National Vulnerability and Public Protection Strategy

A common framework approach to vulnerability including public protection.

Data and Performance

February 2025

This aim of this document is to support forces to develop their understanding of capacity, capability and competence across the Pillars. This document is based on learning from the work of Operation Soteria, Violence Against Women and Girls and other areas of vulnerability and seeks to draw together positive indicators that should be visible. The combination of work across the pillars helps towards forces taking a Suspect Focus – Victim Centred – Context led approach.

These indicators have been shown through the College of Policing Perennial issues document to be areas of consistent challenge. Through good governance we should seek deep rooted behavioural change by understanding Capability / Opportunity / Motivators and how together these deliver sustainable improvements.

How to use this document

This document has been produced to help forces to establish positive indicators in respect of Data and Performance to support governance and oversight in the management of Vulnerability. It provides areas of positive activity that forces can look for within their own organisation.

There is no one size approach and forces will operate various models, so the document can be adapted to fit the policing approach used. Current and future data gathering will provide governance and oversight with information as to effectiveness.

The indicators below where possible should include reference to other areas and have been drawn from a range of sources including perennial issues of policing.

Principle	Positive Indicators
Accurate data & intelligence are consistently recorded and used by investigators and senior leaders for assuring the right workforce is in place.	• Intelligence is used to support risk assessments and staff understand the threat posed by suspects. • The review of risk assessments and investigations identifies the capture of good data. The importance of this is reinforced. • The force understands where the gaps in its data are and how to mitigate against these using NPCC guidance documents. • Accurate data and intelligence is captured ensuring that the completion of files, referrals, and risk assessments are accurate. • Leaders promote good data recording and have assurances in place to identify areas of improvement. • The data available supports an understanding of the risk faced by those who are vulnerable, especially children. • Data collection requirement includes insights on racial disparity, and this is used to improve fairness in policing.
Analysis is used to understand threat, risk & demand. This evidence base drives our response & guides decision making on how well the force is responding to vulnerability.	• Staff understand how to interpret and use information and intelligence in investigations and problem-solving. • Supervisors make resourcing decisions informed by information and intelligence products, and good practice. • Decisions around resources and demand are informed by comprehensive products that give an oversight of capacity and capability. • The force supports front line staff by ensuring risk assessment and data capture is relevant, simple to use and clearly understood. • Supervisors, when reviewing reports support staff to make decisions based on Vulnerability Risk principles. • Analysis used for problem profiles incorporates intelligence, capacity and capability that supports informed decisions. • Problem Profiles / Risk Profiles are in place for vulnerability and / or thematic areas identified through force assessment.
Risk assessment tools are used to understand context & identify vulnerability.	• Risk Assessment tools are used effectively to understand harm and early intervention opportunities. • Staff are supported to use risk principles and tools to understand the risk of harm. • Risk Assessment tools are not seen as a box ticking exercise but used positively to assess risk. • Staff do not solely rely on risk assessment questions but use this to enhance their professional curiosity to understand risk. • Performance measures around risk assessments are used positively to encourage correct use and differentiate between strategic and tactical requirements.