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| **Policy Position Summary: Domestic Abuse****18 June 2018** |
| What does the PCVC wish to achieve?* Victims having the confidence to report to the police at the earliest point;
* A reduction in the escalation of violence and abuse and the number of repeat victims through early intervention and awareness raising;
* A partnership approach to supporting victims and their families;
* Meaningful consequences for perpetrators.
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| Evidence BaseEvidence from the Office of National Statistics suggests that:* There are an estimated 1.8 million adults aged 16 to 59 who report that they have been a victim of domestic abuse;
* 1.03 million Domestic abuse-related incidents were recorded by the police in the year ending March 2016 and following investigations;
* Domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police account for approximately 1 in 10 of all crimes;
* The majority of domestic abuse (78%) consists of violence against the person offence;
* Over half of unsuccessful prosecutions relating to domestic abuse (53%) are due to either victim retraction, victim non-attendance or evidence that the victim did not support the case;
* Victims may not want to be involved in the prosecution for a number of reasons, for example due to the level of fear and control exerted by the perpetrator;

The National Violence against Women and Girls Strategy is clear that:* The human cost of domestic violence and abuse is high. Experiences of abuse have serious psychological, emotional and physical consequences and may contribute to multiple disadvantage, or a chaotic lifestyle involving substance misuse, homelessness, offending behaviour, gang involvement, prostitution or mental health problems;
* It is estimated that 41% of the prison population have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse and this is illustrative of the wider social harms these crimes cause;
* While the cost to individuals cannot easily be measured, the costs of violence and abuse to the economy can be calculated and are considerable. It is estimated that providing public services to victims of domestic violence and the lost economic output of women affected costs the UK £15.8 billion annually. The cost to health, housing and social services, criminal justice and civil legal services is estimated at £3.9 billion;
* A collaborative approach to tackling this kind of violence and abuse is essential in order to make a difference.
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| How will the PCVC’s aspirations be achieved?* Developing a Whole Systems Approach to Domestic Abuse that is based around the need to work in partnership to effect change;
* A Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel has been developed to contribute to ensuring effective quality assurance in the police response;
* Maintaining support for the ‘Sorry’s Not Enough’ campaign;
* Supporting ‘Operation Encompass’ to ensure early intervention and support for children who have witnessed domestic violence and/or abuse;
* Supporting the trialling of Checkpoint in relation to Domestic Abuse;
* Participating in the development and implementation of the Regional Violence against Women and Girls Strategy;
* Participating in joint commissioning processes that aim to identify and address need in partnership with a range of relevant agencies;
* Supporting the Young PCVC to develop a Male Victims campaign.
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