



Kirklees  
**Domestic Abuse Strategy**  
2019-21



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The Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership would like to extend their thanks to SafeLives for their approval for Kirklees to be able to adopt the SafeLives model, and for providing subsequent support during the development of this strategy.

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# Foreword from Councillor Mather

Domestic abuse has a major impact on children, young people, adults and communities in Kirklees and tackling it is an absolute priority for Kirklees Council and its partners. One of our shared outcomes, developed alongside our partners, is, for “people in Kirklees to live in cohesive communities, feel safe and are safe/protected from harm”. Our workforce, our politicians and our partners are absolutely committed to translating this outcome into reality and our determination to tackle domestic abuse is a key feature of how we will achieve this.

This new, refreshed domestic abuse strategy represents a shift in emphasis as we move towards a “whole picture approach”, to tackling this issue. This style of approach is championed by the SafeLives<sup>1</sup> organisation.


## This way of working is hallmarked by 4 key features:

- **The Whole Person** – which means seeing and responding to the whole person, rather than addressing a series of issues.
- **The Whole Family** – which means looking at victims, survivors, those who harm, individuals connected to the victim/perpetrator including extended family.
- **The Whole Community** – which means all communities of geography, identity and online spaces have responsibility for preventing domestic abuse.
- **The Whole Society** – which means the general public and those who influence them – the media, politicians, employers, key opinion formers and commentators for example – understand their role in protecting the safety and well-being of those at risk.

The whole picture approach will mean increased awareness raising about domestic abuse in order to give people the courage and knowledge to challenge it wherever they may come across it, as the only way to truly tackle domestic abuse is for the solution to become everyone’s business.

We know that critical to the success of this strategy, is working in partnership. This is why this strategy has been developed by the Domestic Abuse Strategy Partnership, which consists of key partners from the Council, Police, Health Services, Community Rehabilitation Company and voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sectors. It features heavily the information and intelligence gathered from a number of local data sets to ensure our work is properly targeted and focused. It also links closely to wider Kirklees strategies such as the *Joint Health and Well-being Strategy* and the work of local Safeguarding Children’s arrangements and the Safeguarding Adults Board.

I make no apology for the scale of our ambition demonstrated by this strategy – any domestic abuse is too much – and I am confident that, even within the context of increasing volume and financial pressure, this strategy will serve to make a real and positive difference to the lives of people in Kirklees.



**Cllr Mather**

Chair of the Kirklees Communities Board

1. SafeLives are a national charity dedicated to transforming the UK’s response to domestic abuse and ending domestic abuse for good by combining insight from services, survivors and statistics to support people to become safe, well and rebuild their lives.

# Definition of 'Domestic Abuse'

Kirklees Council adopts the Home Office definition of domestic abuse:

*'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<sup>2</sup>**
- **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 so-called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

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2. It should be noted that this strategy encompasses sexual violence and abuse where it occurs in a domestic setting but will not extend to the wider issues around sexual violence (such as 'stranger rape')

**In addition to the Home Office definition, Kirklees accepts that domestic violence and abuse can take place in many forms and in a number of different intimate and familial settings which are outlined below:**

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### **Situational Couple Violence**

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Involves a relationship dynamic in which conflict can get out of hand to cause one or both partners lashing out. These acts can occur by men and women at fairly equal rates and are not generally committed in an attempt to control a partner<sup>3</sup>. However, they can contribute to increases in reporting.

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### **Elder/Carer Abuse**

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From a definition put forward by Action on Elder Abuse in the UK, the World Health Organization (WHO) defines Elder Abuse as

*“a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.”*

It includes harms by people the older person knows, or has a relationship with, such as a spouse, partner, or family member; a friend or neighbour; or people that the older person relies on for services. Many forms of elder abuse are recognised as types of domestic abuse since they are committed by family members. Paid caregivers have also been known to prey on their elderly patients.

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### **Teen Violence and Abuse Against Parents**

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Young people displaying violent and abusive behaviour towards their parents which could include but is not limited to coercive and controlling tactics. This is becoming increasingly recognised as a feature in families with complex needs and can often have a detrimental impact on other siblings within the family as well as the parents.

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### **Peer on peer abuse**

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Abuse within early relationships between younger people where there may be all the elements of intimate partner violence and abuse but with less understanding about boundaries, what constitutes healthy relationships and even identifying that the relationship is or is becoming abusive.

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3. Johnson, M.P. (2008). A Typology of Domestic Violence: Intimate Terrorism, Violent Resistance, and Situational Couple Violence. Boston: Northeastern University Press.

# The Scale and Challenge of Domestic Abuse

**In January 2019, the Government unveiled their most comprehensive package ever to tackle domestic abuse, aimed at supporting victims and their families and pursuing offenders. This was supported by a Home Office report that revealed the economic and social cost of domestic abuse cost the country £66 billion in 2016 to 2017. According to the research, the vast majority of this cost (£47 billion) was a result of the physical and emotional harm of domestic abuse, however it also includes other factors such as cost to health services (£2.3 billion), police (£1.3 billion) and victim services (£724 million). While the £66 billion estimate of the costs of domestic abuse appear large, they are likely to be an under-estimate. In particular, the Crime Survey for England and Wales data at the heart of the estimate does not enable full consideration of the number of injuries incurred by victims during their abuse, so the physical harms are likely to be under-estimated.**

The £66 billion estimate represents the most comprehensive estimate yet of the economic and social costs of domestic abuse. The report reinforces the need to tackle domestic abuse, ideally through preventative efforts that stop the abuse from happening in the first place. It also highlights how domestic abuse impacts on many sectors of society, suggesting that the response should be similarly wide-ranging.

As well as making a set of commitments to tackle domestic abuse, the Government will also be bringing in new legislation and one of these changes will be to introduce the first ever statutory government definition of domestic abuse to specifically include economic abuse and controlling and manipulative non-physical abuse which will enable everyone, including victims themselves, to understand what constitutes abuse and will encourage more victims to come forward. This move illustrates and strengthens the notion that domestic abuse now encompasses much broader types of abuse that can be less easy to identify, and that the relationships of those experiencing domestic abuse extend far more widely than the stereotypical heterosexual relationship. At the time of the Kirklees strategy being signed off, the draft Bill was still at parliamentary scrutiny stage so we will refer to the current definition of domestic abuse but will make changes to the strategy once new legislation is in statute.

In 2016, HM Government published their '*Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy: 2016-2020*'<sup>4</sup>, followed shortly afterwards by the West Yorkshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner publishing their '*Domestic and*

*Sexual Abuse Strategy*'. It should be noted that HM Government's strategy is particularly focused on women and, whilst it is widely accepted that domestic abuse is disproportionately gendered, both the West Yorkshire and Kirklees approaches are not limited to this as it was felt that local responses need to be considered across all demographics (many of whom could be considered 'hidden victims'). Indeed, it is true to say that 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.

It is accepted 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, not everyone will 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, and in particular to intervene early and prevent further abuse. Partners across Kirklees work dynamically to deal with the changing landscape of domestic abuse but the scale of the issue does present challenges particularly as statutory services have faced unprecedented budget restraints in recent years. It is therefore more vital than ever that new approaches are implemented and that the progress of the Kirklees strategy and subsequent priorities can be measured through a range of partnership intelligence and data.

<sup>4</sup>. Refreshed in March 2019 with the addition of a position statement relating to male victims

Domestic abuse rarely affects just one person and every case will include different family dynamics; types of abuse and levels of risk posed by the perpetrator. In this sense, the SafeLives model seeks to encourage agencies to employ an effective, restorative and empathetic response that is tailored to the needs of the person and/or family's circumstances that helps them become safe in a way that is right for them. More and more research is emerging, including from the direct experiences of victims, that places control and coercion at the core of domestic abuse so it is imperative that staff across the partnership are able to recognise this and use their professional judgment appropriately to support people to best effect.

A great deal of progress has been made throughout the journey of the 2015-18 '*Taking up the Challenge Towards Freedom*' strategy, with a number of initiatives and specialist services available for those experiencing domestic abuse in Kirklees<sup>5</sup>. However, in order to truly tackle the issue, the approach needs to be holistic with more emphasis placed on preventing abuse and harm from happening in the first place. It is well documented that domestic abuse can have a devastating and long lasting impact on children and this can often be in conjunction with other adverse childhood experiences. The Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership are therefore committed to understanding these and the links to other safeguarding issues. To prevent the incidence of domestic abuse in the future, it is recognised locally that further targeted, 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 through engagement with schools and further education providers; through community provision, and by using innovative approaches and social media. Preventative work in this area will also address the increase in incidents of intergenerational violence involving adolescents and parents and help children understand the difference between unhealthy and healthy relationships.

Similarly, there is increasing evidence locally and nationally in adult cases of neglect and abuse of the impact of cumulative risk. This is where a combination of mental health, domestic abuse and drugs and alcohol are prevalent in the home and result in negative, long term outcomes for families. There are also emerging concerns across children's and adult services where certain health conditions can contribute to the abusive behavior (i.e. Dementia or Autistic Spectrum Disorders). The Health sector specifically can often be the first point of call for many living with domestic abuse (including GPs, A&E, Mental Health Services) so their commitment and engagement with the agenda is crucial.

Domestic abuse is disproportionately gendered but it is imperative to recognise that domestic abuse can affect everyone at some point in their lives, but some groups of people can have additional vulnerabilities and/or characteristics that may require a different response. Male victims; those in LGBT+ relationships; those with physical and learning disabilities; older people; those with insecure immigration status and/or of different cultural/ethnic backgrounds should be able to feel equally as supported in accessing services and confident about how to report any concerns.

Evidence shows that those experiencing domestic abuse are more likely to face housing and/or homelessness issues, so the role of Housing Providers is key to ensure that supported housing and adequate refuge accommodation is available and able to respond locally to these needs.

**In summary**, the challenge of tackling domestic abuse and encouraging a tolerant society cannot rest with any one agency and it is only by adopting a 'whole family' ethos and seeing domestic abuse as part of a bigger picture, affecting multiple families and communities that Kirklees will be able to start changing perceptions and contribute to preventing abuse from happening at the earliest stage.

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5. Summary at Appendix 1



# The 2019-21 Kirklees Vision and Approach

**Tackling domestic abuse has been a key priority for Kirklees for many years. We continue to adopt a zero tolerance approach and our ambition is that people treat one another with respect and compassion. The Kirklees vision for the next three years is:**

*'For everyone to understand their responsibility and contribute to tackling domestic abuse in Kirklees.'*

Kirklees supports SafeLives' 'The Whole Picture - our strategy to end domestic abuse, for good' and in particular, the pro-active approach to widen the response to domestic abuse. This includes challenging the whole of society to deconstruct stereotypes to encourage communities to have a low tolerance and high urgency about identifying abuse. This also extends to looking at geographical communities, online spaces and employers/businesses so that they understand the risks posed by those who abuse and their role in protecting those at risk of harm.

SafeLives state that 'domestic abuse is never all of someone's experiences or situation' and with this in mind, the Kirklees strategy will aim to provide the best provision of services for those who have already experienced abuse and violence at all levels of risk by promoting a 'whole family' approach so that the needs of the individual are not considered and acted on in isolation.

Furthermore, the early intervention and prevention focus (i.e. acting before someone harms or is harmed) will provide an opportunity to work far more with our communities, elected members, schools, health providers, businesses and voluntary sector services to raise awareness of the issue and increase confidence for people to report and confidence to respond when a disclosure may be made.

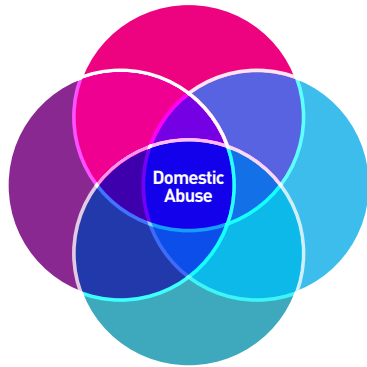
It is paramount that communities and society are strengthened to support people experiencing domestic abuse to be safe, well and resilient but this will also need a sustainable, strong infrastructure of statutory services and provision to be in place for those most vulnerable and at highest risk.

SafeLives outlines a framework to set out the comprehensive and enduring whole picture approach that needs to be in place to tackle domestic abuse in a bid to eradicate it. This model is equally as applicable in a partnership setting and in Kirklees, we believe this is an innovative way to enable all stakeholders and communities to better understand the role we all have in this crucial agenda. Following on from this, there are a number of strategic priorities that have been agreed across the partnership which will be supported by a detailed action plan and a set of capabilities that all those within the sector will need to apply.

# A whole picture approach: ending domestic abuse, for good



We believe the following SafeLives framework sets out the comprehensive and enduring whole picture approach that needs to be in place for domestic abuse to be ended for good.



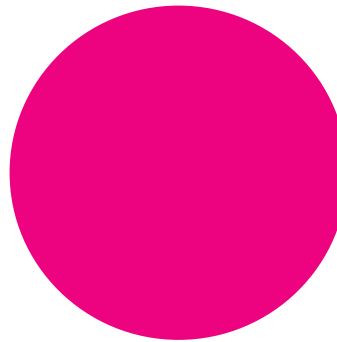
**The whole person:** domestic abuse is never all of someone's experiences or situation.



		Whole Person	Whole Family
<b>1</b>	<p>→</p> <p>↑ <b>Act before someone harms or is harmed</b> ↓</p>	<p>Seeing and responding to the whole person, not addressing a series of issues</p> <p>People are treated as just that – people, and not issues. The complexity of domestic abuse and links to other adverse experiences are understood.<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>Adult victims, survivors, those who harm, individuals connected to the victim/perpetrator including extended family</p> <p>Protective factors are put in place for those at risk of abusing or being abused – people and services sufficiently understand domestic abuse and what makes it more or less likely to happen.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>↑ <b>Identify and stop harmful behaviours</b> ↓</p>	<p>Harmful behaviour is addressed by proactively identifying all motivating factors and consequences, such as other violence, abuse and criminality.</p>	<p>Individuals who abuse any family member are appropriately assessed for the risk they pose to all family members – and themselves.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>↑ <b>Increase safety for those at risk</b> ↓</p>	<p>The protection offered to people means proactively checking that all risks posed have been addressed, not just the initial presenting issue.</p>	<p>The safety and wellbeing of all non-abusive family members – physical, mental and emotional – is defended from those who pose a risk to them.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p>↑ <b>Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs</b> ↓</p> <p>←</p>	<p>People are responded to as people, not an issue or series of issues. Both crisis and longer term responses to people who have experienced abuse are sensitive to their possible vulnerability to future adverse experiences.</p>	<p>When an immediate experience of abuse is over, all family members' safety and wellbeing – physical, mental and emotional – are (re)built. People are supported to live the lives they want, drawing strength from each other.</p>

6. Such as child abuse, child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, sexual violence, trauma, mental ill health, substance use, or economic disadvantage.

7. Individuals might form an identifiable community; we work on the basis that within that community will also be a range of views, backgrounds and experiences.



<b>Whole Community</b> All communities of geography, identity and online spaces	<b>Whole Society</b> The general public and those who influence them: the media, politicians, employers, key opinion formers and commentators
Communities <sup>7</sup> of geography, identity and online spaces are equipped to identify and act on early risk factors and warning signs.	Gender stereotypes are challenged and deconstructed – particularly those of masculinity – supporting boys and men to break these norms. Societal shifts see a reduction in the motivation and opportunity for different types of power to be abused.
Community members know they are more than passive bystanders – there is low tolerance and high urgency about identifying and holding to account those who abuse.	
Communities of geography, identity, online spaces and employers/businesses understand the risks posed by those who abuse and their role in protecting the safety and wellbeing of those at risk.	
People who speak about their experience of abuse are believed. Communities and society validate their experience and support their process of creating safety, wellbeing and resilience so they can live the lives they want. The voices, strengths and needs of survivors are paramount, and survivors draw further strength from one another.	

# Kirklees Strategic Priorities

During 2019 - 2021 we will...

Strategic priority	How we will achieve this
<p>1 <b>Act before someone harms or is harmed</b></p>	<p>We will ensure that early intervention and prevention is at the heart of everything we do, combined with a commitment to continually raise awareness and encourage communities to be part of the solution.</p>
<p>2 <b>Identify and stop harmful behaviours</b></p>	<p>We will ensure that the motivating factors behind abusive behaviours are understood and work with those perpetrating harm to address their behaviour and/or ensure that appropriate sanctions are applied.</p>
<p>3 <b>Increase safety for those at risk</b></p>	<p>We will ensure that victims, children and families receive timely access to high quality services and that support is based on a risk-led but holistic model.</p>
<p>4 <b>Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs</b></p>	<p>We will improve and expand the support for everyone impacted by domestic abuse to encourage longer term recovery and resilience.</p>

## Strategic priority 1

### Act before someone harms or is harmed

- Use evidence based, local and national research with a strong emphasis on survivor and 'lived' experiences to inform and implement change.
- Raise awareness of domestic abuse through continued public information campaigns to influence and change attitudes and behaviours, with a focus on any emerging issues where targeted campaigns may be required.
- Focus on working with schools and education to fully understand the offer within schools for both pupils and staff and build on the work of 'schools as Community Hubs'.
- Increase the offer and confidence within communities to respond to domestic abuse that builds community capacity and encourages a thriving, high quality voluntary sector.

## Strategic priority 2

### Identify and stop harmful behaviours

- Ensure that assessments and responses fully address the factors that can contribute to someone causing harm.
- Place an emphasis on cases that may not necessarily require social care or formal safeguarding interventions in a bid to reduce the risk of harm and harm escalating at the earliest opportunity.
- Focus on the connections between other adverse childhood experiences and domestic abuse so that children and families are supported to make the positive changes that they are involved in.
- Support those perpetrating harm to address their behaviour to put the onus of responsibility on them and increase their understanding of the impact of their actions on others. Where this is not evidenced, appropriate sanctions should be applied.

## Strategic priority 3

### Increase safety for those at risk

- Ensure that those experiencing domestic abuse are supported through effective pathways and timely access to services (both statutory and non-statutory) so that the needs of the individuals and families are considered in a holistic way (rather than simply focusing on the initial presenting issue).
- Ensure that where disclosures are made, the partnership can support those going through the criminal justice system to achieve positive outcomes.
- Where gaps in service are identified, the partnership can employ smart commissioning arrangements to ensure that all victims are supported in a way that involves them in the solution.
- Ensure that there is a focus on victims with protected characteristic or other vulnerabilities that may make them 'invisible' and therefore, more susceptible to harm.

## Strategic priority 4

### Supporting people to live the lives they want after harm occurs

- People who are experiencing abuse can retain or access safe and suitable accommodation.
- Build on existing support services for those affected by domestic abuse to aid longer term recovery through traditional methods (such as therapeutic services and counselling) as well as exploring new innovative ways (such as digital and web based opportunities).
- Support those who have experienced domestic abuse to become actively involved in the agenda at a time that is right for them.
- Continue to work across the partnership and communities so that the longer term impact of abuse is understood and strive to provide longer term capacity where there may still be difficulties (such as financial hardship, issues over child contact, insecure immigration status).

# Governance

**The area of Domestic Abuse is governed by the Kirklees Communities Board and is a priority in the Safer Kirklees Partnership Plan under the strand of ‘Protecting People from Harm.’**

Given the cross cutting nature of Domestic Abuse and the impact this has on all communities and groups of people, it is also linked to the key objectives set out in the Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan; the Children’s Safeguarding Board’s Business Plan as well as complementing wider Kirklees strategic groups such as the Health & Wellbeing Board and other connected agendas (sexual abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Prevent, Modern Day Slavery, Female Genital Mutilation and Gangs/Gang Violence).

Reducing the prevalence of Domestic Abuse is a key priority for Kirklees and the main group established to lead on implementing the *Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy* and associated action plans is the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (DASP). The DASP is an effective, multi-agency group of senior representatives from all relevant agencies and is committed to addressing the impact of domestic abuse in Kirklees.

There are also a number of operational subgroups that feed into this group, namely the Domestic Abuse Forum; the Daily Risk Assessment Management Meetings (DRAMM) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) Steering Group and the Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage Steering Group. In addition to this, Domestic Abuse is considered and tackled at a regional level through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (OPCC) Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board.



# Partnership capabilities

In order to achieve the vision set out in this strategy, it is critical that the partnership collectively apply the following capabilities:

## Leadership and strong partnerships, evidenced by:

- validation at all levels of all organisations;
- engagement and buy-in by elected members and strategic leads with an increased offer to help them in their roles as community leaders;
- successful collaborations outside the partnership (i.e. with businesses; other authorities and organisations) to create funding opportunities.

## Understanding and knowledge, evidenced by:

- research, including using the learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Serious Case Reviews;
- using the voice of the victim and experiences of those who have lived with/witnessed domestic abuse (including children).

## Skills, confidence and motivation, evidenced by:

- the workforce stability and ability to attract and retain staff from a range of backgrounds and experiences;
- quality of staff and client interventions;
- continual learning to enhance existing skills;
- reflective supervision.

## Continual learning, evidenced by:

- dynamic and quality assured training delivery which responds continually to new and emerging issues (i.e. legislative and/or following local research);
- practitioner events being established quarterly;
- training records and evaluations.

## Quality assurance and accountability, evidenced by:

- partnership inspections and case file audits;
- good quality Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Serious Case Reviews;
- critical friend and peer reviews;
- acting and implementing national best practice in a range of settings.



# Taking up the Challenge Towards Freedom Strategy 2015-18

### What we said we'd do and what we did; the journey so far

There has been a great deal of progress made within Kirklees as a result of the 2015-18 strategy which has been driven by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership and made possible by the commitment of all partners to this agenda. Notable achievements made against the 2015-18 strategic priorities are outlined as follows:



#### Public information campaigns to raise awareness of domestic abuse

- ▶ Developed award winning awareness raising campaigns 'It's Never Ok'. Winner of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) Excellence Award. 2016 campaign reached 426,809 people on Facebook and prompted a 57% increase in calls.
- ▶ White Ribbon accreditation received in July 2018. This was celebrated by Kirklees hosting a regional conference in which 97% of attendees felt it was a good event.



#### People who experience domestic abuse have timely access to justice and a range of appropriate services

- ▶ Established the Daily Risk Assessment Management Meetings and streamlined the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences for early identification of cases and more timely responses. These processes have dealt with 3,076 medium and high risk cases with 3,874 proactive actions being set to manage risk and safety plan.
- ▶ Rolled out Operation Encompass so since 2018, 117 primary schools and 23 high schools have received a total of 1016 notifications about children who were involved and/or witnessed domestic abuse within the previous 24 hour/week-end period.
- ▶ Stronger Families' revised their programmes to deal with the changing landscape; 413 victims accessed the Freedom Programme (which then became the Liberty Programme) and six 'Step Up' programmes have been delivered for Teen Violence and Abuse Against Parents which has included 42 adults and 40 young people.



### **All those whose are likely to work with people affected by current or historic domestic abuse have access to learning and development**

- ▶ Training offer revised year on year to ensure that staff and practitioners are kept abreast of any legislative changes or emerging research.
- ▶ Pennine Domestic Violence Group staff had intensive training and organisational support dealing with LGBT+ victims through a specialist worker being co-located in Year 2.
- ▶ As part of successful Department of Communities and Local Government bid, specialist practitioners were co-located in refuge over a year to share expertise/training and client support around Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol and BME related issues.
- ▶ Independent Domestic Violence Advocates co-located in Health settings have provided training to approximately 708 NHS staff (across A&E, Midwifery and Mental Health).



### **Smarter integrated commissioning approaches support sustainable and responsive services for those affected by domestic abuse in Kirklees**

- ▶ Creative partnership funding arrangements achieved for the contract and roll out of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) Service. Since 2016, there have been 3545 referrals into the service and of these, 73% of victims leaving the IDVA service reported feeling safer; 83% felt they would recognise abusive behaviour in the future and 84% felt confident to ask for help in the future if they needed it.
- ▶ Joint funding agreed through the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership to enable awareness raising campaigns.
- ▶ Successful funding bids submitted jointly across West Yorkshire have enabled a focus on accommodation based support and working with victims that have complex and multiple needs.



### **Accurate data and intelligence regarding the prevalence of domestic abuse informs action locally**

- ▶ Kirklees domestic abuse prevalence data is routinely compared against national SafeLives data. Significant improvements made with collection and interpretation of DRAMM and MARAC data.
- ▶ Strategic Intelligence Assessment is refreshed every year to ensure a local picture of domestic abuse is established.
- ▶ Ongoing commitment to national research and best practice to drive improvements (such as Spotlight Report on Older People, Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage) and regional events to support shared learning emerging from Domestic Homicide Reviews.

## Appendix 2

### National, regional and local prevalence

Domestic abuse remains prevalent (locally and nationally) and as such, remains a high priority for the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership to address across all services. The main sources for accessing national prevalence data about domestic abuse are the Office for National Statistics (ONS); the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW); Police recorded crime; Homicide Index data and information from a number of different organisations (such as SafeLives and Women's Aid).

**For the year ending March 2018, figures show that:**

- ▶ Nationally, there were an estimated **7.9%** of women (1.3 million) and **4.2%** of men (695,000) who experienced domestic abuse in the last year which is not a significant change compared with year ending March 2017 (CSEW).
- ▶ The Police recorded a total of **599,549** domestic abuse-related crimes which is an increase of **23%** from the previous year (ONS)<sup>1</sup>.
- ▶ West Yorkshire Police statistics show an increase of **10%** in 2018/19 to **65,051** domestic incidents recorded.
- ▶ Kirklees domestic incident reports to West Yorkshire Police made up **15.8%** of all reported incidents across West Yorkshire.
- ▶ Kirklees statistics show an increase of **6%** in 2018/19 to **10,277** reported domestic incidents to West Yorkshire Police.
- ▶ The Kirklees repeat victim rate was **46.9%** and the Kirklees suspect rate was **46.5%** which is broadly in line with the other West Yorkshire Local Authorities.
- ▶ Children were present at **27.3%** of all police call outs relating to domestic abuse in Kirklees.
- ▶ The **Kirklees victim** profile is likely to be a **white female between 20-29 years**.
- ▶ The **Kirklees suspect** profile is likely to be a **white male between 20-29 years**.

**In terms of outcomes as a result of reporting of incidents of domestic abuse to West Yorkshire Police it is noted that for the same time period across West Yorkshire (up to year ending 2019) there were:**

- ▶ **54.2%** Victim Declines/Withdraws Support
- ▶ **28.5%** Evidential Difficulties (Police)
- ▶ **8.24%** Charged
- ▶ **3.62%** Evidential Difficulties (Crown Prosecution Service)

**Furthermore, there was an attrition rate regionally of 28% (Kirklees rate is 27.2%). The reasons for the attrition were attributable to:**

- ▶ Victim fails to attend in **35.4%**
- ▶ Victim refuses to give evidence or retracts in **27.1%**
- ▶ Conflict of prosecution evidence **11.6%**
- ▶ Acquittal after trial **10.4%**
- ▶ Administration finalised **4.3%**

<sup>1</sup> This in part reflects police forces improving their identification and recording of domestic abuse incidents as crimes and an increased willingness by victims to come forward.



### Local Services and Volume

#### **DRAMM and MARAC**

Since the implementation of the Kirklees Daily Risk Assessment Management Meetings (DRAMM) in October 2016, this process, along with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), has:

- ▶ dealt with 3,076 medium and high risk cases
- ▶ 3,874 proactive actions have been set to manage risk and safety plan.



#### **Pennine Domestic Violence Group (PDVG)**

Pennine Domestic Violence Group are the largest third sector provider of domestic abuse services locally and until March 2020, are commissioned to deliver the IDVA Service in Kirklees. From April 2016 to March 2019, PDVG have summarised that:

- ▶ There were 3545 referrals into the IDVA Service and of these
- ▶ 2295 victims have accessed advice or short term interventions
- ▶ 905 victims have accessed a full programmes of support
- ▶ 596 charges were made by the Police and 305 victims have been supported through the criminal justice process
- ▶ 51 perpetrators received custodial sentences and 112 restraining orders were granted

**The overall outcomes for victims who were supported by the IDVA service demonstrate that:**

- ▶ 73% of victims leaving the IDVA service felt safer
- ▶ 83% felt they would recognise abusive behaviour in the future
- ▶ 84% felt confident to ask for help in the future if they needed it
- ▶ 75% felt their support network had improved



### Accommodation and Housing

#### From April 2016 to March 2019

- ▶ PDVG received **6429 referrals** for emergency refuge accommodation.
- ▶ **470 homes** have been made more secure to prevent homelessness as a direct result of domestic abuse.
- ▶ Staying Safe in Kirklees and Sanctuary have received **1811 referrals** with **1533 victims** accessing advice and support.



### Children

Between March 2016 and April 2019, PDVG have provided support to victims with children, in total, 2482 children (1318 through Staying Safe in Kirklees and Sanctuary; 953 through the IDVA service and 213 through accommodation).

In addition to this, between April 2018 and March 2019, 4786 contacts were made to Children's Duty and Advice Service where domestic abuse was a presenting issue, and of these:

- ▶ **77.4%** were from Legal agencies (including police, courts, probation).
- ▶ **4.7%** were from other partners (including other agencies, children's centres, independent agency providers, voluntary organisations).
- ▶ **4.6%** were from Education partners (including education services and schools).
- ▶ **3.9%** were from Health partners (including hospitals, Health Visitors, GPs, School Nurses).
- ▶ **3.7%** were from family, relatives, neighbours or friends.

# Appendix 2

## Conclusion

**Whilst this is not an exhaustive breakdown of crime and/or service specific data, it does provide an insight into the scale and nature of domestic abuse. From an initial reading of the statistics the following conclusions could be gained:**

- ▶ Incidents of domestic abuse are increasing.
- ▶ Medium and high risk cases referred to DRAMM and MARAC has subsequently led to an increase in the number of cases allocated to the IDVA service.
- ▶ High levels of repeat victimisation remain.
- ▶ Whilst the main profile of victims are female, white and aged 20-29 years experience the highest levels of domestic abuse, there is an increased level of male victims of domestic abuse.
- ▶ There are high levels of victim withdrawals or failure to attend court.
- ▶ Attrition rates remain high.
- ▶ The numbers of children affected by domestic abuse are likely to be lower than the actual figure as they are based primarily on police call outs only and won't reflect numbers where children and families are not known to social care.
- ▶ The number of elderly victims affected by domestic abuse is likely to be underreported due to their experiences often being exacerbated by social, cultural and physical factors. Many surveys and studies have also excluded consideration for victims aged 60+ which serves to reinforce the false assumption that abuse ceases to exist beyond a certain age.

These assumptions however need to be read or understood with some caution. We know that domestic abuse remains a largely hidden crime that is difficult to assess. Measuring the true scale of the problem is not only hampered by the reluctance of victims to report their experiences but also the absence of a single criminal offence. Whilst the data provides a snapshot or insight to aid our understanding of the nature of domestic abuse, what increases or changes there are, and any assumptions around poor outcomes as a result of victim withdrawal or engagement would require more detailed analysis. There also needs to be consideration given to influencing factors affecting the data such as changes in recording practices, changes in community confidence to report, changes in the breadth of the definition of domestic abuse and the point at which the data is collected.

