



Domestic Abuse Policy

Policy Title

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Section 1 – Policy Intentions

It is the policy of Gloucestershire Constabulary to take firm and positive action against those that commit offences relating to domestic abuse, whilst ensuring that there is provision of caring support for victims and their children.

Section 1 – Policy wording

Domestic abuse is defined as;

‘Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional) between people aged 16 or over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality’.

Family members are defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents, whether directly related, in-laws or step-family.

“Controlling behaviour” is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

“Coercive behaviour” is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten the victim.

Gloucestershire Constabulary recognises that the investigation of crimes relating to domestic abuse is as important as any other serious investigation. We shall treat it as such, deploying detectives to investigate the highest risk cases and through a robust multi-agency daily meeting to consider all domestic abuse cases.

We shall ensure that those officers who are deployed to incidents of domestic abuse are sufficiently trained in recognising and mitigating risk so as to make good decisions to keep people safe from harm.

The Constabulary has a local procedural and an information & guidance documents to assist staff in identifying and dealing with incidents of domestic violence the documents/s are available in Section 2. The Authorised Professional Practice from the College of policing is also available [here](#).



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Whole lifetimes can be blighted by a single act of domestic abuse by one person against another. Entire families can be affected for generations by the harm perpetrated by or against even a single member. Domestic abuse is very rarely a single act but a pattern of abusive behaviour, therefore the impact can be devastating for victims, children, families and the communities in which they live. Working in partnership with other agencies we aim to:

- Protect the lives of both adults and children who are at risk of domestic violence
- Adopt a proactive multi-agency approach in preventing and reducing domestic abuse
- Fully investigate criminal offences and hold offenders accountable through the criminal justice system
- Reduce repeat victimisation
- Offer support, reassurance and facilitate access to other agencies

Section 2 – Procedural guides

The procedural guide can be found on the PPB – Domestic Abuse page under Procedure and Guidance. Please follow this link [Domestic Abuse](#)



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Section 3 - Relevant Legislation: (*Human rights/diversity/Health & Safety/any other specifics*)

Human Rights Act - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents>

National Centre for Domestic Violence - [Welcome to National Centre for Domestic Violence - NCDV | NCDV](#)

Section 4 - Related References:

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB) - <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gsab/index.aspx?articleid=109960>

Gloucestershire take a Stand - <http://www.glostakeastand.com/>

Section 5 - Identification, Monitoring and Review

The policy should enable consistent and effective decision making. Where operational or managerial circumstances require any decision making that would adversely affect adherence to the policy or procedure, in line with the 'Statement of Intent' of the constabulary and the police service 'Code of Ethics', if an officer/ police staff member believes that they need to make a decision that steps outside of policy and procedure they should do so, provided that:

- the officer/ police staff member raises the matter at the earliest opportunity (and ideally before any such decision is made) with their line manager declaring their intended (or actual) course of action if notification is made after the decision is taken,
- produces, in a timely manner, a signed and dated written explanation of why it is/ was deemed necessary to step outside of policy and procedure, and
- maintain an adequate record of this written rationale for audit purposes appropriate to the circumstances/ contravention

Security Marking:		NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED			
Document Title: POLICY / PROCEDURAL					
Domestic Abuse Policy					
Type		URN	Strategic Board	Author/Reviewer	
Policy		TBC	PPB Service Delivery Board - ACC	DCI Richard Ocone	
Version	Date	Changes (ensure public copy amended and uploaded to external website)			Complied with Policy Guidance ✓
1.0	11/6/2015	New policy wording			✓



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1.1	6/10/2016	Change of ownership to DCI Richard Ocone	
1.2	24/8/2017	RO reviewed policy and removed reference to the DAVA team. TS added the generic decision making wording.	
Next Document Review Date: 24 August 2018			

Previous policies can be found with the continuous improvement team.