

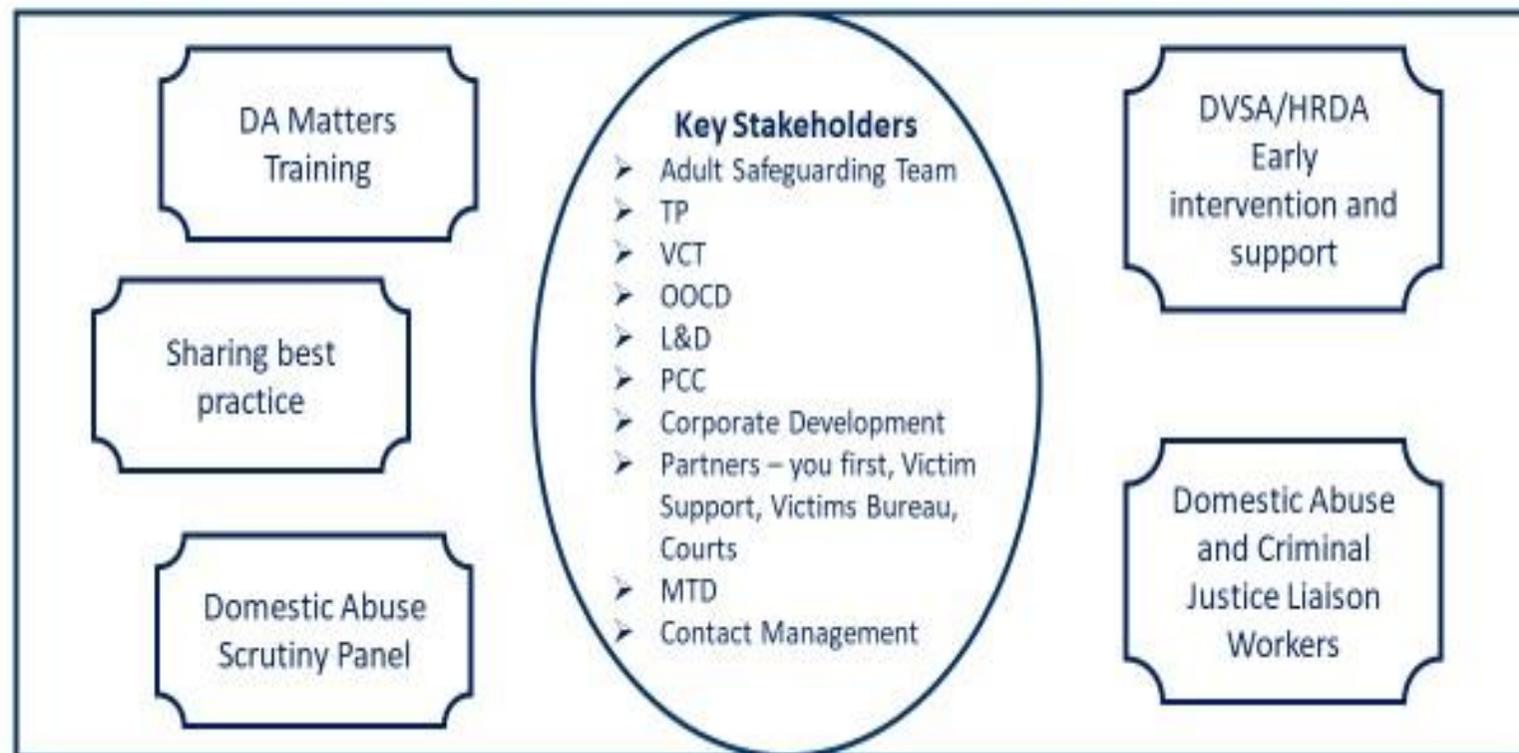
## Domestic Abuse – Dorset Police

A whole system approach

# Theme 1

## Effective Working in the Criminal Justice System

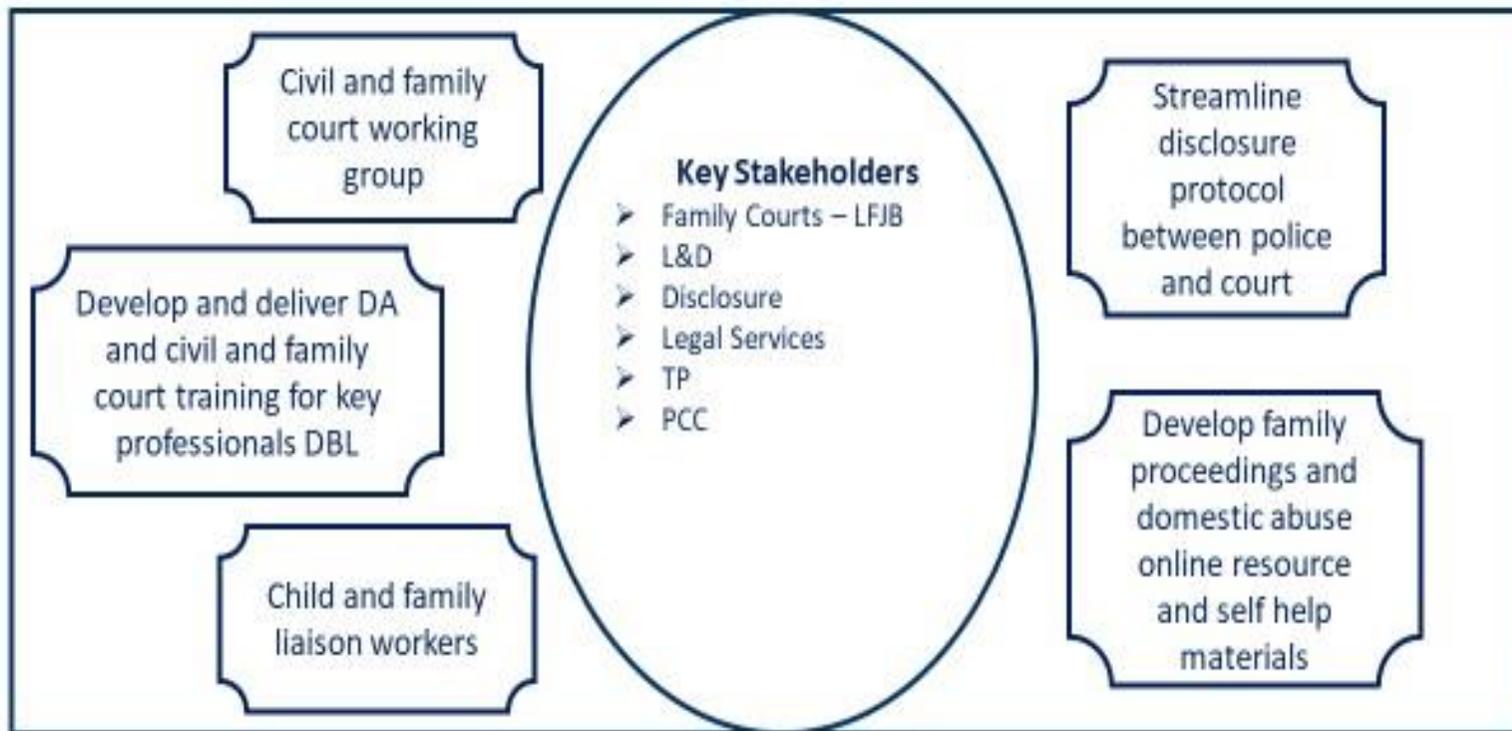
**Aim:** To ensure that **every** reported incident of Domestic Abuse receives a response that maximises what could be the one and only opportunity to engage and safeguard those experiencing Domestic Abuse.



# Theme 2

## Partnership Working with Civil and Family Courts

*Aim:* To improve the experience of a Domestic Abuse victim/survivor going through the family court process.



# Theme 3

## Multi-Agency Victim Support & Offender Management

**Aim:** To improve the lives of Domestic Abuse Victims and their children, giving maximum support to them, whilst also focusing on the root cause of domestic abuse, the perpetrator.



# Domestic Abuse Action Plan

Working Strand	Action/Recommendations	Evidence
<p><b>Strategic Leadership and Governance</b></p>	<p>There is a named Domestic Abuse (DA) Chief Officer who is held to account by the Chief Constable (CC) and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Domestic Abuse is a force priority.</li> <li>▪ Dorset Police has created a Vulnerability team which has strategic responsibility for all thirteen strands of public protection and overall responsibility for co-ordinating and delivering the Domestic Abuse Action Plan.</li> <li>▪ Dorset Police have a clear structure in place to manage the delivery of the Domestic abuse action plan.</li> <li>▪ Domestic Abuse is discussed on a regular basis at the Force Strategic Performance meeting (this is the main force performance meeting) with scrutiny over various aspects through the time of first report through the criminal justice system – importantly this includes feedback from victims of domestic abuse crime to understand their view on the service and what can be improved.</li> </ul>
	<p>CC and PCC are engaged with relevant partners and support the sector in regular scrutiny of service provision.</p>	
	<p>PCC and CC ensure that the force’s organisational culture and mission supports an effective response to DA.</p>	
	<p>DA is part of the Police and Crime Plan and its progress is regularly monitored.</p>	
	<p>Dorset Police has a clear multi-agency strategy with defined objectives and ownership.</p>	
	<p>Dorset Police has strong governance arrangements for DA within the force and across key partners, including safeguarding boards, DA forums.</p>	
	<p>Dorset Police has resources aligned to Threat Risk and Harm and are prioritised daily to ensure a timely response.</p>	
Working Strand	Action/Recommendations	Evidence
	<p>DA is Embedded in the force performance management processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strategic performance meetings now take qualitative and quantitative data when evaluating performance in this area.</li> </ul>

<b>Performance Management</b>	<p>Appropriate performance information is reviewed regularly at performance meetings.</p>	
	<p>Information on outcomes of DA meetings is reviewed with partners.</p>	
	<p>DA/Stalking/Harassment, Honour Based Violence (HBV) and Forced Marriage features in the force strategic risk assessment.</p>	
	<p>A process is in place to survey victims and this feedback is acted upon and incorporated into policy, procedure, learning and practice.</p>	
<b>Working Strand</b>	<b>Action/Recommendations</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
<b>Intelligence led approach involving partners</b>	<p>Intelligence is shared effectively with key partners to ensure that the highest risk DA cases are appropriately prioritised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is a MARAC (Multi agency risk assessment conference) in place which operates across the County bringing together partners to discuss the cases at high risk.</li> <li>▪ In addition to the MARAC, Dorset police are trialling daily meetings for those who are at the highest risk of domestic abuse to ensure safeguarding arrangements for victims is timely and needs based.</li> <li>▪ There are clear links between the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) and domestic abuse work.</li> <li>▪ We have MARAC for BCP which meets once a week. HRDA (High-Risk Domestic Abuse) sits 4 days a week but operates in the DCC area only. The merits of each process are currently being reviewed by Bournemouth University.</li> </ul>
	<p>The force has a problem profile for DA and understands the extent of the risk.</p>	
	<p>Analysis of intelligence is undertaken regularly, feeding into the forces NIM processes.</p>	
<b>Working Strand</b>	<b>Action/Recommendations</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
<b>Initial Contact</b>	<p>Dorset Police need to ensure that repeat callers of DA are always identified at the first point of contact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The force has a clear policy outlining the roles and responsibilities of all officers and staff and this is reviewed on a regular basis.</li> <li>▪ Regular audits and dip sampling is carried out to ensure policy compliance and to test our effectiveness in our response to DA.</li> <li>▪ Dorset Police use a THRIVE model (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability and Engagement) to accurately assess risk. This is applied at the initial stage and then within 24 hours to test our risk management.</li> </ul>
	<p>Dorset Police use enhance triage at the earliest opportunity.</p>	
	<p>Dorset Police have refreshed performance management of risk assessment at the first point of contact.</p>	

Working Strand	Action/Recommendations	Evidence
<b>Initial Response</b>	Dorset Police officers and staff understand the importance of 'first impressions' and ensuring that the confidence of the reporting person is gained at the outset.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive training is provided to call handling staff to ensure that information is gathered and recorded effectively, and robust supervision is in place – this is aimed at ensuring the initial response is effective.</li> <li>Dorset Police are using service user feedback to continually reflect on our practice and make improvements to our service.</li> </ul>
	Performance management of 'first response' has been developed to ensure quality of service in the areas of: dispatch, Culture of attendance, including positive action, Quality of initial investigation, Assessment of investigative mind set, Initial safeguarding plans, Support to victims.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A deep dive audit has been conducted to benchmark our response to DA in all those areas and areas for development have been highlighted for progression and development.</li> </ul>
	Dorset Police ensure that Body Worn Video (BWV) is used effectively at all DA and high harm incidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full role out of Body Worn Video (BWV) and training has been completed with supporting policies in place.</li> <li>Review of BWV has been conducted and standards and expectations have been reinforced</li> <li>A Dorset Police Chief Inspector is currently conducting a Masters Thesis on the use of BWV at DA incidents. The findings will influence Force policy and response.</li> </ul>
	Dorset Police are ensuring that all risk assessments completed by attending officers are of a consistently high standard.	
	Staff apply professional judgement to risk assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is annual training as well as rolling training for all front-line staff regarding domestic abuse and vulnerability.</li> </ul>
	There are clear arrangements in place when the victim has difficulties in communicating and these arrangements are understood by officers and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dorset Police has dedicated support Sergeants to review DA cases.</li> </ul>
The immediate action taken in respect of risks identified is effective and processes are in place to monitor this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dorset Police regularly survey victims of domestic abuse to understand where our strengths are and areas for continuous development.</li> </ul>	
Officers take action in respect of children and vulnerable adults within the household,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dorset Police are providing training to all frontline and support staff to help them develop their understanding of coercive and controlling behaviour as well as the wider aspects of vulnerability.</li> </ul>	

	whether they are present or not during the incident.	
	Dorset Police are working with all staff and partner agencies to ensure that they assess and understand the needs of the victim at the scene and beyond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We are working closely with both local Councils to ensure that our support services are integrated and streamlined in providing DA services to victims, perpetrators and those involved in domestic abuse.</li> </ul>
	Dorset Police need to ensure appropriate use of Domestic Violence Protection Notifications (DVPN's) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO's).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A review of our process and understanding of Domestic Violence Protection Notifications (DVPN) and Domestic Violence protection Orders (DVPO) is being undertaken.</li> <li>• Dorset Police employ three vulnerability lawyers who lead on applications for DVPOs. The number of successful applications has increased considerably since their introduction.</li> </ul>
<b>Working Strand</b>	<b>Action/Recommendations</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
<b>Investigation and Standards</b>	Dorset Police want to fully understand the victims' journey throughout the life of a DA case from First contact, Initial attendance, Investigation and standards, Court processes and ongoing support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dorset Police are working with officers, senior leaders, critical friends and service users to understand the victim journey.</li> </ul>
	Dorset Police are committed to making sure investigations are of a high standard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A Deep dive audit into investigation standards is being completed.</li> <li>• Where a vulnerability lawyer dealing with a DVPO application identifies learning in the quality of the investigation they will provide feedback, so the officer and Force can make any required changes.</li> </ul>
	Dorset Police are working to ensure that we maximise our opportunity for evidence led prosecution where victims are afraid to support positive action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Surveying of service users and victims to understand our strengths and areas for improvement.</li> </ul>
	Dorset Police look after the well-being of staff who are investigating high harm cases of DA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visible and approachable supervision allows staff to discuss difficult experiences and cases. Staff are encouraged to use peer support as well as the welfare and support provided by the Force.</li> </ul>
<b>Working</b>	<b>Action/Recommendations</b>	<b>Evidence</b>

Strand		
<b>Training and Learning</b>	<p>Dorset Police are working towards a culture of continuous learning and all supervisors working in DA are given additional training around vulnerability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dorset Police are conducting a review of staff training and development needs and looking at ways to provide training and development in a more agile and flexible way, one that is responsive to new learning and legislative changes</li> <li>▪ Dorset Police have created the role of support Sgts who will identify areas for learning from a response policing perspective down to the individual level and ensure that support and training is provided where it is needed in a timely way.</li> </ul>
	<p>Dorset Police to consider the learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) to ensure this learning is embedded and tested in our practice.</p>	
	<p>Dorset Police develop intelligence reports into repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse to manage the Threat Risk and Harm to the victim but to also identify offenders who are in need of support to prevent re-offending.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dorset Police are committed to working with offenders to address their behaviour and prevent future harm and reoffending by offering perpetrator programmes where it is safe and appropriate. Incoming DRIVE programme is an example of a perpetrator programme.</li> </ul>
Working Strand	Action/Recommendations	Evidence
<b>Service To Victims</b>	<p>The voice of the victim should be the golden thread throughout the work of Dorset Police.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Corporate Development department now gathers and collates service user feedback from all those who wish to provide it on a quarterly basis and this is being used to shape and define the forces service provision</li> </ul>
	<p>Dorset Police should ensure that our service can be effectively accessed by those whose first language is not English or those of who have additional language support needs</p>	
	<p>Dorset Police should review how diversity (beyond that of protected characteristics) is embedded throughout the life of a DA case from initial contact to disposal.</p>	
	<p>Dorset will ensure its processes around Claire's law are fit for purpose.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A review of the Claire's law process is underway.</li> </ul>
	<p>Dorset Police should be Victim Code of Practice (Vcop) compliant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dorset Police are regularly dip sampling cases to ensure that they are Vcop compliant</li> </ul>
Working Strand	Action/Recommendations	Evidence
<b>Preventing Domestic Abuse and Reducing Offending and Reoffending</b>	<p>Dorset Police have a proactive approach to education on the issues of Domestic Abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is a calendar of training for social media and communications.</li> </ul>
	<p>Dorset Police are piloting initiatives to help educate perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse of both genders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evaluations of the effectiveness of these pilots is underway and funding is being secure to continue them if they are being effective.</li> </ul>

	Dorset Police engage in multi-agency meetings to reduce reoffending and manage risk to high risk victims of DA.	
<b>Working Strand</b>	<b>Action/Recommendations</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<p>Dorset Police need to further develop the habit of sharing good practice with partners.</p> <p>Dorset Police needs to develop a whole systems approach to DA to address the current gaps in commissioning and disparity of provision between LA areas. Guiding principles is set based on the needs of the victim and being responsive to local demographics inc. groups who have been identified as requiring more bespoke support such as rural communities and older people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dorset Police are working closely with the newly reformed local authorities to develop an approach that shares good practice and looks at equality of service provision across the county.</li> <li>▪ Dorset Police are working with forces in the North East of England and the Home Office to ensure that they are providing domestic abuse services that meet the needs of the community and that are evidence based in their approach.</li> </ul>