

The Safe Durham Partnership

Altogether safer

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

**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 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.

The strategy 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 aims to provide a strategic framework to support the commissioning of high quality services to 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.

The strategy aims to establish how and what the SDP will commission in respect of specialist services based on identified needs and through the planning processes, 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 strategies, plans 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.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

The definition of domestic abuse used within this document, is the one adopted in County Durham by all partner agencies and is:

“any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, aged 18 or over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender and sexuality. (Family members are defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents, whether directly related, in-laws or step family).” (Home Office, 2005)

Although domestic abuse affecting those aged under 18 is a child safeguarding issue, the Safe Durham Partnership acknowledges that issues such as teenage partner violence exist and will support the County Durham Children’s Trust to address these issues. The Home Office has pledged to consult on the current definition of domestic abuse within the Violence against Women and Girls Action Plan to take into account younger victims aged 16 years and over. The SDP will review its adopted definition in line with Home Office findings, once published.

The Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Commissioning Strategy for Specialist Domestic Abuse Services has been produced with input from service users, service providers and other professionals working with people affected by domestic abuse issues. It

builds on work that has been ongoing across County Durham in recent years which has highlighted the need to address domestic abuse as a priority area.

This is the first commissioning strategy for specialist domestic abuse services in County Durham and represents the considerable progress the Partnership has made in the strategic planning and future commissioning of specialist services for those affected by domestic abuse. It will be the first time many of the specialist services will have the benefit of recurrent mainstream funding to support service provision. This provision will be further enhanced through the joint implementation plan and shared commitments to commissioning high quality services.

2.2 What is meant by Commissioning?

Commissioning is defined as:

The strategic activity of assessing needs, resources and current services and developing a strategy of how to make best use of available resources to meet needs.'
(Department of Health 1995)

Through the SDP planning processes, delivery groups have identified areas where they feel services need to be commissioned in order to achieve the outcomes set out in the Partnership Plan. The multi agency strategic delivery group for domestic abuse is the Domestic Abuse Executive Forum Group (DAFEG).

The DAFEG is chaired by the Cabinet member with the portfolio for Safer Communities and attended by key individuals from a number of responsible authorities of the SDP (Appendix 2).

The introduction of a Unitary Authority in County Durham in 2009 posed a number of issues for the Safe Durham Partnership in respect of domestic abuse services:

- Disparity in domestic abuse service provision across the County in terms of what is available and standards of service.
- Disparity in terms of funding arrangements for domestic abuse services. There are services which are currently funded by statutory organisations and some through charitable sources, the majority of which are short term and non recurrent funding streams. These need to be reviewed taking into consideration the impact upon the desired outcomes of the Partnership and their value for money.
- The future of accommodation based services and floating support funded through Adults Wellbeing and Health Supporting People Funding.

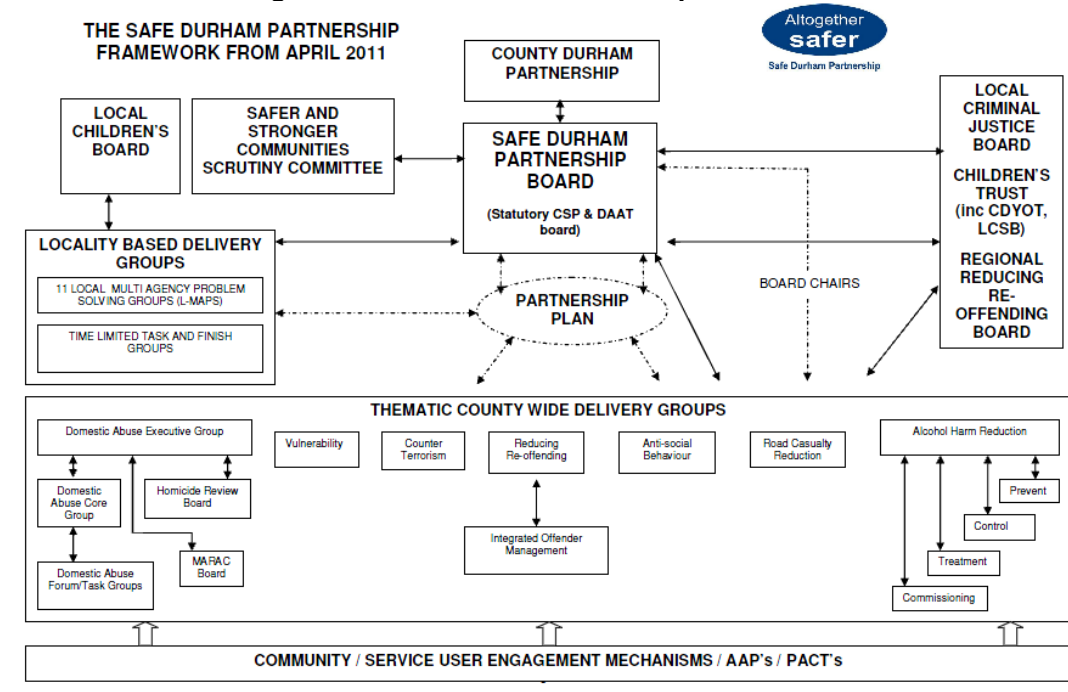
The development of this commissioning strategy provides a framework for agencies to review and develop services and agree priorities. The strategy will identify gaps in services, responsibilities and priorities for future developments in line with Government guidance and with the aim of sharing a joint vision.

2.3 Vision and Pledge of the Safe Durham Partnership

The Safe Durham Partnership is the statutory Community Safety Partnership that covers County Durham as prescribed in the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and subsequent legislation. The SDP oversees the strategic delivery of the 'Altogether Safer' theme of the County Durham Partnership.

The SDP is made up of responsible authorities, who work together to tackle crime and disorder, the misuse of drugs, anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment. The responsible authorities are Durham County Council, Durham Police Authority, Durham Constabulary, County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, NHS County Durham and Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust. Outlined below is the framework for community safety in County Durham.

Figure 1 - Safe Durham Partnership Framework



The vision for the future for the Safe Durham Partnership is that:

- Every child, adult and place in County Durham will be, and will feel safe.

The Safe Durham Partnership pledges to:

- Listen, engage and work with local communities.
- Provide a responsive, consistent, and coordinated approach across all agencies.

In doing so, in respect of domestic abuse issues, we will:

- 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.

2.4 Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships

The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced the Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships. These Hallmarks are the minimum standards with which Community Safety Partnerships are expected to operate.

Under the Hallmarks, the way in which Community Safety Partnerships utilise their funding resources under scrutiny, partnerships are expected to ensure that in allocating resources they have in mind:

- Value for money
- Areas of most need
- They are allocated through a clear and transparent process
- Inextricable links to desired outcomes, and
- Making the best use of joint specialist and non-specialist resources

In April 2009 the SDP became the Community Safety Partnership for County Durham and is the body accountable for funding allocated to the Community Safety Fund. In order to adhere to the minimum standards the Partnership needs to ensure that it has a robust process for allocating funding against agreed priorities. This underpins the reason for developing a commissioning approach to domestic abuse services.

2.5 Safeguarding

The Safe Durham Partnership recognises that every person within our community has the right to live their lives free from violence and abuse. Safeguarding adults and children is a shared responsibility and a high priority for all agencies in County Durham. All commissioned service providers must ensure they follow the safeguarding procedures for adults and children and are subject to monitoring and reviewing processes, which includes an assessment of their safeguarding processes.

2.6 Equality and Diversity

This commissioning strategy has a number of implications for equality and diversity in line with the Equality Act 2010 in relation to age; ethnicity; religion or belief; disability; sexual orientation; and gender (including transgender, pregnancy and maternity). Issues are integrated within the strategy an example being the emphasis on services for women, who are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse.

All commissioned services will be monitored and reviewed against a set of standards contained within a quality assurance framework. Specific standards relate to equality and diversity both within employment and work with service users.

2.7 Underpinning Principles and Values in Respect of Domestic Abuse

The SDP defines its commitment through a set of principles and values. These are:

- Domestic abuse occurs in all sections of our community. It is a deliberate violation of a person's human rights. Domestic abuse is an issue of inequality, most commonly perpetrated by men towards women though, to a lesser degree, is perpetrated by women on men and within same sex relationships.
- Service provision needs to be flexible to take account of individual need, but sufficiently standardised to ensure a similar response in similar circumstances.
- Survivors need to be an integral part of seeking solutions to the issue.
- There is a strong correlation between domestic abuse and child abuse and children who witness domestic abuse are also at risk of significant harm.
- Effective services are those that offer support and the focus needs to be on what can be offered to increase safety.
- Resource allocation must be inextricably linked to desired outcomes of the Safe Durham Partnership.
- Resource allocation must be based on assessed need as identified through the Strategic Threat Assessment, Problem Profiles, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, national policy development, evidence of good practice and information from current service providers and service users.
- All resources available to the Safe Durham Partnership Board for domestic abuse services must be allocated through a clear and transparent framework and demonstrate open competition.

3. National and Local Guidance and Research

3.1 Evidence Base

- The British Crime Survey found that there were an estimated 12.9 million incidents of domestic violence acts (that constituted non-sexual threats or force) against women and 2.5 million against men in England and Wales in the year preceding interview (Walby & Allen, 2004).
- According to the government National Delivery Plan, less than 24% of domestic violence crime is reported to the police (Walby and Allen, 2004).
- Repeat victimisation is common, 44% of victims of domestic violence are involved in more than one incident. No other type of crime has a rate of repeat victimisation as high (Dodd et al, July 2004).
- On average, two women a week are killed by a violent partner or ex-partner. This constitutes nearly 40% of all female homicide victims (Povey, (ed.), 2005; Home Office, 1999; Department of Health, 2005).
- In a study of 173 children subject to serious case review, domestic violence was an issue for 47 (27%) (Ofsted, 2009).
- In a survey of 13 to 17 year old girls in intimate relationships, one in six girls said they had been hit by their boyfriends (4% regularly) and one in sixteen said they had been raped (NSPCC & University of Bristol, 2009).
- Domestic Violence is the major cause of injury to women under 60 years of age and a major factor for psychiatric disorders, chronic physical conditions and substance abuse (Home Office).

3.2 National Priorities

National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan

The National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan was published by central Government in 2005 and has been reviewed on two occasions. The five key outcomes of the plan are:

- To reduce the number of domestic violence related homicides.
- To reduce the prevalence of domestic violence, particularly in high incidence areas and/or communities.
- To increase the rate of reporting for domestic violence particularly in high incidence areas and /or communities.
- To increase the rate of reported domestic violence offences that are brought to justice, particularly in high incidence areas and/or communities, as well as in areas with high attrition rates.
- To ensure that victims of domestic violence are adequately protected and supported nationwide.

The objectives agreed in 2007/08 reflect the move towards developing a Coordinated Community Response and are:

- To increase the early identification of, and intervention with, victims of domestic violence by utilising all points of contact with front-line professionals.
- To build capacity within the domestic violence sector to provide effective advice and support to victims of domestic violence.
- To improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence.
- To support victims through the Criminal Justice System and to manage perpetrators to reduce risk.

Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls has a significant impact on a range of agencies, from those in the criminal justice system, to health, housing, children and young people's services to name but a few. As a consequence it is recognised that all Government departments and local agencies have a role to play in addressing and ultimately eliminating all forms of violence towards women and girls.

The Government recognised that, up until 2009, the focus of policy had been on protection through the intervention of the criminal justice agencies and on the provision of services once a female has been victimised. Following a period of extensive consultation and national debate, the new 'Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls: A Strategy' was published in December 2009.

The new Coalition Government has reaffirmed the commitment to tackling the issue of violence against women and girls and has stated that no level of violence against women and girls is acceptable. The strategy has recently been refreshed and is centred on four key strands of prevention, provision, partnership working and risk

reduction. It will also focus on justice outcomes, with particular focus on the prevention strand.

The key areas for action the Government intended to take in respect of the four strands are:

Prevention

- Change attitudes, behaviours and practices.
- Increase public understanding.
- Strengthen the understanding of the unacceptability of VAWG.
- Protect vulnerable children.

Provision

- Create a robust commissioning framework.
- Provide continued central funding to frontline services over the next four years.
- Enable local areas to tailor service provision to meet their local needs.
- Provision of training to frontline partners to recognize VAWG and understand the actions to be taken.

Partnership Working

- Support community and voluntary groups to take a stand against violence and help them understand how to do this effectively.
- Encourage people to help themselves and each other using community-based initiatives such as community coaching.
- Work with our European and international partners to tackle VAWG on a collaborative basis

Risk Reduction and Justice Outcomes

- Improve the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice response to VAWG.
- Ensure the application of current legislative powers and risk management processes are both understood and effective.
- Ensure the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes.

NHS Taskforce on Health Aspects of Violence Against Women and Children

In March 2010 the NHS Taskforce produced the 'Report from the Domestic Violence sub-group'. The report looked at the prevalence and impact of domestic abuse, service, internal staff and service users experiences of the NHS and best practice within the NHS structure. The report highlighted a number of summary recommendations for the NHS in tackling domestic abuse issues. These being:

- **Prevention:** Healthcare professionals need to work in partnership to challenge the acceptability of domestic abuse amongst young people.
- **Identification and Management:** Implementation of a rolling programme of training to clinical teams to provide for rapid turnover of staff.

- Key services and successful pathways: Commission intervention programmes for women survivors and their children. The integration of psychological support and treatment for survivors and their children into mainstream health services in primary and secondary care and specialist agencies.
- Improving availability of and access to services: Provide national guidance on the commissioning of a specialist domestic violence service for women and children and commission services jointly with the local authority and the Community Safety Partnership.
- Information Sharing: Integrate child protection and partner domestic violence information sharing.
- Workforce: Set up training in domestic violence at a number of levels within the NHS and require that all NHS employers/contractors have a domestic violence policy.
- Systems and incentives: Provide national commissioning guidance based on national outcome-based standards. Develop common definitions for the collection of data where violence against women has been disclosed.

NHS Operating Framework 2011/12

The NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12 outlines the first full year of the proposed transition to the new structure of the NHS. The goal of the next 12 months' activities is to build a strong foundation for the new system by "maintaining and improving quality, by keeping tight financial control and delivering on the quality and productivity challenge and by creating energy and momentum for transition and reform".

The framework discusses three interrelated themes of 'Transition and reform', 'Transparency and local accountability' and 'Service quality'.

Specialist Domestic Violence Courts

'Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) Programme Guidance' produced by Her Majesty's Courts Service, Crown Prosecution Service and the Home Office in 2005, outlined the requirements for areas selected to achieve SDVC status. An evaluation of a pilot project demonstrated that by adopting particular working practices, significant improvements could be made to the outcomes of domestic violence cases, and contributed to developing a coordinated community response to the issue. The evaluation showed that SDVCs:

- Enhance the effectiveness of court and support services for victims.
- Make support for victims and information-sharing easier.
- Improve victim participation and satisfaction.
- Increase public confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

Key positive outcomes included:

- Increasing the number of domestic violence incidents reported to police that result in a case at court.
- Reducing the number of cases lost before trial (withdrawals and discontinuances).

- Increasing the number of perpetrators brought to justice (via increased early and late guilty pleas of defendants).
- More appropriate sentencing.
- Strengthening cases to enable them to continue if a victim withdraws through the use of evidence other than victim statements.
- Providing advice and support to victims of domestic violence, and enabling victims to access a range of services, had a positive effect on their feelings of safety, their experience with and confidence in the CJS.

To achieve SDVC status a number of core elements had to be demonstrated. These include: issues around the court processes and crucially implementation of the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) process for high risk victims; the provision of Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors to support victims through the court process; and the delivery of a voluntary domestic abuse perpetrator programme.

3.3 Local Priorities

Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2030

The Sustainable Community Strategy of the County Durham Partnership sets out how the local authority will work with partners over the next 20 years to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the area. The vision for achieving safer communities is that there will be low crime, safer neighbourhoods and public confidence. One of the key priority objectives to achieve this is to protect vulnerable people from harm including those suffering domestic violence. The aim is to have less violent crime, with low numbers of serious injuries, fewer repeat incidents of domestic violence and ensure the MARAC is available across the county.

Durham County Council Plan 2011-14

The Council Plan sets out Durham County Councils corporate priorities for improvement and the key actions it will take to deliver the long term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategy. Under the 'Altogether Safer' objective, a key priority is to protect vulnerable people from harm, including domestic abuse, with a view to improving the safety of victims and reduce repeat incidents. The areas identified for action which are relevant to Domestic Abuse are to:

- Co-ordinate the implementation of the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Domestic Abuse Services.
- Work with partners to provide individual emotional and practical support services to victims of domestic abuse. Work with partners to provide individual emotional and practical support services to victims of domestic abuse.

Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2011-14

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan describes the 'Altogether Safer' priorities outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy and continues to drive the work of the Partnership.

The Plan provides a clear picture of how the Safe Durham Partnership will continue to work towards creating a safer and more socially cohesive County and an 'Altogether Better' Durham.

The desired outcome relating to Domestic Abuse is: 'to improve the safety of victims and reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse'. In addition to the desired outcome, the Partnership has also identified six key areas for improvement to be addressed over the Partnership Plan period 2011-14.

The six key areas for improvement are:

- High impact households
- High impact localities
- Anti-social behaviour
- Alcohol harm reduction
- A partnership approach to tackling organised crime
- Improve data and information sharing

County Durham Domestic Abuse Strategy 2008-2011

The County Durham Domestic Abuse Strategy is an over-arching strategy for County Durham and covers the period 2008/11. It has been prepared in consultation with partners in the voluntary and statutory sectors. Its purpose is to provide a framework to ensure the active contribution of partner agencies to the enhancement, strengthening and development of services to reduce domestic abuse and support the large number of adults and children whose safety and well being are affected in our communities.

The strategic vision is for all agencies to work together to seek to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse in County Durham and to develop a coordinated community response that provides high quality support and protection services for those experiencing and witnessing domestic abuse and effectively deals with perpetrators. The strategic priorities are:

- To provide safe and accessible support services to victims and children of domestic abuse.
- To ensure perpetrators of domestic abuse are held accountable for their behaviour.
- To reduce the number of domestic violence related homicides.
- To increase awareness of the extent and impact of domestic abuse within local communities and across agencies and increase the rate of reporting.
- To address issues of funding relating to domestic abuse services.

There are a number of specialist domestic abuse services within County Durham supporting victims of domestic abuse. These services are performing well with significant numbers of victims accessing support on a voluntary basis (see section 4 for detail).

A refresh of the strategy is currently taking place, to cover the period 2011-14, which will take into account more recent policy developments. However this refreshed strategy will need to be reviewed once the Joint Commissioning Strategy has been implemented to take into account any changes to funding and services.

County Durham and Darlington Draft Sexual Violence Strategy 2011 – 2014

The Draft Sexual Violence Strategy highlights that much evidence exists of the links between domestic violence and sexual violence. Rape and sexual violence within the confines of an intimate relationship leaves the victim feeling betrayed, humiliated and confused and is often unrecognised by the victim as a crime.

The strategic priorities of the Strategy are:

- Prevention: to prevent sexual violence and sexual exploitation and reduce the associated harm.
- Provision: to ensure that survivors of sexual violence are provided with access to the right end to end help and support, and that services are available to address their needs.
- Protection: to improve the criminal justice response to sexual violence.

A Hidden Truth...? A Scrutiny report about Domestic Abuse in County Durham 2007

Durham County Council's Scrutiny Sub Committee for Strong, Healthy and Safe Communities established a working group reviewing Domestic Violence. The group primarily focused on the support provided to those victims who seek to flee domestic violence, the impact of domestic violence on families and particularly children, abuse of the elderly.

The following recommendations were suggested by the working group:

- Stronger Leadership
- Greater Awareness
- Better Data
- Enhanced Partnership Working
- Support for Victims and Perpetrators

Adults Wellbeing and Health – Service Improvement Plan 2010-13

The Service Improvement Plan provides an overview of the strategic improvement priorities for Adults Wellbeing and Health. For domestic violence the actions are those as described in the Council Plan detailed above.

Durham County Council are moving towards achieving the actions outlined in the plans. This strategy will contribute to securing the outreach services through the commissioning process. MARAC has now rolled out across the whole of the County.

Homelessness Strategy for County Durham 2008-2013

County Durham's first Homelessness Strategy sets out the challenges and opportunities ahead to meet customers housing, support and advice needs, and the action required to address current and future demands for services. The strategy recognises that this vision will not be realised in isolation. It identifies that statutory and voluntary sector organisations must continue to work together to meet the needs and aspirations of customers, enable access to a range of housing options and prevention services; in short, provide solutions in response to homelessness across the County.

A key objective in the action plan is 'Customers at risk of violence or harassment are able to remain in their home if it is their choice and safe to do so'. Key actions to be delivered are:

- Develop cross tenure target hardening/sanctuary schemes available to all at risk of violence or harassment where homelessness is threatened.
- Work with partnership organisations to develop perpetrator programmes to enable perpetrators to change behaviour.
- Work in partnership with organisations to deliver the Freedom Programme to victims of domestic violence.
- Work with landlords to offer alternative housing to perpetrators to enable victims to remain in their home.
- Develop safe houses and partnership responses to enable victims to remain at home or access suitable alternative accommodation.

3.4 Summary of national and local guidance

This strategy will follow national and local policy objectives. These include:

- Developing a coordinated community response to tackle domestic abuse
- Developing our approach to address the key areas of prevention, provision and protection
- Recognising the gendered aspect of domestic abuse when it comes to commissioning services whilst ensuring services are able to respond to the needs of all victims
- Adopting a zero tolerance approach to all forms of violence.

4 Future Demand

4.1 Demographic Trends

The Office of National Statistics in 2009 estimated that the 15+ age group of County Durham was 424,200 of which 48.9% were male (2206, 100) and 51.1% were female (218,200). The Department of Health estimates that approximately 5% of the population is made up of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people.

Given research indicates 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, based on the population figures this means potentially 54,500 female, 34,350 male including 21,210 LGBT people will experience domestic violence in County Durham.

The 'Ready Reckoner' produced by the Home Office to estimate volume and costs of violence against women and girls' estimates that in County Durham, based on the population size and the regional prevalence rate from the British Crime Survey, 10,817 women will have been victims of domestic violence in the last year.

Ethnicity

The ethnic make-up of the County Durham population (ONS Mid-2007 experimental estimates) is shown in the table below:

| <i>Ethnicity</i> | <i>Population</i> | <i>Percentage of Population</i> |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| White | 488,382 | 97.4% |
| Mixed | 1,566 | 0.6% |
| Asian/ Asian British | 1,687 | 0.9% |
| Black/ Black British | 400 | 0.4% |
| Chinese | 828 | 0.4% |
| Other Ethnic Group | 620 | 0.3% |

In 2006 the Commission for Racial Equality suggested that Gypsy and Traveller Communities make up 0.6% of the overall population of County Durham.

Religion

The 2001 census recorded the most common religions within the County, after Christianity, to be Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Judaism. Over 45,000 respondents recorded "no religion".

Age

The age of the population within County Durham has been taken from the Registrar General's Mid-2009, population estimates, and is shown in the table below:

| <i>Age Group</i> | <i>Population (in 000s)</i> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 0-4 years | 27.7 |
| 5-14 years | 54.5 |
| 15-24 years | 69.4 |
| 25-44 years | 126.7 |
| 45-59 years | 105.1 |
| 60-64 years | 34.0 |
| 65+ years | 89.1 |

Projections predict that there will be significant changes to the age profile of the population of County Durham due to an increase in birth rate and net inward migration. Despite this, however, the County has now entered a period of natural

population decline (numbers of deaths exceed the number of births) due to an increasing elderly population in the area.

Disability

The number of people with a registered disability or health issue has been provided by Durham County Council and is accurate to the end of March 2011.

| <i>People registered as:</i> | <i>Number</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Having a physical disability | 29,506 |
| Having a learning disability | 2,032 |
| Deaf/ hard of hearing | 3,006 |
| Blind/ partially sighted | 3,913 |
| Having a car badge | 35,815 |

4.2 Socio-Economic Data

- 11.1% of the population of County Durham are deemed to live in the top 10% deprived wards. 28.5% are within the top 20%, (Index of Deprivation 2010, Registrar General's Mid-2009 population estimates).
- 16.9% of under-16s in County Durham are living in households which claim Income Support. This is slightly higher than the average of 15.6% in England and Wales, Department of Works and Pensions May 2008).
- 4.0% of the Working Age population in County Durham is claiming Job Seekers Allowance. This is slightly more than the 3.7% average across England and Wales, (ONS March 2011).
- The gross weekly pay for residents of County Durham is £380.80 compared with £408.90 in England and Wales (ASHE Survey 2010).
- In County Durham 13.8% of the working population are workless. This is much higher than the average of 10.1% across England and Wales (ONS August 2010).
- 9.3% of the working age population in County Durham is claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance. This is compared with 6.0% in England and Wales (ONS August 2010).
- Of the households in County Durham, 66.9% are owner occupiers, which is lower than the national percentage of 68.9%.

The demographic trends identify that:

- Over half of the population is female
- There are low numbers of people from ethnic minority groups
- Over half of the population is in the age range 15-59 years
- 28.5% of the population in County Durham live in the 20% most deprived locations nationally.

4.3 Domestic Abuse in County Durham

Domestic Abuse Data

The County Durham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2010-2011 identified that:

- There were 8,449 domestic incidents reported to the Police in 2009/10. Figure 2 below shows the breakdown of these incidents by location over the previous three years.
- Information provided by Durham Constabulary's Intelligence Unit shows that there has been a 14% increase in reported incidents of domestic violence within the County.

Figure 2 - Domestic Abuse Incident per 1,000 population



Source: Durham Constabulary Intelligence Unit

- This rise in incidents is a result of the activity across the partnership to raise awareness and confidence (SDP Strategic Assessment, 2009).
- 1,667 adult victims have used or accessed Outreach Support in County Durham in 2009/10.
- 183 children or young people have accessed or used Specialist Children's Outreach Support.
- 93% of adult referrals to outreach services were female, 4% were male, and the remaining data was incomplete. Ages ranged from 16–73 years.
- In 2009/10 the four refuges within the County provided accommodation and support for 154 women with 160 children. Of these women 60 came from 'out of county' and 3 were victims of so-called 'honour based violence'
- A large number of referrals were received from the Police (44%) and the service user themselves (12%).
- During the period 2009/10 Easington remained the SNU with the highest rate per 1,000 population of recorded domestic abuse incidents followed by Sedgefield and Derwentside. Chester le Street & Durham SNU have had much lower levels than other areas over the previous three years, with Derwentside seeing the greatest increase between 2007/08 and 2009/10 (Fig. 2).
- Although domestic abuse is not confined to a specific socioeconomic grouping, the prevalence around reported incidents indicates an association with stressors such as

poor housing, unemployment/low wages and high deprivation levels; requiring long term solutions.

- It is estimated nationally that only a quarter of all domestic abuse incidents are reported to the Police.
- Drugs and alcohol are often involved in reported incidents of domestic abuse.
- Although not a causation factor, there is a strong complex association between domestic abuse and substance use.
- People in same sex relationships and from the transgender community are less likely to engage with current service structures.

4.4 Cost of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

The Home Office 'Ready Reckoner' has been used to calculate the estimated annual cost of domestic abuse and sexual violence in County Durham, detailed in the table below. The figures are based on the population size and are derived from national estimated costs. It does not include estimated costs related to female genital mutilation, stalking, forced marriage or so called honour based violence.

| Cost Heading | £ |
|--|-------------------|
| Physical and mental health care | 17,461,695 |
| Criminal justice costs | 10,998,521 |
| Social services | 2,071,235 |
| Other costs (including housing, civil legal, employment) | 50,502,628 |
| Total costs (not including human and emotional) | 81,034,079 |

Based on the 10,817 victims estimated by the population size, this equates to £7,491 per victim per year.

4.5 Feedback from Surveys

Service User Feedback

A paper based consultation exercise was carried out with service users. Although the response was limited, it has highlighted those areas which may be required in the future to meet expectations and aspirations. These include:

- Provision of outreach services.
- Provision of refuges.
- Information / publicity on services, particularly outreach services.
- Group support programmes.
- Services for children who have lived with domestic abuse, particularly the 14-19 age range.
- Emphasis on the affect on the family rather than focussing on it being a woman's issue.
- Preventative work, including work in schools.

Partner Agencies Feedback

In 2010 an online survey was circulated to all partner agencies to highlight areas that need to be developed to address the issue of domestic abuse. The results of this survey indicated that partners were aware of the specialist services in their area and were able to access training. Knowledge of MARAC and the referral process was highlighted as a gap.

4.6 Summary

- Domestic abuse affects a significant number of people in County Durham, particularly women.
- Over half of the population in the county is female.
- It is estimated that, within County Durham over 10,000 women were victims in the last year.
- There were over 8,000 incidents reported to the police and the trend is set to continue to rise.
- Deprivation is a stressor associated with domestic abuse which is a significant issue for many residents of County Durham.
- Victims are subject to a range of crimes including violence and criminal damage.
- Over 1600 victims accessed specialist domestic abuse services in 2009/10.
- Significant numbers of children are living in households where domestic abuse is an issue and require targeted and specialist services.
- The annual cost of domestic abuse to services in County Durham is estimated to be in excess of £80,000,000.
- Research has highlighted a strong complex association between domestic abuse and substance misuse.

5. Market Analysis

5.1 A Map of Services

This section presents a picture of existing specialist domestic abuse services delivered across County Durham based on the most recent data available. This assessment will take into account service quality and performance. The financial analysis will identify current spending on services and the sources of funding. Analysis of the market will assess strengths and weakness for current and future trends in provision.

5.1.1 Specialist Services

Outreach Services

The outreach services across the county provide services within the community to adult victims and children who witness and experience domestic abuse, with a view to reducing domestic abuse in all of its forms. The services provide individual practical and emotional support to adult victims; counselling services for adults and children; group programmes; training to other agencies; and awareness raising to partner

agencies and the general public to highlight that domestic abuse is unacceptable in our community.

Derwentside Domestic Abuse Service and East Durham Domestic Violence Forum are independent charities and Number 31/75 Domestic Abuse Service is provided by DCC within Social Inclusion Service area and provides services in the south of the county. The two charities receive short-term and non-recurrent funding from charitable sources, NHS County Durham and DCC. The cost of the current services is as follows:

| | <i>£,000</i> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Derwentside DAS | 250 |
| East Durham DVF | 125 |
| 31/75- DCC service | 126 |
| Total | 501 |

The Derwentside outreach service had charitable income to cover most of its costs in 2010/11, with the exception of one Adult Support Worker which was funded for one year by Durham County Council and £33k through Supporting People for floating support for 10 service users. The East Durham Forum had charitable funding for one children's worker, the rest of the funding for 2010/11 was provided by NHS County Durham and Darlington. The cost of 31/75 is provided for within Social Inclusion's base budget and the amount identified above is for staffing costs.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and Independent Specialist Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA)

The purpose of MARAC is to combine in a single meeting relevant up to date risk information with a comprehensive assessment of the victim's needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for high risk cases of domestic violence: victim, children and perpetrator. In 2009/10, 97 cases were heard at MARAC and there was a repeat victim rate as measured by NI 32 of 10%, well below the Home Office target of 28%. During this period MARAC was operational in Easington and rolled out into the south of the County in January 2010, with full coverage from July 2010.

The IDVA service provides individual advice and support to victims of domestic violence once a perpetrator has been charged with an offence, with a view to maintaining support for the prosecution through the criminal justice process. There are four IDVAs in post located with the police Domestic Violence Units in County Durham and Darlington. One has been in post since MARAC became operational in 2007; the other three have come into post as MARAC has rolled out across the county. In quarter one of 2010, the first quarter that data is available for, the IDVAs worked with 68 victims, 54 engaged with the service, 47 were referred to MARAC and 37 were supported through the court process.

CAADA (Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse), a national charity supporting multi agency responses to domestic violence, quality assessed MARAC, through the Easington operation. The MARAC process is assessed on 10 principles ranging from identification and referral criteria through to issues relating to equality and diversity, with a view to making recommendations to sustain and improve the MARAC process.

Areas of good practice were identified and areas for development which are to be incorporated into an improvement plan.

Funding for MARAC, for the coordinator, administrator and 4 IDVAs, is split between the NHS County Durham, Durham Constabulary, Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust, and the two Local Authorities on an equal basis, £44k per annum for each partner, although the Probation Trust makes its contribution in kind. The local government contribution is split between Darlington BC and Durham County Council. DCC's contribution of £34k was previously allocated from the Stronger Safer Communities ABG through the Safe Durham Partnership. This funding stream is not available for 2011/12 and the shortfall has been allocated from DCC's core budget. To date the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review on funding for MARAC from partner agencies has not yet been determined though partners have indicated that in principle they are committed to providing the service.

Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC)

When referring to a specialist DV court, this is not so much referring to a court building or jurisdiction, but to a specialised way of dealing with domestic violence cases in the magistrates' courts. The aim of the SDVCs is:

- To provide a coordinated judicial response to criminal proceedings involving domestic violence incidents.
- To develop and coordinate the provision of victim/witness services within the criminal justice system.
- To encourage the victims of domestic violence incidents to come forward and report cases and to remain engaged with the criminal justice system throughout the process.
- To improve the experience of victims and witnesses.
- To increase the confidence of the public and victims in the criminal justice system to deal justly with offences.
- To increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice.

County Durham achieved SDVC status in 2006 and the Courts are performing well. In 2009/10, 546 cases were heard in the SDVC with 80.11% resulting in a prosecution. This is continuing in 2010/11 during April to June 81.6% of cases resulted in a prosecution compared to the national average of 71.8% with County Durham courts ranking as one of the highest achieving courts in the country.

Voluntary and Mandated Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme

The Voluntary Perpetrator Programme has been funded on a non-recurrent basis since 2007 from the Community Safety Area Based Grant and NHS County Durham and Darlington, £22,000 in total for the 3 years. The programme ran as a pilot and provided a 32 week rolling group work programme. In 2009/10 24 assessments were undertaken and 5 men completed the programme during that period.

During 2010/11 an integrated voluntary perpetrator programme was commissioned by Children's and Young People's Service, with funding from NHS County Durham, through the 'think family' approach. £100,000 was awarded to Barnados, and the funding, although reduced, has been continued for 2011/12. From May to September 2010, 21 men have been assessed, 4 attend the group programme and 6 women

have been offered support. The programme has recently received accreditation by Respect, the membership association for perpetrator programmes and associated support services.

The mandated perpetrator programme is provided by the Probation Trust funded through the service base budget. It is a 29 session programme for men with a women's safety worker attached to the programme to support the partners of participants. Seven programmes run a year across County Durham and in 2009/10, 35 men completed the programme.

Remain Safe

The Remain Safe Scheme provides target hardening/security measures to the homes of victims of domestic violence. During 2010/11 Housing Solutions had funded the project to the value of £60,000 for those at risk of homelessness, with the Total Home Safety project funding the service for anyone not at risk of losing their home. In 2009/10 Housing Solutions target hardened 220 homes at an average cost of £400 per unit. This scheme is a key service to protect victims of domestic violence and enable them to remain in their own homes. Housing Solutions continues to fund DISC to provide the Remain Safe scheme to provide target hardening measures for victims of domestic abuse. This funding is confirmed until 2014.

Refuge Services

Supporting People provide £496,162 for four refuges, with 28 places to accommodate women and children fleeing domestic abuse. As well as accommodation the services provide emotional and practical support to enable women to make decisions about their future. A further £84,000 was provided to two refuges to provide floating support for 20 service users a year. This funding was continued in 2010/11 albeit at a reduced level (see 5.1.1).

In 2009/10 the refuges accommodated 154 women along with 160 children. 60 families were from County Durham, 7 from the North East and 54 from other areas of the country. There is felt to be adequate refuge provision overall in the county based on the size of the population.

It must be noted that other service areas do provide services that benefit victims and children affected by domestic abuse, but the focus of their intervention is not primarily to respond to domestic abuse and they are not specialist providers in this area. For example, substance misuse services and mental health services.

The specialist domestic abuse services are contributing to the priorities outlined in strategies and plans in line with the national and local policy approach. With the exception of the refuge services and MARAC, there is a heavy reliance upon non-recurrent and charitable funding. As a consequence of the current funding arrangements there has been a lack of consistency in terms of the development of some of the services, particularly in respect of the outreach support services for victims and children, with some areas better served than others.

Freedom Programme

The Freedom Programme is a 12 week awareness raising group programme for female victims of domestic abuse. In County Durham programmes are facilitated

largely by Surestart workers and specialist domestic abuse support workers. During 2009/10, 65 women completed the programme across the county.

5.1.2 Other Services

Children and Young People's Safeguarding and Specialist Services

Significant numbers of children required Safeguarding and Specialist Services as a consequence of witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse. From February 2009 to January 2010, 49% (113) of cases at the initial child protection conferences identified domestic abuse as an issue; rising to 200 cases at the first review.

Pathfinder

Pathfinder provides intensive support to vulnerable families where the children are at risk of entering Safeguarding and Specialist Services. In 2009/10, 167 families were referred to the service. Of those, 36 had domestic abuse as the presenting issue and a further 50 presented with two or more issues, domestic abuse being one.

Family Intervention Project

The Family Intervention Project (FIP) seeks to address issues relating to anti-social behaviour with a view to restoring safety to the family home and wider community. Domestic abuse does present as an issue in these families, and in 2009/10 the FIP worked with 16 families where domestic abuse was an issue as well as anti-social behaviour.

Housing Services

During 2010/11, 453 victims (8.5%) presented to housing services as homeless due to fleeing domestic abuse. 120 people were referred to the Remain Safe project and 153 were accepted as homeless due to violence (40% of all acceptances).

5.2 Current Contracting and Procurement Arrangements

Historically, funding activity within the Community Safety arena has involved requests for funding to meet particular priorities. There has been no strategic framework for commissioning specialist domestic abuse services across the agencies or within agencies. The short term provision of such an approach has proved problematic. One of the intentions of this document is to shift towards a more planned, coordinated and strategic approach which achieves better value for money, quality and consistency across the County. This way, services commissioned through the SDP are then more likely to meet the needs of individuals and contribute to achieving the objectives and outcomes.

The commissioning and procurement cycles devised by the Institute for Public Care will be followed by SDP (Appendix 3). The following is a description of the different elements of the cycle.

Analysis – understanding the values and purpose of the agencies involved, the needs they must address, and the environment in which they operate. This element of the commissioning cycle involves activities such as:

- Clarifying the priorities through reviewing legislation, national guidance and local strategies and policy statements.
- Undertaking needs assessment.
- Mapping and reviewing existing and potential services across agencies to understand provider strengths and weaknesses, and identify opportunities for improvement or change in providers.
- Identifying resources needed and risks involved in implementing change and/or continuing with the status quo.

Planning – identifying the gaps between what is needed and what is available, and planning how these gaps will be addressed within available resources. This element of the commissioning cycle involves activities such as:

- Undertaking a gap analysis and identify what is needed in the future.
- Designing services to meet need.
- Writing a commissioning strategy.

Doing – ensuring that the services needed are delivered as planned, in ways which efficiently and effectively deliver the priorities and targets set out in the commissioning strategy. This element of the commissioning cycle involves activities such as:

- Supply management and capacity building to ensure a good mix of service providers, offering consumers an element of choice in how their needs are met.
- Developing good communications and effective relationships with existing and potential suppliers.
- Purchasing and contracting of services and de-commissioning services that do not meet the needs of the population group.

Reviewing – monitoring the impact of services and analysing the extent to which they have achieved the purpose intended. This element of the commissioning cycle involves activities such as:

- Pulling together information from individual contracts or service level agreements.
- Developing systems to bring together relevant data on finance, activity and outcomes.
- Analysing any changes in legislative requirements, population need and reviewing the overall impact of services to identify revisions needed to the strategic priorities.

The procurement or purchasing cycle follows the same pattern of analysis, plan do and review, and consists of similar activities, but at a different level. Activities in the procurement cycle include:

- Analysing service users needs.
- Developing service specifications and deciding on the contract type and terms.
- Day-to day care and contract management and communication with providers.
- Monitoring and reviewing contracts.

A service quality monitoring framework will need to be developed for any services commissioned through this strategy, as currently this is dictated by the funding stream accessed by service providers. The Supporting People Quality Assessment Framework model will be adopted which will ensure that there are consistent monitoring and review arrangements in place. This model assesses providers through core service objectives related to assessment and support planning; security and health and safety; safeguarding and protection from violence; fair access, diversity and inclusion; and client involvement and empowerment.

5.3 Finance and Funding

Durham County Council and NHS County Durham

It is acknowledged that the statutory partners directly and indirectly address the issue of domestic abuse through the delivery of core business, which cannot be separately costed. However this strategy is concerned with the provision of specialist domestic abuse services targeted to provide both practical and emotional support to increase the safety of victims and children and to help abusers address their behaviour.

Durham County Council and NHS County Durham have set aside specific funding committed to 2012/13 to support the delivery of this strategy. It is anticipated that service providers will continue to secure funding from charitable sources to support their operations.

MARAC

The partner agencies Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council, Durham Constabulary, Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust and NHS County Durham have all committed mainstreamed funding to continue the operation of the MARAC process.

Supporting People

In response to the financial situation it has been decided to safeguard accommodation based services and specialist floating support services as much as possible, which includes Domestic Abuse Services. As a result Adults, Wellbeing & Health (Supporting People) remain committed to funding Domestic Abuse Services and have been able to limit the reduction to 5% (based on spend made in 2010/11) over the next four years from April 2011. However, it must be noted that the financial settlement from Central Government is only for two years and it is currently unclear as to what the settlement will be for the following two years. Once the settlement is known this will provide an appropriate opportunity to revise the savings impact as necessary.

5.4 Summary

- Funding has been made available for specialist services to contribute to addressing domestic abuse.
- Funding historically has been generally short term and not recurrent.

- Funding through community safety has been based on requests for funding to address priorities.
- There is a requirement to provide services based on needs within a strategic commissioning framework.

6 Gap Analysis and the Design of Future Provision

6.1 Future Priorities

This section sets out the future commissioning priorities for specialist domestic abuse services in County Durham. These priorities have been identified from strategies, plans and policy documents including information from service users, providers and partner agencies obtained as a result of a recent survey carried out to inform this strategy.

The priorities have been grouped under the headings of prevention, provision and protection.

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

These priorities would contribute to the outcomes for domestic abuse identified by the SDP 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.

6.2 Priorities for Change

The SDP, Durham County Council and NHS County Durham have identified the funding that will be available to support the commissioning of services from 2012. It is envisaged that Supporting People will continue to fund the accommodation based refuge services but at a reduced level; MARAC will continue to be funded by partner agencies from core funding. Given the combined funding from DCC and NHS County Durham is limited and based on the assessment of need it has been agreed by Durham County Council, NHS County Durham and the Safe Durham Partnership that the priorities for change attached to this commissioning strategy will be:

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

It is envisaged that specialist outreach services will be commissioned and involve the transfer of the existing Durham County Council domestic abuse workers to the new provider; this provider will take a lead in respect of awareness raising and developing preventative approaches. Joint commissioning will continue with Housing Solutions to provide the Remain Safe Scheme; and the Partnership will look to facilitate the ongoing commissioning of a voluntary domestic abuse perpetrator programme.

It must be noted that the funding of any services will depend on value for money and clear outcomes being able to be demonstrated.

Funding 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.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

This strategy and accompanying action plan (appendix 4) developed to implement this strategy will be monitored by the Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group (DAFEG) the thematic sub group of the Safe Durham Partnership. DAFEG meets quarterly, is chaired by the Cabinet member with the portfolio for safer communities and is attended by senior managers from the responsible authorities. Regular reports will be provided to the Performance and Planning Group and the Safe Durham Partnership Board.

The SDP expects all projects supported financially to be properly project managed. Any service specification for commissioned services will include the evaluation criteria which will outline how the Partnership will assess whether their desired outcome has been achieved. Service providers will need to provide regular “Checkpoint” reports (Appendix 5) and reporting any risks or issues affecting the project.

A quality assurance framework will be used to monitor the projects and services delivered. The quality assessments standards will include key objectives around:

- Security and health and safety
- Safeguarding and protection from abuse
- Complaints and comments
- Confidentiality
- Fair access, diversity and inclusion
- Recruitment, selection and staff development
- Needs and risk assessment
- Care and support planning
- Service user finances
- Transport

7.1 Outcomes to be Delivered by Commissioning Proposals

The outcomes to be delivered by any commissioning proposals for domestic abuse 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 lead officer of the service will need to determine how the success of the outcome can be measured at the outset and ensure that they have the data to support the performance measures available to them on a quarterly basis.

7.2 Performance Indicators

The SDP, Durham County Council and NHS County Durham performance, in respect of this strategy, will be monitored through the Performance Management Framework which lays out the performance indicators of the Partnership. Any domestic abuse service commissioned by the Partnership will be expected to contribute to achieving improvements in performance for the following indicators:

- NI32 MARAC
Percentage of Domestic Abuse victims at MARAC who are repeat victims
- Domestic Abuse - Homicides
Number of Domestic Abuse homicides
- Number of children accessing or using Outreach support services
Children accessing Outreach in Durham County
- Number of victims accessing or using Outreach support services
Adults accessing Outreach from Durham County Services
- Number of 16 and 17 year olds who are victims of Domestic Abuse accessing Outreach services
- Number of 16 and 17 year olds who are victims of Domestic Abuse accessing Refuge services
- Percentage of beds occupied in Refuges (Adults)
- Percentage of beds occupied in Refuges (Children)
- Number of referrals received by Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) in Durham County
- Percentage of IDVA referrals where the IDVA provided support to the victim
- Proportion of offenders NOT convicted (guilty plea or guilty after trial) as a proportion of Domestic Violence cases heard at Magistrates courts
Figure includes those cases heard at DV Specialist Courts
- Number of cases where a person has been arrested and charged with a Domestic Abuse related offence and percentage that resulted in successful prosecution at court
- The number of incidents of Domestic Abuse reported annually either directly to the Police or through a third party
- Number of Domestic Abuse incidents that lead to an arrest
- Number of men completing the Voluntary Perpetrator Programme
- Number of men completing the Court Mandated Perpetrator Programme
- Number and Percentage of Initial Conferences resulting in a Child Protection Plan due to one of the Parental Risk Factors being Domestic Abuse
- Number and Percentage of Review Child Protection Conferences due to one of the Parental Risk Factors being Domestic Abuse
- Number of repeat victims of Domestic Abuse
Data collected from the Police re. repeat victims of Domestic Abuse

Appendix 1 : Glossary of Terms

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Area Based Grant | <i>Funding allocated to address the priorities of the Local Area Agreement</i> |
| County Durham Children's Trust | <i>The Children's Trust has strategic responsibility for the development and implementation of integrated children's services across County Durham.</i> |
| DAFEG | <i>Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group, the thematic sub group of the Safe Durham Partnership</i> |
| DCC | <i>Durham County Council</i> |
| IDVA | <i>Independent Specialist Domestic Violence Advisors</i> |
| JSNA | <i>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</i> |
| LGR | <i>Local Government Re-organisation</i> |
| MARAC | <i>Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference</i> |
| NHS County Durham Partnership Plan | <i>The Primary Care Trust for County Durham Three year plan of the Safe Durham Partnership to tackle crime and disorder</i> |
| Ready Reckoner | <i>This tool is a key action in the initial Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy. Using findings from the British Crime Survey, it enables commissioners of services from a range of providers such as health, policing and housing, to estimate the need for local services for domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking in their area.</i> |
| SDVC | <i>Specialist Domestic Violence Court</i> |
| SNU | <i>Safer Neighbourhood Unit</i> |
| Specialist Service | <i>Any service referred to within this document as a 'specialist service' is specialist in terms of the sole purpose being to address to issue of Domestic Abuse.</i> |
| Strategic Threat Assessment | <i>The presentation and interpretation of the summary of findings of intelligence analysis for the Safe Durham Partnership</i> |
| Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) | <i>Sets out the community's long term vision for the future of County Durham.</i> |
| The Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) | <i>Community Safety Partnership for County Durham</i> |
| VFM | <i>Value For Money</i> |

Appendix 2 : Membership of the Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group

- Detective Superintendent within Vulnerability, Durham Constabulary;
- A representative from Durham Police Authority;
- Lead Senior Nurse, Safeguarding Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust;
- Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services and chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Durham County Council;
- Head of Housing, Durham County Council;
- Director of Offender Management, Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust;
- Associate Director of Nursing County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust;
- Consultant in Public Health;
- Head of Social Inclusion, Durham County Council;
- Strategic Coordinator for Domestic Abuse, Forced Marriage & And Honour Based Violence, Durham Constabulary; and
- Safer Communities Officer, Durham County Council.

Appendix 3: Joint Commissioning Framework



Source: Institute for Public Care

Appendix 4: Implementation Plan

To address the priorities for change identified in the Commissioning Strategy the following action plan has been developed describing how the work will be implemented. Progress against the plan will be monitored by the Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group. The Action Plan will be updated annually.

| <i>Objective</i> | <i>Action Required</i> | <i>Resources/ Commissioning Required</i> | <i>Target/ Intended Outcome</i> | <i>Timescale</i> | <i>Lead Officer</i> |
|--|---|--|---|------------------------|--|
| Provide refuge services for women and children | Continued procurement and contracting with service providers | Funding through Supporting People to commission services | Reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse | March 2011 | DCC Adults Well being and Health Commissioning manager |
| Provide specialist domestic abuse outreach services and group work programmes for victims and children | Develop service specification Address HR issues related to DCC staff Procurement and contracting activity | Funding required to commission service | Improve safety of victims and children | 2011/12 | Head of Social inclusion and Director of Public Health |
| Provide the remain safe scheme to enable victims to remain in their own homes | Develop service specification Procurement and contracting activity | Funding required to commission service | People feel safe in their neighbourhood and improved quality of life within our communities | 2011/12 | Head of Housing Services |
| Deliver MARAC across the county | Agencies to provide single points of contact Continue to provide a | Staff time Partnership funding | Reduce serious violent crime and reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse | Ongoing during 2011/12 | Chief Officers in partner agencies |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|------------------------|--|
| | MARAC coordinator | | | | |
| Provide an IDVA service | Continued provision of the service | Partnership funding | Reduce serious violent crime and reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse | Ongoing during 2011/12 | Chief Officers of the Responsible Authorities of the Safe Durham partnership |
| Provide a voluntary domestic abuse perpetrator programme | Develop service specification Procurement and contracting activity | Funding required to commission service | Improve the safety of victims and children | 2011/12 | Head of Social inclusion and Director of Public Health |
| Assess identified priorities for change against value for money and outcomes and make recommendations to DAFEG in respect of commissioning/decommissioning services | Undertake the assessment | Staff time | Services to be commissioned are identified | March 2011 | Head of Social inclusion and Director of Public Health |
| Review the commissioning strategy | Undertake the review | Staff time | Strategy reviewed and refreshed | By March 2012 | Head of Social inclusion and Director of Public Health |

Appendix 5: Checkpoint Report

Service/Project Name:

Date:

Service/Project Lead Officer:

**Outcomes that the service/project
Contribute to:**

*Insert the AGREED
outcomes as set out in
your contract*

Performance Indicators

Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4

*Insert here the PIs agreed in
your contract*

Service/project Update:

Insert service/project update here

Issues:

*Identify any issues which are
affecting service delivery or
performance*

**Expected developments with
Service/project in the next 3
Months:**

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

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