

## **Crime Screening Policy**

### **1 POLICY AIM**

- 1.1 To have a flexible crime screening system to effectively filter and prioritise crime investigations.
- 1.2 BTP have the responsibility to investigate all crime complaints that occur within their jurisdiction. Currently the seven Areas have 'ad hoc' systems of filtering and prioritising investigations with different standards being applied to identify those crime complaints that require further investigation.
- 1.3 A Crime Screening System, applied throughout BTP, will ensure consistency in tactical assessments that are required in each case and will also define the key factors required to maximise the potential success from finite resources. In order to achieve this there is a need to make an initial assessment of the solvability of the crime, which in turn should dictate investigative plans.

### **2 GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES**

- 2.1 The Crime Screening Policy Diagram (please refer to Associated Documents) sets out the process to be applied to all crimes reported to BTP. It identifies the way in which crime comes to the organisation i.e. reported to the Crime Recording Centre (CRC) at Cardiff, or to a responding officer who has been directed by NSPIS Command and Control or direct to a Crime Management Unit.

- 2.2 The initial assessment to be made is to decide if the crime requires mandatory investigation e.g. Hate Crime, or is a priority crime e.g. robbery or is a non priority crime e.g. theft from a shop.
- 2.3 Crimes classed as mandatory will always require further investigation. Priority and non priority crime should be referred to the solvability template contained within the Crime Screening Policy Diagram. This template will provide guidance as to the chances of the crime being detected and should it pass this test then these crimes will also require further investigation. Should it not be deemed solvable, then the crime will be filed no further action (NFA).
- 2.4 The victim will always be informed of the progress of the investigation and would also, in the case of crime deemed 'not solvable' be informed as soon as practicable and if possible at the time of the initial report. In any event the victim would be formally notified by letter.
- 2.5 The form of words used both verbally and in the formal notification should be:
- 'There appears to be nothing more that the police can do at this stage, however, we will record this information, forward it for analysis and should anything more come to light it will be investigated'.
- 2.6 The victim will be provided with the crime number, either at the time if it is available or in the follow up letter.
- 2.7 The prioritisation of the mandatory and solvable crimes will then be assessed and dealt

with as per the model. (See Crime Screening Policy Diagram ).

2.8 The following crimes will always require mandatory investigation:

- Murder and associated homicide investigations
- Abduction
- Serious sexual assaults
- Domestic violence
- Staff assaults
- Assaults under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 sections 18 and 20
- All hate crime.

2.9 All crimes identified in the current BTP Policing Plan as priority crimes, will also be deemed as requiring mandatory investigation.

### **3 OWNERSHIP**

3.1 This policy is owned by Assistant Chief Constable (Crime).

3.2 Any enquiries regarding this policy and procedures should be addressed to D/Supt Field, FHQ. Tel. 004 8803.

### **4 START DATE**

4.1 This policy is in effect from 1 March 2006 and will be reviewed by FHQ Crime on 1 March 2007.



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