

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)



Devon & Cornwall
POLICE

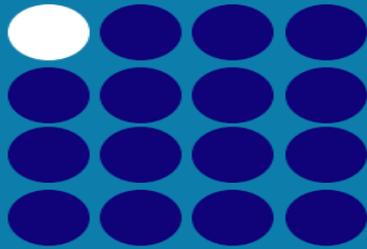
Multi Agency Safeguarding Week

HEALTH WARNING

DCI DAWN PERRIAM

Violence Against Women and Girls

College of Policing
NPCC
National Police Chiefs' Council
National Centre for Violence Against Women and Girls and Public Protection



1 in 12
women will be a
victim of violence
every year



1 in 20
Adults will be a
perpetrator of
VAWG every year



37%
increase in reports
of violence against
women and girls



400%
increase in reports of
child sexual abuse

**Less than 40 per cent
of the women who
experience violence
seek help of any sort**

81,000 women and girls were killed in 2020
- most by a partner or family member.

This is an average of
**one death every
11 minutes**



Strategic Policing Requirement

Introduction of Violence against Women and Girls as an additional national threat 2023

One study which was specifically looking to identify stalking indicated that stalking behaviour was present in 94% of cases, whereas another study reviewing domestic homicide reviews between 2011 and 2020 noted that one quarter of the victims had previously experienced stalking or harassment.



Sarah Everard had been kidnapped, raped and murdered by a Metropolitan police officer. She would never go home to her family and friends

2025 - 2027 Control Strategy

Vulnerability



With a focus on:

- RaSSO
- Domestic Abuse
- Stalking
- Child Sexual Abuse

Strategic Aim:

Reducing the volume and frequency of offending by targeting repeat high harm offenders, safeguarding repeat victims and tackling violence against women and girls.

Organised Crime



With a focus on:

- Cyber Crime
- Fraud
- Serious Organised Acquisitive Crime
- Middle Market Drug Supply

Strategic Aim:

Increase intelligence and awareness of SOC and the threat posed by advancing technology including its impact on our communities.

Exploitation



With a focus on:

- Organised Immigration Crime
- Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking
- Child Sexual Exploitation

Strategic Aim:

Increase the identification and safeguarding of victims of OIC, MSHT and CSE and target the offenders who exploit them.

Community Harm



With a focus on:

- Persistent & severe Anti-Social Behaviours
- Serious Violence (including Knife Crime)
- Road Safety

Strategic Aim:

Reduce community harm by safeguarding communities through continued hotspot patrols, problem solving plans and identification of high harm routes.

Violence against Women and Girls Strategy

Devon and Cornwall Police will tackle Violence against Women and Girls as a priority, acknowledging the profound harm it causes within society

Build Trust and Confidence

- Ethical and compassionate leadership
- Continuous learning culture intolerant of misogyny
- Accountability for organisational standards and workplace behaviours

I challenge discrimination

Relentless Perpetrator Pursuit

- Timely and effective response to incidents and investigations of VAWG
- Prioritisation of domestic abuse, sexual offences and stalking

I am committed to being victim centred, suspect focused and context led

Safer Spaces

- Whole system and problem orientated intervention
- Identification of key threats to include, repeat perpetrators, vulnerable victims and high harm locations

I create opportunities to prevent harm



Protect

- Protect all individuals and communities from VAWG, keeping victims and witnesses safe



Pursue

- Perpetrators of VAWG will be pursued and brought to justice



Prevent

- Prevent individuals from committing VAWG through collaborative partnership working



Prepare

- Ensure policing can effectively respond and reduce VAWG, with the right culture, skills and resources

 Protect	Build Trust and Confidence	Relentless Perpetrator Pursuit	Safer Spaces
	Improve the capture, learning and sharing of lived experience to support VAWG delivery, including experiences of female officers	Effective use of protective orders, bail and breach of bail with early identification and robust management of them	Identify highest harm perpetrators, repeat perpetrators and victims, ensure a partnership approach for an effective response, diversion and rehabilitation
	Include partners, 3 rd sector into DCP change processes, policy, procedure, training & reflective panels, including seldom heard voices	Reduce investigative bias with appropriate use of language and less judgment to ensure victim centred approach	Alignment of hot spot policing with VAWG to ensure opportunities for preventing crimes are maximised
	Increase DVDS and CSODS use of right to ask and right to know, monitor performance in line with legislation	Create effective and meaningful safeguarding forums with a high-quality delivery of MARAC	Develop a data science capability supporting the delivery of a MATAC or similar approach to effectively manage identified high harm perpetrators

 Pursue	Build Trust and Confidence	Relentless Perpetrator Pursuit	Safer Spaces
	Robust management and oversight of police perpetrated VAWG offences with procedural justice sought for all victims	Effective use of organisational control strategy and National Intelligence Model in alignment with the VAWG Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment to identify additional threats	Engage with partners to problem solve identified threats through delivery at all levels of the National Intelligence Model
	Ensure organisational support and staff networks for effective welfare management for investigators and victims of police perpetrated VAWG	Design and deliver a performance framework with a focus on DA, sexual offences and stalking	Ensure robust safeguarding of vulnerable and intimidated victims, working with partners to maximise safety and Victims Code of Practice compliance to safeguard the most vulnerable
	Ensure VAWG Policy and procedures are living documents and in alignment with recommendations, learning, Authorised Professional Practice, and trauma informed	Increase understanding and use of Evidence Led Prosecution, CPS early advice and additional scrutiny of outcome 14/15/16 maximising opportunities for CJS outcomes	Workforce responds to VAWG victims based on their needs, considering intersectionality and context

 Prevent	Build Trust and Confidence	Relentless Perpetrator Pursuit	Safer Spaces
	Ensure a VAWG data collection strategy is in place to enable any insights to be raised and addressed aligning where possible with the NPCC protected characteristics	Deliver and embed the Domestic Abuse Joint Justice Plan	Through a public health approach, support partners in primary, secondary prevention
	Alignment of PCC Crime and Justice plan with NPCC Framework, supporting the commissioning process and diversionary schemes	Understand the impact of online and technology-enabled VAWG creating safe spaces online	Delivery of tertiary prevention to tackle vulnerability in alignment of NPCC framework with National Policing Prevention Strategy
	Drive organisational change in relation to misogyny and building a healthy culture through active reporting of PP VAWG	Deliver a VAWG tactical problem-solving plan with clear direction for BCU's to drive improvement	Create and deliver organisational VAWG preventative and pro-active campaigns

 Prepare	Build Trust and Confidence	Relentless Perpetrator Pursuit	Safer Spaces
	Commitment to VAWG through the Force Management Statement and Protecting Vulnerable People business plans	Force performance understands capacity and capability of the workforce to provide an effective response to VAWG	VAWG Problem Profile is maintained and drives whole system organisational activity
	Refresh all VAWG related communications strategies (internal and external)	All VAWG related recommendations have appropriate governance to learn and develop best practice	Respond to intelligence gaps within the problem profile, to include online spaces and technology related offending
	Embed the National Operating Model for rape, use learning and practice for wider VAWG delivery	Strategic oversight and embedding of new VAWG legislation	Utilise Community Safety Partnerships to align Serious Violence Duty delivery with VAWG

It Does Matter Campaign

What is a non-contact sexual offence?

A non-contact sexual offence includes a range of sexual offences involving no physical contact between the perpetrator and victim.

Libby's story

Lisa Squire's story is poignant within the campaign and her tragic story sheds light on the seriousness of non-contact sexual offences.

On 1 February 2019 Libby was refused entry to a club because she was too drunk. Her friends sent her home alone in a taxi. Libby never got home. She was raped and murdered by a stranger who had an extensive history of non-contact sexual offences.

Through the launch of this campaign and the impact of Libby's story, we hope that the conversation and seriousness of non-contact sexual offences is no longer tolerated as 'not serious' enough to report.

Speak up, stand together, stay safe.

exposure
voyeurism
up-skirting
spiking
cat calling

If you report a non-contact sexual offence to the police, it will provide intelligence that will help us understand patterns of offending and assist with locating those that commit these crimes and help bring them to justice. It really does matter.

- Reporting non-contact sexual offences is using your voice and actions to drive change and create a safer environment for everyone.
- Together, we can shift the culture and challenge non-contact sexual offences, where safe to do so. and create a community where we stand up to these behaviours.
- Break the silence – reporting non-contact offences is key to making change.
- Your feelings matter, your actions matter, your safety matters.

It Does Matter Campaign



**Speak Up
Stand Together
Stay Safe**

While walking with my friend under a subway, a man approached us and exposed himself. Thankfully, we were together & able to report the incident while supporting each other through the situation.

MY SAFETY MATTERS!
YOURS DOES TOO

55% of women stated they didn't think the incident was serious enough to report. 45% stated they didn't think reporting it would help.



This is unacceptable.
Speak up and report it.

#ITDOESMATTER



**Speak Up
Stand Together
Stay Safe**

On a night out I left my drink unattended and later blacked out. My friends said I was just drunk, but I know my limit. I wish I reported it to help me reclaim a sense of freedom and safety.

MY FEELINGS MATTER!
YOURS DO TOO

An alarming 85% of women aged 18-24 and 64% of women of all ages reported that they had experienced unwanted sexual attention in public places.



This is unacceptable.
Speak up and report it.

#ITDOESMATTER



Child Sexual abuse

What is Child Sexual Abuse?

Child sexual abuse can identify as forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities. They may not necessarily involve a high level of violence and the child may or may not be aware of what is happening.

The activities may include physical contact, such as assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts (e.g. masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing).

They may also include non-contact activities, for example:

- involving children in looking at, or in the production of sexual images.
- involving children in watching sexual activities.
- encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult men. Women may also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. It is also important to note that children with special needs or disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect.

Grooming is when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them.

This can happen in person or online.

Finding a target

Gaining their trust

Normalising the abuse

Threats and coercion

Ensuring the abuse goes undetected

Using threats or violence to keep control

Isolating the victim

Giving a child drugs or alcohol



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**PROJECT
NIGHTEYE**
TARGETING SEXUAL PREDATORS

The logo for Project Nighteye, featuring the words 'PROJECT NIGHTEYE' in large, bold, purple letters. Below it, the tagline 'TARGETING SEXUAL PREDATORS' is written in a smaller, italicized purple font. To the right of the text is a stylized purple bird with its wings spread, perched on the top of the letter 'E' in 'NIGHTEYE'.

Tactical Aims

To deliver against the Strategic Policing Requirement regarding Neighbourhood and Response teams managing VAWG, specifically high harm perpetrators and vulnerable victims

To identify and target the male perpetrators of VAWG, specifically sexual predators in the ENTE using a 4Ps approach

To deliver an evidence-based and intelligence-led approach, ensuring resources are deployed in the most efficient and effective way, and are reviewed and evaluated throughout the timeframe

To deliver against the three pillars of the National VAWG Performance Framework

To utilise the tasking process in the management of VAWG perpetrators, including identification and robust ongoing management where appropriate

Stalking V Harassment

Stalking – a fixation on the individual, may present as multiple issues with the person, but at the core is the about the victim



Spot the **FOUR**
signs of stalking:
Fixated
Obsessive
Unwanted
Repeated

Harassment – about a specific issue, if the issue wasn't there the contact would stop

Harassment is lower in frequency and severity than stalking.

Identification of Stalking

Stalking is a goal driven behaviour that is intrusive and causes fear of violence or serious alarm or distress. The key feature which distinguishes stalking is that the perpetrator's behaviours

<input type="checkbox"/> Fixated	<input type="checkbox"/> Obsessed	<input type="checkbox"/> Unwanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Repeated
Does the suspect's behaviour indicate a disproportionate and unreasonable investment of time, effort, or resources ? e.g. the suspect won't stop.	Does the suspect appear to have an unhealthy and persistent preoccupation with the victim(s) or their cause? e.g. repeated breach of Restraining Order.	Does the victim report to you that the behaviour is not wanted ?	Is there a pattern of behaviour , whether or not the victim is aware of ALL the suspect's activity?

Definition of Stalking Offences

Section 2a

- following a person
- contacting, or attempting to contact, a person by any means
- publishing any statement or other material relating or purporting to relate to a person, or purporting to originate from a person
- monitoring the use by a person of the internet, email, or any other form of electronic communication
- loitering in any place (whether public or private)
- interfering with any property in the possession of a person
- watching or spying on a person

Section 4a - Stalking 4A Fear of violence **or** serious alarm or distress 'substantial adverse effect'

- the victim changing their routes to work, work patterns, or employment
- the victim arranging for friends or family to pick up children from school (to avoid contact with the stalker)
- the victim putting in place additional security measures in their home
- the victim moving home
- impact on physical or mental ill-health
- the deterioration in the victim's performance at work due to stress
- the victim stopping /or changing the way they socialise



Stalker Typology

CrimeStoppers.

The Rejected Stalker (54% of studied cases) is the most common type, has the highest prevalence of violence and will pursue the victim, often a former partner, for either reconciliation or revenge. They may respond to a combination of legal and clinical interventions.

The Resentful Stalker (15% of studied cases) intends to cause fear and distress to a victim in response to perceived mistreatment. Legal sanctions, though often necessary, may exacerbate their behaviour, and they may require psychiatric treatment.

The Intimacy Seeking Stalker (10% of studied cases) wants an intimate relationship with their victim and may have delusions about their relationship with the victim due to mental illness. They are unlikely to respond to legal sanctions and often require psychiatric treatment to cease stalking behaviours.

The Incompetent Stalker (11% of studied cases) attempts to forge a relationship with the victim in socially inappropriate ways. Legal sanctions can be effective. However, to prevent stalking of new victims in the future, perpetrators may require psychological treatment to change their behaviour and build social skills.

The Predatory Stalker (10% of studied cases) stalks victims for sexual gratification or in preparation for a sexual assault. Their stalking behaviour is sexually motivated and may involve carrying out stalking and sex offences simultaneously. Sex offender treatment may be used as an intervention for this type.



Stalking Risk Factors

Seeking proximity – loitering near workplace/home

Escalation – showing an escalation of the behaviour towards the victim/those close to them.

Last resort thinking – Mindset of the suspect

Unavoidable contact

Previous offending history – history of fixated behaviour and previous stalking and violent behaviour.

Significant loss – recent (not to include the loss of the relationship with the victim)

Mental health of the suspect – Build full picture

NON-DA STALKING

Cyber Stalking

Cyber Stalking is believed to occur within the majority of all stalking/harassment crime. It happens when an electronic medium like a phone, email, social media site, or message board is used to harass, harm, or create fear in another.

It can also involve tracking computer and internet use and using technology such as GPS to track where a person is.

Personal safety advice

Personal safety

- Do not think it any less serious if there has been no physical violence. Do not minimise the behaviour and potential risk of the stalker. Stalking can escalate at any time.
- Do not change your number or block the stalker. This will not stop the behaviour - they will find another means of contact.
- Talk about it. Tell as many trusted people as possible, friends, colleagues, and neighbours. They may be able to help take steps to protect you. Consider a buddy system - someone who is on alert if you do not arrive when you are expected.
- Vary your daily routine. Don't keep the same routes at the same time each day, mix it up and make sure someone knows where you are.
- Retain **everything** - screenshots, messages, emails, calls, cards... etc.
- Record **everything** - keep a diary of times, dates, places, witnesses and include how you felt at the time.
- Get your devices / vehicles checked for malware and trackers. Take digital safety seriously. Digital-enabled stalking is increasing rapidly.
- Limit the amount of information you share about yourself on social networking sites and check your privacy settings to ensure you are not giving away more information about yourself than you intend to.
- Do not engage with your stalker in any way.



- Do not block phone
- Tell people
- Retain everything
- Record everything
- Device check
- Be safe on social media





Thank you

Any questions ?

