

Overview and Scrutiny Meeting – Safeguarding Update.

Safeguarding Cars

The role of the car is to attend the call and take control of the investigation. The specialist officers assigned to this vehicle then use the resources at the scene as they see fit, requesting extra resource from the ROM (Operations Inspector) if necessary. The purpose of safeguarding attending is to ensure that a high quality investigation is done straight away ensuring the victim is safeguarded from the outset. Officers have been directed that the members of the car prioritise getting control of and looking after the victim, whilst our colleagues at the scene (under safeguarding direction) work on the other building blocks of witnesses (local enquiries with neighbours included), suspects (arrest enquiries, searches), forensic evidence (seizures, photos, scenes of crimes officers), scenes (cordons, seizures, Scenes of crimes officers) etc.

The demand modelling for this function predicted that there would be approximately 2 call-outs per day total.

We parade 2 cars of staff per shift, to be available to turn out to a crime which fits one of the 2 following criteria:

Criteria 1 – Both Vulnerable Victim AND Serious Crime

Vulnerable Victim

Defined as:

- The victim is a subject of Domestic Abuse
- Vulnerable due to significant mental/physical impairment
- Racially/Religiously Motivated or Homophobic or Transphobic

Serious Crime

Defined as:

- Serious Injury
- Lethal Barrelled Weapons
- Knife Enabled
- Substantial Loss to Victim
- Blackmail
- Rape or Serious Sexual Assault
- Child Abuse (Intra-Familial, Professional, Carer, Historic)
- Perverting Justice Offences
- Professional Judgement

Domestic Abuse

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Criteria 2- Complex Incident

Defined as:

- Sudden and unexpected deaths of children (U18)
- Parental Child Abduction
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Professional Judgement

PC Abstractions

Police Constables in Safeguarding have been protected from abstraction to Emergency Response & Patrol Teams at this time. This will allow them to concentrate on their core duties around safeguarding the boroughs most vulnerable.

Outstanding Suspects

All Domestic Abuse suspects will be circulated on Emerald Warrants Management System within 24 hours.

It is the responsibility of the crimes sergeant to provide a list of all of the outstanding suspects to the night duty team for arrest enquiries to be conducted. This should hopefully result in more abusers being picked up quickly after an allegation of crime has been made, with the knock on effect of increasing victim confidence and satisfaction in the response of the police. Enquiries will be ordered by risk.

Where an arrest is not appropriate, a rationale needs to be recorded by the Officer In Case on the details of the crime report.

Mr Ross has commissioned a team of 3 to assist in gaining intelligence to locate suspects, which launched on the 14th August, with the objective of hunting down those who are wanted by police.

DVPN/DVPO

Domestic Abuse is a power and control issue, and in the absence of being able to prosecute the offender a Domestic Violence Prevention Notice (DVPN) is a core tactic in providing safety to the victim. A DVPN provides a power vacuum for Domestic Abuse professionals to operate within, with the victim.

If a No Further Action relates to a job where the suspect is:

- Over 18
- Has used or threatened violence
- There are no other control measures (bail/non molestation orders etc)

Officers should be seeking a DVPN/Domestic Violence Prevention Order DVPO on every occasion. We receive about 4-8 prisoners per day, and that our detection rates are about 30%, this would be 3-6 DVPNs or bail conditions per day.

MASH

Three Community Safety Unit Detective Constables (DC's) are seconded into the new, larger MASH (Multi Agency safeguarding Hub) teams. Their role is to support decision making in relation to Domestic Abuse specifically and to engage in strategy discussions as needed. This supports recommendations resulting from a recent HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies) case examination. Until this point we have not had capacity to deliver on this. DC's will be selected from Teams, and will start on 04/09/2017. They will work from within one of the MASH departments in the Local Authorities. This will rotate every three months.

STAFFING

We have recruited a number of Sexual Offences Investigation Technique (SOIT) officers and some CAIT (Child Abuse Investigation Team) vacancies are being filled. This will ease the pressure on existing team members and leave others more accessible to the community and our victims.