

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2008 – 2011

Action Plan 2009 - 2010

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	Commission specialist 24 hr free phone helpline – April 2010	Increase in reporting of DA incidents Decrease in repeat victimisation
	1.2 Maintain and develop Warwickshire Against Domestic Abuse (WADA) website	DA Manager Warwickshire Police Web Editors group	Public website consultation - September 2009 Website updated – November 2009 Website translated into top 5 Warwickshire languages – January 2010 Mobile website developed – November 2009 Mobile website tested December 2009 Mobile website goes live – January 2010	Increase in reporting of DA incidents Decrease in repeat victimisation Increased awareness of DA and service provision
	1.3 Develop website for Forced Marriage and Honour based violence.	DA Manager Warwickshire Police	Research undertaken –January 2010 Test site developed - February 2009 Website live - March 2010	Increase in contact for forced marriage and honour based violence

Safety and Support				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
2. Risk and needs assessment for victims making contact, including Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)	2.1 Introduce the Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) common risk assessment for use by all agencies in DA cases	Police Partner agencies DA Manager	Police Officers trained – Nov 2009 Multi-agency implementation plan developed – February 2010 DASH tool endorsed by Warwickshire Safer Communities Partnership (WSCP) for use in all agencies– March 2010 Multi-agency training delivered to frontline professionals – March 2010 Partner agencies using DASH risk assessment model – April 2010	Decrease in level of risk to victims and families Increased appropriate referrals to MARAC
	2.2 Improve MARAC process	Police DA Manager	Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) cases to be Managed through MARAC – August 2009 MARAC Implementation programme (MIP) stage 1 delivered – Sept 2009 MIP stage 1 report submitted – October 2009 MIP stage 2 delivered – March 2010 Full time MARAC CO-ordinator employed by the police – February 2010	Reduced levels of risk to victims Reduced repeat victimisation

Safety and Support				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
3. Move towards a mix of providers and services to meet the required strategic and service user outcomes	3.1 Undertake Strategic Review of domestic abuse services countywide	DA Manager Supporting People District and Borough Councils	Consultant appointed – Sept 2009 Draft report submitted – Jan 2010 Final report submitted – March 2010 Report with recommendations submitted to WSCP – March 2010	Agreed implementation of recommendations.
	3.2 Identification of the needs of diverse victims and victims with additional needs e.g. older people, Black and Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BaMER), male victims	DA Manager Supporting People District and Borough Councils	Needs assessment conducted as part of the strategic review – see 3.1 above	Needs identified
4. Victims provided with appropriate support	4.1 Provide county wide Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) service	DA Manager Refuge	Service operational countywide – June 2009 Service integrated into the criminal courts – August 2009 Referral pathways developed – October 2009 Links developed with civil courts – January 2010 Service monitored quarterly - ongoing	Risks reduced cases supported through IDVA service

Safety and Support				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
	4.2 Provide Floating Support Service countywide	Supporting People DA Manager Warwickshire Domestic Violence Support Services (WDVSS)	Short term extra floating support units purchased – November 2009 Funding secured for long term extra floating support units – March 2010	Decrease in waiting list for Floating Support Service
	4.3 Resettlement – Project Fresh start	Rugby Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) WDVSS	Project commences April 2009 One year pilot; to report back March 2010	Decrease in repeat victimisation
	4.4 Freedom Programme	WDVSS DA Manager	Facilitators trained April 2009 First programme commences – September 2009 2 programmes delivered by March 2010	Decrease in repeat victimisation

Safety and Support				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
	4.5 Develop multi-agency Forced Marriage and 'Honour' Based Violence Strategy and Action Plan	Police Partner agencies DA Manager Warwickshire Race Equality partnership (WREP)	Police Domestic Abuse Unit Manager attends advanced 'training for trainers' course – June 2009 Multi-agency working group developed – August 2009 Police Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence Working Group established – October 2009 Practitioner and Community Workshop – February 2010 Strategy and action plan developed – March 2010 Strategy and action plan agreed by WSCP – March 2010	Reduction in numbers of victims of DA who have experienced forced marriage or honour based violence
	4.6 Implement police Sexual Violence Strategy and Action Plan	Police DA Manager	Full details in Police Sexual Offences Action Plan Sexual Assault Referral Centre under development – March 2010	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
5. Accommodation requirements for victims and families	5.1 Increase provision of refuge spaces for women and children fleeing domestic abuse	Supporting People WDVSS Refuge	Refuge premises secured in Nuneaton and Bedworth/ North Warwickshire – December 2009 Premises converted into 5 units – date to be determined	Decrease in repeat victimisation Increase in no. of units available.
	5.2 Provide refuge for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women and children fleeing domestic abuse	Supporting People Ashram	Developed as part of the Strategic Review.	Decrease in repeat victimisation
	5.3 Review accommodation needs	Supporting People District/ Borough Housing Depts Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)	See 3.1 Strategic Review	Needs identified
	2.2 Re-develop Sanctuary Scheme	DA Manager Police Fire and Rescue	Scheme managed by Warwickshire Police – April 2009 Additional arson reduction units purchased – November 2009	Reduction in homelessness among victims

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	CATS database version 9 operational (single Domestic Abuse and Child Protection database)– December 2009	Baseline data established Police able to produce more robust data, including child protection.
	1.2 Police projects for victims of repeat incidents: Breaking the Cycle (Nuneaton and Bedworth) Domestic Abuse Re-assurance Team (Stratford)	Police DA Manager Nuneaton & Bedworth Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) South Warwickshire CDRP	Repeat victims identified for both projects– April 2009	Decrease in repeat victimisation for those families in pilot project
2. Improve evidence collection	2.1 Utilise evidence gathering, including new technology, to ensure appropriate action against perpetrators	Police	Speed of evidence collection improved (use of digital technology) implementation plan developed – March 2010 Headcams used by officers – May 2009	Increase in no. of cases passing the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) 'threshold test' for charging and prosecuting

Protection and Justice				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
	2.2 Introduce Visual Evidence for Victims (VEV) scheme county wide	Victim Support CDRPs	Scheme continued in south Warwickshire – April 2009 Scheme introduced in Nuneaton and Bedworth – April 2009 Scheme introduced in Rugby April 2010	Decrease in number of victim statements retracted Increase in no. of cases passing CPS 'threshold test' for charging and prosecuting
3. Improve Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts (SDAC)	3.1 Implement recommendations of National Steering Group in order to retain accreditation	SDAC Steering Group	IDVAs in place – April 2009 Service user satisfaction monitored – August 2009 Sittings revised – August 2009 Process Map completed – November 2009 Updated Magistrates training – December 2009 Protocol reviewed – March 2010 Local performance measures developed – March 2010	Decrease in waiting time for cases to be heard Decrease in no. of cases adjourned for further information
4. Support provided for victims and witnesses through court process	4.1 Provide IDVA Service to support victims and witnesses	DA Manager Refuge	See Safety and Support 4.1	Reduction in victim and witness statements being retracted

Protection and Justice				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
5. Voluntary Perpetrator Programmes	5.1 Counselling Service for Perpetrators delivered county wide	Domestic Abuse Counselling Service (DACS)	Lottery Funding secured – July 2009 Service expanded – August 2009	Decrease in repeat victimisation Increase in number of counselling sessions available
	5.2 Development of Perpetrator Programmes as exit strategy from individual counselling	DACS	Staff trained to deliver programmes – December 2009 Programme developed – March 2010	Decrease in repeat victimisation
6. Perpetrator Programmes for DA offenders	6.1 Develop Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) across the county	Probation DA Manager	Extra IDAP sessions delivered – January 2010	Decrease in repeat victimisation Reduced waiting time to access IDAP
	6.2 Perpetrator Co-ordinator post	Probation Warwickshire Police	Funding secured - June 2009 Co-ordinator's recruited – November 2009	Decrease in repeat victimisation

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/ Media strategy developed	1.1 Develop a proactive programme of timely and targeted press releases	Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Corporate Community Safety Manager Police and WCC Communications	Domestic Abuse communications strategy updated – January 2010	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)	Phase 3 launched – November 2009 Materials translated into top 5 Warwickshire languages – January 2010 Business plan in place – February 2010	Increased awareness of DA and service provision Increased reporting of DA

Prevention and Early Intervention				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
2. Multi and single agency training programme	2.1 Deliver multi-agency training programmes	DA Manager Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) Training Officer	Multi-agency training programme – ongoing 5 courses delivered by March 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic abuse and disability • Domestic abuse in same sex relationships • MARACs • Forced Marriage and Honour based violence • Using the DASH risk indicator checklist 	Increased awareness of DA amongst staff in all agencies Trained frontline staff know when to act to protect children and vulnerable adults.
	2.2 Deliver Single agency training programmes	Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator DA Manager District and Borough Councils	Adult Social care staff training developed – March 2010 Homelessness Law and Domestic Abuse training delivered – December 2009	Increased awareness of DA amongst staff in all agencies Trained frontline staff know when to act to protect children and vulnerable adults.

Prevention and Early Intervention				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
3. Drugs and Alcohol Misuse in relation to DA	3.1 Expansion of DA and Alcohol project county wide	DA Manager Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) Community Alcohol Service	Extra staff trained – August 2009 Service extended to Rugby – September 2009 Service extended to south Warwickshire December 2009	Reduction in alcohol/ substance misuse for perpetrators and victims Reduction in repeat DA incidents
4. Health needs for victims and children identified and service provision improved	4.1 Collect data of DA injuries treated through Accident & Emergency (A & E)	DA Manager CDRPs Warwickshire Observatory	Data collected at St Cross and Warwick hospitals – April 2009 System implemented at George Elliot Hospital – March 2010 Data reported quarterly to Warwickshire Observatory April 2009 onwards	Victims identified and provided with information and sources of support.
	4.2 Screening by midwives and health visitors for DA risks to ensure victims of DA have access to information and can be referred to specialist services	DA Manager Primary Care Trust (PCT)	Training delivered to midwives at St Cross Hospital – August 2009 Training delivered to midwives - March 2010 Domestic Abuse and the healthy child working group established – June 2009 Referral pathway for health care practitioners complete – March 2010	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
Identification of children and young people affected by DA	1.1 Route for reporting DA through Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process agreed	Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) DA Manager	Reporting route agreed – March 2010 Data relating to CAFs with DA flag collected quarterly – March 2010	Reduction in risk of harm to children and young people
	1.2 Develop identification and referrals pathway for use by Children and Family Practitioners	Children's Trust DA Manager	Pathway developed – December 2009 Pathway and guidance disseminated to practitioners – March 2010	Reduction in risk of harm to children and young people Referrals pathway agreed
	1.3 Provide DA and Child Protection Multi-agency training programme	CYPF WSCB	Training Plans revised – December 2009 3 x level 1 courses delivered by March 2010 3 x level 2 course delivered by March 2010	Increased awareness of DA amongst staff in all agencies
	1.4 Provision of awareness raising for all designated safeguarding children school staff	Education Safeguarding Manager DA Manager	Independent Schools seminar delivered – July 2009 State schools workshops delivered November 2009 – March 2010	Increased awareness of DA amongst staff in all agencies

Children and Young People				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
2. Specialist service provision for those children and young people most at risk from domestic abuse	2.1 Expansion of 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	Facilitators trained – April 2009 Groups delivered in localities – September 2009	Improved accessibility for therapeutic work Reduced risk of harm to children and young people Children better able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy and achieve • Stay safe • Be healthy
	2.2 Counselling service for children	WDVSS CYPF	Counselling and advocacy service operational - May 2009	Reduced risk of harm to children and young people Children better able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy and achieve • Stay safe • Be healthy

Children and Young People				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
3. All children and young people and their parents/carers informed about healthy relationships and impact of DA	3.1 Ensure provision of programmes for Children's Centres, and schools on positive relationships including the impact of DA and its prevention	CYPF DA Manager Corporate Community Safety 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 Cross Government Violence Against Women and Children Strategy agreed (including statutory requirement for healthy relationships work through PSHE) – March 2010	Reduced risk of harm to children and young people Children better able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy and achieve • Stay safe • Be healthy
4. Services for children and young people affected by DA systematically planned, sustainable and co-ordinated	4.1 Develop strategy for children affected by DA	CYPF WCC Corporate Community Safety Manager	Strategy for Children affected by DA reviewed - Jan 2010	Reduced risk of harm to children and young people
5. Review safeguarding policies around child contact and domestic abuse	5.1 Establishment of task and finish group to review safeguarding policies where there are concerns around child contact and domestic abuse	WSCB Development Manager DA Manager	Group Established – November 2009 Review completed – March 2010	Policy agreed and implemented

Children and Young People				
Aim	Action	Ownership	Milestones	Outcome
6. Develop Warwickshire County Council cross directorate Forced Marriage Policy	6.1 Establishment of working group to develop Warwickshire County Council policy on Forced Marriage	DA Manager WSCB Development Manager Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator	Paper presented to Strategic Directors Leadership Team (SDLT) – September 2009 Group established – November 2009 Policy developed – March 2010	Policy agreed and implemented