

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE JOINT INSPECTION

### *Evidence Led Domestic Abuse Prosecutions*

## RESPONSE: OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE



The national report published in January 2020 focuses on a key area of business for the criminal justice system.

In Cheshire, the Police & Crime Commissioner as Chair of the Criminal Justice Board has ensured that evidence led domestic abuse prosecutions is provided with significant focus and scrutiny.

The report confirms that police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) recognise domestic abuse as a priority area of work. This is welcomed and is reflected in Cheshire. It is also welcomed that the report found that in all domestic abuse cases, operational officers and CPS prosecutors have a good understanding of evidence led prosecutions and understand that cases can proceed even where the victim is unresponsive.

This has been an area of key focus for the Criminal Justice Board in Cheshire, with the Board receiving recent updates on work to support police officers and supervision:

- With knowledge and understanding around Evidence Led Domestic Abuse Prosecutions;
- To respond effectively to reports and calls for service;
- To manage investigations effectively and secure the evidence needed for prosecution;
- To consider the wider picture within Domestic Abuse incidents; and
- To understand and maximise the legislation and support of the CPS.

It is acknowledged by all criminal justice organisations that there is more to be done and the report helpfully sets out a number of recommendations for policing and others to take forward.

Under the Chair of the Police & Crime Commissioner, the Criminal Justice Board in Cheshire will continue to scrutinise and drive forward improvements in this area of business and has outlined its on-going commitment to prioritise it.

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner  
18 March 2020