

# Policing Domestic Abuse

## Relevant Policy



Preventing crime, protecting the public and helping those in need  
[www.west-midlands.police.uk](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk)

# Key Policies Affecting Police

- MARAC, Risk Assessments, SDVC & IDVA services
- VAWG Strategy
- Domestic Homicide Reviews (2011)
- HMIC *Everyone's Business* 2014 & *Increasingly Everyone's Business* 2015 & now HMIC's annual PEEL regime
- Home Secretary's National Oversight Group
- DVPO, DVDS & Coercion & Control Legislation



## *NPCC Portfolio Approach*

*“Every victim should be safer after contacting the police and we must do everything we can to secure justice for them”*

- Policing & justice only part of the solution but no excuses for poor service
- Approach influenced by consistent feedback from victims, survivors & charities: poor investigations, insufficient understanding of risk and poor safety planning
- DA is 10%+ of policing demand & 61% increase since 2013
- 2016 saw highest ever number of prosecutions



# Between 2004 & 2014

- Domestic Abuse policing response professionalised within Public Protection Units
- Dedicated Officers with enhanced training
- Establishment of MARACs
- Funding for IDVA services
- Government VAWG Strategy
- Development of Risk Assessment (SPECCECS, SPECCECS+ & DASH)
- Specialist Domestic Violence Courts
- Domestic Homicide Reviews



# Since 2014

- HMIC *Everyone's Business 2014 & Increasingly Everyone's Business 2015* & now within HMIC's annual PEEL regime
- Home Secretary's National Oversight Group
- College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice
- DVPO & DVDS Powers
- Coercion & Control Legislation



# Multi Agency Response?

- **MARAC** – Over 100, 000 referrals pa, Police make 64% of referrals (13% IDVAs, 6% Vol Sector, other statutory agencies 1-3%, Education 0%).
- **DHRs** - 600 recommendations from 33 cases (2013-16). Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) and Health having the highest proportion of recommendations. Record keeping, information sharing & risk assessment predominantly feature
- **IDVAs** – critical role in supporting through CJ process but increased disclosure when in other settings (Health) & often support to CJ process is through resolution of health, housing, employment & family/care concerns



# More recent policy developments

- **Risk Assessment Review** – learning from DASH, Academic evaluation & pilot of new approach
- **DVPOs** – Another option in difficult cases. Breathing space to address safety & reduce coercion & control. Costly & limited sanction for breaches
- **DVDS** – *Right to ask* is used more than *right to know*. Approach cautious & opportunities not fully exploited
- **Coercion & Control** – a wealth of evidence to indicate this is the risk factor to be aware of. Legislation increasingly used after a cautious start



# The Future

- Impact of sustained austerity in the public sector & interdependency with voluntary sector
- Increased reporting (61%) since 2013 & higher expectations of response (HMIC, IPCC, CQC)
- Increasing interest in restorative justice & conditional sanction options but how do we address risk?
- Desire for new legislation to fix the problem but is criminal justice the whole answer?

