

## **Domestic Abuse Services funded by Derbyshire County Council**

### **Independent Domestic Violence Advisors / high risk services**

The main role of independent domestic violence advisors (IDVA) is to address the safety of victims at high risk (14+ on DASH risk assessment) of harm or homicide from intimate partners, ex-partners or family members to secure their safety and the safety of their children.

IDVAs normally work with their clients from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop safety plans. They are pro-active in implementing the plans, which address immediate safety, including practical steps to allow the client to protect themselves and their children, as well as longer-term solutions. These plans will include actions from the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference as well as sanctions and remedies available through the criminal and civil courts, housing options and services available through other organisations. IDVAs support and work over the short- to medium-term to put their clients on the path to long-term safety.

In addition the team also hosts two additional IDVAs: one of which is a Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) IDVA who provides support to domestic abuse victims of any risk level when attending court and the other who is based within Chesterfield Royal to offer specialist support to health colleagues.

### **Medium risk outreach services**

Five services work across the County to provide support to medium risk (10-14 on DASH risk assessment) victims of domestic abuse and their families. This support includes:

- emotional support,
- safety planning,
- freedom programme
- Building self-confidence and independence,
- Assistance when applying for grants and loans,
- Help with budgeting, Resettlement skills, such as shopping and cooking,
- Assistance in finding work, paid or unpaid,
- Assistance with accessing training or education,
- Referrals to other relevant agencies

The services also provide awareness raising training for professionals and organisations in their local area.

### Children's domestic abuse support services

These services are available to children and young people aged between 0-18 (19 if the referral is made before the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday) to alleviate the impact of domestic abuse. The service works towards four outcomes with the children and young adults aiming to support to increase confidence and self esteem, improve expectations of interpersonal relationships, increase ability to keep safe and personally grow and develop. The service is offered through one to one sessions and group work. The service is time limited as it is a targeted service and offers on average 6-8 sessions. These sessions can be increased to a maximum of 12 if there is a need. The service also supports families to integrate into the community by introducing the family to services in the community who can also offer support.

### Accommodation and housing related support

Accommodation services are available for victims who need to flee their home due to domestic abuse and come to a safe location. The refuges are available to those out of the area. Consideration will be made to victims locally but this may not be suitable dependant on risk levels as our main priority is the safety of those we support. Accommodation is emergency temporary accommodation staffed with specialist support teams 365 days per year.

Housing related support services are available to all male and female victims and support takes place within the home or in a safe place within the community. This is a housing related support service and can help and support with varying support needs which include but are not limited to securing safe/alternative accommodation, make the current home safer, look at refuge accommodation if needed, set up a new home, reduce any debt, access correct benefits, get into employment or education, access health care providers, obtain furniture and support with developing life skills as well as emotional support to cope with the domestic abuse. Support can be provided for up to 2 years in total.

### Voluntary perpetrator programme

This is a county wide a voluntary perpetrator programme that assists men to stop their abusive behaviour towards their female partners

Working alongside the programme for men there is a dedicated female partner support service that will support women and families whose partners are on the programme. This support will include risk assessments and safety planning.

The programme is voluntary and does not work with men who are currently being investigated or waiting to appear before the courts for a domestic violence or serious violence offence.

The programme requires men to attend a group session of two hours, once a week for approximately six months. The group is facilitated by professionals and delivers a structured programme which addresses different forms of abusive behaviour. Groups are delivered weekly at four locations across the county:

- Chesterfield
- Buxton
- Amber Valley
- Swadlincote.

The service accepts both agency and self-referrals. The referring criteria are:

- Males aged over 18 where either he or his female partner live in Derbyshire
- Males who using violent and abusive behaviour to their female partners
- Males who have some recognition of their abusive behaviour and show some willingness to change it

#### Derbyshire domestic abuse helpline

This is a confidential 24 hour helpline, available 7 days a week to provide guidance and support to people experiencing domestic abuse.

During day time hours callers are able to select an option which will divert them to their local domestic abuse outreach providers. Out of hours, including weekends and bank holidays are covered by Call Derbyshire where call handlers have been trained to provide immediate support and risk assessments.