Lincolnshire Police

HMIC Domestic Abuse Inspection 2013

ACTION PLAN

Updated July 2015
BACKGROUND

In November 2013, as part of a national programme, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) undertook its initial inspection of Lincolnshire Police's response to domestic abuse. HMIC 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.”

HMIC made nine recommendations on how to improve delivery.

An action plan has been developed, under the direct leadership of the Deputy Chief Constable. Progress has been tracked on a monthly basis through the scrutiny of the Deputy Chief Constable with the Head of Public Protection and the Force Coordinator, with the recent establishment of a Force Domestic Abuse Working Group.

NATIONAL OVERSIGHT GROUP

HMIC’s national report was published on 27 March 2014, with the Home Secretary making a clear direction that forces across the country needed to improve. She specifically cited “culture, attitude and poor skills” as being at the root of the challenge faced by forces.

A National Oversight Group for Domestic Abuse was set up, chaired by the Home Secretary. One of the key directions from the Home Secretary’s oversight group was the requirement for all forces to produce plans (by 1st September 2014) to improve the response to domestic abuse in their areas.

As a result, the new Force DA Action Plan was submitted to the Home Office on the 29th August 2014. Scrutiny will continue to be provided through the Force Domestic Abuse Working Group.

THE NEXT STEPS

Forces have worked together (alongside the College of Policing) to identify a comprehensive list of recommendations that enable a force and partners to deliver an excellent service to victims. Overall, there were 125 areas identified. These were collated and formed a self-assessment toolkit. Each of these areas has been reviewed to help gauge the current effectiveness of service provision.

The Deputy Chief Constable has not only provided a governance structure to ensure that all recommendations are being embedded, but the Force Domestic Abuse Working Group will also act as a wider forum to transform mind-sets across the force; re-enforcing the importance of prioritising according to risk.

The Police and Crime Commissioner also monitors the force’s response to the HMIC Inspection and regular scrutiny of progress remains ongoing.
LINCOLNISHIRE’S RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Recommendation fully addressed

Recommendation work in progress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HMIC COMMENT</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 The force should better identify repeat victims of domestic abuse.</td>
<td>The force has moved to NICHE to manage all DA (no longer using CATS). This allows better identification of repeat victims and offenders. Performance reports and processes are being developed to make this information easily accessible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>The force is linking with national work regarding the initial response toolkit. The Force Control Room moved to THRIVE model in February 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 The force should review the deployment time from call received in the control room to the deployment of an officer.</td>
<td>The Force Control Room Demand Management Project is complete, along with the move to THRIVE model since February 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Adequate level of supervision is a priority across the force. FCR to report compliance at the Force DA Working Group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>The Force has moved to NICHE for all DA which improves information accessibility across the force. Performance and tasking processes are established. Force DA Problem Profile has been completed and circulated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMIC COMMENT</td>
<td>ACTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The force should review the allocation of investigations in order that the</td>
<td>The force is undertaking a review of its crime allocation in respect of domestic abuse. The force is committed to monitoring the outcomes of domestic abuse cases to ensure all Criminal Justice outcomes are appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>most experienced and best equipped investigators are assigned the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>investigations with the highest risk of harm, rather than just the most</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serious crimes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The force should improve supervision and the reviewing of risk for those</td>
<td>Domestic Abuse Detective Sergeant post created and staffed. Supervision of incidents and cases has been improved. It is clear that officers must manage standard and medium risk cases, with briefings being rolled out in relation to the services that are available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who are assessed as being at standard or medium risk, so that it is clear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who is responsible for keeping these victims safe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The force should review the contact officers and staff have with victims,</td>
<td>A lean review of domestic abuse has been conducted. The OPCC is currently working to deliver a victim project for 01/10/2015 which will address this recommendation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>throughout their involvement with the police, to give one single point of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contact who is able to update them and not duplicate contact.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The force should review the means by which victims are updated if a</td>
<td>New entry placed on Custody (NICHE) on pre-release risk assessments and compliance is dip sampled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perpetrator is released from custody, and ensure that risk assessments are</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reviewed at this stage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The force should improve intelligence sharing for frontline officers on</td>
<td>NICHE has been adopted for all DA management, including the new DVPO and DV Disclosure Schemes, MARAC flags are also now in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high, medium and standard risk domestic abuse victims and offenders in</td>
<td>A business case under development includes analytical capacity within the DA force structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>their area. They should consider implementing a similar system to, or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>further develop the force SENTINEL system for anti-social behaviour.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The force should publicise the role of the specialist team in order that</td>
<td>The PPU team including Domestic Abuse Officers, are advertised throughout the force including the website and through Safeguarding Matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all staff understand what they do and how they can help make victims safer.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>