



National Policing Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) Briefing

Background

Policing has seen prolonged significant increases in demand associated with protecting vulnerable persons. It is one of policing's highest threat, harm and risk areas. Nationally however responses have traditionally been fragmented with significant focus on single threat strands. At a local level demand and budgetary pressures have meant this area of policing is no longer the preserve of the specialist. The associated evidence base both in terms of understanding how the threat strands intertwine and what works with regards to policing intervention has struggled to keep up.

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) has sought to begin to address this challenge through the Violence and Public Protection (VPP) portfolio led by Chief Constable Simon Bailey (QPM). A National Vulnerability Action Plan (NVAP) has been created which consolidates relevant actions featuring across multiple single strand threat areas plans. Funding has also recently been secured from the Police Transformation Fund (PTF) up until March 2020 to establish a national policing Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP)¹.

Purpose, role and function of VKPP

- Work in collaboration with forces, relevant NPCC leads, NCA, College, HMICFRS and range of external partners to gather a more detailed understanding of current practice and the interventions deployed to address vulnerability and the serious violence threat.
- Generate a shared understanding of where most significant gaps in practice and knowledge are nationally and identify/promote emerging innovative practice being developed.
- Identify a minimum of 10 of most promising interventions that have not been independently evaluated (at least 5 must focus on addressing serious violence). These will in turn be subject to independent evaluation through an independent commissioning process led by the college of policing utilising a £1.5m dedicated fund. Prioritisation will be given to early intervention and prevention interventions which seek to directly address multiple vulnerabilities or those that may have wider applicability / potential to do so.
- Own and coordinate the response to the National Vulnerability Action Plan (NVAP). This includes benchmarking force activity, progressing relevant national actions and maintaining its content based on emerging learning from national reviews/ research.
- Incorporate a specific provision to focus on proactive policing.
- Develop a small analytical resource with specific focus on mapping out existing national data collections across NPCC/ HMICFRS/ Home Office. Specifically this will seek to identify any opportunities to de conflict and improve current collections and enable improved analysis / collective understanding of the threat.
- To liaise proactively with partners to promote the NVAP, share learning and influence future multi agency practice development including national Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) reform.

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¹ Formally known as Vulnerability Coordination Centre (VCC) but renamed following request from National Police Chiefs Council