

**Darlington Domestic
Abuse Strategy
2011
Refreshed October 2013**

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Introduction

I am pleased to introduce you to the refreshed Domestic Abuse Strategy for Darlington.

A great deal of progress has been made in recent years in raising awareness about what domestic abuse is, and the impact that it has upon victims and children. As a result of this we have seen an increase in the numbers of victims having the confidence to report abuse. Despite this much remains to be done to put a stop to domestic abuse once and for ever.

There are excellent services in the town offering support and advice to victims and their families and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), acknowledges their commitment to helping victims to rebuild their lives.

Through this refreshed strategy the CSP aims to build upon that progress and to highlight those areas that require more attention. For example; the need for greater education and awareness-raising about domestic abuse and its effects was identified in the original strategy. Progress has been made since 2011 but there is still more work to do to ensure that information about healthy relationships continues to reach young people in Darlington. In spite of trying a number of different options, the implementation of a programme to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse is still not as successful as we would like. Work to explore appropriate options for Darlington will continue to be a priority.

Darlington has a long history of successful partnership working, and since the publication of the original Domestic Abuse strategy in 2011, this is evident among agencies involved in tackling the issue of domestic abuse, as seen in the long standing Domestic Abuse Network (now Domestic and Sexual Abuse Network, DASAN), which continues to meet regularly to share information and consider issues that impact upon victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The DASAN has carried out some excellent campaign work since 2011 in order to raise awareness of domestic abuse and how to report it. This campaign work will continue and will focus on specific groups such as women aged over forty and members of particular communities and ethnic groups who are currently under-represented in terms of reporting abuse and seeking support.

I look forward to seeing continued progress in reducing domestic abuse in Darlington through the implementation of those actions identified in the refreshed strategy and the continued commitment of agencies in the town.

Councillor Bill Dixon, MBE
Leader of Darlington Borough Council

Executive Summary

This strategy was originally written on behalf of the Darlington Community Safety Partnership through the Vulnerability Strategic Group in 2011. The document is now being refreshed in the light of recent legislative changes and aims to update the current picture around domestic abuse in Darlington, comment on achievements since 2011 and set out future priorities for action for the next 12 months. The Domestic Abuse Strategy has clear links with existing strategies including those relating to Sexual Violence, Alcohol, Drug and Substance Misuse.

This strategy has been developed around the national guidance for domestic abuse with the three guiding principles of:

- Prevention
- Protection
- Provision

The principles within the strategy are:

1. - Prevent abuse from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it
2. - Provide adequate support where abuse does occur
3. - Work in partnership to obtain the best outcome for victims and their families
4. - Take action to reduce the risk to people who are victims of these - crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice -

The strategy presents a focus and challenge to the Darlington Partnership by ensuring that adequate and appropriate services are provided. It reflects the outcomes from the government's stance on domestic abuse and how the government intends to tackle the issue within the wider context of violence against women and girls. The strategy also draws on and recognises the current services, support and good practice that already exists within Darlington; and considers what role these have within the future aspirations of the Partnership and the community.

Darlington Community Safety Partnership does not accept domestic abuse; this strategy focuses on prevention and embedding cultural change within all agencies, organisations and the community.

The strategy therefore specifically highlights all education settings and the role that they play in embedding values and beliefs within our children from a young age around healthy, happy relationships and around the unacceptability of abuse in all its forms.

The strategy advocates that all agencies and organisations are equipped to recognise the early signs of abuse and know how to ensure preventative/ protective services can be put in place to support victims.

Darlington Community Safety Partnership has an ambition to use different types of programmes creatively for victims, children and perpetrators of abuse. The Partnership will monitor the outcomes achieved in order to review the effectiveness of this strategy and the services being delivered.

The cross-cutting nature of domestic abuse covers all ages, socio-economic groups, and disability, genders, sexual orientation and ethnicity. As this strategy is targeted to address the needs of vulnerable people, partner organisations feel that it will bring positive equalities impacts to people across a range of these protected characteristics.

There is evidence to suggest that domestic abuse can be a factor among families with high demand for services. This strategy acknowledges this evidence, and will challenge cooperating agencies and organisations to work differently with these families to produce more positive outcomes.

The action plan recognises that change in this area is incremental, and through strategic management and multi-agency cooperation, cultural change is possible to make progress towards ensuring families will be safe, happy and free from abuse.

In refreshing the strategy the 2011 document has been updated wherever possible. However, this has not been possible in all cases due to changes in data collection and staffing resources.

National and Local Policy Context

National Policy

“In the last year alone, there were over 1 million female victims of domestic abuse in England and Wales. Over 300,000 women are sexually assaulted and 60,000 women are raped each year. Overall in the UK, more than one in four women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, often with years of psychological abuse. This is unacceptable” (www.homeoffice.gov.uk [on-line])

“Almost 1 in 20 women were stalked last year and 1 in 5 women will experience stalking in their lifetime” (British Crime Survey 2009/10)

“The financial cost of violence against women and girls in the UK is £37.6bn” (www.homeoffice.gov.uk [on-line])

The Government has produced a strategy, entitled “*Call to end violence against women and girls*” (VAWG) as part of their ongoing commitment to tackle all aspects of abuse in its widest context. The Coalition is very focussed on this issue and as stated by the Home Secretary Theresa May “*No level of violence against women and girls is acceptable in modern Britain or anywhere else in the world*” (www.homeoffice.gov.uk [on-line]).

The principles of the Partnership’s strategy are aligned to the VAWG Strategy and inform the commissioning of services.

The VAWG Strategy provides a framework for agencies by highlighting key areas on which all agencies need to focus to capture the main themes regarding domestic abuse. The strategy also provides examples of good practice which are taken from areas across the country.

Although the VAWG Strategy is focused on women and girls, the principles can be applied to abuse against men, boys, and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community therefore ensuring that everyone suffering abuse is recognised.

Definition of Domestic Abuse

With effect from March 2013 the definition of domestic violence will be widened to include those aged 16-17 and will reflect the issue of coercive control. The decision follows a Government consultation which saw respondents call overwhelmingly for this change. The title of the definition will also change from ‘domestic violence’ to ‘domestic violence and abuse’. It is intended that the new definition will increase awareness that young people in this age-group experience domestic violence and abuse and encourage more of them to come forward and access the support they need. The ‘coercive control’ element includes issues of ‘honour based violence’, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Domestic violence and abuse is now defined as “any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or 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”. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Department of Health Perspective

The Department of Health has also made great strides in recognising its responsibility in tackling abuse and has produced an *“Improving services for women and child victims of violence: the Department of Health Action Plan”*

The action plan aims to lay the foundations for embedding high quality evidence based practice within the NHS in response to violence and abuse and is set around four key themes:

- Awareness-raising
- Workforce, education and training
- Improving quality of services
- Evidence and Information

Local Policy Context - Darlington

The Darlington Community Safety Partnership recognises domestic abuse as one of its priority areas making it a thread throughout partnership actions, plans and strategies.

The Sustainable Community Strategy themes include that *“people are healthy and supported”* and that *“our communities are safe and free of crime”*.

The Community Safety Partnership manages domestic abuse as one of its five main priorities through the Vulnerability Strategic Group (VSG). Additionally, the Domestic & Sexual Abuse Network (DASAN), originally the Darlington Domestic Abuse Forum, has been established since 2001 and continues to be well attended by practitioners from all agencies across Darlington. The network through its members has provided and continues to provide training and awareness, and compiles an annual report which is presented each year at its annual general meeting. This report will be received by the VSG.

Work to raise awareness of domestic abuse against members of the LGBT community is ongoing via the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Network (DASAN), who will be holding awareness raising sessions for local agencies in late autumn of 2013. More work needs to be done around the issue of domestic abuse against transgender victims. Gay Advice Darlington (GADD) has received 15 referrals for assistance from transgender victims or those in same

sex relationships. However, the current method of collecting data in many organisations means that these numbers are not recorded and therefore the true level of abuse in transgender or same sex relationships may be much higher.

A slight change in reporting and monitoring would create an evidence base of gaps and enable a methodology of improvement at no additional cost apart from improved awareness.

GADD is currently involved in a National piece of work that is seeking to address the issue of Trans women and access to services. The working group include Women's Aid, Government equalities office, Stonewall Housing and Press For Change. GADD will feed the results of this into the CSP during the year so that any recommendations can be acted upon.

Needs Analysis

The Office of National Statistics in 2009 estimated that the population of Darlington was 100,431 of which 48.6% were male (48,835) and 51.4% were female (51,596). The Department of Health estimates that approximately 6.1% of the population are made up of LGBT people.

Given that research indicates 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime (figures derived from 2009/10 British Crime Survey) based on the population figures, this means potentially 12,899 female and 8,139 males could experience domestic abuse in Darlington in their lifetime.

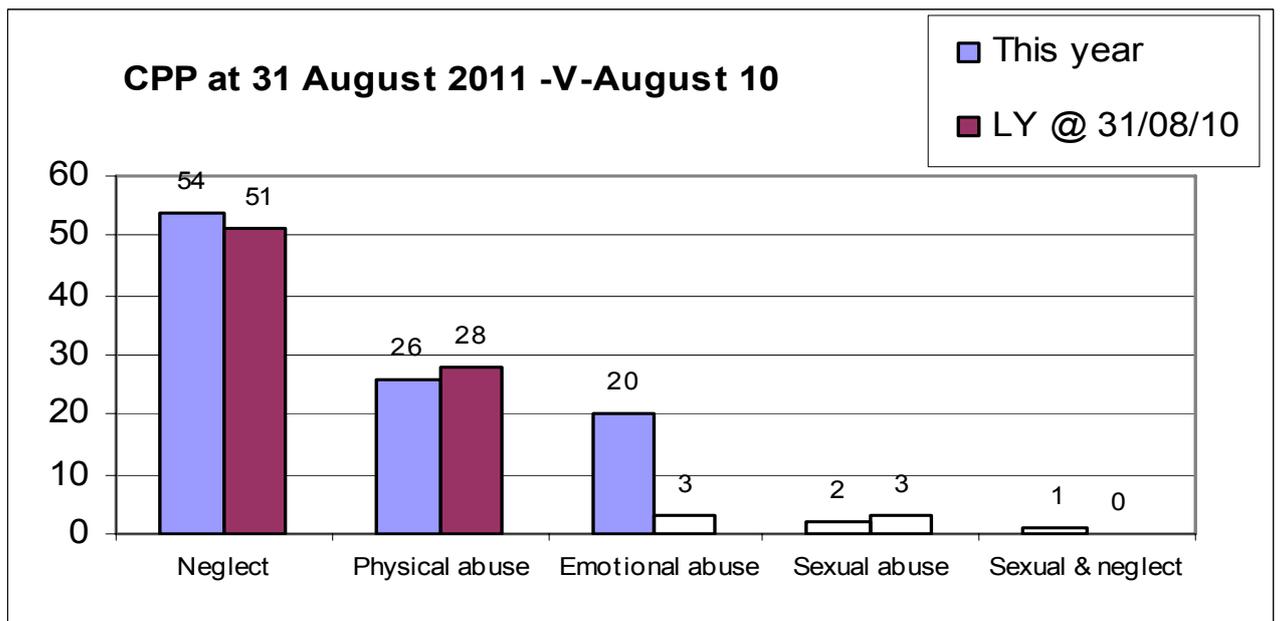
The “ready reckoner” produced by the Home Office to estimate numbers and costs of violence against women and girls’ estimates that in Darlington based on the population size and the regional prevalence rate from the British Crime Survey, 3,314 women will have been victims of domestic abuse in the last year.

Darlington is in line with Government and national statistics in that the majority of victims who report to the Police and who are involved with other agencies including MARAC are females.

There are two national indicators relating to domestic abuse: NI32 repeat incidents of domestic abuse and NI34 domestic violence murder/ manslaughter. The table below shows the number of repeat cases referred to MARAC for the years 2011/12, 12/13 and up to July 2013.



The national target for repeat cases is 28%. This data shows that Darlington is clearly achieving better results than targets set, although percentage levels vary from year to year; for example although not on the table above we know that repeat cases fell dramatically in 2009/10 but rose again in 2010/11. The above table shows a significant reduction in repeat cases during April to July 2012, but an increase for the same period in 2013, though at 16.7% the figure remains well below the national target.



The data above shows nearly a 600% rise in child protection cases from 2010-2011 which are defined as emotional abuse. This huge rise in children being protected from domestic abuse may be just a spike or a number of sibling groups to skew the figures; however, it is still a large rise in numbers that needs to be addressed when considering other areas have remained fairly static. Current figures show that between April 2012 and April 2013, 124 children have been made the subject of a child protection plan and of those 82 have domestic abuse listed as a contributory factor at the initial Child Protection Conference, which equates to 66%. Therefore there is still a considerable amount of work to be done to address this.

Police Data

Domestic abuse in Darlington follows the same pattern as in other areas within Durham Constabulary. Over the last three years the following figures have been recorded:

Financial Year	Total Number of Incidents for Darlington
2008-2009	2,084
2009-2010	2,111
2010-2011	2,224
2011-2012	2,469
2012-August 2013	2,534

There is a clear trend over the three years of abuse reporting becoming more prevalent in the summer months, but not of any statistical significance to warrant a seasonal trend to be identified.

This shows an increased trend in the reporting of domestic abuse in Darlington. This needs to be considered when commissioning services.

The figures for the constabulary area for the last three years are as follows:

Financial Year	Total Number of Incidents for Durham Constabulary	Proportion of Darlington Incidents within total constabulary area
2008-2009	10,697	19.48%
2009-2010	10,679	19.76%
2010-2011	11,501	19.34%
2011-2012	13,344	19.0%
2012-2-13	13,641	19%

This highlights that a significant proportion of recorded incidents is in Darlington. As Durham's population is approximately 600,000 and Darlington is approximately 100,000 this equates to Darlington being 14% of the total population the Durham constabulary serves. This shows Darlington has a disproportionately higher number of recorded domestic abuse incidents.

Within Darlington the number of reported incidents has been steadily increasing which may indicate:

- Increased confidence in reporting to the police
- Increased incidents of domestic abuse
- Increased early recognition of the signs of abuse
- Increased awareness of all aspects of abuse.

Whilst it is unclear as to the reasons why the number of reported incidents is increasing, it remains the case that domestic abuse is occurring in Darlington at higher levels than may be expected and providing services that are equipped to respond to this need is a priority for the CSP.

Recent analysis of police data has shown that a significant number of domestic abuse cases are occurring in the Pierremont and Bank Top area of the town. A series of road shows are to be held in these two areas in order to address this.

From May 2010 Durham Constabulary started to record the level of risk using the Domestic Abuse Stalking and Honour Violence (DASH) risk assessment. The levels of risk are defined as Standard, Medium and High. An explanation of these risk levels is as follows:

Ethnicity

The ethnic make-up of the Darlington population (taken from 2001 census) is shown in the table below:

<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Percentage of Population</i>
White	95,741	97.86%
Mixed	598	0.48%
Asian/ Asian British	906	0.93%
Black/ Black British	223	0.22%
Chinese	240	0.25%
Other Ethnic Group	130	0.13%

Ethnicity for the purposes of this strategy needs to be recognised as barriers can exist or can be created between communities and agencies through a lack of understanding of what communities need.

Language and communication skills can present barriers to individuals' confidence and ability to disclose abuse. Cultural issues are extremely important and need to be understood, especially if we want to encourage all communities to be able to disclose any type of abuse that they may be suffering.

An issue that is linked to domestic abuse and can be disproportionately prevalent within the Asian community is the issue of Forced Marriage (FM) and Honour Based Violence (HBV).

The issue of FM is not to be confused with arranged marriages as these are completed on a consensual basis from both parties involved. FM is when

consent has not been given or has been given under duress and there is an underlying threat of a consequence if the marriage does not take place. Cases of FM and HBV are extremely complex to deal with and agencies need to have a thorough understanding of the embedded values and beliefs that lead some members of the community to enforce these marriages and unlawful acts.

There have been cases of FM and HBV reported within Durham Constabulary and the ability of services to deal with this issue needs to be incorporated within any commissioned service. (Due to the extremely small number of cases that have been dealt with within Darlington by the Police it would be inappropriate to provide any further details about these. This is because the small numbers the victims could potentially be identified which would pose a risk to them).

“In 2010, the joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit provided 1,735 instances of advice and support related to possible forced marriage. Active assistance was provided in 469 cases of forced marriage. In 2004, the Metropolitan Police decided to re-open 114 murder cases from the previous decade, which they now think may be so-called ‘honour’ killings. While there are no published statistics of honour-related violence, it is thought that there are around 12 honour-related killings annually” (www.homeoffice.gov.uk [on-line])

“A recent paper by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, suggests that women from the Gypsy and Traveller communities who report domestic violence will often have suffered it more severely and over a considerably longer period than other women. Although there is no conclusive evidence about the prevalence of this abuse, the paper cites a study in Wrexham, which found that between 61 and 81% of married Gypsy and Traveller women had experienced direct abuse from a partner” (Clark, www.guardian.co.uk [on-line])

In 2009 the Darlington Joint Strategic Needs Assessment suggested that Gypsy and Traveller Communities make up 0.71% of the overall population of Darlington. This is approximately twice the national average, therefore we can surmise that Darlington has a larger than average population which should be considered when commissioning services for communities that traditionally have a low reporting rate.

In 2009 – 2010 two Gypsy/Travellers were accommodated in Darlington Refuge. Within the same time period one Gypsy/Traveller was referred to support services. The female declined support from the service.

Age

The age of the population within Darlington has been taken from the mid 2009 population estimates from ONS and is shown in the table below:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Population</i>
0-4 years	6,384
5-14 years	11,664
15-24 years	11,972
25-44 years	25,814
45-65 years	25,001
65 and above	19,616

Refuge Age Group 2009 - 2010	Numbers*
17-25 years	21
26-35 years	21
36-45 years	10
46-55 years	7

Floating Support Service Age Group 2009 - 2010	Numbers*
17-25 years	12
26-35 years	19
36-45 years	5
46-55 years	3
55+ years	2

*Please note that service usage is not statistically representative of domestic abuse incidents in Darlington

Evidence suggests that age is irrelevant as domestic abuse can and does occur across all adolescent and adult age ranges and impacts on children and young people.

However, although domestic abuse occurs across all age ranges, concern has been growing over the disproportionate number of women aged 40 and over who were victims of domestic homicides over the last three years in Co Durham and Darlington. At a local level, the rate of domestic homicides within County Durham and Darlington is low, however for 2011/12 it was above average for England and Wales. Of the ten domestic homicides recorded within County Durham and Darlington during 2011/12 and the first two quarters of 2012/13, three of these involved a female victim over the age of 50 (The Safe Durham Partnership, 2012). Data provided by Durham Constabulary shows that, between April 2008 and March 2013, there were 46 homicides, where 17 victims were female. Of these 17 cases, 16 were classed as domestic homicides (where the perpetrator was a partner or family member). Furthermore, 11 of the 17 victims were aged 40 and over and over two thirds of those (8) were killed by a partner or ex-partner. Of the 29 male victims, five of the perpetrators were recorded as a family member. None were partners or ex-partners. (A Delicate Balance, Domestic Violence: the

Police, Reporting Decisions of Women Aged Over 40, Hannah Bowes, LLB, Msc, Durham University).

The above study shows that the reasons given by women aged over forty for not reporting domestic abuse to the police are: shame; stigma; length of time over which abuse had been suffered; generational norms and values; health and family.

Hannah Bowes makes a number of recommendations regarding how organisations can improve the quality of service offered so that more women aged over forty feel comfortable reporting domestic abuse, including a suggestion that older people should be more visible in organisations and that awareness raising campaigns should put greater emphasis on supporting older women.

The Darlington CSP has discussed the above trends and is already in the process of ensuring that awareness raising campaigns include a specific focus on women over forty.

Children

In Darlington's Children & Young People's Plan 2011-14 domestic abuse is detailed as a priority action:

Every Child Matters Outcome - Stay Safe

Priority 2 - Ensure the safety of children and young people.

Areas for action:

- Reduce the exposure of children and young people to the prevalence of domestic abuse and repeat abuse

The impact on children who are subjected to or who witness abuse is well documented and support for children would also form an integral part of any service for domestic abuse.

"In 40 - 70% of cases where women are being abused, the children are also being directly abused themselves" (Stark and Flitcraft, 1996; Bowker et al., 1998.)

"The majority of children witness the violence that is occurring, and in 90% of cases they are in the same or next room" (Hughes, 1992).

The figures for Darlington in relation to how many children were made subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) and out of that figure how many had domestic abuse as a risk factor is as follows:

	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012
Child Protection Plans	85	114	124
CPPs with DA as a risk factor	40 (47%)	74 (65%)	82 (66%)

This shows a **19%** increase in child protection plans where domestic abuse is a risk factor between 2010 and 2012. Changes have been made within legislation due to the increased awareness of the impact of abuse on children.

“Children living in households where domestic violence is happening are now identified as “at risk” under the Adoption and Children Act 2002. From 31 January 2005, Section 120 of this act extended the legal definition of harming children to include harm suffered by seeing or hearing ill treatment of others. This would include witnessing domestic abuse.

From 31 January 2005, Section 120 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 came into force, which extends the legal definition of harming children to include harm suffered by seeing or hearing ill treatment of others, especially in the home” (Womensaid, 2011, [on-line])

“750,000 children witness domestic violence each year, one in four teenage girls have been hit by a boyfriend (with one in nine reporting severe physical violence) and 18 per cent of boys reported some form of physical partner violence (NSPCC, 2009)

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process has heard 53 cases between April and August 2013 which included 81 children. As MARAC concentrates on our most at-risk victims, this highlights the level of risk that children are living with and potentially being subjected to within Darlington.

Children as witnesses, victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse are more likely to continue this pattern of behaviour into adulthood. Early intervention can ameliorate the long term effects of abuse, and can make long-term improvements both socially and financially across all statutory agencies.

Disability

MARAC data recorded two victims as registered disabled between 20th October 2009 and 29th March 2010. It must be noted that this is not the total number of disabled victims recorded for the period, only those risk assessed through MARAC, and not all disabled people are registered as disabled.

Disability can be a factor that increases a victim’s vulnerability when they are in an abusive relationship. The victim can be reliant on their abusive partner to help, support and assist them and abusive partners can use this vulnerability and need for support as another way of controlling them.

Disability is one of the risk factors within the risk assessment used to make a referral into MARAC.

Socio-Economic Data

The information displayed below was taken from a variety of sources including the Office for National Statistics, the Darlington Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the Darlington Single Needs Assessment.

- 45% of the population of Darlington are deemed to live in the 10 wards that are in top 25% of deprived wards.
- 21.2% of children in Darlington live in poverty. This is slightly higher than the average of 20.9% in England.
- 4.3% of the working age population in Darlington is claiming Job Seekers Allowance. This is higher than the 3.5% average across Great Britain.
- The gross weekly pay for residents of Darlington is £454.40 compared with £501.80 in Great Britain.
- In Darlington 24.3% of the working population are economically inactive. This is higher than the average of 23.6% across Great Britain.
- 7.9% of the working age population in Darlington is claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance. This is compared with 6.7 % in Great Britain.
- Of the households in Darlington, 70.8% are owner occupiers, which is higher than the national percentage of 67.5%.

Classification

Domestic abuse is classified by the Police into three categories:

Standard:

Current evidence does not indicate likelihood of causing serious harm.

Medium:

There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The offender has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, for example, failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, drug or alcohol misuse.

High:

There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

Risk of serious harm is defined as: (Home Office 2002 and OASys 2006)

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Education

The importance of education cannot be underestimated in terms of changing attitudes and values around domestic abuse for both adults and children.

The embedding of sex and relationship education in schools with strong emphasis on healthy appropriate friendships and relationships is paramount. Domestic abuse impacts on all five Every Child Matters Outcomes: staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well being.

Schools are in a prime position to identify the early signs of children as witnesses/ victims of domestic abuse, and to take supportive action for the child through the Common Assessment Framework.

Current Services for Domestic Abuse

Good practice can be seen both locally and nationally and what exists and is already seen to work should always be considered when reviewing services.

Within this section good practice will be highlighted both from a national perspective focussing on the government's priority around the MARAC and the IDVA but also good practice from a local perspective.

The local good practice has been highlighted by professionals but more importantly by the victims who have used the services or accessed the programmes and their feedback is included in this section in order to give a flavour of how the services and programmes have worked for them.

Firstly, we will focus on MARAC and IDVA as highlighted within the Government's VAWG strategy as examples of what works.

MARAC

MARAC provides a consistent approach to risk assessment which identifies those victims who are at most risk of serious harm. Once a victim has been assessed at this level of risk a multi agency meeting is held and agencies will work together to find a way of reducing that risk using available interventions.

The aim of MARAC is:

- To share information to increase the safety, health and well being of victims – adults and their children
- To determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community
- To construct jointly and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and which reduces the risk of harm
- To reduce repeat victimisation
- To improve agency coordination and accountability

- To improve support for staff involved in high risk domestic abuse cases.

The responsibility to take appropriate actions rests with individual agencies; it is not transferred to the MARAC, which is a conferencing and coordination medium.

The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety.

MARAC is now fully established across Co Durham and Darlington and provides an excellent service to victims and children who are most at risk of domestic abuse.

MARAC within Darlington started in December 2008 and since then to the end of March 2011 over 181 cases have been heard at a MARAC meeting.

Nationally MARACs are judged by the level of repeats, those victims who return to the attention of MARAC within any 12 month rolling period, with the current national percentage set at 28%. The Co Durham and Darlington MARAC has continued to record a repeat rate well below this national percentage which would highlight that MARAC is fulfilling its aim of reducing risk to our most at risk victims and children.

The following information provides an outline of the repeat rate for MARAC for Darlington:

Year	Percentage
April – July 2011	14.8%
April – July 2012	9.1%
April – July 2013	16.7%

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates

The IDVA Role is a component part of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) and is there to provide specialised support and advice to victims of domestic abuse-related crimes whilst they are involved in the criminal justice system. The IDVA explains the criminal justice process and provides regular updates to the victim. The IDVA can also signpost the victim onto other specialised or appropriate services depending on the identified needs of the victim. The IDVA can also accompany the victim to court and liaise with other court services, i.e. the witness care unit in order to arrange pre-court visits and special measures.

Another part of the IDVA Role is within MARAC. Once a victim is referred to an IDVA the IDVA will confirm and collate information regarding the current and on-going risks to the victim; and if the victim is deemed to be at High Risk level they will proceed into MARAC. The IDVA will fully explain what MARAC is and how and why the victim may become part of the MARAC process and then answer any questions that the victim may have. The role of the IDVA in MARAC is to be the victim's voice within the MARAC meeting and put forward

any comments and opinions on the victim's behalf. The IDVA will then update the victim following on from the MARAC meeting to ensure that the victim is fully aware of what future actions are deemed necessary to take place in order to assist in reducing the risk to the victim and thereby keeping the victim as safe as possible.

The Darlington IDVA is seconded from the Durham Tees Valley Probation Service to Durham Constabulary and is based within the Darlington Police Domestic Abuse Unit where she receives her referrals from the unit's Detective Sergeant. The Darlington IDVA came into post in August 2009 and since that date and up until March 2011 she has supported 154 victims.

The IDVA service throughout Co Durham and Darlington collates direct feedback from victims about the service they received from the IDVA and also about their views on how successful the final outcome of any case heard at court was for them. This feedback is invaluable and has assisted in highlighting from the victim's point of view the importance of the IDVA role and how this role has assisted and sometimes represented the one thing that has kept the victim going throughout very difficult and high risk times.

Quotes received from victims include: *"I found it very helpful that Jean always made me aware what was going on and if I didn't understand things they were explained. I found Jean taking me to the court beforehand beneficial."*

"Thank you Jean for your help I really appreciated it, it was also nice to know someone professional was there for me to talk about it all with."

MARAC/IDVA Costs

MARAC and IDVA are funded via contributions from Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council, Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust and NHS Co Durham and NHS Darlington.

Refuge

Darlington Refuge was established in the 1970s and provides refuge accommodation and support to victims and their families. It is currently commissioned by Supporting People, Darlington Borough Council. The table below shows the numbers, ages and ethnicity of women and children assisted by the refuge in the last twelve months.

April 2012 - March 2013

Residents	Women	Children								Total
		16-25	26-40	40+	0-3	4 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 16	16+	
Apr-June	19	8	5	6	7	2	3	2	1	20
July-Sept	8	3	5	0	6	4	4	2	0	18
Oct-Dec	12	7	2	3	7	1	2	1	0	16
Jan-Mar	5	0	4	1	5	2	0	2	0	9
Total	44	18	16	10	25	9	9	7	1	63

Ethnic origin

White British	41
Pakistani	1
Afghanistan	1
Polish	1

Family Help have given refuge accommodation to 44 women who had 63 children. This year only 30 of these children resided at the refuge, the others were either in care of other family members or in local authority care or were fostered or adopted.

In addition to the above more than 404 help-line calls were received including 16 calls from men (referrals were made to appropriate agencies where the men needed further help). Family Help have reviewed and adjusted the way they collate their figures so that we are not duplicating calls received regarding the same woman therefore there is a reduction from last year in total calls received.

Feedback from women included the following comments:

- ‘Staff are brilliant and go out of their way to help and - answer questions’ -
- ‘If I had not come to the refuge when I did, I think I - would have taken my ex partner back.’ -
- ‘Living here has given me time to think and feel safe’
- ‘It’s a very welcoming place’
- ‘During my time at the refuge, I have been able to gain back my confidence for me and my children to move on’

Floating Support Service

The floating support service has been established since 2007 and provides outreach support to victims and their families. It is currently commissioned by Supporting People, Darlington Borough Council.

Comments from victims regarding the current outreach service include:

“My support worker always went the extra mile to support me.”

“My support worker always helped me to make decisions, never making decisions for me.”

“Without the support I would not have had the strength to leave my abusive relationship.”

“The support was arranged quickly and that was really important to help me get away.”

“My support worker always had time for me and listened to what I had to say.”

Between April 2012 and December 2012 the floating support service have received 264 referrals. Each women referred is contacted and offered support from the service this could include sign posting to other agencies, safety assessment, safety planning and advice around legal orders,

At present the floating support service has three workers in post two of which are accredited IDVA's. This has enabled the service to provide emotional support as well as practical support to clients.

The floating support service is working with 40 clients and also provides advice and guidance to many more. Clients can receive up to 12 months of support.

An informal weekly women's group has also been established offering support, advice, and information, in addition to confidence-building and the opportunity to start to build friendships which can help prevent isolation.

Freedom Programme

The Freedom Programme is a nationally recognised example of good practice and is designed to empower victims of abuse and help them to understand the controlling behaviours used by their abusive partners.

The programme has been running in Darlington for a number of years and has assisted many victims, some of whom state how important the programme is and how it had made them feel better about themselves, comments include:

“It helped me realise it wasn't my fault.”

“An eye opening experience.”

“It built my confidence.”

Since April 2012, The Freedom Programme has been run in Darlington by Harbour and up to April 2013 had assisted forty-seven women.

Voluntary Perpetrator Programme

The guidelines stipulate a 32 week programme consisting of two hours a week, on a group work basis with no more than 12 participants. The facilitators are to be male and female to provide a gender balance and an integral part of the programme is the continued liaison and support for the perpetrators partner.

Any issues that could arise about crimes, child protection or safety of the victim and any child would immediately be referred as per existing procedures and the men would be made aware if this from the outset.

The effectiveness of perpetrator programmes is mixed. There is no clear evidence as to the long-term changes in behaviour and the complete reduction of risk to victims and children. The programmes can effect change in some but the crucial element is the fact that the perpetrator recognises their responsibility for their actions and that they want to change. If a change is made it will automatically reduce the risk to the victim and any child but also potentially reduces the risk to any future victims and children if the perpetrator continues to be non-abusive. This change therefore is important and how we affect this change should be a consideration for any new domestic abuse service.

There is information available regarding different types of programmes which have been run using slightly different formats and have experienced some level of success.

Several different programmes have been implemented in Darlington in recent years. However, for a variety of reasons they have not been able to fully meet the need. The Community Safety Partnership is exploring a variety of options for the future and has put in put interim arrangements in place to ensure that support is available in the meantime.

Sanctuary Scheme

The Sanctuary Scheme is target-hardening for existing victims of domestic abuse. Target hardening is the funding of practical security measures such as changing locks and panic alarms. Approximately one hundred properties were made safer as a result of this programme.

Feedback from existing victims stated that although the measures did make them feel safer there were still concerns about safety.

The Sanctuary Scheme is currently funded from the Council (£9,500) and Health (£8,000). In 2012/13 approximately 100 women were assisted by the scheme.

Housing

Addressing housing issues plays a key part in assisting victims of domestic abuse in leaving abusive relationships. Housing Services has a number of ways in which it contributes to this.

Housing Options, a team of experienced Housing Advisors are based at the Town Hall and are available to give full information and advice on the range of accommodation options available. Housing options works with both victims and perpetrators to ensure they have full knowledge of their housing options. The advisors have all received training on Domestic Abuse and offer a “no questions asked service” to anyone.

There is a Tees Valley Choice Based Lettings partnership made up of Darlington Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, Stockton Borough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, and Hartlepool Borough

Council. Their partner landlords include Erimus Housing, Tristar Homes, Coast & Country Housing and Housing Hartlepool, there are also a number of Registered Social Landlords. This partnership operates Compass Choice Based Lettings.

The process for assessing and prioritising applications is easy to understand as it uses a system for banding applicants to reflect their housing need (applicants with more pressing needs than others are placed in a higher band, whilst those with less urgent need are placed in a lower band). The process does prioritise clients identified as being victims of domestic abuse.

If it is identified that a client does not require specialist support linked to domestic abuse, but there are general housing support needs identified they can be referred through the Key Point of Access (a centralised point for referrals for people at risk of homelessness or in need of support to maintain their tenancy) to tenancy support services.

It is widely recognised that it is best for victims and families to remain in their homes and where appropriate Housing Services will take tenancy enforcement action against perpetrators to ensure this can be achieved.

Working in partnership with the Police and other agencies, Housing Services will assess the risks to someone from domestic abuse, and where appropriate will fit additional security without charge. This may include pursuing the Sanctuary Scheme. Where damage has occurred as a result of domestic abuse the victim would not normally be re-charged for the repair.

Housing Officers attend the MARAC and provide Housing advice and support on Housing and Welfare Benefits advice, offer furnished tenancies and white good packages as required and can signpost to the Bridge to Home scheme for rent bonds and provide details of accredited private landlords.

Probation

The Probation Trust provides a Community Domestic Violence Programme (CDVP).

CDVP is a group work programme for men who have committed at least one act of violence against a wife or partner. CDVP can be a requirement of a community sentence, suspended sentence order or as a condition of a licence.

The programme deals with issues such as: the effects of domestic abuse on partners and the family, the beliefs and attitudes which result in violence, how to identify risk and how to cope with feelings and behaviour in difficult situations without resorting to violence.

A referral is also made to a Women's Safety Worker who supports the victim whilst their partners are on CDVP.

All of the above does not preclude referrals to MARAC or MAPPA. Any

concerns regarding group members will be shared with all agencies involved.

Victims of Domestic Abuse supervised by Durham Tees Valley have access to a safe environment when males are instructed not to attend the office. Every Thursday between 10am - 12noon is Women's Only Reporting. Individuals can also access the agencies listed below who attend the Darlington Probation Office:

- Housing, DISC, Foundation, Council
- Citizenship Advice Bureau
- Alcohol and Drug Services
- Health Training.

This reporting session was established following the Corston Report 2008.

For individuals who are not subject to CDVP but where domestic abuse has been identified Offender Managers address the individuals offending behaviour by using the Citizenship Programme.

Health

The NHS provides universal services and commissions specialist services for victims of domestic abuse. Services in primary care, midwives, health visitors and A&E are well placed in identifying victims of domestic abuse and referring appropriately to specialist services.

In 2008 the PCTs recruited a Domestic Abuse Coordinator for health services. In Darlington, this post is located within the Safeguarding Children Team but also has a remit to safeguard adult victims of domestic abuse. The purpose of this post is to provide specialist guidance to staff within the NHS and the wider health economy; to coordinate and deliver training; and to be the appointed 'Single Point of Contact' (SPOC) for health services within the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Process.

Prevention

Prevention is primarily about stopping abuse and involves all organisations taking responsibility for identifying it and doing something about it.

Prevention means: "All organisations have a responsibility to train their staff to have an awareness of domestic abuse. Staff should be able to recognise and identify the signs and indicators of abuse, know how to deal with disclosures from victims and know who to speak to or who to refer their concerns to once a disclosure or identification is made. At no time can staff afford to ignore or not notice these signs and indicators and supervisors are responsible to reiterate that message to their staff".

(<http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/violence/wpv.htm>)

Prevention requires: adequate records which can be appropriately shared across organisations. It requires specific procedures for the public, and staff to understand roles and responsibilities. Staff must feel they can openly discuss

concerns and any domestic related issues with a supervisor and they must understand their boundaries and confidentiality and what constitutes “significant concern”.

Prevention works when organisations:

- identify abuse
- flag concerns to supervisors
- make adequate records
- share information with other agencies
- manage and regularly revisit and assess the on-going risks.

Prevention can:

- prevent domestic abuse from continuing
- stop abuse going unnoticed
- allow organisations to proactively engage with victims and children at every opportunity
- put in place safety measures and interventions to reduce or at least manage risk.

Prevention also places the perpetrators on everyone’s radar: organisations start to proactively flag and highlight the perpetrators. This is crucially relevant when the perpetrator of one abusive relationship leaves that relationship and enters into another.

Reacting to domestic abuse is not the same as prevention, the early identification of signs and indicators is crucial, and all staff and all organisations need to be made aware of this.

Education and Learning -Changing and Challenging Attitudes

“Children can be exposed to violence from birth and, unless an alternative view is established, are likely to grow to accept that behaviour as normal. Setting out which attitudes and behaviours are acceptable and which are not therefore needs to begin early on in a child’s life and be reinforced over time. We also need to strengthen protection for vulnerable children by ensuring that those on the frontline can focus on taking action” (Call to end violence against women and girls, 2009, p.10)

The role of education is crucial to achieve any outcome which is focused on changing attitudes. The acceptability and the “normalisation” of abuse are inherited or accepted very early on in a child’s life. Work should therefore start in primary schools and continue into secondary schools with the focus being on relationships and respect in order to ensure that a clear message is provided and reinforced which will hopefully assist in breaking the cycle of abuse which can start to begin with children and young people.

Perpetrator Programmes

The attitudes of adults should also still be challenged but this sometimes is a difficult and not always successful task. Adults may develop rigid views

regarding abuse and perpetrators who abuse may develop extensive justification for their abuse which they can have no desire to alter. The existence of both statutory perpetrator programmes, delivered following court instruction by the Probation service, and voluntary perpetrator programmes can lead to success with male perpetrators who want to change and are willing to take responsibility for their behaviour. However the number of men who actually complete the programme remains low.

Freedom Programme/Power to Change Programme

Provision

The Darlington Community Safety Partnership will develop a local action plan to deliver this strategy with a particular emphasis placed on prevention.

The Darlington Community Safety Partnership is accountable for the development and management of an action plan for domestic abuse and the provision of a range of support services. The Darlington Partnership will need to optimise resources to have the greatest impact on generating positive outcomes for families. The evidence used to optimise resources will be family outcome focused and will identify the gaps that will need to be filled and prioritise resources accordingly.

Protection

It is the responsibility of the Police to actively safeguard, protect and respond positively to any incident or disclosure of domestic abuse. The Police as a responsible authority are an integral part of the existing statutory processes that are in place to ensure the protection of the public through the effective management of risk. The main process that does this is the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The Police also are an integral part of MARAC and Potentially Dangerous Persons (PDP) processes.

Durham Constabulary has a robust domestic abuse policy and procedure which promotes the use of positive action and domestic abuse remains a priority for the Force. Specific domestic abuse units, which are staffed by domestic abuse specialist investigators, are in place across the Constabulary area with one located within Darlington.

Finally, changing people's attitudes and beliefs about domestic abuse will take many years to accomplish and for some will never be achieved, but the risks of abuse are present in Darlington every day and will be for many years to come. Darlington needs to ensure it is able and robust enough to deal with it.

Equalities

This strategy will be progressed through a wide range of activity implemented by the various partner agencies involved in the Community Safety Partnership. The strategy provides the co-ordinating framework directing this wide-ranging activity towards shared outcomes and targets. It is essential that the strategy is implemented in ways that contribute to the delivery of fair outcomes and the advancement of equality. The public sector equality duty

set out in the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council and other public agencies to 'have due regard' in their decisions, services and programmes to the need to advance the three strands of the duty: to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; to advance equality of opportunity; and to foster good relations between people of different backgrounds. The duty applies specifically to nine groups of people with 'protected characteristics'. These are: age, disability, religion/faith, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, and marriage and civil partnership.

The Council carries out Equalities Impact Assessment to identify the potential impact of strategies and change proposals on these groups, and to fulfil the equality duty. It will carry out impact assessment on the programmes and actions that it develops within the framework of this strategy, and it will encourage partners to carry out their own equalities impact assessments on their own proposals. Key partners are subject to either the public sector equality duty or similar duties under the act.

The Domestic Abuse Action Plan:

The focus of the action plan has been broken down into six specific areas and these are as follows:

- Adult victims of DA
- Children and young people
- Perpetrators
- External witnesses
- High Impact families
- The wider community

Each of the specific areas has then been further considered and how we can achieve our overall aim for everyone has been tailored within each section.

The outcomes of the strategy for each of the areas of work are as follows:

Adult victims of DA:

- People feel safe and live without fear within a secure home
- People feel confident and in control of their life and have a say in life choices
- Economic security leading to feelings of self-worth and personal - empowerment -
- People are healthy and have access to key services e.g. housing
- Victims have access to advice and information 24/7
- Consistent help is available from a trusted individual (mentor).

Children and young people:

- Educational setting recognise their responsibility to ensure that children learn about healthy relationships through phases
- Partnerships enable educational settings to feel confident and skilled enough to deliver education programmes around DA
- Agencies recognise their responsibilities in keeping children safe and see life “through the eyes of a child” in order to gain a proper understanding of what is happening to children and young people.

Perpetrators:

- Agencies have a responsibility to identify and flag perpetrators or potential perpetrators and to record this information and share it appropriately with a focus on preventing abuse or preventing further abuse

- Perpetrators are encouraged to understand the impact of their - behaviour in order to break the cycle of abuse with the aim of - preventing repeat incidents -
- Agencies are to take appropriate action with perpetrators and enforce a zero tolerance of abuse and continually reinforce the unacceptability of abuse.

External witnesses:

- The population have an understanding of DA and understand how to report it and who to report it to
- The population have a sense of personal responsibility to report and feel confident enough to do so
- Witnesses who have reported DA are then appropriately supported themselves by agencies.

High impact families:

- Information is shared appropriately through a variety of mechanisms and processes i.e. Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), MARAC and Potentially Dangerous People (PDP)
- Effective case management is in place to ensure that information is collated assessed and shared to identify risks and to ensure that appropriate action is taken
- Different strategies are available to fit a person-centred approach but with the overarching aim of agencies taking action in all cases including cases where families refuse to cooperate.

The wider community:

- Effective awareness-raising is undertaken which ensures that a clear message is portrayed regarding the unacceptability of DA
- Awareness campaigns to include reference to all the different forms of DA which may enable victims and perpetrators who have never recognised that they are victims and perpetrators to come forward and report or to seek help.

In order to measure outcomes, the strategy has to include data which can assist in assessing how effective the actions are and whether they are being achieved.

The measures currently being considered are as follows:

Statistical information

- Number of cases reported to the police
- Number of cases going to court
- Percentage and number of successful prosecutions
- Number of DA homicides
- MARAC NI32 repeat rate

- Number of children subject to a child protection plan where DA is a risk factor
- Number of victims completing the freedom programme (or similar programme)
- Number of perpetrators completing the voluntary and statutory - perpetrator programme (or similar programme) -
- Number of educational settings participating in DA training
- Number of educational settings embedding DA within their curriculum or within other educational settings i.e. youth clubs
- Number of awareness campaigns conducted
- Number of staff attending LSCB DA training
- Number of high impact families identified

Quality of Services

- Direct feedback from victims either through questionnaires or focus groups regarding DA services – this feedback to include what works and what doesn't work for the victims
- Evidence of positive change in perpetrators who have completed the perpetrator programme or similar from victims and agencies (as a guide 6/12 months after completion)
- The impact of awareness campaigns – relevant if victims/others are reporting due to seeing campaign materials etc
- Reasons for unsuccessful prosecutions
- Information from victims as to why they refuse to give evidence in court
- Attitudinal or similar survey regarding DA.

The table below shows the key actions set for 2012/13 and the progress against those actions. A more detailed breakdown of actions is available via the monitoring process for the plan. A new action plan has been developed for 2012/13 and can be seen on pages..... of this document.

Key Action	Achievements
Implementation of the Service for both victims and perpetrators	New services to support victims of domestic abuse and their children were commissioned at the start of 2012 and new services began operating in April 2012. To date Sanctuary Supported Living have provided full support to sixty-nine victims of domestic abuse and provided advice and guidance to a further Sixty- seven. Forty-seven women have attended the Freedom Programme run by Harbour. Although not a new service, the Darlington Refuge, has accommodated 38 women since April 2012 and given advice and guidance too many more via its helpline.
Development of a voluntary perpetrator programme	Although options have been explored during 2012/13, there are a number of reasons why the CSP has not been able to fully implement this programme. Commitment to do so still remains high and options will be explored further during 2013/14.
Operation of the MARAC (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Process)	The MARAC process deals with domestic abuse cases where there is a high level of risk to the victim. It is the aim of agencies to ensure that victims are given the correct support to help them to escape from abusive

	relationships. The success of this is measured by the numbers of repeat victims whose cases come back to MARAC. The target for Darlington is to have no more than 28% of repeat cases per year. As stated above the figure for 2012/13 as at January 2013 was 20%.
Developing promotional awareness raising campaigns	A very successful campaign was run throughout 2012/13 led by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Network (DASAN). As part of this campaign leaflets were provided to 127 venues in the town, with 55 venues agreeing to display posters. Alongside of this, display stands with promotional material were placed at various locations throughout the year and helpline numbers were placed on the back of car park tickets. A short survey of the campaign showed that four out of ten people had seen at least one form of market with the greatest number reporting that they had seen information in their GP's surgery. The Vulnerability Strategic Group is aware that there is still work to be done in reaching specific groups of women such as members of ethnic minorities and women in the 50+ age group. Therefore one of the key objectives 2013/14 will be to explore ways to ensure that information reaches these groups
Developing comprehensive referral pathways	One of the aims stated in the action plan was to ensure that agencies have access to information which sets out clear referral pathways to each of the services available to enable victims to be signposted to the service which most meets their needs. This was completed and disseminated to relevant agencies in the town in spring 2012.
Carry out work in schools to promote healthy relationships	This objective has not yet been completed due to reduced resources and the fact that most schools in Darlington have been going through the process of becoming Academies. However, education packs have been distributed to most schools in Darlington and a key action for the coming year will be to map how this is being used in schools and identify gaps where further support is required. This applies to work around sexual violence as well as domestic abuse.
Ensure the involvement of early intervention teams with families where there is domestic abuse	A mentoring scheme initially funded via the Community Safety Fund has been established in the town. The aim of the scheme is to train volunteers who can work with families to help address problems at an early stage and prevent them from escalating.
Develop a more standardised approach to data collection across partner agencies.	An operational working group was established in 2012, with representation from all of the services mentioned in Key Action 1. This group has successfully worked together to decide on a standard set of indicators that are used by each agency.

Description	Responsibility	Due Date	Action taken	Date resolved	Status
To continue to produce comprehensive literature relating to pathways and services. Specific attention to be paid to specific groups: 40 plus/BME/LGBT, young people.	Susan Degnan as Chair of DASAN	01/03/2014	Action Plan completed. Promotional materials updated. Awareness raising events held. Attendance at meetings i.e. DAAT/Polish PACT.		Ongoing
To put together a programme of awareness raising events regarding domestic abuse including the specific groups named above.	Susan Degnan as Chair of the DASAN	01/03/2014	As above		Ongoing
Work with commissioners of public services to ensure that domestic abuse is included in safeguarding requirements in all service specifications	Lynne Henderson	Ongoing	Domestic Abuse included in all service specifications- DA strategy has been to JCU. Initial discussion taken place with Adult Commissioners in DBC re inclusion - favourably received but needs more formal discussion at JCU with health.		Ongoing
Research change behaviour programmes for perpetrators who are female or under 18	Lynne Henderson/Judith Morton	01/03/2014			Ongoing
Research national support mechanisms for male victims and victims within same sex relationships	Lynne Henderson	ongoing			Ongoing

Include Healthy Relationships within Social Norms Work	Kate Jeffels				Ongoing
Plan associated targeted support and follow up work after the Social Norms work survey carried out.	Kate Jeffels				
Carry out a mapping exercise re current activities in schools	Helen Murphy	01/01/2014			Ongoing
Delivery of training to settings relating to domestic abuse and healthy relationships	Catherine Shaw	31/03/14			Ongoing
Develop the Sex and Relationship Education Quality Mark	Catherine Shaw	31/03/14			Ongoing
Deliver training across all settings to meet Quality Mark	Catherine Shaw	31/03/14			Ongoing
Review MARAC Process	Hazel Willoughby	31/03/2014			
Implement interim Perpetrator Programme	Judith Morton	31/10/2013	Programme in place. Work to be done around process and monitoring		Ongoing
Research existing Perpetrator Programmes	Paul Goundry	30/11/13	Work begun with Professor Nicole Westmarland		
Perpetrator Strategy developed.	Paul Goundry	31/12/2013			
Collate evidence for future commissioning of perpetrator programmes with safeguarding Teams	Judith Morton	December 2013	Initial discussions held. LH and RS working on set of indicators and JM to discuss with Wear Valley Women's Aid.		

Training Strategy to be developed and details shared with domestic abuse services.	Helen Murphy	Jan 2014			
Problem solving, good practice and innovation to be shared with Police and Domestic Abuse support service practitioners.	Helen Murphy	Ongoing			Ongoing
Consultation to be carried out to consider how the troubled families and high impact household projects can work more closely and increase referrals from CRU, MARAC etc.	Helen Murphy/Melanie Teggert				
Durham Constabulary to adopt a robust standard for victimless prosecutions and will consider 999 calls, webcam footage, photos of injuries and photos of damage to property/scene on each occasion to support CPS charging advice.	Paul Goundry	Ongoing			Ongoing
Domestic Abuse Support services to be made of aware of this.	Helen Murphy	December 2013			

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