

 <b>Warwickshire POLICE</b>	<b>POLICY</b>
Security Classification	<b>OFFICIAL</b>
Disclosable under Freedom of Information Act 2000	Yes

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>Public Protection (Overarching Policy)</b>
REFERENCE NO.	<b>WP180</b>
VERSION	<b>1.1</b>

<b>POLICY OWNERSHIP</b>	
DIRECTORATE	PROTECTIVE SERVICES
BUSINESS AREA	PUBLIC PROTECTION

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE	<b>March 2024</b>
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	<b>March 2027</b>
RISK RATING	<b>LOW</b>
EQUALITY ANALYSIS	<b>LOW</b>

Warwickshire Police welcome comments and suggestions from the public and staff about the contents and implementation of this policy. Please e-mail  
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## 1.0 POLICY OUTLINE / STATEMENT

Protecting vulnerable people in our communities is always at the heart of everything we do as a police force. We are committed to protecting people from harm in our vision set out in the [Warwickshire Police Fit for the Future Strategy 2020-2025](#).

The extent to which a police force is successful at identifying, protecting and supporting those who are vulnerable is therefore a core indicator of its overall effectiveness.

‘Seeing past the obvious’ and displaying ‘professional curiosity’ are cornerstones to this approach.

We recognise that every interaction with a member of our community leaves an impression. Building on our principle of ‘right service first time’, the more effective we are at addressing the needs of the most vulnerable at the first interaction, the better this contact will be and the less they may need us in the future.

We know that early identification of vulnerability is of the utmost importance and often first responders encounter people when they have already suffered harm or are at risk of it, meeting people when they are often at their most vulnerable and in moments of true crisis of trauma.

Our [Warwickshire Police Vulnerability Strategy 2023](#) is aligned to the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) [Vulnerability and Violent Crime Programme - College of Policing - July 2021](#). The aim of this programme is to coordinate all activity across the vulnerability agenda under the umbrella of Public Protection and includes Domestic Abuse, Adult Sexual Exploitation, Stalking and Harassment, Missing and Absent Persons, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Vulnerability to Radicalisation, Adults at Risk, Child Abuse, Honour-Based Abuse (HBA), Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT), Forced Marriage, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) and Children Sexual and Criminal Exploitation (CSE, CCE).

### 1.1 Definitions

#### Vulnerability

Warwickshire Police have adopted the College of Policing (CoP) definition of vulnerability:

- A person is vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances they are unable to take care of, or protect themselves or others, from harm or exploitation

Warwickshire Police have adopted the [National Vulnerability Action Plan - College of Policing - 2023](#) (NVAP) to provide direction and focus to improve the quality of service we give to the vulnerable people in the communities we serve.

The following equations underpin our approach:

Personal Factors + Situational Factors = Harm/Risk of Harm



*CoP Introduction to Vulnerability-related risk 2021*

### Harm

An escalating degree of impact upon a victim: Distress – Loss – Injury – Death.

### Exploitation

Where an individual or group take advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive someone. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

## **2.0 POLICY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Warwickshire Police have adopted the College of Policing THRIVE (threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability and engagement) definition of vulnerability to guide managers and staff in assessing reports to police. The aim is to:

1. Identify an individual's vulnerability or vulnerabilities.
2. Understand how these vulnerabilities interact with the situation to create harm or risk of harm.
3. Assess the level of harm or risk of harm.
4. Take appropriate and proportionate action if required, involving partners where they have the relevant skills and resources

[THRIVE - College of Policing](#) should be used in conjunction with the [National Decision Model - College of Policing](#) (NDM).

The aims of this policy are to:

- Work proactively to reduce crime and the harm experienced by our communities, particularly the most vulnerable
- Ensure public confidence in Warwickshire Police by delivering high-quality service to everyone
- The delivery of first-class operational policing, underpinned by first-class organisational support services



The objectives of this policy are to:

#### PREVENT AND PROTECT

- Embed a problem solving approach force-wide, taking early preventative action
- Work effectively with partners
- Support a 'public health' approach to prevention [Our approach to public health - College of Policing](#)
- Share information (where appropriate) in an effective and timely fashion
- Prioritise calls for service that affect the most vulnerable
- Encourage staff to see past the obvious
- Seek to tackle hidden crimes such as County line exploitation, modern slavery and online offences
- Work tirelessly to tackle violence, abuse and intimidation of women and girls (VAWG)

#### RESPOND and REASSURE

- Provide a high-quality service from first contact to final outcome
- Adhere to the 'Codes of Practice for Victims of Crime' [Victims' Code - England and Wales](#)
- Put victims at the centre of our response to crime
- When dealing with a child or young person, we act in their best interests in line with [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) and [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)
- Engage with victims and witnesses to make sure our services reflect their needs.
- Invest in technology to provide flexible communication methods

#### BE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT

- Make sure all officers and staff have the right training, skills and experience
- Invest in the wellbeing and safety of our officers and staff
- Invest in high-tech crime capability and online investigation capability
- Through [Operation Amethyst 2023 - Warwickshire Police](#) – promote the highest standards of professional behaviour
- Adopt a learning culture
- Recognise and champion the value of partnerships and collaboration

### **3.0 PURPOSE OF THE POLICY**

In early 2023 Warwickshire Police introduced a new policing operating model with a renewed focus on prevention, engagement, investigation and vulnerability. The purpose of this is to direct additional capacity and capabilities into specialist and high risk areas of policing such as Public Protection.

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Warwickshire Police officers and staff must take a person centred approach – not incident or task focused. This wider focus on the victim and the circumstances will help us to build a fuller picture of what has happened and help us to deliver a better outcome for the individual concerned.

Safeguarding vulnerable people is a fundamental part of the duties of all Warwickshire Police staff and police officers. This Public Protection policy and its related procedures support and underpin the [Warwickshire Police Vulnerability Strategy 2023](#).

When dealing with such incidents, officers and staff must:

- Follow the required guidance, together with relevant information, outlining the Force approach to protecting vulnerable people;
- Manage risk to the safety of victims by following the requirements and responsibilities placed upon all our staff to deal effectively with protecting vulnerable people in every aspect of their role.
- Abide by the legal obligations, which underpin the Force's priorities, including the duties within the Human Rights Act, European Convention of Human Rights and United Nations Convention on the rights of children.
- Working in partnership with agencies, partners and voluntary organisations including [Warwickshire Safeguarding](#) to safeguard and protect individuals in our communities.
- Recognising the particular challenges faced by children and adults at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation, such as learning or communication difficulties and ensuring they are appropriately supported.
- Take positive action against perpetrators. Where powers and grounds exist, ensure suspects are arrested and make use of both civil and criminal orders as a preventative action.
- Ensure all crimes are ethically recorded and information relevant to vulnerabilities, intelligence and officer safety is appropriately documented.
- Investigate all reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation, to protect the rights of the vulnerable adults and children, and to prevent them becoming victims of crime or anti-social behaviour.
- Assess all perpetrators for vulnerabilities and ensure outcomes recognise any factors or issues they have which need supporting.

***Compliance with this policy and any linked procedures is mandatory.***

### Child Centred Policing

This policy and its related procedures support and underpin the National Police Chiefs Council [NPCC Child Centred Policing Best Practice Framework](#)

## **4.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Public Protection is everyone's business. All our officers and staff should understand how their role contributes to the Warwickshire Police vision of 'protecting people from harm'; and how they can undertake their responsibilities in a way that identifies, safeguards and supports vulnerable victims and individuals.

Audit and assurance will take place by the Statutory and Major Crime Review Unit (SMCRU) who will have responsibility to support the Public Protection Audit Programme to assess the progress towards achieving the objectives set out in the vulnerability strategy.

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## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS OF THE POLICY

The legal obligations which underpin this policy include those within the Human Rights Act 1988 and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR):

- Protect life
- Protect individuals from inhuman and degrading treatment
- Uphold the right to liberty and security of the person
- Uphold the right not to be discriminated against, and
- Uphold the right to respect for private and family life.

### 5.1 Risk Assessment(s)

Police officers and police staff will adopt a generic risk assessment in line with the relevant procedure and in accordance with their individual roles.

## 6.0 RELATED FORCE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policies and Procedures adopted by Warwickshire Police in relation to Public Protection are documented on the force intranet under force documents. Additional guidance can be found under the [Public Protection](#) section of force intranet.

**NOTE:** Public Protection Procedures may be subject to different levels of Government Security Classification and each should be handled accordingly.

### 7.0 OTHER SOURCE DOCUMENTS e.g., legislation, Authorised Professional Practice (APP), partnership agreements (if applicable)

- [Authorised Professional Practice \(APP\)](#)
- [Care Act 2014](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)
- [Regional Child Protection Procedures for the West Midlands](#)
- [Warwickshire Safeguarding](#)
- [NPCC- Child Centred Policing](#)
- [NPCC Child Centred Policing Best Practice Framework](#)
- [Warwickshire Police Vulnerability Strategy 2023](#)
- [Operation Amethyst 2023 - Warwickshire Police](#) (internal site)
- [Victims' Code - England and Wales](#)
- [Our approach to public health - College of Policing](#)
- [National Decision Model - College of Policing](#)
- [THRIVE - College of Policing](#)
- [National Vulnerability Action Plan - College of Policing - 2023](#)
- [Vulnerability and Violent Crime Programme - College of Policing - July 2021](#)
- [Warwickshire Police Fit for the Future Strategy 2020-2025.](#)

## 9.0 CONSULTATION

This policy has been circulated to relevant stakeholders including the staff associations, unions and critical friends group.

## 9.0 ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

The Equality Analysis (EA), Health and Safety Assessment (HAS) and Risk Assessment (RA) are available on request.

## 10.0 REVIEW

Monitoring of this policy will be the responsibility of The Head of Public Protection and will take place within the review process or when a significant event necessitates an earlier change.

The Head of Public Protection will review this policy and ensure it remains accurate and compliant with both legislation, national/local drivers and be fit for purpose.

## 11.0 DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Author / Reviewer	Amendment(s) & Rationale	Approval / Adoption
07/11/2018	DSU Richard Long	Harmonisation	JNCC 11/12/2018
02/10/2023	DS 1595 Heidi Twynham	Review and update of previous policy in line with new policing model	March 2024