

<b>Corporate</b>	<b>ICBP041 - Violence, Aggression and Abuse Management Policy</b>
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<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
2	December 2022	December 2024

<b>Prepared By:</b>	Senior Governance Manager, North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS)
<b>Consultation Process:</b>	Integrated Care System (ICS) Integrated Governance Workstream
<b>Formally Approved:</b>	December 2022
<b>Approved By:</b>	Executive Committee

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>Date</b>	<b>Issues</b>
March 2022	None identified.

## POLICY VALIDITY STATEMENT

Policy users should ensure that they are consulting the currently valid version of the documentation. The policy will remain valid, including during its period of review. However, the policy must be reviewed at least once in every 3-year period.

## ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION STANDARDS

If you require this document in an alternative format, such as easy read, large text, braille or an alternative language please contact [NECSU.comms@nhs.net](mailto:NECSU.comms@nhs.net)

## Version Control

Version	Release Date	Author	Update comments
1.0	July 2022	Senior Governance Manager, NECS	First issue
2.0	December 2022	Senior Governance Manager, NECS	Reviewed within the first 6 months of the establishment of the Integrated Care Board (ICB), minor amendments have been made.

## Approval

Role	Name	Date
Approver	ICB Board	July 2022
Approver	Executive Committee	December 2022

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Scope

This policy is a corporate policy.

### 1.2 Purpose and Scope

- 1.2.1 For the purposes of this policy, the NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board will be referred to as “the ICB”.
- 1.2.2 The ICB aspires to the highest standards of corporate behaviour and clinical competence, to ensure that safe, fair and equitable procedures are applied to all organisational transactions, including relationships with staff and visitors and the use of public resources. In order to provide clear and consistent guidance, the ICB will develop documents to fulfil all statutory, organisational and best practice requirements and support the principles of equal opportunity for all.
- 1.2.3 The aim of this policy is to reduce the risks, so far as it is reasonably practicable, for staff.
- 1.2.4 This policy applies to all employees of the ICB and in particular deals with the issue of violence, aggression and abuse against a member of its staff by a member of the public (i.e. patient, member of the patient’s family, member of the public etc.). If a member of staff feels that they are experiencing any violence, aggression or abuse by another member of staff, they should refer to the appropriate HR policies.
- 1.2.5 All employees have a common law duty of care to co-operate with their employer to comply with the ICB policy.

## 2. Definitions

The following terms are used in this document:

### 2.1 Violence

The ICB defines acts of violence as:

*'Any incident in which a member of staff is verbally abused, threatened or assaulted by a patient or member of the public in circumstances relating to his or her employment.'* (Health and Safety Executive 1997)

This is a very broad definition of ‘violence’, however it is important to acknowledge that violence can be either physical or non-physical and the two must be distinguished and recorded as different from one another.

The Counter Fraud and Security Management Service define physical assault '*the intentional or unintentional application of force to the person of another, without lawful justification, resulting in physical injury or personal discomfort,*' and non-physical assault as '*the use of inappropriate words or behaviour causing distress and/or constituting harassment*

## **2.2 Risk Assessment**

Risk Assessment is a process of identifying what hazards exist in the workplace and how likely it is that they will cause harm to employees and others. It is the first step in deciding what prevention or control measures need to be taken to protect staff from harm.

## **3. Management of Violence, Aggression and Abuse**

### **3.1 Action to Be Taken When Physical Assault Has Taken Place on a Member of Staff: (Counter Fraud and Security Management Service Guidance)**

3.1.1 Line Manager and the Police to be contacted immediately by the person assaulted, or a relevant colleague.

3.1.2 The Director of Corporate Governance, Communications and Involvement as the nominated executive lead, is to be contacted as soon as practicable by the person assaulted, their line manager or a colleague, and inform the ICB Governance lead and Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) Senior Governance Manager.

3.1.3 The Director of Corporate Governance, Communications and Involvement will:

- contact, as soon as is reasonably practicable, the Senior Governance Manager CSU with specific information on the assault;
- arrange for full co-operation to be given to the Police or the Senior Governance Manager of the CSU and any subsequent action;
- ensure that details of the incident are recorded on the ICB's incident reporting system (SIRMS);
- arrange for an acknowledgement of the report to be sent to the injured party and copied to the line manager to ensure that the necessary support arrangements, such as counselling and or occupational health are offered. The acknowledgement should state what action is being undertaken and the injured party should be kept informed of the progress and outcome;
- ensure that all possible preventative action is taken to minimise

the risk of a similar incident reoccurring;

- keep the line manager apprised of situation

3.1.4 The line manager will:

- contact the employee directly to offer support, e.g. ensure the employee is aware of the counselling facilities available and the services of the Local Security Management Specialist (LSMS) which is provided by a third party via the CSU;
- offer support on an on-going basis as appropriate.

### **3.2 Security Management Service Action upon a physical incident occurring**

3.2.1 The CSU Senior Governance Manager will:

- determine if the Police are going to lead the investigation;
- if the Police are handling the case, ensure that the case is regularly monitored as to progress, make sure the person assaulted and the ICB is kept updated, and ensure both are informed of any outcomes;
- the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) should undertake any criminal prosecution if the Police are handling the case;
- if the Police are not handling the case, with the victim's consent carry out initial investigations;
- progress the investigation, including recording all details relating to the investigation on a locally held file;
- update the person affected by the physical assault and the nominated executive lead on a regular basis, as to progress and outcomes.

3.2.2 If the Police are not handling the case or the Crown Prosecution Service are unwilling to undertake a criminal prosecution, the CSU Senior Governance Manager will discuss with the ICB, if appropriate, to provide advice and guidance on viability of a private prosecution.

3.2.3 The CSU Senior Governance Manager, if appropriate, will advise on the viability of civil proceedings in consultation with the ICB and the person(s) subjected to the assault.

The procedure(s) for implementing this policy document are as follows:

- Managers to follow advice and guidance provided in Appendix B-G

### **3.3 Action Following Acts of Violence**

#### **3.3.1 Members of staff carrying out the act of violence.**

Where a member of staff is alleged to have carried out an act of violence, abuse or aggression this will be considered under the ICB disciplinary policies and procedures.

Where the patient, member of the public or relative initiates the complaint then the ICB Complaints Policy may also be invoked.

#### **3.3.2 Patients, relatives or members of the public who carry out the act of violence**

Where a patient, relative or member of the public is alleged to have carried out an act of violence, abuse or aggression then the ICB reserves the right to respond to the alleged incident, as deemed necessary in light of the circumstances. The level of response will be dependent upon the seriousness of the incident. The potential responses or actions available to the ICB include:

- verbal warnings,
- written warnings from the Chief Executive,
- Police presence at consultations,
- criminal prosecution,
- civil prosecution.

## **4. Implementation**

4.1 This policy will be available to all staff via the Intranet and Website.

4.2 All managers are responsible for ensuring that relevant staff within the ICB have read and understood this document and are competent to carry out their duties in accordance with the procedures described.

## 5. Training Implications

The training required to comply with this policy are:

All Managers must ensure that staff attend necessary events e.g.

- conflict resolution training where required.

## 6. Related Documents

### 6.1 Other related policy documents

- Complaints Policy
- Incident Reporting and Management Policy
- Serious Incidents (SIs) Management Policy
- Standing Operating Procedure (SoP) Lone Worker
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Grievance Policy

### 6.2 Legislation and statutory requirements

- Cabinet Office (1974) *Health & Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974*. London. HMSO.
- Cabinet Office (1998) *Human Rights Act 1998*. London. HMSO.
- Cabinet Office (1999) *Management of Health & Safety At Work Regulations 1999*. London. HMSO.
- Cabinet Office (2001) *Freedom of Information Act 2001*. London. HMSO.
- Cabinet Office (2006) *Equality Act 2006*. London. HMSO.
- Cabinet Office (2007) *Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007*. London. HMSO
- Cabinet Office (2008) *Health & Safety Offences Act 2008 Amends Section 33 (Prosecutions for criminal offences) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*. London. HMSO.



## **7. Monitoring, Review and Archiving**

### **7.1 Monitoring**

The ICB Board will agree a method for monitoring the dissemination and implementation of this policy. Monitoring information will be recorded in the policy database.

### **7.2 Review**

7.2.1 The ICB Board will ensure that this policy document is reviewed in accordance with the timescale specified at the time of approval. No policy or procedure will remain operational for a period exceeding three years without a review taking place.

7.2.2 Staff who become aware of any change including legislative change which may affect a policy should advise their line manager as soon as possible. The Executive Director will then consider the need to review the policy or procedure outside of the agreed timescale for revision.

7.2.3 For ease of reference for reviewers or approval bodies, changes should be noted in the 'version control' table on the second page of this document.

NB: If the review consists of a change to an appendix or procedure document, approval may be given by the Executive Director and a revised document may be issued. Review to the main body of the policy must always follow the original approval process.

### **7.3 Archiving**

The ICB Board will ensure that archived copies of superseded policy documents are retained in accordance with Records Management: NHS Code of Practice 2021.

## 8. Equality Impact Assessment

### Initial Screening Assessment (STEP 1)

As a public body organisation we need to ensure that all our current and proposed strategies, policies, services and functions, have given proper consideration to equality, diversity and inclusion, do not aid barriers to access or generate discrimination against any protected groups under the Equality Act 2010 (Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion/Belief, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Marriage and Civil Partnership).

This screening determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, projects, service reviews and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- The relevance of proposals and decisions to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- Whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered for due regard to the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).
- Whether or not it is necessary to carry out a full Equality Impact Assessment.

#### Name(s) and role(s) of person completing this assessment:

**Name:** Lee Crowe

**Job Title:** Governance Manager, H&S/Fire/Security

**Organisation:** NECS

**Title of the service/project or policy:** Violence Aggression and Abuse Management policy

#### Is this a;

**Strategy / Policy**  **Service Review**  **Project**

**Other** [Click here to enter text.](#)

#### What are the aim(s) and objectives of the service, project or policy:

The aim of the policy is to ensure ICB considers Health and Safety along with its other business objectives and to ensure that the ICB follows the details stipulated within H&S Regulations.

#### Who will the project/service /policy / decision impact?

(Consider the actual and potential impact)

- **Staff**
- **Service User / Patients**
- **Other Public Sector Organisations**
- **Voluntary / Community groups / Trade Unions**
- **Others, please specify** [Click here to enter text.](#)

Questions	Yes	No
Could there be an existing or potential negative impact on any of the protected characteristic groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has there been or likely to be any staff/patient/public concerns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Could this piece of work affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Could this piece of work affect the workforce or employment practices?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the piece of work involve or have a negative impact on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>Advancing quality of opportunity</li> <li>Fostering good relations between protected and non-protected groups in either the workforce or community</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**If you have answered no to the above and conclude that there will not be a detrimental impact on any equality group caused by the proposed policy/project/service change, please state how you have reached that conclusion below:**

The procedure is a review of an existing procedure and has received only minor updates. There is no fundamental change to the content therefore the previous EIA which concluded 'no impact' remains appropriate.

**If you have answered yes to any of the above, please now complete the 'STEP 2 Equality Impact Assessment' document**

Accessible Information Standard	Yes	No
Please acknowledge you have considered the requirements of the Accessible Information Standard when communicating with staff and patients.  <a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/accessible-info-standard-overview-2017-18.pdf">https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/accessible-info-standard-overview-2017-18.pdf</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## **Governance, ownership and approval**

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening		
Name	Job title	Date
Claire Riley	Executive Director of Corporate Governance, Communications & Involvement	June 2022

## **Publishing**

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) has been given.

### Schedule of Duties and Responsibilities

<p><b>ICB Board</b></p>	<p>The ICB Board has responsibility for setting the strategic context in which organisational process documents are developed, and for establishing a scheme of governance for the formal review and approval of such documents.</p>
<p><b>Executive Committee</b></p>	<p>The Executive Committee has delegated responsibility from the ICB Board for the development, review, approval and monitoring of organisational process documents (such as policies).</p> <p>It is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Violence, Aggression and Abuse Policy. It will ensure that any issues of significant risk are actioned appropriately.</p>
<p><b>Chief Executive</b></p>	<p>The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for the strategic direction and operational management, including ensuring that ICB process documents comply with all legal, statutory and good practice guidance requirements.</p>
<p><b>Executive Director of Corporate Governance, Communications and Involvement</b></p>	<p>The Director of Corporate Governance, Communications and Involvement as Executive Lead has responsibility for health and safety and will ensure that appropriate strategies and systems are in place to manage the ICB's health and safety risks and will act as the lead person on security management work in conjunction with CSU Senior Governance Manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As soon as is reasonably practicable contact the CSU Senior Governance Manager with specific information on the assault.</li> <li>• Ensure that the actions described in Appendix A and Appendix B are carried out.</li> <li>• Ensure any necessary documentation in relation to incidents is carried out.</li> </ul>

<p><b>All Managers</b></p>	<p>All managers are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing this policy the management of violence, aggression and abuse and reviewing them accordingly.</li> <li>• Ensuring that staff receive the necessary training, including conflict resolution training, relevant to the level of identified risk.</li> <li>• Managing any incidents or staff concerns that are reported to them.</li> <li>• Ensuring that violence and aggression hazards are adequately identified and relevant control measures put in place.</li> <li>• Ensuring employees are involved in or aware of risk assessments.</li> <li>• Maintaining an awareness of advice and the support available to reduce the risk.</li> <li>• Ensuring that employees are aware of available means of advice and support.</li> <li>• Taking all reasonable steps to reduce the risk of both physical and non-physical assault.</li> <li>• Ensuring appropriate contact is maintained with the employee following an incident.</li> <li>• Ensuring that the employee is aware of counselling services available and refer the employee where appropriate.</li> <li>• Giving serious consideration to the concerns of employees.</li> <li>• Ensuring that all incidents of physical and non- physical assault are reported in line with the Counter Fraud and Security Management Service guidance, including notifying the executive lead. See Appendix B.</li> <li>• Ensuring that potential violent/aggressive visitors are highlighted to staff, other team managers and where appropriate, other partner agencies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>All Staff</b></p>	<p>All staff, including temporary and agency staff, are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with relevant process documents such as lone working. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action being taken.</li> <li>• Co-operating with the development and implementation of policies and procedures and as part of their normal duties and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Identifying the need for a change in policy or procedure as a result of becoming aware of changes in practice, changes to statutory requirements, revised professional or clinical standards and local/national directives, and advising their line manager accordingly.</li> <li>• Identifying training needs in respect of policies and procedures and bringing them to the attention of their line manager.</li> <li>• Attending training / awareness sessions when provided.</li> </ul>

### Action to be taken when physical assault has taken place on a member of staff

1. Police to be contacted immediately by the person assaulted, their manager or relevant colleague.
2. The nominated Executive lead for the ICB is to be contacted as soon as practicable by the person assaulted, their line manager or a colleague, and inform the ICB Risk Lead.
3. The nominated Executive lead will:
  - contact, as soon as is reasonably practicable the CSU Senior Governance Manager with specific information on the assault;
  - arrange for full co-operation to be given to the Police or the CSU Senior Governance Manager and with any subsequent action;
  - ensure those details of the incident are recorded on the ICB's risk management recording system (SIRMS);
  - arrange for an acknowledgement of the report to be sent to the injured party and copied to the line manager to ensure that the necessary support arrangements, such as counselling and or occupational health are offered. The acknowledgement should state what action is being undertaken and the injured party should be kept informed of the progress and outcome;
  - ensure that all possible preventive action is taken to minimise the risk of a similar incident reoccurring;
  - keep the line manager informed of the on-going Local Security Management Specialist's involvement/actions
4. The line manager will:
  - contact the employee directly to offer support, e.g. ensure the employee is aware of the counselling facilities available and the services of the Local Security Management Specialist;
  - offer support on an on-going basis as appropriate.

## **Security Management Service Action upon a physical incident occurring provided by the CSU**

The CSU Senior Governance Manager will:

- determine if the Police are going to lead the investigation;
- if the Police are handling the case, ensure that the case is regularly monitored as to progress, make sure the person assaulted and the ICB is kept updated, and ensure both are informed of any outcomes;
- the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) should undertake any criminal prosecution if the Police are handling the case;
- if the Police are not handling the case, carry out initial investigations in conjunction with the Counter Fraud and Security Management Service's Legal Protection Unit;
- progress the investigation with all speed, including recording all details relating to the investigation on a locally held file (using the standards in the CFSMS OS Manual of Guidance);
- update the person affected by the physical assault and the nominated Executive lead of Security Management of the ICB on a regular basis, as to progress and outcomes;
- if the Police are not handling the case or the Crown Prosecution Service are unwilling to undertake a criminal prosecution, the CSU Senior Governance Manager will provide advice and guidance, and advise on the viability of a private prosecution;
- the CSU Senior Governance Manager, if appropriate, will advise on the viability of civil proceedings in consultation with the ICB and the person(s) subjected to the assault.

The procedure(s) for implementing this policy document are as follows:

- Managers to follow advice and guidance provided in Appendices B-G

### Action to be taken when a Non-Physical Assault has taken place

- Where appropriate the Police should be contacted, as soon as is practicable, by the person subject to the non-physical assault, their manager or relevant colleague.
- The seriousness of the incident should be taken into account in deciding whether the Police should be involved, but where the incident is believed to fall into a racially, religious or homophobia aggravated matter, then the incident should always be reported to the Police.
- The Police should be given information about the assailant's clinical condition (if known), if this could be seen as a contributory factor leading to the non- physical assault taking place, however, the presence of a clinical condition should not necessarily preclude appropriate action being taken. This should be a matter for the Police and/or the ICB.
- The nominated Executive lead for the ICB must be contacted, as soon as practicable, by the person suffering the abuse, their manager or relevant colleague.

The nominated Executive lead the ICB will:

- liaise, co-operate with and monitor cases of non-physical assault that have been referred to and are being handled by the Police;
- where the matter has been reported to the Police and the Police have decided not to pursue the matter, consider whether the ICB should consider/initiate private prosecution and/or civil proceedings via the ICB's Legal Service, where appropriate;
- ensure that details of the incident are recorded on the ICB's appropriate incident reporting system (SIRMS) to comply with Health and Safety legislation;
- ensure that an acknowledgement of the report is sent to the injured party and ensure that any necessary support arrangements, such as counselling or occupational health are offered. The acknowledgement should state that the matter will be dealt with in accordance with ICB policy, that appropriate action will be taken and that the particular member of staff will be apprised of progress and the outcome;
- ensure the person subject to the non-physical assault is informed of the outcome of any action taken.



### Advice/Guidance for Managers

This guide will not provide an answer to every situation, and your own experience will be a crucial factor along with following the Policy in deciding appropriate action. It will, however, hopefully increase awareness of the problem and provide practical advice.

#### Why Must I Take Action?

##### Legislation

- The Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 requires employers to take reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their employees while at work.
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 specifically requires the assessment of risks to employees.

##### *Efficiency*

The effects of violence can have serious operational costs and include: -

- sickness absence,
- impaired performance,
- de-motivation of other employees,
- negative effect on other stakeholders.

##### Responsibility

- As a manager, you are the employer's representative and thereby charged with the execution of the employer's responsibilities within your area of control.

#### What Action Should I Take?

In considering what action to take, never accept violence as 'part of the job'.

##### *Assess the Risk*

- Ensure a personal/team risk assessment has been carried out. Please refer to ICB H&S Risk Assessment Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).
- Consider the individual employee:
  - perpetrators being reported to appropriate authorities i.e. the Police,
  - previous training/experience,
  - previous incidents.
- Monitor and analyse reported incidents.

## *Reduce the Risk*

In reducing the risk, several factors need to be considered.

### Employees

- Ensure that employees where applicable have been provided with relevant training and have access to a copy of this policy and the employee guidance at Appendix D.
- Consider training needs in the light of the level of risk faced.
- Be willing always to offer support and advice and sources of advice (Health and Safety Team, Local Security Management Specialist, Police) and ensure that you communicate this to employees.
- Never dismiss or ignore signs of apprehension.
- Ensure that employees are aware that they are advised to leave dangerous situations even when their task is not completed.
- Encourage staff to adopt a 'Customer First' approach, but never put themselves at risk.
- Assist employees in developing action plans (not necessarily a written document but an understanding of what to do in particular situations).
- Ensure that employees are aware of their responsibilities in supporting colleagues.
- Watch out for signs of bullying/intimidation.

### Working Methods

- Arrange appointment times to minimise risk:
  - avoid morning meetings where alcohol abuse is a potential problem,
  - avoid overlong delays by providing sufficient interval between appointments.
- Minimise staff isolation in dangerous situations:
  - limit visits to those, which are unavoidable,
  - arrange for employees to work in pairs in potentially dangerous situations.
- Ensure staff use the lone worker system in operation at the ICB and abide by any risk assessments and local procedures.

### Location

- Arrange interview areas to provide an easy escape route and ready support/back-up.
- Eliminate potential weapons wherever possible (any loose/moveable object is a potential weapon).
- Ensure that any reception/waiting areas are designed to minimise frustration e.g.:
  - comfortable seating,
  - soothing colours,
  - magazines etc.
- Ensure adequate lighting in and around buildings.
- Restrict public access to necessary areas.
- Provide door answering safeguards (e.g. viewers, chains, C.C.T.V.) where appropriate.

- Utilise sources of advice on environmental issues e.g. Local Security Management Specialist.
- Consider alternative locations for the provision of care where necessary.

### What Should I Do If An Incident Occurs?

#### Immediately

- In all cases the victim should be treated with sensitivity and be offered support by managers and colleagues. Where particular anguish/trauma has been suffered, they should be advised of the availability of counselling from their General Practitioner or Occupational Health.
- Ensure that the victim is not blamed for contributing to the incident (self-blame is particularly common amongst victims of violence). Where you consider that the victim's actions may have contributed, this should be dealt with as a training and development issue and not through criticism.
- Call for professional medical help, if necessary.
- Follow the procedure laid down on the policy and where necessary contact the Police if an assault has taken place.

#### Follow Up

- At the earliest opportunity, ensure that any incidents are reported on the ICB's Incident Reporting System (SIRMS).
- Ensure and check that the incident is investigated appropriately.
- In more serious cases, discuss with the individual whether he/she feels able to return to particular work situations and consider what, if any, support, advice or training might be beneficial.
- In cases of harassment at work. Advisors are available to provide counselling for the victim.

When an employee suffers actual physical injury, he/she might be entitled to compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. The employee can apply for such compensation by visiting [www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-criminal-injury](http://www.gov.uk/claim-compensation-criminal-injury)

### Advice/Guidance for Employees

Although this information cannot provide a precise answer to every situation, it should help to create a greater awareness of the problem as well as offering some practical advice.

#### ***Before the encounter***

##### **Assess the risk**

Look for factors which might indicate a high level of risk and require specific action. Some 'high risk' indicators are listed below:

##### **The Client (the potential assailant)**

- background unknown/authenticity unsure
- history of violence (the most important factor)
- history of alcohol/drug abuse
- previous threats (always take these seriously)
- perceived victimisation (feelings of having been let down during previous dealings)
- unrealistic expectations (likely to be severely disappointed by what you have to say)
- change/uncertainty
- high level of stress (e.g. the loss of a close family member, home, job etc.)

##### **You (the potential victim)**

- close ongoing relationship with the individual
- seen as the source of his/her frustration
- apprehension (this can increase the level of tension. Understanding the risk and taking steps to protect yourself can greatly reduce it)
- visits away from the work base
- male/female (both are vulnerable – women can be seen as easier targets - men more legitimate ones)
- do not ignore your own signs of apprehension (instinct, intuition)

#### **Absence of these signs does NOT guarantee your safety**

##### **Take Action**

Take basic precautions and where the level of risk appears to be high, take specific preventative measures as identified in the risk assessment and use the lone worker SOP.

##### **Basic precautions**

- be sure that the customer/client is genuine before agreeing a visit
- when carrying out visits always leave a record of:
  - *Where* you're going - details – address etc
  - *Who* you're going to see
  - *Why* you're going (purpose of the visit)

- *When you expect to return*
- if you don't intend to return to base, arrange to contact someone and use and update regularly the lone worker system
- consider your escape route
- consider the level of risk and decide whether specific action is necessary

### **Specific preventative measures**

- discuss concerns with your manager
- request support/backup where necessary
- maintain contact on visits (by the lone worker system and phone)
- if risks are unacceptable, see the customer/client at work where support is more easily provided
- if meetings are likely to carry unacceptable risks, restrict/ control contact
- arrange morning meetings where there is a history of alcohol abuse
- if a meeting takes place at work, ensure no loose objects can be used as weapons
- arrange seating to allow escape in cases of emergency

### ***During the encounter***

#### **Assess the risk**

Look for signs of high risk and watch out for danger signals.

#### **High Risk Indicators**

- any unexpected person
- effect of alcohol/drugs
- potential weapons (loose movable objects are potential weapons)
- frustration caused by circumstances immediately before the encounter e.g.
  - long delays
  - noisy/crowded waiting areas
  - re-direction from one place to another
- isolation - no colleagues nearby

#### **Danger Signals (in the potential assailant)**

These signals can be equally relevant whether given in a quiet, calm tone or shouted in an angry manner.

#### **Appearance:**

- tearful
- sweating
- restless
- staring - eyeball to eyeball confrontation
- pale skin
- obvious facial muscle tension

**Posture:**

- bodily nearness
- towering/threatening stance
- clenched hands
- folded arms

**Speech:**

- changed in tone, volume or pitch
- use of insults, threats or sarcasm, in particular, use of de-personalising language
- sexist/racist abuse and foul language
- repetition of the same word or phrase

**Victim Support and Counselling**

Support should be offered by your direct line manager. This can include signposting to counselling services and/or practical support such as help in seeking medical attention, contacting family or friends, providing an opportunity to discuss the incident and offering support during the investigation.

In cases where you have suffered particular anguish or trauma, your line manager may advise you to seek counselling from your General Practitioner, the Occupational Health service or an external counselling service.

### Requirements for Reporting Incidents

All incidents, covered by the definition of violence, whether physical or non-physical, must be recorded on the ICB's Incident Reporting Management System (SIRMS).

They must also be reported to the Police, where appropriate.

The legal requirement for reporting incidents falls under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR). These incidents would be reported by the CSU Senior Governance Manager on behalf of the ICB.

#### Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

There is a legal requirement under RIDDOR 1995 to report certain specified work-related incidents, either to the enforcing authority for the workplace or to a central Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reporting centre.

#### Accident/Incident Reporting

RIDDOR requires the specified responsible person, usually employers, to report certain defined work-related accidents or incidents to the enforcing authority. In summary, the accidents or incidents that are required to be reported include:

- all fatalities
- accidents resulting in any of the specified 'major injuries',
- certain defined work-related diseases,
- accidents resulting in employees being off work for more than three days,
- certain dangerous occurrences such as building collapses, gas explosions, etc.

The accidents have to be reported to the Health and Safety Executive by the quickest means within 10 days.

#### How to make a report:

Guidance on how to report a RIDDOR incident can be obtained from the CSU Governance Team via [necsu.healthandsafety@nhs.net](mailto:necsu.healthandsafety@nhs.net)

## **Reporting Death or Major Injury**

In the event of an accident arising out of a work activity which results in:

- the death or major injury to an employee or self-employed person on work premises;
- the death of a member of the public; or
- a member of the public being taken to hospital

then a report must be made to the Police and the HSE Incident Contact Centre further guidance would be provided by the CSU Senior Governance Manager/LSMS.

Where the nature and severity of an injury is not immediately apparent, the report required shall be submitted as soon as the nature of the condition is confirmed.

Deaths to be reported include those where an employee dies within one year as a result of an accident at work, whether or not this was reported at the time of the original accident.

Major injuries are defined by reference to schedule 1 of the regulations to include:

- fractures other than fingers, thumbs and toes;
- amputation (including surgical amputation following an accident);
- dislocation of shoulder, hip, knee or spine;
- eye injury resulting in temporary or permanent loss of sight, by chemical or hot metal burn, or penetrating injury;
- unconsciousness caused by electric shock, exposure to a hazardous substance, biological agent, or asphyxia;
- any acute condition or illness resulting in loss of consciousness or requiring resuscitation or admission to hospital for more than 24 hours;
- illness requiring medical treatment related to exposure to a hazardous substance.

## **Reporting Lost Time Injuries (over 7 day absence)**

In the event of an accident arising out of a work activity which results in the incapacity of an employee (or self-employed person working on the premises) for more than seven consecutive days, then a report must be made, by one of the methods described above, within ten days.

Seven consecutive days does NOT include the day of the accident, but includes:

- any day on which the person was unable to fulfil his/her normal work duties;
- weekends and days not normally worked when the injured person was incapacitated.

This includes any act of non-consensual physical violence done to a person at work. For full information on RIDDOR 1995 consult the



guidance notes and regulations. The NECS Senior Governance Manager will advise and interpret on request.