



Domestic Abuse Strategy for Surrey 2013-2018

<http://www.surreyagainstda.info/>

Our aim

Domestic Abuse (DA) causes harm to both adults and children, is of high cost to public agencies and employers and produces behaviours that can be replicated generation to generation. Domestic violence is the highest reported violent crime in Surrey; domestic abuse affects physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing and occurs regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, and age, and religion, mental and physical ability.

Reported levels of domestic abuse, either as first time incidents or repeats, are not reducing in Surrey despite efforts to tackle the problem and based on national research, per head of population, reported incidents are lower than would be expected indicating a level of hidden harm.

This strategy is a commitment by all involved public, voluntary, community and faith organisations to work together as one, to raise awareness, to address both the causes and effects of domestic abuse and to improve lives. This will require changes to current working practises around education, information sharing, referral, service delivery and a refocusing of the money spent. The aim is to make changes that lead to improved outcomes for those affected through focussed interventions, and to reduce the total cost to the public sector through long term culture change and a reduced demand on services.

We have the opportunity of utilising the Transforming Public Services Programme to drive our aim through the expanding Family Support Programme work stream.

What is our shared partnership vision for 2018?

To ensure that all those affected by Domestic Abuse have the right information, services and support, at the earliest opportunity, to live lives free from domestic abuse and gain the personal confidence to build healthy relationships for themselves and their dependants.

What will our focus be?

To achieve our vision we will focus on three core areas:

- **Prevention:** We will promote healthy relationships in children, young people and adults through schools, work places, targeted programmes and the community
- **Early Intervention:** We will work as one team, pro-actively sharing information, intelligence and decision making to enable earlier interventions that prevent the escalation of abuse, reduce repeat incidents and minimise harm. We will encourage victims and perpetrators to seek help
- **Response:** We will provide a holistic response to all those affected; victim, dependants and perpetrator. We will ensure all staff are well trained and that there are appropriate services available.

Domestic Abuse Statistics

In the year ending March 2016, 14,498 incidents of domestic abuse were reported to Surrey Police, an increase of 4.5% on the previous 12 months.

Reported incidents of domestic abuse are significantly more prevalent annually in Spelthorne and Reigate and Banstead.

Of the total number of incidents reported to Surrey Police, 45.1% involved children

- 3.1% (448) of incidents, children witnessed the abuse
- 2.3% (335) of incidents, children perpetrated the abuse
- 2.8% (414) of incidents, children were the victims of the abuse
- 36.8% (5,336) of incidents, children were involved in some other way

Home Office figures estimate that just over 26,000 women and girls, and nearly 15,000 men and boys aged between 16 and 59 in Surrey have been a victim of domestic abuse in the past year.

There were also 3,837 new referrals to outreach services in 2015-16, an increase of 7.4% on the previous year.

A snapshot of the 933 Child Protection Plans in place in July 2015 shows that domestic abuse was identified as a factor in a third of cases (33.2%). In the same month, 2,625 Children in Need were identified as having domestic abuse as a factor.

What difference will the DA Strategy make up to 2018?

Prevention:

- Communications programmes to raise public awareness and change culture.
- Education programmes to help our young people build healthy relationships.
- Programmes for positive parenting and couples at risk of violence.

Early intervention:

- Services for children who have witnessed domestic abuse, individual and family based
- Integrated working with drug and alcohol and mental health services, to intervene to prevent repeat incidents of abuse and to reach victims who use these services.
- Programmes for perpetrators focused on re-education (self-referral and agency led referral)
- Pro-active identification of at-risk adults and children and provision of support to them and their families
- Early sharing of information and agreed approach by agencies to known incidents utilising the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) approach and the Supporting Families programme
- An effective multi-agency training strategy covering early identification, response and professional skills
- Development of employee support programmes in work places

Response:

- An integrated, multi-agency approach to creating one team to share information appropriately and securely on children, families and adults around the child or young person, in order to take timely and appropriate decisions and actions are taken as one team around the 'family'
- Support for services for domestic abuse victims including building self-esteem and preventing re-victimisation
- Support and information services to help victims make safe decisions and their future i.e. Housing, legal, financial, refuge
- Working with known perpetrators, including offenders being released from custody
- Effective criminal justice interventions and effective enforcement of orders and injunctions.
- Work with the prison population, where there are high numbers of people who have experienced domestic abuse both as victims and perpetrators.

Governance

In order to deliver the outcomes strong governance will be required, to gain the signup and commitment of each organisation and partnership involved in the delivery of services to the shared outcomes, delivery model and agreed action plan.

Range of organisations involved: police; domestic abuse services; drug and alcohol services; primary and community health services; acute hospitals; mental health services; GPs / CCGs; probation; youth justice; youth services; Court services; prisons; schools; children's social care; adult social care; housing, voluntary and faith sector.

What will success look like by 2018?

- All those affected have the knowledge to access help or advice, for example increased referrals, access of services
- Interventions are in place that evidence improving outcomes for those affected, for example less repeats or long term support
- Less young people becoming involved in DA either as perpetrators or victims, for example stats show a change in the age profiles
- Pro-active interventions with perpetrators keeping victims and their children safe and away from required statutory interventions, for example more actions recorded against perpetrators, less children reported as affected by DA

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