

POLICE:NOW
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Making an impact in a Domestic abuse taskforce

PC Robert Brough,
West Midlands Police

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West Midlands Police was home to the first Randomised Control Trial to be conducted by a Police Now participant

Police Constable Robert Brough, West Midlands Police

"I was given the opportunity to work on a domestic abuse taskforce in order to help reduce harm to victims, increase police engagement and partnership working with support agencies and improve organisational efficiency in responding to repeat calls for service. I found that couples and families who are at risk for domestic abuse were simply not receiving enough police engagement or multiagency support. This resulted in a significant risk to potential victims, as well as driving up police demand for call handlers and officers.

Drawing on best practice evidence from Project 360 between Leicestershire Police and the University of Leicester, I worked in collaboration with Birmingham Changing Futures Together and the Birmingham City Council Housing and Social Care units to create a bespoke response service which reduced domestic abuse demand for first responders.

I then utilised a randomised control trial design to evaluate the impact of this project over a month's period, measuring the percentage of crimes that became a repeat crime or had another log attributed to the same address. The results showed a significant reduction in repeat calls for service in the trial group compared with the control group. Aside from helping reduce demand in my force, I hope that the insights gained from this work can be used to improve the quality and efficiency of service that those vulnerable to domestic abuse receive, given the enduring physical, mental and emotional effects this type of crime has on victims"

