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**Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu
Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner**

Deep Dive Review Progress Report

**Is Dyfed-Powys Police effectively managing
perpetrators of stalking and harassment?**

January 2025

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Overview

In 2023, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), carried out a deep dive scrutiny review, posing the question, *Is Dyfed-Powys Police effectively managing perpetrators of stalking and harassment?*

As a result of the review, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) set out several recommendations in the areas of 'Resourcing', 'Training', 'Data', 'Perpetrator Interventions', 'Perpetrator Monitoring', and 'Victims'. The full report is available on the OPCC [website](#).

Progress against each of the recommendations is reported to the PCC by Dyfed-Powys Police (DPP) on a six-monthly basis. In turn, the PCC provides the Police and Crime Panel with a Progress Report.

The last report provided updates as at June 2024 and is available on the Police and Crime Panel's website as part of the '[Public Reports Pack](#)' for the July 2024 meeting (page 131).

This current report provides the Police and Crime Panel with the detail of DPP's progress against the recommendations, as shared with the PCC in January 2025.

Governance

The strategic response to stalking and harassment is led by DPP's Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) and the Detective Superintendent for Protecting Vulnerable People.

The recommendations set by the OPCC are monitored through DPP's Op Rhagorol Board, where there is a focus on progress against local and national action plans and recommendations linked to the protecting vulnerable people portfolio.

Recommendation Progress

In the OPCC's July 2024 report, each recommendation was assigned a RAG rating to demonstrate progress made:

- Red** No progress has been made.
- Amber** Some progress has been made but more is required.
- Green** Recommendation is complete.

This report focuses only on the recommendations marked as Red or Amber in the June 2024 report. The recommendations previously marked as complete are not considered.

The June 2024 report provided details as to the Force's initial response to each recommendation and a February 2024 update. These two elements have been removed from this report to provide a more succinct document for the Police and Crime Panel, with the most up to date information: June 2024 and January 2025 updates. Previous updates are available within the above-linked June 2024 report.

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Resourcing Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Longer term sustainable funding should be identified by the Force for the Domestic Abuse and Stalking Perpetrator Co-Ordinator post.

Progress January 2025

- Long-term funding has yet to be secured for this.
- It is an identified growth area for DPP, and the post has been documented as 'being required' both in the Force's Planning and Assurance Cycle and the Force Management Statement.
- It was hoped that the multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) business case requiring Regional Partnership Board funding would release DPP funds to pay for this post, however the business case is still in discussion.
- DPP has emphasised the importance of the Domestic Abuse and Stalking Perpetrator Co-ordinator post: *It is even more critical and integral following the publication of the [Stalking Super-Complaint](#) in September 2024.*

Progress June 2024

- Funding has been confirmed until April 2025. Long-term funding is being sought.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- The OPCC are seeking confirmation in relation to funding arrangements. Concerns relating to wider funding partnership arrangement will be raised by the PCC over the coming weeks.

Training Recommendations

Recommendation 4: The Force should review the impact of the refreshed Stalking Champion training programme within 12 months of implementation. This review should include the consideration of victim feedback, outcomes, and reoffending data.

Progress January 2025

- The procurement process for the delivery of stalking advocate training has been completed. [Paladin](#), the National Stalking Advocacy Service, will deliver a three-year training programme to DPP.
- Funding is being secured at present, and an implementation plan is to be discussed with Paladin, to start Stalking Champion training from April 2025.
- The His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Area for improvement for the delivery of vulnerability related training (including stalking) has been approved for completion with clear evidence of progress, by the Deputy Chief Constable.

Progress June 2024

- A Domestic Abuse Champions training day was delivered in March/April 2024, led by DPP's Vulnerability Trainer.
- All Champions attended upskilling and information sharing events across National Stalking Awareness Week in April 2024.
- Welsh Women's Aid has hosted a risk assessment day for Domestic Abuse Officers and Secondary Risk Assessment Unit, considered Champions.
- DPP are in discussion with Paladin in relation to delivery of Stalking Champion training later this year, though funding has yet to be secured.

January 2025

- A formal evaluation of the regular inputs will be completed in February 2025.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- The OPCC will request regular updates regarding the training.

Recommendation 6: The Force should look to seek specific feedback from officers on inputs from victims and survivors in any future training surveys.

Progress January 2025

- Between January and April 2025, all police officers will undertake stalking training (which contains mandatory College of Policing training).
- Victim/survivor case studies are utilised within interactive modules to encourage discussion and feedback.
- Feedback is captured after each session to understand the impact that hearing victim/survivor case studies have had on them during the session.
- Initial feedback from the early sessions in January have been positive and highlighted the impactful nature of victim/survivor inputs and the benefits of having them within the training package.

Progress June 2024

- The Detective Superintendent for PVP has heard anecdotally that police officers do support hearing from those with lived experience during training.
- This will be considered formally however in the above-mentioned evaluation.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- DPP states that officers' feedback on the inclusion of victim-survivor case studies is captured after each training session. The OPCC will further consider how the impact of training on service delivery may be assessed.

Recommendation 7: The Force should consider how learning from the Operation Soteria Bluestone report may be relevant and applicable to the policing of stalking and harassment.

Progress January 2025

- DPP considers there to be several products within the Op Soteria Bluestone¹ National Operating Model which would be beneficial to the stalking portfolio:
 - A Victim information Guide - bespoke to stalking victims (similar to the new guide developed for victims of rape and other serious sexual offences).
 - A Problem Profile - an annual stalking problem profile which will allow a greater understanding of our problem and allow for prevention opportunities and strategic decisions.
 - Op Soteria Pillar 2 focuses on disrupting offenders and includes a toolkit which can also be utilised for stalking offenders. This product will be considered for use in the Multi-Agency Stalking Intervention Programme ([MASIP](#)).
 - The Victim engagement officer concept promoted within Op Soteria is being considered by the Force review team as part of future models.

¹ "Operation Soteria Bluestone is a national Home Office funded research and change programme [...] to enable forces to transform their response to RASSO." <https://www.npcc.police.uk/our-work/violence-against-women-and-girls/operation-soteria/>

January 2025

- DPP has assured the PCC that the stalking super complaint action plan, vulnerability strategy, violence against women and girls (VAWG) actions, and all similar vulnerability-related action and ongoing work are collated within one PVP developmental plan.

Progress June 2024

- The Detective Superintendent for Protecting Vulnerable People advised of key Op Soteria learning in relation to victim engagement. For example:
 - DPP is looking at how they implement victim engagement and ongoing contact; and
 - they are maximising the use of Early Advice from the Crown Prosecution Service; a process encouraged through Op Soteria.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- The OPCC determines that this action is Complete. DPP has evidenced consideration of the application of learning from Operation Soteria Bluestone to the stalking and harassment portfolio.
- OPCC staff attend regular internal and multi-agency meetings and will continue to maintain oversight of progress linked to Op Soteria and the PVP developmental plan.

Data Recommendations

Recommendation 8: If they are not already doing so, the Force should set out the preventative and intervention methods utilised against repeat offenders within their future crime profile reports.

Progress January 2025

- A request for a Power Bi Dashboard has been submitted to enable the identification of repeat offenders.
- Under the stalking super-complaint, DPP is looking at developing the stalking clinics to be a Multi-Agency Stalking Intervention Programme (MASIP), which will seek to prevent future offending by utilising a variety of intervention opportunities, assisting in the identification of repeat suspects.
- The Multi-agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) business case has been rejected by Chief Officers for uplift/financial reasons and will therefore be reviewed as part of the Force-wide review.

Progress June 2024

- To effectively identify and consider repeat offenders and the interventions utilised, the Detective Superintendent for PVP has written an options paper for the Assistant Chief Constable, setting out a new MATAC process.
- Improvements in data processes (see Recommendation 9) will enable greater consideration of preventative/intervention methods within crime profile reports.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- Assurances will be sought from DPP that alternative and effective processes are being considered by DPP as part of the Force-wide review.

January 2025

Recommendation 9: The Force should expand its Performance Dashboards to enable closer scrutiny of the application and breaches of civil orders.

Progress January 2025

- Whilst the Civil Order Co-ordinator continues to maintain a list of perpetrators subject to civil orders, a formal request has been submitted to the Service Improvement Unit (SIU) for assistance in the development of stalking data and visibility of such through dashboards. The outcome of an SIU prioritisation meeting is awaited, to understand timescales.
- The Civil Order Co-ordinator has also advised the OPCC of ongoing internal discussions regarding a potential change in process, whereby a new standalone occurrence would be created on the police system for each civil order requested. This would improve the efficiency of the monitoring of civil order applications and breaches.

Progress June 2024

- As per Recommendation 2, the Civil Order Co-ordinator is compiling a list of perpetrators subject to civil orders. This process needs to be uploaded to a performance dashboard and discussions are ongoing as to what the dashboard needs to include.
- A Vulnerability Analyst has been recruited and is currently reviewing available data in order to enrich the data considered at performance boards.
- DPP’s Performance Manager is currently assessing whether DPP deals effectively with breaches: A challenging piece of work which will improve DPP’s ability to monitor and respond to breaches.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- To maintain oversight of the monitoring and scrutiny of orders and breaches, the OPCC will continue to engage the Civil Order Co-ordinator.
- Updates will be sought in relation to the development of the Performance Dashboards.

Perpetrator Interventions Recommendations

Recommendation 11: Work to embed the Perpetrator Prioritisation Tool within Niche should be prioritised by the Force, so as not to lose traction with this vital project.

Progress January 2025

- Whilst the interim process remains in place, the SIU still have the task to rebuild the Perpetrator Prioritisation Tool. SIU development is prioritised based on risk.
- Progress is being monitored through the force governance structure.

Progress June 2024

- The interim process of a Power BI Dashboard to identify repeat perpetrators remains in place.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- Updates will continue to be sought from DPP in relation to the development of the Perpetrator Prioritisation Tool.

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Recommendation 12: Dyfed-Powys Police should seek assurance that investigating officers are considering the use of a range of interventions, including civil orders, as part of their perpetrator management strategies, and at the earliest possible stage of an investigation.

Progress January 2025

- As previously mentioned, DPP has been developing the stalking clinics to align to the MASIP principles. This will ensure more agencies are involved and more interventions considered.
- At this time, there is no funding support for a MASIP process, but this will be included in the PVP Departmental plan for 2025-26, seeking support.
- The OPCC report from the below-mentioned August 2024 Quality Assurance Panel's review of stalking and harassment cases is available on the PCC's [website](#). Within the three recordings of body worn video footage observed, no officer was heard discussing civil order options. However, Quality Assurance Panel members did find reference to the consideration of a Stalking Protection Order (SPO) in one of the accompanying police records: Whilst not applied, an SPO was considered by DPP's Domestic Abuse and Stalking Perpetrator Schemes Co-ordinator, and early engagement with Legal Services took place.
- The OPCC has had sight of internal police data which demonstrates a clear increase in the number of SPOs being considered/SPO enquiries received by the Civil Order Co-ordinator.

Progress June 2024

- The established Civil Order Co-ordinator and Stalking Perpetrator Co-ordinator roles ensure oversight of officers' use of interventions such as civil orders.
- As part of Op Flagship, over a month, DPP will focus on reviewing whether any live cases should be considered for a Stalking Protection Order.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- The OPCC will request updates as to the implementation of MASIP principles at the stalking clinics.
- Once the stalking clinics restart, with the MASIP principles embedded, an OPCC Policy Advisor will attend a clinic to observe the process.

Recommendation 13: The Force should ensure all considerations of assessments (such as the Homicide Risk Escalation) and any interventions (such as civil orders and the Reflecting on Relationships Programme), whether progressed or not, are noted by officers within the Crime Management System. This should include when cases are discussed at Daily Management Meetings.

Progress January 2025

- A new MASIP process, if supported, includes a triage/assessment process which will provisionally review all stalking crimes to identify any interventions that would be suitable for each case, assessing its merit on being referred to MASIP. During this process, they will be able to check and test that the investigating officer has clearly documented assessment and intervention opportunities.
- At this time, there is no funding support for a MASIP process, but this will be included in the PVP departmental plan for 2025-26, seeking support.

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Progress June 2024

- Processes have been professionalised through the Force's Daily Management Meetings (DMMs) whereby senior officers are checking whether officers have considered risk assessments/interventions and are holding supervisors to account.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- The OPCC's Head of Strategy and Policy is due to attend a Force Daily Management Meeting to observe the assurance processes in place.
- The OPCC will request updates as to the implementation of a new MASIP process.

Perpetrator Monitoring Recommendations

Recommendation 14: The Force should consider the implementation of processes to manage civil orders as recommended by the Force's VAWG lead in the Domestic Abuse Review. This should include heightened follow-up and monitoring once interventions such as the Reflecting on Relationships Programme are completed.

Progress January 2025

- Work is ongoing with DPP's Offender Management Unit (OMU) and the Civil Order Co-ordinator to develop a process for the management of offenders following a civil order being granted. This will ensure that orders are being followed up and any intervention agreed as part of an order is completed. Any non-compliance will then be treated as a breach.
- The Detective Superintendent for Protecting Vulnerable People continues to update the Mid and West Wales Survivor Advisory Panel on this work and utilises the group to shape and review the processes.

Progress June 2024

- Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) are being established across the Dyfed-Powys area, who link in with the Civil Order Co-ordinator to manage and review civil orders.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- The OPCC will continue to engage the Civil Order Co-ordinator and will request updates and data to enable a review of how the process is working.

Recommendation 15: The new Civil Orders Officer should support reviews of civil orders. Such reviews should incorporate the views of the victim.

Progress January 2025

- A pilot role is being created from February 2025 for 6 months specifically for seeking civil orders as an 'Application Officer'. This will require contact with victims to seek their views and update them on the development of the order.
- It is hoped that this officer will expedite the application given that they will have protected time, will develop an excellent working relationship with Legal Services, and become a subject matter expert.

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Progress June 2024

- SPOCs are being established across the Dyfed-Powys area, who link in with the Civil Order Co-ordinator to manage and review civil orders.
- The Civil Order Co-ordinator undertakes risk assessments in his reviews of civil orders and advises officers of the appropriate course of action, such as when they ought to speak to victims.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- Through attendance at the relevant meeting, the OPCC will monitor the success of the Application Officer pilot.

Victims Recommendations**Recommendation 16: Officers should be encouraged to revisit contact agreements with victims at various stages of the investigation.****Progress January 2025**

- Work is ongoing to develop a new victim/contact management platform which will assist in monitoring the compliance of victim contracts (specifically victims who are designated as enhanced victims).

Progress June 2024

- DPP is undertaken a piece of work to ensure that a victim needs assessment is undertaken. Findings are reported to the Victim and Witness Sub-Group.

Ongoing OPCC monitoring activity

- DPP has advised that the victim/contact management platform will be monitored by the Victim and Witness Sub-Group of the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), which the OPCC co-ordinates and attends.

OPCC Recommendation Update

One of the review's recommendations, marked as complete in the previous progress report, emphasised the importance of specialist support services for victims of stalking. Recommendation 18, set by the PCC for the OPCC stated that, '*Further consideration should be given to the support provided to victims of stalking in the upcoming retendering of Victim and Witness Services by the OPCC*'.

In the June 2024 report, the OPCC advised the Police and Crime Panel of the planned commencement of a pilot with Paladin National Stalking Advocacy Service, to include an Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC) and training for professionals.

Although DPP recommendations previously marked as complete are not considered above, it would be remiss not to provide the Police and Crime Panel with an update on the pilot, which commenced on 1st September 2024:

- Two part-time ISACs have been appointed, dedicated to the Dyfed-Powys area.
- They have attended, and continue to attend, a plethora of training sessions.
- Both ISACs are attending Welsh language training alongside the PCC's volunteers.
- To date, 13 victims of stalking have been/are being supported.

January 2025

- In their quarterly monitoring report, Paladin included a case study detailing intervention and support provided to one of their clients from this area. A positive and reassuring amount of activity has been/is being undertaken.
- Two training sessions have been held for professionals, and a third is planned for March 2025. Representatives from a variety of organisations have already attended, ensuring a widespread understanding of stalking across the Dyfed-Powys areas.

Conclusion

It is encouraging to hear that progress continues to be made against most of the recommendations set by the PCC. The introduction of an Application Officer for example, whilst currently a pilot, is a positive step in engaging stalking victims in relation to civil orders: Victims' views will be sought, and they will be kept updated by the Officer.

It is however concerning that financial constraints may be hindering progress against some recommendations. The Domestic Abuse and Stalking Perpetrator Co-ordinator post for example, which the PCC has previously funded, is vital in continuing with important service improvements for victims of stalking. The OPCC are seeking confirmation in relation to funding arrangements. Concerns relating to wider funding partnership arrangement will be raised by the PCC over the coming weeks.

It is evident that DPP's Protecting Vulnerable People Detective Superintendent has set a clear developmental plan for the portfolio area which incorporates the recommendations from the deep dive review. The Detective Superintendent will oversee the implementation of the developmental plan.

The OPCC will continue to monitor progress through the consideration of data, attendance at meetings relating to stalking, and maintaining regular communication with the lead officers.