

West Berkshire Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan

2024-2027

Introduction

This delivery plan is based on the recommendations from the domestic abuse needs assessment. Those that have been directly identified through the needs assessment are highlighted as high priority deliverables and should be the focus of delivery over the next three years. However, some additional deliverables have been identified which would further strengthen the local response which have been highlighted as standard priority level.

Timelines: Activities marked as 'high priority' will all begin to be undertaken in the initial year of delivery, but the final delivery date is indicated in the plan as a 'deadline' (unless the activity is ongoing). Those that are standard, will have varying timescales.

Priority one: Act before harm.
We will act before harm, preventing domestic abuse before it occurs.

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority level	Timescale	Updates			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Whole system	1. Develop a campaign aimed at supporting reporting of non-physical abuse to ensure people are confident in reporting this type of abuse ¹ .	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (with Lived Experience Subgroup once recruitment agreed)	High (DANA recommendation)	Start: Year one. Campaign live by year 2, and then ongoing.				
	2. Agree key prevention metrics that can be measured across the system and monitored by the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.	April, / Public Health Consultant	Standard	Metrics to be developed in year 2.				
Whole community	3. Develop a handbook for education providers signed up to Operation Encompass to provide details of services available (e.g. education) and wider pathways.	Alastair Harsant (BWSCP Business Manager)	Standard	To be developed in year 2, and piloted across schools in year 3.				

¹ Both the national 'Enough' campaign and Thames Valley 'Know this isn't Love' could be used as a blueprint but the campaign should go beyond identifying abuse and include practical guidance on how to record and report this type of abuse.

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority level	Timescale	Updates			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	4. Conduct scoping on the current delivery of the statutory Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education curriculum including how it is delivered (by existing staff, commissioned providers) and schools confidence in delivery	Health and Wellbeing Coordinator in Schools Paul Graham	Standard	To be completed in year 2.				
	5. Develop communication strategies and resources to engage parents and caregivers in discussions about domestic abuse prevention, providing information on warning signs, available support services, and strategies for fostering healthy family dynamics.	Alastair Harsant (BWSCP Business Manager) with Alix/Rachel Berkshire Women's Aid	Standard	To be completed in year 3.				
	6. Consider funding requirement and provide cultural competency training for frontline workers, service providers, and volunteers involved in domestic abuse prevention and response. This training equips them with the knowledge, skills, and awareness needed to effectively engage with and support individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, avoiding stereotypes and misunderstandings.	Jacqui Mukono - Project Salama / Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	Standard	Scoping in year one. Decisions to be made by Q2 of year 2. Potential training by Q4 year 2.				

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority level	Timescale	Updates			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	7. Create screening protocols for early intervention touchpoints, such as Family Hubs and schools, to systematically assess families for domestic abuse risk factors. These protocols can help identify families in need of intensified support and ensure consistent and thorough assessments.	Alastair Harsant (BWSCP Business Manager) / Steph Coomer (Early Response Hub) with specialist providers	Standard	Start: Q2 year 2 to be completed by Q1 year 3.				

Priority two: Increasing safety for victims.

We will identify domestic abuse as early as possible and increase the safety of those experiencing it who are at risk of harm.

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority	Updates			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Whole system	8. Consider developing a minimum training standard for all services who provide support to victims and survivors of domestic abuse. This should be tiered similar to safeguarding training. ²	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board with specialist providers	High (DANA recommendation)	Start: Q4 year 1. Minimum standard to be agreed and implemented by Q1 Year 3.			
	9. Develop local guidance on domestic abuse risk assessment including if/how specific tools should be used and definitions of risk	Alix/Rachel, Berkshire Womens Aid	Standard	By Q1 year 2.			
	10. Undertake quarterly audits on police reported cases of domestic abuse where a risk assessment has not been undertaken to establish an improvement plan which is monitored through the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	Thames Valley Police Emily Evans	High (DANA recommendation)	To start: Year one, and ongoing after.			
	11. Audit the data that is collected specifically where domestic abuse has been identified by agencies to explore the possibility to agree a minimum data set that all agencies	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	High (DANA recommendation)	To start: Year one, and ongoing after.			

² From level one basic awareness, level two to completing DASH forms and the MARAC process through to level three including as well as safety planning if applicable.

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority	Updates			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	will collect information on when domestic abuse is identified (e.g. all to record whether a DASH has been completed/the risk level) to create a quarterly domestic abuse performance dashboard for the Board.						
	12. Develop a regional Domestic Abuse Partnership Board Chairs group to meet bi-annually to discuss regional issues and matters.	Paul Coe	Standard	By Q1 year 2.			
	13. Start recording the reasons for non-disclosure in DVDS applications and reporting learning to the Domestic Abuse Board to support an improvement in disclosure rates.	Thames Valley Police (Emily Evans)	High (DANA recommendation)	Year one (immediately).			
	14. Agree MARAC governance mechanism for reporting back to the West Berkshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board through the MARAC steering group. This should include a MARAC report as a standing agenda item.	Thames Valley Police (Emily Evans)	Standard	By Q1 year 2.			
	15. Map the referral criteria and thresholds for all domestic abuse service provision that clearly outlines which services would meet the needs of which particular groups (e.g. older people, male victims) and create a domestic abuse service directory that is easily accessible to	April Peberdy with Jade Wilder	High (DANA recommendation)	By Q4 year one.			

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority	Updates			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	the public and professionals. Disseminate the directory electronically (on Council and partner websites) as well as physically through the development of a leaflet.						
	16. Scope appetite and resource for a domestic abuse hub/front door type model which triages referrals to the right service, which is led by domestic abuse services.	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	High (DANA recommendation)	Discussions to begin immediately year one. Finalise scoping by Q2 year 2.			
	17. Map how a West Berkshire bystander intervention could link with broader campaigns such as Ask Angela and conduct a brief scoping exercise of national/other area community and bystander approaches to domestic abuse (such as J9) to develop a West Berkshire approach.	Jade Wilder / Alex O Connor	High (DANA recommendation)	Finalise mapping by Q3 year 2.			
Whole family	18. Conduct regular (at least annual) audits of children's domestic abuse contacts and assessments where domestic abuse is a factor to ensure relevant risk assessments (e.g DASH) and signposting (e.g. MARAC) has happened and explore any gaps in multi-agency working.	Rebecca Wilshire, Service Director	High (DANA recommendation)	To start immediately, then ongoing.			

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority	Updates			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	19. Develop a practice briefing for social workers and children service practitioners highlighting the nuanced challenges and risks associated with child contact in cases involving domestic abuse should be disseminated.	Rebecca Wilshire, Service Director With BWA and PACT	High (DANA recommendation)	By Q4 year one.			
Whole person	20. Develop a leaflet (aligned to the Victims Code standard rights, but tailored around domestic abuse) for all victims and survivors of domestic abuse which outlines the standard they can expect from all officers when they report abuse.	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (with the OPCC)	High (DANA recommendation)	By Q4 year one.			
	21. Revisit scoping the feasibility of the IRIS model to be piloted across GP practices including potential resource implications, or an alternative approach to embed domestic abuse specialism across primary care (e.g. through colocation of existing services).	Louise Pegg, BOB ICB	High (DANA recommendation)	By Q4 year one.			

Priority three: Stopping those causing harm.
We will identify and stop those that cause harm.

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority	Timelines	Updates			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Whole system	22. Scope current risk assessments used to understand perpetrator behaviour across services and agree a standardised approach with guidance	Chantal Foster probation and specialist services	Standard	By Q4 year two.				
	23. Create a service directory of services for people that use harmful behaviour which is accessible to the public and professionals to use	Angelica, Perpetrator practitioner	Standard	By Q2 year two.				
	24. As part of the ongoing data improvement, scope the data and information services collect on perpetrators of domestic abuse (e.g. risk level, relationship to the victim) and how this could be used strategically by the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to develop a coordinated response	Jade Wilder	High (DANA recommendation)	By Q4 of year one.				
Whole person	25. Identify opportunities to develop, and/or commission, community-based perpetrator provision to support people using harmful behaviour at any level of risk to change their behaviour	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	High (DANA recommendation)	By Q4 year one.				

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority	Timelines	Updates			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	26. Monitor and review the implementation of the DRIVE project to understand how it can be best maximised in West Berkshire	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board / Thames Valley Police	Standard	Ongoing.				

Priority four: Empowering survivors to thrive.
We will work to empower survivors to recover, thrive and live free from harm.

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority	Timelines	Updates			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Whole system	27. Create a whole housing subgroup should be set up to report into the Domestic Abuse Board. This should include all social housing providers as well as key professionals from money advice/financial support services.	Gemma Walsh and Nick Caprara	High (DANA recommendation)	By Q4 of year one.				
	28. Scope the potential for a colocation model with specialist domestic abuse services being colocated within the Housing Options team to support them to identify and risk assess homelessness approaches due to domestic abuse.	Gemma Walsh / Nick Caprara with BWA	High (DANA recommendation)	Explore year one, and decision/action to be completed by Q4 year two.				
	29. Audit of homelessness cases where victims have a disability should be undertaken, led jointly by Adult Social Care and the	Gemma Walsh / Lisa Cleveland	High (DANA recommendation)	By Q2 year two.				

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority	Timelines	Updates			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	housing policy team to identify any gaps within the System							
	30. Developing reciprocal management transfer arrangements for victims within the social sector to safely leave their property whilst maintaining a secure tenancy to ensure they are not penalised by the high private rental costs in West Berkshire.	Whole housing sub group	Standard	Sub group to decide (by Q2 year one) and update action plan.				
	31. Develop a mechanism for continuous recruitment to the lived experience subgroup which ensure a diverse group of people with lived experience are engaged and able to help shape the work of the Board	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Jade Wilder with the Live Experience Subgroup	Standard	By Q4 year one.				
	32. Explore how to include people with Lived Experience in the contract monitoring of current services, and commissioning cycle moving forward	April Peberdy	Standard	By Q4 year one.				
	33. Promote the Reducing the Risk Champions Network across the CVS to ensure they are able to sign up and monitor how many CVS champions there are at any time	Reducing the Risk with Jade Wilder	Standard	By Q4 year one.				

Level	Actions	Ownership	Priority	Updates				
				Timelines	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	34. Work with schools and commissioned services to ensure access to support programs specifically designed to address the unique needs of children impacted by domestic abuse.	Melissa Perry / Kathryn Warner	Standard	By Q3 year two.				
Whole person	35. Support the development of partnership collaboration relationships between specialist domestic abuse services with local legal organisations to create a network of legal support options for victims and survivors navigating child contact arrangements through the family court.	Laura Hunt (Flag DV) With Alix (BWA)	High (DANA recommendation)	By Q4 year one.				