

Funding confirmed for national violence and public protection centre

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Government funding to establish a dedicated national hub that will centralise policing's response to violence against women and girls and wider crimes associated with vulnerability has been confirmed.

News 5 mins read

The creation of a dedicated policing hub will support forces with specialist knowledge and training for investigators and officers, and lead on a national approach to preventing these crimes from happening, with other agencies.

Police chiefs declared violence against women and girls a national emergency [last year](#), and called for a whole-system approach that brings together criminal justice partners, government bodies and industry, to tackle the threat through prevention.

The new centre is a collaboration between the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the College of Policing and will initially be based at the College.

Policing mobilised its response to tackle violence against women and girls at a national level by establishing a dedicated taskforce in 2021. Since then, the taskforce has worked with the College of Policing, the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme, the Child Sexual Exploitation taskforce, government and support organisations to drive consistency and best practice across all forces in England and Wales.

Building on the successes of programs like [Operation Soteria](#), the new centre will work with academics to ensure an evidence-based approach, transforming the way policing looks at and responds to these crimes.

Every year, at least one in 12 women will be the victim of violence. This is a startling and unacceptable statistic and one which we, collectively, must commit ourselves to

changing.

Policing is dedicated to protecting women and girls by targeting those who seek to harm them; and ensuring victims have the confidence to come forward, that they are listened to, treated compassionately and receive the best possible service.

That's why we'll place victims at the heart of the new centre and work across law enforcement, government and key stakeholders in both the public and voluntary sectors to boost the training we give to officers working in this area.

The College of Policing will support forces to achieve the highest possible standards and, building on the success of the existing programmes, we will provide policing with the data, research and insight to improve the response to violence against women and girls.

I'm grateful to the government for the support and funding provided.

Assistant Chief Constable Tom Harding, Director of Operational Standards, College of Policing

We welcome the official announcement and the financial support of government to implement a national policing centre to further protect victims and enhance our specialist capability to target perpetrators.

We already have the foundations in place, we have a strong partnership across the College of Policing (CoP), National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and specialised programmes to drive better consistency in policing's response to violence against women and girls.

Our officers work tirelessly every day to bring offenders to justice and keep people safe, but we need to do more and that starts with equipping our officers with the right training and support to be able to investigate effectively, in the same way as we would provide specialist training to firearms or public order officers.

We also need to listen and support victims through the criminal justice process and alongside partners, we will drive improvements for swifter justice and a quicker more robust response when people seek our help.

As we set out last year, the threat and scale of violence against women and girls (VAWG), has reached epidemic levels and it is estimated that at least 1 in every 12 women will be a victim of VAWG every year (2 million victims) and 1 in 20 adults in England and Wales will be a perpetrator of VAWG every year (2.3 million perpetrators). The figures are probably even higher, so we must act now to stop male-perpetrated violence, and we are committed to transforming the policing of public protection, so we have a national standard to decrease harm and cost to society.

The national centre forms part of our wider work with government on our shared commitment to reform policing and ensure forces have the people and resources they need to keep the public safe.

Temporary Chief Constable Maggie Blyth, National Police Chief's Council lead for Violence Against Women and Girls

The centre is about building and consolidating on work so far, providing a joined-up response and more effective support across law enforcement, government and our other partners. It will work to professionalise public protection and strive for a whole systems approach to prevent harm, give confidence to victims and witnesses?to come forward and bring more offenders to justice.

See our [violence against women and girls toolkit](#).

Tags

Violence against women and girls