

Meeting	SPA Policing Performance Committee
Date	17 November 2020
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	Police Scotland Update Report on Impact of Maintaining Vulnerable People Database
Presented By	ACC Judi Heaton, Major Crime and Public Protection
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

Police Scotland update report on impact of maintaining interim Vulnerable Persons Database.

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the purpose of the Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) and the impact of maintaining the system.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

2.1 Purpose of iVPD

2.1.1 iVPD is a key national policing system that supports Police Service of Scotland's (PSoS) policing priority in protecting people considered vulnerable and working with partners to reduce harm. It enhances our strategic outcomes by ensuring threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a responsive police service (SO 1) and the needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery (SO 2).

2.1.2 iVPD is an incident based database with a bespoke weeding 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.

2.1.3 The system captures incidents where there has been a police response in respect of adult or child protection; domestic abuse; hate crime and youth offending. Information is recorded, researched, assessed and shared with relevant statutory agencies and/or 3rd sector organisations/advocacy where appropriate to deliver safety and support for people.

2.2 Maintenance

2.2.1 The database is an in house system and costs associated with the maintenance and development of iVPD are met internally.

2.2.2 It is maintained technically by PSoS ICT, with lifetime management provided by National Systems Support (NSS). iVPD is supported by a national business process with oversight from the National Risk and Concern (NRAC) team.

2.3 Volumes of incidents

2.3.1 In the last 12 months (01/10/2019 to 01/10/2020) 219,380 incidents were recorded nationally on iVPD.

2.3.2 Currently 1,352,103 incidents remain recorded on the database since its inception in 2014. There are 812,363 unique nominals recorded on the database associated with those incidents.

2.3.3 iVPD is supported by a weeding and retention policy which ensures that details of people are only retained on the database commensurate with the risk the person has been/is exposed to or present, and complies with GDPR.

2.4 Governance

2.4.1 As the key platform for assessing and sharing information in respect of protection and wellbeing matters, iVPD is subject to inclusion on the organisational risk register to ensure ongoing oversight and focus.

2.4.2 The system is subject to a Quality Assurance (QA) process however review has indicated that the process is in need of change. Internal significant development of iVPD commenced in September 2020 and a core strand of that development is the introduction of a new system driven QA process to ensure improved sight of risk both within the system and in the management of information sharing.

2.4.3 Changes and improvements to the system are user driven and supported by a governance process that includes a Change Request Assessment & Prioritisation Group and ultimately the iVPD Information Asset Owners Board, chaired by the ACC for Major Crime, Public Protection & Local Policing. Approval of the board is required for changes and improvements to the system.

2.4.4 In terms of overall governance, National Risk & Concern has been introduced to provide oversight of the system and ensure compliance with the business process. It is anticipated that a revised governance and assurance process will be implemented during 2021.

2.5 Summary

2.5.1 iVPD is the core PSoS system for sharing information with partners in respect of child and adult protection and wellbeing.

2.5.2 Ongoing organisational learning and development of the system ensures we are fully exploring our ability to work with partners to help people in our communities.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this paper.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this paper.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this paper.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There is a risk to public confidence if Police Scotland fail to properly communicate function, use and benefits to communities of the iVPD. Police Scotland have previously been called upon to justify the existence and use of the system, with associated media coverage. Appropriate responses are provided on each occasion which clearly define the purpose, use, weeding and retention policies. The benefits of the system in enabling information sharing with key partners to mitigate risk to vulnerable individuals is clear. A national governance structure has been implemented to ensure adherence to business rules and quality assurance of information contained within the system moving forward.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no social implications associated with this paper.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

8.1 Whilst the potential impact on public confidence as a result of misrepresentation of the system in the media is acknowledged, the system itself brings clear benefits in the support of vulnerable individuals within communities.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no known equalities implications associated with this paper.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no known environmental implications associated with this paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.