

Vulnerability

Statement of Intent 2016 - 2021

Introduction:

This document aims to provide a concise statement of intent from The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Warwickshire in relation to Vulnerability.

Protecting people from harm and keeping communities safe is the essence of policing and community safety in Warwickshire. It is important to recognise that some individuals and communities are more vulnerable than others and for this reason the Chief Constable has set a long term aspiration for Warwickshire Police 'to be great at protecting the most vulnerable', an aspiration strongly supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

In recent years, locally and nationally, we have seen an increase in both the volume and complexity of crimes being brought to the attention of the police and other safeguarding agencies. The increased awareness around child sexual exploitation is typical of this change, as is the need to develop our understanding of the emerging threat of modern slavery. A large percentage of crime is hidden from public view but is also responsible for causing the greatest harm.

Mental health, disability and other factors, including drug and alcohol addiction or being in local authority care, can make someone more vulnerable to criminal behaviour, either as a perpetrator or a victim.

Vulnerability does not fall neatly into any one piece of legislation; however, details of legislation that encompass vulnerability are captured within the Safeguarding Policy 2017 for the OPCC.

Definitions:

To provide clarity the OPCC has adopted the College of Policing's national definition for what vulnerability is: '**A person is vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances they are unable to take care of, or protect themselves or others, from harm or exploitation**'. Early identification of vulnerability is of the utmost importance. But it is also clear that if we can reduce vulnerable people's exposure to harm this will have a significant impact and consequently reduce further harm and demand.

Current position:

Within the OPCC there are dedicated Policy and Research Officers who undertake work alongside colleagues from a number of different organisations (both statutory and third sector) to prepare policy papers, conduct research, lead initiatives and undertake briefing papers and reports.

Policy and Research Officers also manage the commissioning of Victim Support Services and funding allocations that are awarded through the commissioners annual grant scheme to provide the provision of services to support victims of crime through the cope and recovery process. Those that receive grant funding deliver interventions to support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan objectives.

The OPCC continues to support the work undertaken by the Warwickshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and attends the subcommittee meetings for the Safeguarding Boards. We also work in partnership with a number of different agencies to organise and support the work of the Warwickshire Serious and Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOCJAG).

Officers within the OPCC support Warwickshire Police to deliver against the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR), which sets out the Home Secretary's view of the national threats that the police must address. The threats that are included within the current SPR are:

- **Terrorism**
- **Serious & Organised Crime**
- A national cyber incident (**fraud, sexting, cyber bullying**)
- Public disorder
- Civil emergencies
- **Child sexual abuse**

Key Aims and Objectives:

The current aims and objectives within the Police and Crime Plan 2016 – 2021 that relate directly to vulnerability are:

- Make Warwickshire Police great at protecting the most vulnerable from harm.
- Have Warwickshire Police rated by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary as 'good' (as a minimum) in its PEEL Effectiveness (Vulnerability) inspections. The force must be able to sustain or continue to improve this rating.
- Work with the force and partner agencies to ensure that vulnerable children and adults are safeguarded via the MASH.
- Encourage increased reporting of offences which cause the greatest harm, such as rape, serious sexual offences, hate crime, child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and domestic abuse.
- Continue to support and influence the Violence against Women and Girls county strategy.
- Support the countywide Hate Crime strategy and ensure the action plan continues to develop to meet the changing landscape following the vote to leave the European Union.
- Oversee, influence and organise the Warwickshire SOCJAG, to reduce the threat score of each serious and organised crime group managed through this process.

- Actively contribute to the strong local partnerships that deliver our shared outcomes.
- Continue to develop awareness and understanding of people suffering mental health difficulties and provide a better service for those with mental health conditions at their first contact with the police.
- Continue to support the partnership Prevent action plan within Warwickshire.

The Police and Crime Commissioner will hold the Chief Constable to account on the following:

- Delivery of the forces Vulnerability Strategy.
- Continuing to implement the vulnerability awareness training to all front line police officers, to promote a changed culture which sees enhanced 'professional curiosity' to ensure vulnerable victims are identified at an early stage and given appropriate help.
- Improving the Warwickshire Police's current rating in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary PEEL Effectiveness (Vulnerability) inspection.
- Maintaining governance of the Mental Health Concordat.
- Ensuring the police requirements of the Prevent action plan are implemented.
- Gain a greater understanding of the threat of Modern Slavery and the number of victims that have undergone or are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage.
- Increase knowledge around Missing People, in particular individuals that have repeat episodes and those under 18 years of age.

The future plans:

The OPCC until 2021 will:

- Continue to deliver against the aims and objectives of the Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021.
- Ensure vulnerability remains at the forefront of grant funded services and commissioned services.
- Continue to support and work in partnership with Warwickshire Police and other partner organisations, both statutory and third sector.
- Continue to support the multi-agency CSE team and the work they undertake.
- Develop future commissioning intentions to provide support services for victims of crime, in particular victims of crime from pre-agreed crime categories and those who have been the victim of sexual abuse and violence and child sexual exploitation.
- Work innovatively to bring national best practice to Warwickshire to protect the most vulnerable.
- To provide our communities with the best possible service, using a set of core values, which are supported by the College of Policing Code of Ethics and the nine policing principles. These principles and core values will be embedded within the OPCC and underpin every decision and action to support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.