

West Midlands Police

A Proportionate Approach to Recording and Investigating Crime

WMP Roll Out 2009



Our vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

Crime Recording Today – Where are we at?

“We have lost proportionality”.

“Officers are encouraged to criminalise people for behaviour which may have caused offence but the underlying behaviour would be better dealt with in a different way”.

“We spend the same amount of time on paperwork regardless of the severity or seriousness of the incident or crime”.

All quotes are taken from Sir Ronnie Flanagan’s Review of Policing, 2008



Our vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

Current Crime Recording

Let's look at some real life offences and consider how we would deal with them currently:

- 1. Six lollipops (total value 30p) are taken from a shop. Unknown offender. There are several witnesses.**
- 2. Child vs child assault. No injuries. Not part of a series & no aggravating features. Parents just want offender advising.**
- 3. An employee at a food warehouse is caught drinking a 69p bottle of pop he has taken from a shelf. He is sacked on the spot, but his employers insist that he is also arrested and prosecuted.**



The Solution?

“A new approach to crime recording is needed which continues to properly record crime allegations reported by the public, but recognises the need for proportionality and properly reflecting public needs and expectations”.

- Sir Ronnie Flanagan (2008)

His report proposes that crime should be divided into two categories which will trigger one of the below types of investigation:

“Full Investigation”

“Local Investigation”



Our vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

Full & Local Investigations

Full Investigation

This category contains those **more serious offences**, such as murder, manslaughter, serious assaults, BDHs, robbery and serious sexual offences. It will also contain domestic offences, hate crime, and offences committed against repeat victims or vulnerable members of society.

The pilot will not affect the way in which these offences are investigated and they will **continue to be fully recorded**.

35%

Local Investigation

This category contains the more **common, lower-level offences** that make up the vast majority of the type of crime that officers and staff deal with on a daily basis. Examples would be offences such as harassment, public order, low-value theft, and minor assaults and in certain circumstances, vehicle crime.



Our vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

Which Investigation?

Any crime that is reported will be assessed against three '**filters**', which will determine the appropriate type and level of police response:

Solvability:

- Is there a **named suspect**?
- Can the **suspect be identified** through witness evidence, CCTV, forensics or identification procedures?
- Is there **intelligence available** or **property enquiries** that may identify the suspect?
- Can the suspect be identified through any other apparent and **proportionate** line of enquiry?



Which Investigation?

Any crime that is reported will be assessed against three '**filters**', which will determine the appropriate type and level of police response:

The Wishes of the IP

- Does the **I.P. support a prosecution?**
- The pilot is underpinned with a **victim-led ethos**: is it in everyone's best interests to launch into a full-scale criminal investigation?

What is the right thing to do?



Our vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

Which Investigation?

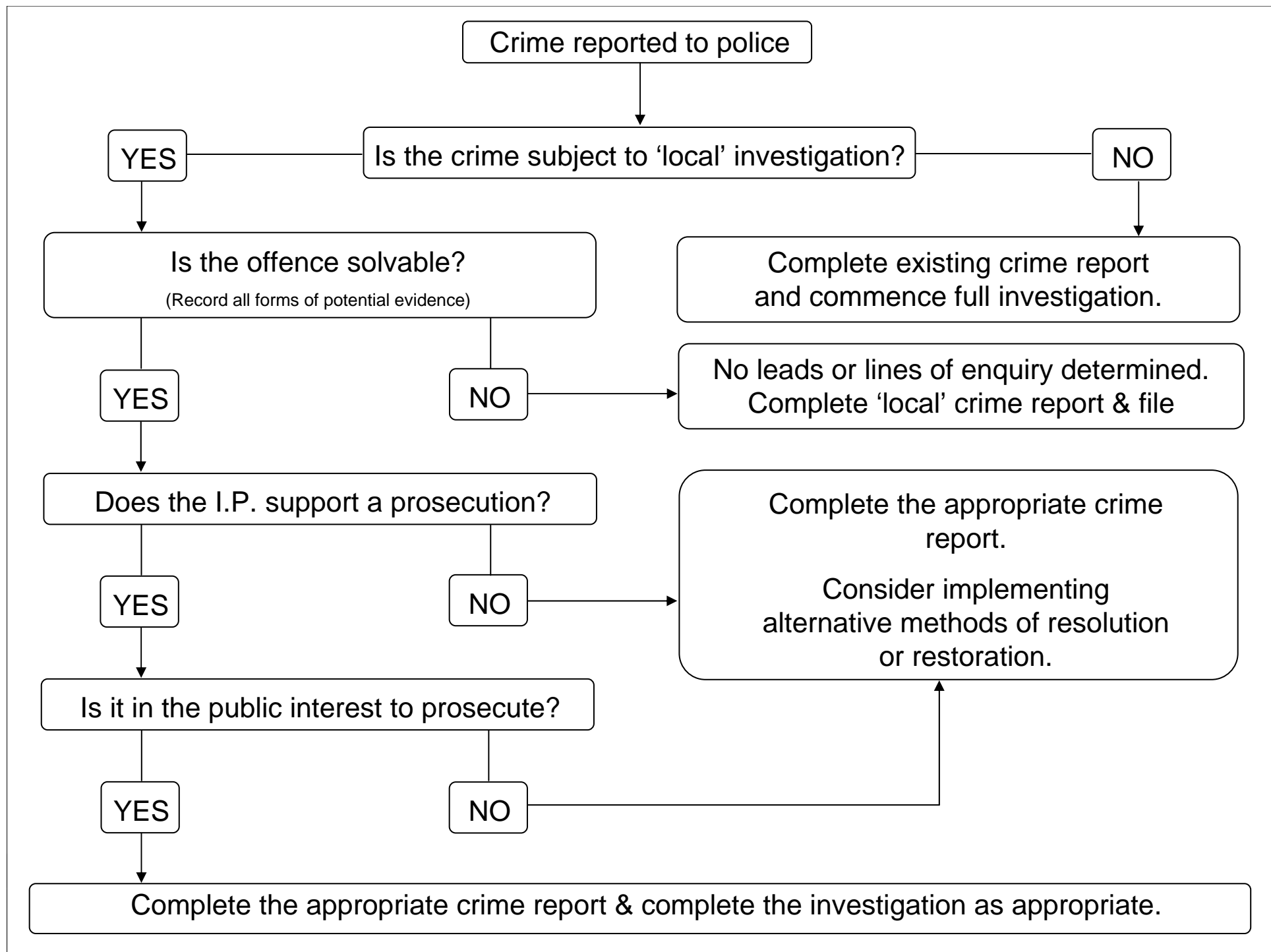
Any crime that is reported will be assessed against three '**filters**', which will determine the appropriate type and level of police response:

Public Interest

- Is it in the **public interest to prosecute**?
- Remember- this works both ways: it is sometimes in the public interest to prosecute some offenders for low-level offences (e.g. the offence may form part of a pattern).



Our vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer



What is a Resolution?

A **resolution** is:

“any action requested by the injured party, which is agreed by the suspect and considered appropriate and proportionate by the OIC”.

Officers are being given a mandate to tackle crime using their **professional judgement**; this means that officers will no longer be forced to resort to a **one size fits all** solution of only prosecuting offenders, but will be able to devise **constructive resolutions** in line with a **victim's wishes**.

Resolutions could include:

Suspects making personal or written apologies, verbal warnings or advice being issued by officers, and suspects repairing or paying for the damage/loss they are responsible for.

The list is limitless and encourages creativity and innovation.



Our vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

What is not a Resolution?

Any action considered disproportionate to the offence.

E.g. Suspect being required to paint an entire fence after scratching a two-foot section.

Any action not directly related to the offence.

E.g. Suspect being required to paint a fence after verbally abusing an injured party.

Any action not specific to the injured party.

E.g. Suspect being required to clear up litter in an entire neighbourhood after throwing rubbish at the window of one private dwelling.

Any action perceived to be unduly punitive or degrading to the suspect.

E.g. Suspect being required to publicly clear up all litter and dog mess in a street twice a week for 10 weeks after urinating on injured party's



What forms are required?

A local crime can now be dealt with in its entirety on just **two forms**:

WC200R (One page crime report)

WC201R (Resolutions form)

	RESTRICTED (when complete)				WC 1809	
	CRIME / INTELLIGENCE / INCIDENT REPORT				(Crime Recording & Investigation Plot OS 05)	
LOCAL INVESTIGATION					20	
1. OFFICE / INCIDENT		<small>Detective Area (1-10)</small>	<small>Civilit Area (1-10)</small>	<small>Vulnerable Adult Abuse (1-10)</small>	<small>Specialist Office (1-10)</small>	<small>Other (1-10 or other office)</small>
		Classified by a Stranger?				
<small>Reported at</small>	<small>On</small>	<small>How Reported</small>		<small>Crimo Desk</small>	<small>Paidrol</small>	<small>Front Office</small>
<small>Between At</small>	<small>On</small>	<small>To Whom Reported</small>		<small>Surname</small>	<small>CID</small>	<small>Other</small>
<small>And</small>	<small>On</small>	<small>Number</small>		<small>Station</small>		
2. LOCATION LOCATION		<small>Room or Flat No.</small>	<small>Premises Name</small>	<small>Premises No.</small>		
<small>Street</small>				<small>District</small>		
<small>Town</small>				<small>Post Code</small>	<small>East</small>	
<small>Phone</small>		<small>Location Type</small>				
<small>People</small>						
3. SPECIAL INTEREST INTELLIGENCE MARKERS						
4. MODUS OPERANDI						
<small>Property</small>						
<small>Named Suspect NOT arrested (No other form of evidence) WC 2009 attached</small>						
<small>Restorative Option Appropriate</small>						
<small>WC 202 attached</small>						
5. PERSON DETAILS		<small>Role</small>	<small>Title</small>	<small>Date of Birth</small>	<small>Or Estimated Age</small>	
<small>Surname</small>		<small>Other Names</small>				
<small>Nice or Formerly</small>		<small>Does the victim wish VSB enter Y or N Letter</small>				
<small>Sex</small>	<small>Ethnic Self Classification</small>	<small>Ethnic Description</small>	<small>Occupation</small>			
<small>Email Address</small>			<small>Telephone</small>			
<small>Work</small>			<small>Mobile</small>			
<small>Preferred means of contact</small>			<small>Other consideration</small>			
6. ADDRESS		<small>Room or Flat No.</small>	<small>Premises Name</small>	<small>Premises No.</small>		
<small>Street</small>				<small>District</small>		
<small>Town</small>		<small>County</small>	<small>Post Code</small>			
7. SOLVABILITY FACTORS		<small>Informant questioned</small>	8. CONTACT COUNTS		<small>Victim informed that matter will be filed at source</small>	
9. REPEAT VICTIM	1 0	<small>Name</small>	<small>Role Number</small>			
10. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL		<small>All investigators have a responsibility for carrying out duties imposed on them, in particular recording information & retaining the records of information and other material.</small>				<small>Last Activated</small>
11. PERSON COMPLETING		<small>Signature</small>	<small>Role Number</small>			
12. SUPERVISORY DECLARATION		<small>I have read this report and associated documents and I am satisfied that it is and contains everything has been completed at this time under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996</small>				<small>Y 20 00</small>
<small>ALLOTAGE</small>	<small>FLE</small>	<small>Signatures</small>	<small>Role Number</small>			

RESTRICTED (when complete)		Crime Recording & Investigation Pilot 08	
	RESOLUTION DETECTION FORM HOCR COMPLIANCE		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">20</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 5px;"></div>
	OFFENSE AS RECORDED		
OFFENDER DETAILS			
Surname		Other Name(s)	
DOB	Sex	CRO No	Nationality
Ethnic Description		Ethnic Self-Classification	Relationship to Victim
Address	Previous No	Room or Flat No	Previous Name
Street	District		Town
County	Postcode		Occupation
Alcohol related Y/N	Addition Y/N	Brand or type	
Drug related Y/N	Addition Y/N	Name of substance	
Certificate/Possess Y/N	Shotgun Y/N	Explosives Y/N	
RESOLUTION DETECTION		DETECTION DETAILS	
Date detected		Primary detection Factor	
Dedicting Officer		Dedicting OCU	
Clearance Code	State Offence Wte for claimed detection		
RESOLUTION DETAILS & INVESTIGATION NOTES		VICTIM	
Effect of crime or incident on victim			
Views of the Victim about how this situation could be resolved			
Agreed course of action			
Declaration: "The resolution process has been explained to me and I agree for this matter to be dealt with as outlined above. I understand that once resolution has been completed, the police do not propose to take any additional formal action".		Agreed Completion date	
Signed	Witnessed	Role Number	
Print Name		Role Number	
SUSPECT CAUTION: then read the following caption: "You have been identified as being responsible for (outline the incident)"			
<p>Notice: The victim / other party has indicated that he / she is willing to have this matter dealt with informally and provide you an opportunity to make a response for your actions. This is voluntary and if you agree and complete the process you will not be subject to any further police investigation. Failure to complete the agreed course may result in the matter being formally investigated and you being liable to prosecution. This declaration would then be presented as part of the case against you.</p> <p>Officer to record any responses made by the suspect.</p>			



How has it worked in real life?

This system of proportionate crime recording and investigation has been piloted since June 2008 on the H2, F2 and L1 OCUs.

Research conducted across the three OCUs indicates that the new approach is popular with officers and the public, as it allows for professional judgement and outcomes that are proportionate and in line with victims' wishes.

Countless hours of officers' time has been freed up to allow staff to concentrate on more serious offences and local issues.



Our vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

Examples from the Initial Pilot Phase

Two eleven year olds had an argument that ended up with the offender pushing the injured party over. No injury was caused and all parties agreed that the best way to resolve the matter was to advise the offender about his behaviour.

Offender kicked a wing mirror on the injured party's car after an argument, causing damage. Offender agreed to repair the damage (which he did), and the injured party was happy with this course of action.

Two offenders entered a store and stole £50 worth of fishing equipment (neither had any previous convictions). They were detained by store security and upon police arrival, the offenders agreed to pay in full for the items, accepted a banning notice from the store, and also voluntarily donated £10 to the Air Ambulance charity by way of apology. The management and staff at the store described the way the police dealt with the matter as 'the best thing they had ever seen'



The Importance of Active Supervision

The whole ethos of the pilot is about trusting frontline officers and staff to do their jobs in a professional and proportionate manner. Active supervision is absolutely key in achieving these aims.

Officers and staff need to know that as long as they make appropriate decisions in good faith and record their rationale, then they **will be supported by their supervisors and the organisation itself**.

Supervisors must ensure that they foster a culture of *doing the right thing*, rather than allowing a 'cover your back' mentality to exist. West Midlands Police recognises that doing the right thing may not always translate into a sanction detection and it is the responsibility of all managers and supervisors to actively drive this culture change.



Our vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer

The Future

Let's look again at the original examples and see how the recording & investigation would be affected:

- 1. Six lollipops (total value 30p) are taken from a shop. Unknown offender. There are several witnesses.**
- 2. Child vs child assault. No injuries. Not part of a series & no aggravating features. Parents just want offender advising.**
- 3. An employee at a food warehouse is caught drinking a 69p bottle of pop he has taken from a shelf. He is sacked on the spot, but his employers insist that he is also arrested and prosecuted.**



Any Questions?



Our vision is to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer