



WILTSHIRE POLICE

Wiltshire Police Violence Against Women and Girls quarterly report – Autumn 2024

This document is to provide progress updates to our communities regarding how the Police are tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Ending VAWG Coalition Wiltshire (E-VAWG)

The EVAWG formalises the essential independent feedback on Police VAWG activity from a diverse cross-section of communities across Wiltshire. The EVAWG will offer insight from areas such as Health, Education, Women's Support Services and the Judiciary. Based on their knowledge of the issues facing the women and children who are victims of VAWG, delegates provide feedback to shape the service the Police provide and develop initiatives to support its mission to end VAWG.

Police Response to the 2022 Stalking Super Complaint by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust

In the last 18 months we have progressed the recommendations of this report by:

- Upskilling officers and staff through enhanced training focussed on risk management and investigation standards, leading to an increase in stalking complaints.
- Holding a Stalking Intensification week, again leading to an increase in reports.
- Improving safeguarding including increasing the use of Stalking Protection Orders.
- Ensuring a robust policing response to perpetrators by allocating orders to dedicated officers that are experienced in management of high-risk offenders.
- Improving outcomes for stalking victims, for example, by increasing year on year arrest rates.
- Creation of a new role; an independent stalking advocacy caseworker (ISAC) who will support victims of non-domestic (Stranger) stalking in addition to ISAC provision with our commissioned Domestic Abuse (DA) services.

Angiolini Report Recommendations

Wiltshire have delivered the first tranche of recommendations, including:

- Reviewed policy and trigger planning for reports of non-contact Sexual Assault
- Supporting victims of Police Perpetrated abuse or Sexual Misconduct. With Dorset Police we have launched a new protocol for the handling of reports of Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse ensuring a sterile approach for safeguarding and investigation.
- Creating a network of dedicated trauma informed advocates to support anybody coming forward to report these matters.

Operation Soteria

This is part of the government's review regarding Rape investigations and provides a framework and tool kit for the Police to conduct suspect focused investigations and better support victims. Wiltshire Police have been recognised for making good progress with implementation and have been recognised nationally for some of the innovative practice embedded, specifically regarding our work on non-contact Sexual Assault.

Project Vigilant

This is a proactive police operation which deploys plain clothes and uniformed police officers into public spaces, such as the night-time economy (NTE), to tackle sexual offending. It is perpetrator focused to prevent offences taking place. The intention of the tactic is as follows:

- Conduct proactive patrols providing an enhanced response to sexual offending.
- Identify predatory behaviour by potential perpetrators and prevent offences through overt intervention.
- Gather intelligence for future disruption and to assist future investigations.
- Deter sexual violence, intimidation and street harassment against women and girls and offer reassurance.
- Engage with support agencies to provide enhanced support.

We are engaging with other schemes, such as the Safe Space Scheme (Night Angels), who work in communities, providing advice and support.

Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panels

Delegates from the VAWG team, CPS, the training team, and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) come together to identify good practice and areas for development in respect of Domestic Abuse reports. Feedback from these panels is then provided directly to individual officers, supervisors and teams, ensuring accountability and addressing areas for development. It also informs training materials which dovetail into the large scale and ongoing commitment we made to the DA Matters programme which is now embedded in Wiltshire.