

# **County Durham and Darlington**

## **Violence Against Women and Girls Provider Forum**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **I. Our Vision**

- a. A Stronger System which seeks to prevent and tackle violence against women and girls in County Durham and Darlington.
  
- b. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) covers a range of unacceptable and deeply distressing crimes, including rape and other sexual offences, stalking, domestic abuse, 'honour'-based abuse (including female genital mutilation, forced marriage and 'honour' killings), 'revenge porn' and 'upskirting', as well as many others. These crimes disproportionately affect women and girls. However, men and boys can also be victims of violence and abuse and the approaches set out in this document will benefit all victims and survivors of these crime types.

#### **II. Purpose**

- a. To support the continued development of community-based, 'by and for' and specialist voluntary and community sector organisations in County Durham and Darlington.
  
- b. Increase communication and collaboration between practitioners operating in County Durham and Darlington who are part of the system preventing harm, supporting victims, and pursuing perpetrators of violence against women and girls.
  
- c. Provide a platform which uses a problem-solving approach encouraging members to share barriers, challenges, and good practise.
  
- d. To support the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group agenda which include information sharing between operational and strategic professionals and organisations.

#### **III. Shared Values**

- a. **To be agreed by Forum**

#### **IV. Membership & Expectations**

- a. Member organisations are non-statutory services providing a service which works to preventing harm, support victims and/or perpetrators of violence against women and girls.

- b. Members must be delivering a service in County Durham and/or Darlington.
- c. Member professionals are responsible for taking an active role in feeding learnings back to their organisation and service users.
- d. Members are responsible for suggesting learning and development opportunities to include on the agenda. This can include presenting their work or suggesting an external speaker.

**V. Administration**

- a. The meeting will be quarterly with dates and agenda arranged in advance.
- b. The meeting will be facilitated by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, Darlington Public Health and Durham Public Health.

**VI. Agenda**

- a. The content of the agenda will be led by the needs of the members and purpose of the Group.
- b. The standard agenda format will be:
  - i. Welcome and Introduction
  - ii. Update from DASVEG
  - iii. Learning and Development Presentation
  - iv. Networking
  - v. Learning and Development Workshop
  - vi. AOB