11/3/2016

**Budget Proposals – Domestic Abuse Services - Safeguarding Adults and Children**

Feedback:

People from all walks of life can experience domestic abuse. The home, where people should feel safe, becomes a place of fear, manipulation, violence and abuse.

 Domestic Abuse will affect 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men in their lifetime

 90% of children are in the same or the next room when abuse happens.

 **Please don’t reduce these indispensable services**

* We offer a 24 hour support network, 365 days a year, a holistic package of support including refuge accommodation for those who require a safe and secure temporary home.
* Outcomes for clients are focused on the 5 outcome areas of ‘Every Child Matters’
* We contribute to the Darlington Domestic Abuse Strategy by prevention, interventions, protection and provision. We work in partnership with others to promote domestic abuse awareness to the wider community, this includes directories, leaflets and promotional items etc. We collate information and data to feedback to the council. We are part of established networks including attending various meetings, Safeguarding, Supporting People, MARAC, health related issues, benefits, other key agencies to bring about positive outcomes for clients.
* We are a specialist service offering a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience in providing support to people suffering domestic abuse.
* We provide a help-line for the caller to receive individually focused information and advice and sign posting to the relevant agencies who can best meet their needs.
* As a voluntary organisation we generate valuable extra funding each year for the service and thereby creating substantial added value.
* Domestic abuse is the single most quoted reason for becoming homeless (Shelter, 2002)

Victims Comments:

I went to court and got a non- molestation order, but this did not help me and my children to keep safe, my ex -partner broke into the house and put us in danger again, I was placed in the refuge, where I feel safe and supported. I did not have family therefore refuges are an essential option for those fleeing domestic abuse.

I am very concerned over the lack of funding for domestic abuse services, please don’t make any cutbacks to these essential services. The refuge was a life line for me, I am a very vulnerable person who also suffers from mental health issues, I needed a shelter and support because I was suffering from domestic abuse.

During my stay at the refuge I have been able to rebuild my confidence and self- esteem, my children felt very safe and have started to trust people again.

Please support this essential service

Carole Clarkson Refuge Manager and Susan Degnan Asst. Manager