

Darlington Domestic Abuse Strategy 2011

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Introduction

I am pleased to introduce you to the new Domestic Abuse Strategy for Darlington.

A great deal of progress has been made in recent years in raising awareness about what domestic abuse is, and the impact that it has upon victims and children. As a result of this we have seen an increase in the numbers of victims having the confidence to report abuse.

There are excellent services in the town offering support and advice to victims and their families and Darlington's Community Safety Partnership (CSP), acknowledges their commitment to helping victims to rebuild their lives.

Through this strategy the CSP aims to build upon that progress and to highlight those areas that require more attention. For example; the need for greater education and awareness-raising about domestic abuse and its effects is identified in the strategy. The need for better data collection to build an even greater understanding of the needs of victims and the services they require is also highlighted.

Darlington has a long history of successful partnership working and this is evident among agencies involved in tackling the issue of domestic abuse, as seen in the long standing Domestic Abuse Network (now Domestic and Sexual Abuse Network), which continues to meet regularly to share information and consider issues that impact upon victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the strategy, in particular Rachel Green from Durham Constabulary and those service users who gave up their time to share their experiences with us.

I look forward to seeing continued progress in reducing domestic abuse in Darlington through the implementation of those actions identified in the strategy and the continued commitment of agencies in the town.

Councillor Bill Dixon, MBE
Leader of Darlington Borough Council

Executive Summary

This strategy has been written on behalf of the Darlington CSP through the Vulnerability Strategic Group; it has clear links with existing strategies including those relating to Sexual Violence, Alcohol, Drug and Substance Misuse.

This strategy has been developed around the national guidance for domestic abuse with the three guiding principles of:

- Prevention
- Protection
- Provision

The principles within the strategy are:

1. Prevent abuse from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it
2. Provide adequate support where abuse does occur
3. Work in partnership to obtain the best outcome for victims and their families
4. Take action to reduce the risk to people who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice

The strategy presents a focus and challenge to the Darlington CSP by ensuring that adequate and appropriate services are provided. It reflects the outcomes from the government's stance on domestic abuse and how the government intends to tackle the issue within the wider context of violence against women and girls. The strategy also draws on and recognises the current services, support and good practice that already exists within Darlington and considers what role these have within the future aspirations of the Darlington CSP and the community.

Darlington CSP does not accept domestic abuse; this strategy focuses on prevention and embedding cultural change within all agencies, organisations and the community.

The strategy therefore specifically highlights all education settings and the role that they play in embedding values and beliefs within our children from a young age around healthy, happy relationships and around the unacceptability of abuse in all its forms.

The strategy advocates that all agencies and organisations are equipped to recognise the early signs of abuse and know how to ensure preventative/protective services can be put in place to support victims.

Darlington CSP has an ambition to use different types of programmes creatively for victims, children and perpetrators of abuse. The CSP will monitor the outcomes achieved in order to review the effectiveness of this strategy and the services being delivered.

The cross-cutting nature of domestic abuse covers all ages, socio-economic groups, and disability, genders, sexual orientation and ethnicity. As this strategy is targeted to address the needs of vulnerable people, partner organisations feel that it will bring positive equalities impacts to people across a range of these protected characteristics. More formal equalities impact assessment work will be developed as the action plan is refined.

There is evidence to suggest that domestic abuse can be a factor among families with high demand for services. This strategy acknowledges this evidence, and will challenge cooperating agencies and organisations to work differently with these families to produce more positive outcomes.

The action plan recognises that change in this area is incremental, and through strategic management and multi-agency cooperation, cultural change is possible to make progress towards ensuring families will be safe, happy and free from abuse.

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National and Local Policy Context

National Policy

“In the last year alone, there were over 1 million female victims of domestic abuse in England and Wales. Over 300,000 women are sexually assaulted and 60,000 women are raped each year. Overall in the UK, more than one in four women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, often with years of psychological abuse. This is unacceptable” (www.homeoffice.gov.uk [on-line])

“Almost 1 in 20 women were stalked last year and 1 in 5 women will experience stalking in their lifetime” (British Crime Survey 2009/10)

“The financial cost of violence against women and girls in the UK is £37.6bn” (www.homeoffice.gov.uk [on-line])

The Government has produced a strategy, entitled *“Call to end violence against women and girls”* (VAWG) as part of their ongoing commitment to tackle all aspects of abuse in its widest context. The Coalition is very focussed on this issue and as stated by the Home Secretary Theresa May *“No level of violence against women and girls is acceptable in modern Britain or anywhere else in the world”* (www.homeoffice.gov.uk [on-line]).

The principles of the Darlington CSP’s strategy are aligned to the VAWG Strategy and inform the commissioning of services.

The VAWG Strategy provides a framework for agencies by highlighting key areas on which all agencies need to focus to capture the main themes regarding domestic abuse. The strategy also provides examples of good practice which are taken from areas across the country.

Although the VAWG Strategy is focused on women and girls, the principles can be applied to abuse against men, boys, and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community therefore ensuring that everyone suffering abuse is recognised.

Department of Health Perspective

The Department of Health has also made great strides in recognising its responsibility in tackling abuse and has produced an *“Improving services for women and child victims of violence: the Department of Health Action Plan”*

The action plan aims to lay the foundations for embedding high quality evidence based practice within the NHS in response to violence and abuse and is set around four key themes:

- Awareness-raising
- Workforce, education and training
- Improving quality of services
- Evidence and Information

Local Policy Context - Darlington

The Darlington CSP recognises domestic abuse as one of its priority areas making it a thread throughout partnership actions, plans and strategies.

The Sustainable Community Strategy themes include that “*people are healthy and supported*” and that “*our communities are safe and free of crime*”.

The CSP manages domestic abuse as one of its five main priorities through the Vulnerability Strategic Group (VSG). Additionally, the Domestic & Sexual Abuse Network (DASAN), originally the Darlington Domestic Abuse Forum, has been established since 2001 and continues to be well attended by practitioners from all agencies across Darlington. The network through its members has provided and continues to provide training and awareness, and compiles an annual report which is presented each year at its annual general meeting. This report will be received by the VSG.

The needs analysis of those experiencing domestic abuse will inform the commissioning intentions of the strategy.

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Needs Analysis

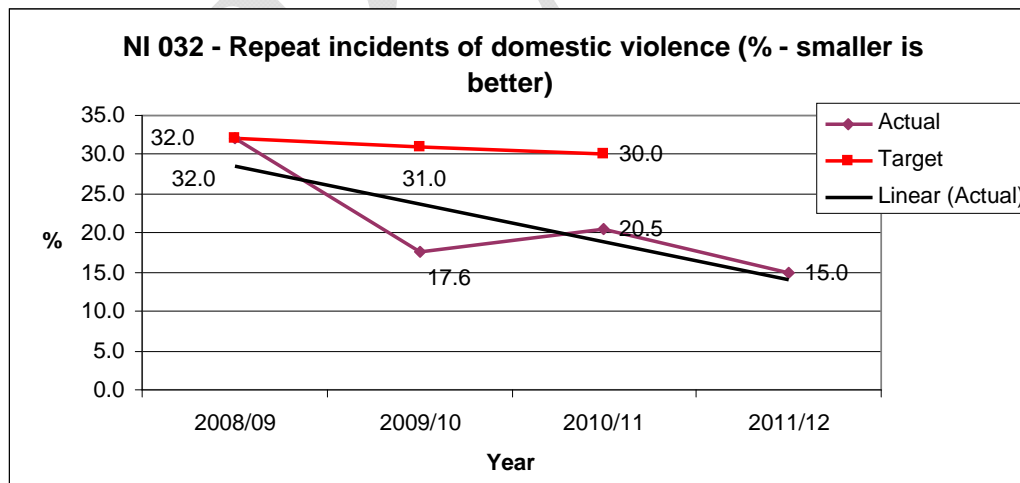
The Office of National Statistics in 2009 estimated that the population of Darlington was 100,431 of which 48.6% were male (48,835) and 51.4% were female (51,596). The Department of Health estimates that approximately 6.1% of the population are made up of LGBT people.

Given that research indicates 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime (figures derived from 2009/10 British Crime Survey) based on the population figures, this means potentially 12,899 female and 8,139 males could experience domestic abuse in Darlington in their lifetime.

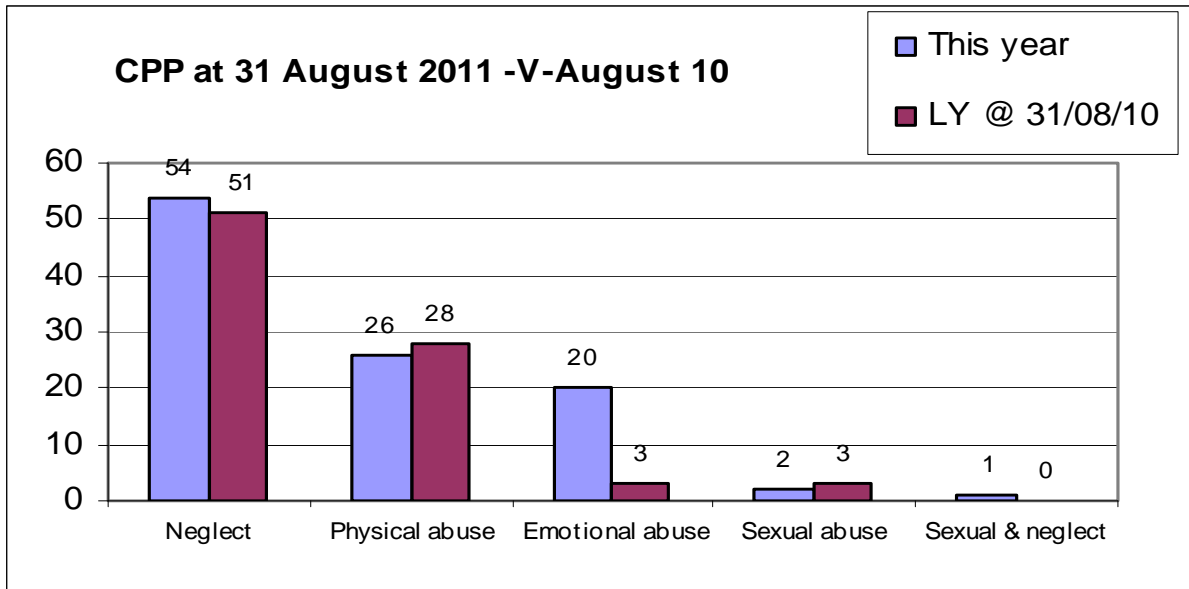
The “ready reckoner” produced by the Home Office to estimate numbers and costs of violence against women and girls’ estimates that in Darlington based on the population size and the regional prevalence rate from the British Crime Survey, 3,314 women will have been victims of domestic abuse in the last year.

Darlington is in line with Government and national statistics in that the majority of victims who report to the Police and who are involved with other agencies including MARAC are females.

There are two national indicators relating to domestic abuse: NI32 repeat incidents of domestic abuse and NI34 domestic violence murder/ manslaughter. The recent results of which can be found below:



This data shows that Darlington is clearly achieving better results than targets set, although repeat incidents fell dramatically in 2009/10 but rose again in 2010/11. The current results show we have less than half of the repeat incidents of three years ago. These results will need to be tested further to identify if any spikes appear, like we saw in 2010/11, and whether any attributing factors influenced these spikes. Overall the emerging trend is that of diminishing numbers of repeat incidents of domestic abuse.

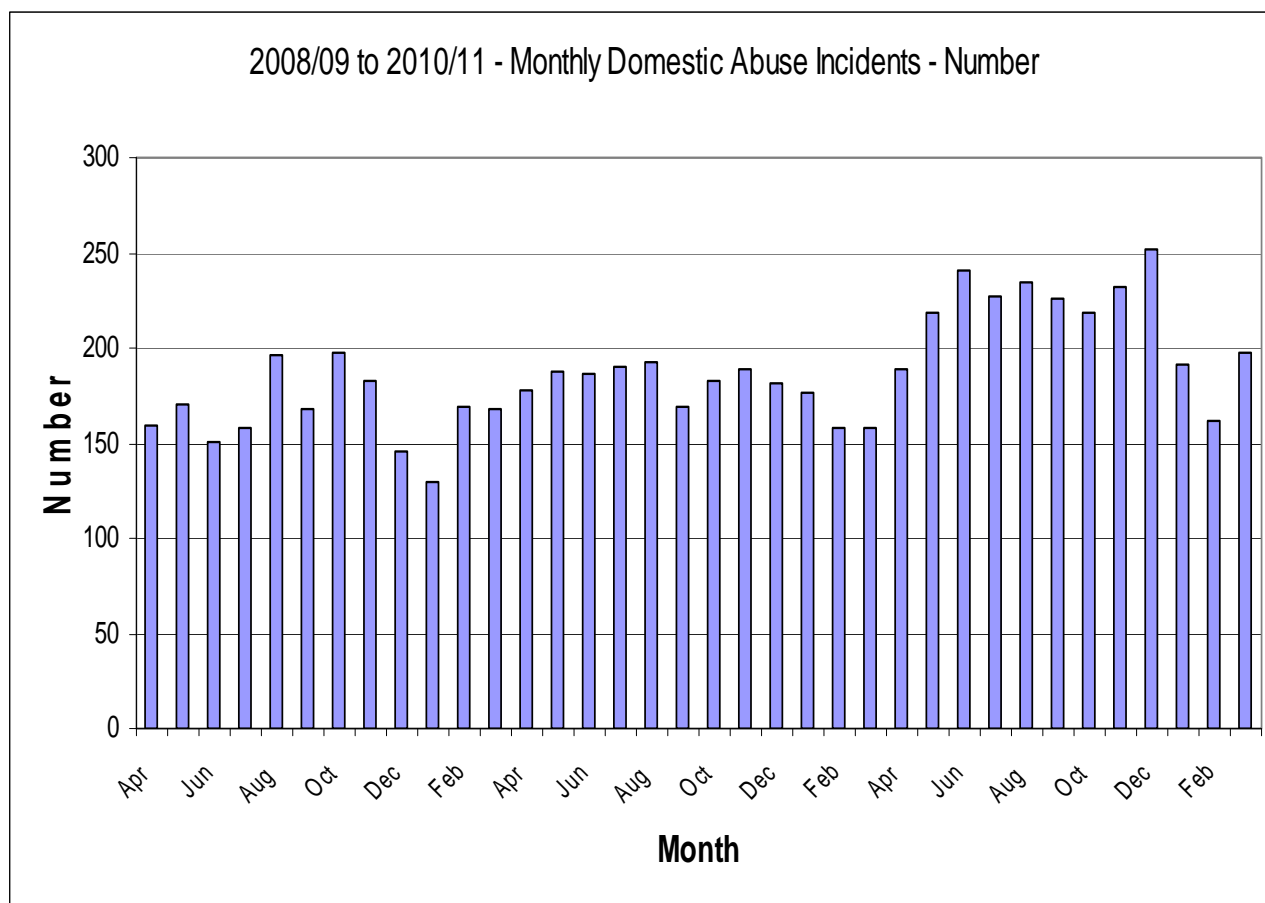


The data above shows nearly a 600% rise in child protection cases from 2010-2011 which are defined as emotional abuse. This huge rise in children being protected from domestic abuse may be just a spike or a number of sibling groups to skew the figures; however, it is still a large rise in numbers that needs to be addressed when considering other areas have remained fairly static.

Police Data

Domestic abuse in Darlington follows the same pattern as in other areas within Durham Constabulary. Over the last three years the following figures have been recorded:

Financial Year	Total Number of Incidents for Darlington
2008-2009	2,084
2009-2010	2,111
2010-2011	2,224



There is a clear trend over the three years of abuse reporting becoming more prevalent in the summer months, but not of any statistical significance to warrant a seasonal trend to be identified.

This shows an increased trend in the reporting of domestic abuse in Darlington. This needs to be considered when commissioning services.

The figures for the constabulary area for the last three years are as follows:

Financial Year	Total Number of Incidents for Durham Constabulary	Proportion of Darlington Incidents within total constabulary area
2008-2009	10,697	19.48%
2009-2010	10,679	19.76%
2010-2011	11,501	19.34%

This highlights that a significant proportion of recorded incidents is in Darlington. As Durham's population is approximately 600,000 and Darlington is approximately 100,000 this equates to Darlington being 14% of the total population the Durham constabulary serves. This shows Darlington has a disproportionately higher number of recorded domestic abuse incidents.

Within Darlington the number of reported incidents has been steadily increasing which may indicate:

- Increased confidence in reporting to the police
- Increased incidents of domestic abuse
- Increased early recognition of the signs of abuse
- Increased awareness of all aspects of abuse.

Whilst it is unclear as to the reasons why the number of reported incidents is increasing, it remains the case that domestic abuse is occurring in Darlington at higher levels than may be expected and services need to be commissioned to respond to this need.

From May 2010 Durham Constabulary started to record the level of risk using the Domestic Abuse Stalking and Honour Violence (DASH) risk assessment. The levels of risk are defined as Standard, Medium and High. An explanation of these risk levels is as follows:

Ethnicity

The ethnic make-up of the Darlington population (taken from 2001 census) is shown in the table below:

<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Percentage of Population</i>
White	95,741	97.86%
Mixed	598	0.48%
Asian/ Asian British	906	0.93%
Black/ Black British	223	0.22%
Chinese	240	0.25%
Other Ethnic Group	130	0.13%

Ethnicity for the purposes of this strategy needs to be recognised as barriers can exist or can be created between communities and agencies through a lack of understanding of what communities need.

Language and communication skills can present barriers to individuals' confidence and ability to disclose abuse. Cultural issues are extremely important and need to be understood, especially if we want to encourage all communities to be able to disclose any type of abuse that they may be suffering.

An issue that is linked to domestic abuse and can be disproportionately prevalent within the Asian community is the issue of Forced Marriage (FM) and Honour Based Violence (HBV).

The issue of FM is not to be confused with arranged marriages as these are completed on a consensual basis from both parties involved. FM is when consent has not been given or has been given under duress and there is an underlying threat of a consequence if the marriage does not take place. Cases of FM and HBV are extremely complex to deal with and agencies need to have a thorough understanding of the embedded values and beliefs that

lead some members of the community to enforce these marriages and unlawful acts.

There have been cases of FM and HBV reported within Durham Constabulary and the ability of services to deal with this issue needs to be incorporated within any commissioned service. (Due to the extremely small number of cases that have been dealt with within Darlington by the Police it would be inappropriate to provide any further details about these. This is because the small numbers the victims could potentially be identified which would pose a risk to them).

“In 2010, the joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit provided 1,735 instances of advice and support related to possible forced marriage. Active assistance was provided in 469 cases of forced marriage. In 2004, the Metropolitan Police decided to re-open 114 murder cases from the previous decade, which they now think may be so-called ‘honour’ killings. While there are no published statistics of honour-related violence, it is thought that there are around 12 honour-related killings annually” (www.homeoffice.gov.uk [on-line])

“A recent paper by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, suggests that women from the Gypsy and Traveller communities who report domestic violence will often have suffered it more severely and over a considerably longer period than other women. Although there is no conclusive evidence about the prevalence of this abuse, the paper cites a study in Wrexham, which found that between 61 and 81% of married Gypsy and Traveller women had experienced direct abuse from a partner” (Clark, www.guardian.co.uk [on-line])

In 2009 the Darlington Joint Strategic Needs Assessment suggested that Gypsy and Traveller Communities make up 0.71% of the overall population of Darlington. This is approximately twice the national average, therefore we can surmise that Darlington has a larger than average population which should be considered when commissioning services for communities that traditionally have a low reporting rate.

In 2009 – 2010 two Gypsy/Travellers were accommodated in Darlington Refuge. Within the same time period one Gypsy/Traveller was referred to support services. The female declined support from the service.

Age

The age of the population within Darlington has been taken from the mid 2009 population estimates from ONS and is shown in the table below:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Population</i>
0-4 years	6,384
5-14 years	11,664
15-24 years	11,972
25-44 years	25,814
45-65 years	25,001
65 and above	19,616

Refuge Age Group 2009 - 2010	Numbers*
17-25 years	21
26-35 years	21
36-45 years	10
46-55 years	7

Floating Support Service Age Group 2009 - 2010	Numbers*
17-25 years	12
26-35 years	19
36-45 years	5
46-55 years	3
55+ years	2

*Please note that service usage is not statistically representative of domestic abuse incidents in Darlington

Evidence suggests that age is irrelevant as domestic abuse can and does occur across all adolescent and adult age ranges and impacts on children and young people.

Children

In Darlington's Children & Young People's Plan 2011-14 domestic abuse is detailed as a priority action:

**Every Child Matters Outcome - Stay Safe
Priority 2 - Ensure the safety of children and young people.**

Areas for action:

- Reduce the exposure of children and young people to the prevalence of domestic abuse and repeat abuse

The impact on children who are subjected to or who witness abuse is well documented and support for children would also form an integral part of any service for domestic abuse.

"In 40 - 70% of cases where women are being abused, the children are also being directly abused themselves" (Stark and Flitcraft, 1996; Bowker et al., 1998.)

"The majority of children witness the violence that is occurring, and in 90% of cases they are in the same or next room" (Hughes, 1992).

The figures for Darlington in relation to how many children were made subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) and out of that figure how many had domestic abuse as a risk factor is as follows:-

	March 2010	March 2011
Child Protection Plans	85	114
CPPs with DA as a risk factor	40 (47%)	74 (65%)

This shows an **18%** increase in child protection plans where domestic abuse is a risk factor.

Changes have been made within legislation due to the increased awareness of the impact of abuse on children.

“Children living in households where domestic violence is happening are now identified as "at risk" under the Adoption and Children Act 2002. From 31 January 2005, Section 120 of this act extended the legal definition of harming children to include harm suffered by seeing or hearing ill treatment of others. This would include witnessing domestic abuse.

From 31 January 2005, Section 120 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 came into force, which extends the legal definition of harming children to include harm suffered by seeing or hearing ill treatment of others, especially in the home” (Womensaid, 2011, [on-line])

“750,000 children witness domestic violence each year, one in four teenage girls have been hit by a boyfriend (with one in nine reporting severe physical violence) and 18 per cent of boys reported some form of physical partner violence (NSPCC, 2009)

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process heard 78 cases between April 2010 – March 2011, which included 89 children. As MARAC concentrates on our most at-risk victims, this highlights the level of risk that children are living with and potentially being subjected to within Darlington.

Children as witnesses, victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse are more likely to continue this pattern of behaviour into adulthood. Early intervention can ameliorate the long term effects of abuse, and can make long-term improvements both socially and financially across all statutory agencies.

Adolescent Violence to Parents

Regarding child-on-adult abuse, the police do not class the abuse of a parent/ carer by their child, i.e. a son or daughter below the age of 18 as domestic abuse. Anecdotally, we do know this exists in Darlington, with likely negative outcomes such as poor school attendance as a result.

The police definition currently states *“Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, aged 18 and 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)”

This definition is being considered nationally and may be reduced to 16 years. However this will only apply to people in intimate relationships, so would not include 16/17 year old son or daughter abusing their parents.

In comparison to studies of domestic violence between intimate partners and of parental abuse of children, researchers and clinicians have paid less attention to adolescent violence towards parents. Despite recent attention in the literature (Browne & Hamilton, 1998; Downey, 1997; Sheehan 1997) there is little tangible evidence surrounding this topic in much the same way that other forms of family violence have been hidden in the past.

Definition

Definitions of violence have generally focused on a limited range of physical behaviours such as hitting (Browne & Hamilton, 1998; Paulson et al., 1990). However, other forms of violence occur frequently and include physical, emotional, and verbal behaviours arising from a belief that one's entitlements outweigh one's responsibilities (Jenkins, 1990). In this study, behaviour is considered to be violent if others in the family feel threatened, intimidated or controlled by it and if they believe that they must adjust their own behaviour to accommodate threats or anticipation of violence. It is important to distinguish between youth to parent violence and partner to partner violence because they differ in a number of respects. The parent does have a responsibility to parent, making the option of leaving the relationship less appropriate. Also, although 'victim' parents may not be physically bigger than the 'abusing' adolescent, they are likely to be more powerful in terms of resources.

However, counteracting this greater economic and social power is the fact that an adolescent's threats to wreck the house or to take life-threatening risks are behaviours likely to maintain power over parents.

Who is Targeted, and How Often?

There is limited knowledge about the extent of adolescent violence towards parents, with many studies relying on self reporting by adolescents, who are likely to minimise the rate and severity of their violence (Agnew & Huguley, 1989; Cornell & Gelles, 1982; Peek et al., 1985). Rates of adolescent violence vary widely depending on definitions.

Depending on how violence is defined, there are differing reports on whether fathers or mothers are more likely to be victims of violence, although the weight of evidence supports the view that mothers are more likely to be targets. Data from the Justice System (Crimes Act Monitoring Report, 1997) indicate that more mothers than fathers take out Intervention Orders against their children. This is supported by reports that mothers are more frequently on the receiving end of adolescent violence from both sons and daughters (Cornell & Gelles, 1982; Evans and Warren-Sohlberg, 1988; Pelletier & Coutu, 1992). Sons are more likely to hit their fathers and this violence increases in

later adolescence — perhaps because the young men take advantage of their increased size and strength (Cornell & Gelles, 1982; Peek et al., 1985).

Disability

MARAC data recorded two victims as registered disabled between 20th October 2009 and 29th March 2010. It must be noted that this is not the total number of disabled victims recorded for the period, only those risk assessed through MARAC, and not all disabled people are registered as disabled.

Disability can be a factor that increases a victim's vulnerability when they are in an abusive relationship. The victim can be reliant on their abusive partner to help, support and assist them and abusive partners can use this vulnerability and need for support as another way of controlling them.

Disability is one of the risk factors within the risk assessment used to make a referral into MARAC.

Socio-Economic Data

The information displayed below was taken from a variety of sources including the Office for National Statistics, the Darlington Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the Darlington Single Needs Assessment.

- 45% of the population of Darlington are deemed to live in the 10 wards that are in top 25% of deprived wards.
- 21.2% of children in Darlington live in poverty. This is slightly higher than the average of 20.9% in England.
- 4.3% of the working age population in Darlington is claiming Job Seekers Allowance. This is higher than the 3.5% average across Great Britain.
- The gross weekly pay for residents of Darlington is £454.40 compared with £501.80 in Great Britain.
- In Darlington 24.3% of the working population are economically inactive. This is higher than the average of 23.6% across Great Britain.
- 7.9% of the working age population in Darlington is claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance. This is compared with 6.7 % in Great Britain.
- Of the households in Darlington, 70.8% are owner occupiers, which is higher than the national percentage of 67.5%.

Classification

Domestic abuse is classified by the Police into three categories:

Standard:

Current evidence does not indicate likelihood of causing serious harm.

Medium:

There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The offender has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, for example, failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, drug or alcohol misuse.

High:

There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

Risk of serious harm is defined as: (Home Office 2002 and OASys 2006)

'A risk which is life threatening and/or traumatic, and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible'.

Risk Levels from May 2010 – April 2011 for Darlington:

Risk Levels	Numbers
Standard	1,685
Medium	430
High (high would mean a referral to MARAC)	120

Regardless of the level of risk all victims would require some form of support or intervention. A gap in the current service provision is the standard risk cases. These cases do not receive targeted resource, therefore any newly commissioned services should address this needs gap.

MARAC & Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) Data

The first MARAC meeting for Darlington took place on the 20th October 2009. MARAC information is recorded per financial year and the following chart outlines the number of cases, the number of repeats, where the referrals have come from and then a further breakdown regarding the victims:

MARAC Data	Number
No of Cases	139
No/% of repeats	25
BME	3
LGBT	2
Registered Disabled	2
Male	5
Female	134
Children involved	154

Referring Agencies							
Police	Housing	Probation	Mental Health	Voluntary	CYPS	PCT	Other
102	3	5.5	1	23	1	1.5	2
						Total	139

Education

The importance of education cannot be underestimated in terms of changing attitudes and values around domestic abuse for both adults and children.

The embedding of sex and relationship education in schools with strong emphasis on healthy appropriate friendships and relationships is paramount. Domestic abuse impacts on all five Every Child Matters Outcomes: staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well being.

Schools are in a prime position to identify the early signs of children as witnesses/ victims of domestic abuse, and to take supportive action for the child through the Common Assessment Framework.

Current Services for Domestic Abuse

Good practice can be seen both locally and nationally and what exists and is already seen to work should always be considered when reviewing services.

Within this section good practice will be highlighted both from a national perspective focussing on the government's priority around the MARAC and the IDVA but also good practice from a local perspective.

The local good practice has been highlighted by professionals but more importantly by the victims who have used the services or accessed the programmes and their feedback is included in this section in order to give a flavour of how the services and programmes have worked for them.

Firstly, we will focus on MARAC and IDVA as highlighted within the Government's VAWG strategy as examples of what works.

MARAC

MARAC provides a consistent approach to risk assessment which identifies those victims who are at most risk of serious harm. Once a victim has been assessed at this level of risk a multi agency meeting is held and agencies will work together to find a way of reducing that risk using available interventions.

The aim of MARAC is:

- To share information to increase the safety, health and well being of victims – adults and their children
- To determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community
- To construct jointly and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and which reduces the risk of harm
- To reduce repeat victimisation
- To improve agency coordination and accountability
- To improve support for staff involved in high risk domestic abuse cases.

The responsibility to take appropriate actions rests with individual agencies; it is not transferred to the MARAC, which is a conferencing and coordination medium.

The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety.

MARAC is now fully established across Co Durham and Darlington and provides an excellent service to victims and children who are most at risk of domestic abuse.

MARAC within Darlington started in December 2008 and since then to the end of March 2011 over 181 cases have been heard at a MARAC meeting.

Nationally MARACs are judged by the level of repeats, those victims who return to the attention of MARAC within any 12 month rolling period, with the current national percentage set at 28%. The Co Durham and Darlington MARAC has continued to record a repeat rate well below this national percentage which would highlight that MARAC is fulfilling its aim of reducing risk to our most at risk victims and children.

The following information provides an outline of the repeat rate for MARAC for Darlington:

Financial Year	Percentage
Oct 2009-March 2010	15%
2010-2011	21%

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates

The IDVA Role is a component part of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) and is there to provide specialised support and advice to victims of domestic abuse-related crimes whilst they are involved in the criminal justice system. The IDVA explains the criminal justice process and provides regular updates to the victim. The IDVA can also signpost the victim onto other specialised or appropriate services depending on the identified needs of the victim. The IDVA can also accompany the victim to court and liaise with other court services, i.e. the witness care unit in order to arrange pre-court visits and special measures.

Another part of the IDVA Role is within MARAC. Once a victim is referred to an IDVA the IDVA will confirm and collate information regarding the current and on-going risks to the victim and if the victim is deemed to be at High Risk level they will proceed into MARAC. The IDVA will fully explain what MARAC is and how and why the victim may become part of the MARAC process and then answer any questions that the victim may have. The role of the IDVA in MARAC is to be the victim's voice within the MARAC meeting and put forward any comments and opinions on the victim's behalf. The IDVA will then update the victim following on from the MARAC meeting to ensure that the victim is fully aware of what future actions are deemed necessary to take place in order to assist in reducing the risk to the victim and thereby keeping the victim as safe as possible.

The Darlington IDVA is seconded from the Durham Tees Valley Probation Service to Durham Constabulary and is based within the Darlington Police Domestic Abuse Unit where she receives her referrals from the unit's Detective Sergeant. The Darlington IDVA came into post in August 2009 and since that date and up until March 2011 she has supported 154 victims.

The IDVA service throughout Co Durham and Darlington collates direct feedback from victims about the service they received from the IDVA and also about their views on how successful the final outcome of any case heard at court was for them. This feedback is invaluable and has assisted in highlighting from the victim's point of view the importance of the IDVA role and

how this role has assisted and sometimes represented the one thing that has kept the victim going throughout very difficult and high risk times.

Quotes received from victims include: *"I found it very helpful that Jean always made me aware what was going on and if I didn't understand things they were explained. I found Jean taking me to the court beforehand beneficial."*

"Thank you Jean for your help I really appreciated it, it was also nice to know someone professional was there for me to talk about it all with."

MARAC/IDVA Costs

MARAC and IDVA are funded via contributions from Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council, Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust and NHS Co Durham and NHS Darlington.

Refuge

Darlington Refuge was established in the 1970s and provides refuge accommodation and support to victims and their families. It is currently commissioned by Supporting People, Darlington Borough Council.

For financial year 2009 – 2010, 67 clients and families were supported in the refuge. Seven clients were from Darlington and 37 from other areas. There were 44 non-admissions into the refuge however alternative accommodation was always found when the Darlington refuge was at capacity.

The refuge also runs a helpline and in 2009 – 2010, 650 calls were received by the helpline, with an age range of the callers ranging from 16 – 70 years.

Comments received during a direct feedback session with two victims who had stayed at the refuge include:

"It's a good place, brilliant staff"

"I felt safe and secure and had someone to talk too."

Floating Support Service

The floating support service has been established since 2007 and provides outreach support to victims and their families. It is currently commissioned by Supporting People, Darlington Borough Council.

For financial year 2009 – 2010, 59 clients and families have been supported.

Comments from victims regarding the current outreach service include:

"My support worker always went the extra mile to support me."

"My support worker always helped me to make decisions, never making decisions for me."

"Without the support I would not have had the strength to leave my abusive relationship."

“The support was arranged quickly and that was really important to help me get away.”
“My support worker always had time for me and listened to what I had to say.”

Between October 2010 and August 2011 the floating support service had received 152 referrals.

At present the floating support service has two additional workers in post which has enabled the service to provide emotional support as well as practical support to clients. It has also enabled the workers to facilitate two Freedom Programmes, one of which is delivered in the evening.

At the time of writing, the floating support service is working with 33 clients and this includes two male victims.

An informal weekly women’s group has also been established offering support, advice, and information, in addition to confidence-building and the opportunity to start to build friendships which can help prevent isolation.

In September 2011 two of the workers at the floating support service are due to undertake recognised training to enable them to become accredited IDVAs.

The floating support service also provides support to children aged between four and 17 years who have been affected by domestic abuse. Between May 2010 and July 2011 this service received 36 referrals from agencies such as Social Care, the Family Intervention Team, and from local schools. A breakdown of these referrals is outlined in the below:

Breakdown of Referrals	Number of Children
Families that did not engage/accept support	7
Disengaged during support	1
Accessed support until it was no longer required	8
Currently engaged in support	16
Waiting list	4
Number of children who were referred who had witnessed/experienced domestic abuse	35
Child considered to be an abuser	1

Support is offered to the children for both emotional and behavioural concerns, using therapeutic play, arts and crafts.

Freedom Programme

The Freedom Programme is a nationally recognised example of good practice and is designed to empower victims of abuse and help them to understand the controlling behaviours used by their abusive partners.

The programme has been running in Darlington for a number of years and has assisted many victims, some of whom state how important the programme is and how it had made them feel better about themselves, comments include:

"It helped me realise it wasn't my fault."

"An eye opening experience."

"It built my confidence."

Voluntary Perpetrator Programme

A voluntary perpetrator programme was piloted in the summer of 2010 by Foundations from a budget of £11,600. The programme was for heterosexual men only and was set up to comply with the nationally recognised RESPECT guidelines for this type of programme. RESPECT is a female only victims programme.

The guidelines stipulate a 32 week programme consisting of two hours a week, on a group work basis with no more than 12 participants. The facilitators are to be male and female to provide a gender balance and an integral part of the programme is the continued liaison and support for the perpetrators partner.

Any issues that could arise about crimes, child protection or safety of the victim and any child would immediately be referred as per existing procedures and the men would be made aware if this from the outset.

The effectiveness of perpetrator programmes is mixed. There is no clear evidence as to the long-term changes in behaviour and the complete reduction of risk to victims and children. The programmes can effect change in some but the crucial element is the fact that the perpetrator recognises their responsibility for their actions and that they want to change. If a change is made it will automatically reduce the risk to the victim and any child but also potentially reduces the risk to any future victims and children if the perpetrator continues to be non-abusive. This change therefore is important and how we affect this change should be a consideration for any new domestic abuse service.

There is information available regarding different types of programmes which have been run using slightly different formats and have experienced some level of success.

Sanctuary Scheme

The Sanctuary Scheme is target-hardening for existing victims of domestic abuse. Target hardening is the funding of practical security measures such as changing locks and panic alarms.

Feedback from existing victims stated that although the measures did make them feel safer there were still concerns about safety.

The Sanctuary Scheme is currently funded from the Council at a cost of £9,500.

Housing

Addressing housing issues plays a key part in assisting victims of domestic abuse in leaving abusive relationships. Housing Services has a number of ways in which it contributes to this.

Housing Options, a team of experienced Housing Advisors are based at the Town Hall and are available to give full information and advice on the range of accommodation options available. Housing options works with both victims and perpetrators to ensure they have full knowledge of their housing options. The advisors have all received training on Domestic Abuse and offer a “no questions asked service” to anyone.

There is a Tees Valley Choice Based Lettings partnership made up of Darlington Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, Stockton Borough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, and Hartlepool Borough Council. Their partner landlords include Erimus Housing, Tristar Homes, Coast & Country Housing and Housing Hartlepool, there are also a number of Registered Social Landlords. This partnership operates Compass Choice Based Lettings.

The process for assessing and prioritising applications is easy to understand as it uses a system for banding applicants to reflect their housing need (applicants with more pressing needs than others are placed in a higher band, whilst those with less urgent need are placed in a lower band). The process does prioritise clients identified as being victims of domestic abuse.

If it is identified that a client does not require specialist support linked to domestic abuse, but there are general housing support needs identified they can be referred through the Key Point of Access (a centralised point for referrals for people at risk of homelessness or in need of support to maintain their tenancy) to tenancy support services.

It is widely recognised that it is best for victims and families to remain in their homes and where appropriate Housing Services will take tenancy enforcement action against perpetrators to ensure this can be achieved.

Working in partnership with the Police and other agencies, Housing Services will assess the risks to someone from domestic abuse, and where appropriate will fit additional security without charge. This may include pursuing the Sanctuary Scheme. Where damage has occurred as a result of domestic abuse the victim would not normally be re-charged for the repair.

Housing Officers attend the MARAC and provide Housing advice and support on Housing and Welfare Benefits advice, offer furnished tenancies and white good packages as required and can signpost to the Bridge to Home scheme for rent bonds and provide details of accredited private landlords.

Probation

The Probation Trust provides a Community Domestic Violence Programme (CDVP).

CDVP is a group work programme for men who have committed at least one act of violence against a wife or partner. CDVP can be a requirement of a community sentence, suspended sentence order or as a condition of a licence.

The programme deals with issues such as: the effects of domestic abuse on partners and the family, the beliefs and attitudes which result in violence, how to identify risk and how to cope with feelings and behaviour in difficult situations without resorting to violence.

A referral is also made to a Women's Safety Worker who supports the victim whilst their partners are on CDVP.

All of the above does not preclude referrals to MARAC or MAPPA. Any concerns regarding group members will be shared with all agencies involved.

Victims of Domestic Abuse supervised by Durham Tees Valley have access to a safe environment when males are instructed not to attend the office. Every Thursday between 10am - 12noon is Women's Only Reporting. Individuals can also access the agencies listed below who attend the Darlington Probation Office:

- Housing, DISC, Foundation, Council
- Citizenship Advice Bureau
- Alcohol and Drug Services
- Health Training.

This reporting session was established following the Corston Report 2008.

For individuals who are not subject to CDVP but where domestic abuse has been identified Offender Managers address the individuals offending behaviour by using the Citizenship Programme.

Health

The NHS provides universal services and commissions specialist services for victims of domestic abuse. Services in primary care, midwives, health visitors and A&E are well placed in identifying victims of domestic abuse and referring appropriately to specialist services.

In 2008 the PCTs recruited Domestic Abuse Coordinators for health services. In Darlington, this post is located within the Safeguarding Children Team but also has a remit to safeguard adult victims of domestic abuse. The purpose of this post is to provide specialist guidance to staff within the PCTs and the wider health economy; to coordinate and deliver training; and to be the appointed 'Single Point of Contact' (SPOC) for health services within the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Process.

Prevention

Prevention is primarily about stopping abuse and involves all organisations taking responsibility for identifying it and doing something about it.

Prevention means: “All organisations have a responsibility to train their staff to have an awareness of domestic abuse. Staff should be able to recognise and identify the signs and indicators of abuse, know how to deal with disclosures from victims and know who to speak to or who to refer their concerns to once a disclosure or identification is made. At no time can staff afford to ignore or not notice these signs and indicators and supervisors are responsible to reiterate that message to their staff”.

(<http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/violence/wpv.htm>)

Prevention requires: adequate records which can be appropriately shared across organisations. It requires specific procedures for the public, and staff to understand roles and responsibilities. Staff must feel they can openly discuss concerns and any domestic related issues with a supervisor and they must understand their boundaries and confidentiality and what constitutes “significant concern”.

Prevention works when organisations:

- identify abuse
- flag concerns to supervisors
- make adequate records
- share information with other agencies
- manage and regularly revisit and assess the on-going risks.

Prevention can:

- prevent domestic abuse from continuing
- stop abuse going unnoticed
- allow organisations to proactively engage with victims and children at every opportunity
- put in place safety measures and interventions to reduce or at least manage risk.

Prevention also places the perpetrators on everyone’s radar: organisations start to proactively flag and highlight the perpetrators. This is crucially relevant when the perpetrator of one abusive relationship leaves that relationship and enters into another.

Reacting to domestic abuse is not the same as prevention, the early identification of signs and indicators is crucial, and all staff and all organisations need to be made aware of this.

Education and Learning -Changing and Challenging Attitudes

“Children can be exposed to violence from birth and, unless an alternative view is established, are likely to grow to accept that behaviour as normal. Setting out which attitudes and behaviours are acceptable and which are not therefore needs to begin early on in a child’s life and be reinforced over time.

We also need to strengthen protection for vulnerable children by ensuring that those on the frontline can focus on taking action” (Call to end violence against women and girls, 2009, p.10)

The role of education is crucial to achieve any outcome which is focused on changing attitudes. The acceptability and the “normalisation” of abuse are inherited or accepted very early on in a child’s life. Work should therefore start in primary schools and continue into secondary schools with the focus being on relationships and respect in order to ensure that a clear message is provided and reinforced which will hopefully assist in breaking the cycle of abuse which can start to begin with children and young people.

Perpetrator Programmes

The attitudes of adults should also still be challenged but this sometimes is a difficult and not always successful task. Adults may develop rigid views regarding abuse and perpetrators who abuse may develop extensive justification for their abuse which they can have no desire to alter.

The existence of both statutory perpetrator programmes, delivered following court instruction by the Probation service, and voluntary perpetrator programmes can lead to success with male perpetrators who want to change and are willing to take responsibility for their behaviour. However the number of men who actually complete the programme remains low.

Freedom Programme/Power to Change Programme

Victims often blame themselves for the abuse they suffer. The Freedom Programme can be effective in dispelling the belief that victims are to blame. These beliefs are often fuelled by the perpetrators of abuse.

Provision

The Darlington CSP will develop a local action plan to deliver this strategy with a particular emphasis placed on prevention.

The Darlington CSP is accountable for the development and management of a commissioning action plan for domestic abuse. The Darlington CSP will need to optimise resources to have the greatest impact on generating positive outcomes for families. The evidence used to optimise resources will be family outcome focused and will identify the gaps that will need to be filled and prioritise resource accordingly.

Protection

It is the responsibility of the Police to actively safeguard, protect and respond positively to any incident or disclosure of domestic abuse. The Police as a responsible authority are an integral part of the existing statutory processes that are in place to ensure the protection of the public through the effective management of risk. The main process that does this is the Multi Agency

Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The Police also are an integral part of MARAC and Potentially Dangerous Persons (PDP) processes.

Durham Constabulary has a robust domestic abuse policy and procedure which promotes the use of positive action and domestic abuse remains a priority for the Force. Specific domestic abuse units, which are staffed by domestic abuse specialist investigators, are in place across the Constabulary area with one located within Darlington.

Finally, changing people's attitudes and beliefs about domestic abuse will take many years to accomplish and for some will never be achieved, but the risks of abuse are present in Darlington every day and will be for many years to come. Darlington needs to ensure it is able and robust enough to deal with it.

Equalities

This strategy will be progressed through a wide range of activity implemented by the various partner agencies involved in the Darlington CSP. The strategy provides the co-ordinating framework directing this wide-ranging activity towards shared outcomes and targets. It is essential that the strategy is implemented in ways that contribute to the delivery of fair outcomes and the advancement of equality. The public sector equality duty set out in the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council and other public agencies to 'have due regard' in their decisions, services and programmes to the need to advance the three strands of the duty: to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; to advance equality of opportunity; and to foster good relations between people of different backgrounds. The duty applies specifically to nine groups of people with 'protected characteristics'. These are: age, disability, religion/faith, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, and marriage and civil partnership.

The Council carries out Equalities Impact Assessment to identify the potential impact of strategies and change proposals on these groups, and to fulfil the equality duty. It will carry out impact assessment on the programmes and actions that it develops within the framework of this strategy, and it will encourage partners to carry out their own equalities impact assessments on their own proposals. Key partners are subject to either the public sector equality duty or similar duties under the act.

Commissioning & Resources Plan

Darlington's current domestic abuse budget is circa £250,000 of which all is directed to commissioning services. This is in addition to the core services offered by the Police, Council, PCT and Probation Services. As a result of Government Spending Review all budgets, at the time of writing, are subject to further review.

To ensure domestic abuse is commissioned effectively, the four stages of the commissioning process will be to:

1. Review: a full review of the services currently commissioned will take place, reviewing the outputs and outcomes achieved and assessing whether value for money has been achieved as a result of all the factors assessed. Where it is found that services have not met outcomes or de-commissioning arrangements will need to be implemented.

Unlike many services, to instantly gain service user feedback may not be guaranteed, justified as users may wish to remain anonymous. Outcome monitoring and tracking of service users may become difficult for the long-term impacts of commissioned services.

The current services that have been commissioned are:

- Darlington Refuge
- Floating Support Service
- Sanctuary Scheme

For those times when services are re-commissioned, a revised outcome framework has been produced by the strategic group and DASAN, drawing from the Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) work conducted that informed this strategy.

2. Analyse: using the data detailed within the needs analysis and the results from the planning work, this informed the next planning stage.

3 & 4. Plan & Do: the complete analysis and plans were then taken to a multi-agency stakeholder group to conduct improvement planning. Each of the high-level issues was worked through with the stakeholders and an action plan was created which included actions against current commissioned and to-be commissioned services. A lead was assigned to the actions and tasked with producing an action plan for their area and timescales. This allows the Strategic Group to maintain accountability for the actions detailed, but delegate responsibility for those actions to individual multi-agency officers to manage. It is recommended that the action plan is reviewed quarterly and officers with leads on actions are challenged if actions have not been agreed within the given timescales.

This gives us the current and future commissioning planning, but it is recommended that in a year's time there is a full commissioning review against the resources and outcomes achieved to ensure that the high level

outcomes defined in the OBA process have become areas with demonstrable impact.

The Domestic Abuse Action Plan:

The focus of the action plan has been broken down into six specific areas and these are as follows:

- Adult victims of DA
- Children and young people
- Perpetrators
- External witnesses
- High Impact families
- The wider community

Each of the specific areas has then been further considered and how we can achieve our overall aim for everyone has been tailored within each section.

The outcomes of the strategy for each of the areas of work are as follows:

Adult victims of DA:

- People feel safe and live without fear within a secure home
- People feel confident and in control of their life and have a say in life choices
- Economic security leading to feelings of self-worth and personal empowerment
- People are healthy and have access to key services e.g. housing
- Victims have access to advice and information 24/7
- Consistent help is available from a trusted individual (mentor).

Children and young people:

- Educational setting recognise their responsibility to ensure that children learn about healthy relationships through phases
- Partnerships enable educational settings to feel confident and skilled enough to deliver education programmes around DA
- Agencies recognise their responsibilities in keeping children safe and see life “through the eyes of a child” in order to gain a proper understanding of what is happening to children and young people.

Perpetrators:

- Agencies have a responsibility to identify and flag perpetrators or potential perpetrators and to record this information and share it appropriately with a focus on preventing abuse or preventing further abuse
- Perpetrators are encouraged to understand the impact of their behaviour in order to break the cycle of abuse with the aim of preventing repeat incidents

- Agencies are to take appropriate action with perpetrators and enforce a zero tolerance of abuse and continually reinforce the unacceptability of abuse.

External witnesses:

- The population have an understanding of DA and understand how to report it and who to report it to
- The population have a sense of personal responsibility to report and feel confident enough to do so
- Witnesses who have reported DA are then appropriately supported themselves by agencies.

High impact families:

- Information is shared appropriately through a variety of mechanisms and processes i.e. Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), MARAC and Potentially Dangerous People (PDP)
- Effective case management is in place to ensure that information is collated assessed and shared to identify risks and to ensure that appropriate action is taken
- Different strategies are available to fit a person-centred approach but with the overarching aim of agencies taking action in all cases including cases where families refuse to cooperate.

The wider community:

- Effective awareness-raising is undertaken which ensures that a clear message is portrayed regarding the unacceptability of DA
- Awareness campaigns to include reference to all the different forms of DA which may enable victims and perpetrators who have never recognised that they are victims and perpetrators to come forward and report or to seek help.

In order to measure outcomes, the strategy has to include data which can assist in assessing how effective the actions are and whether they are being achieved.

The measures currently being considered are as follows:

Statistical information

- Number of cases reported to the police
- Number of cases going to court
- Percentage and number of successful prosecutions
- Number of DA homicides
- MARAC NI32 repeat rate
- Number of children subject to a child protection plan where DA is a risk factor
- Number of victims completing the freedom programme (or similar programme)

- Number of perpetrators completing the voluntary and statutory perpetrator programme (or similar programme)
- Number of educational settings participating in DA training
- Number of educational settings embedding DA within their curriculum or within other educational settings i.e. youth clubs
- Number of awareness campaigns conducted
- Number of staff attending LSCB DA training
- Number of high impact families identified

Quality of Services

- Direct feedback from victims either through questionnaires or focus groups regarding DA services – this feedback to include what works and what doesn't work for the victims
- Evidence of positive change in perpetrators who have completed the perpetrator programme or similar from victims and agencies (as a guide 6/12 months after completion)
- The impact of awareness campaigns – relevant if victims/others are reporting due to seeing campaign materials etc
- Reasons for unsuccessful prosecutions
- Information from victims as to why they refuse to give evidence in court
- Attitudinal or similar survey regarding DA.

As a product of the outcome based planning process, there were 15 indicators produced. These are as follows:

Candidate Indicator
<i>1 % referrals/users of DA services satisfied with the help they received and services offered</i>
<i>2 % of people not giving evidence in court reduced</i>
<i>3 % of schools participating in domestic abuse education/training</i>
4 % completing perpetrator voluntary and compulsory programmes
<i>5 % of perpetrator/victims reporting a positive change after 6/12 months of completion of perpetrator programmes</i>
<i>6 % of witnesses going to court to present evidence</i>
<i>7 % increase of external witnesses to DV services</i>
<i>8 quality of response to witness referral</i>
<i>9 % of families identified at risk of DA who are supported by early intervention and prevention services</i>
<i>10 % of staff trained in related issues</i>
<i>11 % of staff attending LSCB training</i>
12 NI32 repeat victim rate
13 % of successful prosecutions
14 % of children with a Child Protection Plan for DA
<i>15 % change in attitude/awareness re DA</i>

Note: Indicators highlighted in bold italics require data development

DOMESTIC ABUSE ACTION PLAN

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
Achieve greater involvement of Early Intervention & Prevention Teams in providing services to victims	Include Early Intervention and Prevention Management representative in Strategy Group	Head of Family Support	November 2011	Earlier support available for victims Swift and easy access to support services for victims	% of families identified at risk of domestic abuse who are supported by early intervention and prevention services	Time
	Include domestic abuse training Levels 1&2 (as appropriate to role) in the core workforce development programme for all staff in EI&P Team	Workforce Development Manager DBC	April ongoing	Improved knowledge of all staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practitioners qualifications and training needs identified 		Time Venue Personnel
	Audit training requirements of all EI&P staff in relation to domestic abuse	0-19 Area Co-ordinators	April 2012	Clear information regarding staff level of knowledge and skill-base	% staff trained in related issues	Time
	Develop a programme of training around domestic abuse (if necessary)	Workforce Development Manager DBC	January 2012	Improved knowledge and skill-base of staff	% children with a Child Protection Plan for domestic abuse	Time

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
	To review the effectiveness of IDVAs, with a view to increasing the involvement of witnesses	Rachel Green	March 2012	More witnesses equipped and confident to give evidence in court	<p>% of people not giving evidence in court reduced</p> <p>% of witnesses going to court to present evidence</p> <p>% increase of external witnesses to DV services</p> <p>Quality of response to witness referral</p>	Time
To identify unmet need and identify gaps in current service provision	Map identified need across Borough and in areas	Area Panels Behaviour & Attendance Partnership	January 2012 ongoing	Clearly understood map of local needs	% referrals/users of domestic abuse services satisfied with the help they	Personnel Time Database established to collate

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
	Research national support mechanisms for male victims and victims within same sex relationships	Lynne Henderson/Anita Hamer	Ongoing	Victims and perpetrators have access to information regarding behaviour changing programmes and support	received and services offered % change in attitude/awareness regarding domestic abuse	provision Resources for information material and possible provision of programmes
	Research change behaviour programmes for perpetrators who are female or under 18	Lynne Henderson/Anita Hamer	April 2012	Victims and perpetrators have access to information regarding behaviour changing programmes and support		
	Disseminate learning from research			Service Directory is updated		
Increase awareness of domestic abuse across services, organisations and the general public	Work with commissioners of public services to ensure that domestic abuse is included in safeguarding requirements in all service specifications	Lynne Henderson/Anita Hamer via Joint Commissioning Unit of Children's Trust	Ongoing	Domestic abuse is incorporated in safeguarding requirements of all service specifications	% of staff trained in related issues % change in attitude/awareness regarding domestic abuse	Venue costs Personnel Time Cost of training and delivery to

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required	
	Ensure Families Information Service has up to date link to Domestic Abuse Services Directory	Children's Commissioners and Families Information Service Manager	January 2012	Service Directory accurate and up to date on services for victims of domestic abuse		be identified	
	Conduct a publicity campaign across Darlington	Domestic and Sexual Abuse Network	January 2012	Increased awareness of domestic abuse across Darlington			Financial resource Time
				Increased reporting of domestic abuse and more families receiving the support the need			
Implement Perpetrator Programme	Arrange suitable venue	Judith Morton	End of September 2011	Effective perpetrator programme running in Darlington	% completing perpetrator voluntary and compulsory programmes % of perpetrator/victims reporting a positive change after 6/12 months of completion of	Time	
	Advertise Programme to relevant agencies	Judith Morton	October 2011	Relevant agencies aware of the service and how to refer into it		Time	
	Agree referral form	Rachel Green	October 2011	As above		Time	
	Develop Service Level Agreement with Provider	Rachel Green	October 2011	Clear working arrangements in place with Provider		Time	

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
					perpetrator programmes	
To look at data development with regard to repeat victims and perpetrators and adopt common measures	Assess current data and identify common approaches and gaps/inconsistencies	Judith Morton via working group	November 2011	A standard set of data available re DA issues in Darlington	% completing perpetrator voluntary and compulsory programmes	Time Personnel
	Explore standard approaches across all relevant agencies		November 2011	An improved picture available regarding service provision in relation to DA	% of perpetrator/victims reporting a positive change after 6/12 months of completion of perpetrator programmes	
	Develop mechanisms for recording and sharing standardised data across agencies		January 2012		Repeat victim rate	
Investigate feasibility of a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	To identify accommodation for co-location of services	Jenni Cooke	November 2011		% children with a Child Protection Plan for domestic abuse	
	To establish project group to oversee implementation work streams	Jenni Cooke	October 2011		% of families	

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
	Children's Social worker presence at Aykley Heads to screen Police referrals/ share information as an interim arrangement prior to MASH.	Jan Lefevre	July 2012		identified at risk of domestic abuse who are supported by early intervention and prevention services	
Behaviour and Attendance Partnership to develop role and agenda with regard to domestic abuse	Ensure links between Behaviour & Attendance Partnership and Local Safeguarding Children Board	Jenni Cooke/Odette Sanderson	December 2011		% schools participating in domestic abuse education/training	
	To ensure school representation on working groups for re design of services	Jenni Cooke	September 2011			
	To explore models of good practise regarding working with young people in a school setting and report to Joint Heads meeting to agree follow up actions	Gena Birchall	December 2011			% change in attitude/awareness regarding domestic abuse

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
To ensure that the curriculum is appropriate and embedded and educates children and young people about relationships and domestic abuse	Delivery of resource packs to all settings, including resources relating to domestic abuse	Catherine Shaw	Completed		% schools participating in domestic abuse education/training	
	Delivery of training to settings relating to domestic abuse and healthy relationships	Catherine Shaw	Ongoing			
	Begin the targeted vulnerable group pilot	Catherine Shaw	November 2011 – May 2012			
	Develop the Sex and Relationship Education Quality Mark	Catherine Shaw	Ongoing			
	Deliver training across all settings to meet Quality Mark	Catherine Shaw				
To have comprehensive literature relating to pathways and	To organise a task and finish group	Susan Degnan DASAN Chair Family Help Manager	23rd September 2011	Completed	% change in attitude/awareness regarding domestic abuse	Time / venue / personnel / resources

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
services.	Dates to be arranged	(Refuge)	October/November 2011	Ongoing		Time / venue / personnel / resources
	Consultation with clients and agencies	Task group	October/November 2011	Ongoing		Time / venue / personnel / resources
	Compile common literature for Darlington	Task group	November/December 2011	Task group to agree information and layout etc.		Time / venue / personnel / resources
	Completion of literature	Task group	January 2012	Literature produced		Time
	Disseminate all literature	Supporting People team	By October 2012	Poster / credit card sized booklet etc displayed in all public places		Time / personnel
	Record on new template	All agencies	Ongoing from first distribution of literature (hopefully January 2012)	Agencies to email SP with information for template (i.e. where was literature placed)		Time / personnel

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
	All agencies to record evidence of contact (ie where had the person(s) seen the literature)	Task group	Ongoing from first distribution of literature	Ongoing		Time / personnel
	Evaluate the impact from new literature	Task group	Quarterly	Public awareness of pathways and services for domestic abuse victims		Time / personnel
	Feed back session	Task group	October 2012	Success of project		Time /personnel / venue / resources
To develop appropriate/common customer feedback approaches	To identify appropriate, consistent data capture methods for clients accessing a range of Domestic Abuse Services	Denise Rudkin/Helen Watson, Supporting People Team	March 2012	Clear methods of identifying the outcomes achieved by clients accessing services	% referrals/users of domestic abuse services satisfied with the help they received and services offered	Time, Venue, Personnel
	Research outcome data capture, to identify good practice	Denise Rudkin/Helen Watson, Supporting People Team		Clients and support providers having the ability to evidence the progress made through appropriate support. Giving the opportunity to make changes to the support delivery based on evidence of success/challenges		

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
	Capture outcomes data which as a minimum evidences the following, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A baseline position of clients entering services • A clear picture of their aspirations • Regular review of progress at pre-determined stages • An assessment of the journey travelled by clients at the point they leave the service, including feedback on the service delivery. • A re-connection with clients at pre-determined 	Denise Rudkin/Helen Watson, Supporting People Team		Commissioners and stakeholder having data available on the outcomes achieved by individual services, on a consistent basis. To provide evidence for future commissioning and the mapping of need		

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
	stages, following exit from services, to track their progress					
	To develop appropriate tools to capture data	Denise Rudkin/Helen Watson, Supporting People Team				
	To identify reporting pathways for sharing outcome data	Denise Rudkin/Helen Watson, Supporting People Team	June 2012	A robust uniform database for outcome data capture and reporting		Systems for entering, collating and storing data.
	Possible development of data storage methods	Denise Rudkin/Helen Watson, Supporting People Team				
To agree a common set of risk factors to identify high impact families at risk of domestic abuse	To be agreed as part of the planning within current Family Intervention Team	Jenni Cooke	December 2011		% families identified at risk of domestic abuse who are supported by early intervention and prevention	

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
					services % of staff trained in relevant issues	
Review Social Norms Survey to ensure that attitudes towards domestic abuse are captured and explore the feasibility of improving our understanding of young people's experiences of domestic abuse through this approach	Explore evidence base Discuss with local schools Devise appropriate social norms approach Plan associated targeted support and follow up work after the survey	David Gardiner	Academic Year 2012/13	Subject to findings: Young people will understand that most young people do not condone domestic abuse; this may positively influence the behaviour of young people in domestic settings and their future relationships There will be a more robust needs assessment in this area leading to better informed commissioning	% change in attitude/awareness regarding domestic abuse	Schools agreement to this work. Research and development time. Access to existing larger social norms survey in schools
RPIW to increase the number of CAFs assessed	Secure funding from CSP to resource training and materials required for RPIW. Develop information gathering on CAFs	David Plews/ Simon Bishop	February 2012	Increase CAFs being conducted Reduce demands on specialist services Improve remedial packages of targeted	% of families identified at risk of domestic abuse who are supported by early	Secured from CSP bid. Lead officers time

Key Objectives	Actions	Lead Officer	By when	Outcomes	Performance Measures	Resources required
	<p>conducted and outcomes not being achieved</p> <p>Convene RPIW event with key stakeholders, map current and future states</p> <p>Implement future state process map and roll out with effective multi-agency training</p>			<p>services for children and their families</p>	<p>intervention and prevention services</p> <p>% children with a Child Protection plan for domestic abuse</p>	<p>Key stakeholders time</p> <p>CAF training for staff</p>

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