

# DYFED POWYS POLICE



**Repeat Victimisation**

**Force Policy Document**

## **POLICY IDENTIFICATION PAGE**

*THIS POLICY HAS BEEN DRAFTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE IS APPROVED UNLESS WHERE OTHERWISE INDICATED AND JUSTIFIED.*

**Policy Title:** Prevention of Repeat Victimization

**Policy Reference No:** 1/00

**Version:** 2

**Police Ownership:** Dyfed Powys Police

**Portfolio / Business-area Owner:** CM& RD

**Department Responsible:** Community Safety

**Person Responsible:** Chief Inspector

**Links or overlaps with other policies:**

**Policy Implementation Date:** 03.10.2000

**Required Frequency of Review**  
**e.g. Six Monthly, Annually:** Annually

**Date Policy Last reviewed:** October, 2008

**Policy Review Date:** October, 2009

## REVIEW OF DOCUMENT

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Reason for Change</b>
1.1	08.10.01	Chief Insp. Pete Westlake	Review (year one)
1.1	18.01.05	Chief Insp. Comm. Safety	Review carried out
1.1	16.04.07	Chief Insp. Community & Partnerships	Review carried out no changes.
2	11.11.08	Chief Insp. Community & Partnerships	Review carried out, names of departments and job titles changed.

## **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

This policy has been drafted in accordance with the Human Rights Act and has been reviewed on the basis of its contents and the supporting evidence and it is deemed compliant with that Act and the principles underpinning it.

Name: Martin Beckett

Department: **Legal Services Department**

Signed: .....*M. Beckett*..... (Force Legal Advisor)

### **REVIEW**

This policy is due for review on: October 2009

# Policy Document Statement

**This policy has been drafted in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1998**

## **(i) General Principles**

It is the policy of Dyfed Powys Police:

- To deliver guidance in respect of supervision and to adopt a fair and consistent approach to the recording and investigation repeat crime.
- To clearly define administrative duties in support of key policing objectives
- To provide key information to front line officers.

All staff, in the exercise of their daily duties, must ensure that:

- (a) They follow a clearly defined decision making process by detailing their objective(s), assessing all available and relevant information and feasible options, documenting decisions, and reviewing outcomes;
- (b) They give due regard to the welfare, safety, general well being and human rights of all individuals;
- (c) They do not unjustifiably discriminate against any individual or groups of individuals;
- (d) Actions taken is justified, strictly proportional to, and the least intrusive and damaging option to the achievement of their legitimate aims;

Any action must be carefully considered and consistent with the guidance set out below, so that negative outcomes are avoided and officers do not lay themselves open to significant risk of personal liability for the consequences.

Thoughtful and objective action is consistent with a problem solving approach and is most likely to minimise related disorder or offences against the person, whilst reinforcing policing by consent and enhancing the confidence in police of in all communities.

When carrying out this duty, it will be the duty of all officers to follow a clearly defined decision making process by detailing their objective(s),

assessing all available and relevant information and feasible options, documenting decisions made, and reviewing outcomes.

This decision making process will be subject of review and scrutiny by, Supervisors, BCU Commanders as well as other relevant parties as appropriate.

## **(ii) Aims and Lawful Authority**

The aim of this policy is to reduce the opportunity for, and incidences of, repeat victimisation and to enhance victim support, taking care not to increase the “fear of crime”. and to consistently apply such an approach with a view to sustaining public confidence. It is essential that a quality service is delivered

To reassure all vulnerable communities within the Dyfed Powys police area, by providing a safe environment in which to live, work and visit.

The legal basis for the exercise of the powers and duties outlined in this policy are:

The prevention and detection of crime:-

- Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Serious and Organised Crime and Police Act 2005

## **(iii) Human Rights**

The Human Rights Act 1998 will be considered at all stages of the process, taking into account the need to protect the rights and freedoms of members of the community at large as well as those involved in incidents which give rise to potential community tension.

In the application of this Policy Document, Dyfed Powys Police will not discriminate against any persons regardless of sex, race, colour, language, religion, political, or other opinion, national or social origin, association with national minority, property, birth, or other status as defined under Article 14, European Convention Human Rights (ECHR)”

## **Introduction**

Dyfed Powys Police recognises the devastating effect on members of our community who become victims of crime. This is compounded should they become a repeat victim. Repeat victimisation occurs in circumstances where the same person or place suffers more than one crime within a 12 month period. The force is committed to providing a quality service to all victims of crime and will reduce repeat victimisation and minimise the impact of crime on repeat victims, offering enhanced service and response, and concentrating such efforts on key crime areas.

The force will do this by;

- Identifying Repeat Victims
- Providing a graded response to victims according to the number of prior victimisations
- Selecting the appropriate response to re-victimisation, dependant on the crime involved
- Ensuring that the full range of services offered by partners and other agencies are utilised to reduce and minimise the impact of repeat victimisation

The following assertions can be made regarding repeat victimisation with reasonable confidence;

- Crime victimisation is a good predictor of future crime victimisation
- The more victimisation there has been in the past, the higher the likelihood of future victimisation
- Certain areas have a high crime rate, not because more people are victimised, but because there is more victimisation of the same people.

If victimisation recurs, it tends to recur quickly protecting those subjected to victimisation has the potential to reduce overall crime levels

## **First Contact**

It is likely that the Force Communication or Station Officer will be the victims' first contact with the Police and as such their lasting impression of the police service will be influenced by this initial encounter.

Failure to provide an appropriate and professional response to such reports could cause irreparable damage to future community confidence in the police service.

Police staff receiving notification of a crime/potential crime should generate an incident on STORM using the initial call type and provide the following initial response.

- Gather full information sensitively and reassuringly. An accurate 'first account' should be recorded.
- Assess the level of response required based on any identifiable risks to the victim.
- Instigate suitable interventions to remove or minimise any immediate risks
- Conduct immediate research of the force IT systems into the background of the victim, the suspect and location in order to better inform the officer attending the scene. This information should include any previous history that may identify repeat victimisation, any description/possible location of suspect(s), possible location of any witnesses and officer safety issues.

## **Victims**

Officers attending the scene of any repeat crime should provide both reassurance and immediate support to the victim, as well as investigating the incident.

The vast majority of victims are, or are at a greater risk of becoming repeat victims. The first time an incident comes to notice of the police is not necessarily the first time an offence has been committed.

There is an obvious and strong correlation between Repeat Victimisation and vulnerability. It therefore stands that repeat victims of crime are likely to be some of the most vulnerable victims that police staff encounter. Neighbourhood Policing Teams, PCSO's in particular should be tasked to undertake reassurance visits to victims, repeat and vulnerable victims;

## **Reporting and Recording of Crime incidents.**

The OIC must ensure that all evidence is secured and preserved at the earliest opportunity and ensure that the recording and investigation of the crime is in line with the Force Crime Recording and Investigation Policy.

It is important that investigating officers identify any repeat incidents when speaking to the victim or witnesses and identify any patterns or trends that should assist in any risk management plan and necessary intervention to reduce or eradicate such incidents and repeat any potential escalation.

Once the investigation officer identifies that the victim is a repeat victim he/she must inform their first line manager and also liaise with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and CID. In cases of violence or burglary dwelling the CID officer must inform the D/Inspector.

For Domestic abuse see below.

Definition --- Where a person or immediate family member suffers more than one crime in a twelve month period following the date the first crime was reported.

This definition should be used as a common standard to inform performance management and trend identification across all BCUs.

**Section 31 (1)(a)(b)(c) Law Enforcement Exemption applied.**

## **Domestic Abuse**

A common feature in most domestic abuse cases is repeat victimisation. The requirement for positive action in domestic abuse cases incurs obligations at every stage of the police response. These obligations extend from initial deployment to the response of the first officer on scene, through the whole process of investigation and the protection and care of victims and children. Action taken at all stages of the police response should ensure the effective protection of victims and children, allowing the criminal justice system to hold the offender to account. In all cases of Domestic Abuse the D/Inspector must be informed and he/she must consider the following referral process.

### **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)**

MARAC is a single meeting, attended by representatives from all agencies that have a role in a particular Domestic Abuse Case, where the police frequently take the lead role. The meeting combines up-to-date risk information with an assessment of the victim's needs. MARAC links the victim's needs to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in the case: victim, children and perpetrator.

MARAC aims to share information to increase the safety, health and well being of victims and others. Dyfed-Powys Police take a significant role in MARAC as the majority of referrals come from the Police. In these cases the risk identification and assessment will be carried out by the police prior to the MARAC taking place. The MARAC process establishes whether the offender poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community.

It is the policy of Dyfed-Powys Police to refer victims categorised as Very High Risk to a MARAC.

A key product from the MARAC process is the construction and implementation of a multi-agency risk management plan. The risk management plan should provide professional support to all those at risk, reducing risk of harm and repeat victimisation.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Community Safety Department to ensure on-going compliance in respect of the Human Rights Act, any other legislation or guidance documents, to include Human Rights case law.