

# National Decision Model



## Reference Number: P12

The Authorised Professional Practice (APP) has been approved by the College of Policing as the official and most up-to-date source of professional practice on policing. South Yorkshire Police have adopted APP as their Statement of Agreed Policy. This is the agreed policy on [National Decision Model](#) and you may wish to refer to the APP section now

## Exceptions

South Yorkshire Police do not deviate from APP in this subject.

## Additions

In addition to APP, South Yorkshire Police's statement of agreed policy on National Decision Model includes;

### Aims and Objectives

Police officers and police staff are sometimes required to make decisions in difficult circumstances.

The aim of this policy is to provide a structured and consistent approach to decision making across all SYP policing. To help make the right decisions and to provide a framework in which decisions can be examined and challenged, both at the time and afterwards, SYP has adopted a single, national decision model (NDM).

The model has at its centre the [Code of Ethics](#), as the touchstone for all decision making. Using the model encourages officers and staff to act in accordance with the Code and use their discretion where appropriate. It also reduces risk aversion and weighs the balance of resourcing against demand, threat and risk.

Decision makers will receive the support of the organisation in instances where it can be shown that their decisions were assessed and managed reasonably in the circumstances existing at the time. This support applies even where harm results from those decisions and actions.

Please see also, the Joint Decision Model (JDM), which has been developed for use when officers and staff are making decisions jointly with other partner agencies. It is based on the NDM and is included within the [Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme \(JESIP\)](#).

### **Associated Procedural Instructions**

There are currently no procedures that support this policy.

Other relevant SYP policy documents you may wish to consider are:

#### [P7 - Information Management](#)

### **Equality Act 2010**

The Act creates a statutory requirement for all Functions and Policies (Including Procedural Instructions) to be analysed for their effect on equality, diversity and human rights, with due regard to the [General Equality Duty](#).

In principle, this document has been assessed for discrimination, which cannot be justified, among other diverse groups.

The [Code of Ethics](#) published in 2014 by the College of Policing requires us all to do the right thing in the right way. It also recognises that the use of discretion in Policing is necessary but in using discretion, states that you should, "*take into account any relevant policing codes, guidance, policies and procedures*."

### **Human Rights/Discretion**

The purpose of providing policy is to give an indication to staff of the expected course of action. However it is not possible to cater for every possible combination of factors that would justify a departure from stated policy. The Human Rights Act 1998 requires the proper use of discretion at all times and nothing within this policy and associated procedural instructions prohibits the proper use of discretion in appropriate circumstances.

Where action is taken that has the potential to interfere with an individual's Human Rights, the reasons behind the making of the decision to act in that way should be recorded on the appropriate forms, or where this is not practicable, in pocket books or policy logs.

### **Rights of redress for members of the public:**

Anyone who feels that a member of staff has behaved incorrectly or unfairly, or who is dissatisfied with organisational matters, service delivery or other operational policing issues, has the right to [make a complaint](#).

Initial action should be taken in one of the following ways:

- Complain in writing or in person to the Senior Officer at the appropriate police station or to the Chief Constable of the force concerned.
- Visit a local Citizens' Advice Bureau
- Contact a Solicitor

### **Rights of redress for South Yorkshire Police personnel:**

South Yorkshire Police personnel who feel they have grounds for concern in relation to the implementation of policies may, as appropriate:

- Pursue concerns through their line manager.
- Contact a First Contact Advisor.
- Pursue a grievance formally through the South Yorkshire Police Grievance Resolution Procedure.
- Seek advice from their staff association or trades union.

Use procedural instruction [Pi23.11 - Management of Complaints](#), in the section entitled Handling Complaints relating to Direction and Control.

**Start Date:** 01/12/2017

This statement of agreed policy is new.

**Review:**

This statement of agreed policy is managed by Superintendent, Operational Support Unit.

This policy and its Equality Analysis were last reviewed on: 01/11/2021

The date for the next review of this policy and Equality Analysis is: 01/11/2023