

# **Domestic Abuse Action Plan 2018/19**

Updated April 2018

Professionalism | Respect | Integrity | Dedication | Empathy



## BACKGROUND

In November 2013, as part of a national programme, HMICFRS undertook its initial inspection of Lincolnshire Police's response to domestic abuse. HMICFRS Inspectors found:

*“Lincolnshire Police is generally effective at tackling domestic abuse, however, there are some areas that require further improvement before there is confidence that the police are working as well as they should to help keep victims of domestic abuse safe.”*

HMICFRS made recommendations on how to improve delivery (see page 4).

An action plan has been developed, under the direct leadership of the Deputy Chief Constable. Progress has been tracked and submissions of the action plan have been provided to HMICFRS as requested.

In November 2017, HMICFRS published its third thematic report which considers the response the police service provides to victims of domestic abuse. *“Forces have worked hard to address the areas for improvement identified in our 2016 PEEL Effectiveness inspection. As a result the picture in some forces will already look very different”* (HMI Zoe Billingham).

In March 2018, Lincolnshire Police's latest 2017 PEEL Effectiveness Inspection results were released by HMICFRS. The report highlights continued good progress, for example;

- The force is effective at protecting victims of domestic abuse. For every 100 domestic abuse-related offences recorded by the force in the 12 months to 30/06/17 there were 78.8 arrests made.
- The force achieves good outcomes when it refers DA cases to the CPS.
- The number of cases in which there are evidential difficulties (where the suspect is identified and the victim does not support action) is very low for example.
- Immediate safeguarding responsibilities are clear and appear effective, with appropriately trained staff carrying out activities.
- The risk assessment sets out the initial safeguarding measures that have been put in place and then sent these are sent for further assessment by specialist staff who provide additional support, such as making referrals to adult services.

**Lincolnshire Police recognises there is more to do. We will continue to listen to victims, survivors, their families and manage offenders robustly.**

## THE NEXT STEPS

Lincolnshire Police will continue to work with national, regional and local leads and partner agencies. We will continue to link into the NPCC national network and take forward programmes and changes announced by Government or through the National Oversight Group, established by the Home Secretary.

The Police and Crime Commissioner monitors the force's response to the HMICFRS Inspection Programme and regular scrutiny of progress will continue.

# DOMESTIC ABUSE DELIVERY PLAN 2018/19

## Information, Intelligence, Data Collection and Management Information



We will continue to improve the accuracy of how we record Domestic Abuse, calls, crimes and incidents

We will continue to improve the information and data we gather on Domestic Abuse and use it to improve our service

## Protecting, Supporting, Safeguarding and Managing Risk



We will continue to improve the effectiveness of how we assess risk and how we will protect and safeguard victims of Domestic Abuse and their families

## Early Intervention and Prevention/Learning and Development



We will continue to improve our ability to take positive and preventative action when dealing with Domestic Abuse

## Effective Investigation and Outcomes/Learning and Development



We will continue to improve the quality and timeliness of our investigations of Domestic Abuse

We will continue to improve our positive working relationship with the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure we bring Domestic Abuse offenders to justice

## Effective Investigation and Outcomes



We will continue to improve how we listen to, update and involve victims of Domestic Abuse in the service we deliver

## Early Intervention and Prevention



We will continue to improve the way we work with other agencies to ensure we are taking opportunities to intervene early in Domestic Abuse and to prevent it happening in the first place



## LINCOLNSHIRE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are designed to tackle any risks identified in the service offered to victims of domestic abuse in Lincolnshire.

Recommendation fully addressed

	HMIC COMMENT	ACTION
1.1	The force should better identify repeat victims of domestic abuse.	The force moved to NICHE to manage all DA. This allows better identification of repeat victims and offenders. Performance report and processes are being developed to make this information easily accessible. A new control system is also being considered for the force.
1.2	The force should develop and implement a question set in the control room, which includes asking the caller about their domestic abuse history and previous contact with the police	The Force Control Room moved to THRIVE model in February 2015. A new control system is also being considered for the force.
2	The force should review the deployment time from call received in the control room to the deployment of an officer.	The Force Control Room Demand Management Project is complete, along with the move to THRIVE model since February 2015.
3	The force should implement a system where response supervisors are informed by radio of all domestic abuse incidents as soon as possible, and this action is then recorded on the incident log.	Adequate level of supervision is a priority across the force. FCR to report compliance at the Force DA Working Group.
4	The force should review the intelligence on domestic abuse held on different IT systems, and implement appropriate interventions in order to better share this intelligence, especially with frontline officers.	The force moved to NICHE to manage all DA which improves information accessibility across the force. Performance and tasking processes are established. A refreshed DA Problem Profile has been completed (2018) and a Strategic Assessment under the Community Safety Partnership.
5	The force should review the allocation of investigations in order that the most experienced and best equipped investigators are assigned the investigations with the highest risk of harm, rather than just the most serious crimes.	DA Investigations remain allocated to the best equipped, experienced investigators in CID. The DS will assess the case and determine the level of officer to allocate within CID. In high risk DA cases the force provides a specialist DA Officer who works alongside the CID investigator. The force is committed to monitoring the outcomes of domestic abuse cases to ensure all CJ outcomes are appropriate. Lincolnshire Police are finalising options for a revised Crime Allocation Policy that includes a clearly auditable assessment of threat, risk, harm and complexity which will only strengthen this approach.
6	The force should improve supervision and the reviewing of risk for those who are assessed as being at standard or medium risk, so that it is clear who is responsible for keeping these victims safe.	There are two Domestic Abuse Detective Sergeant posts created in PPU and staffed, reporting to a Detective Inspector. Supervision of incidents and cases has been much improved. It is clear that officers must manage these cases, with briefings rolled out in relation to the services that are available.
7	The force should review the contact officers and staff have with victims, throughout their involvement with the police, to give one single point of contact who is able to update them and not duplicate contact.	A lean review was conducted in 2015. The OPCC has established Victim Lincs. Commissioning plans for the county's specialist DA services are linked with the OPCC, Force and Local Authority.
8	The force should review the means by which victims are updated if a perpetrator is released from custody, and ensure that risk assessments are reviewed at this stage.	New entry placed on Custody (NICHE) on pre-release risk assessments and compliance is dip sampled.
9	The force should improve intelligence sharing for frontline officers on high, medium and standard risk domestic abuse victims and offenders in their area. They should consider implementing a similar system to, or further develop the force SENTINEL system for anti-social behaviour.	NICHE has been adopted for all DA management, including DVPO and DVDS, and MARAC flags for example. The county partnership maintains MODUS for high risk cases at MARAC.
10	The force should publicise the role of the specialist team in order that all staff understand what they do and how they can help make victims safer.	The PPU team including Domestic Abuse Officers, are advertised throughout the force including the website and through Safeguarding Matters.