

Protecting people at risk of harm

This is a national priority for Police Scotland and we will work with partners to **protect people** and prevent all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Your View Counts

Respondents to our public consultation survey identified child protection as one of the top five national priorities and domestic abuse and protecting vulnerable adults as local priorities.

www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts

Impact

The demand on police services is growing and is increasingly focused towards addressing vulnerability and the consequences of inequalities. Quantifying this is challenging, particularly when issues are under reported and less visible. Protecting people at risk of harm involves significant risk from very harmful types of crimes, the impact of which extends beyond victims and cannot be underestimated.

Despite an increase in the reporting of rape and sexual crime; human trafficking; and abuse of a child or within a relationship, we know that abuse, neglect and exploitation, in whatever form it takes, remains under reported. We have a nationally coordinated and locally delivered policing response to those who are at most risk of harm and those who pose the greatest risk to our communities. In 2018/19 we will:

Commitment	Prevention and Protection	Communities	Knowledge and Innovation
Reduce the harm caused by the abuse and neglect of children.	<p>We will identify opportunities, with partners, for improvement when undertaking risk assessments and investigations into all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation of children.</p> <p>We will work with partners to identify new ways to prevent sexual crime involving children and young people and support national strategies to prevent young people becoming</p>	<p>We will improve stakeholder and public confidence to report all forms of abuse whether physical, sexual or domestic, and explore opportunities to increase routes to receive feedback from victims, ensuring any learning is captured.</p>	<p>We will continue to develop our understanding of the scale and scope of the abuse of adults and children, sexual crime, human trafficking and exploitation in Scotland.</p> <p>We will implement a national process to record child inter-agency referral discussions capturing decisions, risk factors and outcomes and work with</p>

	<p>victims of online abuse, mitigating the harm it causes.</p> <p>Working with Social Work Scotland, we will design national standards for quality assuring; supervising and appraising staff undertaking joint investigative interviews and improve national statutory guidance.</p>	<p>This will include the development and delivery of an auditable online portal to receive 'Duty to Notify' referrals from 'public bodies'.</p> <p>We will also work with our partners to increase use of self-referral services, availability of multi-agency sexual assault centres and increase access to support services at the point of need.</p> <p>We will develop guidance to support partners in protecting women and girls from female genital mutilation (FGM) and enable them to respond appropriately when working with survivors.</p>	<p>partners to develop our understanding of threats.</p>
<p>Reduce the harm caused by sexual crime.</p>	<p>We will further improve our response to rape and sexual offences by working with partners who provide advocacy services and support to victims.</p> <p>New legislation and the use of preventative orders will inform our prevention approach to better understand the impact of interventions and shape future work, as outlined in the Equally Safe Action Plan. The next phase of our national 'We Can Stop it' campaign will support a grass roots shift in attitudes towards rape and sexual crime.</p>		<p>We will explore opportunities to capture feedback from victims of sexual crime in order to improve our services, including the forensic service provision for victims.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Crown Office and Rape Crisis Scotland, we will pilot the visual recording of victims' initial statement in investigations.</p>
<p>Reduce the harm caused by abuse of adults at risk of harm.</p>	<p>We will share relevant information with partners to protect and support adults at risk and support local authorities in the increased use of preventative measures such as banning orders.</p>		<p>In partnership with key stakeholders, we will develop a national multi-agency framework for adult protection Large Scale Inquiries (LSIs) establishing clear protocols for agency responsibilities.</p>

<p>Reduce the harm caused by human trafficking and exploitation.</p>	<p>We will raise awareness of the signs of human trafficking to identify victims and tackle offenders.</p> <p>We will utilise intelligence to pursue the assets of human traffickers' through proceeds of crime powers.</p> <p>We will maximise the use of trafficking prevention and risk order legislation and develop an inter-agency referral discussion approach to reports of human trafficking.</p>	<p>We will improve stakeholder and public confidence to report instances of human trafficking and exploitation and explore opportunities to increase routes to receive feedback from victims, ensuring any learning is captured.</p>	<p>We will improve our knowledge of threats relating to human trafficking, introducing means to record risk factors to assist problem profiling and predictive analysis.</p> <p>We will support academic research into human trafficking in Scotland to develop our evidence base for future activity.</p>
<p>Reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse.</p>	<p>We will ensure that our officers and staff are proficient in dealing with domestic abuse, including stalking incidents, and use the full complement of new legislative powers available to them.</p> <p>We will support rehabilitative and behaviour change programmes for offenders and develop risk assessment tools to prevent reoffending.</p>	<p>We will support victims of domestic abuse by working with partners to identify and fill gaps in service provision, e.g. expand the victim notification process to include notification to victims when perpetrators are released from police custody.</p>	<p>We will equip officers and staff with the knowledge and skills to effectively target those perpetrators who pose the greatest risk of harm, for example we will identify and implement suitable training prior to the introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2016. We will evaluate the impact of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) on the reduction / prevention of domestic abuse.</p>
<p>Manage offenders who pose a risk of serious harm.</p>	<p>Police Scotland is one of the authorities responsible for the management of registered sex offenders and those posing a risk of serious harm. We will work with relevant partners to address</p>	<p>We will work with Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) partners and Scottish Government to deliver</p>	<p>Develop a framework for identifying and sharing learning both internally and with external partners.</p>

	<p>future demand and progress joint-working practices.</p> <p>Following a pilot and external evaluation, we will implement the Police Risk Practice process and share learning with partners.</p> <p>We will continue to undertake intrusive reviews and a rolling programme of divisional audits to ensure best practice.</p>	<p>consistent and efficient practices in relation to the assessment of housing and management of offenders.</p>	<p>We will also work with academic researchers to develop an evidence-base to inform prevention activities and reduce reoffending.</p>
<p>Focus on prevention and early intervention to improve the safety and wellbeing of individuals in public, private and virtual space.</p>	<p>We will develop a coordinated approach to training officers, including training on Data Protection Reform, to improve the impact and consistency of our policing services.</p> <p>In support of the Scottish Government's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention strategies, we will work with partners to develop Distress Brief Intervention referrals to support individuals who present in distress or crisis.</p>	<p>We will work effectively with partners and the public to tackle inequalities and deliver better outcomes for individuals and communities.</p>	<p>We will provide officers and staff with 'distress, mental health and vulnerability' training to better equip them to respond and support individuals and communities.</p>