



**SaferPeterborough
Partnership
Domestic Abuse
Strategy
2012 - 2015**

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Introduction

The impact of domestic abuse is well documented nationally. Not only is it a crime, living with domestic abuse raises significant health, psychological and child protection issues as well as having external impacts on working environments, financial, housing and social consequences. Understanding the complexities of the issue is important when planning the provision needed and how services can respond to, and contribute to, the prevention of domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is a pattern of behaviour characterised by the misuse of power and control. It can include physical, psychological, emotional and sexual abuse. The effects are felt across all communities, but it is recognised that there are particular sections of the community who are more at risk, isolated or where the severity of the effects are worse. The abuse is rarely a single incident with domestic abuse having more repeat victims than any other crime. The abusive partner perpetrates domestic abuse for the purpose of power and control. Safer Peterborough Partnership recognises that the overwhelming majority of domestic abuse is committed against women by men they know but also acknowledges that men too can be abused by their female partners, parents can be abused by their children, and that domestic abuse can also occur within same sex relationships.

The Government's 2011 Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy notes that: "There were over 1 million female victims of domestic abuse in England and Wales in the last year¹. Over 300,000 women are sexually assaulted and 60,000 women are raped each year. Overall in the UK, more than one in four women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, often with years of psychological abuse². Worldwide violence against women and girls can be a problem of pandemic proportions. This is unacceptable."

It is estimated that typically someone experiencing domestic abuse will be assaulted 35 times before contacting the police due to fears of escalation, being judged, stigma, emotional and financial bonds and other reasons. These barriers to seeking support can be compounded further where they have children and/or are pregnant, or by vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, those involved in street prostitution, or experiencing forced marriage and honour based violence. Understanding the hidden nature of domestic abuse and the unknown prevalence of violence within sections of our communities is important to developing approaches for early identification and tailoring provision.

Children are deeply affected by domestic abuse. Children witnessing or being subject to domestic abuse experience stress and fear which can have short, medium and long term impacts such as poor health, withdrawal, disruptive behaviour, self-blame, low self-esteem and increased vulnerability. Working with the survivor therefore cannot be done in isolation and must be undertaken alongside work that addresses the needs of the children.

It is not uncommon for other vulnerabilities to co-exist alongside the domestic abuse such as alcohol misuse and mental health problems. The linkages are complex, and neither is a cause for perpetrating or being a victim, but does increase the risk factors and vulnerabilities of both. The co-existence of such problems can affect both the ability to report and to access suitable support services. Responding to these different support needs requires co-ordination and a multi-faceted response across agencies working in mental health, alcohol and domestic abuse services.

This document replaces Peterborough's Domestic Abuse Strategy 2008-2011.

¹ Figures derived from 2009/10 British Crime Survey data <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/>

² Figures derived from 2009/10 British Crime Survey data <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/>

Peterborough's Vision

To develop a sustainable approach to addressing domestic abuse within Peterborough by:

- **Preventing abuse from occurring by raising awareness, delivering education and challenging attitudes amongst both young people and adults**
- **Intervening early to prevent escalation and reduce risk**
- **Providing support for victims to enable them to recover and move on from abuse**
- **Protecting children from harm who live within an environment where there is domestic abuse**
- **Bringing perpetrators to justice and provide interventions to change their behaviour and prevent future victims**
- **Working in partnership to make best use of resources and knowledge**
- **Providing robust governance and scrutiny of all work to address domestic abuse in the city**

Strategic Framework

The Governmental strategy: *Call to End Violence against Women and Girls (2011)* notes that: "Our vision is for a society in which no woman or girl has to live in fear of violence. To achieve this vision, society needs to:

- **prevent** such violence from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it
- **provide** adequate levels of support where violence does occur
- work in **partnership** to obtain the best outcome for victims and their families
- take action to **reduce the risk** to women and girls who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice."

It recognises that men and boys can also be victims of domestic abuse and that abuse affects whole families and not just the direct victim.

Domestic abuse is the responsibility of Peterborough's Community Safety Partnership (Safer Peterborough Partnership). Domestic abuse remains a priority for the Safer Peterborough Partnership and it impacts on Peterborough's Single Delivery Plan target to reduce crime.

Strategic Ownership

There is a statutory duty on the Safer Peterborough Partnership to consider domestic abuse. Specifically, the duties are:

- To develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and misuse of drugs adversely affecting the environment

A number of the Responsible Authorities within the Partnership have an organisational responsibility for domestic abuse.

Police

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has five priorities for 2012-13³. Two of which are:

- Reduce crime and disorder - to continue to drive crime and disorder to lower levels, transferring the fear of crime from the law abiding public to those who persistently commit crime
- Keeping people safe – resources are dedicated to ensure those people at most risk from harm are protected

Probation

The mission of Cambridgeshire and Probation Trust is to reduce re-offending and contribute to the prevention of harm in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough⁴.

³ Cambridgeshire Constabulary Local Policing Plan 2012-15

⁴ Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust Business Plan 2012/13

Peterborough Primary Care Trust

In the recently published document 'Improving Outcomes and Supporting Transparency'⁵ the public health outcomes for 2013-2016 were published. This document states that there are four domains that contribute to the overall vision – *'to improve and protect the nation's health and wellbeing, and improve the health of the poorest fastest'*.

Domain 1 – Improving the wider determinants of health has the following objective - *Improvements against wider factors that affect health and wellbeing and health inequalities*

This domain has 19 indicators against which performance will be measured. One of these indicators is domestic abuse but the details of this indicator are yet to be published.

It is acknowledged that, in April 2013, when public health responsibility moves to Peterborough City Council they will take over this responsibility. Peterborough Primary Care Trust will still remain a responsible authority and will therefore still share responsibility for domestic abuse with the rest of the partnership.

Police and Crime Commissioner

It is important to note that the Police and Crime Commissioner, when elected in November 2012, has a duty to have regard to the relevant priorities of each responsible authority and the views of local people about policing in the area.

Definition

Domestic abuse is physical, psychological, emotional, sexual and financial abuse that takes place within an intimate or family-type relationship and forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. Any person can experience domestic abuse regardless of race, ethnic or religious group, class, sexuality, disability or lifestyle.

Current provision

Victims

- Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service
- Peterborough Women's Aid Refuge
- Peterborough Women's Aid Outreach
- MARAC Co-ordinator
- Victim Support
- Rape Crisis
- Peterborough Women's Centre
- Sexual Assault Referral Centre
- Local solicitors
- Probation

Perpetrators

- Probation Interventions including Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP)
- Peterborough Relationship Support – Stop the Hurt Programme
- NSPCC – Caring Dads

⁵ <http://bit.ly/RmAMdD> Published 23rd January 2012
SPP Domestic Abuse Strategy

Local priorities in tackling domestic abuse

There are a number of key priority areas that are critical to our achieving the over-arching aim:

Commissioning & Resources

- To develop joint commissioning arrangements for domestic abuse including pooled funding
- To improve the involvement of partners
- To increase the resources to support the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan

Victims & Survivors

- To provide joined up services for victims and survivors
- To improve the support services available to victims and survivors
- To provide support to male and same sex victims and survivors

Perpetrators

- To provide a range of perpetrator programmes both in custody and the community
- To evaluate the outcomes from the perpetrator programmes

Children & Young People

- To consult young people about their views and experience of domestic abuse
- To improve input in local schools
- To work with Troubled Families
- To provide services for young people as victims

Prevention & Awareness-Raising

- To ensure prevention and awareness raising work is co-ordinated through the city and has a consistent message. The consistent messages are about:
 - Changing attitudes – particularly those who think that the victim is to blame for being abused or that domestic abuse is a private matter
 - Changing behaviour - to make victims more confident in reporting abuse and empowering individuals, particularly men and boys, in playing their part in tackling the issues
 - Equipping frontline workers – to recognise and deal effectively with victims and perpetrators
 - Mobilising communities – to take responsibility and challenge domestic abuse

Training

- To identify a clear lead to co-ordinate training and identify resources to enable delivery of this

Training needs to cover:

- Professionals
- Community groups
- Public

And be delivered across all levels from basic awareness to risk assessment to specialist interventions.

- To agree the level of training expected by staff and ensure they are adopted by key partner agencies

Improving data collection, monitoring and reporting

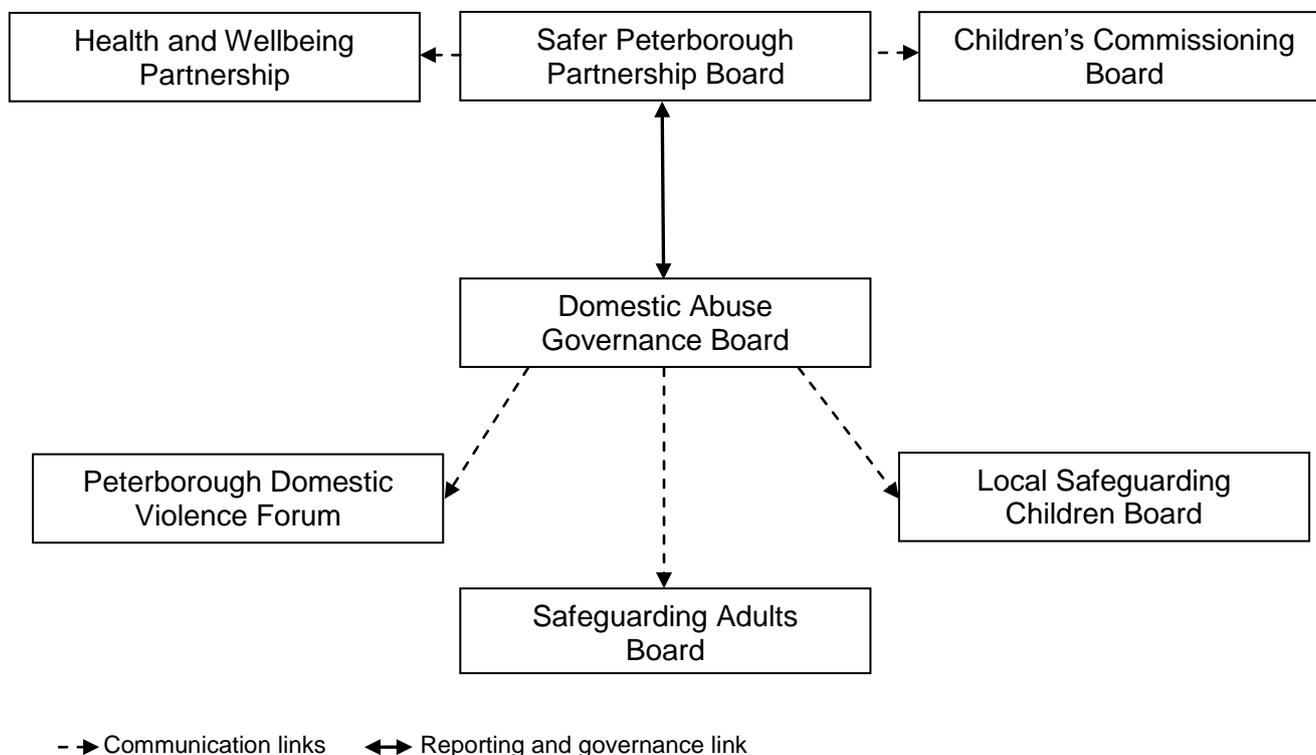
- To develop an Outcome Monitoring Framework
- To improve the data collected by partner agencies to improve the understanding of domestic abuse in the city
- To agree a standard data set for support services

Implementation of the Strategy

The Strategy itself will be agreed by the SaferPeterborough Partnership (SPP) Board, having been fully shared with the Health & Wellbeing Partnership and the Children's Trust.

In order to ensure that progress is made against the strategy, a more detailed action plan will be developed annually highlighting the actions partners need to deliver. The Action Plan will outline specific actions, milestones, lead officers and resources needed to meet the priorities outlined within the strategy.

The Action Plan will be approved by the SPP Board, and performance monitored via the SPP governance structures (set out below) reporting progress on a quarterly basis to the SPP Board. Concurrent regular updates will be shared with the Health & Wellbeing Board and the Local Safeguarding Boards (Adult & Children), with progress against young people specific actions also reporting to the Children's Commissioning Board.



The Terms of Reference for the Domestic Abuse Governance Board are included as Appendix One.

This Strategy will link with those being developed to address sexual violence and sex working.

Communication of the Strategy

The communications plan is designed to outline the remit, progress and impact of the strategy. It will achieve this by:

- Creating an understanding between the SPP and the public of the strategy's aims, and managing expectations of what can be achieved;
- Outlining the remit of the strategy;
- Outlining the outputs, outcomes, timescales, and the intended impact of the strategy;
- Implementing external communication mechanisms to increase public confidence and disseminate clear and consistent messages relating to health and community safety;
- Implementing internal communication mechanisms to support effective delivery of the strategy

Target Audience

- SaferPeterborough Partnership, Health & Wellbeing Partnership, and Children's Trust members
- Statutory and Voluntary Sector organisations and service providers
- Service users
- People who live and/or work in Peterborough
- Specific groups over-represented in service
- Local media

Primary Communication Methods

- Local print and radio media
- Websites/Intranet sites of key agencies involved in delivery of the strategy
- Social networking sites
- Printed communication materials, including leaflets and posters
- Links to national campaigns

Key Messages

- All partners endorse and support the vision and will work to ensure that all work relating to domestic abuse in Peterborough has this vision at its heart;
- The Strategy outlines a multi-agency approach to tackling domestic abuse, bringing together expertise and input from across the city;
- The Strategy was developed through consultation with key stakeholders and will continue to evolve and be updated as needs and issues change;
- The Strategy is supported by senior champions within partner agencies and by clearly structured multi-agency working.

Equality Impact Assessment

The Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken and inform the Domestic Abuse Action Plan. It will be appended to this document upon completion.



PETERBOROUGH DOMESTIC ABUSE GOVERNANCE BOARD

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

- 1 To review and refresh the Domestic Abuse Strategy for Peterborough
- 2 To oversee commissioning and provision of domestic abuse services, education and early interventions, communications and any other related work
- 3 To agree outcomes for the interventions provided in relation to domestic abuse.
- 4 To review and improve processes which support interventions, workforce development and service delivery to ensure quality and consistent provision
- 5 To continually assess strategic requirements for service and system development and make recommendations for the delivery of domestic abuse interventions and services in Peterborough
- 6 To advise and support the Safer Peterborough Partnership in fulfilling its duties in relation to domestic abuse
- 7 To advise and liaise with the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Children's Trust, the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Local Safeguarding for Children Board in relation to domestic abuse
- 8 To work closely with commissioners to ensure co-ordinated and integrated responses to identified need
- 9 To ensure that the views of key stakeholders are taken into account in carrying out the above duties

MEMBERSHIP

Membership will be drawn from partner agencies and will include, as a minimum:

Members

- Executive Director for Operations, Peterborough City Council
- Associate Director for Public Health, NHS Peterborough
- Safer Peterborough Strategic Manager
- Assistant Director for Safeguarding & Families, Children's Services, Peterborough City Council
- Assistant Director Quality Information and Performance, Adult Social Care, Peterborough City Council
- Head of Public Protection, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Probation Trust
- Head of Resettlement, HMP Peterborough
- Strategic Housing Manager, Peterborough City Council
- Representatives from:
 - Peterborough Women's Aid
 - Peterborough Relationship Support

- Victim Support
- Cross Keys Homes

Advisors

- Safer Peterborough Manager – Cutting Crime, SaferPeterborough
- SaferPeterborough Communications Manager

Members and advisors are required to declare any conflict of interest at the start of each meeting.

In addition, service providers and wider stakeholders will be invited to provide additional information to support the work of the Board.

CHAIR

The Board will be chaired by the Executive Director of Operations, Peterborough City Council

ORGANISATION OF MEETINGS

- 1 The Board will meet monthly
- 2 The Board will be serviced by the SaferPeterborough Manager – Cutting Crime

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The Board will report to the SPP Board on a quarterly basis as a minimum.

Reports will be sufficient to provide the Board with enough information to make decisions to ensure that all local activity to address domestic abuse delivers value for money, demonstrates evidence based practice, and achieves performance targets.