

# **Derby domestic violence strategy 2005 - 2008**

## **Introduction**

The definition used by the Derby domestic violence partnership is as defined by the home office as: -

***“Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.”***

Much good work has taken place and is continuing in all areas of domestic violence but it is clear that there is still a great deal of work that is needed to see the level of domestic violence reduce. The new Domestic Violence Crime and Victims bill introduced in 2004 by the government highlights the importance levelled at the problem of domestic violence. It introduces new police powers, stronger legal protection for victims and the provision of more rights for victims with a statutory code of practice. In addition the impact of domestic violence on children is covered by the Derby city area child protection committee procedure and that the adoption and children act 2002 section 120 recognises the impact on children as significant harm. This strategy sets out a vision to effectively address the issue of domestic violence within the City of Derby. The strategy has been developed because: -

- Domestic violence has been identified as a key issue for people living in Derby.
- It is the single highest cause of homelessness in the city.
- Domestic violence accounts for 40% of all violence crime
- Home office findings suggest that 1:4 woman and 1:6 men are subject to domestic violence in their lifetimes
- Domestic violence is widespread throughout every Socio economic group. Most research suggest that domestic violence occurs in all sections of society irrespective of race, culture, nationality, religion, sexuality, disability, age, class and education level. \*
- There is a strong correlation between domestic violence and child abuse.
- The total cost to society is an estimated £23 billion a year in England and Wales
- Women will be assaulted 35 times by her partner before reporting it to the police.

- In a study of the take up of services by Asian African Caribbean and Arab women, it was found that about half of the women had experienced domestic violence for 5 years before they sought help. (Rai and Thiara 1997)
- Co-ordination of services / partners is needed to provide a more effective services to meet the needs of those involved / affected. We need to ensure safer communities where domestic violence is not tolerated and the understanding and awareness of the crime is better and those affected are aware of safe choices of services that are available

\* Multi agency guidance for addressing domestic violence HO 2000

## **The domestic violence team / partnership**

Through the 2005 audit completed by Derby community safety partnership it has been identified that domestic violence is a key issue for the city. The community safety partnership is committed to improving community safety and to identify factors that contribute to an increase in fear and to tackle the underlying causes of this.

The community safety partnership domestic violence team is made up of a domestic violence manager, co-ordinator, court advocacy worker, an advice worker for the Allenton/Osmaston area, an administrator and project co-ordinator. (The structure is contained in annex 2.)

Members of the domestic violence partnership include workers from refuges, voluntary and community organisations, the police, housing services, social services, education, legal services, health services, courts and probation. (A full list of the current members is contained at the back of this document in annex 1.)

There is a domestic violence strategy group representing the many organisations in the city work together with the aim to reduce domestic violence and create a safer and stronger community.

There are links with children's services through representation on the ACPC/LCSB and children's social services.

The domestic violence partnership has links with the county and links with domestic violence forums in other counties.

## **Findings from the community safety audit 2005**

A local audit of crime and disorder was conducted in Derby; it highlighted the issues that cause the most harms to communities. Domestic violence was an area that was highlighted. (For a full copy of the audit you can visit [www.saferderby.org](http://www.saferderby.org))

- The number of domestic violence assaults recorded by police has increased substantially to 1291 offences in 2003/2004 - representing 17.7% of all assaults

- A study estimates that up to 60% of assaults may not be recorded correctly, putting the actual number of police recorded domestic assaults nearer to 2800 in 2003/04 equalling **44% of all assaults**
- In 83% of cases injuries were sustained with 4% being serious injuries and 1 fatality
- Domestic violence is generally concentrated in specific neighbourhoods, Normanton, Austin, Sinfin, Allenton, Alvaston, and Derwent but it is anecdotally known that domestic violence is a widespread offence crossing all age groups and social borders
- There are clear links with alcohol and drug use
- There is a disproportionate few that are responsible for a large proportion of domestic violence
- According to the survey on the impact of crime, only 25% of domestic violence cases were reported to the police
- 5% of adults perceived domestic violence as a problem
- Young peoples perception of domestic violence as a problem is much greater than adults.

## **What have we achieved over the last three years?**

Apart from the tangible achievements of the partnership, there have been a number of achievements over the past three years, not least of which is the work of the domestic violence team in raising issues and the profile of domestic abuse. Agencies from the voluntary, statutory and business community have worked together in partnership, and drawing together their services and support for victims, survivors and witnesses has been one of the successes of the Domestic Violence Partnership.

The work of all members has resulted in the partnership leading the way in providing services that aim to improve the safety of women and children.

- Domestic violence court
- Appointment of court support coordinator
- Appointment of community advice worker Allenton/ Osmaston
- Two service user groups - Sham Marriage and Untouchables
- Business questionnaire: mapping domestic violence policies and training- report completed

- School questionnaire: staff training and awareness, inclusion in PSHE citizenship- report completed
- Schools safety road show: information for schools delivered in bookmarks
- Domestic Violence forum
- Perpetrator report looked at two local schemes, one independent, and one statutory.
- Awareness raising – delivery of two freedom programme facilitator training events
- Domestic violence directory
- DV publicity material
- Media coverage of DV issues.
- Common monitoring framework software purchased and in process of implementation with partnership members
- Awareness raising/information sessions delivered to NHS A&E staff, Derby University criminology students, local publicans through pub watch initiative Midwifery, education committee
- Mental health policy and training
- Membership of the ACPC/LCSB. The DV co-ordinator is represented on ACPC/LCSB and children social services and the ACPC/LCSB project officer and training co-ordinator are members of strategy and sub groups.

## **Domestic violence vision**

The overall aim of the domestic violence strategy is to ***reduce domestic violence in Derby City.***

The strategy for delivery of this vision will focus on three areas of intervention and co-ordination: -

- 1. Providing safe choices and Support to those affected by domestic violence**
- 2. Education of young people on the issues of domestic violence**

### **3. Working with perpetrators of domestic violence to prevent reoffending**

The overall benefits of these actions would be to produce a: -

- safer community
- better information / awareness/ understanding and reduction of social tolerance
- reduction in severity and dangerousness of domestic violence
- reduction in repeat victimisation
- increase in service satisfaction
- reduction in long term negative consequences of domestic violence
- long term reduction in the cost to the public purse

### **Objective 1 - Providing safe choices and support to those affected by domestic violence**

The aims are to Improve how local agencies / partners support victims and their children. It is to ensure co-ordinated services, which prioritise safety by offering a range of services that can meet individual needs. There is a need to develop advocacy work and awareness campaigns, which actively discourages domestic violence and sends clear messages to society that domestic violence will not be tolerated.

We will target this area by:

- Seeking to establish a domestic violence multi agency team. To provide a single point of contact for victims/survivors of domestic violence
- To support the development of a training resource pack for domestic violence
- Provide services for victims/survivors of domestic violence with mental health needs and or substance abuse problems
- Provide awareness raising campaigns and publicity events
- Provide advice/ outreach workers into additional communities where needs are identified and funding available
- To explore the possibility of producing a standard policy for employees who experience domestic violence for use by employers in Derby

- To improve security measures for victims/ survivors by target hardening homes
- To improve awareness and accessibility for domestic violence support and services for BME and other minority groups
- To support mental health in their development of domestic violence awareness on the e learning package.
- To assist midwifery working group in supporting the mandatory domestic violence training and domestic abuse awareness campaign.

**Objective – Providing safe choices and support to those affected by domestic violence**