



Making women and girls safer in North Yorkshire

What is working well, what are the challenges, what are your plans to deliver improvements in this area and how you will know you have succeeded?

September 2023



Context

Crimes like rape, domestic abuse, stalking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and 'honour' killings, have a devastating and disproportionate impact on women.

2021 - Policing was shaken when serving Metropolitan Police officer Wayne Couzens was convicted of the kidnap, rape and murder of Ms Sarah Everard.

His actions sparked nationwide revulsion; it forced men to examine their conduct towards women and the authorities to increase efforts in tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG).



**TACKLING
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN & GIRLS**

National VAWG Strategy



- July 2021 – Home Secretary Launched National VAWG strategy. Including first ever national Police lead for VAWG.
- ‘The ambition of the national strategy aims to increase support for victims and survivors, increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice, increase reports to the police, and ultimately, reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls’

“
I am honoured to be taking on such an important role. With a career spanning many different elements of public protection, I am committed to reducing harm and vulnerability within communities and working specifically to improve the lives of women and girls.”

National Police Lead for VAWG
DCC Maggie Blyth

A portrait of DCC Maggie Blyth, a woman with short blonde hair, wearing a white police uniform shirt and a black tie, smiling.

The logo for the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), featuring a crown and the text 'NPCC National Police Chiefs' Council'.

NYP – Local VAWG strategy



2023 VAWG Strategic Threat Risk Assessment (STRA), identifies 4 key threats, including domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences. Reported VAWG offences suggest up to 57 % are violence related, 26% sexual crime and 15% 'other'.

2023 NYP VAWG strategy has been developed in line with the national VAWG strategy and NYP strategic intentions and priorities – PLAN ON A PAGE.

- The NYP VAWG strategy focuses on three pillars:
- Building Trust and Confidence,
- Relentless Pursuit of Offenders,
- Creating Safer Spaces.



NYP and OPCC VAWG strategy links



Plans share common strategic themes including..

Public confidence.

Police take swift action when dealing with perpetrators by establishing early intervention opportunities.

Strengthen Rape and Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panels to identify learning opportunities and ensure continuous service improvements from police rape investigations.

Strengthening the Multi-Agency Approach to Address VAWG

OPCC continue to support and develop the Multi-Agency Tasking And Coordination (“MATAAC”) process to more effectively identify and target the most harmful and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse.



What is included in police the plan ?



- Internally
- The force will promote the reporting of concerns by encouraging our workforce to report concerns via their Line Manager, Anonymous Messenger, or email, or the IOPC “Whistleblowing” line.
- The force will reduce repeated harm and/or abuse of power. Where concerns are raised about an individual member of our workforce, the force will proactively monitor in line with the concern raised to address and/resolve accordingly.
- The force will take a proactive approach to the ongoing monitoring of the workforce, eg via the fully automated mandatory Integrity Health Check.
- We will actively engage with women and girls in our communities, through identified focus points such as higher education and women only spaces such as the York Women’s Centre



What is included in police plan ?



Externally ...

- The force will identify opportunities to intervene early to minimise harm to victims, using preventative measures such as Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO) and Sexual Risk Orders (SRO).
- The force will manage the risks posed by the highest harm offenders using all available measures, such as MAPPA, MATAC, MARAC and IOM
- Investigative standards will be raised by ensuring the workforce have the right skills to investigate offences disclosed by victims.
- The force will comply with the Victims Code of Conduct, ensuring that the voice of the victim is heard, and officers take time to understand the complexities of the victim's current experience.
- The force will be proactive in our use of Disclosure Schemes, sharing information to promote safeguarding, and allowing recipients to make informed choices



Achievements to date...



Op Pledge - is North Yorkshire Police's pledge to ensure domestic abuse is never tolerated, minimised or excused. It is the force's promise that if a member of staff reports an incident of domestic abuse – the report will be dealt with sensitively and completely confidentially.

Project Shield: ensures that details of non-molestation orders are uploaded onto Police National Database. This ensures perpetrators of abuse can be identified when they move to other parts of the country and start new relationships.

White Ribbon accreditation : the force has been accredited by demonstrating commitment to ending men's violence against women.

Investment - £2.9 million investment to increase staffing across the force's safeguarding command is improving service to victims. E.g. offender management unit significantly reduced backlogs, improved the quality of risk assessment and the effectiveness of each visit

Crime allocation and investigation: NYP have created a new Office Manager, to allocate the right investigative resources to the right crime.

Internal Scrutiny and Governance - The force Vulnerability Board has been established to provide oversight and leadership across safeguarding themes including VAWG. This is supported by a Safeguarding Quality Assurance Team - to provide an internal audit inspection capability for the Board. The function provides a framework of scrutiny and assurance to understand force wide safeguarding performance and enhance public service provision

Challenges



Public Trust

- Re-building public trust. This follows the impact of national declining trust and confidence in policing and the high rate of victims of VAWG disengaging with the justice process. It is important that VAWG links in across all aspects of policing that aim to re build trust and confidence in policing.

Performance

- It is very important the force assesses the performance of the organisation against the VAWG priority – to understand the success of the police plan,.
- A safeguarding data pack has been created that includes key performance indicators including VAWG. Outcomes and arrest rates for VAWG related offences form part of this combined with public satisfaction data.
- A VAWG delivery plan has been created that will report back to the force Vulnerability Board.

