

Crime Allocation

POLICY & PROCEDURE

OFFICIAL

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Policy Authors	D/Ch. Insp. Ben Wayment
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Policy

National Context

The effective investigation of crime is essential to maintaining the legitimacy of policing and ensuring public confidence. It lies at the heart of the principle of policing by consent.

The quality of service provided to victims plays a crucial role in shaping public trust in both the police and the broader criminal justice system. It also impacts people's sense of safety and helps to prevent future crimes.

When a crime is reported, the public has a right to expect that the police will record and investigate it thoroughly. They are also entitled to receive regular updates and a level of service that aligns with the rights outlined in the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

Statement

It is essential that Merseyside police investigate crime thoroughly and professionally to uphold public confidence, ensure justice for victims, and maintain the rule of law. A robust and fair investigative process not only helps to identify and prosecute offenders but also protects victims and prevents future criminal activity.

Recording, allocation and investigation of crime is governed by the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) which is enacted through the Home Office Counting Rules for Recording Crime (HOCR). The counting rules provide guidelines on when and how a crime should be recorded.

We must ensure that our officers and staff have the capacity and capability to deal effectively with all reported crime. To support this, Merseyside police already has a clear and comprehensive Investigations Standards and Crime Management Policy. That policy provides a structured framework for how crimes are recorded, investigated, and supervised. It ensures consistency, accountability, and transparency across investigations, helping to prioritise resources effectively and meet legal and ethical standards.

This Crime Allocation Policy operates in conjunction with the Investigations Standards and Crime Management Policy but focuses upon the decision-making processes which will determine which crimes are investigated by which department when a secondary investigation is deemed necessary.

This policy is therefore intrinsically linked to both:

- [Investigations Standards and Crime Management Policy](#)
- [Crime Management Unit SLA](#)

Embedded Principles

The Crime Allocation Policy (CAP) is underpinned by a principle that *we are all Investigators*. The policy aligns with organisational and cultural change to create consistency and compatibility with the Force Strategy 2025 – 2030 and the Futures Programme, specifically the Force Operating Model.

The embedded principles are those of victim-focus, maintaining an omnicompetent workforce, fairness and equity, demonstrating excellence in the basics and ‘getting it right first time’.

Rationale

The effective investigation of crime plays a crucial role in building and maintaining public confidence and satisfaction in policing. When the public sees that crimes are taken seriously, investigated thoroughly, and resolved fairly, it reinforces trust in the police as a competent and accountable institution.

This trust encourages greater cooperation from communities, which in turn enhances the ability of police to prevent and solve crime. Moreover, when victims feel that their cases are handled with professionalism and empathy, they are more likely to feel supported and satisfied with the service they receive.

Consistently high standards of investigations also demonstrate a commitment to justice and fairness, which are fundamental to the legitimacy of policing in a democratic society. Ultimately, effective investigations not only bring offenders to justice but also reassure the public that their safety and concerns are a priority.

Aims

The overall aim of this policy is to establish a framework that provides all officers and staff within Merseyside Police with clear and consistent guidance in relation to the effective recording, allocation, investigation and prosecution of crime.

Every victim of crime deserves the highest standard of service. As a force, we are committed to delivering a professional and effective response, while continuously striving to enhance the quality of our investigations and the support provided to victims.

The allocation of crime to an OIC must reflect both the capacity and capability of that officer or member of police staff, and the department to which they are posted. This policy sets out the processes by which this can be best achieved, in order to maximise the opportunity to create the most appropriate outcomes for victims, and to bring offenders to justice.

Objectives

This policy sets out the route that a crime will take from the point of recording, through to an OIC, where a secondary investigation is deemed necessary.

The objectives of the policy are to:

- Enable the effective and efficient allocation of crime for investigation, to maximise opportunities for improved positive outcomes.
- Ensure consistency in the allocation of crime and subsequent investigations across all Basic Command Units (BCUs) and across all centralised departments.
- Ensure that crime is afforded the appropriate level of investigation in line with capability.
- Ensure that all personnel are aware of systems and processes related to crime allocation in order to attain an equitable and appropriate distribution of workload.
- Develop the investigative skills and mindset of all operational BCU officers.
- Create a cohesive approach to crime investigation and prevent disparate crime allocation processes that can hinder and delay enquiries.
- Ensure a consistent approach to the management of crime.
- Support the objectives of the Force Strategy.
 - Community First
 - Compassion for Victims
 - Contempt for Criminality
 - Care for Colleagues
- Provide transparent accountability of ownership of investigations.

Application and Scope

All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to Merseyside Police must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant policy and associated procedures.

Outcome Evaluation

Any outcome evaluation of this crime allocation policy should assess how effectively the policy achieves its intended goals and impacts policing outcomes. Key methods of evaluation will typically include:

- 1) The Force Operating Model audit and review processes.
- 2) Crime Detection and Resolution Rates: Measuring improvements in the proportion of crimes that are solved or result in positive outcomes (e.g., charges, cautions) can indicate the policy's effectiveness in aligning crime investigation with capacity and capability.
- 3) Police response to calls for service performance: The ability for the organisation to exceed target response timeliness for emergency and priority deployments must remain uncompromised by this policy.

- 4) **Victim Satisfaction and Confidence:** Surveys and feedback from victims can reveal whether the policy has led to more victim-centred practices, timely updates, and overall satisfaction with police response.
- 5) **Public Confidence in Policing:** Broader community surveys can assess whether the public perceives the police as effective, fair, and trustworthy, which is often influenced by how well crime is managed and investigated.
- 6) **Timeliness and Efficiency:** Evaluating whether investigations are completed within appropriate timeframes and whether resources are being used efficiently can highlight operational improvements.
- 7) **Compliance and Accountability:** Reviewing adherence to national standards, legal requirements, and internal procedures ensures that investigations are being conducted lawfully and ethically.
- 8) **Staff Confidence and Capability:** Internal feedback from officers and staff can indicate whether the policy supports their work, provides clarity, and enhances investigative capability.
- 9) **Reduction in Repeat Victimisation and Offending:** A successful policy should contribute to reducing repeat crimes by ensuring effective interventions and safeguarding measures.

Procedure

Version History

Version Number	Date	Detailed rational behind amending/updating policy or procedure.	Policy Owner Details	Policy Author Details
1.0	29/03/2026	Introducing formal policy in response to new organisational structure	Ch. Supt. CCM	DCI Wayment
1.1	28/05/2026	Amendments made following consultation process and SMB ratification	Ch. Supt. CCM	DCI Wayment
1.2	10/08/2026	Clarification around roles and responsibilities for PWITS arrests – (see 8. Crimes with detainees). Minor formatting updates.	Ch. Supt. CCM	DCI Wayment

1. Introduction

Merseyside Police is dedicated to maintaining high standards in crime investigation, in line with national guidance outlined in the Approved Professional Practice (APP) [Investigation | College of Policing](#)

The way in which we investigate crime plays a vital role in maintaining the trust and confidence of our communities. This trust directly influences whether victims and witnesses feel confident enough to engage with us, reporting crimes, sharing evidence, and providing intelligence. These actions are essential for bringing offenders to justice, preventing further crime, and safeguarding those at risk.

The primary investigation of crime, and the implementation of golden hour principles, are improved where the initial responders have;

- An enhanced sense of ownership and professional investment in the secondary investigation and subsequent outcome.
- A greater degree of omnicompetent in their approach to the recording and investigation of crime.
- A reduced opportunity for failure demand which can result from a handover of ownership.

This policy seeks to create a framework which will promote these themes, and to cement a culture of a victim-centered approach, getting it 'right first time' and excellence in the basics. It aims to achieve this through the expansion of responsibility for the investigation of crime to all operational police officers (and in some cases police staff) within each of the Basic Command Units (BCUs) and the Centralised Crime and Public Protection Unit (PPU).

Every reported crime will be subject to an initial evaluation to support informed decision-making regarding the appropriate response, accurate recording in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS), and suitable allocation for further investigation, considering both proportionate solvability factors and also Threat, Risk, and Harm.

Allocation to an OIC occurs when it is determined that an investigation is necessary to deliver an effective policing service, to bring offenders to justice, to safeguard vulnerable individuals, or to uphold public confidence.

The evaluation process and allocation decision will be the responsibility of the Crime Management Unit (CMU) through its functions within the Crime Recording Team (CRT) and the Quality Assurance Team (QAT). Solvability factors, proportionality, and Threat, Risk, and Harm will all inform the decision as to whether the CMU allocate a crime for further investigation in line with their Service Level Agreement (SLA).

A robust and well-considered allocation process ensures that the needs and experiences of victims are prioritised. It ensures that indicators of vulnerability are clearly identified, documented, and acted upon and it reinforces the organisation's commitment to holding offenders accountable through proportionate and timely investigative action.

2. Crime Recording

In line with our Community First approach, Merseyside Police is committed to the accurate and ethical recording of crime and, when recording crimes, will comply with the:

- National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS).
- Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime (HOCR); and
- Code of Ethics.

Further guidance is set out in:

- [Investigations Standards and Crime Management Policy](#)
- [Crime Management Unit SLA](#)

3. Crime Allocation Routes

The CMU structure will support two separate and distinct routes in which a recorded crime will reach an OIC if it has been determined that there are proportionate solvability factors which require a secondary investigation.

Route 1 allocations will exist where there has been a call for service into the Force Contact Centre (FCC) and neither an Emergency nor a Priority deployment has been assessed as required for that STORM log. This will include contact via Single Online Home (SOH). If a crime needs to be recorded, then the log will be subject to a transfer into the CRT. If the nature of the complaint is Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime or Clair's Law, then this will be progressed by the Rapid Video Response team (RVR). A desk-based investigation will be conducted by the CRT under the terms of their published SLA. Under these circumstances, the CRT will make the decision whether or not to allocate for further investigation and will make a determination as to the correct department to allocate to.

Route 2 allocations will exist where there has been a call for service into the FCC and a deployment has been made by any resource or responder and a crime has been recorded, or where a crime has been recorded on the NICHE force system for any other reason, such as during the course of an ongoing investigation where further offences are identified. These circumstances will all fall outside of the Route1 path as there will be no CRT or RVR involvement. If the crime is to be filed at source, then the submission will be made by the reporting officer through their supervision to do so. The supervisor will then finalise the report in line with the CMU Crime Finalisation guidance in the SLA. If the report requires secondary investigation and is not filed at source, the Quality Assurance Team (QAT) will assess the report in the first instance against minimum standards, ensure that the correct classification has been recorded and monitor Crime Data Integrity (CDI). Under these circumstances, the QAT will ratify the decision whether or not to allocate for further investigation and will make a determination as to the correct department to allocate to.

The decision by the CRT (Route 1) and the QAT (Route 2) to allocate a crime for secondary investigation will be based on –

- THRIVE assessment
- Proportionate Solvability Factors
- Force Priority/Area of Operational Focus

These factors ensure an increasingly consistent and transparent rationale for investigation and allocation.

4. Capability

Merseyside Police follow the Professionalising Investigation Programme (PIP) to ensure that appropriately trained and accredited staff are allocated to the correct level of investigation. The national standard, which Merseyside follows is:

- PIP 1 – Priority and Volume crime investigations
- PIP 2 – Serious and Complex investigations
- PIP 3 – Major investigations
- PIP 4 – Strategic management of highly complex investigations.

The CMU functions of the CRT and QAT will allocate via both **Route 1** and **Route 2** based predominantly upon the classification of crime, or 'crime type' once a secondary investigation has been identified as necessary. In line with the national PIP standards, supported by training and accreditation processes, the crime type methodology for allocation aligns the nature of the crime that requires investigation, with the capacity and capability of departments within the organisation.

This methodology for allocation groups crime types collectively for further investigation into:

- Specialist Investigations – Centralised Crime and Centralised PPU
- Serious & Complex – **CID within BCUs**
- Domestic Abuse, Child Protection and Adults at Risk – PPU within BCUs
- Priority & Volume – Response, Proactive and Neighbourhood within BCUs

5. **Route 1 – The Crime Recording Team (CRT)**

If a decision to allocate a crime for secondary investigation is made by the CRT, the relevant department to which the allocation will be made will be determined through application of the Crime Allocation Guide found in Appendix 1.

Specialist Investigations – These crimes will be allocated to the relevant Centralised Department where the remit conditions are satisfied as detailed in Appendix 2.

Serious and complex – These crimes will be allocated to:

- a) The relevant BCU PPU, where the remit conditions for Domestic Abuse, Child Protection or Adults at Risk are satisfied as detailed in Appendix 2.
- b) The relevant BCU CID, where the crime type is listed in the associated grouping in the Crime Allocation Guide.

Priority and Volume – These crimes will be allocated to:

- a) Where Initial Allocation Model (IAM) scoring by the CMU is not required, the department detailed in the associated Route 1 CRT allocation column of the Crime Allocation Guide. This will be the relevant BCU Neighbourhood, Proactive or Response teams. There is a general principle that victim-based crime will be allocated to Neighbourhood teams, but that most acquisitive crime will be allocated to Proactive teams. Crimes which are generally 'Found-Committing' offences will be allocated to Response teams but owing to their nature are unlikely to be recorded through Route 1.
- b) Where IAM scoring by the CMU is required, allocation will be determined by the threshold of a score of 75. A score of 75 and above will result in an allocation to CID and a score of below 75 will result in an allocation to Neighbourhood teams.

6. Route 2 – The Quality Assurance Team (QAT)

If a decision to allocate a **Specialist Investigations** crime for secondary investigation is made by the QAT, the relevant department to which the allocation will be made will be determined through application of the Crime Allocation Guide found in Appendix 1, in the same manner as it would in Route 1.

Likewise, if a decision to allocate a **Serious / Complex** crime for secondary investigation is made by the QAT, then again, the Crime Allocation Guide will be applied in the same manner as it would in route 1.

However, if a decision to allocate a **Priority / Volume** crime for secondary investigation is made by the QAT, the relevant department to which the reporting officer is posted will be allocated the investigation. If the BCU reporting officer is from a different BCU to where the crime will be investigated, then the QAT will allocate in line with the Route 1 process.

If the crime is designated under the Crime Allocation Guide in Appendix 1 as requiring IAM scoring by the CMU, then this process will take place prior to the allocation decision. A score of 75 and above will supersede the presumption that the crime will be allocated back to the reporting department, and it will result instead in an allocation to CID.

7. Initial Allocation Model (IAM)

The IAM scoring process is therefore only to be used by the CMU as a method of determining the complexity of a specified group of crime types. This ensures that where these offences warrant investigation by a PIP2 qualified officer as a result of complexity or risk, that the correct capability is identified.

The common scenarios in which a crime that would usually be allocated to a PIP1 officer under both Routes 1 and 2 would instead require a PIP2 investigator would be; a commercial burglary with a significant value of loss, a Harassment or Threats to Kill offence where associated intelligence indicates significant risk or a Hate Crime with serious injury where the victim has a public profile or attracts media interest.

The CRT and the QAT must still always use professional judgement if the circumstances of any crime report suggest that an allocation outside of the framework is necessary on the basis of Threat, Harm or Risk.

Officers and staff who are not posted to the CMU will not use IAM when recording crime and therefore will always need to manually task the QAT via their NICHE unit.

8. Crimes with detainees

The responsibility for processing the first custody event, including suspect interviews, will remain in line with both Route 2 and the Crime Allocation Guide in Appendix 1.

If an arrest is made following deployment to a call for service, or a spontaneous incident, then the resultant crime will be recorded by the attending officer, or another officer from the same department if directed to do so by a supervisor. Responsibility for the first custody event will broadly follow the same process as the crime will for allocation.

If the crime is to be allocated to a BCU CID or to a centralised department in line with the Crime Allocation Guide in Appendix 1, then contact must be made by the arresting officer with a supervisor in the department who will have responsibility for that detainee.

If the crime is of the grouping which requires IAM scoring by the CMU in line with the Crime Allocation Guide in Appendix 1, or is a Domestic Abuse or PWITS case, then contact must be made with the QAT during their business hours so that direction can be given as to the department who will have responsibility for that detainee.

If the crime is to be retained by the department to which the arresting officer is posted, or it is a Domestic Abuse matter which the QAT scores below 75 through IAM, then the Criminal Justice Case Development Officers (CDOs) should be notified of the arrest in the first instance in order to ascertain their capacity to process the detainee. If that capacity does not exist, then responsibility will revert back to the arresting officer or their department. If it is a Domestic Abuse matter which the QAT scores 75 or above through IAM (or is graded as Gold), then the prisoner will be for allocation to the relevant BCU PPU department. Detainees for Domestic Abuse allegations will therefore never be interviewed by a non-PPU arresting officer, unless their IAM score is below 75 **and** it is not graded as Gold **and** the CDOs have no capacity.

If the arresting officer is not posted to the BCU where the crime will be investigated, then responsibility for the process of the detainee will be ascertained through the principles of a Route 1 crime ownership.

In the case of an arrest for an offence of PWITS, responsibility for the ongoing investigation will transfer to the Drugs Investigation Team (DIT) once the criteria within their SLA have been met.

Pending transfer to DIT, responsibility for prisoner handling and the initial investigation will remain with the arresting officer and their department. For pre-planned arrests, including those arising from warrant activity, responsibility for the initial interview will remain with the arresting officer's department. For spontaneous arrests, an IAM assessment should be completed in accordance with force policy. CDOs will deal with all cases scoring below 75, subject to operational capacity. Where CDOs do not have capacity, responsibility will remain with the arresting officer's department.

Whilst the PWITS Pilot is in existence, cases scoring 75 or above through the IAM process should be referred to CID for review. Following review, a Detective Sergeant from CID will determine whether the matter is suitable for CDO, or if no capacity, retention by the arresting officer's department or whether responsibility should transfer to CID.

An IAM assessment should be completed for PWITS offences. However, completion of an IAM does not, in itself, transfer investigative ownership, and any transfer of responsibility must be agreed by a Detective Sergeant or above within CID.

Where there is significant threat, risk, complexity, links to serious and organised crime, or other factors requiring specialist investigative oversight, the arresting officer should consult the relevant CID team. CID will ordinarily assume responsibility for prisoner processing where the suspect is a known OCG nominal, there is other significant threat or risk, or the quantity and value of drugs seized are such that a remand in custody is being sought.

For the avoidance of doubt, responsibility remains with the arresting officer and/or their department until a Detective Sergeant or above within CID has agreed to accept ownership. Where a referral is made to CID and ownership is not accepted, the CID supervisor will record the rationale on the OEL, detailing why the matter remains suitable for retention by the originating department.

9. Disputes

The CMU are the arbiters of the allocation decision and must therefore never be re-tasked if this decision is the subject of a dispute. A receiving department may explore re-allocation but must always appoint an OIC and initiate an investigation in the first instance to ensure that there is no unnecessary delay, loss of traction, risk of further harm or loss of property.

Re-allocation must be resolved in the first instance through professional discussion between departments, an adjudication by the BCU Performance Detective Sergeant, or escalation through supervision where professional discussion fails to reach a consensus. Until any dispute is resolved, ownership and governance must remain with the receiving department. Re-allocation through NICHE tasking should never take place until a consensus has been reached or direction has been given by the BCU Performance Detective Sergeant or an officer of at least the rank of Inspector and is documented on the OEL of that Niche occurrence.

10. Out of Hours

Where a crime is reported through Route 2 which requires a specialist investigation and a detainee is arrested, and it is outside of the business hours of the centralised department which the QAT will allocated the crime to under the Crime Allocation Guide, then the late cover duty Detective Inspector for the BCU with geographical responsibility should be notified. That Detective Inspector will assume responsibility for the command and control of the primary investigation and processing of that detainee.

Where any crime is reported through Route 2 and an arrest is made, and it is outside of the business hours of the QAT, then the night cover Detective Constable for that BCU must be notified. If the case is one which requires IAM scoring under the Crime Allocation Guide, or is either for Domestic Abuse or PWITS, then that night cover Detective Constable will apply an

IAM score and endorse the 24-hour summary document accordingly. This is the only circumstance during which IAM is to be used by non-CMU staff.

11. Linked Crime

Where a crime allocation decision is made by the CRT or QAT and there are secondary crime(s) recorded arising from that incident, regardless of whether an arrest is made, the NICHE occurrences should be linked. Ownership will be through a single OIC, on the basis of the most serious of the linked crimes.

When crimes are not linked by virtue of them arising from the same event, but it would be in the best interests of the victim for a single OIC to be appointed, then professional discussion should take place between departments to establish who that OIC should be. Escalation through supervision should only take place where professional discussion has been unsuccessful.

12. Local Allocation

When an officer from the CRT creates a Niche Occurrence (route 1), they will be recorded as the OIC, not the department to which the crime will be allocated, even if the crime is to be allocated to CID, PPU or a centralised department.

When an officer from the QAT reviews a Niche Occurrence (route 2), they will ensure that the reporting remains recorded as the OIC, even if the crime is to be allocated to CID, PPU or a centralised department.

This ensures that a victim has a nominated OIC at all stages from creation to finalisation of a crime, even if that OIC status is only temporary in nature.

The receiving department must nominate a new OIC and allocate the crime for further investigation at the earliest practicable opportunity.

However, Route 2 crimes which have been allocated for further investigation by the QAT should be considered, wherever practicable, for allocation to the officer who attended the call for service and recorded the crime. This encourages excellence in the basics and a culture of 'getting it right first time', reduces demand failure and promotes a victim-centred investigation.

Once allocated a supervisor will review the crime and complete the pre allocation checks which are documented in the Investigations Standards & Crime Management policy.

13. The Investigation

The requirements for a Supervisor Allocation Plan and an OIC Investigation plan, and the minimum standards expected for them, are unchanged by the Crime Allocation Policy. The

same is correct for the conduct of the investigation itself and the Initial and subsequent Supervisor Reviews. They remain governed through the Investigations Standards & Crime Management policy.

14. Crime Finalisation

The CMU will be responsible for the finalisation of some crime types through a Crime Finalisation Team (CFT). The scope of the CFT is detailed in the SLA for the CMU, and broader OIC and supervisor responsibilities for the finalisation of crime are detailed in the Investigations Standards and Crime Management Policy.

15. Human Rights

The [Human Rights Act 1998](#) incorporates the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into domestic law, making it unlawful for public bodies to act in a way which is incompatible with the Convention.

This document has been drafted to comply with the principles of the Human Rights Act 1998.

16. Freedom of information

Fully Disclosable: I confirm this procedure is fully disclosable to members of the public via the Force website.	Yes
Part Disclosable: I can confirm that this procedure is disclosable in part only.	No
The sections listed are NOT suitable for disclosure. Please seek approval from the Force FOI Officer	None
FOI Review Completed by:	

17. Equality Impact Assessment

This procedure has been reviewed and drafted against all [protected characteristics](#) in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty embodied in the [Equality Act 2010](#). This procedure has therefore been Equality Impact Assessed to ensure ‘due regard’ in respect of the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation.

- 1) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. Protected characteristics are age, disability gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
- 2) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

18. Data Protection

This procedure has been reviewed and drafted in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. Merseyside Police full Data Protection Procedure can be found on the force intranet.

19. Health & Safety

I confirm that this document has been drafted to comply with the requirements as detailed in the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, including amongst others the general duties to:

- 1) Secure the health safety and welfare of persons at work.
- 2) Protect persons other than persons at work against risks to health and safety arising out of or in connection with the activities at work.

20. Training

The following training plan will be adopted to ensure compliance with the procedure:

Training required to comply with this procedure will be delivered to BCU, CMU and CCM staff. Learning and Development to update the Force training package in line with this procedure. Additional training if required/requested will be provided by the Academy.

21. Communication

The following methods will be adopted to ensure full knowledge of the procedure:

- 1) Procedure will be published on the Force Intranet (iForce) for the attention of all Police officers and staff.
- 2) Procedure will be published on the Force procedure library.
- 3) Intranet marketing via weekly orders.
- 4) Disclosure to all police officers and staff on any learning/development requirements.

22. Review / Approval

The policy business owner maintains outright ownership of the policy and any other associated documents and in-turn delegate responsibility to the department/unit responsible for its continued monitoring.

The policy should be considered a 'living document' and subject to regular review to reflect upon any Force, Home Office/NPCC, legislative changes, good practice (learning the lessons) both locally and nationally.

Appendix 2 – Remits

Domestic Abuse

The BCU PPU will investigate all crime, regardless of complexity, where both parties involved were 16 or over at the time of the offence and are personally connected.

- Two people are personally connected to each other if any of the following applies:
 - a) they are, or have been, married to each other
 - b) they are, or have been, civil partners of each other
 - c) they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated)
 - d) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated)
 - e) they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other
 - f) they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child
 - g) they are relatives
- A person has a parental relationship in relation to a child if:
 - a) the person is a parent of the child, or
 - b) the person has parental responsibility for the child
- Child means a person under the age of 18 years
- Civil partnership agreement has the meaning given by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004
- Parental responsibility has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989
- Relative has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996

Child Protection

The BCU PPU will investigate all crime, regardless of complexity, where the suspect is a parent or guardian, or has some degree of custody, care or control over a child (such a sports coach, a Scout leader or a teacher).

Adult at Risk

The BCU PPU will investigate all crime, regardless of complexity, where the suspect has some degree of custody, care or control over an adult who is vulnerable.

Rape and Assault by Penetration (s1 and s2 of the SOA 2003)

Unity will investigate all offences under Sec 1 Rape, Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Allegations relating to Sec 1 Rape & 2 offences (or child equivalent) being committed against a child by someone who is either the mother, father, stepparents, uncle, aunty, grandparents, niece, nephew, cousins, or any other close family relative or someone who is or has been in a parental role for that child. It is not necessary that they lived in the same household at the time of offending. These cases will be dealt with by the **PPU**.

Where the offence has taken place within a nursing home, residential home, hospital, Mental Health Facility or in the victim's place of residence, where there is a care package in place and the suspect is another resident or in a position of trust, these cases will be dealt with by **PPU**.

Where the suspect is unknown or is a visitor, this will be investigated by **Unity**

All allegations made by a child against another child will be dealt with by **Unity**.

However, in the case where the victim is under 13 and is raped or sexually assaulted by penetration by a suspect under 16, it will fall to **PPU** to investigate (Section 3.21.4 of the Child Abuse Policy Refers). If the suspect is 16 or over, it will be investigated by **Unity**.

In child victim cases where the suspect is unknown, it will be investigated by **Unity**.

All allegations of Sec 1 Rape & 2 offences (or child equivalent) which have taken place within an educational setting and the victim is under 18 years of age and the suspect is a person in a position of trust at those premises or employed at the premises. These cases will be dealt with by **PPU**

Unity will investigate S2 SOA (Assault by penetration) that are reported within the forensic window and sit within the allocation policy, otherwise it will be **CID**. The forensic window for penetration offences is 48 hours.

Sexual Offences

The BCU CID will investigate all sexual offences, regardless of complexity, including non-contact sexual offences which do not satisfy the remit of Unity, CSET or the BCU PPU.

Non-contact sexual offences can be a gateway to the most serious sexual offending and when unchallenged, research demonstrates that the offending often escalates.

This represents best practice in line with Operation Soteria, the National Operating Model and Merseyside Police's commitment to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

CCSET

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group* takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity -

- a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
- b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

Child Criminal Exploitation is where an individual or group* takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into committing crime.

Child sexual abuse committed for the purposes of sexual gratification of the abuser or the facilitator (where the facilitator does not benefit) does not meet the definition of CSE.

This would therefore exclude the majority of child sexual abuse within the family environment but would include child sexual exploitation as part of OCG activity.

- Offending must be LIVE - the specialism of the team is to disrupt and prevent offending and safeguard victims. Investigation of non-recent abuse would be allocated within **PPU** or **Unity** unless there is evidence of ongoing offending or current safeguarding concerns.
- **CCSET** will take ownership of non-recent reports received when the perpetrator is still employed or engaged in the same or further position of trust and there are current safeguarding considerations

Flexibility will be provided for issues of criticality relating to organised and complex abuse. For example, investigations involving persons of prominence, large scale offending or reputational risk. Considerations would include – organised offending within a sporting organisation, an established institution such as a church, or an investigation likely to attract national media interest. CSE must be apparent.

These decisions will be made outside of the allocation policy by the D/Supt.

OCAIT

The OCAIT is responsible for the investigations into the most serious incidents of cyber related organised criminal activity pertaining to the sexual exploitation of children online and the making, possession and distribution of Indecent Images of Children. OCAIT will be responsible for all investigations that are reported via non-traditional routes of referral generated using technical capabilities. These routes include those from NCA, other law enforcement agencies and generated through the use of proactive platforms targeting those sharing indecent images of children via peer-to-peer networks.

All other offences should be allocated to the relevant geographical PPU.

Prison Crime

Any crime which is committed on HMP premises, regardless of whether an arrest is made at the time of reporting or not, will be allocated to the Liverpool BCU CID as long as:

- The case is not one of Domestic Abuse, in which case it will be allocated to the relevant BCU PPU
- If the crime is victim-based in nature, that the victim was present on the HMP premises at the time of the offence.

Any crime which does not satisfy this definition will be allocated in accordance with the Crime Allocation Guide, with due regard to the location in compliance with HOCR.

Any crime which does satisfy this definition, upon allocation to Liverpool CID, will be the subject of an assessment by a supervisor with regard to capability in order to determine in the offence will be allocated to the dedicated Prison Investigation Team, or a PIP2 investigator.

The Prison Investigation Team does not conduct suspect interviews for crimes which are not allocated to them through this process.

ECT

The Economic Crime Team is comprised of two specialist units:

- Fraud Investigation Unit
- Proceeds of Crime Unit

All fraud investigations, whether disseminated from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) or received as a call for service directly to the Force, are managed exclusively by the ECT, regardless of complexity, apart from identify theft, articles used in fraud and counterfeit currency offences.

Burglary Investigation Team (formerly Operation Castle)

The BIT will:

- Investigate all linked series Burglary Residential-Home offences.
- Investigate single Burglary Residential-Home offences where there is a heightened risk to the community, such as family gold, confrontational burglaries, high value or significant press interest.
- Investigate all Cash-in-Transit (CVIT) offences.
- Investigate high value/high-harm acquisitive crime, where there is a linked series that spans across multiple BCUs.
- Review and investigate forensic identifications for burglary dwelling offences and assume ownership when appropriate and agreed with the BCU.

Firearms Investigation Team

The FIT will:

- Investigate all injury and non-injury firearms discharges.
- Investigate all firearm related recoveries (excluding imitation/blank firing weapons unless links identified).
- Review and progress firearm related forensic identifications.
- Outside core hours (08:00–16:00, Mon–Fri), firearm investigations will be managed by the BCU CID.
- The FIT will work alongside the BCU's and where there are opportunities to disrupt firearms related crime, the FIT will retain ownership of firearm offences arising from disruption

warrants. Should no firearms offences be identified, BCU's will retain ownership of any further offences identified through any such disruption.

Drugs Investigation Team (formerly Operation Hammer)

The DIT will:

- Investigate volume possession with intent to supply (PWITS) offences for Class A, B and C drugs, so long as the circumstances would support an offence of PWITS for the purpose of charging offences. Offences which do not meet this threshold will be returned to the reporting officer.
- Investigate cannabis production offences (20 plants and over).
- The DIT will assume responsibility for the investigation after the initial arrest and interview has taken place, and the suspect has been released on bail, or under investigation.
- The DIT do not deal with 'live' prisoners where a remand is being sought.
- If there are offences linked to the drugs matter which the DIT are investigating, for example possession of weapons, the DIT will also assume ownership of that investigation providing the relevant initial lines of enquiry have been completed.
- Should a linked offence be more serious than the drugs matter, then all matters will remain with the BCU or originator, unless those matters are likely to be discontinued. In such cases, this should be agreed at the outset with the DIT.
- Cases tasked to the DIT on first review that are older than 7 days with unnecessary delays will not be accepted, unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- Cases that have been returned by the DIT for re-work or the arrest of a suspect need to be returned with the work completed within 28 days from the day of the first offence.

If the DIT is allocated a crime where:

a) The SLA has not been satisfied around file quality:

The crime will be returned to the officer who caused the SLA failure, until it is rectified.

It can then be returned to OP Hammer if the SLA is then satisfied.

b) The SLA has not been satisfied around the PWITS threshold for charging standards:

The crime will be returned to the reporting officer.

Roads Policing

For SCIU and RPUI remit please see:

[Road Traffic Collisions Policy](#)

Matrix Dogs

Matrix Dogs will have investigative responsibility for Banned Breed offences under Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. Neighbourhood will have investigative responsibility for offences under Section 3 where a dog is dangerously out of control, and Section 2 offences. If a Section 2 or 3 offence is being investigated by a BCU, and it believed that a Section 1 offence may also have been

committed, Matrix Dogs will investigate the Section 1 offence in parallel to the Section 2 or 3 offence but will not assume overall responsibility for both investigations.

Op Bridger

Operation Bridger is a UK-wide policing operation designed to protect elected representatives – primarily Members of Parliament – from threats, harassment, intimidation, and violence, and to safeguard the democratic process. Operation Bridger is designed to protect the democratic process, not only the individual MP. That means it covers activity connected to an MP's public duties, which can include employees, offices, and events, where threats are linked to the MP's role.

Operation Bridger covers a wide range of conduct, including:

- Death threats or threats of serious harm.
- Harassment and stalking.
- Hate-motivated abuse.
- Criminal damage to homes, offices, or campaign property.
- Intimidation at events, surgeries, or during elections.
- Online abuse where it crosses into criminality.

All allegations which meet the Op Bridger criteria should be allocated to the CID for the relevant BCU.

Mental Health Investigation

The Mental Health Investigation Team should only be allocated crimes that have occurred within the following units:

- Mossley Hill
- Clock View
- Whiston MH unit only
- Peasley Cross
- Hartley hospital
- Ashworth
- Rowan View
- Aspen Wood
- Rathbone men's MH unit only

The Team do not investigate offences within s136 suites and do not investigate offences which have occurred within the community, but the victim/suspect are now in one of the above units.