



Independent Chair - Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel – Role profile

The Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel Chair will play a key role in supporting the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to build victim and public trust and confidence in the domestic abuse response by North Yorkshire Police, and to hold them to account for their performance.

The Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel is not a decision-making body in terms of case outcomes or policy and procedure, but can make recommendations for consideration on future policy, procedure and practice.

The successful candidate will be asked to commit to the Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel for a minimum period of two years. The panel will sit on a quarterly basis and the meetings will last for approximately four hours. The panel meetings will take place in Harrogate, York or Northallerton.

The successful candidate will need to undergo the required police vetting checks and security clearance.

Key Responsibilities:

1. To maintain an up to date knowledge and awareness of national and local domestic abuse matters.
2. Advise the PFCC and North Yorkshire Police of any key impact issues regarding domestic abuse operational response, investigation processes, and victim and partnership liaison that emerge through the work of the Scrutiny Panel.
3. Ensure the formal terms of reference for the Scrutiny Panel are maintained through scrutiny meetings, and that this is reviewed on an annual basis.
4. Ensure the Scrutiny Panel effectively discharges its key responsibilities:
 - Selecting a number of cases for scrutiny each quarter in line with the Terms of Reference.
 - Provide independent review and feedback on the quality and efficacy of the domestic abuse response from both North Yorkshire Police and partners, advising the PFCC and North Yorkshire Police as appropriate.
 - Monitors the effectiveness of the framework in place for ensuring statutory safeguarding and criminal justice duties are carried out.
 - Independently scrutinises domestic abuse and investigation performance, victim safety and satisfaction for the OPFCC and North Yorkshire Police and make recommendations for consideration on future policy, procedure and practice.

- Advising the PFCC and North Yorkshire Police on any scrutiny panel findings, including areas of poor practice, identified areas for improvement, and recommended partnership work that will build force capacity and resilience in tackling and reducing the issue of domestic abuse.
 - Advising the PFCC and North Yorkshire on any scrutiny panel findings of areas of good practice which can be built upon or where it might be useful to give praise for success where appropriate, as well as continuous improvement.
 - Ensuring that any recommendations are assigned appropriately within an agreed timescale by the panel and that these are actioned accordingly.
5. Effectively chair meetings of the Scrutiny Panel ensuring all aspects of business are properly covered in line with the agreed Terms of Reference.
 6. Where needed, meet separately with relevant police teams to discuss and clarify process issues.
 7. Provide assurance to partner organisations on the role of the panel in bringing about improvements in police response and case handling of domestic abuse incidents.
 8. Conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the Scrutiny Panel, produce an annual report on the Panel's business and findings, and recommend amendments to the Panel's Terms of Reference.
 9. Promote equality of opportunity and work to eliminate unlawful discrimination.
 10. Comply with all relevant codes of conduct and maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.
 11. Establish an effective Data Protection culture across agencies. Identify and promote areas of good practice in information governance and work with partners to ensure the secure sharing of data.

Essential Personal Attributes

1. Knowledge & Experience

- Relevant knowledge and experience in the field of domestic abuse
- A clear understanding of the nature and impact of domestic abuse, including the use of coercive and controlling behaviours in various settings and circumstances.
- Experience of chairing panel meetings

2. Communication Skills

- The ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing
- The ability to interpret complex written information
- The ability to offer written feedback in a clear and concise way
- The ability to review and contribute to the development of formal reports for the police and crime commissioner

3. Scrutiny Skills

- The ability to question and challenge established practice where necessary
- The ability to weigh up issues and make balanced, reasonable and proportionate judgements.

4. Motivation

- An enthusiasm for improving policing, particularly in relation to domestic violence and abuse.
- An openness to new ideas and methods of working.

5. Respect for people

- A capacity to treat all people fairly and with respect
- An awareness of the need to value diversity and to respond sensitively to difference.

6. Working with people

- The ability to work as part of a team
- The ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with a wide range of people including members of the OPFCC, the North Yorkshire Police force and other partner agencies.