

Appendix 5

Information concerning Warwickshire Police procedures and training on Stalking and Harassment

The following information provided by Warwickshire Police (June 2015) indicated that their risk assessment procedure on stalking in both a domestic and non-domestic setting is robust.

Warwickshire Police have adopted the ACPO Practice Advice on Investigating Stalking and Harassment (2009) as a key new Force procedure in the investigation of domestic/non-domestic harassment and stalking. This procedure contains specific reference to ACPO Practice advice and a hyperlink to this document is contained within the new procedure.

Within Warwickshire Police procedure the completion of the electronic DASH risk assessment is mandatory upon creation of all domestic-related crimes or incidents including those containing harassment and stalking. When officers complete the DASH a 'Yes' answer to Q8 (Does constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you?) automatically opens up an additional set of 11 questions known as the S-DASH (Stalking/Harassment DASH). These are in addition to the standard 27 DASH questions. Completion of the electronic S-DASH is mandatory for all domestic-related harassment and stalking crimes and incidents.

Warwickshire Police have also undertaken a recent pilot (2015) which explored the use of S-DASH for non-domestic harassment and stalking crimes and incidents. This was considered to have been successful and a report recommending full roll-out is currently with Chief Officers. It is anticipated that this will be supported.

With regard to Training on Stalking and Harassment, this is an integral part of the National Policing Curriculum for all newly recruited student Police Officers undertaking the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP). Stalking and harassment has also been included in the training of all new Detectives undertaking the Initial Crime Investigators Development Programme (ICIDP) since its introduction in 2007.

When stalking was introduced as a criminal offence in its own right, an E-Learning package was made available to all officers to refresh and enhance their initial stalking and harassment training in line with the changes to legislation.

When DASH risk assessments were enhanced with the introduction of the specific SDASH question set, all Police officers received iCard learning updates informing them of the new procedures to be followed.

As from 15th June 2015, Warwickshire Police & West Mercia Police started delivering the new National Policing Curriculum for Investigators on the ICIDP programme which features one week's training dedicated to PVP investigations and incorporates a revised Stalking and Harassment input (post legislation changes).