



Strengthen Support to Victims of Domestic Violence

Specialized Domestic Violence
Teams & Enhanced Evidence
Gathering to Prosecution

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Police's Responses (1)

- *“Enough is Enough” – domestic violence strategy paper*
- The police has the obligation to:
 - protect both adult and child victims of domestic violence
 - investigate into the crime
 - deter against domestic violence
- Standard procedure to handle domestic violence cases

Police's Responses (2)

- Pro-arrest policy
 - not mandatory
 - not based on victim's willingness or consent
 - when there are evidences supporting an arrest of offenders, police officers should do so
 - if no arrest is made, reasons have to be stated clearly in investigation report
 - police officers have the obligation to gather evidences and investigate

Specialized Domestic Violence Teams

- Specialist officers in England and Wales police forces
- Domestic Violence Officers, Domestic Violence Coordinators, or Domestic Violence Liaison Officers.
- Community Safety Units (CSU) in London

Example of West Yorkshire Police

- Patrol officers – attend the scene
- Domestic Violence Coordinator (DVC) –
 - monitors reported incidents
 - conducts risk assessment
 - provides support and resources to the victims

Risk Assessment (1)

- Six risk factors:
 - separating from partners and have child contact issues
 - pregnant or recently given birth
 - suffering from abuse that are becoming more frequent and violent in nature
 - socially isolated
 - stalked by current or previous partners
 - sexually assaulted by their partner

Risk Assessment (2)

- 3 stages of risk assessment
- Initial risk assessment
 - police officers at the scene determine whether risk factors are present and the risk level
 - 3 risk levels
 - standard
 - medium
 - high

Risk Assessment (3)

- Second risk assessment
 - DVC formulates intervention strategies
 - “repeat victimization policy”
 - 3 levels of intervention strategies:
Level A, Level B, and Level C
 - Level A: standard risk
 - Level B: medium risk
 - Level C: high risk

Risk Assessment (4)

- Pre-charge custody risk-assessment
 - custody officer completes risk assessment after perpetrator is arrested
 - before making the decision of charging/releasing

Evidence Collection (1)

- Evidences include:
 - photographs
 - video footage
 - DNA samples
 - witnesses statements (neighbor)
 - medical report
 - may include hearsay
- Training by Crown Prosecution Service in evidence collection

Evidence Collection (1)

- Metropolitan London Police
 - 33 boroughs of London
 - *“Book 124D — Domestic Violence Investigation/Arrest Form”*
 - frontline police officers to document every reported domestic violence case
 - submitted to Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) after completion