



**Lancashire
Constabulary**
police and communities together

REPORT TO: Strategic Scrutiny Meeting

DATE: 13/07/2018

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SUBJECT: National Vulnerability Action Plan 2018-2021

1. Issue for Consideration

The purpose of this report is to outline the requirements of the national vulnerability plan and provide an overview of Lancashire Constabulary's present status in respect of actions required within the plan

2. Recommendation

The Commissioner is asked to note the report and discuss necessity to generate further work to fully comply with the requirements.

3. Background

The national vulnerability plan was circulated late June 2018. The plan is a joint endeavour from the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and College of Policing. The plan has 7 key areas within (1) Early action (2) Protecting, supporting, safeguarding and managing risk (3) Information, Intelligence, Data Collection and Management Information (4) Effective Investigation and Outcomes (5) Leadership (6) Learning and Development (7) Communications.

Its overarching principles are; recognising and responding to vulnerability requires partners to work together effectively; that the concept of vulnerability encompasses the person and their circumstances; responding to vulnerability includes empowering people to seek their own support networks; prioritising prevention reduces harm and demand; and recognising that becoming better at recognising and responding to vulnerability requires a change in culture within and across service providers.

The plan includes a total of 39 actions. Forces are expected to complete 28 of these actions with the College of Policing and NPCC completing the remaining. An outline of all 28 actions and Lancashire's current position is shown within the appendix attached.

11 of these actions are identified as a **priority** and these covered the following areas;

1. Recognising and responding to vulnerability is everyone's business
2. Ensuring staff are equipped to identify and manage risk, support and safeguard
3. Ensure vulnerability forms part of tasking and review processes
4. Ensure that the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) staff fully understand the principles relating to vulnerability
5. Ensure sufficient training/procedures in place to recognise vulnerability
6. Ensure clear processes exist to capture the voice of vulnerable victims
7. Forces to consider in their assessment of vulnerability and whether indicators of mental health are apparent and signposted accordingly
8. Have in place welfare policies and provision to support staff
9. Work with Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) with regard the wider vulnerability agenda
10. Ensure that forces have strong governance procedures relating to vulnerability
11. Work with communities to make reporting easier

The assessment of Lancashire's responses to the priority areas has identified that the force is in a strong position at present with all but one presently being met through existing work streams. With further work planned through existing mental health, child protection, human trafficking/modern slavery, and domestic abuse actions plans, the position is likely to grow in strength.

However, it has been identified that the force requires further progress in the area of reporting from within communities. This is a specific strand of the forces digital capabilities plan and as such it is expected that this position will improve over the coming 12 months.

Of the remaining 17 non priority actions the force is in a similarly strong position for the large majority of these. The few exceptions to this relate to the following issues;

1. Analytical capabilities and capacity to regularly and effectively underpin the tasking and co-ordination of responses to vulnerability.

Recent and current intelligence assessments have identified flaws within intelligence and information management that impact on operational effectiveness to protect vulnerable people. Further analytical processes, procedures and capacity are required to address these. There also exists significant intelligence gaps within areas of vulnerability such as MS&HT. Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Edwards is aware of this issue and is scoping funding opportunities to recruit additional analytical capability for the force.

2. The use of joint or shared systems between partner agencies to improve information sharing. Examples of this are in existence but remain low.
3. At present the force does not generically include vulnerability within its workforce recruitment. The only exception to this is the past recruitment of early action staff.

As outlined, issue number 1 above has been identified by ACC Edwards and Ch.Supt Webster and considerations are being made as to how best to address this issue and as such, no specific action need be taken at this stage. In respect of issue number 2, this is not covered within the forces digital capability plan. Consideration may wish to be given to its inclusion in that work stream. Finally, issue 3 is relatively easy to address through a review of external recruitment requirements.

4. Implications

Financial:	At this time there are no financial implications
Legal:	There are no legal implications.
Equality Impact Assessment:	The equality act is not impacted upon.
Risks and Impact:	
Link to Police and Crime Plan:	This action plan directly links to the police and crime plan through the strand 'protecting vulnerable victims and people'.

5. List of attachments / appendices

- I. Completed Lancashire Vulnerability Action Plan