

Domestic Abuse Services in Derbyshire County

These consist briefly of the following:

Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Support Line 08000 198 668 - A single point of contact for the whole county providing free and confidential advice and support for those experiencing all forms of domestic abuse, for their friends and families seeking advice and professionals seeking guidance in supporting clients. This line operates 08:00- 18:00 Monday to Friday, Call Derbyshire takes calls out of hours, weekends and bank holidays.

Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Support Services - A consortia of domestic abuse service providers offering a range of locally based services available for women, men and children experiencing domestic abuse including:

- **Accommodation** - a combination of communal refuge spaces and supported dispersed properties available to those fleeing domestic abuse situations.
- **Outreach** – Support offered in the community including on-going needs and risk assessment, safety planning, advocacy and emotional support
- **Self Esteem and Confidence building programmes** – e.g. Freedom Programme or similar.
- **Children’s Workers** – supporting children and young people affected by domestic abuse
- **Counselling/ therapeutic services** – including art therapy, mental health support work etc.

IDVA Service – (Recently re-commissioned, not the focus of this evaluation)

Support for female and male victims identified as at high risk of homicide or serious harm using the DASH Risk assessment. These victims are allocated to a locally based Independent Domestic Violence Advisor who works with these victims to reduce the risk level on a fairly short term basis passing them onto other services when appropriate. The IDVA will work on safety planning engage on their behalf with the MARAC process, oversee the action plan that emerges from the MARAC and liaise with other agencies. The service now has core operating hours 9-5 Monday to Friday and a Duty Service 9am-8am Monday – Friday and 10am-6pm Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays

Grant Funding and Elements not commissioned

- **Voluntary Perpetrator Programme** – The Abusive Behavioural Change (**ABC**) project is a twenty six week programme, delivered by consortium members around the County (and also takes referrals from Staffordshire, Derby City and Leicester) for which the Consortium acquired grant funding. Group sessions are available for male partners of female victims of domestic abuse who wish to address their behaviour. One to one sessions are available for female perpetrators and those in same sex relationships. This is only available to

perpetrators for whom there is no police case ongoing and includes ongoing risk assessment and support for the victim at the same time.

- **VAWG Grant Funding (ends March 2020)** – Granted to Derbyshire County Council as the lead organisation in partnership with the Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Support Services Consortium and Intuitive Thinking Skills. The consortium deliver Women and Girls Safe **(WAGS)** group work, one to one work and whole school events for young women in abusive, exploitative, unhealthy relationships (or at risk of being so) to develop their awareness, self-confidence and resilience trying to prevent future involvement in this sort of relationship, they also deliver **We Can Change** group work and whole school events for young people displaying abusive behaviour. **Intuitive Thinking Skills** are delivering a pilot of a short perpetrator course with support for victims which aims to change behaviour and thought processes.
- **MHCLG Funding (ends March 2020)** – Granted to Derbyshire County Council as lead organisation in partnership with the consortium, the support line the OPCC and other organisations. This grant funds two triage workers based in the Victim and Witness Support Unit of the police who will attempt to engage individuals who have not given permission for referral into services when the police attend an incident, this is to elicit early engagement with services and reduce repeat incidents and escalation to crime. The consortium members and support line have received funding to increase capacity for anticipated growth in referrals. In addition there is funding for development work with marginalised communities and additional support for clients with complex needs in refuge.

Additional County based services

The Commissioned Services all raise money independently of Derbyshire County Council and deliver a variety of domestic abuse support activities with this funding. Also there are organisations in the County delivering domestic abuse support which are independent of the commissioned services (some of them have been included in grant funding bids by the County Council). These include:

- **North Bolsover IDVA** funded by Bolsover District Council and taking MARAC referrals for this local area.
- **Escape at Salcare** based in the Amber Valley area providing support for victims of domestic abuse including IDVA support, Freedom Programme, and McKenzie Friend Project providing support for victims in family courts.
- **Good News Family Care** has a residential recovery centre based in the High Peak which includes refuge accommodation for women and their families affected by domestic abuse.