

Domestic abuse handbook

A handbook to enable investigators and supervisors to have access to the current and relevant information for support and guidance in dealing with domestic abuse cases.

First published

5 August 2024

Key details

Stage of practice	Untested
Purpose	Organisational
Topic	Domestic abuse Investigation Leadership, development and learning
Organisation	South Yorkshire Police
HMICFRS report	Police performance Getting a grip: PEEL spotlight report
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Region	North East

Key details

Partners	Police Criminal justice (includes prisons, probation services) Health services Local authority Voluntary/not for profit organisation
Stage of implementation	The practice is implemented.
Start date	September 2021
Scale of initiative	Local
Target group	Children and young people Offenders Victims Workforce

Aim

To provide current, relevant information to support investigators and supervisors involved in the investigation and associated safeguarding of domestic abuse (DA).

Intended outcome

The intended outcomes of the DA handbook are to:

- improve the confidence of investigators and supervisors in making operational decisions
- improve investigation outcomes
- improve DA services to victims
- bring more offenders to justice

Description

The force has produced a DA handbook for investigators and supervisors as part of its 'back to basics' approach to investigations.

The handbook covers the entire domestic abuse process. It brings together key points from individual force policies and includes links to external sources such as the College of Policing's [Authorised Professional Practice \(APP\)](#). The DA handbook also covers policy and practice from the initial report to conclusion of the investigation. This includes referral processes, safeguarding, victim engagement and quality investigations.

The handbook covers the importance of safeguarding, victim engagement, quality investigations and use of protective orders. It can be accessed via the force intranet and can also be printed off as a hard copy.

The handbook is the responsibility of the investigator. As part of their wider responsibilities, they will regularly review feedback and the content to update the handbook accordingly with any changes at a national or local level around policy or practice.

The handbook is regularly referenced at continued professional development (CPD) events with investigators.

Overall impact

Feedback has regularly been provided, highlighting the quality of the handbook and its usefulness in assisting investigators and supervisors working on domestic abuse cases.

There is no current data available to show how much the handbook is being accessed or used.

Learning

- It is essential that investigators and supervisors have confidence in the handbook by ensuring the content is relevant and current.
- It is essential that the handbook can be easily assessed.
- The handbook requires regular review and updating.

It is important to get continuous feedback from investigators and supervisors on the content.

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