



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Authority Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>24 November 2022</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>COSLA, Edinburgh</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>Police Scotland Public Protection Development Programme</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>DCC Malcolm Graham</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>No</b>

#### **PURPOSE**

The Public Protection Development Programme (PPDP) has been established to carry out a comprehensive review of Public Protection structures, systems, processes and demand in order to develop an improved, innovative and sustainable Public Protection model for both National and Local Policing.

This paper for noting and discussion at the SPA Board on 24 November 2022.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Public Protection enables the delivery of a nationally coordinated and consistent policing response, delivered locally to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities. This ensures a high quality approach to protection and investigation across the country.

Local Delivery is supported by national teams structured across Domestic Abuse, Child Protection, Adult Protection, Rape & Sexual Crime and the Sex Offender Policing Unit. These teams work in conjunction with Divisional Public Protection Units, in responding to demand.

Public protection is complex. By working in partnership, taking a multi-agency approach, increasing public confidence and raising public awareness, we are better placed to identify threat, manage risk and prevent harm.

The Public Protection business area includes several disciplines all aimed at protecting people at risk of harm in our communities including:

- Domestic Abuse, Forced Marriage, Honour Based Abuse and Stalking & Harassment
- Human Trafficking
- Sexual Crime
- Prostitution
- Sex Offender Policing Unit
- Adult Support and Protection
- Child Protection
- Operation Forseti
- Sexual Offences Liaison Officers
- Rights and Justice Legislative Programme

- 1.2 It is widely recognised that the policing area of Public Protection has observed significant growth over recent years, in terms of increased demand, enhanced services, processes and the introduction of further legislative powers.

The Public Protection Development Programme (PPDP) provides an opportunity to modernise and 'future proof' our approach while driving forward the Police Scotland Strategy to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girl's, maximising effective partnerships, meeting current and future demand, and in delivering improved processes.

The programme also aims to develop appropriate resource models and ensure investment in estates and technology, which will support successful delivery of current and future change such as (but not limited to) the introduction of the Scottish Child Interview Model, Bairns Hoose, implementation of Domestic Abuse Protection (Scotland) Act 2021 and the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 (ACRA) and Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Act 2019.

The emphasis of the PPDP will be on tackling this combination of threats and harms in Public Protection increasing the level of understanding as to the presence of vulnerability across policing in Scotland. Due to the joint working practices within Public Protection there will be a focus on prevention activity, and the requirement for this to be partnership led. The PPDP will focus on partner demand as well as internally focussed demand to fully understand the breadth of resource and structures needed within Public Protection for the future. It is also important to note the role of technology within Public Protection in both preventing and investigating offences, however this would require significant investment if Police Scotland is to fully utilise this capability within Public Protection in the future.

## **2. DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

- 2.1 The PPDP team was established in February 2022, with the initial task of determining Police Scotland's current response to Public Protection through the review of structures, remits, resources, systems and processes. This review will also consider the wider response, such as prevention and the role of Contact, Command and Control (C3) and Criminal Justice Service Division (CJSD), ensuring all elements of our policing response is captured.

Supported by Service Design, a strategy was developed following the 'Double Diamond' approach with a clear focus on establishing the 'As Is', with 3 clear themes;

- Part 1 - Factual
- Part 2 - Contextual
- Part 3 - Demand

### **2.2 Phase 1 Part 3 – Demand**

The collation of initial data to demonstrate the continued and significant increasing Public Protection demand nationally illustrated by some of the facts below:

## OFFICIAL

- In 2017/18 – 3,986 sexual crimes were recorded, this **increased by 25.75%** with 5,012 sexual crimes recorded in 2021/22.
- There has been a **511.2% increase in referrals for Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE)** (509 in 2015 rising to 3111 in 2021).
- Significant Non-Recent Child Abuse investigations which are SIO led have risen from 42 in 2016 to 90 in 2021, a **115% increase**.
- This is predicted to continue to rise due to the ongoing Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry.
- Domestic abuse incidents have seen a **3.7% increase on 5 year mean** with 63,093 recorded in 2022/23 YTD (July) leading to 40,221 crimes being recorded, a **4% increase on 5 year mean**. In addition DSDAS applications have **increased by 12.4%** from 3,525 in 2020/21 to 3,962 in 2021/22.
- There were 6,460 Registered Sex Offenders in Scotland in June 2022 which is a **6% increase on the 5 year mean**.

### 3. ENGAGEMENT

- 3.1 External engagement has commenced with PPDP being presented to partners at the Domestic Abuse Forum in November 2022 and further engagement with other key partners will be progressed over the coming months.

Work is being progressed in collaboration with the Local Policing Service delivery review to establish an External Advisory Group, which will have a wide ranging membership covering all elements of Public Protection and Local Policing.

- 3.2 The work within PPDP will drive the implementation of Police Scotland's Violence against Women and Girl's strategy, this strategy will support ambitions set out within our existing strategic framework and is a key area of focus for Police Scotland. It is therefore important to highlight the extensive engagement that has been undertaken in this area, as the work needed to implement this important objective will be driven by the PPDP findings.

## OFFICIAL

As part of the strategic development, colleagues have undertaken a varied and extensive engagement process. This engagement will further develop Police Scotland's alignment with the Scottish Government's '*Equally Safe*' strategy and enhance the organisational capability to ensure women and girls live free from abuse, harassment and violence.

Our strategic engagement aims to deliver a collaborative environment for Police Scotland and key stakeholders to share insights, expertise and perspective to better inform the long-term strategic and tactical response to Violence against Women and Girls.

Our Research and Insights team have been involved in conducting interviews and focus groups, as well as creating two online engagement platforms. The first is a platform that allows victims and survivors of violence to anonymously share their experiences and stories, and the second, is a public space to gather ideas for tackling violence against women and girls.

So far, the following events have taken place:

- **VAWG Seminar with COSLA/SPA 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022:** the Scottish Police Authority and COSLA co-hosted a partnership stakeholder seminar, in collaboration with Police Scotland. This was focused on hearing from organisations working at a national, community and local level to improve outcomes for women, girls and children.
- **Academic Challenge Sessions – 5<sup>th</sup> September, 20<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> October & 3<sup>rd</sup> November:** these sessions focused on themes including diversity and inclusion (the experiences of people with disabilities), LGBTQI+, stalking and harassment, and online harm. Academics from a number of universities across Scotland participated in the sessions, as well as a representative from the Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities.

Some of the key themes that emerged during the sessions include awareness raising, education, improved victim engagement, and updated officer and staff training.

- **VAWG Stakeholder Engagement Forum 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022:** This forum was attended by a number of senior leaders from a range of services who will provide a coordinated strategic approach to Police Scotland's response to tackle Violence against Women and Girls. Areas of focus included BME, forced marriage, honour based violence and children and young

people. The outline strategy was presented with a discussion to ensure partners were supportive of the approach and initial outline of the strategy.

- **VAWG Stakeholder Engagement Forum 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022:** The focus of the second VAWG Stakeholder Engagement Forum was to consider the policing role in prevention, using some key questions to bring together the perspectives of various stakeholders and focus the discussion to help shape the narrative within the strategy.

Some of the key themes that emerged during the session include understanding the continuum of violence, recognising the different needs and desired outcomes of each victim, the importance of partnership working and the need for Police Scotland to lead by example.

It is also important to highlight within this paper the work of Police Scotland on tackling sexism and Misogyny through the working group chaired by DCC Graham. The purpose of the Sex Equality and Tackling Misogyny Working Group is to progress Police Scotland's commitment to providing a workplace that supports women, enhancing their lived experience of working with the organisation. This will be achieved through creating an environment free of sexism and misogyny that stretches beyond inclusion to ensure our workforce feel they belong in all areas of policing. This work is yet another important aspect of Public Protection to ensure the workforce is treated with respect as we expect our staff to treat the public.

Our vision is creating a culture, values and behaviours that enable us to work free from all forms of sexism, abuse, exploitation and harassment.

## **4. GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1 A monthly Oversight Board has been established chaired by ACC Major Crime and Public Protection reporting to DCC Graham. PPDP also provides progress updates to the Public Protection Governance Board.

Due to the complexities and far reach of Public Protection, Local Policing are fully engaged with representation of ACC Local Policing East and a Local Policing Commander at all PPDP Boards.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 Although the PPDP team is led by SCD Public Protection, it is a national transformation programme seeking to deliver significant improvements throughout the country locally and nationally. The work of the PPDP will deliver wider service improvement to the policing response to Public Protection across every business area. This programme is also closely aligned and has many interdependencies on the work of the Policing in a Digital world programme, the Intelligence policing review and the Local Policing Service delivery programme. The work of this programme cannot exist in a vacuum, it is an essential component of every area of policing in Scotland. Vulnerability impacts nearly every area of the work Police Scotland carry out every day.
- 5.2 The developmental work, as well as delivery of the product, of PPDP will be key in delivering the future Violence against Women and Girl's Strategy. Although Public Protection work supports victims, witnesses and vulnerable individuals of all genders, VAWG issues are almost exclusively within Public Protection. If we are to deliver a leading VAWG Strategy in Scotland, it is critical that we do so with a modern Public Protection structure and response.
- 5.3 PPDP provides an opportunity for Police Scotland to design and deliver an innovative, forward thinking and ground breaking Public Protection model, recognised nationally and internationally. The programme will equip the organisation with a different set of skills, people and structures to enable us to be more effective and efficient in this area of growing demand, to ensure a better service for the people of Scotland.
- 5.4 It is the intention of Police Scotland to provide an update on the work of the Violence against Women and Girl's strategy in early 2023, a report will be brought back to the SPA as to progress of the programme after this discussion.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are future financial implications for PPDP which are anticipated will arise from resourcing requirements and technical solutions. Although PPDP reports to the SCD Public Protection thematic lead, this National review is comprehensive and inclusive of Local Policing and other Specialist National Divisions and functions.

Professional Services are being sought to progress this work swiftly utilising the agreed service design led approach. The Business Justification Case (BJC) is currently being developed and costings agreed.

The pace and progress of the programme will be prioritised by Police Scotland, but will also be subject to forthcoming budgetary considerations by Scottish government. The ability to incorporate technology into the programme will also come at a cost, delivering key advances in the Recording of Joint Interviews across Scotland as best practice, the development of visually recorded evidence suites are examples of vitally important aspects to ensuring a victim focussed trauma informed approach, but come at considerable cost and would require investment.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 On 3 November 2022, the Resource Prioritisation Tactical Group approved additional resources be aligned to the team to undertake the next stages of the PPDP;

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no legal implications in this report.

## **9. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Growing workloads present increased risk to local communities if they are not addressed efficiently and effectively. This could be reflected in:
- Increased investigation time, impacting on public confidence and offenders potentially continuing to offend.
  - Reduced service to victims with officers managing higher workloads.
  - Impact on partners, particularly in Child/Adult Protection, Domestic Abuse and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) process.

Notwithstanding the reputational risk to Police Scotland, unless steps are taken in the immediate future to meet this growing demand



and identify opportunities for smarter working, there exists a significant and unacceptable risk to our communities. If this continues it presents risk which will undermine public confidence in our policing response.

**10. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no social implications in this report.

**11. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

11.1 There are community implications in this report – please refer to section 6.1.

**12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are no equality implications in this report.

**13. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 There are no environmental implications in this report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this report.