



Surrey Police
Domestic Abuse Action Plan
2019 - 2020

Key Areas of Focus



“ Our vision is for Surrey to be the safest county in can be. One place that you should always feel safe is in your own home. Domestic abuse is one of the most harmful and pervasive crimes. It can go unseen and unheard, leaving victims isolated and in fear.

We are determined not to let this happen and will do everything in our power to support those who are suffering, and hold perpetrators to account for their actions.

We will work with others to find ways to prevent domestic abuse, help victims escape lives lived in fear and give them the confidence to turn to Surrey Police for help. We will always be here for them.

Chief Constable Gavin Stephens

”





CPS REFERRALS & PROSECUTIONS

We will continue to monitor the data around referral and charge rates and work closely with the CPS to understand whether improvement is required, and effect the necessary changes where it is.

We will achieve this through scrutiny panels, the multi-agency DA Management Board and DA Delivery Group meetings, where both CPS and Police are represented by DA leads from within their organisations.



RECORDING

We will continue to ensure that Domestic Abuse crime, including Coercive Control, is being correctly identified and recorded, in line with Approved Professional Practice (APP) and the Home Office Crime Recording Standards (HOCRS).

We will maintain regular audits and quality assure our recording of Domestic Abuse related crime, in particular Controlling & Coercive behaviour and Stalking offences.



ASSESSING & RESPONDING TO RISK

We will continue to ensure that arrangements for assessing and managing risk are well understood by officers and staff, especially at initial point of contact. This will be achieved by continuing to deliver the accredited DASH training of all frontline and specialist staff.

We will establish quickly how long someone has been experiencing abuse and what the nature of that abuse is and has been, whether previously reported or not. We understand how important it is to identify patterns of abuse as soon as possible, so that victims can receive a response that suits their needs better.

We will ensure that decision making about the grading of, and attendance at, Domestic Abuse incidents is supervised effectively and routinely audited for compliance to guidance and APP. This will be achieved by tasking DA Mentors and utilising the Force's Public Protection Support Unit.



POSITIVE AND PREVENTATIVE ACTION

We will exercise positive action when dealing with Domestic Abuse incidents. Often this means making an arrest, where grounds exist and it is a necessary and proportionate response. We will continue to make use of these powers and take robust and timely action against those who are suspected of perpetrating abuse.

We will make effective use of bail conditions, Domestic Violence Protection Notices & Orders (DVPN/Os) and Restraining Orders to help prevent any further offences being committed and to safeguard victims. We will deal swiftly & robustly with any breaches of orders and seek suitable consequence through the courts.



BUILDING THE CASE FOR THE VICTIM

We understand that domestic abuse victims are often reluctant to support a prosecution, given the connections they might have with the perpetrator, or the level of control which they may be under.

We will ensure that there are clear standards and expectations, with effective supervision, for building the best possible case for the victims of Domestic Abuse whether victims support police action or not (including working with specialist Domestic Abuse services).

We will work in line with the National 'DA Best Practice Framework' (DABPF) and our local DABPF Implementation Plan, with CPS and HMCTS colleagues, to achieve better experiences and outcomes for victims throughout the criminal justice process.



PARTNERSHIP WORKING

We understand the need to identify repeat victims as early as possible and spot patterns of abuse. This is particularly important in cases where a single incident might not appear to be serious, but where previous reports show a pattern of behaviour (for example Coercive Control or Stalking and Harassment).

We will achieve this by continuing to work closely with both our statutory partners and specialist local DA services, to ensure we are sighted on all the information available and recognise that Domestic Abuse can not be solved by the Police alone.

We will draw on the expertise and experience of partners and regularly seek feedback on areas they feel more learning/development is required. This will help us ensure our response to victims are ***needs led, strength based and trauma informed.***



THE VOICE OF THE VICTIM/SURVIVOR

We will treat victims as ***experts of their own experience*** and will encourage their, and their children's, voices to be heard and to count in shaping the Police response to Domestic Abuse in Surrey.


We have adopted a process to regularly seek the views of victims of Domestic Abuse and to act on this by incorporating any required changes into policy, practice & workforce training. This is facilitated by a dedicated telephone researcher, working closely with the Force's dedicated Domestic Abuse Advisor from Public Protection. *(This meets the Home Office ADR44 requirement)*



HARDER TO REACH COMMUNITIES

We recognise the additional barriers to reporting Domestic Abuse that can be faced by certain groups within our communities. This includes; older people, those whose first language is not English, those with disabilities, male victims and those who identify as LGBT+. We will work with representatives from these communities to ensure that their access to Surrey Police and local support services is made as straightforward as possible and that the service they receive meets their needs.

This Domestic Abuse Action plan has been developed in line with the priorities and aims set within the following documents;

[Click here to read the Surrey PCC Police and Crime Plan 2018 - 2020](#) 

[Click here to read the Surrey Against Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018 - 2023](#) 

