

Cardiff Domestic Abuse Task Group

Terms of Reference – July 2007.

Definition of Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse (DA) is best described as the use of physical and/or emotional abuse or violence including undermining of self-confidence, sexual violence or the threat of violence, by a person who is or has been in a close relationship.

Domestic abuse can go beyond actual physical violence. It can also involve emotional abuse, the destruction of a spouse's or partner's property, their isolation from friends, family or other potential sources of support, threats to others including children, control over access to money, personal items, food, transportation and the telephone and stalking.

It can also include violence perpetrated by a son, daughter or any other person who has a close or blood relationship with the victim/survivor. Domestic abuse includes honour-based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriages. It can also include violence inflicted on or witnessed by children. The wide adverse effects of living with domestic abuse for children must be recognised as a child protection issue. The effects can be linked to poor educational achievement, social exclusion and to juvenile crime, substance abuse, mental health problems and homelessness from running away.

Domestic abuse is not a one off occurrence; it is frequent and persistent.

The purpose of the Task Group:

The Domestic Abuse Task Group is a multi agency forum which works to achieve a robust, collaborative, city wide response to domestic abuse.

Task Group Aims:

- Improve the safety of both adult and child victims of domestic abuse
- Combat domestic abuse in all its guises
- Reduce the crime of domestic violence
- Work in partnership with voluntary and statutory services
- Ensure domestic abuse services are adequately resourced and co-ordinated
- Prevent domestic abuse in communities across the city
- Support victims of domestic abuse through effective, joined up service provision
- Achieve perpetrator accountability
- Liaise with government departments and other non-departmental public bodies as appropriate

Objectives:

- To develop a multi agency strategy and annual action plan which is regularly monitored and reviewed
- To identify gaps in service provision, resources and or activities and to take necessary, appropriate action
- To develop services and activities which work to achieve perpetrator accountability, improve services, increase safety of victims and to prevent domestic abuse
- To support partner agencies in the delivery and resourcing of the action plan
- To campaign on domestic abuse issues, working to ensure that it is recognised as a serious crime
- To influence the Police agenda through the development and enhancement of policing targets

Task Group Membership:

Membership is drawn from across statutory and voluntary services and representation is required from the following agencies:

Voluntary Sector Representation:

BAWSO
Cardiff Women's Aid
Cardiff Women's Safety Unit
Safer Cardiff
Victims' Support
Cymdeithas Tai Hafan
NSPCC

Statutory Representation:

Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
Cardiff Council – Children's Services, Housing, Education, POVA, Youth
CPS
Health
Police
Prison
Probation

The Role of the Members

- Members of the Domestic Abuse Task Group are expected to support and advance the Task Groups aims and adhere to the Terms of reference
- Members are asked to respond and contribute to the work of the task group both at and in between meetings

- Members of the task group will be asked to form the sub groups and invite non-members with specialist skills and expertise (where necessary) to support the work of the sub groups
- Meetings of the task group will be held four times per year – attendance will normally be open to one representative from each of the invited agencies and departments from within the Council (due to space and practicalities)

The Sub-groups

Whilst the broader task group aims to establish consistent representation from partner agencies, the sub groups should be encouraged to invite other organisational representation to support the development of the area of work. The Domestic Abuse co-ordinator will participate in each of the groups to maintain an essential overview and to ensure coordination of the subgroups. There will be 4 subgroups each one having a remit to drive forward key areas of the action plan and will have responsibility to prioritise actions and to develop realistic timescales. The frequency of the sub groups will be decided by its membership. In addition to the subgroups the section of the strategy relating to the SARC will be managed by the SARC Executive Management Board, which includes representation from Health, WSU, Police, Safer Cardiff, and CSP. All groups will provide updates and feedback to the main task group body.

1. Prevention Sub group

Remit:

- Raising awareness campaign and marketing strategy
- Education programme for schools and youth provision

2. Perpetrator accountability sub group

Remit:

- Auditing current perpetrator provision
- Working to develop perpetrator programmes, which include self-referral routes for those who have not gone through the *Criminal Justice Service*
- Monitor and liaise with the (pilot) *Domestic Abuse Restorative Justice* programme

3. Support services sub group

Remit:

- DA Training to frontline staff
- Auditing organisational DA polices and developing best practice procedures
- Monitoring current service provision and reporting gaps

4. Housing Partners Sub Group

Remit:

- Development of target hardening
- Review of refuge capacity
- In house training development

Melanie Andrews
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