



Prostitution Policy

Policy Title

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Section 1 – Policy Intentions

It is the policy of the Gloucestershire Constabulary to work together with partner agencies to form effective partnerships at a local and strategic level in order to support individuals involved in prostitution.

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

Section 1 – Policy wording

The Constabulary recognises and acknowledges the complex issues surrounding prostitution both on and off street and to safeguard individuals to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

The key elements of this approach will be undertaken in partnership with the Nelson Trust and the Sex worker Forum. Reporting activity through the Domestic abuse and sexual Violence (DASV) commissioning group and reporting to the County Health and Wellbeing Board.

This will be in accordance with the Strategic aims of Gloucestershire Constabulary Policing Prostitution Strategy 2015-18. The strategy promotes a policing approach that keeps in balance the three essential elements of individual and community needs, and the investigation and prosecution of those who exploit and abuse. Considering the risk, threat and harm to all.

The Constabulary recognises that those involved in prostitution can fall into the category of those that experience domestic abuse. In some cases these individuals may be more vulnerable as a result of their immigration status, age, mental health vulnerabilities, ethnic background or



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addition/substance misuse. Victims may be forced or coerced to become involved in prostitution by their spouse or partner (pimp), which is also a way of perpetrating abuse.

The Constabulary has a dedicated Sex worker & exploitation Liaison officer in Gloucester and where ever possible the Rape and Sexual Assault unit (RASSO) in the Public Protection Bureau or the CSE team will investigate any allegations of sexual assault/abuse in order to maintain a specialist victim focussed approach. To build the trust and confidence of those involved in prostitution to report crimes to the police as their safety is paramount.

Where a victim is 16 or 17, Child sexual exploitation may also be a factor and children under 18 involved in prostitution should be treated as victims of abuse.

[NPCC Strategy](#) and [supporting Operational Guidance for Policing Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation](#) are available in these links.

[Gloucestershire Constabulary - Policing Prostitution Strategy 2015-2018](#)

Prostitution and Exploitation of Prostitution - guidance provides practical and legal guidance to prosecutors dealing with related offences.

<http://cps.gov.uk/legal/p to r/prostitution and exploitation of prostitution/index.html>

The Constabulary will investigate and disrupt organised criminal activity where it exists within the sex industry, with a clear focus on risk and harm reduction for victims allied with robust and professional investigation of offenders.

Section 2 – Procedural guides

The Constabulary has local 'How to' guidance to assist staff in effectively policing the different elements of prostitution and sexual exploitation. (Available on PPB intranet site)

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

N/A

Section 4 - Related References:

List/link any relevant papers to be considered – Free text



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Section 5 - Identification, Monitoring and Review

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V1.1	29/3/2017	Added generic policy wording to Section 1 at DCC's request		
1.2	23/5/2017	Amended policy wording slightly – Sue Bradshaw		
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EIA		EIA Sign Off		EIA Review
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SIA		SIA Sign Off		SIA Review
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