

Is Dyfed-Powys Police effectively managing perpetrators of stalking and harassment?



Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau
Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner



Deep Dive Scrutiny Review | July 2023

What we did...

Assessed the management of stalking and harassment perpetrators through:

- Researching national and local stalking and harassment offence data profiles.



- Reviewing existing reports and recommendations, scrutiny activity, and training practices.



- Interviewing key officers, staff members, and specialists.



- Dip sampling stalking and harassment cases.



- Engaging victims and scrutinising victim satisfaction data.



- Considering the Force's use of civil orders and reviewing active Stalking Protection Orders.



Our main conclusions...

- **Are victims supported?** Victims do not feel supported, but dip sampling suggests victims are being safeguarded.
- **Is offending behaviour being prevented?** More needs to be done, especially in the use and management of civil orders, to consistently and robustly deter all perpetrators of stalking and harassment.
- **Is the criminal justice system being used effectively?** There is increasing consideration and use of civil orders and prosecutions, but also evidence of a disconnect between the victim, police and courts' understanding of the response to breaches and repeat offending.
- Dyfed-Powys Police has implemented or identified initiatives to improve the policing response to stalking and harassment.

Why we did it...

To provide an independent insight into the effectiveness of offender management processes applied, and the safeguarding of victims as a result of these processes.

- Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn identified stalking and harassment as an important area for scrutiny activity, contributing to all three policing priorities set out in his 2021-25 Police and Crime Plan. *Police and Crime Plan: <https://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/media/11091/police-and-crime-plan-2021-2025.pdf>*
- Chief Constable Doctor Richard Lewis set a priority for the Force to work towards the elimination of domestic abuse, stalking and harassment.
- **In relation to the Commissioner's Plan, the Review sought to understand:**
 - Whether victims of stalking and harassment are being supported;
 - Whether future stalking and harassment offending behaviour is being prevented; and
 - Whether our criminal justice system is being used effectively to ensure that victims are supported, and harm is prevented.

Is Dyfed-Powys Police effectively managing perpetrators of stalking and harassment? We found that in a number of cases, yes, Dyfed-Powys Police was effectively managing perpetrators of stalking and harassment, but it was not a consistent picture.

Our main recommendations...

- 1 Resourcing** – to prioritise funding and recruitment for vital roles, and to proactively seek specialist advice and support.
- 2 Training** – to review the Stalking Champions' training programme, and to consider learning from Operation Soteria Bluestone.
- 3 Data** – to expand Performance Dashboards for closer scrutiny of civil orders, and to ensure officers' easy access to a complete record of a perpetrator's breach history.
- 4 Perpetrator Interventions** – to embed the Perpetrator Prioritisation Tool across the Force, and to consider the use of a range of interventions, including civil orders, as part of perpetrator management strategies.
- 5 Perpetrator Monitoring** – to consider the implementation of processes to manage civil orders, including heightened follow-up and monitoring, and to incorporate the voice of the victim in civil order reviews.
- 6 Victims** – to revisit Victim Contact Agreements at various stages of the investigation, and to ensure victims are kept informed in line with the Agreement.

