

**Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy**

**For**

**The Borough of Dudley**

**2015 – 2018**

**safe & sound**

Dudley's Community Safety Partnership

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Domestic violence and abuse is a national problem that destroys the lives of victims and their children and in some cases can lead to untimely deaths. In Dudley, we recognise that partnership working is crucial in tackling domestic violence and abuse. Partners take domestic violence and abuse seriously and work together to improve the services and support available to victims and children.

Since the last strategy was written the Government definition of domestic abuse has changed to capture coercive and controlling behaviour. It is now widely recognised that domestic abuse is not solely about violent behaviour. Such non-violent behaviours can have equally devastating consequences for the victim. In addition, the definition has now reduced the age of those affected by domestic abuse to 16 or over.

The strategy sets the direction for partnership working by setting out the strategic objectives for the borough which are prioritised in relation to key themes, namely, prevention and early intervention, protection and justice and support for victims. These three areas promote a broad based approach whereby partnership working is the key to tackling the problem.

A robust action plan reflecting NICE guidance recommendations will be implemented. The delivery of this action plan faces a range of challenges which many agencies are currently facing. The challenges are highlighted in the document.

Finally, we cannot forget that children can become the hidden victims of abuse and often witness the violence and abuse inflicted by the perpetrator. It is everyone's responsibility to make sure children across our borough remain safe and free from harm and this strategy takes this into account.

Tackling domestic violence and abuse will remain a key priority for safe & sound and partners are committed to supporting and delivering against the work of this strategy.

Sarah Norman  
Chief Executive  
Dudley MBC

## Executive summary

Dudley has a statutory obligation to work in partnership with other agencies to reduce crime and disorder. The scale and nature of the problem necessitates joint working between agencies to help those experiencing domestic abuse and ensure that perpetrators are held to account for their actions.

Domestic abuse is a high priority for the partnership, as well as Dudley Domestic Abuse Forum, which comprises of representatives from statutory, voluntary and private sectors working together to address domestic abuse across the borough.

Partnership working is a thread that runs throughout the strategy. In the strategy consultation period several partners requested a detailed section on service provision within the borough so that professionals and new colleagues receive information that enables them to work with others to provide the best possible service for victims and their children. Hence, the strategy has a dual purpose in terms of an information source for professionals and guidance in respect of the way forward through the action plan.

The strategy objectives are set out in relation to three key themes:

1. Prevention and early intervention which stresses the importance of preventive work in the educational and health settings, substance misuse provision and public awareness campaigns
2. Protection and justice relates to criminal justice and civil responses to police and Public Protection Unit priorities together with the Youth Offending Service provision and perpetrator programmes.
3. Support for victims which encompasses a range of agency responses and services for victims and their children.

This strategy builds on the good work already undertaken and sets out with the aid of a comprehensive action plan, underpinned by NICE Guidelines, the priorities for 2015 – 2018.

The strategy and action plan highlights and attempts to address some of the challenges that are being faced now and in the future, for example:

- Uncertainty around funding including austerity measures facing the Local Authority and other agencies.
- The gap in service provision for children who are witnessing or have witnessed domestic abuse and violence. Children are often regarded as the forgotten victims.

In addition, many teenagers are in abusive relationships and don't realise it. Hence, there is a reluctance to report and where victims do report there are few services to support the young victims.

- Ongoing awareness raising which encourages victims to report the abuse they are suffering.

- Training for professionals such as GPs so that they are able to identify and signpost victims to appropriate agencies. Magistrates have also been identified as a group that would benefit from increased training.
- There are ongoing challenges around those individuals who do not have recourse to public funds. This can be subject to a lack of awareness on behalf of professionals. A workshop is planned to address the issues involved.
- Voluntary perpetrator programmes are often a challenge due to cost implications and the benefits that result.

The strategy will be implemented and monitored through Dudley's Domestic Abuse Strategic Group (Incorporating MARAC Steering Group).

## **Introduction**

Domestic abuse is a pattern of behaviour characterised by the misuse of power and control. It is essentially a serious social and criminal problem resulting in devastating consequences for those affected. Living with domestic abuse raises significant health, psychological and child protection issues. External impacts include the workplace, finance, housing and social consequences. Everyone can be affected irrespective of social class, age, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, disability, race etc.

Children are deeply affected by domestic violence and abuse. Children who witness domestic abuse experience stress and fear which can have short, medium and long term effects such as poor health, withdrawal, disruptive behaviour and low self-esteem.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (2013) reveals that 30% of women and 16.3% of men will experience domestic abuse during their lifetimes.

The total cost to society is an estimated £23 billion a year in England and Wales (Walby 2004). The ripple effect generated by domestic abuse can impinge on just about everyone, with the suffering experienced by children often being underestimated.

## **Vision and purpose**

The overall vision and purpose of the strategy is to create an ethos in Dudley that rejects domestic abuse in any shape or form. This strategy will act as a framework to assist agencies to work together to reduce domestic abuse, providing support to the most vulnerable and those whose lives have been affected by the violence and abuse.

### **A number of guiding principles underpin the vision:**

- Domestic abuse will not be tolerated in any shape or form
- Domestic abuse is widespread and can affect anyone regardless of gender, age, ethnic background, sexuality or disability
- Everyone has the right to live their lives free from violence and abuse or the fear of violence and abuse
- Perpetrators are responsible for their actions
- The violence and abuse can have devastating consequences for victims, which can be lifelong and affect their physical and mental health

- Children who live in the household are victims whether they witness the abuse or not and this also constitutes abuse

The strategy projects a vision that will be accomplished by developing the good work already being undertaken in Dudley. By working together, in partnership agencies are able to respond effectively to domestic abuse.

## Aims

This strategy aims to:

- Raise awareness of domestic abuse to all agencies and organisations throughout the borough
- Improve services for victims so that they are better protected and supported, including managing perpetrators to reduce risk

Comply with government guidance including:

- 2004 Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act,
- HM Government strategy, Call to End Violence against Women and Girls plus delivery plan,
- The Victim's Strategy, Getting it right for victims and witnesses,
- NICE Guidance, Domestic Violence and abuse: how health services, social care and the organisations they work with can respond effectively

## Definition

In September 2012, it was announced that the Government definition of domestic violence and abuse would be widened from 31 March 2013 to include those aged 16-17 and wording changed to include coercive control. The decision follows a Government consultation which saw respondents call overwhelmingly for this change.

Extending the definition highlights the fact that young people in this age-group experience domestic violence and abuse, encouraging more of them to come forward and get the support they need. The revised definition states that domestic violence and abuse is:

*Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass but is not limited to:*

- *psychological*
- *physical*
- *sexual*
- *financial*
- *emotional*

**Controlling behaviour** is: *a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and*

*capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.*

**Coercive behaviour** is: *an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.*

*This definition includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group. (Home Office, March 2013).*

## **The national picture**

There is no actual crime of domestic abuse/violence. However, a bill is going through parliament at the moment to make domestic violence a crime. Legislation currently covers a range of offences associated with the abuse. Examples of offences include assault, threatening behaviour, harassment, sexual violence etc.

There are two distinct different types of law in the UK that apply when talking about domestic violence; criminal law and civil law. The main differences between the two laws are that civil law is aimed at protecting the individual, while criminal law is aimed at punishing the offender

Under civil law, victims have the right to go to court to take out an injunction which orders the abuser to stop harassing or hurting the victim or to stay away from the home. Under civil law an individual can seek a court order through the Family Court for custody of children.

There are two main types of injunction that can be applied for:

1. A non molestation order. The main aim of this court order is to prevent the abuser from displaying threatening behaviour or using abuse towards the victim. It is now a criminal offence to break a non molestation order
2. An occupation order. This can restrict the abuser from entering the surrounding area if the victim feels unsafe.

Both the civil and criminal courts cover a variety of legislation. Under civil law, key Acts include: The Children Act 1989, The Family Law Act 1996, The Adoption and Children Act 2002, The Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002) and The Equality Act.

Under criminal law, legislation includes the Sexual Offences Act 1956, Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 amended by the Police Reform Act 2002. Following this Act, the most important piece of legislation concerning domestic abuse began with the publication of a consultation document in June 2003 entitled, 'Safety and Justice'. Proposals in this document focused on prevention, support and protection for victims and increased convictions for perpetrators. The ensuing Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Bill was published in December 2003 with the full Act receiving Royal assent in November 2004.

## Domestic Violence Protection Orders

The Crime and Security Act 2010 introduced the use of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO).

Domestic violence protection orders (DVPOs) were implemented across England and Wales from 8 March 2014. This follows the successful conclusion of a one year pilot in the West Mercia, Wiltshire and Greater Manchester police force areas.

Domestic violence protection orders are a new power that fills a gap in providing protection to victims by enabling the police and magistrates to put in place protection in the immediate aftermath of a domestic violence incident.

With DVPOs, a perpetrator can be banned with immediate effect from returning to a residence and from having contact with the victim for up to 28 days, allowing the victim time to consider their options and get the support they need.

## Domestic violence disclosure scheme

The domestic violence disclosure scheme was implemented across England and Wales on 8 March 2015 This follows the successful conclusion of a one year pilot in the Greater Manchester, Nottinghamshire, West Mercia and Wiltshire police force areas.

### Right to ask

Under the scheme an individual can ask police to check whether a new or existing partner has a violent past. This is the 'right to ask'. If records show that an individual may be at risk of domestic violence from a partner, the police will consider disclosing the information. A disclosure can be made if it is legal, proportionate and necessary to do so.

### Right to know

This enables an agency to apply for a disclosure if the agency believes that an individual is at risk of domestic violence from their partner. Again, the police can release information if it is lawful, necessary and proportionate to do so.

In Dudley, decisions to disclose or not to disclose are taken after discussion at MARAC meetings.

## Stalking and harassment

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, s.111 created 2 new offences in

- Stalking - harassment which involves a course of conduct that amounts to **stalking** (s.2A(1) PHA 1997)
- Stalking - s.4A (1) PHA 1997 which can be **committed two ways** namely:
  - Stalking involving fear of violence (s.4A(1)(b)(i) PHA 1997) **OR**
  - Stalking involving serious alarm or distress (s.4A(1)(b)(ii) PHA 1997)

The new stalking offences highlighted:

- Stalking as a specific behaviour as opposed to harassment more generally. Thus affording more protection to victims of stalking

## National profile

### Top ten facts about domestic abuse in England and Wales

- Each year around 2.1m people suffer some form of domestic abuse - 1.4 million women (8.5% of the population) and 700,000 men (4.5% of the population)
- Each year more than 100,000 people in the UK are at high and imminent risk of being murdered or seriously injured as a result of domestic abuse
- Women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse: 95% of those going to MARAC or accessing an IDVA service are women
- In 2013 - 14 the police recorded 887,000 domestic abuse incidents in England and Wales
- Seven women a month are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales
- 140,000 children live in homes where there is high-risk domestic abuse
- 62% of children living with domestic abuse are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others
- On average victims experience 50 incidents of domestic abuse before getting effective help
- On average high-risk victims live with domestic abuse for 2.6 years before getting help
- Most victims – 85% - see on average 5 professionals in the year before they finally get effective support. (SafeLives [formerly CAADA] website)

### The role of the local authority

The local authority has a statutory responsibility to work in partnership with other agencies to reduce crime and disorder. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) were formed in response to the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. Section 17 of this act places a requirement on partnerships to do all they can to prevent and reduce crime and disorder. The local authority is the lead member within safe & sound, Dudley's community safety partnership.

### Strategic Overview

This strategy has been developed in conjunction with Dudley Domestic Abuse Forum and other agencies that contribute to the domestic abuse agenda. The domestic abuse agenda is progressed via a number of strategic groups namely:

- West Midlands Regional Domestic Violence and Abuse Group
- Dudley's Domestic Abuse Strategic Group (Incorporating MARAC Steering Group).
- Safe & Sound Strategic Board
- Police and Crime Board

- Dudley Safeguarding Children Board
- Strategic Hidden Harm Group
- Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board

The Local Government Association (LGA) sees councils playing a central role in tackling domestic abuse. Councils also have responsibility for essential services available to victims of domestic abuse. The LGA believes that addressing domestic abuse should be part and parcel of a council's core business and not an optional extra.

## **Police and Crime Commissioner**

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) have been in place for over two years many of which have included tackling domestic violence and abuse in their Crime and Policing plans.

### **What do PCCs do?**

- PCCs work with the police and other partners to cut crime, give the public a voice at the highest level, and hold forces to account and help restore trust. PCCs do this by:
  - being directly accountable to the scrutiny of the public
  - having the democratic mandate to respond to local people's concerns
  - setting local force's policing priorities and force budget
  - working with local partners to prevent crime
  - holding their Chief Constable to account for the performance of the force appointing, and where necessary dismissing, the Chief Constable

The Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands has emphasised the need for domestic abuse to be regarded as a priority for everyone, emphasising the need for sustainable levels of support from Local Authorities and wider partners.

Some research, commissioned by Heads of Community Safety and the office of the PCC has been conducted regarding the process and outcomes of Domestic Homicide Reviews in the West Midlands. A report and recommendations followed.

A new Victim Service is due to be launched by the PCC in April 2015. The service will provide support and information to all victims and will make sure specialist help is provided when needed. A Victim Services Strategy (2014 – 2016) underpins the service.

Funding linked to the Victim Service has been allocated to various locations in order to take the work forward. Dudley Council for Voluntary Service has been nominated as the organisation to conduct this work in Dudley. The organisation is arranging a number of workshops with the purpose of capacity building in the local community.

### **Domestic homicide reviews**

Domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). This provision came into force on 13 April 2011.

Home Office guidance states that:

**‘Domestic homicide review’ means a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by**

- (a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or**
- (b) a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.**

The guidance recommends that overall responsibility for establishing a review should rest with the local community safety partnership as they are ideally placed to initiate a DHR and review panel due to their multi-agency design. Policies and procedures in the event of a DHR being required in Dudley were drawn up in 2011.

### **The local picture**

Dudley Council takes a serious and committed approach to addressing domestic abuse. Since 1999 Dudley has been working in partnership to address domestic abuse concerns through Dudley’s Domestic Abuse Forum.

The forum brings together a range of agencies including representatives from health, police, local authority and voluntary organisations to discuss service provision, respond to government consultation processes and support individuals and families experiencing domestic abuse.

### **Emerging communities**

Looking at migration patterns using the 2011 Census shows that 6,518 Dudley residents (2.1% of the census population) migrated in to the United Kingdom since 2001, almost two and a half times as many as in the previous decade. 32.8% of migrants since 2001 originated in southern Asia, 16.8% came from the ‘new’ European Union (EU) countries that joined EU after April 2001, 10.5% from southern and eastern Africa, 8.1% from the Middle East and 6.5% from members of the EU before March 2001. (All about Dudley Borough: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2014)

All agencies need to be aware of the needs and support required for these emerging communities. The action plan will address some of these challenges.

### **Statistical data**

It is important to note that due to the hidden nature of domestic abuse, it is difficult to ascertain an accurate picture of the extent of the problem.

The number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by West Midlands Police for the Dudley borough was 3,982 during 2013/14. This is just 9 additional logs compared to 2012/13 when 3973 domestic incidents were recorded. The number of domestic abuse crimes

recorded for the same period was 986, an increase compared to 2012/13 of 89 crimes (equivalent to 9.9%)

It is of note that the definition of domestic abuse was amended from March 2013 to include coercive behaviour and the recognition of 16 and 17 year olds as victims of domestic abuse.

In 2013/14 84% of victims were female with 16% being male. Figures for 2012/13 were 83% female and 17% male. This reflects national figures demonstrating that domestic abuse is a largely gendered crime.

The number of children's cases considered at DART (Domestic Abuse Response Team) for the last five quarters are as follows:

Q2 13/14	516
Q3 13.14	866
Q4 13/14	794
Q1 14/15	568
Q2 14/15	993

The figures above reflect clearly the large volume of children and young people coming to the attention of the DART process.

The figures below from Dudley Council Homelessness Team demonstrate the number of cases where the reason for homelessness was a result of domestic abuse.

2011/12	34 cases
2012/13	30 cases
2013/14	39 cases

### **The strategy objectives are prioritised in relation to key themes:**

#### **1. Prevention and early intervention**

- Developing preventive educational work
- Developing links with the health service
- Raising public awareness

#### **2. Protection and justice**

- Ensuring an appropriate civil and criminal justice response
- Developing appropriate responses to perpetrators of domestic abuse

#### **3. Support for victims**

- Developing agency responses and services for victims

It is recognised that all agencies, organisations and individuals have a role to play in tackling domestic abuse. No one agency can do it single-handedly. The above three areas promote a broad based approach whereby partnership working is the key to tackling the problem.

## **PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION**

If attitudes towards domestic abuse are to change then education is needed from an early age. Anti-abuse and anti-violence messages need to be transmitted in pre-school establishments, continuing through primary school into secondary schools and colleges. Young people are potential victims and perpetrators.

Research (1998) has shown that some teenagers accept that a certain amount of abuse is acceptable in a relationship. These views must be challenged with the message that no amount of abuse or violence is tolerable.

It is important to remember that some children and young people are victims of their parents' abusive relationships and need help and support to overcome any emotional problems they might have.

Research commissioned by the NSPCC in 2009 revealed that one in four, 13 to 17 year old girls surveyed, who were in a relationship, had suffered physical violence. There appears to be a disturbing trend in relation to domestic abuse amongst young people with young girls being most affected by violence and abuse in the relationship.

### **Young People in Abusive Relationships Project:**

This project is derived from CAADA's Young People's Programme which was developed in a response to:

- the recent change to the definition of domestic abuse to include 16-17 year olds
- The scale and severity of the abuse: 75,000 children and young people's cases were identified at MARACs in 2012 while 67% of teenagers in adult Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) services are experiencing strangulation, rape, broken bones and stalking.
- The growing recognition of the overlap between different forms of violence and abuse in young people's relationships

In Dudley, an officer from the Community Safety Team, in collaboration with Children's Services, was nominated to co-ordinate the project as part of her existing role. The following activities have been initiated:

- A multi agency working group that meets on a bi-monthly basis to discuss and progress work required in relation to young people (13 – 17) in abusive relationships.
- A stakeholder's event has been held in relation to young people in abusive relationships. Taking the feedback and the gaps identified from this event into account, the YPAR working group agreed that the following would be the focus over the next 12 months:
  - Literature – to include information for parents, victims and practitioners (overview of project, where to access the RIC etc)
  - Engaging parents

- Single agency training (e.g. social works / police / schools etc)
- Monitoring data and outcomes
- Training specifically for individuals working with young people (teachers, school nurses, youth workers, social workers etc) is being delivered by safe and sound in conjunction with DSCB. This training covers the dynamics of young people and abusive relationships, how to identify a young person in an abusive relationship and safety planning, in addition to how to identify risk levels.
- Work is also being undertaken with partners to identify the best forum to hear cases of young people at high risk of harm in abusive relationships, to ensure that they receive quick and effective support.

## **Developing preventive educational work**

### **Early year's providers**

Links have been made with pre-school agencies such as Dudley borough children's centres and Barnardos.

They are key to any early education and are important early year's providers. A number of staff at these agencies have received domestic abuse awareness training. This training is crucial in enabling staff to recognise the signs of domestic abuse within a household and offer support and signposting to parents, victims, carers, children and young people. In addition, a representative from the children's centres sits on MARAC.

The agencies mentioned also have contact with minority communities who can be hard to reach in relation to domestic abuse. Ongoing work and training is therefore crucial if these communities are to receive ongoing support. Training is available and is delivered by Dudley Safeguarding Children Board trainers in conjunction with Dudley Domestic Abuse Forum and Dudley Early Years and Childcare Team.

### **Schools and colleges**

Concerns have been expressed both locally and nationally about teenagers who are in relationships where domestic abuse is happening (NSPCC, 2009, Home Office, 2011)

All schools and colleges have a pastoral responsibility towards their students. Young people have difficulty realising their potential if they are suffering at home and it is essential that teachers and tutors be trained to recognise this. All schools and colleges have a designated member of staff with the skills and knowledge to refer students with problems to the appropriate agencies.

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board are able to provide **free of charge**.

half day and two day advanced domestic abuse awareness training to staff in schools in Dudley. Uptake is good on the part of primary schools.

Through the Healthy Schools Public Health Programme, schools in the borough receive sex and relationships education programmes which highlights abusive relationships and young people. The support and programmes vary from school to school. For example:

- All schools can access free/heavily subsidised theatre in education (TIE) commissioned by Healthy Schools called 'Safe and Sound' which is delivered by Loudmouth Education and Training.
- Access to a range of resources including Home Office DVDs, posters and cards from the 'This is Abuse Campaign'. In addition, the leaflet 'Teenage Relationships and Abuse, Teachers Guide' has been shared as an information resource to encourage teaching staff to be aware of the signs of abuse.
- Lesson plans/power points for teachers who feel confident about delivering sessions on abusive relationships.

### **Youth service**

The youth service is an important area where young people can get information about domestic abuse in a more informal setting. They may disclose to a youth worker problems they are having at home. Youth workers have been trained in domestic abuse awareness, including how to identify potential victims of domestic abuse and signpost to appropriate agencies.

### **Developing links with the health service**

Domestic abuse concerns can be found in primary, secondary and tertiary care services. The services have a vital role to play in responding to victims of violence and abuse in relation to both physical injuries and mental abuse. This also includes children and young people.

In April 2004 Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) became 'responsible authorities' meaning they now have a wider role in partnership activity and local crime audits. PCT's have now been replaced by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's). CCGs manage their local budgets and buy health services for patients direct with other NHS colleagues and local authorities. The statutory responsibilities conferred on PCT's around safeguarding have been transferred to the CCG's.

The NHS is a good source of information via a range of areas. These include

- Emergency departments
- Mental health services
- Midwifery,
- sexual health clinics and
- GP practices.

In Dudley, work is currently in progress to identify the best way of collecting data from these areas.

### **Developing links with the health service**

Domestic abuse concerns can be found in primary, secondary and tertiary care services. The services have a vital role to play in responding to victims of violence and abuse in relation to both physical injuries and mental abuse. This also includes children and young people. The statutory responsibilities previously conferred on Primary Care Trusts around safeguarding have been transferred to the Clinical Commissioning Groups in 2013.

## **GP's**

GPs play a vital role in relation to domestic violence and abuse. Survivors of domestic violence are often isolated from friends, family and services; the GP surgery may be the one place they are able to be seen alone. GP's speak to women and families over a long period of time which puts them in a unique position to empower women to seek help. GP's may also be consulted about the consequences of being in an abusive relationship e.g physical injuries, mental health issues and substance and alcohol misuse. Domestic violence has been identified as a primary cause of miscarriage and depression, and the Department of Health (DH) has documented health impacts including broken bones, dislocations, recurrent sexually transmitted diseases, urinary tract infections, bruises and mental health issues. The RCGP has released guidance on how GPs, Practice Managers and GP consortia can ensure that GP surgeries are set up to respond safely and effectively to domestic violence. All GP's in Dudley have received domestic abuse guidance from the RCGP and CAADA and access to free Domestic abuse e learning from the DH via a monthly safeguarding news briefing. Domestic abuse scenario based training is also planned with the GP practice safeguarding leads.

## **Emergency Departments**

Up to 12% of emergency department attendances are due to domestic violence and 30% of domestic abuse commences during pregnancy. Emergency department staff are often in a good position to identify cases. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines state that all healthcare professionals are trained in detecting domestic abuse and there are clear protocols for patient referral and sharing sensitive information. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines state that all healthcare professionals are trained in detecting domestic abuse and there are clear protocols for patient referral and sharing sensitive information.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE 50) guidelines state that all healthcare professionals are trained in detecting domestic abuse and there are clear protocols for patient referral and sharing sensitive information. Within Dudley domestic abuse training is delivered to the emergency department staff by the safeguarding leads.

## **Maternity services**

It is well documented that domestic abuse can begin or intensify during pregnancy. Approximately 30% of cases begin during pregnancy (Lewis, Gwynneth, and Drife, James 2005). Domestic abuse has been identified as a significant factor resulting in miscarriage or stillbirth and maternal deaths during and following childbirth (Mezey 1997). Many women are both mentally and physically abused at this time. Accident and emergency staff are able to tackle this problem effectively by supporting the women and passing on the information to the appropriate service. Domestic abuse information cards and domestic abuse leaflets are available to staff.

The Substance Misuse Implementation Group (SMIG) which is part of the Office of Public Health commissions Dudley Group Foundation Trust (DGFT) to provide one full-time Named midwife for safeguarding children together with an additional full-time specialist midwife to support service delivery to pregnant women.

The core aim of the Named and specialist midwives roles are to contribute and enhance the delivery of services for vulnerable pregnant women including those at risk of domestic abuse and protection of the unborn and new-born. The Named and specialist midwives provide support for staff and pregnant women during the antenatal, intrapartum and postpartum periods and provides a link between maternity services and all other relevant agencies. These include:

- Domestic abuse services
- Substance misuse services
- Children's Social Care
- Housing
- Police
- Probation

Clinical practice guidelines for midwives recommend the practice of routine enquiry about domestic abuse during the antenatal and postnatal periods. Training surrounding this procedure is now in place for midwives at Dudley Group of Hospitals. In addition, a pan trust domestic abuse policy is in place to give guidance to all health staff regarding domestic abuse issues and procedures. The CCG have developed a Domestic Abuse Policy pertaining to staff members which has been incorporated into the violence and aggression policy. It has been designed to assist managers when members of staff disclose that they are victims of abuse an intimate relationship.

### **Substance misuse services**

Evidence suggests that women experiencing domestic abuse are up to fifteen times more likely to misuse alcohol and nine times more likely to misuse other drugs than women generally (Women's Aid).

The Substance Misuse Implementation Group also commissions two organisations, one to provide an adult integrated substance misuse service and one to a young person's substance misuse service.

The core aims of the services are to provide appropriate and relevant services within an individualised care plan that will enable the client to address their drug/alcohol problem. In order to establish the level of intervention required all clients accessing services are subject to a comprehensive assessment that identifies any factors that could be a barrier to addressing their drug/alcohol problem. These factors can include accommodation, mental health and in some cases domestic abuse.

The ability to address all relevant factors requires services to operate on a partnership basis with other organisations and forums. Drug and alcohol services are engaged with the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process and the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Process (MARAC). There is also partnership engagement with mental health services, safeguarding within Children's Social Care and the police.

### **Raising public awareness**

#### **Public awareness campaigns**

In recent years the Domestic Abuse Forum in conjunction with Dudley Council's communications and public affairs has tackled a number of sensitive subject areas through

its campaign work. This includes highlighting, to professionals and borough residents, domestic abuse within communities where it often goes unnoticed and to young people in the borough through a teenage dating abuse campaign. Both of these campaigns have been recognised at a national level and sets out the commitment the forum makes to awareness raising.

High profile campaigns run to coincide with times when domestic abuse incidents escalate. Such times include both national and international sporting events and the Christmas period. A recent Christmas campaign highlighted the effects of domestic abuse on children. Other issues that have been highlighted through campaigns are the consequences of alcohol use in relation to domestic abuse.

### **Fire service**

Members of the fire service visit properties on a daily basis and can encounter or be suspicious of domestic abuse occurring in the property. Dudley fire service chief officers have received a presentation on domestic abuse awareness. The fire service now employ vulnerable persons officers who work with partner agencies to target individuals who are at risk of fire thereby reducing the impact of potentially damaging lifestyles and behaviours including those who might be victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse.

## **PROTECTION AND JUSTICE**

**Please refer to pages 6 and 7 for further information related to this section**

### **West Midlands Police**

The priorities of the police service in responding to domestic abuse are to:

- Protect the lives of both adults and children who are at risk as a result of domestic violence
- Investigate all reports of domestic abuse
- Facilitate effective action against offenders so that they can be held accountable through the criminal justice system
- Adopt a proactive multi-agency approach in preventing and reducing domestic abuse

The Domestic Abuse Team is based at Brierley Hill Police Station and currently has:

- 1 Protection Team sergeant
- 2 Protection Team officers
- 1 Protection Team police staff officer
- 2 DA Offender Managers

The remit of the team is to:

- Investigate all DA related crime regardless of crime type or risk grading (with the following exceptions):

- The victim is 16/17 years old and has been the victim of a domestic related sexual offence (the presumption is that Child Abuse (CA) will lead the investigation)
- The victim is a vulnerable adult as per the 'no secrets' definition (the presumption is that the Vulnerable Adult Team (VAT) will lead the investigation)
- DA Safeguarding officers within the Domestic Abuse Protection Team will offer support and advice to medium and high risk victims of domestic abuse
- In some circumstances, investigation officers will assist with safeguarding tasks
- DA Offender Managers within the Domestic Abuse Protection Team will robustly manage a cohort of **high risk repeat DA offenders**
- LPU's will continue to provide initial response and conduct the primary investigation

### **Specialist domestic abuse courts**

The criminal justice system and the civil and family courts play a crucial role in protecting victims and bringing perpetrators to justice.

In February 2005 two dedicated domestic abuse courts, one in the north of the borough and one in the south were set up. This was later reduced to one court based at Dudley Magistrates Court. Evaluations of these types of courts found that the courts are effective in bringing more offenders to justice and increasing victim satisfaction together with faster times for hearings. A protocol for the courts was developed in conjunction with the CPS, police, magistrates' courts, victim and witness service and probation service.

Sections 24 to 31 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 have been in force since March 2014 which gives the court power to make Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs). These orders protect the victim while giving them valuable breathing space.

Support for victims and witnesses at court is provided by the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and/or the Witness Service. The service is free and confidential.

Cardiff's women's safety unit found that with efficient management, good support, advocacy for victims and thorough training for all concerned, including magistrates and prosecutors, repeat victimisation was reduced considerably.

### **Youth Offending Service**

Staff in the Youth Offending Service supervise young people on court orders and as part of this process would seek to address issues of domestic abuse both with alleged perpetrators and also with the victims of abuse. The YOS Parenting Worker will often assist in this process.

In addition to engagement with young people on court orders, the YOS provides 'pre-court' interventions in relation to Community Resolutions, and Conditional Youth Cautions. As part of these interventions, staff will seek to address identified issues of domestic violence, again with both victims and alleged perpetrators.

Referrals are also received from DART and allocated to a worker in the team. The worker concerned will attempt to address the concerns raised and to challenge inappropriate behaviour through one-to-one discussion and reflection, and by using the skills of other team members, such as the Parenting Worker and the Clinical Nurse Specialist. All the facilities of the YOS are available to be called upon in relation any domestic abuse referral received.

### **Perpetrator programmes**

The probation service is the key agency that delivers perpetrator programmes to convicted male offenders. Programmes include:

#### **Building Better Relationships Programme (BBR)**

BBR is an accredited group work Programme with 24 group and 6 individual sessions run once or twice per week. Men on the Programme will be sentenced on a Community Order or have it as a post release licence condition or be referred by CAFCASS.

The Programme is for men who have been abusive within a heterosexual relationship and have at least one incident of violent behaviour they can discuss. It is intended to be part of a multi agency approach to managing risk that also involves the Offender Manager, the Women's Safety Worker and other agencies ( through the MARAC system as appropriate).

The Programme helps participants learn more about:

- the type of behaviour that damages relationships,
- getting a better understanding of themselves,
- how their personal beliefs play a part in their violence,
- finding and building on their strengths and skills to improve their relationships and overcome their difficulties in a non abusive manner.

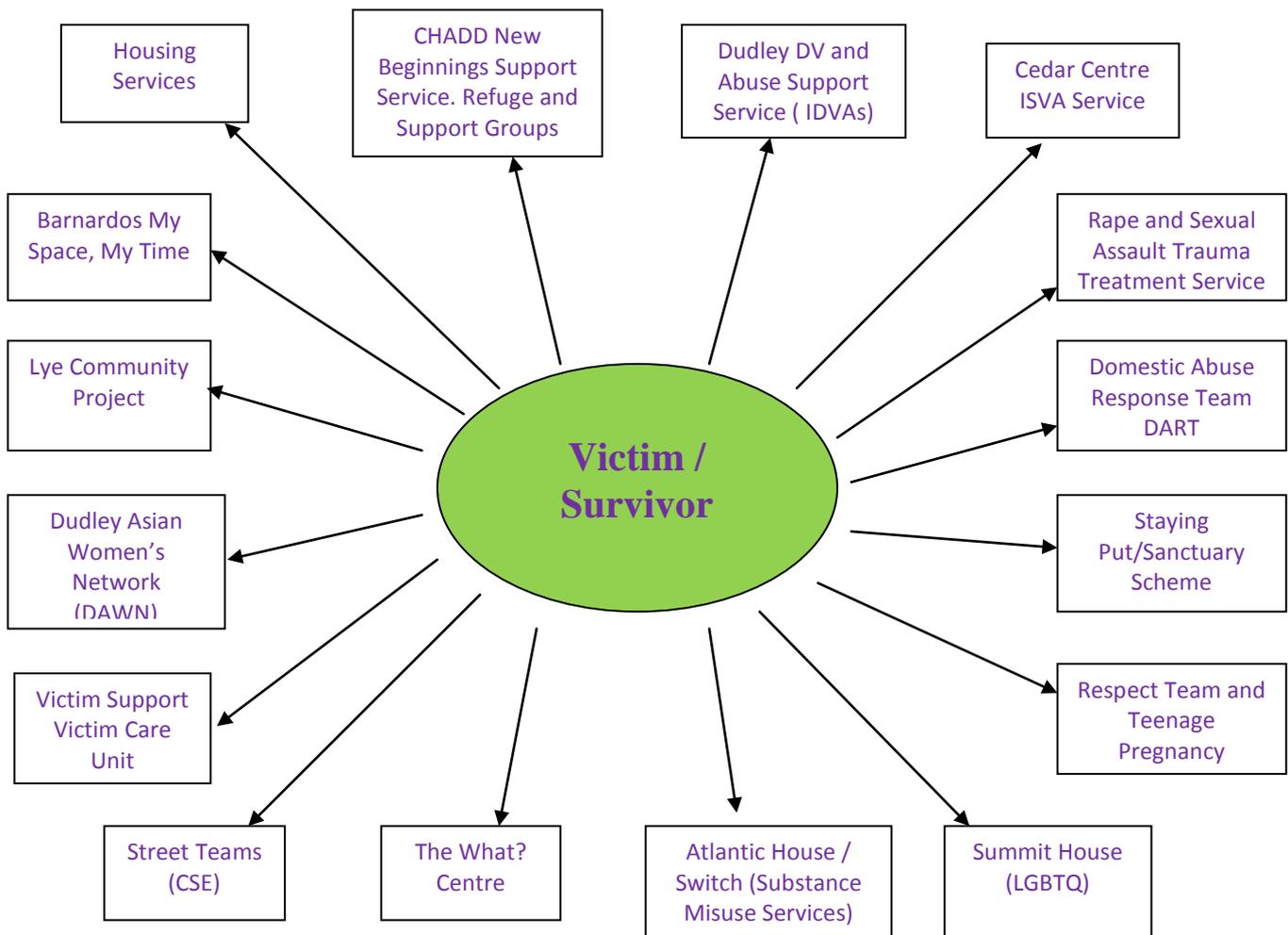
### **Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) arrangements**

Dudley probation offender managers are represented and contribute to MARACs, as well as engaging in multi agency liaison with police and social care outside of MARAC arrangements.

At the present time there is no voluntary perpetrator's programme running in Dudley. This is an area that is currently being looked at to determine possible programmes for this area of work. Some perpetrators from Dudley have been accepted on Walsall Domestic Violence Forum's S.A.F.E. programme.

Respect is the UK membership association for domestic abuse perpetrator programmes and associated support services. Their guidelines for these programmes are widely accepted as a model of good practice.

## SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS - AGENCY RESPONSES AND SERVICES FOR VICTIMS



**Further details on the services below can be found in the DA Directory of Services at the end of the Strategy**

### Housing services

Housing services aims to provide a high quality of advice, assistance and facilities to respond to people who have to flee their homes due to domestic abuse.

The service is very often the first point of call for those leaving an abusive relationship. When applicants and tenants report an incident, our aim is to prevent any further violence, threat of violence or other abuse by ensuring that the person experiencing the abuse is central to what happens and is provided with all the support they need. We also aim to ensure that tenancy conditions are vigorously enforced against offenders as appropriate.

At this early stage survivors are often distressed and sensitive about their situation. It is essential therefore that frontline staff are trained to recognise and assist domestic abuse survivors. Effective advice that is empathetic and also gives a range of housing options is crucial. Guidelines distributed through the forum contain good practice information.

There are a number of procedures and policies in place surrounding domestic abuse:

- Procedures have been reviewed and a victim centred service to known or suspected victims of domestic abuse has been developed
- All front-line staff have completed training on the guide to action and awareness of domestic abuse
- Domestic abuse lead officer identified to represent the directorate in its role as social landlord. This lead officer is a representative on MARAC
- There is a 24/7, 365 days housing advice service including the option to refer to refuge or other suitable temporary accommodation. Good partnership arrangements are in place for temporary/permanent re-housing, including an identified Case Manager from the Homelessness Prevention and Response Team who is also a link worker for the refuges
- There is an option for victims of domestic abuse to remain in their home by way of increased security and support through the sanctuary scheme
- Provision of support in temporary accommodation and ongoing floating support as required

It is essential that survivors and their children have a safe place to stay. A mix of housing provision is important so that victims have an informed choice. The refuges and satellite houses within the borough provide much needed support in a crisis situation with outreach//resettlement available after leaving the refuge or as an alternative to refuge if this is a safe option.

These are part of the 'New Beginnings' domestic abuse service managed by Churches Housing Association of Dudley and District Limited (CHADD). The housing related support services provided within the accommodation is funded by Dudley MBC.

## **New Beginnings support services provided by CHADD**

### **Refuge – Outreach – Support groups**

#### **Refuge accommodation**

A range of housing options is essential both to encourage victims to leave an abusive situation and to prevent them being forced to return to an abusive relationship because of lack of suitable housing. In 2012 a new refuge facility was opened in the borough through a partnership of housing associations (W M Housing Group and CHADD).

This building forms the hub of a domestic abuse housing service known as the New Beginnings Service which is managed by CHADD. The service can accommodate 25 adults (plus their children) to include satellite, self-contained properties able to accommodate larger families, male survivors of abuse and older male children. The hub refuge provides 14 self contained family units and has an accessible unit for residents with mobility problems. There are also facilities on site for children's play sessions, therapeutic groupwork and 1: 1 interventions.

#### **Outreach**

New Beginnings also includes a specialist outreach support service with 1:1 key worker support, drop-in sessions, awareness raising and empowerment groups operating on a

borough wide basis to be accessible to all victims of domestic abuse. This support service comprises:

<b>Support groups</b>	A range of themed support groups are programmes throughout the year designed to respond to different needs within the area of domestic abuse, including general awareness raising, empowerment to break the cycle of domestic abuse and make positive choices and changes, positive parenting for mothers affected by domestic abuse.
<b>Drop in hub</b>	A weekly drop in hub where women can seek immediate support from specialist workers and also peer support from other women in similar circumstance
<b>Key worker outreach Support</b>	1:1 key worker support is provided for a period of up to 2 years delivered at a convenient safe location or if necessary in the clients own home. This is tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of the individual but will be aimed at supporting women toward their personal safety and empowering independence.
<b>Practical help</b>	Access to a rent deposit/rent guarantee scheme and other self help.
<b>Emotional support</b>	mutual support and opportunities for empowerment, volunteering and other activities that will build self-esteem.

### **Sanctuary scheme**

In recent years the housing option known as the sanctuary scheme has grown in reputation. Additional security measures are installed in the property together with a support package tailored to the needs and goals of the individual. Added security measures enable victims and their families to remain safely in their own home whilst living independently in the community.

The scheme operates on three levels. Level one involves a number of basic security options, door viewer, improved lighting, changing window and door locks and the like. Level two involves all of the above plus additional security measures such as grilles for the window, new doors and Birmingham and London bars. Level three is all of the above plus the creation of a 'sanctuary room' in the house.

Not all victims will be suitable recipients for this option but it does provide an alternative to having to seek help through homelessness channels. In addition, the children do not have to be uprooted from school and friends and family ties can be maintained.

### **Private Registered Providers of Social Housing**

Private Registered Providers of Social Housing (PRPs) are independent housing organisations, registered with the Homes and Communities Agency. Most are housing associations, but there are also trusts, co-operatives and companies. This area of housing provision has expanded in recent years and some of their tenants have domestic abuse problems. The PRPs with housing stock in the Dudley Borough can help with rehousing as

many have nomination agreements with the Council and work closely with the Council's Homeless Prevention and Housing Options Teams..

### **Helpline 0808 2000 247**

The Freephone 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline, run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge, is a national service for women experiencing domestic abuse, their family, friends, colleagues and others calling on their behalf.

The Helpline can give support, help and information over the telephone, wherever the caller might be in the country. The Helpline is staffed 24 hours a day by fully trained female helpline support workers and volunteers. All calls are completely confidential. Translation facilities for callers whose first language is not English and a service for callers who are deaf or hard of hearing are available.

### **Dudley Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Service**

#### **The Cedar Centre**

Dudley has an independent domestic violence advocacy service that operates out of the Cedar Centre, St James House, Trinity Road, Dudley. The Cedar Centre and Dudley Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Service are projects of Sandwell Women's Aid.

The Cedar Centre brings together a range of abuse support services operating in the borough of Dudley to offer an integrated approach to supporting victims. The Cedar Centre is based on values of protection and healing, offering a safe space to enable victims to rebuild their lives. These include:

- Dudley Domestic Abuse Support Service ( Age 16+)
- Rape and Sexual Violence and Abuse Support Service ( age 13+) (see page 29)
- Therapeutic Services

#### **Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)**

The main purpose of independent domestic violence advisors (IDVA) service is to provide a Domestic Abuse service that offers support, advocacy, safety planning, and risk management to victims/survivors of domestic abuse assessed as being at medium to high-risk of harm.

The Dudley Domestic Abuse Support Service objectives are to provide:

- A confidential domestic abuse service that meets the needs of victims/ survivors of domestic abuse.
- A robust referral pathway into and out of the service.
- Appropriately skilled staff that have the knowledge and skills to work with the clientele. (CAADA standard)
- Specialist knowledge and expertise to provide advice, training and support to health professionals, relevant third sector organisations and police.
- 

#### **How does an IDVA work?**

They are pro-active in implementing the plans, which address immediate safety, including practical steps to protect themselves and their children, as well as longer-term solutions. These plans will include actions from the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) as well as sanctions and remedies available through the criminal and civil courts,

housing options and services available through other organisations. IDVAs support and work over the short- to medium-term to put them on the path to long-term safety.

An IDVA will develop safety and support plans with victims/ survivors which include:

- Listening and being there for victims
- Advice and support planning tailored to your needs Risk Assessments (to include identification of vulnerable adults & children at risk)
- Safety Plans covering full range of safety options
- Undertake timely referrals to appropriate agencies where children are involved.
- Represent victims at MARAC ensuring the victims voice is represented and feedback partner actions
- Support and advice through the Criminal Justice system including Information about Non Molestation Orders, injunctions and other civil remedies
- Plans to meet victims/survivors specific individual needs
- Documented victim/ survivor's input, and agree person-centred goals
- Signposting and assisting access to other agencies who can help e.g. Refuge, housing, immigration, counselling and legal services
- Information about understanding domestic violence
- Group work and activities to build confidence, health and wellbeing

#### **Clients not supported by the Dudley Domestic Abuse Support Service**

- They may be a standard risk – this service is only able to fund medium – high risk victims please refer all standard risk to Victim Support
- They may have complex needs and need additional services, if this is the case we will support a referral to appropriate services
- They may not be a Dudley Resident

Victims of domestic abuse may be referred to an IDVA by frontline agency professionals (such as police, health or refuge workers), or self-referrals to the IDVA service can be made by calling 01384 455 411 or emailing [dudley.IDVA@sandwellwomensaid.co.uk](mailto:dudley.IDVA@sandwellwomensaid.co.uk)

#### **Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust**

Violence and abuse can lead to increased risk of poor mental health and between 30% to 60% of female psychiatric inpatients also report experiencing domestic violence in their lifetime (Howard et al. 2010).

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust are currently working towards prevention, protection and accountability. The Trust works collaboratively with partner agencies taking a systematic approach to dealing with domestic abuse. This includes being a main core member of the MARAC and contributing to the DART process.

The Trust will ensure that awareness raising training on domestic abuse is embedded throughout Dudley and Walsall mental health trust and that all staff are reporting appropriately, using the CAADA risk assessment. The 'Think Family' approach to domestic abuse will be utilised across Dudley borough to ensure early identification and intervention for both children and their adult carers, including where needs cross over. Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust have a domestic abuse policy which will provide guidance for all staff working within the mental health trust.

## **MARAC**

In February 2006 MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference) was introduced in Dudley. MARACs are meetings where information about high risk domestic abuse victims and their children (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared between local agencies.

### **MARAC Process**

- MARAC is a multiagency meeting which risk assesses High Risk victims of domestic abuse. A variety of agencies are involved in the process, eg: Health, Police, Education, CSC, Probation, Housing, Voluntary Services and Substance Misuse Services.
- Meetings currently occur fortnightly and they aim to share information to increase the safety, health and wellbeing of very high or high risk victims and their children.
- The meeting determines whether a perpetrator is a significant risk to any particular individual or general community.
- It ensures a risk to the management plan is jointly constructed and implemented to ensure all victims and any children receive support and advice as required.
- The meeting also improves agency accountability and supports staff involved in high risk domestic abuse cases

In line with CAADA MARAC guidelines, a MARAC steering group together with a MARAC protocol is now in place in Dudley. This steering group is part and parcel of the multi-agency Dudley Domestic Abuse Strategic Group set up in 2013.

### **Children's services**

Children who live in households where domestic abuse is taking place are very often the forgotten victims. In 90% of incidents children are in the same room or somewhere else in the house (Women's Aid). The consequences can be devastating for children with many suffering psychological and developmental problems. They can also be a target for abuse, with the link between child physical abuse and domestic abuse high. Some 200,000 children (1.8%) in England live in households where there is a known risk of child abuse or domestic violence. (Laming, 2009)

From January 2005 the government extended the definition of harm for children to include witnessing or hearing the ill treatment of another.

'Every Child Matters' and the Laming report into the death of Victoria Climbié stress multi-agency working and co-operation in order to reduce the likelihood of a child being harmed.

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board is strongly committed to raising the profile of domestic abuse on their agenda. Through the board a programme of training is being delivered in conjunction with the Domestic Abuse Forum.

### **Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)**

The Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) was established in October 2009 to conduct multi-agency screening and risk assessments of domestic abuse incidents within

households where children reside using the Barnardos Screening Tool. The DART has been the key mechanism for utilising the tool.

The aim of the DART is to improve information sharing across agencies in order to improve the assessments of children and young people subject to domestic abuse and living in households where there is domestic abuse. This will improve early intervention for the child/victim.

### **DART Process**

- There are 4 key agencies represented at Dudley DART meetings, Police, Health, Education and Children's Social Care (CSC).
- Meetings are currently held 2 to 3 times each week and assess all the domestic abuse incidents that have been referred to the police in the Dudley area involving domestic abuse where a child or pregnant woman live in the household.
- Police grade the incidents as Standard, Medium or High based on the risk deemed by police to the adult victim.
- At the DART meeting all representatives discuss the domestic abuse incident and share any relevant information they have in relation to the child/family.
- Following this each incident is graded Level 1 to 4 based on the Barnardo's Screening Tool. This assesses the risk for the child/children/unborn.
- Recommendations/ actions are agreed for all agencies and these are shared with agencies via the representatives on DART.

### **My Space, My Time**

The Voluntary Sector is active in its work with Children and Parents who experience Domestic Abuse.

My Space, My Time is a Barnardo's Project which provides services to Children and Young People who have been affected by Domestic Abuse in the Dudley Borough.

Since 2006 My Space, My Time has provided a dedicated service for Children and Young People aged 5-13 years. The service provides up to an 18 week programme for Children and Young People who have witnessed or been exposed to physical, psychological and sexual violence. The programme offers both one to one and group work, depending on the needs of the child and young people.

The aim of the service is to deliver a structured programme by providing activities to children and young people who are in need of specialised support. Therapeutic intervention is provided through such mediums as art, drama, and play.

The service works holistically and involves appropriate Parents and Carers in Assessment, Reviews and Support.

### **My Space, My Time Key Objectives:**

- To assess the needs of children and young people providing one to one support
- To provide therapeutic work to help support and enable children to express their wishes and feelings
- To support children and young people to increase their confidence and self-esteem
- To reduce repeat victimisation

- To work with children and young people who are at risk of social exclusion
- To encourage and work in partnership with Children and Families subject to domestic abuse
- To improve information sharing across key agency's to enhance the quality of assessments for children and young people who have been effected by domestic abuse
- To promote and lead on CAF meetings for those families who need additional support from key agencies
- To provide court reports and support Children and Families who are involved in 'contact issues'
- To attend case conference, core groups, child in need meetings and Looked After reviews when necessary
- To work co-operatively with statutory child protection agencies.

### **Vulnerable adults**

In 2000 the government produced the 'no secrets' guidance on the protection of vulnerable adults. The guidance was issued under section 7 of the 1970 Social Services Act. Recommendations included:

- Identify a lead senior manager
- Produce policies and procedures
- Set up an adult protection committee
- Identify mechanisms to review the conduct of investigations in individual cases
- Provide public information
- Develop a training strategy

Dudley Adult Protection Committee now re-named Safeguarding Adults Board was established in early 2004 as a result of the 'No Secrets Guidance' .The safeguard and protect policy and procedures were published later that year.

The circumstances in which harm and exploitation of vulnerable adults occur and the membership of the at risk group are extremely diverse.

A vulnerable adult is usually defined as someone who:

- Is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental ill health or a disability
- Is or may be unable to take care of him/herself or protect him/herself against significant harm or exploitation.

It was recognised, as policies and procedures developed, that it was appropriate to consider Adult Safeguarding procedures when a victim was a vulnerable adult as defined by "No Secrets"

The West Midlands Safeguard Procedures, which were adopted 2013, recognised this in its inclusion of Domestic Abuse, MARAC and IDVAs in its definitions and terminology. Dudley Adult Community Housing Services (DACHS) started to collate figures for incidents of domestic abuse.

In 2013/2014- 77 incidents were recorded which was 5% of the total number of safeguard incidents.

In the first six months of 2014/2015 41 incidents were recorded which is 8% of the total number of incidents.

Domestic Abuse Awareness training is offered to all DACHS staff and referrals are dealt with following the receipt of alerts to the Local Authority Access team

The Care Act which will be statutory legislation in April 2015 recognises formally that domestic abuse should be considered under Adult Safeguarding procedures. These procedures are being re written to reflect this.

The Head of Community Safety attends the Adult Safeguarding Board and one of its sub group and the Head of Adult Safeguarding attends Dudley's Domestic Abuse Strategic Group (Incorporating MARAC Steering Group)

Individual social workers attend MARAC to discuss high- risk cases and the operational Safeguard Managers attend MARAC too.

The Lye Project also part of DACHS operates within the borough to provide support to the BME community and often support victims of domestic abuse as identified later in the report

### **Interpersonal violence**

Sexual violence is a prominent factor in domestic abuse. The 2004/2005 British crime survey self-completion questionnaire found that 51% of serious sexual assaults were committed by the victim's partner.

Within domestic abuse situations levels of reporting for rape and sexual assault are low. Partners need to recognise the importance of including sexual violence in audits and strategies. This type of violence should also be included in any awareness raising work concerning domestic abuse.

The cross government action plan on sexual violence and abuse published in 2007 saw increased action by the government to tackle the problem. The current government strategy, 'call to end violence against women and girls' extends and reinforces that commitment.

In 2009, safe & sound secured a small amount of funding from the Home Office private space budget to investigate the nature and extent of interpersonal violence in the borough of Dudley. The research was aimed to assist understanding of the nature of the problem and inform service provision.

Dudley's approach was to produce a mini strategic assessment based upon victim, offender, location using crime data and information supplied by partners via a questionnaire survey. In addition, a half-day consultation event was organised where all available data and information was discussed.

Key findings from the survey included:

- A lack of data in relation to sexual violence, the main source of data being police data which is dependent on the offence being reported. Traditionally, a significant amount of sexual assaults go unreported

- A lack of joined up working between agencies with many unaware of services available
- Insufficient services for victims of sexual violence

In Dudley when a person reports to the police that they have suffered a sexual assault they are taken to a sexual assault referral centre (SARC).

In 2009, the National Support Service Team (NST) undertook a review of the West Midlands SARC service. The NST made a number of recommendations for SARC provision to be developed in the West Midlands in order to meet the national minimum standards. This included securing joint commissioning arrangements, setting up a strategic board and undertaking a needs assessment.

As a result of this consultation an improved SARC service was set up in Walsall. Horizon SARC is a dedicated service available to everyone; women, men, children and adolescents and covers the area of the West Midlands including Birmingham, Solihull, Sandwell, Dudley, Coventry, Walsall, Wolverhampton and their surrounding areas.

The service provides people who have experienced rape and sexual assault within the West Midlands with support and advice to assist in their recovery. Information is given about the available options and support is offered around any decisions made.

### **Dudley Rape & Sexual Assault Counselling & Trauma Treatment Service**

This service is for women aged 16 years and over who have experienced rape/sexual assault in adulthood. The service is not for those who have suffered historical sexual abuse. If there is repeat victimisation in adulthood then this will be treated if appropriate. It is preferred that clients self-refer. However, the GP's agreement is sought.

### **The Black Country Rape and Sexual Violence Service**

This service managed by Sandwell Women's Aid offers the nationally recognised Independent Sexual Violence Advice (ISVA) service, providing one to one practical and emotional support to survivors of rape, sexual violence, and childhood sexual abuse. Support is available to both men and women, for recent and historic offences, and whether or not they have reported a crime to the police.

Referrals can be made by victims themselves as well as agencies.

### **Gangs and Interpersonal Violence**

Domestic abuse and sexual exploitation has been shown to be linked to gang activity.

In 2013 Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid who had been commissioned to undertake a range of initiatives to assess the impact of street gangs on young women identified a number of key issues including:

- Gang associated sexual violence doesn't happen in a vacuum but mirrors what is happening in society generally. However some features are unique to or exacerbated by the gang environment.

- There was a lack of understanding amongst girls & young women of what constitutes a healthy relationship as well as understanding how the grooming process works and what constitutes consent. This highlights gaps in current work with young people generally.
- There are stereotypical assumptions about young women choosing a particular lifestyle; these attitudes get in the way of identifying those who are vulnerable and need support.

Dudley does not have a recognised 'gang' problem of the magnitude experienced by our neighbouring authorities. However, there is recognition that prevention is essential to inhibit negative gang/group activity.

The Gang Prevention Working Group provides a multi-agency forum which meets on a bi-monthly basis to share information and formulate preventative measures. . In respect of domestic abuse and sexual exploitation the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator and a representative from Dudley Safeguarding Children Board sit on the group.

### **Barriers to access**

Victims and survivors of domestic abuse often have difficulty obtaining the appropriate help and support. In addition, admitting that there is a problem and finding the courage to do something about it is a major hurdle. For some victims there are added barriers to access. Examples include:

### **Male victims of domestic abuse**

It is commonly thought that domestic abuse does not happen to men when in fact it can happen to anyone regardless of gender. Home Office statistics state that one in six men are victims of domestic abuse at some time in their lives.

Such myths prevent men accessing help for several reasons, including fear that they will not be believed or they will be regarded as weak and not 'real' men.

As far as possible services in Dudley do not discriminate where male victims are concerned. Victim Support and the IDVAs offer support to male victims including support through the Criminal Justice Process. Dudley's refuge provision, 'New Beginnings' provides accommodation for men including outreach support when leaving the refuge. Likewise, Dudley's sanctuary scheme will also assist male victims.

Help for male victims is also available via the Men's Advice Line, a national service, offering a freephone service on **0808 801 0327**

### **Victims and survivors from black and minority ethnic communities (BME)**

The abuse is predominantly perpetrated against women. In some communities domestic abuse can be perpetrated by extended family members and can include forced marriage or female genital mutilation. Women from black or minority communities may also be more isolated, or may have to overcome religious and cultural pressures. They are also likely to be afraid of bringing 'shame' or dishonour on the family. Thus underreporting is prevalent amongst BME communities.

Immigration issues can also deter some from reporting the violence and abuse. If a woman comes to the UK to marry a partner who is already settled here current immigration rules state that a two year probationary period has to be completed before the woman can apply for indefinite leave to remain to stay in this country. Many women are unaware of this because the information is kept from them by their husbands. Consequently, the leave to remain to stay application is never made. A woman is totally dependent on the husband and is unable to claim state benefits. This is known as having 'no recourse to public funds' and will also affect your entitlement to enter a refuge.

## **Lye Community Project**

Lye Community Project (LCP) is part of the Access Team (Access and Prevention Division). LCP supports Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) victims of domestic abuse (DA) in particular those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). From Dudley MBC, LCP is a member of the NRPF network and also has strong ties with partners in the voluntary sector. All BME referrals to the Access Team in respect of DA and NRPF are screened and have a single point of access via LCP.

NRPF applies to immigrants who are subject to 'immigration control'. These controls limit their entitlement to public funds which include access to welfare benefits, local authority housing and homelessness assistance. Their passports and/or their biometric ID cards will have 'no recourse to public funds' stated on them.

People who come to the UK on spousal visas fall into this category. The majority of DA clients with NRPF presenting for support at LCP tend to be females of Pakistani origin. However, smaller numbers of service users include those who have Indian, Bangladeshi and Eastern European backgrounds. Many are referred by extended family and friends. Some are referred by previous victims who have received support from LCP and some are referred by other agencies.

## **Assessment of need:**

Assessment of needs for community care services is conducted under section 47 NHS and Community Care Act 1990. Where NRPF service users require accommodation, their need for this must be assessed under section 21 National Assistance Act 1948 as part of the community care assessment. A distinct test must be applied in order to establish eligibility for accommodation under section 21 National Assistance Act 1948 rather than drawing conclusions under the Department of Health's *Prioritising need in the context of Putting People First: A whole system approach to eligibility for social care- Guidance on Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care, England 2010* criteria (formerly Fair Access to Care Services framework). This section outlines how the consideration of eligibility under section 21 National Assistance Act 1948 should be incorporated into the assessment of need. Note that this guidance will change when the Care Act 2014 comes into force in April 2015.

In March 2014, Lye Community Project (LCP) had a review undertaken of the work it does with victims of DA with NRPF. Planning for Real (PFR) research methods were used to measure and demonstrate the social value of the work done with victims of DA with NRPF. The research looked into the work undertaken in 2013 and the Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis of the work evaluated with service users. It was concluded that in 2013, £6.57 of social, environmental and economic value was generated for every £1 invested. This is a conservative calculation of the social return.

In 2014, Dudley Leadership Group (DLG) set aside a small budget to respond more effectively to out of hours referrals of victims of DA with NRPF. This allows for victims to be placed in a place of safety until a full assessment can be undertaken of their circumstances.

Dudley Asian Women's Network (DAWN) is able to offer advice to those women who disclose that they are a victim of domestic abuse. The network offers help around No Recourse to Public Funds. The Project is a registered charitable organisation based at St Thomas's ward in Dudley. It was established in 1993 out of the need to provide specialist services for Asian women across the borough. It was felt that the needs of Asian Women were not being met effectively by statutory and voluntary agencies. Since barriers of language and culture meant women were not accessing mainstream service, information, and support, it was felt that the centre could be greatly facilitated for users and potential users of service by providing a none threatening, accessible point of contact, that respected women's individuality and their cultural and social backgrounds. The centre is unique in that it is the only centre in Dudley that offers a culturally specific service for only Asian women.

### **Female genital mutilation (FGM)**

Female genital mutilation (FGM) also known as female circumcision or cutting is a collective term for procedures which include the partial or total removal of the external female genital organs, or injury to the female genital organs, for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. The practice is extremely dangerous and can lead to death.

The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 makes it:

- illegal to practice FGM in the UK
- illegal to assist a girl to mutilate her own genitalia
- illegal to take girls who are British Nationals or permanent residents of the UK abroad for FGM whether or not it is lawful in that country;
- Illegal to aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad;

The maximum sentence for the crime is 14 years. Prosecution and conviction is difficult due to the victim fearing reprisals if reported.

Links with Dudley Interfaith Network have been made by the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator. A presentation on domestic abuse awareness raising was made to the forum with future presentations being requested.

### **Victims and survivors who have disabilities and older people**

These two groups have similar problems in that their abuser is very often their carer. All types of abuse are common with many experiencing high level degrading emotional abuse. Access to services will be restricted by the abuser due to, for example, lack of mobility on the part of the victim. Consequently, victims in this situation are less likely to report the abuse than those who are more able. Information from the Local Government Association reveals that:

- Women who have disabilities are at significant and higher risk of domestic abuse
- More than 50% of disabled women in the UK may have experienced domestic abuse

- People who experience poor mental health are more likely to experience domestic abuse
- Challenge for practice in recognising domestic abuse of older people There is a distinction between abuse that occurs later in life and that which is experienced over the course of a life time
- The rate of safeguarding referrals increases with age.
- Domestic abuse of people with learning disabilities is under-researched, but there is evidence it does happen both within families and with intimate partners.

### **Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and Q communities (LGBTQ)**

Domestic abuse occurs in same sex relationships. It is difficult to gauge the true extent of abuse in these relationships since statistical data is hard to come by. In addition, the problem is often concealed with victims being reluctant to report due to reasons such as:

- fear they might not be believed
- fear of hostility and homophobia from agencies
- fear that they might be 'outed' by their partner

In Dudley, domestic abuse awareness is raised through Summit House.

Nationally, awareness and support is available through Broken Rainbow UK who also have a confidential helpline on **0300 999 5428**.

Agencies need to be aware of extra difficulties that face such groups and consider ways of ensuring that services are appropriately offered and delivered. Awareness training is crucial with respect to those who face extra barriers. Publicity material and advice literature might also need consideration. Consultation with specific client groups can also be undertaken.

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Walby, S (2004) The Cost of Domestic Violence. Women & Equality Unit: London

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[www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

## Contact telephone numbers

### Local agencies (See Directory of Services attached)

<b>Emergency police</b>	<b>999</b>
<b>Dudley Council Plus</b> (single point of contact for all council services)	<b>0300 555 2345</b>
<b>Reporting an emergency</b>	<b>0300 555 2345</b>
<b>Emergency Duty Team</b> (out of hours social care)	<b>0300 555 8574</b>
Citizen's Advice Bureau	03444 111 444
Adult Substance Misuse Service – Atlantic House Recovery Centre	01384 426120
Young Persons Substance Misuse Service – SWITCH	01384 241440
Dudley Magistrates Court	01384 211411
My space, my time (Barnardos)	01384 411722
West Midlands Police	0845 113 5000
Rape and sexual assault counselling Service	0121 602 8817
New Beginnings (CHADD)	01384 864334
The Cedar Centre (Dudley Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Service)	01384 455411
Victim Support	01384 241511
Victim Care Unit	0300 303 1977

[www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)

[www.dudleysafeandsound.org](http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org)

**National agencies**

<b>National domestic violence helpline</b>	<b>0808 2000 247</b>
Victim Support helpline	0845 30 30 900
Broken Rainbow helpline (LGBT domestic abuse)	0300 999 5428
Child Line	0800 1111
Men's advice line (for male victims of domestic abuse)	0808 801 0327
Respect action line (advice for perpetrators)	0808 802 4040
Karma Nirvana (Support for victims of honour Crime and forced marriage)	0800 5999247
Forced Marriage Unit	020 7008 0151
National Stalking Helpline:	0808 802 0300
National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV)	0844 8044 999

## Dudley Borough Directory of Services Relating to Sexual Abuse and Domestic Abuse

Name of Service	Umbrella Organisation	Service Provided	Contact	Contact Details (Tel No./E-mail/ website address)
<p><b>CHADD Women's Support Group</b></p>	<p>CHADD</p>	<p><b><u>Domestic abuse 'survivor' support groups: levels 1 &amp; 2</u></b>            Domestic abuse awareness group focuses on basic rights, definitions of abuse, the signs, the impact and effects on adults and children, why it is so hard to leave, safety planning and the support available facilitated by support group facilitators of the outreach team. Participants attend a 10 week support programme. Levels 1 &amp; 2 have similar headings but complete different exercises and cover different levels of awareness.</p> <p>Both of the programmes we deliver are psycho-educational groups/course based on (National Women's Aid) the 'Power to Change' model -running in weekly 2-3 hour sessions over a period of 10 weeks. Both groups/courses run specifically for survivors of domestic abuse, and are based on the idea that women working together in a safe, friendly and non-judgemental environment can change their lives for the better.</p> <p><b>Level 1</b> Domestic abuse awareness is facilitated by CHADD (Members of Women's Aid) and provides mobile crèche facilities.</p> <p><b>Suitable for women</b> who are currently</p>	<p>For referral and information            Karen J Turnock</p>	<p>01384 456465</p> <p><a href="mailto:karen.turnock@chadd.org.uk">karen.turnock@chadd.org.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.chadd.org.uk">www.chadd.org.uk</a></p>

		<p>living in abusive relationships, women who are in refuge or not living with the partner but still in danger or, women whose experience is in the past.</p> <p><b>Level 2</b> Choices and Changes programme is facilitated by CHADD (members of Women's Aid) and North Dudley cluster Children's Centres with mobile crèche facilities provided by Woodside children's centre and CHADD. <b>Choices &amp; Changes</b> is more suitable for women who are not currently living or in a relationship with the abuser. Ideally women would start at level one before going onto completing level 2; however we accept referrals straight onto level 2.</p>		
<p><b>CHADD New Beginnings -You &amp; Me Mum support group (for mothers)</b></p>	CHADD	<p>You and Me Mum is a 10 programme which focuses on how domestic abuse can affect a mother and her children. It will empower and develop an individual's further understanding of a mother's role, in addressing the needs and communication issues, key protective behaviours messages and strategies of children and young people who have/are living with domestic abuse.</p> <p><b>It doesn't work directly with children.</b> The programme recognises the central role of the mother in protecting children and young people and creates opportunities for positive development. This course would ideally sit alongside of the existing support groups that CHADD run for women by attending an awareness group prior to starting You &amp; Me Mum- and would ideally form part of a 'wrap around' service with participants children attending the proposed Helping Hands, CHADD (group work 7-12 years) project</p>	Karen J Turnock	<p>01384 456465</p> <p><a href="mailto:karen.turnock@chadd.org.uk">karen.turnock@chadd.org.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.chadd.org.uk">www.chadd.org.uk</a></p>

		and or My Time my Space (1 to 1 individual support) run by Barnardos. Participants would attend You & Me Mum for 3 hours - 2 ¼ hours of programme material with up to ¾ hour reflection and safety planning time. Pop up mobile crèche provided for under 5's.week		
<b>CHADD New Beginnings – Outreach/re-settlement Services</b>	CHADD	<p>Outreach housing related and resettlement support for domestic abuse and other vulnerable families.</p> <p>Housing related support to enable individuals and families to live safely and successfully within their own homes of any tenure. Working directly within the home (or other safe place to meet) offering support and advice focusing on empowerment and confidence building to enable home sustainment and prevent homelessness, safety plans, stalking and harassment, social media safety, criminal justice protection systems and child contact arrangements are a few of the topics covered.</p> <p>Client support plans include signposting and involving specialist agency assistance where appropriate.</p> <p>Our outreach team is also able to provide VEV (visual evidencing for victims) services. Information can be confidentially and securely stored if a person does not wish to proceed with contacting the police straight away or ever if they do not wish to.</p>	<p>Referrals accepted from any agencies.</p> <p>Bev Rich</p>	<p>01384 864232</p> <p><a href="mailto:outreachTL@chadd.org.uk">outreachTL@chadd.org.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.chadd.org.uk">www.chadd.org.uk</a></p>
<b>New Beginnings Refuge accommodation and support</b>	CHADD	Temporary refuge accommodation for women, children and men who have experienced domestic or sexual abuse irrespective of age, sexual orientation, race, religion or abilities.	CHADD Referrals are taken via the phone	<p>01384 864334</p> <p><a href="mailto:dat@chadd.org.uk">dat@chadd.org.uk</a></p>

		<p>New Beginnings can accommodate 25 individual adults and over 60 children at any one time in safe, furnished accommodation.</p> <p>The range of accommodation includes; Hub refuge with 14 individual flatlets (women only) and satellite properties for housing larger families, families with teenagers, male survivors, GBLT (who do not wish to be in main stream hub refuge) with or without children.</p> <p>Encouragement, empowerment, domestic abuse awareness, criminal justice protection systems, debts, child contact, safety plans are a few of the support subjects offered whilst being in residence.</p> <p>Referrals and sign posting to other specific specialist agencies including CHADD outreach and support groups are discussed during key working sessions.</p> <p>Self and agency referrals to New Beginnings are accepted via the telephone.</p>		<a href="http://www.chadd.org.uk">www.chadd.org.uk</a>
<b>Communications and Public Affairs</b>	Dudley Council	Covers all aspects of marketing and communications activity for domestic abuse in the borough	Louise Kavanagh	01384 816050 <a href="mailto:louise.kavanagh@dudley.gov.uk">louise.kavanagh@dudley.gov.uk</a>
<b>Summit House Support</b>	Dudley and Sandwell MBC and Dudley PCT	Gay men's outreach work and HIV/AIDS support	Matt Barlow	01384 243220 matt@shsl.org.uk
<b>Specialist Midwife</b>	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	Referrals received from all agencies regarding Domestic Abuse in pregnancy. Advice, support and training given.	Sally Burns Bev Tinsley	01384 456111 ext 1512 07769 671 687 <a href="mailto:Sally.Burns@dgoh.nhs.uk">Sally.Burns@dgoh.nhs.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Beverley.Tinsley@dgoh.nhs.uk">Beverley.Tinsley@dgoh.nhs.uk</a> 07917814899

<b>West Midlands Police Public Protection Unit Brierley Hill Police Station</b>	West Midlands Police	Investigates all incidents of domestic abuse reported. Gathers and prepares evidence to support prosecution of offenders.	Inspector Sarah Booth	0845 113 5000
<b>Victim Care Unit Dudley</b>	Victim Support	Emotional and practical support for victims of crime including domestic and sexual abuse	Sonia Bell	0300 303 1977 <a href="mailto:sonia.bell@victimsupport.org.uk">sonia.bell@victimsupport.org.uk</a>
<b>Independent Domestic Violence Advisors</b>	Sandwell Women's Aid	Support and advice for high risk victims of domestic abuse	Carolyn Nock Tessa Clarke	01384 455411 <a href="mailto:cedar.centre@sandwellwomensaid.co.uk">cedar.centre@sandwellwomensaid.co.uk</a>
<b>Dudley Rape and Sexual Assault Counselling and Trauma Treatment Service</b>	Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust	A confidential service for women who are 16+ that have experienced rape or sexual assault in adulthood	Caron Pickford-Perry	0121 602 8817
<b>The What? Centre Young Person's Advice, Information and Therapeutic Counselling Service</b>	The What? Centre Young Person's Advice, Information and Therapeutic Counselling Service	A confidential therapeutic counselling service for young people aged between 13 and 25. Also advice service for any young person who has become homeless, needs help with benefits, finding training or employment.	Julie Duffy	01384 379992 <a href="mailto:thewhatcentre@aol.com">thewhatcentre@aol.com</a>
<b>Witness Service – Dudley Magistrates' Courts</b>	Victim Support	Support and advice for witnesses attending court	Bev Carty	01384 212721 <a href="mailto:dudley.mcws@victimsupport.org.uk">dudley.mcws@victimsupport.org.uk</a>
<b>CRI Atlantic Recovery Centre:</b>	CRI	CRI offer flexible support to those over 18 years, ranging from advice and information to structured treatment	Kerry Trinder Services Manager	01384 426120

<b>Integrated Drug and Alcohol Service</b>		programmes. Services seek to reduce harm and promote abstinence, and to help people recover from the damaging effects of substance misuse. The service takes both referrals from professionals and self referrals. The service is an integrated substance misuse service which includes drugs and alcohol. The service will work with offenders to support individuals to address their offending behaviour as a result of drugs or alcohol use. The service also includes access to rehabilitation services, Inpatient Detoxification services for Alcohol and treatment for Service Users who are mentally unwell due to their substance Misuse.		<a href="http://www.cri.org.uk">www.cri.org.uk</a>
<b>My Space, My Time Children's Project</b>	Barnardo's	<p>My Space, My Time is a project which provides a dedicated service to children and young people aged 5 to 13 years of age who have been affected by domestic abuse in the Dudley borough.</p> <p>The service provides a twelve week programme for children and young people who have witnessed or been exposed to physical, psychological and sexual violence. The aim of the service is to deliver a structured programme by providing activities to children and young people who are in need of specialised support.</p>	Ruth Garbett	01384 411722 <a href="mailto:ruth.garbett@barnardos.org.uk">ruth.garbett@barnardos.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Melanie.ryan@barnardos.org.uk">Melanie.ryan@barnardos.org.uk</a>
<b>Dudley Asian Women's Network (DAWN)</b>		The Dudley Asian Women's Network (DAWN) has established itself as the focal point for Asian women to meet and share	Adeela Parvez  Centre Manager	01384 818981  <a href="mailto:info@dudleyawn.org.uk">info@dudleyawn.org.uk</a>

		<p>social and cultural activities.</p> <p>The centre provides free, confidential and professional services to women and girls of all age. Services provided are mainly through the provisions of advice and information, advocacy, outreach social and recreational activities. We also encourage women to further their personal and professional development through training and programmes of activities that will benefit them.</p>		www.dudleyawn.org.uk
<b>Safeguarding Children Team</b>	Dudley CCG	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children	Su Vincent	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor BHHSC Venture Way Brierley Hill DY5 1RU 01384 321787
	Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (BCPFT)	<p>The team consists of;</p> <p>Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children</p> <p>Named Nurse for Child Death</p> <p>Lead Nurse for Domestic Abuse</p> <p>Paediatric Liaison Nurse</p> <p>Designated Nurse for Looked After Children</p> <p>Specialist Nurse for Looked After Children</p>	Fiona Brennan	Safeguarding Children Team are based at Cross Street Health Centre, Cross Street Dudley DY11RN 01384 366210
	DMBC	Supervision of young people in trouble	Sue Watson	8 Parsons Street

<b>Dudley Youth Offending Service</b>		with the law, both pre- and post-court. Provision of information to courts prior to sentence.	Andrew Griffiths, Alan John	Dudley  01384 813060
<b>Staying Put and Housing Related Support</b>	Heantun Housing Association	Our floating support services are available or young homeless people, care leavers, young parents, young offenders, adult offenders, people experiencing mental health issues and people experiencing domestic violence and hate crime. We provide housing related support to enable people to live successfully in the community. We provide support under the following headings: Economic Wellbeing, Enjoy and achieve, being healthy, staying safe, making a positive contribution. We will signpost and support people to the specialist services available to them. All our services place the client at the centre of the support	Stuart Barnes	01384 458455
<b>Dudley District Citizens Advice Bureaux</b>		Information and advice in welfare benefits, debt, housing, employment, family and personal and consumer.		03444 111 444
<b>Housing Services</b>	DMBC Directorate of Adult Community and Housing Services	Providing Advice and assistance in all aspects of Housing Provision including homelessness and tenancy related issues with regard to domestic abuse	Patricia Dolan	<a href="mailto:Patricia.Dolan@dudley.gov.uk">Patricia.Dolan@dudley.gov.uk</a>
<b>Homeless Team</b>	DMBC Directorate of Adult Community and Housing Services	Help for vulnerable individuals including those who have to leave home due to abuse and violence. Service available 24/7		. During the day visit Dudley Council Plus, Castle Street, Dudley. 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday. Out of hours 0300 555 2345 Professionals can access the service by email:

				<a href="mailto:HsgAdvice_Dachs@dudley.gov.uk">HsgAdvice_Dachs@dudley.gov.uk</a> Or phone 01384 815035
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## Dudley Borough Directory of Services for Young People Relating to Sexual Abuse and Domestic Abuse

Name of Service	Umbrella Organisation	Service Provided	Contact	Contact Details (Tel No./E-mail/ website address)
<b>Brook Sandwell and Dudley</b>		A confidential sexual health advice service provided free of charge specifically for young people under 25		31 Priory Street Dudley West Midlands DY1 1HA 01384 239001
<b>The What? Centre Young Person's Advice, Information and Therapeutic Counselling Service</b>	The What? Centre Young Person's Advice, Information and Therapeutic Counselling Service	A confidential therapeutic counselling service for young people aged between 13 and 19. Some sessions also available for 13-25's  Also advice service for any young person who has become homeless, needs help with benefits, finding training or employment.	Julie Duffy	01384 379992 <a href="mailto:thewhatcentre@aol.com">thewhatcentre@aol.com</a>

<p><b>Dudley Rape and Sexual Assault Counselling and Trauma Treatment Service</b></p>	<p>Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust</p>	<p>A confidential service for women who are 16+ that have experienced rape or sexual assault in adulthood</p>	<p>Caron Pickford-Perry</p>	<p>0121 602 8817</p>
<p><b>CHADD New Beginnings - Teenagers domestic abuse support group (females 16-19 yrs)</b></p>	<p>CHADD</p>	<p>Female Teenagers (16-19) years Domestic abuse support group CHADD facilitators are trained in the national programme CRUSH (Women's Aid) and CAADA's Young People and Relationship Abuse and The power to Change (WA). The teenager's support group is based upon knowledge from these programmes &amp; would aim to increase a survivor's understanding of dynamics in abusive relationships by working through weekly activities, and by sharing their experiences with other teenagers survivor's.</p> <p>Who is it for? (high,med,low risks)Suitable for female teenagers aged 16-19 years who are currently living in abusive relationships, or those who are in hostel/refuge or not living with the partner but still in danger or, whose experience is in the past, or those who would benefit the opportunity to explore healthy relationships and the safety aspects of social media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We provide mobile crèche facilities for under 5's.</li> </ul>	<p>CHADD</p>	<p>01384 456465 (Tuesday-Friday)</p> <p><a href="mailto:karen.turnock@chadd.org.uk">karen.turnock@chadd.org.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.chadd.org.uk">www.chadd.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Dudley Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Service</b></p>	<p>SWA</p>	<p>Offers the nationally recognised Independent Domestic Violence Advice (IDVA) Service, providing support, advocacy, safety planning, and risk management to victims of domestic abuse assessed as being at medium to high-</p>	<p>IDVAs: Carolyn Nock Tessa Clarke</p> <p>Referrals</p>	<p>01384 455 411</p> <p>Email for information, training details/dates or to request a referral pack:</p>

		<p>risk of harm according to the CAADA DASH risk assessment tool.</p> <p>The service also offers advice, training and support to health professionals, relevant third sector organisations and police.</p> <p><b>Referrals:</b></p> <p><b>Self-referral:</b> Victims can refer themselves to the service, and we will complete a DASH to assess service eligibility. Depending on the level of risk service users will either be allocated an IDVA or signposted to appropriate services.</p> <p><b>Agency Referrals:</b> agencies will need to complete a referral form and undertake their own DASH risk assessment to determine eligibility for service. If help is needed in completing the DASH, our IDVAs are on hand to offer advice and guidance.</p>	<p>Coordinator: Stefania Cerritelli</p> <p>Community Services Manager, SWA: Wendy Sims</p>	<p><a href="mailto:dudley.IDVA@sandwellwomensaid.co.uk">dudley.IDVA@sandwellwomensaid.co.uk</a></p> <p>Secure email for referrals: <a href="mailto:dudley.idva@sandwellwa.cjsm.net">dudley.idva@sandwellwa.cjsm.net</a></p> <p>Cedar Centre St James House Trinity Road Dudley DY1 1JB</p>
<p><b>Switch Young persons drug and alcohol service</b></p>	<p>Cranstoun</p>	<p>Switch is a young people's specialist drug &amp; alcohol service in Dudley. We work with <b>children and young adults</b>, offering them support and information that is needed to make choices around their drug and alcohol use which are important to them. We provide support, information and help for the <b>families &amp; carers</b> of young people who are struggling with substance misuse. We provide support to <b>our partners</b> in the Borough around screening &amp; referral into the Service.</p>	<p>Vicky Winnall</p>	<p>1 Castle Street Dudley DY1 1LA</p> <p>01384 241440</p> <p><a href="mailto:switchdudley@cranstoun.org.uk">switchdudley@cranstoun.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Street Teams</b></p>		<p>Street Teams' work with children and young people, male and female at risk of, and affected by, sexual exploitation, grooming and trafficking.</p>	<p>Helen Matthews</p>	<p><a href="http://www.street-teams.org">www.street-teams.org</a></p>

		<p>Since 1999 we have become the major voluntary sector provider for victims of sexual exploitation in the Walsall and Dudley areas.</p> <p>Direct work is undertaken on a 1:1 basis or an option to be referred on to a 10 week workshop programme aimed to build confidence, self worth, encourage participation and includes skill based learning.</p> <p>Street Teams aims to raise the awareness of sexual exploitation, grooming and abuse through relationships. We aim to raise aspirations, self-esteem and confidence, offering hope and breaking cycles of abuse, deprivation and exploitation.</p>		<p><a href="mailto:Helen.R.Matthews@dudley.gov.uk">Helen.R.Matthews@dudley.gov.uk</a></p> <p>01384 813061</p>
<b>Dudley Youth Offending Service</b>	DMBC	<p>Supervision of young people in trouble with the law, both pre- and post-court. Provision of information to courts prior to sentence.</p>	Sue Watson Andrew Griffiths, Alan John	<p>8 Parsons Street Dudley</p> <p>01384 813060</p>
<b>Staying Put and Housing Related Support</b>	Heantun Housing Association	<p>Heantun provide floating support services for young homeless people, care leavers, young parents, young offenders, adult offenders, people experiencing mental health issues and people experiencing domestic violence and hate crime. Housing related support enables people to live successfully in the community. Support is provided under the following headings:</p> <p>Economic Wellbeing, Enjoy and achieve, being healthy, staying safe, making a positive contribution. Young people are</p>	Stuart Barnes	01384 458455

		signposted to appropriate support available to them. All Heantun services place the client at the centre of the support		
<b>Top Church Training</b>		Provides a one to one intensive support and mentoring service to all young people between the ages of 16-24 who live in the Dudley Borough who are not in education, employment or training or at risk of becoming in these situations or who are homeless. Support is offered regarding Housing, Benefits, Employment and Training, Finance and budgeting and those already in education	Karen and Laura	01384 262114 <a href="mailto:topchurchtraining@btconnect.com">topchurchtraining@btconnect.com</a>  Top Church Training Brierley Hill Baptist Church The Café South Street Brierley Hill DY5 2RR
<b>Amazon Project</b>	Barnardos	Young People's Counselling Service works with children and young people who have been sexually abused.  First Step Project Providing counselling in the Dudley area to children and young people aged 18 and under, who have been sexually abused support is also offered for their families and carers.		<b>Amazon Birmingham / Dudley Young People's Counselling Service,</b> 2nd Floor, King Edwards Building, 205 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6SE  <b>Phone:</b> 0121 236 9222 <b>Fax:</b> 0121 236 9221 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:email the Amazon project">email the Amazon project</a>  <b>Referral Process</b>  Please email to receive an up to date referral form.
<b>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)</b>	Dudley and Walsall mental Health Partnership	The service provides a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary service specialising in the assessment and treatment of moderate to severe mental health		Out-patient clinic times Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm Outside these times contact should be made with the young person's

	NHS Trust	difficulties that children and young people experience		GP, local social work office or one of the helplines stated below Young Minds Parents Helpline – 0808 802 554 ParentlinePlus Helpline – 0808 800 2222 Papyrus (suicide prevention) HOPE Line UK – 0800 068 4141
<b>Project First Step</b>	DMBC	A website specifically developed for 16-25 year olds needing information on housing, accommodation and how to prevent homelessness. Also includes advice on domestic abuse under the section ' <i>I'm not safe at home who can help?</i> '		<a href="http://www.projectfirststep.org/">http://www.projectfirststep.org/</a>
<b>Phase Trust</b>		Help and support for young people aged 11 to 19 in relation to a variety of issues	Jayne Sargeant	0121 585 9419 <a href="mailto:info@phasetrust.org.uk">info@phasetrust.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.phasetrust.org.uk">www.phasetrust.org.uk</a>
<b>Young People in Abusive Relationships Project</b>	CAADA (Co-ordinated action against domestic abuse) DMBC	The programme aims to support local areas to <b>develop a consistent local response to young people aged 13 years and older who are experiencing a range of intimate partner abuse</b> , including domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, gangs / young people who harm others, 'Honour'-Based Violence, forced marriage, and online / mobile phone stalking and abuse.  <i>NB the project does not take referrals or hold cases</i>	Katriona Lafferty (Strategic Lead for Dudley)	<a href="mailto:Katriona.lafferty@dudley.gov.uk">Katriona.lafferty@dudley.gov.uk</a>
<b>LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay,</b>	Summit House	The group is for any young people who identify as LGB or T or who are Q and	Matt Barlow	01384 243220 <a href="mailto:info@shls.org.uk">info@shls.org.uk</a>

<b>Bisexual,Trans, Questioning) Group for Young People</b>		who are aged between 16-24 years old who live anywhere in the Black Country		
<b>On – Route Foyer</b>	CHADD	<p>Temporary housing and support for up to 2 years for single homeless young people vulnerable and at risk aged 16 – 25 with multiple support needs such as leaving care, experiencing domestic or sexual abuse, offending behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse.</p> <p>The Aim of the foyer is to support young people to achieve security and independence by developing confidence, self – esteem and personal life -skills.</p> <p>The foyer is a registered sexual health drop in service, foyer staff are trained to provide support with contraception, pregnancy testing, Chlamydia screening and sign posting to the Brook. The foyer works in partnership with other support professional to deliver workshops on the foyer e.g. Connexions, MIND, Kick Ash, Dudley Street team ( sexual exploitation awareness) etc.</p>	Jillian Hartland	<p><a href="http://www.chadd.org.uk">www.chadd.org.uk</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:Jill.Hartland@chadd.org.uk">Jill.Hartland@chadd.org.uk</a></p> <p>01384 864221</p>
<b>On – Route Foyer Outreach service</b>	CHADD	<p>Outreach housing related and resettlement support for young people, couples and young parents aged 16 - 25 vulnerable and at risk with multiple support needs such as leaving care, experiencing domestic or sexual abuse, offending behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse.</p> <p>Housing related support to enable individuals and families to live safely and successfully within their own homes of</p>		

		any tenure. Working directly within the home offering support and advice, to support young people to achieve security and independence by developing confidence, self – esteem and personal life –skills, sustaining their home and preventing a cycle of homelessness. Foyer activities are also available to outreach young people.		
<b>Victim Support Dudley</b>	Victim Support	Talk in confidence to one of our specially trained volunteers. We can provide practical help and support dealing with other agencies, police and schools. Our Witness Service can help children and young people at court	Sonia Bell	0300 303 1977 <a href="mailto:sonia.bell@victimsupport.org.uk">sonia.bell@victimsupport.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.victimsupport.org.uk">www.victimsupport.org.uk</a>
<b>My Space, My Time</b>	Barnardo's	My Space, My Time is a project which provides a dedicated service to children and young people aged 5 to 13 years of age who have been affected by domestic abuse in the Dudley borough.  The service provides a twelve week programme for children and young people who have witnessed or been exposed to physical, psychological and sexual violence. The aim of the service is to deliver a structured programme by providing activities to children and young people who are in need of specialised support.	Ruth Garbett	01384 411722 <a href="mailto:ruth.garbett@barnardos.org.uk">ruth.garbett@barnardos.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:melanie.ryan@barnardos.org.uk">melanie.ryan@barnardos.org.uk</a>
<b>CHADD New Beginnings -You &amp; Me Mum support group (for mothers)</b>	CHADD	You and Me Mum is an intense 10 programme which focuses on how domestic abuse can affect a mother and her children. It will empower and develop an individual's further understanding of a mother's role, in addressing the needs and communication issues, key protective	Karen J Turnock  Participants would need to	01384 456465 <a href="mailto:karen.turnock@chadd.org.uk">karen.turnock@chadd.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.chadd.org.uk">www.chadd.org.uk</a>

		<p>behaviours messages and strategies of children and young people who have/are living with domestic abuse.</p> <p><b>It doesn't work directly with children.</b></p> <p>The programme recognises the central role of the mother in protecting children and young people and creates opportunities for positive development. This course would ideally sit alongside of the existing support groups that CHADD run for women by attending an awareness group prior to starting You &amp; Me Mum- and would ideally form part of a 'wrap around' service with participants children attending Helping Hands, Pop up mobile crèche provided for under 5's.week</p>	<p>have been on the awareness group prior to starting You &amp; Me Mum</p>	
<b>Family Intervention / Troubled Families</b>	DMBC	<p>FIT offer 3 courses in relation to domestic abuse:</p> <p>CRUSH is a programme of support for both sexes aged between 13 – 19 years that are at risk of, or affected by domestic abuse</p> <p>Helping Hands is for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse</p> <p>The Domestic abuse awareness support group</p> <p>third group is for women who have experienced domestic abuse</p> <p>Please note: Courses are primarily available to individuals on the 'Troubled Families</p>	<p>Daniel Turner (for eligibility)</p>	<p><a href="mailto:Daniel.Turner@dudley.gov.uk">Daniel.Turner@dudley.gov.uk</a> 01384 811384</p>
	Children's Services	<p>Support: small group / 1 to 1 for 11 – 19 (25 with SEN) years through referrals</p>	<p>Amanda Grove</p>	<p>01384 815174 7 St James Road, Dudley</p>

<b>Dudley Youth Service</b>	IYS			
<b>Dudley Central Cluster Children's Centre Young Parents Group</b>	Kates Hill, Woodside, Netherton Park Children's Centres	*Young parents under 25 and pregnant or expecting  *Due to start January 2015	Katie Gregory	Katie Gregory Family Support Katie.gregory@dudley.gov.uk
<b>Saltmine Trust (theatre company)</b>		We are a theatre company who have worked in partnership with DSCB and West Midlands Police to produce educational plays and workshops about issues affecting young people	Rachel Orrell (CEO)	Saltmine Trust The Broadway, Dudley, DY1 3EB Saltminetrust.org.uk <a href="mailto:creative@saltmine.org">creative@saltmine.org</a>
<b>Family Nurse Partnership</b>	FNP	Offers intensive support to teenage parents / mums having their first baby. For up to child turning 2 years	Ceri Evans (FNP Supervisor)	01384 366662 Ceri.evans@bcpft.nhs.uk
<b>Supporting Separated Teenage Parents Programme</b>	Spurgeons	This programme is especially for teenage parents who have separated from the other parent. It will help parents agree on the parenting of children. It works with both parents separately and then together to solve issues like contact and child maintenance as well as giving practice advice. The programme can also help parents with problems around housing, work, education and training. The programme is for parents aged 20 and under who are separated or have never been in a relationship with the other parent.	Diana Jagpal	Spurgeons, The Workspace, All Saints Road, Wolverhampton, WV2 1EL. 01902 877559 <a href="mailto:djagpal@spurgeons.org">djagpal@spurgeons.org</a>
<b>The Respect Team and</b>	Children's Services IYS	Support: small group/1 to 1 for 11-19 (25 with SEN) years through referrals for	Sarah Padfield/Lisa	01384 811572 7 St James Road, Dudley

<b>Teenage Pregnancy</b>		issues such as sexual abuse, low/medium risk Child Sexual Exploitation, domestic violence, high risk of becoming pregnant, being pregnant and young fathers.	Atkinson	
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