

**CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY  
Audit and Performance Committee**

**7 September 2006**

**Agenda Item No ....**

**Cumbria County Domestic Violence Structure**

**Report by the Chief Constable**

**1. SUMMARY**

The Cumbria Constabulary July 2006 Performance Development Conference discussed the current situation regarding Domestic Violence in the North of the County. An action from this agenda item was for Detective Superintendent Pallas to prepare this paper for the purpose of reporting on the structure of the domestic violence agencies across the county and to include the current performance targets. The paper is to give proposals on any gaps in performance measurement.

**1.1 RECOMMENDATION**

That the contents of this report be noted and the performance targets referred to be accepted as being fit for purpose.

**2.1 DETAIL**

The Cumbria Strategic Partnership (CSP) sets out an Outcomes Framework to support the Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The CSP is based upon five blocks and four thematic partnerships, one of which is the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership.

An outcome identified by the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership, in relation to Domestic Violence, is to improve services for domestic violence victims.

The partnership has identified the indicators of such an outcome as: -

- Increase the number of domestic violence incidents reported annually to the Police
- Increase the percentage of domestic violence incidents where an arrest was made relating to the incident
- Reduce the percentage of partner on partner violence
- Increase the number of convictions for domestic violence

These indicators are managed within the aims and business plan of the Cumbria Domestic Violence Strategy Board part funding for which comes from the CSP. The governance on performance is therefore reported upon to the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership. The Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership indicator of increasing the number of convictions for domestic violence has been adopted as a "stretch" target within the County.

The Cumbria Domestic Violence Strategy Board is a, County wide, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)

The overall aim underpinning the partnership is,

- 'To utilise the resources and expertise of partner organisations to provide a coordinated and multi-agency approach to tackling domestic violence in Cumbria.'

Partner organisations acknowledge that tackling domestic violence requires a multi agency response and are committed to tackle domestic violence in Cumbria in a proactive way. The partnership are committed to,

- 'Increasing the safety of victims of domestic violence and abuse within Cumbria,'

The partnership is overseen by a Strategic Management Board, which is made up of partners from both statutory and non-statutory organisations. The fiscal partner for the project is Cumbria Probation Service. Partner organisations include:

Northern Rock Foundation  
Cumbria Constabulary  
Cumbria Crown Prosecution Service  
Cumbria Clerk to the Justices  
Cumbria Probation Service  
Cumbria County Council - Policy, Social Services & Education  
CDRP's  
North Cumbria Primary Care Trust  
North Cumbria Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Trust  
Impact Housing  
Cumbria Drug Action Team  
Cumbria Youth Offending Team  
Connexions  
NSPCC  
Neighborhood watch  
Victim Support

Links between the Strategic Board and smaller organisations and voluntary groups is via the Domestic Violence Partnership Working Group, the CDRP domestic violence task groups in the north, south and west of the county and the domestic violence business manager. An independent business manager undertakes the work of the board and provides the link between the board and the partnership-working group and task groups.

The domestic violence partnership is closely linked with: Criminal Justice Board, Safeguarding Board, local CDRP & CDRP practitioners group, Supporting People Core Strategy Group, Drug Action Team, Local Strategic partnerships, Safer and Stronger Communities, North and South Cumbria Housing Fora.

## **Structure of the Cumbria Domestic Violence Partnership**

- 1. Strategic Management Board:** to influence strategic, political & financial decisions to ensure continuity; tracking work and resourcing of the business and action plan; to and guide the work of the Let Go Project and to manage and prioritise the work of the Domestic Violence Business Manager. Membership is open to any statutory or voluntary agency with a contribution to make to tackle domestic violence in Cumbria and to oversee and monitor the use of the pooled domestic violence budget. Requests to join the Board to made in writing to the Chair.
- 2. Business manager** responsible for project management; progress chasing and undertaking the business on behalf of the Strategic Management Board.
- 3. A partnership-working group:** Chairs of the 3 task groups & key individuals who take responsibility for progressing and completing tasks from the business plan and problem solving. The working group incorporates a range of specific and ad-hoc sub groups who meet as appropriate and report back via the project manager to the strategic board.
- 4. Domestic Violence task groups:** exist in the North, South and West of the County. The task groups reflect the membership of the Strategic Management Board (SMB) The Chairs sit on the partnership-working group. The task groups link with existing DV fora and are responsible for progressing and completing tasks and actions form the business plan & problem solving at the local level; task groups reflect the membership of the SMB at a practitioner level; ensure membership and links to voluntary sector organisations; work closely with existing domestic violence fora; encourage elected member representation; be committed to working with the SMB to deliver and achieve the outcomes as set out in the business plan and report via the partnership working group and project manager to the SMB on a bi monthly basis.
- 5. Annual conference** to report on the progress of the strategic plan, receiving feedback, considering best practice and identifying any gaps.

### **Management of the partnership**

The strategic management board meets six times a year. These meetings include reports on: summary of actions achieved, corrective action required, performance and financial information and updates to action plan.

Operational Management, the business manager updates the action plan on a six monthly basis and collate issues from working group, task groups and sub group members for decision at strategic board meetings. The business manager is responsible for receiving agenda items and the taking, production and distribution of the minutes of strategic management board meetings

### Performance monitoring

Domestic violence data from Police databases is collected on the following areas. In addition to this information data from Police crimes and incidents databases are linked to CPS data systems, which allows cases to be tracked through the system.

### Partnership data collected from police databases

System	Measuarbles
Crimes	No of DV Crimes
Crimes	Number Charged /Summoned
Crimes	% Charged/Summoned
Polis Incidents CAPU logs	Number of DV Incidents
Polis Incidents CAPU logs	Number of Repeats
Polis Incidents CAPU logs	% Repeats
Polis Incidents CAPU logs	Number of Partner on Partner
Polis Incidents CAPU logs	% Partner on Partner
Polis Incidents CAPU logs	Number where Pof A Available
Polis Incidents CAPU logs	Number of where Pof A available it was used
Polis Incidents CAPU logs	% Power Arrest used were available
Polis Incidents CAPU logs	Number of Partner on Partner Repeats
Polis Incidents CAPU logs	% Of Partner on Partner that were repeats

### Partnership data collected from CPS databases

Victim retraction statements and convictions for DV related offences adults (CPS data base)

### Police performance

The Constabulary's performance is assessed using the Police Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF) set criteria, used nationally for measuring how forces are performing. The purpose of PPAF is to improve the performance of the police service by focusing on the key strategic outcomes of policing.

## NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

The PPAF Performance Indicator, which is linked to Domestic Violence, is number 8 and is the: -

8a) Percentage of domestic violence incidents with a power of arrest, where an arrest was made relating to the incident

8b) Percentage of partner-on-partner violence

Although this is the only PPAF data that the police are required to collect the previous table shows that the police do in fact gather data from a number of additional sets.

Domestic Violence incidents are subject of a formal risk assessment, which culminates in a classification of Gold, Silver or Bronze being assigned. This classification determines the response, support and multi-agency involvement that compliments the investigation.

One Area Command in the Constabulary has suggested that there would be a benefit in being able to identify the % of domestic violence incidents, which are risk assessed in to each category.

The process already requires the recording of this data on a documented risk assessment, which is completed for each incident. The risk assessment document is retained in each CAPU office, which makes the data easily accessible.

As an example the North Area Command have 6 to 10 domestic violence risk assessments per day which are all documented and retained by their CAPU office.

A simple local arrangement can be made to have the calculation made which would provide the % of domestic violence in each category as and when required.

### **Partnership performance indicators**

The Cumbria Domestic Violence Strategy Board manages business by utilizing the following indicators: -

- To increase incidents of domestic violence reported annually to the police (Police POLLIS data base)
- To decrease the number of victim retraction statements (CPS data base)
- To increase the number of convictions for DV related offences adults (CPS data bases) This is to be the LAA stretch target and is referred to in the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnerships indicators.
- To increase the number of perpetrators accessing DV perpetrator programmes. (Probation Service, 05/06 as base line information, Let go, Safe, no base line information)
- Increase the percentage of domestic violence incidents with a power of arrest, where an arrest was made relating to the incident (Police number 8a)
- Decrease the percentage of partner-on-partner violence (Police number 8b)

The Performance data collected by the CDRP is released quarterly and compiled by the CUPS Team. As it can be seen above, the data that is presently collected supports police, probation and CPS performance requirements as well as being supportive to all of the Safer and Stronger Communities indicators including the

identified “stretch” target for the outcome of delivering improved services for domestic violence. All of these measures support the 3-year LAA.

In view of the of domestic violence indicators which are already used to monitor progress of the police via PPAF and those used by our partner agencies such as Probation and CPS, it is wholly appropriate that the Cumbria Domestic Violence Strategy Board draws upon all such sources to manage its’ business and support the aim of the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership in the process and in turn the aims and objectives of the LAA.

The identified gap in performance measurement in relation to risk categories can be addressed by local arrangements to develop management processes, which could involve Area Performance Inspectors, to support individual requirements.

**Michael Baxter**  
**Chief Constable**