



Safe Crewing Procedure

This procedure is part of North Yorkshire Police policy to which all Chief Constable personnel and the functions provided by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner are required to adhere.

Procedure Statement

Deployment of marked police vehicles and uniform foot patrols increases police visibility and public reassurance as well as ensuring the effective allocation and deployment of police resources. To maximise this, the single crewing of patrols is currently the default position adopted by North Yorkshire Police (NYP).

The aim of this procedure is to safeguard the health and safety of police officers engaged in day-to-day patrol and response duties by identifying the relevant risk factors to be taken into account when making a management decision as to whether double crewing should be used.

There is a recognition that NYP need to maximise the use of resources whilst ensuring that officers remain safe. Increased officer visibility contributes to public reassurance, and double crewing where there is no operational need is an inefficient use of resources. Conversely, management decisions as to when officers should patrol on their own which are not based on credible risk assessment are likely to have a detrimental effect on officer safety.

This procedure will enable supervisors and Force Control Room (FCR) staff to take objective and reasoned decisions relating to the pairing or grouping of officers in their operational deployment and will assist where decisions need to be made in respect of the allocation of resources to incidents.

This procedure applies to police officers and special constables (who have been assessed as competent to patrol independently) engaged in day-to-day patrol and response activity but not to pre-planned operations which should be subject to separate risk assessment. The analysis and assessment of risk factors which has been undertaken is applicable only to the routine patrol activities undertaken by sworn officers and the tasks they are required to address through the exercise of their powers, particularly in relation to conflict situations. It does not apply to non-sworn staff or specialist or ancillary functions such as PCSOs, dog units, crime scene investigators and others who undertake differing tasks and responsibilities.

Procedures:

Incident Management and Deployment Procedure

Safe Crewing Procedure

Other Documents:

Process

NYP has utilised a NPCC endorsed risk assessment process to identify those factors which have the most significant impact on officer safety. This process involved the analysis of data relating to assaults on police, resisting or obstruction of officers and use of force and culminated in the staging of a workshop involving operational officers from across the force and including staff association representatives.

A series of operational considerations has been developed which will provide advice and guidance to supervisors when considering deployment and patrol pairings / groupings of officers. This advice and guidance is available for officers and can be located in Incident Management and Deployment Procedure. These factors are particularly relevant on later evening or night patrols at which time risks to officer safety are higher.

Similarly, risks must be assessed dynamically, on a case by case basis, in light of specific deployment to incidents at any time of the day or night. This is particularly important for control room personnel who may deploy more than one unit to a scene. Flexibility will be essential. The template for risk assessments can be found within the Risk Assessment Guidance.

The following is offered as guidance to supervisors and controllers as factors to be considered when assessing the appropriate deployment or response to some of the more regular calls for police attendance which may require either a double crewed response or multiples of single crewed units:

- alarm calls to premises that may be likely targets for robbery
- any call where there was an indication of violence or aggression
- any call where there is information from alarm companies that intruders are believed to be on the premises
- road traffic collisions in hazardous locations which require two or more officers to attend to maintain safety
- the availability of 'backup' is an important factor when deciding on deployment. Isolated locations may sometimes present higher risk to officers due to geographic constraints on the availability of back up
- community tension indicators
- specific or general intelligence as to potential threats or risk
- previous caller history

Police Tactics

As previously stated, the default position for patrolling officers within North Yorkshire is single crewing, with the following exceptions:

- the options for double crewing will be considered when risk assessment indicates this is an appropriate response

It is emphasised that risk assessment must be dynamic and subject to regular re-assessment in light of constantly changing factors throughout any period of duty. In circumstances where risks are assessed, as significant then dynamic risk assessments may need to be recorded by FCR operators, supervisors or managers in line with force Risk Assessment Guidance. Supervisors and managers have a responsibility to optimise resources whilst taking into account officer safety, at the commencement of each period of duty they should undertake a risk assessment based on the identified risk factors and instruct their officers as to the crewing position. Cognisance should be taken of:

- time of day
- location (urban/rural)
- experience and local knowledge of officers
- support mechanisms in place and readily available at the time, i.e., RPG, Dogs, Operational Support Unit (OSU)
- generic nature of tasking, e.g., patrol/response/arrest detail
- the number and proximity of other officers on patrol or otherwise available to assist

Individual officers share responsibility with supervisors and managers for ensuring the most effective deployment of resources by maintaining the default single crewing position unless instructed otherwise and assisting in dynamic risk assessment through the provision of relevant information to managers and supervisors where appropriate.

FCR staff share the responsibility of maintaining optimal deployment of resources and maintaining officer safety by dispatching appropriate resources to incidents in accordance with the risk assessed from the information known at the time and ensuring that all available sources of information relevant to that incident and risk assessment are researched and information communicated to the officers attending. This would include domestic violence data, firearms, PNC etc.

Responsibilities

As outlined above.

Definition of Special Terms N/A