



# Hertfordshire

## Domestic Abuse Partnership

Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy - Overview  
2016-2019

**BREAKING THE CYCLE.**



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Domestic abuse is unacceptable yet it continues to be a serious issue for many of our residents with an estimated one in four women and one in six men experiencing domestic abuse at some point in their lifetime. More victims in Hertfordshire are positively coming forward to report abuse, and demand on services for both victims and perpetrators is increasing. Our services need to be responsive at the earliest opportunity, and balanced with prevention activities designed to stop abuse from happening in the first place.

The SafeLives review of Hertfordshire's domestic abuse commissioned services 2014/15 acted as a catalyst for change in the way that local partners work together to tackle domestic abuse. Although the review found some good practice in Hertfordshire, it was clear that partners and stakeholders could do more to improve the services in responding to the issue. Since then, a range of statutory agencies have worked together with representatives from housing and the voluntary and community sector to improve partnership working, service commissioning and decision making arrangements for tackling domestic abuse and protecting victims.

**We want women, children and men in Hertfordshire to be kept safe from domestic abuse and have the opportunity to lead healthy and happy lives. We will achieve this by;**

- **Preventing domestic abuse from happening in the first place by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it, and intervening early to prevent it from continuing, recurring or escalating.**
- **Reducing the risk to victims ensuring that perpetrators are held to account and supporting them to change their behaviour.**
- **Working in partnership to provide adequate levels of support where abuse occurs.**

Our Domestic Abuse Strategy 2016-2019 sets out what we, as a partnership, want to achieve over the next three years, and this document provides an overview of those plans. We want to better co-ordinate services based on individual need and risk, and put greater emphasis on prevention, sustained recovery and early intervention. We will do this by reviewing our services to ensure that they meet user needs, and offer the best value for money through joint commissioning and partnership working.

Domestic abuse is a complex and challenging issue which can wreck lives, and devastate families. No agency has single statutory responsibility for domestic abuse, and so it follows that the key to achieving our strategy lies in the hands of partnership working. Together we will break the cycle of abuse.

# Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategic Framework

## Our Vision

Women, children and men in Hertfordshire are kept safe from domestic abuse and have opportunities leading to healthy and happy lives.

	Strategic Aim	Outcomes
Prevent	Prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it, and intervening early where possible to prevent it from continuing, recurring or escalating.	Victims, perpetrators and their children are identified early and provided with the appropriate level of support to break cycles of domestic abuse and overcome the impact it has on their lives. 
		Communities and professionals understand what domestic abuse is, and know how to respond. 
		Increased reporting of domestic abuse to police and fewer repeat victims of domestic abuse each year. 
Protect	Reduce the risk to victims, hold perpetrators to account and support them to change their behaviour.	Children and young people at risk of harm are identified and referred appropriately. 
		Victims are safer and have improved resources to remain safe. 
		Victims have increased access to justice and perpetrators are held to account through the policing and justice system. 
		Perpetrators of domestic abuse are supported to change their behaviour and improve their overall wellbeing. 
Provide	Work in partnership to provide appropriate levels of support where abuse occurs	Victims receive responsive services and well-coordinated service pathways, which support sustained recovery and mitigation of the risks of further abuse. 
		All identified victims are offered an equally accessible service which meets their needs. 
		Victims report improved health, wellbeing and resilience for themselves and their families. 

# Strategic Action Plan

**Aim 1 - PREVENT** - Prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it, and intervening early where possible to prevent it from continuing, recurring or escalating.

What is the outcome we are trying to achieve	What we will do	Lead	By when
Victims, perpetrators and their children are identified early and provided with the appropriate level of support to break cycles of domestic abuse and overcome the impact it has on their lives.	1	Ensure that a range of support (core offer) is in place across the County and communicated to stakeholders.	HCC DA Commissioning April 2017
	2	Support the use and development of 'what works' in domestic abuse across all services.	HCC DA Commissioning April 2017
	3	Support the effective sharing of information to ensure the management of risk between different services.	Chair of DA Partnership Board December 2017
	4	Raise awareness and ensure that there is an understanding of domestic abuse and the support available to victims and perpetrators amongst professionals who work in universal services such as hospitals, doctors and teachers.	Safeguarding Boards and Learning & Development June 2017
	5	Identify who needs training and to what level by using partnership wide training needs analysis.	HCC Children's Services- Education and Early Intervention October 2016
	6	Understand, co-ordinate and quality check the training offered across Hertfordshire, and develop a consistent approach for evaluating future training.	HCC Subject Matter Expert January 2017
	7	Introduce a training framework that helps to identify learning and development needs, professional development and outcomes.	HCC Learning & Development January 2017
	8	Build capacity for innovation, learning and development across the domestic abuse partnership.	Safeguarding Boards March 2017
	9	Work in partnership to understand, develop and replicate what works in early intervention to break cycles of domestic abuse.	Chair of DA Partnership Board December 2017
	10	Establish a Hertfordshire Champions Network to provide advice and guidance where domestic abuse is a concern, and assist in identifying access to appropriate services.	HCC – Health & Community Services April 2017
	11	Improve the Herts Domestic Abuse Sunflower website and expand the use of technology where we can to improve processes, user experience and knowledge	HCC - Health & Community Services & Communications January 2017
	12	Continue to deliver domestic abuse campaigns across Hertfordshire to raise awareness and publish an annual diary of events.	HCC – Health & Community Services and CCSU December 2016
	13	Maintain and further promote the Hertfordshire Sunflower services and branding.	HCC – Health & Community Services and CCSU June 2017
	14	Continue to work with children & young people to provide information & general awareness through schools & other young people's services including the teaching of the importance of healthy relationships.	HCC Children's Services – Youth Connexions September 2018
Communities and professionals understand what domestic abuse is, and know how to respond.			
Increased reporting of domestic abuse to police and fewer repeat victims of domestic abuse each year.			

**Aim 2 – PROTECT - Reduce the risk to victims, hold perpetrators to account and support them to change their behaviour.**

What is the outcome we are trying to achieve	What we will do	Lead	By when
Children and young people at risk of harm are identified and referred appropriately.	15 Ensure pathways for children, young people and adults experiencing domestic abuse are clear and communicated across Hertfordshire	HCC Health & Community Services and Children's Services	January 2017
	16 Continue to deliver education around healthy relationships, domestic and sexual violence, confidence and assertiveness.	HCC Children's Services – Education and Early Intervention	June 2017
Victims are safer and have improved resources to remain safe.	17 Develop a continuous quality programme of training for all frontline practitioners working with children and young people.	HCC Children's Services Workforce Development	September 2017
	18 Ensure that there is a phased approach to robust monitoring of the outcomes for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.	Safeguarding Children's Board	June 2017
	19 Sustain the Family Safeguarding programme where multi-disciplinary teams work with families to reduce safeguarding risks for identified children and young people.	HCC Children's Services - Safeguarding	September 2017
	20 Ensure roles are clear for Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) core group members and their deputies, and that effective induction arrangements are in place.	Chair of MARAC sub-group	November 2016
	21 Ensure that all public sector agencies give the necessary priority to participating at senior level in MARACs.	Chair of MARAC sub-group	November 2016
	22 Ensure that participation of the voluntary sector at MARACs is welcomed and valued.	Chair of MARAC sub-group	October 2016
	23 Continue to review sample police incidents and the use of the Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) risk assessment tool, and audit MARAC cases to identify risks	Chair of MARAC sub-group	February 2017
	24 Continue to undertake focussed self-assessments in line with local MARAC principles.	Chair of MARAC sub-group	December 2016
	25 Ensure that the important role of Housing Associations and Registered Social Landlords is reflected in MARAC arrangements.	Chair of MARAC sub-group	February 2017
	26 Develop web-based information systems to be used across MARAC agencies.	Chair of MARAC sub-group	December 2016
	27 Roll out and encourage all agencies to use the SafeLives Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) tool for victims of domestic abuse to ensure consistency in risk assessment, and to quality assure the process.	Chair of MARAC sub-group	March 2017
	28 Further review MARAC co-ordination capacity levels to ensure robust administration arrangements.	Chair of MARAC sub-group	November 2016
	29 Improve mechanisms for sharing the learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, including how the learning is embedded into practice.	Chair of DHR sub-group	December 2016
	30 Implement operational Domestic Homicide Review pathways across agencies.	Chair of DHR sub-group	December 2016

What is the outcome we are trying to achieve	What we will do	Lead	By when
Victims are safer and have improved resources to remain safe.	31 Develop, agree and implement a protocol and process for Domestic Homicide Review Quality Assurance.	Chair of DHR sub-group	December 2016
	32 Identify central coordination of Domestic Homicide Reviews and establish robust systems to track the outcomes.	Chair of DHR sub-group	December 2016
Victims have increased access to justice and perpetrators are held to account through the policing and justice system.	33 Produce multi-agency quality standards for domestic violence courts to include services for the victim.	Local Criminal Justice Board	July 2017
	34 Develop a consistent approach for the management and assessment of domestic abuse perpetrators and promote the safety of victims.	Chair of Perpetrator sub-group	March 2017
	35 Advise on how front line workers can be appropriately trained to identify, engage and manage perpetrators of domestic abuse and work with key agencies to contribute to protecting victims and safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.	Chair of Perpetrator sub-group	January 2017
Perpetrators of domestic abuse are supported to change their behaviour and improve their overall wellbeing	36 Contribute to the development of effective prevention strategies (including pre-court programmes and programmes for young people) to ensure that potential domestic abuse perpetrators are identified early and offered opportunities to change.	Chair of Perpetrator sub-group	June 2017
	37 Develop an evidence led approach to the provision of services for domestic abuse perpetrators.	HCC DA Commissioning & Chair of Perpetrator sub-group	September 2016

### Aim 3 – PROVIDE -Work in partnership to provide appropriate levels of support where abuse occurs

What is the outcome we are trying to achieve	What we will do	Lead	By when
Victims receive responsive services and well-coordinated service pathways, which support sustained recovery and mitigation of the risks of further abuse.	38 Conduct a full options appraisal of service provision, gaps and future recommendations.	HCC DA Commissioning	December 2016
	39 Research and implement a data-monitoring tool for overseeing service delivery against the outcomes we expect to see including through commissioned arrangements.	HCC DA Commissioning	March 2017
	40 Design and commission the new service model contract for the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Service (high risk victims service).	HCC DA Commissioning	September 2016
	41 Review services for medium risk victims and identify opportunities to enhance them.	HCC DA Commissioning	April 2017
	42 Design and implement a future model for accommodation based services.	HCC DA Commissioning	April 2017
	43 Develop new service arrangements for pre-court perpetrator services.	HCC DA Commissioning	April 2017
	44 Children's support - review current arrangements to support children affected by domestic abuse including community based interfamily safeguarding interventions, clarify future needs and action required.	HCC Children's Services Commissioning	December 2016
	45 Explore opportunities to maximise services for domestic abuse victims in the home via the Hertfordshire Home Security Service.	HCC Community Protection	December 2017
	46 Develop a clear plan to ensure that victims and children's voices are captured in everything we do in response to domestic abuse.	HCC DA Commissioning	April 2017
	47 Deliver actions on the specific domestic abuse housing action plan via the Heads of Housing network.	Heads of Housing Representative	July 2019
	48 Use the results of our local multi-agency self-assessment against the HM Government: Forced Marriage (FM) and Honour Based Violence Guidance to determine service priorities for the partnership and commissioning arrangements.	Chair of Honour Based Abuse sub-group	September 2016
	49 Ensure the provision of specific FM/Honour Based Abuse training and awareness for staff to recognise report and refer victims (focusing on health agencies and children's services including schools).	Chair of Honour Based Abuse sub-group	December 2016
	All identified victims are offered an equally accessible service which meets their needs.	50 Develop and agree clear care pathways for FM/HBA shared by all agencies from initial identification	Chair of Honour Based Abuse sub-group
51 Provide easy access to appropriate services for support in reducing or protecting victims from risk of/harm from FM and HBA.		Chair of Honour Based Abuse sub-group	January 2017
52 Work with faith leaders to raise awareness of FM and HBA within vulnerable communities and develop positive relationships.		Chair of Honour Based Abuse sub-group	October 2016
53 Work with the charity Barnardo's to ensure that we are doing all we can to help eradicate the illegal practice of female genital mutilation.		Chair of Honour Based Abuse sub-group	September 2016

