



**NORFOLK**  
CONSTABULARY  
*Our Priority is You*

February 2016

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 000028/16**

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in which you sought access to the following information:

The Serious Crime Act 2015 received Royal Assent on 3 March 2015 and coercive control became a criminal offence as of 29 December 2015.

This request is being made to all 43 police forces to ascertain the progress in raising awareness of the new law and any relevant training.

Please provide the following information:-

- A Has any formal training been provided by the force and if so when did this commence?
- B Was the training package prepared internally, or in partnership with an outside organisation?
- C Who is receiving the training e.g. all officers and police staff or specialist units dealing with domestic abuse.
- D What form does the training take e.g. classroom training/computer based training etc?
- E Please provide a copy of the training material.
- F If a training package prepared by the college of policing is being utilised, on what date did the force receive the training package.

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

**Response to your Request**

Norfolk Constabulary has located the following and attached information as relevant to your request.

A A Force Announcement was circulated by the Safeguarding and Investigations Command to all officers and staff in December 2015 to raise awareness of the new legislation. A copy of the announcement has been provided below.

All frontline officers and police staff have been provided with a power point presentation to raise awareness. This has been delivered during shift briefings prior to the face to face training being rolled out. A copy of the brief is attached.

---

The face to face training will have a focus on Coercion and Control but will also cover other key aspects of Domestic Abuse.

---

The Serious Crime Act 2015, Chapter 9, Part 5, Domestic Abuse, Section 76, which received Royal Assent on the 3 March 2015 will be enacted on the **29<sup>th</sup> Dec 15**

Section 76 introduces a new offence **criminalising repeated or continuous coercive or controlling behaviour perpetrated against an intimate partner or family member which has a serious effect on the victim.**

**When attending domestic incidents officers should consider the evidence and use of this offence where previously behaviour of this nature may not have amounted to a crime.**

It would not apply to a parent exercising their parental responsibility for a child under 16 (child cruelty law applies here). It addresses repeated or continuous behaviour in relationships where incidents of domestic abuse might appear unexceptional but have a significant cumulative impact on the victim's everyday life, causing them fear, alarm or distress.

The new domestic abuse offence attracts a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment or a fine, or both.

**Full legislation details can be located [here](#)**

**Please follow this link for a front line officer briefing [here](#)**

#### **Description of controlling or coercive behavior**

The Home Office describes [controlling behaviour](#) as: ... a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

The Home Office definition of [coercive behaviour](#) is: ... an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

**Further explanation of controlling or coercive behavior (internal link was provided)**

**Full APP Guidance on Domestic Abuse 2015 can be located [here](#)**

---

- B The training package was prepared internally with the material prepared by the College of Policing.
  - C All officers and staff who are public facing will undertake the training. The Force Announcement was circulated force wide.
  - D The powerpoint presentation can be accessed by individuals themselves and is also being provided by Supervisors through face-to-face delivery at the briefings. Further face-to-face training is being rolled out.
  - E The College of Policing learning descriptors are embedded in the Constabulary's training package. The full training package is yet to be finalised, please see below the current relevant sections:-
-

## Learning Outcomes/Descriptors

By the end of the lesson, students will/be able to:

1. Have an awareness of Power & Control Methods used on victims by perpetrators of domestic violence
2. Explain the Police's responsibility in relation to: risk identification, risk assessment and risk management.
3. Explain the Risk Identification process
4. Explain the Risk Assessment process
5. Explain the Risk Management process
6. Explain some of the lessons learned from the risk identification, assessment and management processes.

The domestic abuse definition changed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and the Home Office will be extending the definition of domestic violence and abuse so that young people aged 16 and 17 would be included.

This change to include young people has already been in place in Norfolk for a number of years, however officers should familiarise themselves with below definition that has also been adopted:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.\*

\*This definition includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

### **The Serious Crime Act 2015 - Controlling or Coercive Behaviour Offence**

**As from 29<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

Part 5 of The Serious Crime Act 2015 creates a new offence, **criminalising repeated or continuous coercive or controlling behaviour** perpetrated against an intimate partner or family member which has a serious effect on the victim.

**Controlling or Coercive behaviour Offence**  
**A purposeful pattern of behaviour;**

**“serious effect”**

on

**“at least two occasions”,**

or

**“substantial adverse effect on the victims’ day to day activities”**

The victim and perpetrator must be **personally connected** at the time the behaviour takes place.

The alleged perpetrator must have **known** that their behaviour would have a serious effect on the victim, or the behaviour must have been such that he or she **“ought to have known”** it would have that effect.

**Controlling** behaviour ...a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

**Coercive** behaviour ... an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

**Serious effect** caused to **EITHER**

fear that violence will be used against them on “at least two occasions”,

**OR**

they have been caused serious alarm or distress which has a substantial adverse effect on the victim’s usual day-to-day activities,

### **Maximum Penalties**

A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable

(a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or a fine, or both;

(b)

(c) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or a fine, or both.

(d)

Restraining orders are also available on acquittal.

Cover the “Charm Syndrome” i.e. Offenders can often be very charming upon first meeting and quickly state themselves in love with the victim gaining their trust.

It is often this person that a victim falls in love with and when the abuse starts they can sometimes believe that they can help the offender to overcome the side of his personality that is abusive (that they can cure them).

Often after each incident of abuse/violence offenders will appear very sorry for the behaviour and will beg for forgiveness.

They will often be the charming man they were at the outset of the relationship and a honeymoon period can take place before the next incident occurs.

To cover why victims remain in abusive relationships use the whiteboard writing two headings “Possible Losses” and “Possible Gains”.

Ask the students to give their thoughts as to what they feel a victim would lose/gain when leaving a violent relationship and list their responses.

Once completed, ask the students what they notice – the losses are generally always immediate at the point of leaving whereas the gains are often things that would be achieved in the future.

It is important here to state that victims are at most risk of serious harm when they leave as the offenders’ power and control is being usurped and they will generally up the level of abuse/violence to re-establish control.

Now ask for a volunteer to write on the board and ask group to consider the effects upon children growing up in a home where domestic violence is taking place.

- They may become anxious or depressed
- They may have difficulty sleeping
- They have nightmares or flashbacks
- They can be easily startled
- They may complain of physical symptoms such as tummy aches
- They may start to wet their bed
- They may have temper tantrums
- They may behave as though they are much younger than they are
- They may have problems with school
- They may become aggressive or they may internalise their distress and withdraw from other people
- They may have a lowered sense of self-worth
- Older children may begin to play truant or start to use alcohol or drugs
- They may begin to self-harm by taking overdoses or cutting themselves
- They may have an eating disorder

---

## **Non-Gender Specific Duluth Wheel**



Developed in the area of Duluth which identified that domestic abuse is all about the perpetrator having power and control over their victim.

A perpetrator will control a victim under these headings:-

**Physical Abuse**

**Sexual Abuse –**

**Coercion, Threats & Intimidation** – to kill/harm themselves, partner, children, pets, inform Social Services, to leave, have them sectioned, to never leave them alone, making reference to previous abuse.

**Economic Abuse** – preventing partner from working, causing them to lose jobs, give 'housekeeping' money and requiring receipts etc for expenditure, gambling, running up debts

**Children & Pregnancy** – Pregnancy can be a trigger to how domestic abuse starts, plus an offender can control a victim by encouraging children to assist in abuse, forcing partner to watch abuse of children, using child contact to abuse partner etc.

**Emotional Abuse & Isolation** – locking partner in house, denying access to car, taking mileage readings and ensuring they are all accounted for, preventing partner from using telephone, seeing friends or family, humiliating partner in front of others, being unpleasant to visitors ensuring they do not visit again etc.

---

Please see below comments received from the NPCC portfolio, lead ACC Louisa Rolfe:

Every police force is working hard to increase the confidence of victims to report domestic abuse and we have seen a substantial increase in reporting nationally with greater understanding of all forms of abuse, not just physical violence. The new domestic abuse offence of Controlling and Coercive Behaviour within the Serious Crime Act is another tool to help the police service and CPS prosecute perpetrators of domestic abuse and protect victims. It will provide more opportunities to evidence other forms of domestic abuse, beyond physical violence. Not only will this encourage more victims to report we hope, but also the concerned family and friends of victims.