



Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit

Supporting victims, managing risk



Working Together Against Stalking

*A flexible training package offered by the Cheshire Police Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit
in collaboration with the Alice Ruggles Trust*

This half-day or full-day training package is offered to UK police and other agencies seeking to review and improve their response to cases of stalking. It is suitable for managers, SPOCs and front-line staff, the training content and priority being adaptable depending on the audience. Through a combination of presentations and workshops it will outline the challenges, discuss current best practice, and present strategies for managing the risk in stalking cases.

Why is this important?

Stalking has been a crime since 2012 but the criminal justice system has struggled to recognise the scale and the seriousness of the problem. Persistent stalking episodes can have a devastating emotional and psychological impact not only upon the victim but also on their families. Stalking can also be highly dangerous, leading in the worst instances to physical violence and—as in Alice Ruggles' case—even murder. Yet not all stalkers kill and most stalking episodes do not end in homicide. There are a wide variety of types of—and motivations for—stalking, and they require different actions to prevent an escalation. Only by understanding the nature, motivation and purpose of a particular stalking episode can the risks be managed effectively.

Content

Identifying stalking. The impactful personal account of Alice's story and the lessons that need to be learned
The scale of the problem. Some important facts and figures

Understanding and managing the risk; improving the response. Depending upon the audience, a selection from the following topics will be offered:

- What is stalking?
- Victim impact (linking to Alice's case and other case studies)
- Stalker typology and the Stalking Risk Profile
- Similarities and differences between stalking and other types of problem behaviour
- Legal issues
- Risk identification, assessment and management: how to conceptualise the issue of "risk" and how this relates to stalking; domains of risk, risk potential, dynamics, risk status and risk state; psycho-social damage to stalkers and why this is important to consider
- Management implications for linked typologies
- Interventions
- Investigations: perpetrator-focused investigations; victim-centred response (covering compassion fatigue, myths, vicarious trauma, victim trauma, advice to victims); "follow the evidence", importance of a time-line, motivational interviewing, denial, VCOP; NPCC/CPS Protocol and checklist
- "Red flags"
- Local procedures
- Multi-agency approaches: the Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit and how we can help

Speakers

- *Daniel W Price-Jones.* Dan, a consultant forensic psychologist, leads the healthcare response of the Cheshire Police Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit (IASU).
- *Dave Thomason.* Dave, an operational detective from Cheshire Constabulary, specialises in the police response to stalking locally and nationally. Dave leads the police response within the Cheshire Police Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit (IASU).
- Representing the Alice Ruggles Trust:
 - *Sue Hills.* Sue (Alice's mother), a statistician and teaching professional, co-ordinates the Trust's educational and social media activities.
 - *Clive Ruggles.* Clive (Alice's father), an Emeritus Professor at the University of Leicester, organises the Trust's training and campaigning activities.
 - *Nick Ruggles.* Nick (Alice's brother), a software developer and IT specialist, is responsible for the Trust's media enquiries and website development.

About the Cheshire Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit

The Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit is a collaborative service delivered by Cheshire Constabulary and North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. It is part of a 2-year proof-of-concept project known as MASIP (Multi-Agency Stalking Interventions Programme) in which three police forces, three NHS Trusts and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, working in partnership, are funded by the Police Transformation Fund to pilot innovative responses to stalking. The initiative, which is the first of its kind worldwide, will aim to improve responses to stalking across the criminal justice system and the health sector through a range of interventions with stalkers. Ultimately, it is hoped that robust interventions with perpetrators can help to make victims of stalking safer.

About the Alice Ruggles Trust

The Alice Ruggles Trust (www.alicerugglestrust.org) was set up by Alice's family and friends in 2017 in response to her murder by an ex-boyfriend in October 2016 following a relentless campaign of stalking. It seeks to raise public awareness about the dangers of stalking and to provide professional education and training so as to bring about lasting improvements in the management of stalkers and the protection of their victims.

Contact

If you interested in the delivery of our training package to your organisation (anywhere in the UK), or would simply like to know more about it, please contact us at stalkingclinic@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or info@alicerugglestrust.org.