



**Vulnerability Knowledge  
& Practice Programme**



**College of  
Policing**

**NPCC**  
National Police Chiefs' Council

# **National Vulnerability and Public Protection Strategy**

**A common framework approach to vulnerability including public protection.**

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## **Pillar 2 – Suspect Focus (Prevention)**

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February 2025

This aim of this document is to support forces to develop their understanding of capacity, capability, competence across Pillars. This document takes its 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 seen. The combination of 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 Suspect Focused (Prevention) 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 to 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.

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Front Line</b>	<b>Supervisors</b>	<b>Strategic Leaders</b>
<b>High risk, high harm &amp; repeat offenders identified, &amp; prevention and disruption opportunities are utilised, using partners where appropriate.</b>	From the outset of a call or investigation the risk posed by the suspect is understood to identify the safeguarding risk they pose to themselves and others.	Supervisors have oversight of investigations and support officers to identify and use disruption methods.	The force understands the number of suspects, named or on bail and the threat they pose. There are systems in place to flag individuals. There should also be a tracker system to monitor changes in risk.
	During investigations disruption activity is proactively taken such as the use of relevant referral or civil orders.	Supervisors themselves have awareness and capability to use orders and diversionary tactics.	Disruption options are made available that include multi-agency support where appropriate.
			The effectiveness of disruption tools used is understood.
<b>A problem-solving approach used to tackle the causes of offending &amp; reduce harm &amp; demand</b>	Prevention Orders and referrals are proactively used, working with partners where appropriate.	Supervisor's reviews of investigations and problem solving ensure structure is given through a SARA approach.	Forces understand the level of 'named suspects' and the risk those individuals pose.
	Victims and witnesses are confidently and routinely given crime prevention advice that increases the safety of those at risk.	Prevention Strategies include engagement with diverse communities to address specific vulnerabilities.	Forces understand the effectiveness of problem-solving activity and what works / barriers that are present. Forces can show how problem-solving is prioritised.
	There is a focus on taking a problem-solving approach to prevent reoffending and root causes, not merely focusing on criminal justice outcomes.		Force systems enable the identification of repeat suspects and investigations, making this available to use to influence activity.



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