



Equality Impact Assessment Summary

Summary

Name of Product	Domestic Abuse Policy
Description of Product	Force Guidance in Relation to Domestic Abuse
Department	Safeguarding
Assessment Writer	[REDACTED]
Date Started	02 nd February 2021
Head of Dept Sign Off	[REDACTED], 3 rd August 2021
EDI Manager Sign Off	[REDACTED], 1 st September 2021
Review Date	March 2022

Version Control

This is a living document and should be updated as we update our products, and receive new insights and data on how our people or communities engage with our product.

Version	Date	Reason for update	Author

Stage One – Early Thinking

Use this space to confirm if you are developing a proposal that will impact upon policies and practices that are likely to impact upon our communities or workforce. Consider If you aren't sure how your product may impact people due to their protected characteristics please use our **Equality Consideration Checklist**.

Is an EIA required at this time?	Yes
If no, what is your rationale?	

Stage Two – Identify Scope

You must list the specific sources of evidence that you have used within the EIA to ensure your product is inclusive. Please including links to any sources and details of any consultation work you have undertaken.

The Domestic Abuse Policy has been drawn from the College of Policing APP. The development of this policy continued beyond the scope of the APP through its sharing with specific partner agencies and internal groups.

Cleveland Police recorded 18,744 Domestic related incidents in the year ending March 2020.

The crime survey for England & Wales for year ending March 2020 showed that an estimated 2.3 million adults aged 16 – 74 years experienced domestic abuse that year and that 74% of the victims were female.**

This is a prevalence rate of approximately 7 in 100 women and 4 in 100 men.

The police recorded a total of 1,288,018 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes in England and Wales in the year ending March 2020. Of these, 41% (529,077) were incidents not subsequently recorded as a crime. The remaining 59% (758,941) were recorded as domestic abuse-related crimes.*

The survey also found that those with a disability were more likely to experience Domestic Abuse than those without.

Consultation has been carried out both internally and externally.

- Early consultation with the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Team offering on-going guidance during the writing of the policy
- Feedback sought from all staff networks. Positive responses from all who participated.
- Questionnaire supplied to over 30 partner agencies, targeting those who are involved in the MARAC process to gain an understanding of expectations and additional insight. Around 50% of recipients completed and returned the survey, including;
 - Probation, Hartlepool Council, Redcar & Cleveland Council, The Halo Project, South Tees NHS, Hart Gables, Daisy Chain, We Are With You, Child Safeguarding, James Cook A&E.
- Information about victim support services in relation to sex, gender identity, and disability obtained.

*Not including Greater Manchester Police

** Crime survey only collects data on victims under the age of 75

Other sources



Equality Impact Assessment Summary

<http://www.galop.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Domestic-Violence-and-Abuse-and-the-LGBT-communities.pdf>
<http://www.galop.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/For-Service-Providers-Barriers.pdf>

Stage Three - Impact	
What potential positive or negative impacts has your research and consultation revealed?	
Age	
Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<p>It is recognised that DA can apply to all ages.</p> <p>The Cleveland Police Victim Liaison Officer is also trained as an Older Persons IDVA.</p> <p>Safeguarding Bulletin issued 15th February focussed on Older victims of Domestic Abuse with signposting to specific agencies to support older people.</p>	<p>The lack of opportunity to attend police stations in person particularly during Covid-19 restrictions may adversely affect the older population who may not be comfortable with online reporting.</p> <p>Sustaining abuse within the home setting may increase due to fears of leaving the address and contracting a life-threatening illness.</p> <p>Children who may otherwise leave the address to escape abuse could feel unable to for the same reason, or threat of Police action.</p> <p>Older people may also rely on a partner for care needs (or provide care for their partner) which may make reporting more difficult (see Disability). Older people may also be 'used to' abuse and not perceive themselves as being a victim – this could be partially mitigated by ensuring that promotion/publications around domestic abuse are inclusive of different age groups.</p>
Disability	
Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<p>It is recognised that Domestic Abuse applies to those with disabilities. The policy also recognises those considered as Vulnerable Adults.</p>	<p>A number of disabilities have been shown to be in the high-risk category of COVID-19. As with older victims, this could have a significant impact on the victim's ability to leave the place of abuse to seek help.</p>

Equality Impact Assessment Summary

	<p>People who depend on their partner to provide personal care / transport may find it particularly difficult to leave or who may not want their partner to be arrested as they will then be without care.</p> <p>Officers should also be aware that a victim's disability can be weaponised by an abuser, which may mean they are particularly vulnerable to coercive control and forms of abuse that may be less 'obvious'.</p>
Gender Reassignment	
Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<p>It is recognised that DA applies to same sex relationships and that it also applies to any gender.</p>	<p>The current victim information slip does not include any LGBT+ specific services.</p> <p>Some local services provide limited or no support to transgender women.</p> <p>Officers should be aware that domestic abuse where the victim is LGBT+ may take on specific forms that others are not subject to. The potential impact of some of these types of abuse, such as 'outing' and their use as a control tactic should not be underestimated.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	
Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<p>The policy recognises that Domestic Abuse can occur through a number of intimate relationships and is not limited to persons within a marriage or civil partnership.</p>	
Pregnancy and maternity	
Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<p>It is recognised that Domestic Abuse applies to pregnancy and maternity and must be applied fairly, equally and consistently by Police.</p>	<p>Pregnancy is recognised as a factor to domestic abuse which may lead to an increase or escalation in abuse. Including risks to unborn children</p>
Race	
Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts

Equality Impact Assessment Summary

<p>It is recognised that DA can apply to any person of all races. There is guidance to refer to the Honour Based Abuse policy if it is more appropriate when dealing with the incident.</p>	<p>Having a female officer available in dealing with female victims of certain communities has been identified as most likely to achieve the best service. This cannot be guaranteed and therefore could hinder the safeguarding and investigation.</p> <p>People with insecure immigration status may be reluctant to report domestic abuse for fear of deportation or reprisal.</p> <p>Local support services may have differing capabilities around translation and interpretation.</p>
Religion or Belief	
Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<p>It is recognised that DA can apply within all cultures and communities. There is guidance to refer to the Honour Based Abuse policy if it is more appropriate when dealing with the incident.</p>	<p>Relationship dynamics may be different in different cultures, and people within certain cultures may be more likely to suffer particular types of abuse. This could have a number of effects including victims being more reluctant to report or resistant to their partner being arrested.</p>
Sex	
Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<p>It is recognised that although there are higher reporting statistics of a male perpetrator and female victim, this is not always the case.</p>	<p>Some local services may provide limited or no support to male victims.</p>
Sexual Orientation	
Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<p>It is recognised that DA can occur in same sex relationships.</p>	<p>The current victim information slip does not include any LGBT+ specific services.</p> <p>Domestic abuse where the victim is LGBT+ may take on specific forms that others are not subject to. The potential impact of some of these types of abuse, such as 'outing' and their use as a control tactic should not be underestimated.</p>
Other – Please clarify	



Equality Impact Assessment Summary

Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
None identified at the time of writing.	None identified at the time of writing.

Stage Four – Mitigation – Actions		
What can be done to mitigate/minimise negative impacts?		
Action	Action Owner	Action Status
Regards COVID restrictions increasing the risk of domestic abuse a number of different campaigns have been promoted: Silent solution, ANI, mass text burst to previous victims, hairdresser campaign. These have been conducted in conjunction with partner agencies.	██████████	Complete
Guidance and training issued to officers must be victim focussed and sensitive to different needs, particularly in relation to protected characteristics. Community partners should be consulted/involved where appropriate. Officers to be signposted to information sources relating to domestic abuse within specific communities, such as Galop.	Various, ██████████ ██████████ IRT CI, L&D	Ongoing
Raise partner agencies awareness of the differing facets of domestic abuse to ensure they will encourage victims to report and report on their behalf.	Various, ██████████ ██████████	Ongoing
Publish Victim Services Checklist on SharePoint site so officers can direct victims to appropriate services.	██████████	24/5/21
Direction from Super complaint is that no victim of DA should be reported for immigration offences. Work in HBA Action Plan and CET Action Plan to promote awareness and confidence of victims to report.	████████████████████ ██████████	1/8/2021
Develop an equality to be utilised to ensure any existing or future materials reflect all protected characteristics and are accessible to all sections of the community. Utilise the equality considerations checklist on the Everyone Matters Intranet site.	██████████ ██████████/Corporate Comms	Ongoing



Equality Impact Assessment Summary

The DA Policy sits alongside the College of Policing APP which makes specific reference to Particular issues affecting certain groups of victims – reference to this section has been included in the DA Policy.	██████████	Complete
Amend the victim advice slip to include LGBT services	██████████	24/5/21

Stage Four – Mitigation – Risk Tolerance	
Have we exhausted options to mitigate/minimise any negative impacts? List negative impacts we have not been able to mitigate here.	
Impacts we cannot mitigate	N/A
Does your head of department approve of tolerating this risk?	N/A

Stage 5 – Sign Off

Once you have completed your assessment and product you must request your head of department sign them off. You then need to send your completed EIA summary and the product you have assessed to the EDI team: edi@cleveland.pnn.police.uk

The team will review your EIA and will either: provide final sign off the completed document, OR, return your document with further considerations and recommendations for you to implement.