

# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE



## White Ribbon Award – Assessment Questionnaire

### 1. Name, email and contact number for your leading officer (s)

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### 2. Please list which departments and organisations provide support or are involved in your VAWG strategy, and in brief describe their roles.

**OPCC Communications team** – devise and promote anti-VAWG campaigns on behalf of the Commissioner and promote activity around White Ribbon.

**Safer Lancashire Communications Network** – Support and develop pan-Lancashire VAWG campaigns on behalf of all public sector organisations in Lancashire, with resource and financial input from the OPCC.

**Lancashire County Council** – intranet site houses all employee health and wellbeing information for the OPCC, and the OPCC itself is housed within County Hall.

**Lancashire Constabulary** – the OPCC enjoys strong links with Lancashire Constabulary, and the Commissioner is involved in funding decisions around the Public Protection Unit and providing investment in new technology (such as body worn cameras) to aid investigations.

**Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)** – HMIC visited Lancashire Constabulary in November 2013, and the Commissioner was involved in providing evidence around his VAWG commitments as part of the inspection of Lancashire Constabulary's domestic abuse provision. The HMIC graded Lancashire as the highest-performing force in the country and commented residents "can have confidence that police officers and staff provide a good service to victims of domestic abuse in all areas to keep them safe". HMIC also highlighted the investment made in tackling domestic abuse by Lancashire Constabulary/ the Commissioner, in the form of well trained and specialist staff who demonstrate a "high level of commitment and awareness".

**Preston Domestic Violence Services** – PCC held a conference in October 2014, jointly with PDVS, to raise awareness around domestic abuse in the workplace and how it can be tackled.

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### **3. Has your authority made training and information on VAWG available to your staff?**

Information is available on the LCC intranet – Employee Support and Wellbeing section.

### **4. Will your action provide for your responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and Regulations 2011?**

Yes – the strategy will ensure domestic abuse is addressed both within the organisation and broader local community through awareness raising.

### **5. Describe your level of service provision related to VAWG, including same-sex relationships and perpetrator programmes?**

The OPCC does not provide services directly. However, the office does fund programmes which support both victims and perpetrators.

#### **Funded in 2014/15:**

- £51,000 toward Blackburn with Darwen Council's commissioned DA services
- £51,000 toward Blackpool Council's commissioned DA services
- £107,000 for Lancashire County Council area one-to-one support and counselling, plus an additional £208,000 from the Ministry of Justice's Competed Victims' Fund.
- £302,000 to refurbish women's centres and accommodation from the Ministry of Justice's Competed Victims' Fund
- £35,000 for a PACE CSE family support worker from the Ministry of Justice's Competed Fund
- £46,100 to Sahara for the Breaking the Cycle Domestic Abuse programme
- £100,000 for the White Ribbon Sports Campaign
- £105,000 allocated for Domestic Homicide reviews (PCC has a commitment to fund every domestic homicide review in the county)
- £2,500 from the Community Action Fund for the Rossendale STAR centre's Sanctuary and Safety programme.
- Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership has used £3,656 for the Only Freedom project and £2,000 for a CSE awareness and training programme.

### **6. Does your authority undertake activities designed to involve men in anti-VAWG activities and actively participate in campaigning, or recruit men to become White Ribbon Ambassadors?**

PCC is an active supporter of the White Ribbon Campaign and publicly speaks out against domestic abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation both in the media and at conferences (evidence attached). As a high profile figure, his support of White

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Ribbon and his stance against VAWG raises awareness of the issues across Lancashire.

## **7. Does your action plan specifically target information and publicity materials at men?**

Internally – with Lancashire County Council where the OPCC is based – posters are on display in all men's toilets specifically targetting male staff members and encouraging them to "Take the Pledge". All male employees within the OPCC have now signed the pledge.

## **8. Has your authority made plans to commemorate the 25th of November?**

White Ribbon day has been marked by the PCC each year since he came into office – in 2014 the Commissioner joined forces with Blackburn with Darwen Council to launch a library link to the Take the Step website, conducted media interviews and spoke at an event for partners in Blackburn.

The previous year the PCC joined with Lancashire County Council to organise a photo call for all top tier authorities and emergency services across Lancashire, to publicly state Lancashire's commitment to White Ribbon and the county's desire to become a "White Ribbon county".

## **9. Does your action plan provide for anti-VAWG activities all year round?**

Domestic abuse posters on prominent display in the office, and PCC regularly supporting domestic abuse charities and speaking publicly on this issue at events and conferences. Press releases are also issued year-round, alongside social media activity to raise awareness.

## **10. Does the authority encourage schools and colleges to engage with the issues surrounding VAWG? This may be by encouraging them to organise events, accessing information or to undertake the White Ribbon Educational Award themselves.**

PCC has supported Lancashire Constabulary to establish a peer mentoring programme in schools.

PCC is also in the early stages of working with Lancashire Constabulary to introduce a new drama production around CSE into schools county-wide, designed to help young people understand the signs of CSE and help prevent both themselves and their friends becoming victims.

## **11. Has your authority collected information on attitudes around VAWG in your area?**

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No, but there is an intention to do this detailed in the action plan.

**12. Does your authority provide information/support on specific forms of VAWG beyond domestic violence?**

The OPCC designed and implemented a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) campaign designed to encourage adults and young people to know the signs of CSE, raise awareness of how to report it and how to avoid becoming a victim.

Through LCC, all staff are required to undertake mandatory CSE training.

**13. Has your authority made any interventions to promote healthy relationships and gender quality? These may include placing limits on establishments such as lap-dancing clubs, or previous campaigns etc.**

The OPCC designed and launched the county-wide "Take the Step" domestic abuse campaign in December 2013, and continues to link with refuges across Lancashire to display information. The [www.takethestep.co.uk](http://www.takethestep.co.uk) website, which contains advice on recognising abusive relationships, is live and continues to be promoted through visuals and on social media.

**14. Do you have any form of feedback or monitoring of the effectiveness of the strategy?**

All marketing campaigns, including those around domestic abuse, are evaluated to gauge their success. In terms of VAWG campaigns, this is often assessed through an increase in police referrals (which shows residents feel able to report incident and know they will be supported). Smaller social-media surveys can also be run to test the impact of campaigns and whether residents can recall the information presented to them.

**5. Are you willing to submit reviews of your strategy bi-annually in order to retain the White Ribbon Towns Award?**

Yes

**16. Do you have any further comments to make regarding your application?**

As a Police and Crime Commissioner's office, the organisation is not responsible for direct service delivery, placing it in different circumstances to the councils which have previously secured the White Ribbon Towns Award.

Therefore, not all the questions detailed above are directly relevant, as they fall outside the PCC's remit.

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However, as a high profile elected figure the PCC's support of the White Ribbon campaign is valuable, and he is able to share the message across the county, both through speaking about the issue of tackling domestic abuse at events and conferences, and through interviews with the local media.

When considered in the context of this being a traditionally local authority aimed award, the PCC's office also has a comparatively small workforce comprising of only four male staff members (including the PCC). Therefore there are some limitations in internal promotion/ engagement. However, the OPCCs internal systems (including intranet) are run by Lancashire County Council, therefore all staff health & wellbeing information is shared through there. The PCC offices are also based within County Hall itself, and the OPCC has worked closely with other organisations across Lancashire to secure a county-wide commitment to VAWG.

**ENDS**