uk](http://www.dyfed-powys.police.uk)

Mae Heddlu Dyfed-Powys yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Byddwn ni'n sicrhau ein bod ni'n ymateb yn eich dewis iaith ac ni fydd oedi mewn perthynas ag unrhyw ohebiaeth drwy'r Gymraeg.

Dyfed-Powys Police welcomes correspondence in Welsh and in English, and we will ensure that we respond to any correspondence through the language of your choice. Corresponding via the medium of Welsh will not endure any delay.



## Response to the Recommendations

In total there were 18 recommendations in the report, and we've provided a short response to each.

### RESOURCING:

1. **Longer term sustainable funding should be identified by the Force for the Domestic Abuse and Stalking Perpetrator Co-Ordinator post.**

During the financial year, the force will actively seek long-term funding for the domestic abuse and stalking perpetrator coordinator role.

2. **Recruitment into the Civil Orders Officer role should be prioritised. One of the initial focuses of the role should be the development of a process to monitor offenders subject to all civil orders.**

This post has been sanctioned by the force and will come to fruition in Autumn 2023.

3. **Officers should be encouraged to proactively seek specialist support and advice from Legal Services, Stalking Champions and the Offender Management Unit when dealing with stalking and harassment cases.**

Once the civil orders officer is in place they will provide support to officers, and they will be able to coordinate a contact with those specialists who can provide information on the variety of orders and the application process.

Detective Sergeants who manage the daily discussion process will continue to prompt officers around civil measures; and signpost staff to those with specialist knowledge

### TRAINING:

4. **The Force should review the impact of the refreshed Stalking Champion training programme within 12 months of implementation. This review should include the consideration of victim feedback, outcomes, and reoffending data.**

The Vulnerability trainer will coordinate a programme of continuous professional development to ensure champions have enhanced knowledge about DA and stalking & Harassment. The training will take place on a regular basis and will include victim feedback. We are aiming to deliver training sessions on a six-monthly basis.

5. **HMCTS should consider independent training to improve judges' understanding and knowledge of the significance of breaches of civil orders.**

This recommendation is for the HMCTS.

6. **The Force should look to seek specific feedback from officers on inputs from victims and survivors in any future training surveys.**

Future Vulnerability Hub training will capture feedback from staff, which will be used to inform future training. The new training officer will be able to manage and monitor this using “Forms” on Microsoft Teams.

**7. The Force should consider how learning from the Operation Soteria Bluestone report may be relevant and applicable to the policing of stalking and harassment.**

The Op Soteria team are currently reviewing the newly published operating model and will share the relevant learning across other areas including stalking & harassment, domestic abuse, and child sexual abuse. One of the key elements of learning will focus on victim support and suspect focus. The restructure of the strategic response to Vulnerability will support this as the DCI and DI with responsibility for RASSO now also leads on DA and Stalking & Harassment.

**DATA:**

**8. If they are not already doing so, the Force should set out the preventative and intervention methods utilised against repeat offenders within their future crime profile reports.**

Information and guidance on managing perpetrators is accessible on the force intranet, however, there is disparity in the way officers/staff record this information. This requires improvement, and we will work towards this in the next 12 months. Progression against this recommendation will be monitored through our governance structure, the action will be managed on the force action plan.

**9. The Force should expand its Performance Dashboards to enable closer scrutiny of the application and breaches of civil orders.**

The strategic team will work closely with the performance team to ensure this information is captured within the dashboard. In addition, the Civil Orders Officer will conduct daily reviews of the force systems to monitor incidents and ensure there is a robust response to any breaches of civil order.

**10 Dyfed-Powys Police should be assured that investigating officers can easily access a complete record of a perpetrator’s breach history at the earliest possible stage of an investigation.**

Any breach which is reported to Dyfed Powys Police will lead to the creation of a STORM incident, and where necessary a crime being recorded or a custody episode. These will be captured on the force records management system (NICHE). The Crime and Custody episodes will be identified in the future through a search on the person on the records management system. However, the record will not hold information if they haven’t ended up with the policing response. Police Officers will be directed to conduct searches on NICHE, STORM, PNC and PND checks to ensure they have the background information of the perpetrator.

In future the force will capture details of breaches which do not require the creation of a crime in a section on the person dossier. This will ensure that any breaches of orders and any risk management plan is accessible by all relevant officers/Staff. The offender Management package of RMS has not been implemented to date, but it will be included in phase 2 of the delivery plan. This will give officers and staff information on breaches which aren't linked to an occurrence or STORM message.

### **PERPETRATOR INTERVENTIONS:**

- 11 Work to embed the Perpetrator Prioritisation Tool within Niche should be prioritised by the Force, so as not to lose traction with this vital project.**

The Force Performance Team have been tasked to rebuild the Perpetrator Prioritisation Tool. The team have been unable to complete the work due to the additional demand following NICHE implementation. The request is in the work queue which is being prioritised based on risk. The progress is being monitored through the force governance structure.

- 11 Dyfed-Powys Police should seek assurance that investigating officers are considering the use of a range of interventions, including civil orders, as part of their perpetrator management strategies, and at the earliest possible stage of an investigation.**

The VAWG Toolkit provides a wide range of interventions for offences including stalking & harassment. This is available via the force intranet, and is included within the learning pack given to supervisors when they attend their Secondary Risk Assessment Unit (SRAU)/ Offender Management Unit (OMU) familiarisation day. The new audit framework will seek to include a process that will check, and test interventions are being considered where necessary.

- 12 The Force should ensure all considerations of assessments (such as the Homicide Risk Escalation) and any interventions (such as civil orders and the Reflecting on Relationships Programme), whether progressed or not, are noted by officers within the Crime Management System. This should include when cases are discussed at Daily Management Meetings.**

The Homicide Timeline/Risk escalation is a tool that is used by secondary risk assessors when assessing escalation factors and identifying triggers when considering the actions of perpetrators of stalking and harassment. This assists staff to identify cases where there is increasing risk to the Victim and is an evidence-based process which has been developed by the University of Gloucester.

To embed this training across the organisation, a number of training sessions have been rolled out across the force, utilising external funding. Approximately 300 officers and staff have received the training to date including Investigators, domestic abuse officers and response officers. However, the training hasn't been mandated for all, so this is something we're looking at in the next 12 months.

Domestic abuse, stalking and harassment (DASH) and screening assessment for stalking and harassment (SASH) assessments are recorded on NICHE and linked to the incident and the nominal record. These are standardized processes used widely across policing to assess the potential risk posed to Victims of Domestic Abuse and stalking.

The Reflecting relationships programme can only be offered to suspects whose investigations have been finalized with no further police action. These details will not routinely be recorded on the crime management system. Co-ordination and attendance will be managed by the Domestic Abuse & Stalking Perpetrator Coordinator.

In respect of the crime management system the response is as per the comments for recommendation 8.

#### **PERPETRATOR MONITORING:**

- 13 The Force should consider the implementation of processes to manage civil orders as recommended by the Force's VAWG lead in the Domestic Abuse Review. This should include heightened follow-up and monitoring once interventions such as the Reflecting on Relationships Programme are completed.**

The additional post has been agreed through the force governance structures, it will be advertised in Autumn 2023.

- 14 The new Civil Orders Officer should support reviews of civil orders. Such reviews should incorporate the views of the victim.**

Victim feedback will be sought from victims as part of the engagement forum. We will seek support from the OPCC to include this as a theme for the next event.

#### **VICTIMS:**

- 15 Officers should be encouraged to revisit contact agreements with victims at various stages of the investigation.**

Victims contact agreements are an area we are working on as a force. There is work to do to understand whether officers understand the need to routinely review the victim contract during the investigative period.

**16 Any future engagement with victims should consider whether victims were kept informed in line with the Victim Contact Agreement made with their investigating officer.**

The Satisfaction survey provides feedback about the victim contract agreement. The performance pack which includes victim feedback which is available to local managers. In future this information will be used to improve our delivery of the victims' code of practice.

**17 Further consideration should be given to the support provided to victims of stalking in the upcoming retendering of Victim and Witness Services.**

Victims and witnesses should not be left behind in re-tendering processes and the Force will work with the OPCC's office to help shape the services.

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In conclusion I would like this opportunity to highlight other work which is ongoing in the force.

- The Cyber Helpline recently delivered a lunch & learn session on the methods perpetrators use to track their victims. They provided officers with an aide memoir which encourages professional curiosity and prompts officers to consider whether the offending as included the use of spy software and other monitoring techniques. For example, using children's' phone to track the parent.
- Several new stalking champions have been identified. They will be referred to as the domestic abuse and stalking champions' and they will receive training with the Domestic Abuse Officers (DAOs), SRAU and the Domestic Abuse Virtual Response Unit (DAVRU). Their details will be published on DPPi2, so other officers have a local point of contact who can provide guidance and advice.
- A session with the eminent Prof Jane Monckton-Smith has been captured on film and which will be used as part of future force stalking training. A meeting has been scheduled with Professor Monckton-Smith and our regional VAWDASV colleagues on 27<sup>th</sup> July to scope further training opportunities, and to check and test where we are with our implementation of her research and tools available to assist in risk assessing stalking.
- Survivor experiences have been uploaded to DPPi2 for use in training. There is a Stalking package on College Learn but it has not been mandated for officers yet.

