



## DAF Action Plan Summary

The Domestic Abuse Forum provides effective leadership in the areas of domestic abuse to ensure shared strategic objectives and joint approach across all services and sectors promoting multi agency working, collective decision-making and comprehensive information sharing and data collection.

The Domestic Abuse Forum is accountable to the statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) that by law must work together to reduce crime, disorder, substance misuse and re-offending.

### The aims of the forum are:

- To contribute to the reduction and prevention of domestic abuse and when it occurs, an increased confidence amongst those affected by domestic abuse to report it.
- To promote and ensure an effective response to incidents of domestic abuse through co-operation between the private, public and voluntary sectors in the provision of high-quality services
- To strengthen the protection of adults and children experiencing, affected by or at risk of suffering domestic abuse.
- To act as a hub for best practice and evidence-based interventions
- To respond to changes in national guidelines; practice and introduction of new legislation to ensure best practice is adopted.

### Priorities:

#### **Priority 1 – To prevent domestic abuse (and associated harm) from taking place**

**Action 1a:** To oversee and guide the development of targeted campaigns, key messages and materials, utilising existing programmes and media.

Campaigns will promote key messages that emphasise:

- Healthy relationships
- Domestic abuse will not be tolerated
- Freedom from abuse and from the fear of violence is a basic right
- Sexual assault may accompany domestic violence
- Those who have experienced domestic abuse are not responsible for it
- Help is available from a wide range of services
- People identifying domestic abuse should work with victims and perpetrators to stop it where it is safe to do so

Campaigns will be diverse and address domestic abuse within a wide variety of relationships including heterosexual relationships, child/parental conflict, adolescents, elders, same sex relationship and disabled adults.



**Action 1b:** Ensure that staff are trained to an appropriate level for their role that provides the right skills and knowledge about domestic abuse.

Workers from varying disciplines and organisational backgrounds, possessing a range of skills and abilities, currently provide a frontline response to families and individuals experiencing and / or perpetrating domestic abuse. These workers require varying levels of training, development and support to enable them to work safely, effectively and consistently.

**Action 1c:** Those experiencing domestic abuse are able to access services and support through a clear pathway

It is important that any barriers that prevent people accessing services need to be identified and removed. This should be done in consultation with local groups that have an equality remit (including organisations representing the interests of specific groups), and in line with statutory requirements. This includes; people from black and minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, older people, transgender people and lesbian, gay or bisexual people.

## **Priority 2 - To plan and deliver co-ordinated, effective and sustainable services to victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse**

**Action 2a:** To oversee and guide the integrated commissioning of services for those affected by domestic abuse, ensuring that services are responsive, effective, fit for purpose and provide value for money.

**Action 2b:** Engage and work with other multi-agency partnerships (e.g. Safeguarding Adults Board, IOW Safeguarding Children's Board) in ensuring strategies and action plans reference and address effective and co-ordinated multi-agency responses to domestic abuse including those with complex needs.

## **Priority 3: To understand our local needs and priorities for future planning with regards to domestic abuse services**

**Action 3a:** To ensure that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Community Safety Assessments explicitly address the incidence and prevalence of domestic abuse, ensuring that this informs future commissioning