

# Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy 2015-2018

# Taking up the challenge

## Towards freedom



Kirklees Council working in partnership with Pennine Domestic Violence Group, West Yorkshire Police, NHS, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, Locala, Lifeline/On TRAK, Kirklees Probation Community Rehabilitation Company, University of Huddersfield, Kirklees College and voluntary and community organisations to raise awareness and prevent domestic abuse.

# **Contents**

Introduction to the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2015-18 .....	2
Vision .....	3
Outcomes.....	3
Strategic objectives .....	3
Introduction .....	4
Definition of domestic abuse .....	4
Context.....	5
Current picture in Kirklees .....	6
Geographical issues.....	8
Demographic information .....	9
Men.....	9
Children and Young People.....	9
Age .....	10
Intergenerational domestic abuse.....	10
Health Issues.....	10
Drugs and alcohol.....	11
Homelessness .....	11
Ethnicity .....	11
Governance and partnership work .....	12
Domestic abuse services in Kirklees .....	15
Priority areas of work in year 1 .....	16
Appendix 1 .....	A1
Glossary of terms .....	

## **Introduction to the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2015-18**

Domestic abuse has a major impact on children, young people, adults and communities in Kirklees. Children are present in a third of local domestic abuse incidents and girls aged between 16 and 19 years are increasingly at risk.

Domestic abuse affects people from all communities and backgrounds and victims are often affected by other complex issues such as poverty, mental ill health, alcohol and drug misuse and poor parenting. There are significant costs involved in addressing domestic abuse and this usually includes providing support to families in crisis where domestic abuse is a key feature.

Domestic abuse is a priority for Safer Kirklees and has been identified as a key theme in the Safer Kirklees Partnership Plan. Local partners have adopted an integrated approach to implementing strategies to address domestic abuse and linked areas of work around forced marriage, child sexual exploitation and human trafficking. We aim to protect people from serious harm by preventing domestic abuse; we will also support frontline workers and communities to recognise the early indicators of abuse and understand the services available to support victims.

This new three year Domestic Abuse Strategy has been developed by the Domestic Abuse Strategy Partnership which is made up of partners from the Council, Police, Health Services, the Probation Service and the voluntary sector. It has built on national guidelines and policies and the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment undertaken by Kirklees Public Health earlier this year; it links to wider Kirklees strategies including the Safer Kirklees Plan, Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the work of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Adults Safeguarding Board.

This document sets out our vision and objectives to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic abuse in Kirklees. Due its cross cutting impact, we have adopted a strong multi-agency approach and in line with local strategies, there is a focus on early intervention and prevention as well as supporting repeat victims whose lives are at risk and working with perpetrators to prevent re-offending. Support is provided when issues are first recognised, through to high risk cases where impact is likely to be significant. In the event of a domestic abuse homicide, the Council and its partners will undertake a review to consider how lessons can be learnt.

Amongst our partners, there is a real appetite to combine resources and efforts to improve outcomes for victims and children. We recognise the importance of targeted work to support families, children and young people, ethnic minority groups, lesbian gay bi-sexual and transgender groups and vulnerable adults, and we are using research and best practice leading to innovation and support for all involved.

We will monitor our progress and strive to reach outcomes that reduce the prevalence of this social issue and improve the quality of life of adults, children and families.



**Councillor Graham Turner  
Chair of Safer Kirklees**

## **Vision**

In Kirklees no one has to live in fear of domestic abuse and victims and their families are able to access high quality and timely support delivered by well-trained, supportive staff and volunteers who support people when risks are identified and impact is significant. Where there are early indicators of domestic abuse, early intervention and targeted services will aim to reduce the impact on adults, families and children.

## **Outcomes**

The strategy will result in the following sustainable outcomes for individuals affected by domestic abuse in Kirklees:

- victims are safer
- children are safer
- victims have improved health and wellbeing
- victims have increased personal resilience
- victims live in safe, suitable and stable accommodation
- perpetrators are supported to address their behaviours

## **Strategic objectives**

The following strategic objectives will support achievement of these outcomes:

- 1 Accurate data and intelligence regarding the prevalence of domestic abuse informs action locally
- 2 Public information campaigns raise awareness of domestic abuse, improve engagement, change social norms, challenge attitudes and behaviours reducing the incidence of domestic abuse. Specifically raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children in the household and promote resilience and self-awareness in children and young people in Kirklees.
- 3 People who experience domestic abuse have timely access to justice and a range of appropriate services are available aimed to prevent further abuse and support those in greatest need. Integral to this framework for delivery is the early identification of perpetrators and referral into effective interventions and services which address the needs of children from households where there is domestic abuse.
- 4 All those whose are likely to work with people affected by current or historic domestic abuse have access to learning and development as well as management support so they can respond appropriately to all members of the community including those with specific needs such as children and young people, adults at risk, ethnic minority groups and Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender (LGBT) adults
- 5 Smarter integrated commissioning approaches support sustainable and responsive services for those affected by domestic abuse in Kirklees

# **Introduction**

Domestic abuse harms the whole of society and impacts across all sections of our local communities. It damages adults, young people and children and it has a significant impact on individual health and wellbeing and can seriously affect whole life experiences.

In response to *the Guide to Effective Domestic Violence Partnerships* produced by the national organisation Standing Together Against Domestic Violence, partners in Kirklees have developed this strategic response. It reflects the complexity of the agenda and recognises domestic abuse is the responsibility of all agencies with a remit for health, social care, crime and the prevention of homelessness. There is a commitment in Kirklees to strengthen the partnership approach to prevent neglect and abuse and safeguard children and adults. Partners involved in the production of this strategy recognise the importance of collaboration and are committed to shared responsibility and action across all sectors.

This strategy addresses issues surrounding domestic abuse experienced by a range of people; this includes women who are victims of male perpetrators. The Government's *End Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)* strategy was launched in 2011 and it sets the strategic framework to address all forms of violence against women and provides the current definition of the term domestic violence and abuse. Our work also recognises that victims are drawn from diverse backgrounds with wide ranging experiences and individual circumstances, in particular those from the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and LGBT communities.

## **Definition of domestic abuse**

The current cross-government definition of domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, 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. Partners in Kirklees have agreed that these areas of abuse will be addressed through this strategy. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological and emotional including verbal abuse
- physical
- sexual
- financial

This definition also acknowledges the coercive and controlling nature of abusers and reflects the demography of victims (16 - 19 year old girls who are most at risk). Controlling behaviour is a range of acts which make a person subordinate or dependent, by isolating them from support, exploiting them for personal gain, depriving them of independence, resistance and escape and regulating everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour can be acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation, or other abuse used to harm, punish, or frighten the victim. The current definition includes 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

## Context

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) in 2014 highlighted the key forms of preventative services which address the specific challenges of domestic abuse; these include universal services which can embed understanding of good relationships in childhood, early intervention to support social and emotional skills and work to support victims, safeguard children and prevent recurrence.

Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy, in line with local priorities, recognises the importance of early intervention and prevention. Activities to deliver the strategy outlined in the annual action plan (*Appendix 1*) support work relating to:

- prevention including priorities around communication and awareness raising and education
- early resolution of issues when they first emerge through timely and effective referral into appropriate services
- partners working together to address problems, prevent escalation and respond to high risk cases

In 2013, the World Health Organisation (WHO) published its most comprehensive research to date into the global prevalence of Violence Against Women (VAW) and found that:

- worldwide, almost one third of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner
- globally, as many as 38% of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners

Victims of domestic abuse are not confined to a particular gender, ethnic group or sexual orientation and abuse affects whole families, including children and the elderly. However, evidence does show that the majority of victims are women. Significant underreporting exists across all victims and prevalence data does not therefore accurately reflect the extent of domestic abuse; this applies equally to same sex relationships and the findings of the Coral project in 2014 by Leicester University into abusive behaviours amongst LBGT victims, identified other forms of abuse and highlights the need for sensitive services to address the specific issues faced within these communities.

Male victims are also subject to abuse by female perpetrators and specific provision needs to be developed to respond appropriately to men from different ages, backgrounds and sexual orientation. It is recognised locally that further targeted work and evidence-based approaches need to be undertaken to engage young people through schools, community provision, further education providers using innovative approaches and social media. To prevent the incidence of domestic abuse in the future, preventative work must be undertaken to change the social norms and reduce the number of children and young people being exposed to domestic abuse at home. Preventative work in this area will also address the increase in incidents of intergenerational violence involving adolescents and parents which impacts also on vulnerable adults.

There is increasing evidence locally and nationally of impact of the ‘toxic trio’ in cases of neglect and abuse; households where mental health, domestic abuse and drugs and alcohol abuse are all prevalent result in negative, long term outcomes for victims, children, families and the wider community. Victims of domestic abuse are also more likely to become homeless attempting to escape perpetrators within the household. Therefore adequate refuge accommodation and supported housing must be available locally to respond to these needs.

National statistics collated as part of the British Crime Survey (BCS) indicated that each year, over one million women in England and Wales become victims of domestic abuse and more than one in four women will be victims of domestic abuse in their lifetimes. The gendered pattern of violence and abuse against women and girls needs to be understood and acknowledged. Men have a key role in challenging abuse and helping to change the attitudes and actions of their peers. It is recognised that domestic abuse occurs at a similar proportionate rate within lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) relationships as it does within heterosexual relationships, but these victims do not readily access mainstream services. Locally LGBT victims are not currently recorded and therefore it is not possible to quantify demand for services and identify gaps in provision.

It is widely recognised that the majority of those affected by domestic abuse do not report their experiences to the police and of those incidents reported to the police, only a minority are resolved through the criminal justice system. Whilst some victims will be supported where they meet safeguarding and risk thresholds, a significant number will not receive support. Therefore partner agencies have a significant role to play in addressing domestic abuse, whether the violence is reported to the police or not, particularly to intervene early and prevent further abuse.

Nationally published serious case reviews highlight that professionals may struggle to keep their focus on the child when they are working with families where there is domestic violence. Practitioners need to consider the daily experiences of children and the impact domestic violence makes on their lives. The reviews also highlight the need to engage with men living in the family home and ensure they see the mother alone avoiding assumptions on the mother’s ability to protect her children. Professionals need to be aware that women who suffer domestic violence may find it difficult to ask for help and then use services.

## **Current picture in Kirklees**

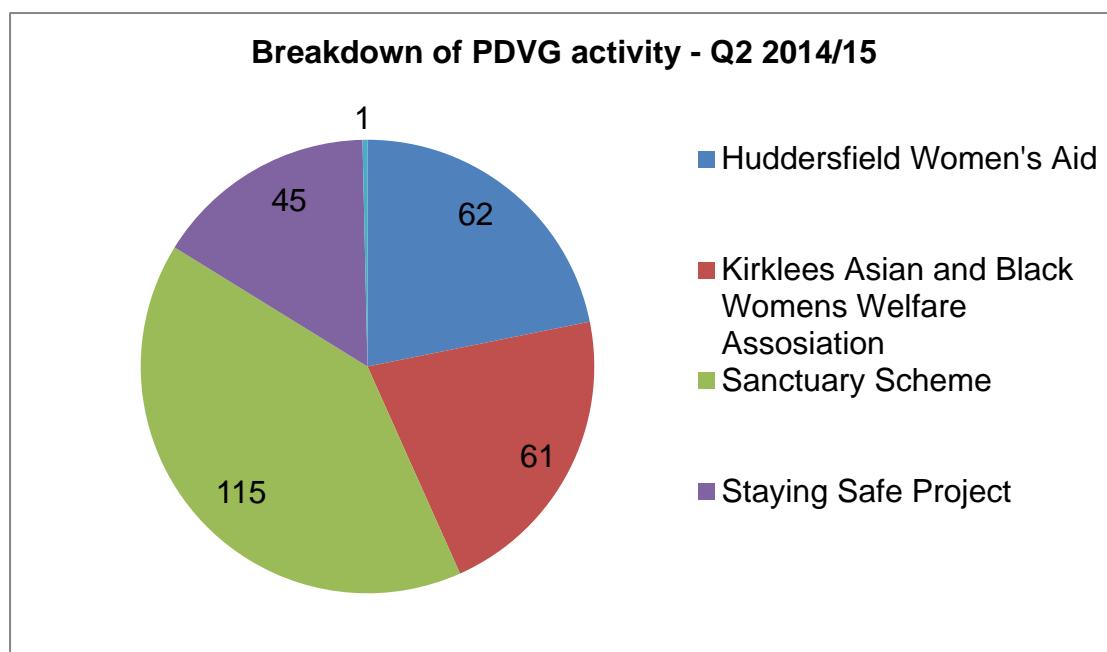
Using the BCS methodology and recent national statistics it is estimated that in Kirklees in 2013/14 12,020 adult women and 8,501 adult men may have been victims of domestic abuse; this figure is expected to have risen in 2014/15 and statistics will soon be updated. During the previous twelve months West Yorkshire Police data shows that in Kirklees 5,624 domestic incidents reported to the police could be classified as domestic abuse but this figure is likely to be significantly understated. Using police data and BCS methodology to calculate local prevalence in Kirklees, it is estimated that reporting could be as low as 18.8%, suggesting the problem is more acute locally than at a national level.

In Kirklees agencies record domestic abuse disclosures in different ways so to establish prevalence estimates were calculated as part of a recent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment undertaken by Kirklees Public Health. This process has identified that a priority for future work will be to establish consistent recording of data and produce annual reports which better reflect the levels of domestic abuse and accurate numbers of incidents.

As part of the Needs Assessment estimates of incidents were made based on data gathered from reported police incidents, the council's Care First system, specialist initiatives such as the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (IDVAS), Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and Pennine Domestic Violence Group (PDVG). The data below provides an indication of the prevalence of domestic abuse locally and starts to map demand for services:

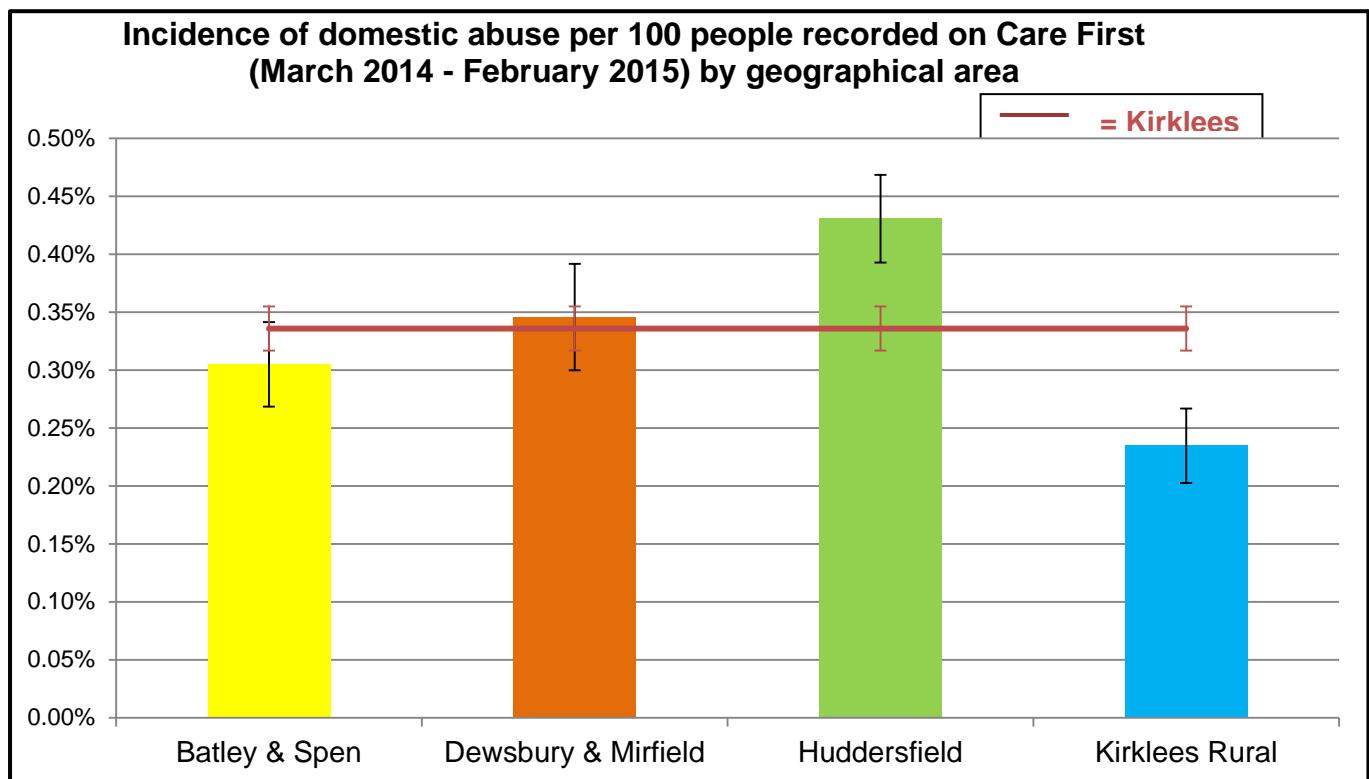
- MARACs are held when there is a high risk to the victim of injury or serious harm. Data for 2014/15 shows that Kirklees MARAC heard 597 high risk adult cases (involving 754 children) with a repeat referral rate of 36%
- data from Integrated Domestic Abuse Team (IDAT) for 2014/15 indicates during the 12 month period there were 930 initial contacts relating to domestic abuse, 74% female, 23% male and 3% not known
- based on police data (although there will be variations across Kirklees) the profile of victims and perpetrators suggested that the typical victim is most likely to be a 20-29 year old white UK female victim and the perpetrator a white UK male aged 20-41. The most likely type of abuse is a verbal dispute
- children are present at a third of incidents
- victims of domestic abuse homicides are predominately female

Data from Pennine Domestic Violence Group, Kirklees' specialist voluntary sector provider, reported in 2014/15 that there were 919 referrals into the services for outreach support or refuge accommodation. During a 3 month period in 2014/15 284 individuals were referred into the service and the service took approximately 1,500 advice calls by telephone. The breakdown of services provided is shown below:



## Geographical issues

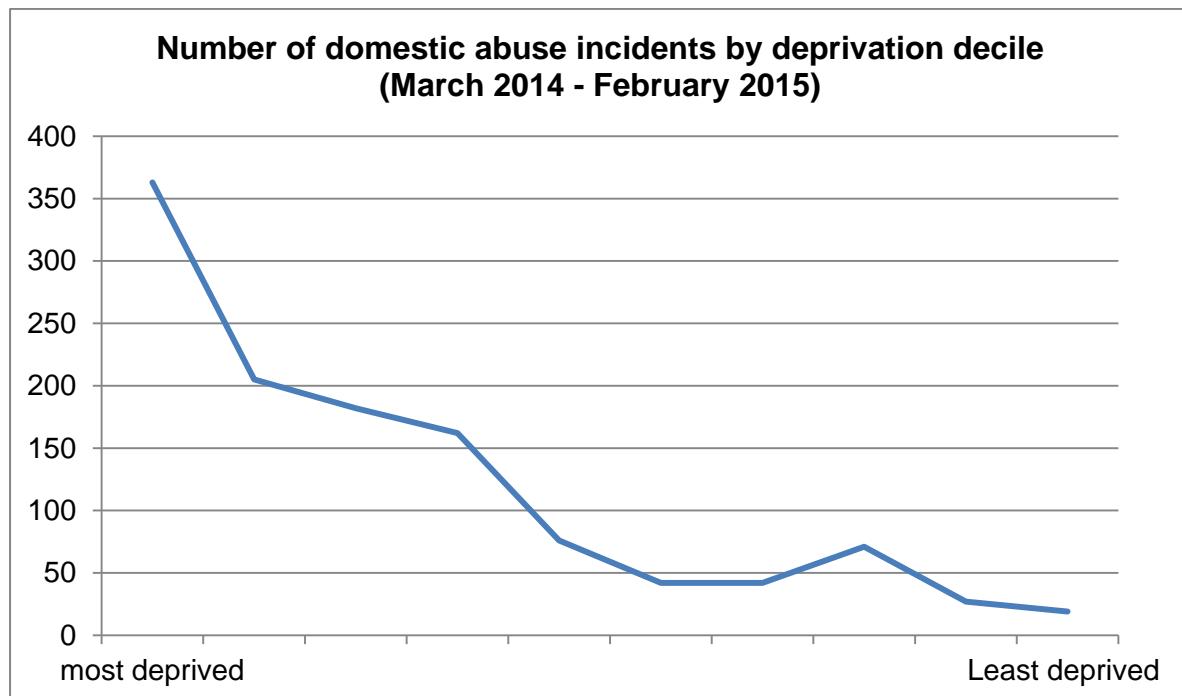
It has been possible to map the incidence of domestic violence across areas of Kirklees by analysing data from the council's Care First system. However, it should be noted that the data below is limited to the amount of data recorded by local services and will be reflective of the general under-reporting of domestic abuse across the country.



The above table shows incidence per 100 people based on records on Care First citing domestic abuse. Comparing incidence with the concentration of people living in these areas, domestic abuse is significantly more prevalent in Dewsbury, Mirfield and Huddersfield, slightly more in Batley than would be expected and Kirklees Rural estimates are in line with the representation in the local population. Huddersfield has the largest population and also the highest incidence per thousand people and services should be weighted accordingly to meet the needs in this area of Kirklees.

The numbers of incidents recorded within the council's information system are less than a quarter of those identified by the police and therefore the database cannot be regarded as entirely representative of the current situation. There is a need to address domestic abuse across all communities in Kirklees and ensure appropriate provision is made for those affected, regardless of geographical location. Deprivation is an underlying factor in many of the triggers of domestic abuse and there is a clear correlation between the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) scores at ward level and the incidence of domestic abuse. (IMD scores measure levels of income, employment, health, education, skills and training, barriers to housing, crime and the living environment). It is also recognised that the benefit changes and effects of long term unemployment may impact on future levels of domestic abuse.

Higher levels of deprivation are associated with a higher incidence of recorded domestic abuse as can be seen in the chart below:



## Demographic information

### Men

Current national strategies support the premise that domestic abuse disproportionately impacts women and girls. Data from West Yorkshire Police shows that 17.4% of all incidents, regardless of level of assessed risk, were reported by men, whilst MARAC data (high-risk cases only) for the same period reported only 7% of all referrals were male and IDAT data shows 23% of initial contacts were received by men. This is indicative of underreporting of high risk incidents involving men who are victims of female perpetrators and victims within LBGT relationships and will require effective awareness raising and targeted interventions to increase confidence in reporting.

### Children and Young People

The Research in Practice review into the effects of domestic violence/abuse on children/young people in 2011 found that almost a quarter of young adults in the UK have witnessed domestic violence during their childhood, and almost 1 in 20 (4.5%) children and young people in the UK have experienced severe forms of domestic violence. Whilst the Children & Young People Survey undertaken in Kirklees in 2014 did not specifically ask about domestic abuse, the survey in 2009 of 3137 pupils showed that 9.6% of children surveyed had worried about violence at home at least once during the previous year.

During the period 2014/15, Kirklees Duty and Assessment Service received 2712 initial contacts regarding children and in 943 of these contacts, domestic abuse was the presenting issue. It is also estimated based on Child Protection and Review Unit data that between 40% to 50% of all children on a child protection plan will be affected by domestic abuse issues at home.

Locally, abuse between young people aged 16-18 is more noticeable and the number of young Asian girls coming forward is also increasing.

### **Age**

Research conducted in 2007 by national Women's Aid found that older people were less likely to identify themselves as victims of abuse and consequently less likely to disclose their experiences to services. They are likely to have experienced abuse over a long period and also can be financially dependent on partners and feel unable to escape abuse. This research concluded that special consideration should be given to the specific needs of this cohort.

### **Age profile of domestic incidents in Kirklees May 2014 to April 2015**

<b>Age range</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Incidents where under 16s were present at domestic abuse incidents involving two adults	158	2.8%
16-19	448	8%
20-29	1946	34.6%
30-39	1405	25%
40-49	1048	18.6%
50-59	399	7.1%
60-69	146	2.6%
70+	74	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5624</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: West Yorkshire Police

### **Intergenerational domestic abuse**

There is a growing incidence of domestic abuse by children against their parents. In Kirklees this issue has been identified through monitoring of cases in Children and Adults Social Care, Pennine Domestic Violence and a significant number of the Stronger Families cohort of parents have reported abuse from their children.

Where the perpetrator is a child, he/she may also have control over the parents and the issue is different from abuse experienced from a partner, as the victim is often unable to sever the lifelong ties with the child concerned.

### **Health Issues**

Domestic abuse results in long term physical and mental health conditions and a higher use of health services by victims and their families. Locally, it has been recognised that some victims living in more affluent areas of Kirklees, may not present to domestic abuse services but may disclose abuse to their general practitioners. The impact of post-traumatic stress disorder on members of the armed forces and their families has also been recognised and the Government has

produced an Armed Forces Covenant to ensure families are supported during difficult situations including those affected by domestic abuse through effective multi-agency working.

People with physical disabilities are also vulnerable to domestic abuse and can lead victims to feel isolated and powerless.

There are also factors to consider in relation to abuse and carers. Carers may cause harm or abuse through neglect of the person for whom they provide care, or they may be harmed by the person for whom they care. However, it should be noted that people who lack mental capacity, or have a long term limiting illness or physical disability, may unintentionally abuse their carers; for example some people with dementia.

Domestic abuse is a factor in 49% of suicide attempts by Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women and 22% of attempts from women from White communities. One third of women attending A&E for self-harming have experiences of domestic abuse.

### **Drugs and alcohol**

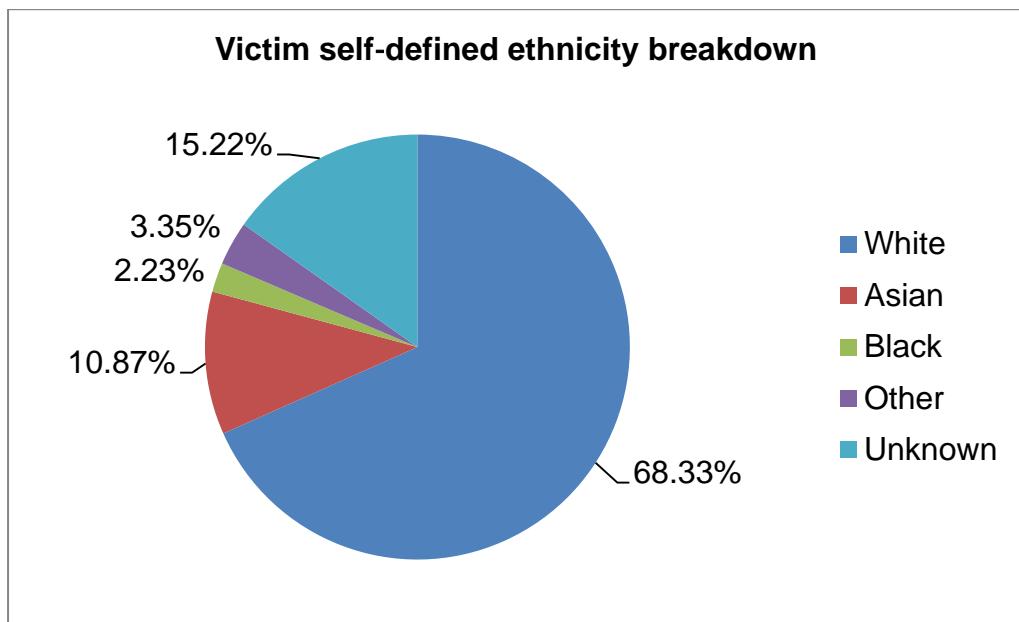
Both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse may use alcohol and drugs which can also be used as a form of control over victims who may be forced into high risk activity to pay for the substances. This increases the vulnerability of victims and exposes them to dangerous situations as they are unable to assess risk posed due to a dulling of senses.

### **Homelessness**

Domestic abuse impacts on levels on homelessness. Victims of domestic abuse may become homeless due to their need to escape abuse from the perpetrator living in the same home; this may be a partner, parent, carer or child. If seeking accommodation, often with children, victims will require integrated packages of support through a comprehensive care plan and help to find long term, safe housing to suit their needs.

### **Ethnicity**

Although there are more victims coming forward from BME communities, there is still a proportionally greater unmet need compared to white British communities. Based on 2011 census, 79% of Kirklees population are from the indigenous white community and 21% of ethnic minority origin.



Source: West Yorkshire Police

Key points to note include:

- victims defining their ethnicity as 'Black' appear overly represented compared to their representation in the population (last census figure 1.8%)
- it is difficult to effectively identify victims coming from New European states through recorded data
- typically members of Gypsy/Traveller/Roma communities do not report domestic abuse issues to any relevant agency within the county. However research has indicated that up to 61% - 81% of women from these communities have been a victim of domestic abuse

Improved understanding of the ethnicity of victims and perpetrators is required and the specific issues within different cultures to ensure an appropriate service response, including the impact of forced marriages and intergenerational family abuse.

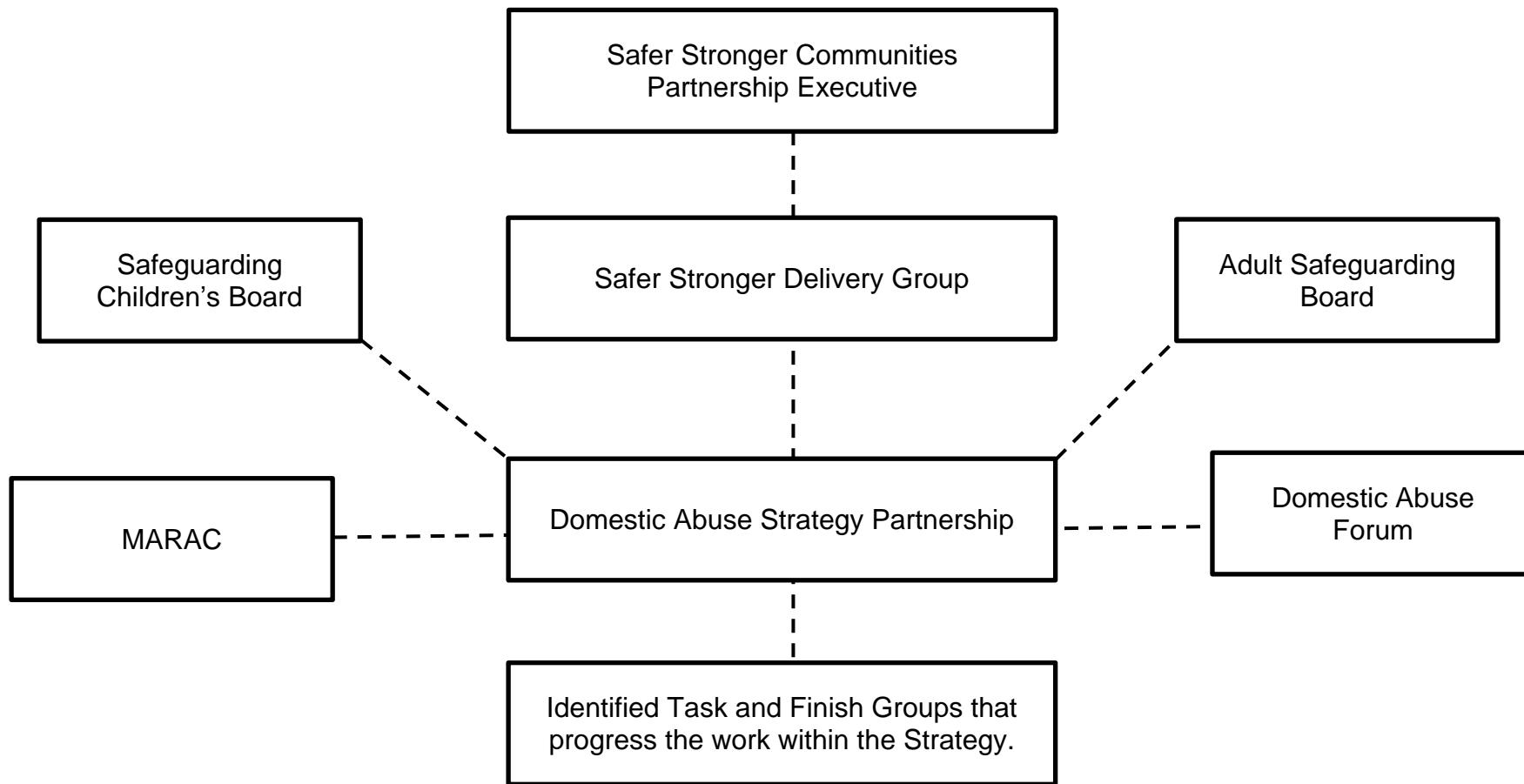
## Governance and partnership work

In Kirklees the Safer, Stronger Communities Partnership has assumed responsibility as the lead body overseeing this strategy; the strategy is implemented by the multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategy Partnership comprising representatives from key statutory services and the voluntary sector. The Domestic Abuse Strategy Partnership is directly accountable to the Safer, Stronger Communities (SSC) Executive Group linking this important work into strategies around crime, community safety and health, as seen on the governance chart overleaf. The Domestic Abuse Strategy and supporting action plan (*Appendix 1*) feeds into Safer, Stronger, Communities Plan 2015-18 priority 'Tackling Crime' and in particular supports cross-cutting work to reduce crime, increase personal safety and safeguard individuals. Quarterly performance monitoring will be provided accordingly to the SSC Executive Group to update on progress.

The priorities for work in this strategy complement values within Kirklees vision to safeguard vulnerable citizens and help people control their own lives. The work undertaken as part of the strategy will dovetail with the agendas of both the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards as the work will help to protect children and vulnerable adults. Activities undertaken to address domestic abuse complements wider work including Reducing Offending, Child Sexual Exploitation, Drugs and Alcohol and Preventing Homelessness strategies. It also supports priorities within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to improve the health and confidence of local people and reduce inequalities. Consultation and two way feedback between the strategic Domestic Abuse Partnership and practitioners' Kirklees Domestic Abuse Forum takes place regularly and is important to ensure that local expertise and resources are maximised and an integrated approach to domestic abuse can be provided for victims and their families.

Kirklees Stronger Families Programme, which works to improve the lives of families with multiple problems, identified that almost half of all families in the programme were affected by domestic abuse and therefore regards reduction of domestic abuse as a priority outcome for target families. To support this aim, the programme funds the MARAC co-ordinator, an IDVA to support victims identified through the MARAC and a new post to provide co-ordination of the Domestic Abuse Partnership and the strategy and the Adults Safeguarding Partnership. The programme is also piloting a new approach to tackling teen to parent violence which is increasingly recognised as a feature in families with complex needs.

# Domestic Abuse Arrangements in Kirklees



Domestic Abuse can have an impact on most aspects of our communities and everyday life. It is therefore fair to say that domestic abuse can be linked to most of the strategies across Kirklees including the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the work of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Adults' Safeguarding Board. By raising the awareness of the domestic Abuse Strategy and the work of the strategy group across other areas of work we can minimise the impact on the lives of people living and working in Kirklees. This is a challenging area but by working in partnership we are better able to achieve results.

## **Domestic abuse services in Kirklees**

Universal services have a key role to play in addressing social norms and undertake preventative work to reduce the occurrence of domestic abuse. Kirklees also has an established wide range of domestic abuse services which support victims and families. Yorkshire Children's Centre employs a part time officer to work with perpetrators. Perpetrator work will be further enhanced in Kirklees through a West Yorkshire perpetrator programme (currently in development) supported through Police Crime Commissioner funding. The Integrated Domestic Abuse Team (IDAT), MARAC, IDVAs, PDVG, Women's Aid, WomenCentre and other partners in the voluntary sector are committed to reducing the incidence and recurrence of domestic abuse and supporting victims through the criminal justice process. Locally, our Needs Assessment has identified a range of services from early intervention to high risk including:

- victim 24 hour helpline
- independent advocacy support
- victim support
- counselling
- specialist services around substance misuse and mental health issues
- specialist services for LBGT and ethnic minority communities
- refuge provision
- support to high risk families and child protection

The main points of initial contact for those experiencing domestic abuse, or for professionals working with victims, are Children's Safeguarding Services, the IDAT, the Police, PDVG and Adult Services Single Point of Access. The IDAT was established in response to the significant number of referrals to social care where domestic abuse was prevalent and in recognition of the long term adverse effect of abuse on children's behaviour, relationships, health and development. The team works with parents to educate them on the impact of abuse on their children; it also provides support to victims with no children. WomenCentre delivers the Freedom Programme which aims to support women to understand the dynamics of domestic abuse and help protect them from further abuse and reduce impact on their children; the organisation has also been involved in a national pilot funded through Respect into teen/parent violence. As part of the recent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, feedback from services users indicated the strengths in local services and the positive impact of community based and third sector organisations on provision of support to victims and their families.

The Kirklees Domestic Violence Forum brings together providers of domestic abuse services from the voluntary and statutory sectors to raise awareness and develop consistent approaches to delivering domestic abuse services. This valuable network is represented on the Domestic Abuse Partnership and provides a key route of communication between providers and commissioners, as well as identifying opportunities for training, development and joint work.

The wide range of local services work together as part of a domestic abuse support framework in Kirklees. However there is a need to improve integration of these services and ensure that there is clarity about thresholds for provision between

partners; this knowledge should also be shared with wider community providers, housing services and schools. It is important that front line staff understand referral routes into services to be able to support and direct victims quickly into the correct service to meet their level of needs and safeguard children and adults. Furthermore practitioners should be equipped with skills and sensitivity to work with victims at lower levels of need to ensure they consent to referral into appropriate services which will prevent recurrence of abuse or situations from escalating. Key gaps in provision identified include:

- lack of integrated data collection and recording systems between police, health, voluntary sector and council services
- inadequate number of IDVAs to meet local needs
- additional perpetrator support programmes required
- specific support for target groups including children, young people, ethnic minority communities, men, LBGT people and the elderly

## **Priority areas of work in year 1**

Based on the analysis of local data, availability of services and recent recommendations made in the Public Health Domestic Abuse Needs assessment, the following areas of work for 2015/16 have been identified by local partners to address domestic abuse and lead to a cultural shift in Kirklees. In summary, the focus of this year's work will be to:

- agree local performance measures and improve data collection
- establish local service provision and identify gaps
- examine good practice locally and nationally to improve understanding of domestic abuse issues, improve practice and inform future commissioning
- establish current training provision and identify gaps in training to shape workforce development programme accessible to staff across all sectors
- develop targeted campaigns to raise awareness of domestic abuse issues
- agree pathways and referral routes into services at all tiers of need
- jointly commission additional services to increase IDVA capacity to meet local needs and support targeted and minority groups
- as part of a West Yorkshire programme and in partnership with local providers, increase perpetrator work as part of integrated package of support to victims

The actions to take forward the above priorities are detailed in the annual action plan attached at *Appendix 1*.

## Appendix 1

### Vision

In Kirklees no one has to live in fear of domestic abuse and victims and their families are able to access high quality and timely support delivered by well-trained, supportive staff and volunteers who support people when risks are identified and impact is significant. Where there are early indicators of domestic abuse, early intervention and targeted services will reduce the impact on adults, families and children.

### Outcomes

The strategy will result in the following sustainable outcomes for individuals affected by domestic abuse in Kirklees:

- victims are safer
- children are safer
- victims have improved health and wellbeing
- victims have increased personal resilience
- victims live in safe, suitable and stable accommodation
- perpetrators are supported to address their behaviours

### Strategic Objectives

The following strategic objectives will support achievement of these outcomes:

- 1 accurate data and intelligence regarding the prevalence of domestic abuse informs action locally
- 2 public information campaigns raise awareness of domestic abuse, improve engagement, change social norms, challenge attitudes and behaviours reducing exposure of children to domestic abuse. Specifically raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children in the household and promote resilience and self-awareness in children and young people in Kirklees
- 3 people who experience domestic abuse have timely access to justice and a range of appropriate services are available aimed to prevent further abuse and support those in greatest need. Integral to this framework for delivery, is the early identification of perpetrators and referral into effective interventions and services which address the needs of children from households where there is domestic abuse

- 4 all those who are likely to work with people affected by current or historic domestic abuse have access to learning and development as well as management support so they can respond appropriately to all members of the community including those with specific needs such as children and young people, adults at risk, ethnic minority groups and Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender adults
- 5 Smarter integrated commissioning approaches support sustainable and responsive services for those affected by domestic abuse in Kirklees

***These are the indicators which will demonstrate impact of the strategy and improved outcomes at a population level***

- rate of domestic abuse in Kirklees – source *Public Health Outcomes Framework*
- police domestic abuse call outs - source *West Yorkshire Police*
- domestic abuse incidents not progressing to MARAC due to early intervention and support – source *Integrated Domestic Abuse Team*
- domestic abuse incidents where child is present – source *Care First, commissioned services datasets*
- repeat domestic abuse incidents 6 months post MARAC – source *Kirklees MARAC*
- successful domestic abuse prosecutions – source *West Yorkshire Police*
- number of victims assisted to stay safely in their home – source *Kirklees Housing Solutions Government Monitoring information*
- improved behaviour of perpetrators resulting in victims feeling safer –*Perpetrator Programme evaluation*

Based on the analysis of local data, availability of services and recent recommendations made in the Kirklees Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, the following priority areas of work for 2015/16 have been identified by local partners to address domestic abuse and lead to a cultural shift in Kirklees.

Priorities for year 1

Actions	Lead(s)	Timescales	Tasks	Rag rating	Progress/update
<b>Objective 1</b>		<b>Accurate data and intelligence regarding the prevalence of domestic abuse informs action locally</b>			
<p>1 Identify and agree methods of data collection and establish relevant data fields linked to the local prevalence of domestic abuse.</p> <p>2 Establish a set of indicators that provide a local measure on outcomes for individuals affected by domestic abuse including victims and perpetrators, which includes BME and LGBT individuals.</p> <p>3 Multi agency data collection is used to inform local commissioning for service provision across a range of organisations.</p> <p><b>Year 2 action</b> Explore most appropriate means of sharing management information amongst Domestic Abuse Partnership services.</p>	Data Task Group	October 2015	<p>Ensure learning from West Yorkshire review of domestic abuse prevalence mapping influences local data collection. Establish measures to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of DV interventions with perpetrators liaising with police, CRC and Probation Service and West Yorkshire PCC perpetrator programme manager</p> <p>Establish data storage systems used by the council, Pennine Domestic Violence Group, health partners, voluntary sector service providers, West Yorkshire Police. Feed data recording requirements around domestic abuse into procurement of new Council database.</p> <p>To determine during development of Year 2 Action Plan.</p>		

**Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy: *Taking up the challenge - Towards freedom***

Action plan 2015 – 18

Action	Lead(s)	Timescales	Tasks	Rag rating	Progress/update
<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Public information campaigns raise awareness of domestic abuse, improve engagement, change social norms, challenge attitudes and behaviours reducing exposure of children to domestic abuse. Raise awareness of impact on children in the household and promote resilience and self-awareness in children and young people</b>				
<p>4 Identify key areas of focus for a marketing campaign which fully maximises the use of financial resources, whilst promoting a clear message across a diverse range of victim groups, including BME and LBGT communities, and to synchronise this with White Ribbon Day.</p> <p>5 Rerun the public information campaign focussing on Young People aged 16 to 25 ensuring it is relevant to young LBGT people also.</p> <p>6 Consider new and innovative ways and opportunities for delivering messages and raising awareness of Domestic Abuse locally.</p>	Domestic Abuse Strategy Co-ordinator, Communications and Marketing Manager, PDVG Director	September 2015	<p>Link with all partner agency communications teams to promote messages.</p> <p>Share action plan and marketing campaign with White Ribbon Programme team to raise the profile of Kirklees activities to address domestic abuse.</p> <p>Ensure analysis of the campaign informs future work to support young people linking with appropriate targeted youth provision.</p> <p>Review successful approaches used elsewhere regionally and nationally.</p>		
<b>Year 2 action</b> Explore options to promote domestic abuse services including usage of existing directories and webpages.	To determine during development of Year 2 Action Plan.				

**Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy: *Taking up the challenge - Towards freedom***

Action plan 2015 – 18

Action	Lead(s)	Timescales	Tasks	Rag rating	Progress/update
<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>People who experience domestic abuse have timely access to justice and a range of appropriate services are available which prevent further abuse and support those in greatest need. Integral to this framework for delivery, is the early identification of perpetrators and referral into effective interventions and services which address the needs of children from households where there is domestic abuse</b>				
7 Develop local understanding of services to support victims and target perpetrators, clarify any gaps in provision.	Domestic Abuse Strategy Co-ordinator	September 2015	Map roles of Integrated Domestic Abuse Team, Pennine Domestic Violence Group, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate Service, WomenCentre Freedom Programme.		
8 Develop referral pathways and ensure that systems and triage arrangements are supported by thresholds that are well understood and inform decision making and management of risk.	Referral Pathways Task Group	December 2015	Make links with the PCC perpetrator programme to ensure local priorities are addressed and explore joint work streams with IDVAs to provide integrated packages of support.		
9 Where relevant, agencies should develop their focus on early intervention and prevention in Domestic Abuse with both victims and perpetrators to minimise future prevalence.	All partners to report annual progress	Ongoing	Link to Yorkshire Children's Centre perpetrator programme.		

**Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy: *Taking up the challenge - Towards freedom***

Action plan 2015 – 18

<b>Objective 3 (continued)</b>					
<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead(s)</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Rag rating</b>	<b>Progress/update</b>
10 Partner agencies should commission and develop services in line with the priorities of the strategy and update others on new activities to be commissioned and explore scope for collaboration.	All partners	Ongoing	Consider development of a Core Offer for Domestic Abuse services which delivers support at all tiers of need.		
11 Expand the Integrated Domestic Abuse Advocate Service across Kirklees with a focus on specialist areas where IDVA support will be beneficial to victims and children.	IDVA Task Group	1 January 2016	Link to other IDVA posts in voluntary sector including WomenCentre.  Link with WomenCentre Teen/Parent violence pilot funded through national Respect programme.  Improve cross referrals between IDVAs & Stronger Families Programme.		

**Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy: *Taking up the challenge - Towards freedom***

Action plan 2015 – 18

Action	Lead(s)	Timescales	Tasks	Rag rating	Progress/update
<b>Objective 3 (continued)</b>	<b>People who experience domestic abuse have timely access to justice and a range of appropriate services are available which prevent further abuse and support those in greatest need. Integral to this framework for delivery, is the early identification of perpetrators and referral into effective interventions and services which address the needs of children from households where there is domestic abuse</b>				
<b>Year 2 actions</b> Voice of victims consultation undertaken to include victims, survivors, children, perpetrators – findings to feed into future plans.  Promote further usage of Domestic Abuse Stalking and Homicide (DASH) Risk Assessment to safeguard victims.  Improve links to provision in communities to manage low risk situations and prevent escalation.  Develop provision to strengthen relationships between children and non-abusive parents to reduce the impact of domestic abuse and encourage mutual support and understanding of the issues.			Scope proposal around parent engagement involving CCG and link to Healthwatch Kirklees which represents the views of service users.  Develop specialist counselling for children and young people who are victims of Domestic Abuse or who witness abuse and 1-2-1 support.  Establish demand for interpreters and develop provision to deliver high quality support for victims.  Link to previous work undertaken on teen/parent violence by WomenCentre.		

**Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy: *Taking up the challenge - Towards freedom***

Action plan 2015 – 18

Action	Lead(s)	Timescales	Tasks	Rag rating	Progress/update
<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>All those who are likely to work with people affected by current or historic domestic abuse have access to learning and development which supports best practice and equips them to meet the needs of all members of the community including groups with specific needs including children and young people, adults at risk, ethnic minority groups and LBGT communities</b>				
12 Develop a fuller understanding of national research and good practice of Strategy Partnership members so that increased knowledge informs the local and regional development of provision for these groups. This is achieved through invitation to experts in research and practice to attend the strategy group and inform its thinking.	Domestic Abuse Strategy Co-ordinator	Ongoing	<p>Examine research undertaken nationally and internationally.</p> <p>Examine information captured as part of West Yorkshire Domestic Abuse service review.</p> <p>Update Strategy Partnership on obligations under the Equality Act to monitor service outputs and outcomes for these groups as part of the commissioning process.</p>		
13 Map service needs for BME groups and LGBT with a view to exploring what service may be required in the future.	Domestic Abuse Strategy Co-ordinator	December 2015	<p>Review findings within the Coral Project produced by Leicestershire University.</p> <p>Link with local specialist services including the Brunswick Centre.</p>		
<b>Year 2 Action</b> Develop a service user group to receive feedback and identify gaps in provision. Encourage representation from hard to reach groups and if appropriate, develop separate means of engagement.					

**Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy: *Taking up the challenge - Towards freedom***

Action plan 2015 – 18

Action	Lead(s)	Timescales	Comments	Rag rating	Progress/update
<b>Objective 4 (continued)</b>	<b>All those who are likely to work with people affected by current or historic domestic abuse have access to learning and development which supports best practice and equips them to meet the needs of all members of the community including groups with specific needs including children and young people, adults at risk, ethnic minority groups and LBGT communities</b>				
14 Identify existing training supporting Domestic Abuse agenda. Determine whether it is meeting the needs of the workforce. Identify any gaps and make recommendations for specific training needs.	Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator working with Learning and Development Team	September 2015	Review provision delivered by Forum members, MARAC, Brunswick Centre, Safeguarding Boards, health partners.  Work with Kirklees Learning and Development Team to identify existing training which may be enhanced to include additional elements to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse issues.		
15 Explore specialist areas such as Human Trafficking, Forced Marriage, FGM and CSE so that staff are knowledgeable of the sensitive and challenging issues.	Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator Lead agencies	Ongoing	Work with Safer Kirklees, Stronger Families staff to explore joint training opportunities.		
16 Undertake a needs assessment to inform commissioning of a workforce development programme to meet needs of the workforce using expertise from the partnership or wider resources.	Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator	December 2015	Provide ongoing basic awareness training and monthly MARAC training where possible co-ordinated by Learning and Development Team and accessible to all partner agencies.		
<b>Year 2 Action</b> Development of web-based awareness training for front line workers.			Link with WomenCentre previous work undertaken to include frontline staff and managers  To determine Year 2		

Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy: *Taking up the challenge - Towards freedom*

Action plan 2015 – 18

Action	Lead(s)	Timescales	Comments	Rag rating	Progress/update
<b>Objective 5</b>	<b>Smarter integrated commissioning approaches support sustainable and responsive services for those affected by domestic abuse in Kirklees</b>				
17 Identify specialist areas for IDVA focus and secure partnership funding to jointly commission additional IDVA resource.	IDVA Task Group	October 2015	As part of expanded IDVA service, ensure support is provided through MARAC and court processes and secure additional services to support victims where prevention order or notice is in place, young people, victims with mental health and substance misuse issues and in A & E departments		

## Glossary of terms

<b>BCS - British Crime Survey</b>	Annual Home Office funded victim survey to measure amount of crime by interviewing 50,000 people about crimes they have experienced
<b>BME - Black and Ethnic Minority</b>	Communities from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds
<b>Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment</b>	Assessment undertaken by Kirklees Public Health to establish prevalence of domestic abuse in Kirklees and made 24 recommendations on how to ensure local services addressed all factors surrounding abuse based on National Institute for Clinical Excellence Guidelines
<b>FGM – Female Genital Mutilation</b>	Procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons
<b>IDAT – Integrated Domestic Abuse Team</b>	Integrated team in Kirklees established in response to number of referrals to children's social care where domestic abuse is prevalent. The team refer victims to appropriate services and work with parents to education on impact of abuse on children. The team also support victims with no children.
<b>IDVA – Independent Domestic Violence Advocate</b>	IDVAs are trained specialists who work with victims who are at high risk of harm, addressing their safety needs and helping them manage the risks they face.
<b>ISVA – Independent Sexual Violence Advocate</b>	ISVAs provide support and advocacy to victims of sexual violence and abuse throughout and beyond the criminal justice process.
<b>Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy</b>	This sets out the vision for improving health and wellbeing of local people and reducing health inequalities at every stage of people lives.

<b>LGBT – Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual and Transgender</b>	Term which describes the sexuality and gender identity and is sometimes used to refer to anyone who is non-heterosexual
<b>MARAC – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference</b>	The MARAC is a multi-agency meeting that focuses on the safety of high-risk domestic violence victims. MARAC co-ordinators oversee this process.
<b>PDVG – Pennine Domestic Violence Group</b>	Specialist voluntary sector provider in Kirklees which provides support, advice, information and safe accommodation to anyone that is affected by domestic violence
<b>Safe Lives</b>	A national charity supporting a strong multi-agency response to domestic abuse. The charity focuses on saving lives and saving public money.  Safe Lives provides practical help to support professionals and organisations working with domestic abuse victims. The aim is to protect the highest risk victims and their children – those at risk of murder or serious harm.
<b>Safer Stronger Communities Partnership</b>	This Kirklees Partnership has a statutory duty to deliver a plan based on local community safety priorities based on current evidence across communities in Kirklees
<b>VAWG – End Violence Against Women and Girls</b>	Government's strategy launched in 2011 to end violence against women which also provided current definition of domestic abuse
<b>WHO – World Health Organisation</b>	The United Nations Public Health Arm

**[www.kirklees.gov.uk/domesticviolence](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/domesticviolence)**