SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY

Agenda Item 7

Meeting	SPA Policing Performance Committee
Date	9 March 2021
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	PS Report on the impact of maintaining Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD)
Presented By	ACC Judi Heaton, Major Crime, Public Protection and Local Crime
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	Yes – Appendix 1 (flow chart) & Appendix 2 (iVPD sharing data)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the previously submitted reports on the use of iVPD and the data recorded within.

Members are requested to discuss the content of this paper.

1.   BACKGROUND

1.1   With the creation of Police Service of Scotland (PSoS), iVPD was developed as the national system for the capture of incidents where there has been a police response in respect of adult or child protection; domestic abuse; hate crime and youth offending.

1.2   It is an incident based database with a review and retention policy. The database records information about individuals who are, or are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity and/or situational vulnerability which may impact on their current or future wellbeing. This includes personal information as defined by the Data Protection Act (DPA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

1.3   It is also the database in which information is recorded, researched, assessed and shared, with relevant statutory agencies and/or 3rd Sector Organisations (TSO) / Advocacy Services where appropriate, to deliver safety and support to vulnerable people.

2.   Data Flow - Individuals recorded on iVPD

2.1   As of 31st December 2020, there were **803,985** unique individuals recorded on iVPD.

2.2   These individuals can be broken down in terms of age and identified gender, where recorded, as follows (01/04/2014 to 31/12/2020):

Age range	Male	Female	Indeterminate*	Not known/Specified	Total
Under 16	141007	129305	86	673	271071
16 - 35	126736	114944	152	288	242120
36 - 60	106381	90634	67	122	197204
61 - 100	30371	30849	9	36	61265
101 - 150	55	51	0	25	131
Age Unknown**	8714	4053	7	19420	32194
Total	**413264**	**369836**	**321**	**20564**	**803985**

*iVPD allows the gender of an individual to be recorded as Male, Female, Not Known/Specified or Indeterminate. It is recognised these terms require to be updated to better reflect current societal gender naming conventions. As such, NRAC are working with the Force Data Standards to agree and ratify gender and sex nomenclature as part of the wider master nominal record work being undertaken for application across all PSoS systems.

**iVPD permits individuals to be added without a date of birth being entered. This process includes, but is not limited to, the addition of concerns in respect of unborn babies and people for which there is no concern, for example, Social Work Scotland staff and Appropriate Adults etc.

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2.3 In September 2020 the BBC published an article in respect of iVPD including the following statement *"The force also added that the VPD, which currently has about 267,000 people on it, has new records and incidents added and removed "every hour of every day".*

2.4 The article in question was published following a FOI request from the BBC to Police Scotland.

2.5 Unfortunately the published data related to the number of individuals added to iVPD during 2020 (**267,948**) as opposed to the total number of individuals recorded on the database since its national rollout in 2014.

2.6 As such the data provided to the BBC was misinterpreted resulting in the published figure being inaccurate.

3. Data Flow – Information Sharing

3.1 Between 01/01/2020 and 09/12/2020 **242,291** iVPD Concern Reports were shared with statutory and non-statutory partners.

3.2 As a snapshot of this level of sharing, on Monday 07th December 2020, PSoS shared **656** iVPD Concern Reports with our statutory partners, whilst **26** iVPD Concern Reports were shared with the following non-statutory TSO partners:

Aberdeen City Caledonian Project, Domestic Abuse	1
Reaching Aberdeen Families Together (RAFT) Barnardos	1
Angus Multi Agency Independent Advocacy (MIA) Women's Aid	1
ASSIST (Advocacy, Support, Safety, Information, Services Together) G Division	3
ASSIST L Division	2
Dundee MIA Women's Aid	2
ASSIST U Division	2
Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support Service (DAAS)	5
Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Support and Advocacy Service (EDDACS) Women's Aid	3
ASSIST Q Division	4
MIA Women's Aid Perth	1
ASSIST L Division	1
TOTALS	**26**

3.3 Appendix 2 shows the raw data in terms of the number of Concern Reports shared each calendar month and with each agency (statutory and non-statutory) across the organisation.

3.4 This level and type of sharing shows the value in having a corporate database, that allows for the uniform recording of vulnerable individuals, alongside a mechanism for Concern Hubs to assess risk associated with that individual, and share information with partners appropriately and timeously to support them at their time of need.

3.5 As Concern Hubs assess risk they utilise a Resilience Matrix to assist in taking the decision to share information or not. The matrix consists of a number of considerations including the identified vulnerability, existing protective factors, adversity faced and resilience present. These factors are considered in the context of the relevant legal information sharing pathways and a decision taken on sharing.

3.6 The rationale formed at 3.4 is captured within iVPD for future scrutiny and review. It is a key point in the Concern Hub Quality Assurance process to ensure decisions are regularly reviewed in terms of proportionality and to ensure that PSoS are not over or under sharing information with partners.

4. Data Flow – Processing

4.1 The attached flow chart (Appendix 1) shows the journey of a Concern Report (and therefore a data subject's personal information) through iVPD. It highlights the associated legislative framework and legal pathways that allow PSoS to collect, process, assess, share and ultimately delete or retain the data.

4.2 iVPD has a review and retention policy that is based on the need to retain information for a specific policing purpose, but also recognises the data privacy and ECHR rights of an individual.

4.3 By way of example, during the month of December 2020, **11,811** unique individuals were added to the database whilst **10,456** unique individuals were deleted according to the policy. (Appendix 2 Tabs 2 and 3 show the total number of unique individuals added and deleted from the database between the 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2020 inclusive)

5. Information Sharing In Practice

5.1 The core purpose of iVPD is to facilitate the uniform recording of vulnerable events so that Concern Hubs can risk assess the information recorded, and share relevant information with appropriate statutory and non-statutory partners, where they are able to provide support and protection outside of PSoS role and capability.

5.2 The following are testimonies from non-statutory TSOs (ASSIST and Barnardo's) that demonstrate the benefit of this process. Such testimonies reinforce the need for PSoS to have iVPD to support this information flow, and protect vulnerable individuals in our communities through a collaborative partnership approach.

> ***Case 1 ASSIST***
>
> *Adult female domestic abuse victim referred to ASSIST. ASSIST worked with client throughout the investigation and 2 year court process resulting in perpetrator being found guilty of all charges. The client felt that she wouldn't have been able to get through the Criminal Justice process without the support and assistance of the service.*

> ***Case 2 ASSIST***
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> *Young female victim of domestic abuse referred to ASSIST. The service provided ongoing support throughout the Criminal Justice process however the client was experiencing high levels of fear and anxiety about court proceedings due to sexual offences being committed. Support provided to give evidence by commission resulting in the perpetrator being found guilty and remanded in custody pending sentencing. This case highlights how much of a positive impact partnership working can have to keep people safe.*

> ***Case 3 ASSIST***
>
> *Nine ASSIST clients referred by Police Scotland recently received mobile phones and iPads. One client who was left financially ruined by the perpetrator was incredibly grateful for the tablet as it helped relieve some of the burden of Christmas. Another client was given a mobile phone with unlimited data allowing for safety planning and access to safety apps. This now means that she and her family feel safe.*

Case 4 ASSIST

Female victim of high risk domestic abuse perpetrator referred to ASSIST. Perpetrator was extremely violent and used coercive control and gas lighting as a means to undermine her self-esteem. At the time of referral, the client's mental health was at rock bottom and she had attempted suicide. The client is now looking forward to the future and understanding who she is rather than living for someone else. This is such a positive outcome and shows how far a client can progress on their journey.

Case 5 Barnardo's Scotland

14 year old female who had multiple missing incidents was placed in a residential unit as her parents were unable to keep her safe. She was not attending school and became isolated from a healthy peer group. She was sexually exploited by various adult perpetrators, drugged and abused, much of which happened while she was in a residential unit. She was referred to Barnardo's Safer Choices and engaged well with the service. Through her work with the service she was able to see how she had been exploited/taken advantage of and became aware of power and control in relationships. She stopped going missing, significantly reduced drug and alcohol use, began attending school again and returned to her parents care. She took up a college course, and was placed in nurseries where she is now employed. No (further) police involvement, and has now her own home which she is managing well.

Case 6 Barnardo's Scotland

K was frequently missing from home and leaving school without permission, involved in unhealthy peer relationships alongside challenging behaviour within school, and following a referral to Safer Choices made a disclosure of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) after being groomed by 18 year old male. Initially she did not see herself as victim. Through support from Safer Choices K's knowledge and awareness of CSE, specifically peer exploitation and the grooming process and consent all increased. K changed her perspective of the incident of CSE and was able to recognise grooming and manipulation from the perpetrator. Through focused work exploring risk scenarios within the community, creating safety strategies and raising her awareness of 'healthy and unhealthy friendships' and relationships she was able to recognise these within her own friendships and relationships, and through time she distanced herself from these peers and her boyfriend. Emotional

support to both K and her mum helped build a positive understanding of the other and made it possible for K to return to her mum and family. At the end of the focused work K had gained closure and progressed positively with her recovery from CSE, she also had stopped going missing altogether and was focusing on school studies, attending college and had gained employment.

6.   Data Protection

6.1   To support our data protection compliance in terms of processing personal information, iVPD supports the "data protection by design" principle. It is subject to an overarching Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) and two further DPIAs relating to the review and retain policy and use of Public Task to share personal information. In addition, it is subject to an Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EqHRIA) and a public facing Privacy Notice.

7.   FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1   Not applicable in the context of this report.

8.   PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1   Not applicable in the context of this report.

9.   LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1   Not applicable in the context of this report.

10.   REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

11.   SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

12.   COMMUNITY IMPACT

12.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

13.   EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.
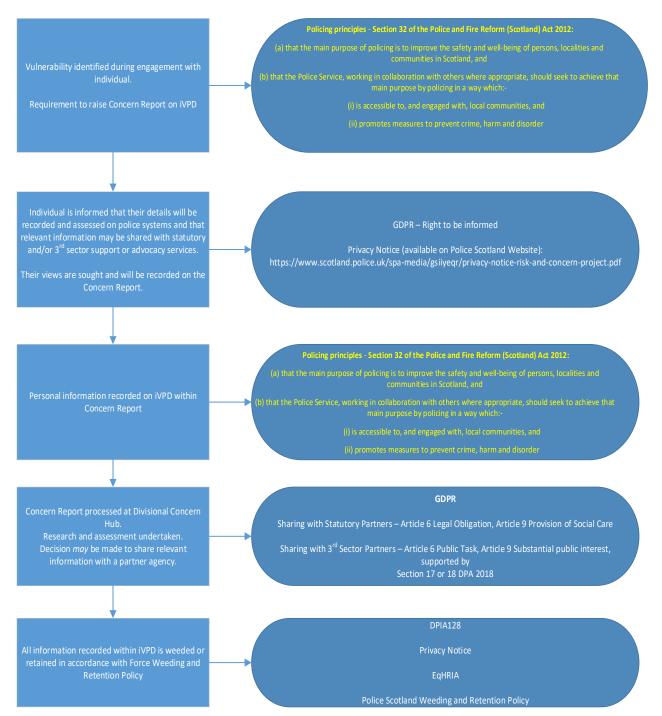
14. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no Environmental and Sustainability implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss and note the contents of this report.

Appendix 1

Vulnerability identified during engagement with individual.

Requirement to raise Concern Report on iVPD

Policing principles - Section 32 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012:

(a) that the main purpose of policing is to improve the safety and well-being of persons, localities and communities in Scotland, and

(b) that the Police Service, working in collaboration with others where appropriate, should seek to achieve that main purpose by policing in a way which:-

(i) is accessible to, and engaged with, local communities, and

(ii) promotes measures to prevent crime, harm and disorder

Individual is informed that their details will be recorded and assessed on police systems and that relevant information may be shared with statutory and/or 3rd sector support or advocacy services.

Their views are sought and will be recorded on the Concern Report.

GDPR – Right to be informed

Privacy Notice (available on Police Scotland Website): https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/gsiiyeqr/privacy-notice-risk-and-concern-project.pdf

Personal information recorded on iVPD within Concern Report

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(ii) promotes measures to prevent crime, harm and disorder

Concern Report processed at Divisional Concern Hub.
Research and assessment undertaken.
Decision *may* be made to share relevant information with a partner agency.

GDPR

Sharing with Statutory Partners – Article 6 Legal Obligation, Article 9 Provision of Social Care

Sharing with 3rd Sector Partners – Article 6 Public Task, Article 9 Substantial public interest, supported by
Section 17 or 18 DPA 2018

All information recorded within iVPD is weeded or retained in accordance with Force Weeding and Retention Policy

DPIA128

Privacy Notice

EqHRIA

Police Scotland Weeding and Retention Policy

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Table 1

Breakdown of the number of referrals recorded on iVPD: Police Scotland

Period: 1st January 2020 to and inclusive of 31st December 2020: Broken down by mont

Month	Number of referrals
January	21 711
February	19 139
March	19 805
April	18 918
May	20 286
June	23 615
July	22 660
August	22 462
September	24 454
October	23 241
November	23 527
December	22 517
Total	**262335**

The above data was extacted on a count of the number of organisations recorded per month.

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 19th February 2021.

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Table 2

Breakdown of the number of unique nominals added from iVPD: Police Scotland

Period: 1st January 2020 to and inclusive of 31st December 2020: Broken down by mont

Month	Number of unique nominals added
January	8 230
February	8 244
March	8 201
April	7 161
May	8 615
June	8 859
July	9 401
August	11 963
September	13 095
October	11 938
November	12 588
December	11 492
Total	**119787**

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 19th February 2021.

Data was extracted from iVPD incidents for the number of new nominals recorded on the database in 2020.

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Table 3

Breakdown of the number of unique nominals deleted from iVPD: Police Scotland

Period: 1st January 2020 to and inclusive of 31st December 2020: Broken down by month

Month	Number of unique nominals deleted
January	8108
February	7171
March	7991
April	9454
May	10725
June	10784
July	10569
August	11023
September	10641
October	10184
November	10853
December	10456
Total	**117959**

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 19th February 2021.

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