



Stockport Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy 2021-2024

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Our vision

Stockport is a place where people feel safe, Domestic Violence & Abuse (DVA) is culturally unacceptable and children, adults and families are supported to build healthy relationships and protect themselves from exploitation and abuse.

Approach

We will work proactively in partnership across Stockport to:

- prevent DVA happening, escalating and repeat victimisation
- prepare the workforce to undertake routine enquiries & give appropriate support
- protect our communities with coordinated services & a restorative approach
- pursue and prosecute by taking a joined-up approach to sharing of intelligence

We aim to:

- ensure co-ordinated services are available for victims and perpetrators across, both the life course and the spectrum of need and risk
- further educate children, young people, families and communities that DVA is unacceptable and to enable them to make informed choices for healthy relationships
- ensure the workforce in Stockport recognises that DVA is everyone's business
- provide behaviour change approaches that support victims and hold perpetrators/abusers accountable for their behaviour
- ensure an effective response to domestic abuse for all individuals alike by raising awareness and understanding of the different experiences and barriers an individual may face if they are an older person, LGBTIQ, BAME, Male, a teenager or an individual with a disability

What is domestic violence and abuse?

Domestic Abuse (DA) can affect anyone. In January 2019, the government introduced the Domestic Abuse Bill 2017-19 following a consultation on transforming the response to domestic abuse. The legislation was reintroduced in March 2020 as the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21 and received royal assent on 29 April 2021.

The definition of DA was updated to create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive, or controlling and economic abuse. The Act gave a new emphasis to reflect a pattern of behaviour recognised as coercive and controlling to give an emphasis to post-separation coercive control and recognised children as victims in their own right.

Legal Definition

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”

This definition includes so called ‘honour’ based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

You can [find a government definition on the GOV.UK website](#).

What’s new?

Some of the main changes nationally for DA:

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

This government strategy was refreshed in 2019, publishing a male victim's position statement. You can [read more on the GOV.UK website](#) about their pledges to support male victims and LGBT services

Greater Manchester Gender Based Abuse Strategy 2021-2023

A transformative approach. The next ten years will see a [radical transformation in Greater Manchester’s approach to Gender Based Abuse](#). Our aim is to lead a comprehensive, responsive programme of service delivery that enhances the safety of women and girls

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

A new set of clarifications and update that is set to provide further protections to the victims of domestic abuse and their children as victims in their own rights, as well as strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators

The new Domestic Abuse Act structure requirement requires local authorities to apply a new structure for assessing the need of the victims and their children to fulfil the new duties of support to the victims by committing to:

- creating a statutory Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Board.
- assess the domestic abuse needs in the community proactively
- develop and give effect to a local domestic abuse strategy
- include the voice of the victims and children to feed back to the board
- cooperate with the newly Domestic Abuse Commissioner (DAC Office)

The act also creates the role of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner in statute and gives the role specific powers that will help it to improve the response to domestic abuse and hold both government and agencies to account.

All statutory agencies and government departments will have a legal duty to co- operate with the commissioner and respond publicly to any recommendations within 56 days. The duty to co-operate could include, for example, responding to requests for information from the commissioner.

Nationally

- 2 million people experienced DVA in 2020/21
- 1,459,633 DVA incidents and crimes in 2020/21
- 845,734 were logged as crimes making it a 6% increase on 2019/20
- 5 in every 100 adults experienced DVA in 2020/21

The nature of DVA:

- most reported type – partner abuse
- most common type of abuse to experience from age 16 was non-sexual DVA

Locally

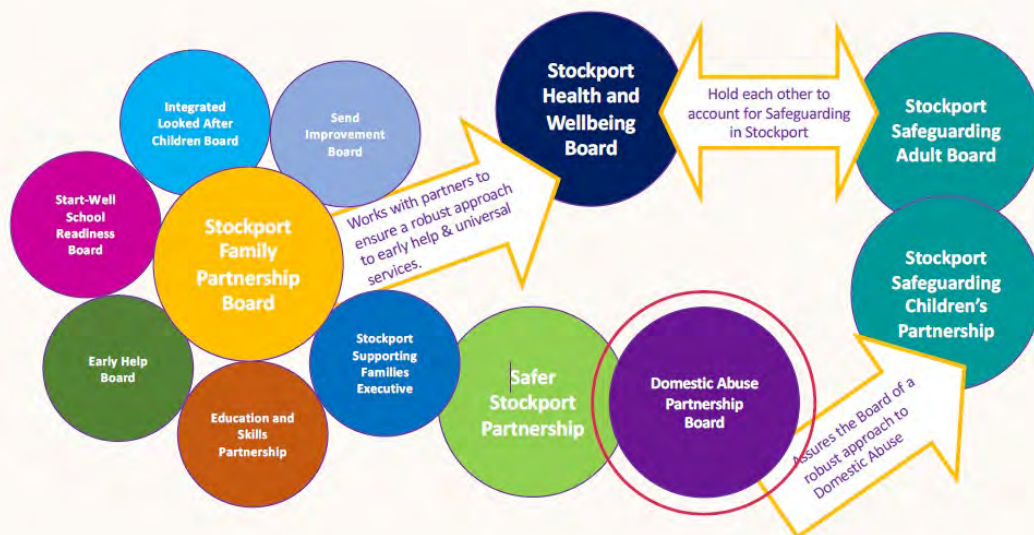
- On average 15.5% of Early Help contacts have DVA as their presenting issue
- 683 cases were heard at MARAC in 2020/21
- 1191 cases with DA as the Presenting Issue went to MASSH in 2020/21
- 113 people found to be homeless from last settled accommodation due to DA in 2020/21

2020/21

- 60 DVPNs given by the police
- 59 DVPOs given by the police
- 124 PPIs (Clare's Law Disclosures) provided by the police

WORKING WITH OTHER STRATEGIC BOARDS IN STOCKPORT

One Stockport Borough Partnership



Who are we?

- Membership of the group includes:
- Stockport Family
- Stockport Without Abuse
- Stockport Adult Social Care
- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Stockport Clinical Commissioning Group
- Greater Manchester Police
- Stockport VSFCE representation
- Victims voice representative
- Greater Manchester Probation Service
- Stockport Homes
- The Prevention Alliance
- Public Health
- Stockport Joint Safeguarding Unit
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
- Stockport Foundation Trust NHS

Our Key Forums

We also have other groups that support our DVA work. These provide support to survivors, challenge and scrutiny. Some examples are:

- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Support Hub (MASSH)

- MAARS - Multi-Agency Adults At Risk System
- Stockport Together
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)
- Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Children and Young People's Strategic Plan
- Drug and Alcohol Strategy
- Mental well-being and suicide prevention strategies
- Homelessness Strategy
- Stockport NHS Foundation Trust Five Year Strategic Plan
- Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy
- Diversity and Equality Policy
- Honour Based Abuse and Female Genital Mutilation Strategies

Our priorities

Responsive and effective support to all who experience domestic abuse.

Early intervention and prevention

Education and awareness so everyone is aware of and able to recognise and respond to DVA.

Why

To ensure everyone understands what a Healthy Relationship looks like and can be offered or signposted to relationship support.

What

- develop our education programme to offer learning across a range of platforms which will support make the community more confident in talking about DVA and respond to it appropriately and safely
- upskill the training programme of all professionals to recognise the risk of coercive control and respond adequately
- work with the education sector to create new pathways to train students in vocational roles to understand DVA and respond to it safely
- coordinate our schools-based education interventions to educate young people about healthy relationships

How

By establishing shared principles of practice and knowledge of domestic abuse / healthy relationships

Responding effectively to perpetrators

So there are appropriate services for pathway to behaviour change.

Why

We need to stop the cycle of abuse within families through exploring innovative ways to support behaviour change journeys and self-reflection.

What

- bring together services across Stockport to map our perpetrator offer and develop a clear, concise approach for the area
- continue to pilot the caring dads programme to gather outcomes data to better understand the effectiveness of the intervention
- prepare to participate in, and implement the new national and GM perpetrators strategy and implementation plan

How

By establishing shared principles of practice and knowledge in a multi professional platform to develop better understanding of perpetrator's behaviour, risks(visible and hidden), improving meaningful engagement, and offer clear pathways of challenge and support to reduce offending, increase insight, offer tools, and change the abusive behaviour.

Working together

As a partnership to coproduce our approach with professionals and victims.

Why

To ensure our workforce have access to the right training opportunities, are kept up to date with the latest knowledge and skills relevant to their role, to enable inclusive practice and support the implementation.

What

- to map the available services from all commissioned and non-commissioned services.
- to create shared vision in design and delivery of services with our communities and capture the voice of the victims, including children in responding to the identified needs
- to create a DA learning hub for professionals

How

- develop an operations group and victim engagement group to collect data set that allows a clear understanding of the Stockport picture of domestic abuse
- develop our commissioning plan to respond to our local needs
- ensure we develop supportive Information Sharing approaches to enable professionals to support victims at the earliest opportunity

Appropriate Housing

Working together to ensure we meet our statutory duties and provide our families with safe and appropriate homes.

Why

We need to carefully assess, study and respond to the new duties of offering suitable safe housing to the DA victims and providing support to the victims and their children in safe accommodation in accordance to part 4.

What

Ensure that we will observe the accuracy of the area needs assessment as we collect more information and respond to the need of the victims to safe accommodation accordingly.

Develop a proactive framework for responsive commissioning for support of DA victims and their children in safe accommodations

Proactively seek the voice of the victims and children and include their views in shaping strategy and updating the action plans.

How

By monitoring the needs and the standards of support using the principles multi agency practice, DA safe accommodation, and the trauma. Striving to offer support to all victims including victims with adversities at various stages of their safety and recovery.

Post abuse support

Ensuring that as a partnership we continue to support families to happy and healthy relationships post abusive relationships.

Why

To ensure that any trauma experienced by families is addressed and they are given the support to move forward in a healthy and happy way.

What

- develop a local community group to support understanding of cultural challenges and development of local champions so we can better support our diverse population needs
- undertake a Lancashire Hill Project to implement a holistic approach to drug, alcohol and multiple deprivations underpinned by a trauma informed approach for adults and CYP
- develop and deliver a relational trauma training programme for School Nurses that will aim to enhance their understanding of trauma informed approaches to practice
- working with partners to develop ETE opportunities

How

- by working closely with the survivors to better understand the identified gaps
- by working within a multi professional platform, to respond to the needs and create better opportunities for recovery, learning and growth

Governance and accountability

Within the local authority, the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board reports to the Safer Stockport Partnership. It is also accountable to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.

Glossary

- Domestic Violence and Abuse (DA): we use violence and abuse when we talk about domestic abuse because people often don't think about abuse being something other than a physical assault. We know that domestic abuse is often many things other than violence
- coercion and control: a pattern of behaviour that can include violence, threats, making someone feel embarrassed or bad about themselves. It is done to try and give one-person control over another
- stalking: when one person has a pattern of behaviour that makes you feel pestered, scared and is unwanted. It usually happens when one person becomes focused on another in an unhealthy way
- harassment: repeated actions of unwanted behaviour from threats or comments that affect another person's wellbeing
- Community Champion: people who live in our community and volunteer to be a safe point of contact
- holistic: we work with someone by understanding all of their needs and thinking about how they affect that person's day to day life
- trauma informed approach: recognising that a person who has experienced a life affecting event may respond differently to those that have not. It means that we will seek to understand someone's past experiences and how they may impact on them accessing support today
- collaboration: to work together with others to achieve something
- [Domestic Abuse Act Factsheet](#)
- [GM Gender Based Abuse Strategy](#)

How this will look

Each agency and setting will have their own implementation plans and will be supported by their workforce lead.

Each workforce lead will be supported by the workstream to develop a process to identify ongoing learning needs and provide appropriate training for them.

This strategy will interlink and support other workstreams and strategies within Stockport's services (see below) which seek to deliver a cohesive, common offer that supports our vision for inclusion a community coordinated approach to Domestic Violence and Abuse

Linked Strategies

- One Borough Plan
- Safer Stockport Partnership Plan
- Prevention and Early Help Strategy
- Stockport Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Crime Needs Assessment