

 West Mercia POLICE		POLICY
Security Classification	OFFICIAL	
Disclosable under Freedom of Information Act 2000	Yes	

POLICY TITLE	Wellbeing Dogs
REFERENCE NUMBER	WMP181
Version	1.0

POLICY OWNERSHIP	
DIRECTORATE	LOCAL POLICING
BUSINESS AREA	TERRITORIAL POLICING

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE	December 2021
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	December 2024
RISK RATING	LOW
EQUALITY ANALYSIS	LOW

West Mercia Police welcome comments and suggestions from the public and staff about the contents and implementation of this policy.
Please e-mail contactus@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

1.0 POLICY OUTLINE

This policy will explain how West Mercia Police will use wellbeing dogs within the force.

This will apply to the care, training and tactical deployment of wellbeing dogs across the force or whether assisting officers in other forces.

This policy is informed by the National Police Wellbeing Service Standard Operating Procedure for wellbeing dogs.

2.0 PURPOSE OF POLICY

This policy ensures that West Mercia Police maintain an effective resource of appropriately trained wellbeing dog handlers and wellbeing dogs to deal with any incident or event where the use of wellbeing police dogs may be beneficial to the wellbeing of officers and police staff.

3.0 IMPLICATIONS of the POLICY

This policy is informed by the National Police Wellbeing Service Standard Operating Procedure for wellbeing dogs. As such this policy should be read in conjunction with this document. This policy also supplements the Welfare Services policy (WMP020).

The Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Act 1974 etc, places a duty on employers, so far as is reasonably practicable, to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of their employees whilst they are at work.

4.0 PROCEDURE

Please see separate procedure document.

5.0 CONSULTATION

<i>Chief Officer/ Business Lead Consulted</i>	<i>Date Consulted</i>
ACC Jones/ Ch Supt Paul Moxley	October 2021

Consultation has taken place with National Police Wellbeing Service, Occupational Health, Health & Safety, Dog Section, Staff Network leads and Critical Friends group.

6.0 DOCUMENT HISTORY

The history and rationale for change to policy will be recorded using the below chart:

Date	Author / Reviewer	Amendment(s) & Rationale	Date of Approval / Adoption
Oct 2021	CI Ed Hancox	New WMP Policy	JNCC Exec Board 09/11/2021

7.0 ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

The Equality Analysis (EA), Health & Safety Assessment (HAS) and Risk Assessment (RA) associated with this document are available on request.

8.0 MONITORING / EVALUATION

The Monitoring and review of this policy is the responsibility of the policy owner