

## **DERBYSHIRE CONSTABULARY**

### **Partners Briefing Note**

### **Requests for Police Checks**

It remains a policing priority for Derbyshire Constabulary to work with you protect vulnerable people.

We have reviewed our approach to responding to your request to locate and check on the wellbeing of service users you may be concerned about.

We will put the needs of the vulnerable person at the centre of what we do. This means we will seek to ensure that the most appropriate professional deals with the concern.

Where a hospital has medical concerns about a patient who has left then the best person to check on the individual's wellbeing is a health care professional. Where a social worker has concerns about the environment of a child or elderly person this is best done by that agency.

Police officers undertaking such checks and assessments can often give 'false confidence' having neither the training nor experience to make an informed decision. Such a position may serve to put vulnerable people at greater risk.

We will continue to support you to protect your vulnerable clients.

- Where partnership staff are or feel threatened – we will attend with you to prevent a breach of the peace.
- If it is necessary in an emergency to force entry to premises where life is at risk – we will attend and facilitate your access.
- Where it is necessary prevent a child suffering SIGNIFICANT harm and it is impractical to get an Emergency Protection Order in time – we will support you and consider taking the child into police protection under the Children's Act 1989.
- Where it is necessary to remove mentally disordered people in need of IMMEDIATE need of care or control from PUBLIC places – we can help.

As of Monday 06<sup>th</sup> July 2015 any local agreements or protocols which have developed will cease to have effect.

Where you have made enquiries and are unable to ascertain the whereabouts of an individual. Where there is also identified risk to themselves or others then a missing person report should be made. We will explore what efforts have been made to locate the individual and what the actual risk is in order to commence a police missing person enquiry.

Where you have professional concerns on a case by case basis you are able to appeal this approach to the duty Force Incident Manager who will have the authority to apply professional judgement.