



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg yn ogystal â Saesneg.

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11th November 2024

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to:

The police response to stalking: Report on the super-complaint made by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust on behalf of National Stalking Consortium

The police response to stalking is an area of policing on which my Office has previously undertaken scrutiny activity, specifically in relation to the management of stalking perpetrators. As detailed below, I have also recently commissioned a bespoke stalking advocacy service across the Dyfed-Powys Police (DPP) force area.

I welcome and accept the findings and recommendations of the Report on the stalking super-complaint which I discussed with the Chief Constable at a meeting of my Policing Board on 24th September 2024.

One of the report's twenty-seven recommendations is put to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) only, whilst two are shared recommendations to Chief Constables and PCCs. The remaining report recommendations are to Chief Constables only, the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, the NPCC lead for stalking and harassment, and the Crown Prosecution Service.

PCCs have been asked to submit a response to this report and the three relevant recommendations to the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), who will in turn submit a response on behalf of PCCs to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) by the statutory response deadline. HMICFRS will publish a summary of responses online, however, to ensure transparency, I have also published this separate response on my website, which, in line with the above, focuses on three recommendations.

Recommendation 15 (to PCCs)

By 27 March 2025, review whether the right specialist services have been commissioned to support stalking victims in their area, including provision of trained independent stalking advocate caseworkers (ISACs).

PCCs and their mayor equivalents should provide the necessary services where they do not exist and should consider collaborating across force boundaries to provide services if it would be efficient and effective to do so.

Since September 1st 2024, my Office has commissioned Paladin National Stalking Advocacy Service - who are currently recognised as national best practice market leaders for provision of Independent Stalking Advocate

Caseworker (ISAC) support - to provide a bespoke stalking advocacy service across the DPP force area.

This one-year pilot was introduced due to the identification of a gap in specialist support provision for stalking victims across the Force area, and the risk this posed. The above-mentioned scrutiny activity into the policing of stalking perpetrators also recommended that my team and I consider the support available to victims of stalking.

The pilot seeks to test and improve the response to victims of stalking in the Force area. The pilot provides both the offer of advocacy to high-risk victims of stalking through the criminal justice system, and the offer of short-term support/one off advice to professionals supporting low and medium risk victims. A full time ISAC position has been developed solely for the DPP force area.

Alongside this, Paladin will deliver multi-agency training for professionals who already work with victims, to ensure that existing services such as Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs), Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) and Victim Advocates are appropriately skilled to support victims who experience stalking alongside domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Although the working relationship with Paladin is in its infancy, DPP has already reported several positive engagements between the ISAC and the Force. The pilot period will provide evidence to determine a longer-term proposal for service provision.

At present, no Ministry of Justice (MoJ) funding has been ring fenced for stalking services in the same way that domestic abuse and sexual violence advocacy posts have been prioritised. It would be of benefit for this to be considered in future funding allocations, so that stalking support services are able to be supported by PCCs with prioritised specific funding. Otherwise, these services are operating in competition with existing victim services as MoJ grant funding is already fully committed.

Recommendation 16 (to Chief Constables and PCCs)

By 27 March 2025, work together to review commissioning arrangements and make changes as soon as possible to ensure they embed collaborative working and information sharing between policing and services providing victim support to stalking victims.

As well as embedding Paladin within the wider sector of provision, they are already linked in with DPP's Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Operational Group and Vulnerability Hub, and other centralised groups of the specialist sector.

They will embed their service within the existing pathway to ensure referrals are seamless and provide a response based on specialist need and risk levels.

As a result of these close-working links, Paladin may also be involved in the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) processes.

Recommendation 25 (to Chief Constables and PCCs)

By 27 March 2025, explore opportunities to improve how their force works with partners to contribute to a multi-agency response to stalking. This should include considering:

- **How the force works in partnership with healthcare, the CPS, probation services and other criminal justice partners to manage stalking perpetrators and address their behaviour.**
- **Whether and how they should collaborate with other forces to effectively and efficiently contribute to multi-agency partnerships on stalking.**
- **How multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) are being used to effectively manage stalking offenders.**

- DPP's Domestic Abuse Stalking Co-ordinator focuses on managing the risk posed by perpetrators. The Domestic Abuse Stalking Co-ordinator, co-funded by my Office and DPP, works with the Civil Orders Co-ordinator (a newly created post) to ensure all stalking perpetrators identified as being high risk are considered for a Stalking Protection Order (SPO).

Since being in post, the Domestic Abuse Stalking Co-ordinator has established a monthly Stalking Clinic where high harm/risk perpetrators of stalking are discussed, along with high concern and/or repeat victims. Nominations are submitted by Local Policing Areas, the Vulnerability Hub, the Domestic Abuse Stalking Co-ordinator, and the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team. External partner nominations are also considered.

DPP recognises the value and importance of a multi-agency response to managing the risk posed by stalking perpetrators. As such they will be seeking to develop the Stalking Clinic approach, which currently involves the police, Forensic Psychology UK, mental health practitioners and the ISAC. The intention is to also include the Probation and Health services under the principles of a Multi-Agency Stalking Intervention Programme (MASIP). Evaluation of forces who have implemented the MASIP approach, provides an indication that this can have a positive impact on the outcomes of stalking investigations.



- The OPCC will closely monitor the impact of the Paladin pilot service to assess the demand and risk profile of the cohort. This may in future lead to wider opportunities aligned with local Forces.
- DPP is currently reviewing the civil order management process and recognises the role MAPPA has in managing stalking offenders who pose the greatest risk. DPP is developing a process whereby all offenders subject to an interim or full SPO will also be referred into MAPPA under 'potentially dangerous persons' and managed within the Offender Management Unit.

I am reassured that DPP and my Office are already meeting elements of the above recommendations, and working towards others. I will continue to monitor progress in this area.