

# Lincolnshire Police

## Policy Document



### Vulnerable and intimidated witness policy PD 78

#### Policy document information

<b>Reference number:</b>	PD 78
<b>Policy sponsor:</b>	ACC
<b>Policy owner:</b>	Head of PVP Unit
<b>Author:</b>	DCI PVP
<b>Publication date:</b>	June 2026
<b>Review date:</b>	June 2028

## Version history

Version	Date	Reason for issue
7	July 2019	Biennial Review
8	August 2021	Biennial Review
9	July 2023	Biennial Review
10	August 2025	Review
11	June 2026	Biennial Review

## Code of Ethics

All staff involved in carrying out functions under this policy and associated procedures and appendices will do so in accordance with the principles of the Code of Ethics. The aim of the Code of Ethics is to support each member of the policing profession to deliver the highest professional standards in their service to the public.

## Legislative compliance

This document has been drafted to comply with the principles of the Human Rights Act. Proportionality has been identified as the key to Human Rights compliance, this means striking a fair balance between the rights of the staff and those of the rest of the community. There must be a reasonable relationship between the aim to be achieved and the means used.

Equality and Diversity issues have also been considered to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and meet our legal obligation in relation to the equality duty. In addition, Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Health and Safety Issues have been considered. Adherence to this policy or procedure will therefore ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and internal policies.

Other legislation/law which this policy has been drafted to comply with:

- [Human Rights Act 1998 \(in particular A.14 – Prohibition of discrimination\)](#)

- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)
- [H&S legislation](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [Freedom Of Information Act 2000](#)

## **Security classification**

**Policy to be published on Intranet:** Yes

**Policy to be published on Force Website:** Yes

## **Authorised Professional Practice (APP)**

This Policy has been checked against APP and Lincolnshire Police has adopted the provisions of APP as its Policy. Those provisions are shown in the link(s) below and can be accessed via the home page of the APP website:

[Working with victims and witnesses](#)

### **1. Policy aims (Purpose)**

- 1.1. The aim of this policy is to provide guidance and direction to Lincolnshire Police Officers so they may enable vulnerable and intimidated witnesses access to the criminal justice system. This will be achieved principally through the early identification of vulnerable and intimidated witnesses and by providing access to special measures (as classified in Part II of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999).
- 1.2. This purpose of this policy is to ensure that witnesses of criminal offences are provided with appropriate support throughout the criminal justice system.

## **2. Policy statement (Key information)**

- 2.1. Lincolnshire Police support the recommendations made in the 1998 Home Office paper, 'Speaking Up For Justice' and will act in accordance with the subsequent legislative changes made to Part II of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999. This policy provides guidance to all officers on the actions required by Part II of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (the Act);
- 2.2. The Act provides several special measures available to assist vulnerable and intimidated victims and witnesses in giving evidence. For the witness to be able to benefit from the use of the special measures in court, their eligibility must be identified at an early stage in the police investigation. Officers considering Vulnerability, Special measures or other support must provide the necessary rationale on the Occurrence Log in Niche.
- 2.3. This policy also encompasses the public expectation of Lincolnshire Police as publicised under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime 2021.

## **3. Other related documents and appendices**

- 3.1. Related documents:
  - [Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings](#)
  - [Mental vulnerability and illness \(college.police.uk\)](#)
  - [Multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding | College of Policing](#)
  - [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](#)

## **4. Monitoring and review**

- 4.1. This policy will be subject to on-going review by the Detective Superintendent PVP to ensure that any changes in legislation, guidance or procedures are incorporated as soon as possible. A formal review will be conducted biennially.

## **5. Who to contact about this policy**

- 5.1. This policy is owned by the Head of Protecting Vulnerable Persons Unit. Any enquires about this policy should be directed to the Head of PVP