



Metropolitan Police Authority

Domestic Violence Board – 12 June 2006

Sutton Borough Response to Domestic Violence

Overview

This report has been compiled at the request of the MPA Domestic Violence Board to give information on how Sutton Borough Operational Command Unit (Sutton BOCU) works to deal with all aspects of Domestic Violence.

The report will describe the work undertaken by Sutton BOCU to tackle all types of domestic violence by adopting a partnership problem solving approach, seeking to improve performance in attaining sanctioned detections, keeping survivors safe, preventing further offences and holding offenders to account.

Areas of best practice and innovation will be highlighted and the challenges that presented described

A. Data Provided by the MPS Directorate See Appendix 1

- Between 01 April 2006 and 31 March 2007, 2117 domestic violence incidents were reported on Sutton BOCU, of which 934 were substantive criminal offences
- A sanctioned detection rate of 63.2% was achieved with a total domestic violence detection rate of 63.3%. (difference relates to one non sanctioned detection early April 2006)
- A total number of 3172 victims reported incidents of domestic violence over the last three years, 971 were repeat victims which represent 29% and the average number of offences per repeat victim equate to 2.6 per victim.
- 9 survivors of domestic violence were identified as suffering from mental health issues. (identified by 124d and flagged on CRIS report)
- No DV homicides were committed on Sutton BOCU in the last 12 months.
- Figures show that in the comparable 12 month period 34 people under 16 yrs of age were victims of assault, 202 people between the ages of 17 –25 yrs, 346 between 26 –40, 141 between 41- 55 and 44 victims were aged over 56 yrs..

- Likewise, in relation to ethnicity, 30 victims of violence were Asian, 25 were black, 11 Chinese or other race, 6, mixed, 268 were classified as unknown and 363 white. In regard to the 20 victims of Grievous Bodily Harm, 11 were unknown and 9 white.

- Recent figures state that Sutton BOCU has achieved a sanctioned detection rate for Domestic Violence of 63.2% for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007. This compares significantly to the same period last year of 34.5%.

- Sutton BOCU focuses attention on quality of service. A quantifiable way of measuring success is bringing offenders of DV crime to justice. Sutton BOCU have been assessed as being the second best performing BOCU in the Metropolitan Police Area for sanctioned detections.

B. Policy compliance, implementation and quality assurance

1. Sutton BOCU has recognised and embraced the MPS Standard Operating Procedures relating to Domestic Violence in conjunction with Victims Of Crime Codes Of Practice. It fully appreciates that the prevalence and seriousness of domestic violence places a responsibility on the BOCU to ensure that this type of crime, which affects women disproportionately, is tackled appropriately and robustly. This BOCU responds positively to “any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults [18 or over] who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.” Included in the remit are all crime allegations motivated by hate and issues of concern to black and minority ethnic communities such as so called ‘honour killings’.” We use the MPS Domestic Violence Standard Operating Procedure as reference to ensure compliance and quality assurance.
2. Sutton BOCU has formed a Public Protection Command within the Criminal Investigation Department that comprises the Community Safety Unit (CSU), Sapphire Unit (dealing with all allegations of a sexual nature) and Public Protection Unit (responsible for monitoring Registered and Non-Registered Sex Offenders and Potentially Dangerous Offenders as well as taking responsibility for managing and co-ordinating the Multi Agency Public Protection Panel). An experienced officer, Detective Inspector (DI) Michael Smith has the dedicated role of managing this command.
3. All calls regarding domestic incidents are entered onto a Computer Aided Despatch (CAD) message and flagged accordingly. All incidents alleging violence must be marked up as “immediate response” and officers assigned. The Integrated Borough Operations centre (IBO) at Sutton (ZT) has a dedicated person whose role is to research the local intelligence indices: Crime reports (CRIS), Local Intelligence Records (Crimint) and Police National Computer (PNC) to ensure that attending officers are fully briefed regarding

previous incidents involving the parties involved and the address attended. Team Sergeants are actively encouraged to attend DV incidents to provide effective supervision at the scene. It is the IBO supervisor's responsibility to ensure that all CAD's involving domestic incidents are resulted with a crime report number. If a crime report number is not entered in the result field, then the system generates an automatic prompt, which requires the supervisor to justify its absence. The Racial and Violent Crime Directorate monitor compliance of the immediate response marker for all domestic violence calls and inform the relevant BOCU of any failings. We have identified discrepancies in the number of domestic calls and related CRIS reports. We have established that this is due to all domestic calls being flagged as DV even though they do not fall within the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) definition; for example when one or more parties are under 18 years of age - the CAD will contain the DV marker but the flag on the CRIS will be removed. The removal of the flag enables us to accurately and easily record only data that conforms to ACPO guidelines. However we have a local policy to assist such survivors by giving them the status of DV victims at the time they call police, which then allows us to give them the full range of support services within Sutton BOCU.

4. All allegations of crime are referred to the Crime Management Unit which ensures quality control, National Crime Reporting Standards compliance, undertakes a screening decision and allocates to the most appropriate unit. They also ensure that all crimes are flagged correctly i.e. DV – domestic violence and vulnerable adult (to identify victims who have a mental or physical disability). In addition, all crimes marked with the DV, HO (Homophobic) or RI (Racial Incident) flag are checked on a daily basis by the Detective Sergeant (DS) or DI of the CSU, to ensure data quality in the report, SOP compliance and that the appropriate flagging has been used.
5. To support officers and to ensure compliance with the SOP, following their daily review, the DI will liaise with relevant line managers and the DS with individual identified officers to highlight any failings and address any identified training needs. This ensures compliance with the SOP in relation to correct completion of the crime report, which includes, where necessary, fully recorded justification for failing to take positive action, completion of 124d, the risk being correctly assessed and the most appropriate action taken. The risk assessment is made using the SPECSS+ model. High risk indicators that may be present are identified using this model:
 - S = separation, recent or proposed
 - P = pregnancy or new birth
 - E = escalation, attacks getting worse and occurring more often

- C = cultural issues and isolation, no support
 - S = stalking, harassing
 - S = sexual assault
 - + = any other factors
6. It is BOCU Policy that all domestic incidents are recorded on a 124d and the fact that it has been completed must be recorded on the CRIS report along with the Merlin Reference Number and the Crimint reference. If these are absent from the details of investigation page on the crime report, then the officers are contacted to supply the missing information. All 124d's are supervised by the officers' line manager and the completed form placed in a dedicated receptacle and collected daily by the CSU DS or deputy. They are quality assured by the DS for risk indicators and reviewed for evidential value. In regard to the risk assessment made by the reporting officer, the CSU DS will check local indices for previous history, previous allegations, criminal record and any other useful information that can influence risk assessments. A risk assessment must be completed for all domestic incidents. These are then used to prioritise crime reports accordingly, dependant on the level of risk, high, medium or standard. The risk assessment flag is entered by the DS on the report to indicate the relevant level. If high or medium, the victim is contacted and more questions are asked to determine exactly the potential risk to the victim. Informed action is then taken i.e. Remove, Avoid, Reduce or Accept the risk known as RARA. In all incidents involving violence, positive action is taken and RARA put into place. The preferred option will primarily be the removal of the risk by arrest and subsequent inclusion into the Criminal Justice System, i.e. holding offender to account.
7. Although Sutton BOCU have not had a domestic violence murder in the last two years, there is a policy in place that ensures that the DV Champion (DI Smith) has to complete a comprehensive report which reviews the actions taken and assesses the impact on the local community. DI Smith's experience includes a previous posting to the Major Investigation Team now SCD1 – this group deals with murder or major investigations. **For document see Appendix 2**

C. Resources

8. The BOCU Workforce Target (BWT) for the Community Safety Unit is one Detective Inspector, one Detective Sergeant, eight Detective/Trainee Detective Constables (DC/TDC) and one Police Constable (PC). The actual strength at the present time is one DI, one DS, seven DC's, 1.4 PC's with one DC on restricted duties and times. He is currently performing the role of advocate and CSU office manager, but due to current regulations he is still shown as a full

DC for the purposes of the BWT, which means that we are officially 0.6 of an officer over strength. There is currently no administrative or advocacy support allocated to the unit, however the DV Champion and deputy are actively trying to obtain assistance in the form of a volunteer worker in lieu of funding for an advocacy worker.

9. The demographic profile of the CSU officers is one white male DI, one white female DS who has registered disabilities, three white male DC's, five white female DC/TDC's (two of which are open about the fact that they have same sex partners), one part time black female PC and one part time white female PC (job share). All are subject to one years minimum posting. This ensures continuity and the ability to develop expertise in this specialised field of work. Currently there are no vacancies in the CSU at Sutton BOCU. DI Michael Smith is the local DV Champion. He is a leading member of the local DV Forum Group, DV Focus Group and DV Local Implementation team. These are multi agency partnerships that work together to reduce the number of victims, ensure offenders are brought to account, and to establish care pathways for victims and their families.

Member agencies include;

- Health
- Witness Care Unit
- Sutton Local Authority Community Safety Team
- Sutton DV Forum Chair/Vice Chair
- Crown Prosecution Service
- HM Court Services, Sutton
- Sutton Women's Centre
- Specialist Voluntary Sector
- Victim Support
- Housing
- Probation Services
- Children's services
- Family Centre

DI Smith is working closely with Shaun O'Leary who is the newly appointed London Borough of Sutton Executive Head for Learning Disabilities, and chair for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults – part of the adult protection scheme to ensure inclusion of elderly and vulnerable victims in the many partnership schemes. Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust has been the subject of a recent report by the Healthcare Commission who investigated the services that were provided for people with learning difficulties (Orchard Hill).

10. Through locally based regular in-house training and by robustly addressing quality assurance/evidential failures, the officers at Sutton are aware of the need to deal with all incidents of domestic violence professionally and effectively in adherence to the SOP. They acknowledge that this is a complex area of police work that requires specialist knowledge, dedication and experience to deal with effectively and they appreciate having the CSU that can offer advice and guidance.
11. Every response vehicle is provided with 124d's and a digital camera (ICEFLO) to ensure that the scene and any injuries are photographed. The CSU have been provided with a digital camera and a photo printer so that images can be downloaded evidentially and presented to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to assist them in the review of the criminal case
12. A meeting is held every weekday morning and chaired by the BOCU Operational Superintendent. All operational managers attend and events that have occurred in the proceeding day/s are discussed. The DV Champion or deputy informs the group of all domestic violence incidents, prisoners arrested and whether or not the SOP has been adhered to. At weekends, all cases are reviewed by the 'weekend-on' DS who can bring any issues to the 'On Call' DI or in cases of a critical nature, to the attention of the 'On Call' Superintendent. If there are any failings, then the appropriate Inspector is called to account following the weekday meeting. On Mondays, the whole weekend is subject to the review process. Superintendent Bailey in charge of Operations (and the DV SMT Champion) along with Superintendent Shadbolt, in charge of Safer Sutton Partnership (who is also an Executive Officer at the London Borough of Sutton and jointly employed by them and the MPS), are key members of the DV Strategic Group, which meets each quarter to discuss strategy, policy and procedure. This enables expert advice and best practice for dealing with diversity issues and includes the Voluntary Sector, eg. Sutton Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS)
13. The DS in the CSU has initiated a number of proactive operations in order to promote a robust response to domestic violence. Intelligence was received indicating that during the football world cup, increased incidents of domestic violence were to be expected, especially during England games. To combat

this, an operation was funded by the Superintendent's Contingency Fund whereby a dedicated domestic violence vehicle was deployed, staffed by two experienced members of the CSU, to respond instantly to DV calls. This improved victim support, ensured positive action and a high evidential standard of investigation and proved sufficient to meet the demands during these periods. To supplement this, the media were utilized to promote our non-tolerance of domestic violence and the planned use of the DV car over that period. Over five days, the DV car dealt with nineteen prisoners and responded to 16 calls. The success of this operation was highlighted in the local media and the DV Car has been used on other occasions when intelligence has suggested an increase in the level of domestic violence incidents, e.g. some of the public holiday weekends. Due to Sutton being one of the smallest Boroughs in terms of numbers of police officers, this resource can only be financially supported during specific identified periods where intelligence suggests an anticipated rise in DV incidents. We have also participated in Met Wide operations such as Operation Athena and have been successful in achieving its aims, which were to promote awareness of domestic violence and non-tolerance of such.

14. Territorial Policing (TP) assist Sutton and provide a detailed analysis of performance every two weeks which indicate DV sanctioned detections, arrest rate percentage and number of incidents.

D. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)

Whilst the request for information from the MPA relates primarily to the BOCU, sections of the request document do not promote a "joined up" approach to Domestic Violence, but rather appears to separate the work of the BOCU and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership respectively. Clearly there are substantial areas of work undertaken by services external to the BOCU. These inform how the BOCU responds to the issue of Domestic Violence across the borough, and recognise the need for Domestic Violence work to be co terminus with other elements of investment and strategic planning across the Local Authority (for example; Social Services Children and families).

In January 2005, the formal move from partnership to integration, took place between the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), CDRP, and the Community Safety Partnership, to create the Safer Sutton Partnership Service (SSPS). Further advantage was gained through this move, by fully integrating this service into the Police Station in Sutton.

This integrated partnership has had some far reaching implications for the commissioning, delivery and performance management of a number of services including Domestic Violence.

Currently the SSPS is reviewing the structure, and delivery of Domestic Violence service delivery across the borough. This includes funding allocations and future

strategic direction and decision-making. Currently the CDRP element of the SSPS provides an annual allocation of £60,000 to Sutton Women's Centre to provide a locally commissioned service provided through the voluntary sector. Currently the total CDRP budget stands at £2 million pounds. However what must be borne in mind is that :

- a) This budget includes a substantial amount of ring-fenced monies for Drugs work, and
- b) The Local Authority invests substantial amounts into other elements of DV treatment and services such as the Children's Therapeutic Group, refuge places, staff costs etc. It is inaccurate therefore to consider only the CDRP budget in terms of annual DV spend.

Other funding is made available via Local Authority Capital Grant money, for specific projects such as the Sanctuary Scheme, and clear processes for this type of work to be undertaken exist in a formal problem solving approach through weekly and monthly operational and strategic meetings.

The SSPS produces an annual action plan, that itself feeds into the Local Area Agreement and Local Authority action planning cycle, which also links to the local Policing Plan. This planning process recognises Domestic Violence as a specific area for work and development at both a strategic planning and operational level.

A number of initiatives are currently undertaken by the SSPS to tackle Domestic Violence, the most prominent and comprehensive being the entire re organisation, re mapping and re structure of referral routes into services, risk assessments and pathways through services to enable a standardisation of access and certain activities. The project also recognises the current Child Assessment Framework operated by Children and Families (Social Services), and is fully complimentary to it. It is anticipated that this work will be a long- term project "steered" strategically by a multi agency group, and driven at an operational level by a Local Implementation Team (LIT) comprised of practitioners from all elements of work where Domestic Violence is likely to be either identified, or highlighted, and is fully supported through a formal project plan discussed at routine project briefings on a regular basis with key participants. It is intended that this work, once complete, will result in a standardised and structured process for referring into, and through services for victims, and will contribute to identifying repeat victims. Other work undertaken in tandem with this is to establish how locally, Sutton then undertakes work to allow victims to move out of the cycle of Domestic Violence, thus preventing (particularly where children are, or may be involved) future and repeat episodes. Furthermore the new system will permit central compilation and co-ordination of data and information to provide "evidence" where appropriate, for any potential new areas of investment in respect of Domestic Violence. Data collection will also facilitate closer performance management and activity monitoring within services providing an indication of throughput and outcome measurement and monitoring that has hitherto been poorly co-ordinated.

Included in the re development of all services across the Borough is the consultation at operational and strategic levels, with Service Users and providers including the voluntary sector, for example, the award winning Children and Women's therapeutic

groups are encouraged to feedback information regarding what works, and this is acted upon via the DV LIT and Strategic groups. Additionally, Local Authority housing staff have interviewed service user's from the women's refuge to ascertain types of accommodation most suitable to their needs. This will be used as evidence for both strategic decision-making and financing of initiatives such as increased refuge spaces, and it is intended to undertake Best and well established practice learned from the SSPS involvement in commissioning and performance managing Drugs Treatment Services, and replicate this with the newly developed Domestic Violence Services. Once changes and initiatives are implemented this is fed back to the user's via regular user meetings and panels

Current Partnership arrangements allow for close working practice to be undertaken between a range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations including the Health services, Social Services, SSPS, and Local substance misuse services. The intended future development and strategic direction of travel for local Domestic Violence Services will in part be informed through service user consultation and feedback.

Author for this section of the report:

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Sutton Council, Chair of Local Implementation Scheme (LIT)

E. *Partnership Working*

15. Sutton BOCU have recognised that partnership problem solving to tackle domestic violence is key. We did have a dedicated DV Co-ordinator who worked closely with the DS in the CSU. Now, work relating to the co-ordination of DV and Hate Crime is undertaken across posts within the CDRP and incorporated into numerous areas of responsibility at various levels. This is more effective and targets activity more easily since commissioning and performance monitoring are different to Policy and planning. There are clear lead roles across different areas of DV, e.g. a lead for children's work. Entire coordination is brought together through the DV Strategic group. The LIT aims to have a co-ordinated response to domestic violence whilst ensuring that all parties have defined roles and responsibilities

16. 'Keeping survivors safe' is the focus on which the BOCU and it's specialised taskforce, the Community Safety Unit, prioritise their response. The improvements shown in this BOCU's results, has been directly achieved by 'partnership working'. This increases victim safety and enables us to hold more perpetrators to account.

17. There is currently a project being prepared in regards to simplifying and co-ordinating support services – improving care pathways. This is being prepared

by the local Implementation team in conjunction with the Sutton Domestic Violence Forum. In addition they are also preparing a standardised risk assessment that can be used by all partnership agencies. This is designed to improve local information sharing, to ensure that victims of crime are not lost in the system and that all agencies are aware of risk cases. In the past such issues have been dealt with in isolation by other agencies with little or no co-ordination with us. Since then, our partnership work has improved greatly. A common risk threshold assessment across agencies is currently being developed. This is fully SPECSS+ compliant.

18. Sutton BOCU is working towards developing a local independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Project. Unfortunately funding has not been made available to us. This would allow us to free up resources and redefine our role as investigators as we are not equipped to deal with some of the issues raised by victims of domestic crime. Presently Sutton's Women's Service is able and does provide some advocacy service. This could be expanded and reconfigured and is currently incorporated into the CDRP plans for redesign of DFV services, in line with the Home Office's community coordinated response model.
19. Sutton BOCU recognises that it is essential to share, collate and analyse information held by partner agencies, which will assist us in a dynamic and up to date risk assessment. Future development of a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) will enhance this work even further.
20. Sutton BOCU works closely with one of our partnership agencies the Sutton Women's centre, which is funded by the local authority and Sutton Police. It is a crisis intervention service and co-ordinates Sutton's response to victims and their families. They will also refer them to suitable long-term services.
21. Feedback is also welcomed at Sutton. This is made in a number of different ways including LIT meetings, letters of appreciation, victim satisfaction surveys, complaints, CPS and victim support. All are monitored and dealt with where appropriate in order to improve and develop our service. The CSU is an evolving unit where improvements are always looked for and enacted.

F. Training

22. CSU officers receive specialist training by the Crime Academy at Hendon Training School. All CSU officers attend a week's course and officers on the Trainee Detective Programme currently attend a five-week investigators course and a two-week investigators interview course. One DS and five DC/PC's are Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) trained, which enables them to obtain visually recorded statements. In addition two further officers are awaiting courses in the Summer 2007. This will have a positive impact as the criminal justice

system is heading more and more towards visually recorded statements under the provisions of the Youth and Criminal Justice Act 1999. There is provision in this Act of Parliament that all vulnerable victims in fear of violence or intimidation will be able to ABE'd and this will allow their visually recorded statements to be played in court as part of their evidence in chief. At the moment, it has not been enacted and is awaiting implementation into the Criminal Justice System. It is essential for the CSU that the BOCU is prepared for this legalisation, which will assist DV victims greatly. Meanwhile, victims who are mentally or physically disabled are allowed under this legislation to have their statements visually recorded. The DS in the CSU is an experienced ABE interviewer and trainer who is qualified to an advanced level and able to deal with vulnerable adult/child victims and witnesses.

23. Sutton BOCU has regular training days and the CSU managers have a regular input. Training needs can be addressed and good practice highlighted. All Sutton BOCU officers have been given extensive training in the 124d book and its integration into BOCU and Met Wide Policy.
24. Although currently there is no DV integrated partnership training, it has been recognised by Sutton BOCU that it would be good practice and of benefit to all agencies involved in the reduction, detection and prevention of domestic crime. It should be noted that we have recently obtained ABE training in conjunction with Social Services and Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT).
25. All Sutton BOCU officers were provided with training in the completion of the 124d's, how to deal with SSPECSS and how to ensure victim safety by taking positive action where appropriate. In the CSU, six of the DC/TDC's have received the specialist CSU training and two DC/PC's are waiting for a course date.

G. Employee Domestic Violence

26. Sutton BOCU has had a number of domestic violence incidents involving police officers/staff. Local policy dictates that in all such cases, the investigation is led in the first instance by the Duty Officer. He/she will ensure that both the SOP relating to DV and the SOP in relation to DV cases involving police officers/staff are strictly adhered to. The case will then be handed over to the DS in the CSU or in her absence, her deputy. All cases are monitored by the DI. All victims are given support and referred to multi agency support groups. In addition, we ensure that they are getting the appropriate support from their line managers and if not, we rectify this. In most cases, the CSU is thanked for it's support and whilst sometimes victims do not like the positive action taken, they recognise the importance and rational behind it, once it has been fully explained.

27. The Sutton BOCU Human Resources (HR) unit manager leads on the internal MPS domestic violence policy. This is to ensure that all appropriate welfare implications are considered and the victim is referred to internal Occupational Health and Support Services. They in turn offer them a confidential referral to outside support agencies. At time of writing, no officers/staff have disclosed that they are a victim of DV crime. The local federation and police staff union representatives have a close liaison with the CSU, and in fact the DV champion DI Smith is himself a federation representative. They ensure that if anyone approaches them, they are able to give support and advice.
28. The CSU manager is confident that officers and staff are willing to report DV incidents to the BOCU. However, having ensured that the matter is recorded, they are often then unwilling to assist further as they are aware of the potential results. For example, where the suspect is employed by the MPS, the victim is aware that any prosecution may jeopardise their partner's future employment and thereby their ability to adequately support their family in the future. In these incidents, the victims prefer to obtain a civil remedy i.e. non-molestation order by the family courts, divorce or separation. However we will still pursue positive action and submit a report to the CPS, as explained below. The report includes the wishes of the victim and whether they are willing to support a prosecution.
29. As stated previously, all crimes of domestic violence involving employees of the MPS are vigorously investigated by the DS in the CSU or her deputy, overseen by the DI (DV Champion). Local BOCU policy dictates that a full evidential report detailing the investigation is presented to the local CPS for independent advice even if the evidence does not meet the expected evidential threshold. In all cases, TP crime and our Directorate of Professional Standards are informed and kept abreast of the progress of the investigation. Employees of the MPS are treated by this OCU in the same as any other perpetrator of DV crime and dealt with as directed by the CPS, thereby ensuring that they are held to account for their actions.

H. *Project Umbra*

30. Sutton BOCU has engaged with Project Umbra through the performance management framework for domestic violence. All CSU DI's are engaged in the project and developments through the monthly DI's meetings with the Central CSU Delivery Team.
31. Sutton BOCU is involved with all operational strands of the Project.
- We have attempted to obtain advocacy and support funding from our partners but to date have been unsuccessful, so are currently seeking to obtain volunteer workers to give administrative support and it is envisaged that they

will also be able to offer support and advice to victims from the point of view of a trained member of the public rather than from a police officer.

- We are actively involved in developing a local MARAC project
- As from May 2007, the local CPS will be based at Sutton Police station rather than a remote office. This will enhance partnership working and offer a better, unified service within this specialised field of domestic violence.
- Data sharing is a key part in the meetings of the LIT team and each member has contact details to enable information sharing outside the meetings.

I. Interface with the Met Modernisation Programme

32. The MPS response to Domestic Violence could be improved through the Met Modernisation Programme by enhanced use of modern technology, e.g. there is currently a pilot scheme in South Wales where officers are equipped with video recording headgear. This enables the full impact of the incident to be recorded as the officers arrive on scene and shows the devastating effect that domestic violence brings to vulnerable victims. Each BOCU should have a specialist DV car staffed by fully trained officers and equipped with mobile ABE recording equipment. This will ensure that when the new legislation regarding vulnerable and intimidated victims/witnesses is enacted, we will be able to obtain visually recorded statements shortly after the offence took place. This will not only assist the victim by preventing them having to relive the event at a later date when giving a statement and then again when giving evidence at court, but will also help evidentially as they have greater impact and clarity.

J. Equality and Diversity Implications

33. Sutton BOCU works continually to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and good community relations. The BOCU strives to ensure that equal treatment and access to services is available to all. This is particularly important in dealing with victims of domestic violence, irrespective of gender, colour, race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, religious belief or non belief. This is evidenced not only by Sutton BOCU's robust prosecution of racial crime (currently at a 60.1% sanctioned detection rate), but also by the MPS Victim Satisfaction Survey where Sutton exceeded the Met average by achieving 82% of victims being satisfied with police action and 91% with police treatment. The CSU currently has no analytical support and therefore is unable to monitor any variations in outcomes or likelihood to report DV incidents between groups of people based on identity or any other factor that may cause them to be regarded as a minority.

K. Financial Implications

34. Sutton BOCU spends £500,000 approx on staffing the CSU. In addition to this there is an overtime budget of £25,000 for the Public Protection Command. Funding is also available for pre-planned operations from the crime manager's contingency fund, the Superintendents contingency fund and partnership fund. Central funding can also be obtained through TP through a bidding basis.
35. Sutton BOCU is fully committed to providing a professional service to victims of domestic violence. The service is fit for purpose and is continually reviewed regarding policies, performance and strategies to ensure that a good level of service is continually achieved.

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