

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2008 – 2011

Action Plan 2008 -2009

This action plan sits beneath the Warwickshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2008 - 2011 and, together, the documents show how partner agencies aim to improve the quality of life for people across the county by tackling the causes and effects of domestic abuse (DA).

Outcomes

The overall success of the strategy and action plan will be reported through the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for National Indicator 15: Serious Violent Crime. This indicator will be measured across the three years of the Local Area Agreement.

Further targets to be used to assess the success of the Domestic Abuse Strategy are:

1. Increase in number of first time reporting of domestic abuse
2. Increase in the number of perpetrators charged and going to court
3. Increase in numbers of children and young people affected by domestic abuse provided with support
- [4. Reduction in numbers of reported repeat incidents of domestic abuse – further work needs to be undertaken before a baseline for this indicator can be established.]

This Strategy and Action Plan is designed to accompany and complement work contained in other local strategies, as detailed in the Strategy document.

Safety and Support

Key Objective: To ensure that the safety and support needs of those experiencing domestic abuse are met through well resourced, safe and accessible services.

Safety and Support				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
1. Provision of point of contact for victims	1.1 Provide sustainable local DA Helpline	DA Manager Service Provider	Helpline available - Apr 2008 Free-phone number secured - May 2008 Helpline publicised – Jun 2008 Extend opening hours – Mar 2009	Increase in reporting of DA incidents Decrease in repeat victimisation
2. Risk and needs assessment for all those making contact, including Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)	2.1 Introduce common risk assessment for use by all agencies in DA cases	Police Partner agencies DA Manager	Risk assessment model in use – Jun 2008 Multi-agency training for risk assessment model - Jan 2009 Partner agencies using risk assessment model – Apr 2009 Linked to interagency referral system established - Jan 2009	Decrease in level of risk to victims and families Increased appropriate referrals to MARAC
	2.2 Develop MARACs county wide	Police DA Manager	Protocols agreed – Apr 2008 Monthly MARACs begin – Apr 2008 MARAC Review – Oct 2008	Reduced levels of risk to victims in 50% cases Reduced repeat victimisation

Safety and Support				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
3. Victims provided with appropriate support	3.1 Provide county wide Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy service	DA Manager Service Provider	Tender process established – Jul 2008 Contract awarded – Sept 2008 Service in place – Oct 2008	Risks reduced in 50% cases supported through IDVA service
	3.2 Establish inter-agency referral protocols	Partner agencies	Third Sector Referral Protocol reviewed - Nov 2008 Seminar for partner agencies to develop protocols – Jan 2009	Increase in referrals to specialist agencies
	3.3 Implement Forced Marriage and 'Honour' Based Violence Strategy and Action Plan	Police Partner agencies DA Manager	Needs assessment undertaken and recommendations made – Sept 2008 Police training delivered – Oct 208 Multi-agency training delivered – Mar 2009	Reduction in numbers of victims of DA who have experienced forced marriage or 'honour' based violence
	3.4 Implement Sexual Violence Strategy and Action Plan	Police Safeline Warwick RoSA DA Manager	Full details in Police Sexual Offences Action Plan	Increased reporting of domestic abuse related sexual abuse Decrease in no. of victim statements retracted Decrease in repeat victimisation

Safety and Support				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
4. Identification of the needs of diverse victims and victims with additional needs e.g. older people, BMER, male victims	4.1 Consultant to undertake needs analysis and audit to identify gaps in service	Consultant DA Manager	Consultant appointed – Nov 2008 Needs analysis completed – Mar 2009 Recommendations built into 2009 - 2010 DA Action Plan – Mar 2009	
5. Support for employees affected by DA	5.1 Develop DA employment policy for WCC staff	WCC HR DA Manager	Research best practice and tools available – Nov 2008 Draft policy developed – Mar 2009	Contribution to overall targets
6. Performance and data management	6.1 Develop quality, co-ordinated data monitoring system	DA Manager	Data collection systems investigated across all agencies – Oct 2008 Data availability and gaps established – Nov 2008 (Further work to complete action will take place in 09/10)	Comprehensive profile of DA in Warwickshire

Protection and Justice

Key Objective: To ensure that perpetrators are provided with support and held accountable through a co-ordinated response, which does not compromise the safety of victims.

Protection and Justice				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
1. Identify repeat victims of DA in order to target services and reduce incidents	1.1 Update police data recording system for DA incidents to facilitate identification of repeat victims	Police	Police investment in updated data collection systems – Nov 2008	Repeat victims of DA identifiable Baseline data established
	1.2 Pilot Police project for victims of repeat incidents	Police DA Manager Nuneaton & Bedworth CDRP	Repeat victims identified for pilot – Jun 2008 Fast tracking system established to inform police of DA orders and injunctions issued and their breach conditions – Mar 2009	Decrease in repeat victimisation for those families in pilot project Conditions of civil orders and injunctions enforced
	1.3 Utilise evidence gathering, including new technology, to ensure appropriate action against perpetrators	Police	Speed of evidence collection improved – Dec 2008 Increased use of Head Cams – Sept 2008	Increase in no. of cases passing the CPS 'threshold test' for charging and prosecuting
	1.4 Introduce Visual Evidence for Victims (VEV) scheme	Victim Support South Warwickshire CDRP	Pilots in Stratford and Warwick districts – Sept 2008	Decrease in number of victim statements retracted Increase in no. of cases passing CPS 'threshold test' for charging and prosecuting

Protection and Justice				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
2. Develop Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts (SDAC)	2.1 Implement recommendations of National Steering Group in order to retain accreditation	SDAC Steering Group	Recommendations implemented – Dec 2008 Sittings revised – Jan 2009 Groups in place – Nov 2008 SPOC provided – Aug 2008 Guidance produced - Jan 2009	Decrease in waiting time for cases to be heard Decrease in no. of cases adjourned for further information
3. Support provided for victims and witnesses through court process	3.1 Provide IDVA Service to support victims and witnesses	DA Manager Service Provider	See Safety and Support 3.1	Reduction in victim and witness statements being retracted
4. Voluntary Perpetrator Programmes	4.1 Consultant to undertake needs assessment	Consultant DA Manager	See Safety and Support 4.1	
5. Perpetrator Programmes for DA offenders	5.1 Develop Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) across the county	Probation DA Manager	Feasibility report produced - Jan 2009 Recommendations for action – Feb 2009	Reduction in waiting time for assessment and starting programme Reduction in repeat offending

Prevention and Early Intervention

Key Objective: To reduce the incidents of domestic abuse and ensure that it is confronted and challenged so that victims, perpetrators and families can access services earlier.

Prevention and Early Intervention				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
1. Communications strategy developed	1.1 Develop programme of timely and targeted press releases	WCC Corporate Community Safety Manager Police and WCC Communications	Communications strategy drafted - Sept 2008 Communications Strategy implemented – Nov 2008	Increased awareness of DA and service provision Increased reporting of DA
	1.2 Implement Warwickshire Against Domestic Abuse (WADA) Talk2someone campaign	All partners (initial co-ordination from Police and WCC)	Campaign launched – Jun 2008 Campaign reviewed – Sept 2008 Stage 2 of campaign - Jan 2009	Increased awareness of DA and service provision Increased reporting of DA
	1.3 Develop and maintain specialist website	Editors' Group	Website live – Jun 2008 Website reviewed – Oct 2008	Increased awareness of DA and service provision Increased reporting of DA
	1.4 Deliver single and multi-agency training programmes	DA Manager Training Provider	Needs assessment completed – Aug 2008 Programme devised – Sept 2008 Providers contracted – Oct 2008 Programme begins – Nov 2008	Increased awareness of DA amongst staff in all agencies

Prevention and Early Intervention				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
2. Accommodation requirements for victims and families	2.1 Review accommodation needs	Supporting People District/ Borough Housing Depts RSLs	Needs assessment undertaken – Aug 2008 Report published – Dec 2008	
	2.2 Re-launch Sanctuary Scheme	DA Manager Police Housing Dept's	Proposal for re-launching scheme completed – Sept 2008 Sanctuary re-launched – Dec 2008	Reduction in homelessness among victims
	2.3 Increase number of refuge spaces available (including specialist BMER refuge)	Supporting People Housing Depts WDVSS Ashram (FCH) CDRPs DA Manager	Refuge premises secured in Nuneaton and Bedworth – date to be determined Premises converted into units – date to be determined	Increase in number of refuge spaces available including Disability Discrimination Act compliant refuge spaces
3. Accommodation requirements for offenders	3.1 Identify accommodation needs and provide service	Supporting People Housing Depts DA Manager	Referral routes to specialist offender accommodation support worker identified – Nov 2008 Multi-agency protocol established – Mar 2009	Reduced risk to victims Reduction in homelessness

Prevention and Early Intervention				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
4. Drugs and Alcohol Misuse in relation to DA	4.1 Expansion of DA and Alcohol project county wide	DA Manager DAAT Community Alcohol Service	Current provision evaluated – Sept 2008 Funding researched - Sept 2008 County wide service with clear referral routes if funding found – Mar 2009	Reduction in alcohol/ substance misuse for perpetrators and victims Reduction in repeat DA incidents
5. Health needs for victims and children identified and service provision improved	5.1 Collect data of DA injuries treated through A&E	DA Manager CDRPs Warwickshire Observatory	CDRPs invest in data collection software – Jun 2008 Pilot at St Cross Hospital, Rugby begins collecting data – Jun 2008 Data reported quarterly to Warwickshire Observatory – Sept 2008 onwards	
	5.2 Screening by midwives for DA risks to ensure pregnant victims of DA have access to information and can be referred to specialist services	DA Manager PCT	Awareness raising seminar delivered – Oct 2008 Feasibility study into screening all women accessing midwifery services for DA risks – Jan 2009	Increased reporting of DA

Children and Young People

Key Objective: To ensure that children and young people who have witnessed domestic abuse are able to access appropriate services and that children and young people are given the skills to build relationships based on respect and equality.

Children and Young People				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
1. Identification of children and young people affected by DA	1.1 Referral to CYPF of children resident at addresses of reported DA incidents	Police CYPF	Referral protocol reviewed – Nov 2008 Recommendations implemented – Jan 2009	Reduction in risk of harm to children and young people
	1.2 Flag DA through Common Assessment Framework (CAF)	CYPF Observatory	Introduction of CAF – Jul 2008 Data relating to CAFs with DA flag collected quarterly – Oct 2008	Reduction in risk of harm to children and young people
	1.3 Provide DA and Child Protection Multi-agency training programme	CYPF Safeguarding Children Board	Needs analysis – Dec 2008 Recommendations implemented – Feb 2009	Increased awareness of DA amongst staff in all agencies
2. Children and young people affected by DA able to develop their full potential	2.1 Assess needs of children and young people through CAF/ Child Protection process	CYPF CAF Lead Professionals	Support agencies identified – Jun 2008 Referral pathways established – Nov 2008	Reduced risk of harm to children and young people Increased levels of attainment

Children and Young People				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
	2.2 Review provision of specialist DA Social Workers for children and young people affected by domestic abuse who are most 'at risk'	CYPF DA Manager	Review of Specialist DA Social Worker service – Jan 2009 Report and recommendations completed – Mar 2009	Service developed in line with updates in best practice and changing needs of families in need or at risk
	2.3 Expand therapeutic 'Feeling Safe' group work programme for children and non-abusing parents who have been affected by DA	CYPF Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust DA Manager	Proposal for delivery in localities completed – Nov 2008 Funding sourced – Jan 2009 Training undertaken – Mar 2009 (Local programmes begin – May 2010)	Improved accessibility for therapeutic work Reduced risk of harm to children and young people
3. Information shared about children and young people vulnerable due to DA in order for co-ordinated response from agencies	3.1 Agree Information Sharing Protocol	CYPF	Protocol agreed and implemented and information shared across agencies – Aug 2008	Reduced risk of harm to children and young people

Children and Young People				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
4. All children and young people and their parents/carers informed about healthy relationships and impact of DA	4.1 Provide programmes for Children's Centres, and schools on positive relationships including the impact of DA and its prevention	CYPF DA Manager	Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board commit to continue Taking Care programme – May 2008 Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme of work delivered in schools – Apr 2008 Feasibility report into delivering SEAL Family elements through Children's Centres – Jan 2009	Reduced risk of harm to children and young people
5. Services for children and young people affected by DA systematically planned, sustainable and co-ordinated	5.1 Develop strategy for children affected by DA	CYPF WCC Corporate Community Safety Manager	Outcomes for Children group completes work programme for children affected by DA – May 2008 Strategy for Children affected by DA completed - Jul 2008	Reduced risk of harm to children and young people