

The Safe Durham Partnership

Altogether safer

**Joint Commissioning Strategy
2011-14
for Domestic Abuse Services
in County Durham**

Executive Summary

**Durham County Council
and
NHS County Durham**

July 2011

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1. Summary

1.1 Purpose of the Strategy

This strategy sets out the framework by which the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) will match the needs and aspirations of local communities and agree priorities and desired outcomes with the resources available to it. It is the plan that describes the needs of people in County Durham who are victims of domestic abuse in terms of prevention, provision and protection.

It brings together information from a range of sources, including service users, and service providers in both the statutory and voluntary sectors. It considers access to current service provision and performance of those services related to outcomes. This will assist in identifying gaps in service demands and the potential cost of the services required meeting that demand.

The strategy provides a strategic framework to support the commissioning of high quality services which respond to the broad spectrum of needs for those experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse.

It implements the recommendation from the Domestic Violence sub-group of the NHS Taskforce on the Health Aspects of Violence Against Women and Children to jointly commission services in partnership with the local authority and the Community Safety Partnership.

It will take into account the combined funding which has been made available for the commissioning of specialist domestic abuse services by Durham County Council and NHS County Durham.

Furthermore it establishes how and what the SDP will commission in respect of specialist services based on identified needs linked to the key priorities identified within the SDP Plan. The strategy will support the vision of the Partnership that *“every child, adult and place in County Durham will be, and will feel safe.”*

The strategy is structured in six sections, an introduction; national and local guidance and research; future demand; market analysis; gap analysis and the design of future provision; and monitoring arrangements.

1.2 Summary of Needs

The Joint Commissioning Strategy has identified the following needs in terms of Domestic Abuse services. These needs are based on findings from plans previous strategic assessments and policy documents including information from service users, providers and partner agencies.

Prevention

- Awareness raising about domestic abuse
- Social marketing to change attitudes
- A whole school response to children and young people
- Teenage partner violence awareness raising programmes
- Early identification, early intervention
- Domestic abuse training for professionals

Provision

- Refuge services
- Specialist domestic abuse outreach services for adults
- Specialist domestic abuse outreach services for children
- Group work programmes for women, for example, Freedom Programme, Power to Change Programme
- Remain safe scheme
- Independent domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)
- Communication and advertising the services available

Protection

- Specialist domestic violence courts (SDVCs)
- Court mandated domestic abuse perpetrator programmes
- Voluntary domestic abuse perpetrator programmes
- Positive policing and criminal justice responses

1.3 Summary of changes

The main changes that the Joint Commissioning Strategy will facilitate are identified below.

- Safeguard Domestic Abuse accommodation based services and specialist floating support services as much as possible
- Recurrent mainstream funding will be made available to support service provision
- Equal standards of domestic abuse service provision across the County
- Provision of services based on needs within a strategic commissioning framework
- Enhanced provision through the joint implementation plan and shared commitments to commissioning high quality services

1.4 Recommended priorities for the future provision of services

Based on the assessment of need, and taking into account the limited funding available, it has been agreed by Durham County Council, NHS County Durham and

the Safe Durham Partnership that the services this commissioning strategy aims to deliver are:

- Specialist outreach services for adults and children
- Awareness raising and specialist preventative work based around the adoption of a zero-tolerance approach
- Continuation of the Remain safe scheme
- Voluntary domestic abuse perpetrator programmes

These services will contribute to the SDP achieving its aims in respect of domestic abuse which are to:

- Increase public confidence in services and help to make people feel safe.
- Improve the safety of victims and children who witness and experience domestic abuse and to reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse.

and deliver the agreed outcomes, which are:

- To improve the safety of victims and children who witness and experience domestic abuse and to reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse.
- Improved quality of life within our communities.
- People feel safe in their neighbourhoods.
- To reduce serious violent crime across County Durham and in priority locations.

The delivery of this strategy and accompanying action plan (appendix 4) will be monitored by the Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group (DAFEG) the thematic sub group of the Safe Durham Partnership. An accompanying performance management framework has been developed with relevant outcomes and performance indicators.