



RESPONSE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON TO:

THE HMICFRS REPORT - THE POLICE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE – AN UPDATE REPORT (February 2019)

Chief Constable’s comments

The Chief Constable of Wiltshire is committed to improving the force response to domestic abuse and the areas highlighted by this HMICFRS report. Wiltshire Police were graded as good by HMICFRS in the last PEEL vulnerability inspection however the force continues to strive to achieve outstanding in this area.

Recommendations	Wiltshire response
<p>Although the report does not specifically put forward any recommendations and is more so an update report highlighting the ongoing and innovative work the police service provides to victims of domestic abuse, the comments opposite are provided to demonstrate the ongoing commitment Wiltshire Police affords to instances of domestic abuse.</p>	<p>In relation to the issues identified in this report, the force has undertaken the following action:</p> <p>Wiltshire Police alongside our partners are currently undertaking a review of the Wiltshire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) structure and processes to ensure that the MARAC is sustainable long term with the increase in demand it currently faces. The review and recommendations will be agreed through the MARAC governance process via the Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership.</p> <p>Wiltshire Police have reviewed both the Domestic Abuse and persons Released Under investigation policies ensuring that Police bail is proactively used to protect vulnerable victims. Persons arrested for domestic abuse will be released under investigation only under exceptional circumstances and where an officer of at least the rank of inspector has reviewed the decision and the risk.</p>

	<p>In 2019 a training package entitled 'first impressions' was rolled out to all front line staff which highlight the effect of officers attitude and behaviours on victims and the impact these may have on their engagement with the criminal justice process. All front line supervisors have received enhanced training around 'evidence led prosecutions' to ensure that they are able to identify cases where the victim may not support a prosecution but where evidence is available to allow for a prosecution.</p> <p>Wiltshire Police have been running Encompass for some time, where schools are informed in a timely manner where a pupil has been in a household where a Domestic Abuse incident has occurred, this has been further enhanced to now include notifications being sent to the child's GP to ensure that health professionals are informed so that the pupils welfare can be monitored.</p> <p>Victims of Domestic Abuse can provide invaluable information about how the Police can improve its service delivery. Utilising the support of our commissioned support services, victims are able to provide details of how satisfied they are and any areas of good practice or areas for improvement in a safe and secure manner. This information helps identify training needs and also policy changes.</p>
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Police and Crime Commissioner's comments

I welcome the update report on The Police Response to Domestic Abuse. In January 2019 I supported a multi-agency Conference in Swindon on domestic abuse. The purpose of the meeting was to endeavour stopping domestic abuse once and for all by improving help for victims and working with the perpetrators. I linked with a number of county-wide agencies all involved in protecting and supporting people affected by mental and physical domestic abuse.

I also fund a number of support services throughout Wiltshire and Swindon that work in this important area and will continue to support those services in every way I can. I am continually heartened by the level of collaboration in the county focused on protecting victims and how we all can keep improving services to those affected. A good example is the excellent work of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) across Swindon and Wiltshire.

Putting victims at the heart of Wiltshire Police's work is a key priority in my Police and Crime Plan and I am delighted to be able to commission a number of valuable support services across the county to protect domestic abuse victims and survivors.

I will continue to champion the work to identify and investigate instances of domestic abuse as I seek to improve on the previous PEEL inspection that graded the Force as good with regards to 'Protecting Vulnerable People'.

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Chief Constable Kier Prichard, Wiltshire Constabulary

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