

November 2022

### **What is the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme?**

Protecting vulnerable people is a key priority for policing. Demand related to vulnerability has significantly and consistently increased in recent years and it represents one of the highest threat, harm and risk areas.

Nationally, responses to vulnerability have often been fragmented, focused on single threat strands, rather than fully understanding the often multi-faceted/ interconnected nature of the vulnerabilities involved.

In beginning to address this challenge the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) established the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) to develop and co-ordinate holistic, evidence-based approaches to improve learning, practice and outcomes.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Rolfe is the NPCC lead on Domestic Abuse and the Violence and Public Protection (VPP) portfolio. The VKPP sits within this portfolio and its work is directed by AC Rolfe, alongside Gareth Edwards, VKPP Director.

The programme works across all police forces in England and Wales and is a multi-disciplinary team of dedicated professionals including police officers, researchers and academics.

### **What is our practice mapping programme?**

The VKPP has conducted three previous calls for practice which have led to the submission of nearly 400 examples of promising and emerging practice of police interventions aimed at addressing vulnerability.

We are interested in any type of intervention or practice linked to vulnerability and serious violence including approaches to information sharing and analysis; early intervention; prevention and disruption activity; policing and partnership approaches; and regional, force-wide or local projects.

An intervention could be described as any of the following:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Prevention  | Interventions focussed on preventing crimes from taking place. Includes situational prevention and people-based interventions. |
| Diversion   | Interventions targeting 'at risk' groups to divert them from committing crime.   |
| Reoffending | Interventions that deal with the offender after an offence has taken place to prevent repeat offending.                        |
| Location    | Applied to interventions where a location e.g. a car park or a residential street, is the target.                              |

We have collated all the previous submissions to create a practice map. We currently have a record of all the examples that we have received, with the most promising examples being shared on our Knowledge Hub site, which can be accessed here [Home - Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme - Knowledge Hub](#) We explain our rationale for this work later in this document as well as our revised approach to collating and sharing practice.

### **What are we doing differently in 2022?**

In December 2022 the College of Policing is launching an online Practice Bank which will be hosted on their website – to both collate and showcase emerging police practice, including interventions aimed at addressing vulnerability. To simplify where forces can look to find promising practice the VKPP is supporting the College's new website by utilising their online submission form for our call for practice and housing all submissions on the new platform.

Practice examples should be projects/initiatives/interventions which have been implemented but have not necessarily been evaluated. Practice examples will be categorised as activity that works, is promising, is new/innovative or doesn't work. Examples will focus on activity to prevent or divert people from crime, reduce reoffending or describe organisational work such as practice to support recruitment and retention of staff. Wherever possible, practice examples will be linked to the best-available What Works evidence by staff at the College of Policing. We will detail how the information you provide will be utilised further on in this document.

VKPP request that practice examples submitted as part of our call for practice are done so via the College of Policing's [practice sharing form](#)

### **Why are we focussing on Voice of the Victim with our 2022 call for practice?**

VKPP has chosen to focus our call for practice on the voice of the victim to support ongoing work across policing to increase trust and confidence with both victims of crime and wider communities. VKPP has already conducted research regarding police officers and staff's perceptions of the voice of the victim within the criminal justice system – following the recent publication of VKPP's Voice of the Child Briefing. A detailed report on the Voice of the Victim will be published early in 2023. VKPP is currently conducting further research regarding strategic consideration of the victim's voice within policing – it is anticipated examples from this call for practice will support both pieces of research.

Ensuring the voice of the victim, their thoughts, wishes and experiences are considered, remains a focus for policing and this call for practice has the support of NPCC leads for Violence and Public Protection, Violence Against Women & Girls, Child Protection & Abuse Investigations and Victims and Witnesses.

The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (the Victims' Code) is the statutory code that sets out the minimum level of service that victims should receive from the criminal justice system, VKPP hopes the call for practice will highlight approaches which go above and beyond the minimum standard.

### **Why do we do it?**

The VKPP is committed to working with forces and other stakeholders to develop an evidence-based approach for policing in response to vulnerability. Collating promising practice helps us to understand the type and nature of interventions being developed as well as the challenges that forces face in implementing new approaches to addressing vulnerability.

Our practice mapping work compliments our research work and that of other projects and academic institutions to help develop the evidence base of what works in policing.

### **How will we use your examples?**

With permission from those officers and forces who submit promising practice we will:

- Share examples with other forces who are looking to develop their practice in specific areas, including on the College of Policing's new promising practice website.
- Facilitate regional learning events to further disseminate innovative approaches to addressing vulnerability.
- Discuss emerging practice with key stakeholders, including government departments to help shape practice discussions and plans for the future.
- Link those forces submitting promising practice with academic institutions and research bodies to explore evaluation opportunities.

### **What is the benefit to you and your force?**

There are several benefits for forces submitting practice examples to the VKPP including:

- Support from the VKPP team to consider 'theory of change' models to better understand the impact of your intervention and to prepare for evaluation.
- Signposting the most promising examples to institutions and organisations who can carry out evaluations on your practice, demonstrating the value of your work.
- An opportunity to showcase the innovative work you are involved in on a regional and national level, helping to shape future policy and practice.
- By helping support our practice mapping you are contributing to an ever-growing pool of resources, which you can access via the VKPP Knowledge Hub site to assist with further practice development.

Should you have any further queries regarding the call for practice please contact Phil Ashford, VKPP Senior Project Manager – [Philip.ashford@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Philip.ashford@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)