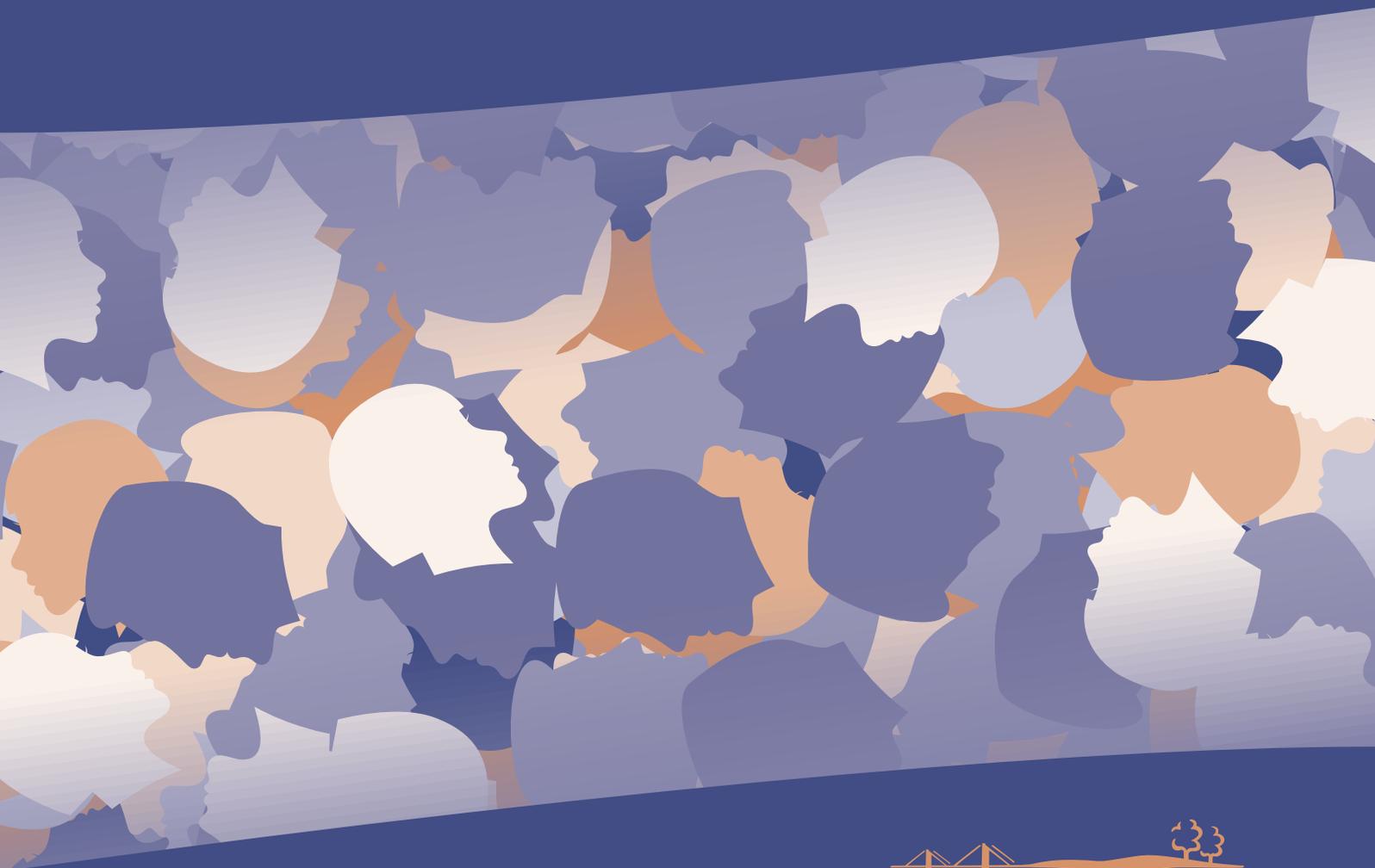


South Gloucestershire Council

Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy

2019 - 2021



INTRODUCTION

This Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy is designed to set out the aims and priorities to enable partners and communities across South Gloucestershire to tackle domestic violence and abuse. Given the high degree of overlap with other council, health, and police services, DVA should be managed using a “whole system” approach which will reduce duplication and ensure co-operation between agencies. Existing mechanisms and arrangements for partnership working are strong and these can be further built upon to improve service provision.

This strategy has been developed, and its delivery will be overseen, by the South Gloucestershire Partnership Against Domestic Abuse (SGPADA). SGPADA has a lead role in developing and implementing a multi-agency delivery plan for tackling the issues linked to domestic violence and abuse in South Gloucestershire.

Information related to delivering particular actions, initiatives and programmes will be held in ‘strategy in action/delivery’ document(s), which will be developed and delivered by PADA in partnership with South Gloucestershire Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership, the local Safeguarding Children Board and the local Safeguarding Adults Board.

This strategy has been informed by the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) chapter on Domestic Violence and Abuse, which contains detailed information on the current picture and risk groups (as of May 2017). For complete information see: <http://edocs.southglos.gov.uk/jsna2017/pages/wider-determinants/domestic-abuse/>

Community and IDVA Outreach

IZZY HAS BEEN A LIFE SAVER AND HAD BEEN REALLY HELPFUL WITH A CASE SHE WAS SUPPORTING.

THIS STRATEGY AIMS TO ILLUSTRATE:

- Shared oversight of strategic priorities for DVA by all the Boards / Partnerships – with a focus on prevention and early identification of risk and intervention with well-coordinated and consistent intervention.
- Agreed mechanism for deciding overarching outcomes and monitoring of their achievement and system effectiveness.
- Provision across the council and other agencies for the raising awareness of and training of staff on DVA.
- Shared overview of joint commissioning of DVA interventions and services.
- Ensuring that equalities issues are fully and jointly considered, including addressing the needs of and impact on vulnerable adults and children.

DEFINITION

The definitions of DVA are the same as those adopted by the UK government (2013) and those used operationally in South Gloucestershire by agencies involved with SGPADA, though the latter's definition also includes so-called honour-based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

DVA: any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, or threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse between those aged 16 years or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological; physical; sexual; financial; emotional.

Controlling behaviour: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance, and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour: an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation, and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

Financial Abuse: Financial abuse can be limiting access to money or other resources, or by forcing all financial responsibility onto their victim while limiting their ability to provide this. Financial abuse is often part of a wider pattern of abuse. Financial abuse in the home – whether or not it's accompanied by aggression or physical violence – can leave people feeling isolated, lacking in confidence and trapped. This can also include coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions.

In South Gloucestershire we recognise that domestic violence and abuse impacts across the life course, including on children who witness or experience domestic violence in the home. We therefore commit to supporting people regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

Safe House Service

“ SINCE BEING IN SAFE HOUSE HER HEADACHES HAVE STOPPED AND SHE IS **FEELING REALLY HAPPY, POSITIVE AND EMPOWERED.** SHE IS REALLY HAPPY WITH THE SUPPORT SHE IS GETTING AND IS **EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE AND GETTING BACK INTO WORK.** ”

AMBITION & PRINCIPLES

In South Gloucestershire, we believe that domestic abuse is a fundamental infringement of an individual's basic human rights and must never be tolerated. Also, that it is our collective responsibility to challenge and appropriately respond to domestic abuse inclusively for the communities we serve.

This strategy will support SGPADA's aims to achieve: an increased 'zero tolerance' attitude to violence or abuse in any form; the implementation of robust initiatives and policies that work to prevent, protect and provide for all individuals and families affected by domestic abuse; and a collaborative effort that acknowledges the intrinsic links with safeguarding children and adults. All of which will ensure an appropriate multi-agency response to domestic abuse that will enable those affected to change their lives so that they may no longer live in fear.

THE PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING THIS STRATEGY ARE:

- The importance of the voice of those who have experienced DVA and ensuring that the lived experience is understood and reflected in commissioning and service delivery.
- Partnership Working.
- Action based on local need.
- Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference, case reviews and best practice.
- Being open and honest about what is, and isn't, working well.
- A prevention stream that is delivered in schools and community settings
- Communicating clear messages to the wider community through social media and other means.

THE LOCAL PICTURE

The DVA JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) chapter was updated in May 2017.

In South Gloucestershire, data published by Public Health England (PHE) for the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) suggest the prevalence of domestic violence and abuse is 18.5 per 1,000 population in 2015/16

STATISTICS ON THE LEVELS OF ESTIMATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE WITHIN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

21,000 WOMEN AGED 16-59 HAVE EXPERIENCED DVA AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIVES.

6,000 Have experienced violence or abuse in the past 12 months and 800 of these will be young women aged 16-19.

10,300 MEN AGED 15-59 HAVE EXPERIENCED DVA AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIVES.

Over 3000 men in this age range have experienced DVA in the past 12 months.

FROM OUR OPS WE FOUND...

OPS: Online Pupil Survey

20% OF YEAR 8, 10 AND 12 PUPILS REPORT TO HAVE WITNESSED OR EXPERIENCED DVA IN THE PAST

15% REPORTED THAT THE ABUSE WAS STILL HAPPENING

6% STATED THAT THIS WAS EITHER QUITE OFTEN OR ON MOST DAYS

CHILDREN (UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE)

It is estimated that at least **5,000 children** have been exposed to domestic violence

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Using the CSEW data we estimate that for the University of the West of England with 27,000 students (12,000 male and 15,000 female): **1,300 female students** and over **700 male students** at UWE have experienced DVA over the past year.

OLDER PEOPLE - Using the UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People we estimate: around 1,300 older adults aged 66 and over have experienced DVA in the past year.

LGBTQ+ USING THE HM TREASURY DATA FOR SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS AND THE CSEW DATA WE ESTIMATE:

1,300 to 1,500 gay or bisexual men and 1,500 to 2,000 lesbian, gay, or bisexual women aged 16-59 will have ever experienced DVA. From this, **370 to 760 gay or bisexual men and 500 to 670 lesbian, gay, or bisexual women aged 16-59 will have experienced DVA in the past year**

CSEW: Crime Survey for England and Wales

DISABLED PEOPLE - using the CSEW data we estimate: nearly 2,000 women with disability and 1,000 men with disability are likely to have been exposed to DVA over the past year.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Sexual Violence and Abuse (SVA) is any form of sexual activity (involving physical contact, words or photographs) that takes place without the other person's full and informed consent. This includes rape, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, prostitution, female genital mutilation, sexual harassment, sexual bullying, unwanted sexual attention and sexual abuse within partnerships. Many people who have experienced sexual violence recently or in the past also have experienced domestic violence. The providers of SVA support services in South Gloucestershire are included in Appendix 1.

A Relationships and Sexual Health Strategy for South Gloucestershire is being developed. This strategy will include plans to work more effectively in partnership to tackle Harmful Sexual Behaviours, Sexual Exploitation, Violence and Abuse. It will ensure that there are links to the Safeguarding Boards and other relevant agencies working in South Gloucestershire.

The South Gloucestershire Safer Stronger Communities Plan identifies where work can be better coordinated to support work to prevent violence and abuse.

The action plans for this DVA Strategy and the emerging Relationships and Sexual Health Strategy, and the work of the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership will be coordinated to help prevent SVA and to ensure that those who experience SVA can access the right support at the right time.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A range of partnerships have responsibility for ensuring the delivery of actions linked to this Strategy.

The South Gloucestershire Partnership Against Domestic Abuse (SGPADA) advocates a collaborative and consultative approach to the strategic and operational response to domestic abuse. The SGPADA has a lead role in developing and implementing a multi-agency delivery plan for tackling the aforementioned issues in South Gloucestershire. The SGPADA ensures strategic representation from key agencies across sectors and also that all key themes linked to this agenda are represented.

The South Gloucestershire Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership (SG SSCP) is made up of organisations who work together and with communities to tackle crime and disorder and improve community safety for local residents. It fulfils the statutory function of the Community Safety Partnership and membership includes the police and police and crime commissioner, local authority, fire service and fire authority and clinical commissioning group as well as voluntary sector agencies.

Freedom Programme

“ I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M GOING TO HANDLE 3 WEEKS WITHOUT THE FREEDOM PROGRAMME. I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO LEARNING ABOUT THE PERSUADER TODAY, BUT I CAN'T MAKE IT DUE TO A DENTAL APPOINTMENT. **PLEASE LET THE OTHER WOMEN KNOW THAT I WILL MISS THEM AND THEY HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE, AND SO HAVE MY FREEDOM WORKERS** ZOE AND RACHEL. ”

The South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (SGSCB) is the statutory multi-agency body established by South Gloucestershire Council in accordance with the Children Act 2004 and the statutory guidance set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

The South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (SGSAB) has a the duty to support adults with care and support needs as set down in the Care Act 2014.

The MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) is a regular local meeting to discuss how to help those at high risk of murder or serious harm. A domestic abuse specialist (IDVA), police, children's social services, health and other relevant agencies all sit around the same table. At the heart of the MARAC process is the understanding that no single agency or individual can see the complete picture of the life of someone who has experienced DVA, but all may have insights that are crucial to their safety and that of their children.

A Joint Commissioning Group (JCG) was established in February 2016, their responsibility is to oversee the procurement of combined service for those who have experienced DVA. The JCG have pooled funding to achieve a greater economy of scale. Establishing a JCG is recognised nationally as best practice and is recommended in the Home Office Violence and Against Women and Children Strategy 2016 to 2020.

The JCG are responsible for the commissioning of domestic abuse services for South Gloucestershire residents, on behalf of the council and partnership organisations within available budgets. The JCG are responsible for the managing and Governance of the pooled budgets on behalf of the JCG Partners. They are responsible for approving the budgets and commissioning priorities for DVA services.

Safe House Service

“ TO DAWN AND TEAM NEXT LINK, **THANKS A LOT FOR BEING SO GREAT. I REALLY AM SO GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU’VE DONE** WITH REGARDS TO THE MEETING AND BEING THE ONLY PERSON THAT IS THERE FOR BOTH ME AND MY SON. ”

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:

- South Gloucestershire Council – Environment and Community Services
- South Gloucestershire Council – Public Health
- South Gloucestershire Council – Children, Adults and Health
- Bristol City Council - Public Health
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

CURRENT SERVICE PROVISION - FOR FULL DETAIL SEE APPENDIX 1

Support services are provided for women, men and children in South Gloucestershire who have experienced, or who are experiencing, DVA. This includes telephone help and advice, community outreach services and group programmes as well as safe accommodation. A needs led support services are also provided, that are accessible to all who have experienced DVA, improving health and wellbeing, reducing crime and disorder and providing a central point of access for those have experienced DVA and professionals.

Other services and programmes available in South Gloucestershire include specialist and person-centred support to children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse and to adults at risk of abuse. There is also training and support for secondary schools and full-time equivalent staff to educate and support pupils about healthy relationships, and to support pupils affected by unhealthy relationships and domestic violence. This includes access to specialist training on abuse in relationships, consent and emotional wellbeing and resilience.

ACHIEVING OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Community and IDVA Outreach

“ I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT LOU, IT'S SO NICE TALKING TO SOMEONE THAT UNDERSTANDS. ”

PREVENTING

We will work to prevent domestic violence and abuse by taking a whole population approach to raising awareness about DVA and embedding approaches to building positive relationships across all ages.

WE WILL:

- Work with nurseries and children's centres, schools, youth clubs and other services for children and young people to promote healthy relationships.
- Work with partners, communities and VCS organisations to develop local approaches to tackle inequalities in relationships, in particular in communities where domestic violence and abuse may be more prevalent.
- Ensure that parenting programmes and support for families include DVA awareness.
- Support families to reduce the factors that may become a trigger for DVA, such as drugs and alcohol, unemployment, debt and housing.
- Increase awareness of financial abuse in adult and family services and amongst the general public.
- Offer training for professionals (for example Health Visitors, School Health Nurses, Adult Care Providers) in the promotion of healthy relationships.

IDENTIFYING & SUPPORTING THOSE AT RISK

The widespread nature of domestic violence and abuse calls for approaches that aim to protect the most at risk and change attitudes, values and behaviour at the level of the individual, the family, the community and professional. We will work to identify individuals and communities who may be at risk of DVA, in order to provide early information and support in the right format, at the right time and from the right professional/agency.

WHO IS AT RISK?

It is generally accepted that the vast majority of domestic violence perpetrators are male and their victims are female. DVA in same-sex relationships and by female perpetrators against males does occur, however reported DVA where the perpetrator is female is believed to be less common, less likely to be severe, and less likely to be repetitive.

Children: Children of any age are affected by domestic violence and abuse. At no age will they be unaffected by what is happening, even when they are in the womb. The impact on children witnessing DVA is significant and can continue throughout their life, however often overlooked. Children witnessing/experiencing DVA are at increased risk of emotional harm and childhood attachment and behavioural problems in addition to an increased lifetime risk of offending, substance misuse, and entering into violent or abusive relationships themselves. In relationships where there is domestic violence and abuse, children witness about three-quarters of the abusive incidents, and about half the children in such families have themselves been badly hit or beaten.

Teens and Young adults: DVA amongst older teenagers (those aged 16-18) is becoming increasingly recognised. Such abuse can occur in the context of intimate partner relationships (often referred to as “teen dating violence”) and between adolescent and parent.

Ethnic minorities: There is no evidence to suggest that anyone from a particular ethnic or cultural community is more at risk of DVA than others. However, people from Black, Asian or other minority Ethnic communities may face additional barriers to disclosing DVA and accessing help and support.

LGBTQ+: Research by the charity Stonewall suggests that one in four lesbian and bi women have experienced domestic abuse in a relationship. And almost half (49%) of all gay and bi men have experienced at least one incident of domestic abuse from a family member or partner since the age of 16. There are no reliable estimates of the transgender population in the UK and therefore no data from which to extrapolate the size of this population in South Gloucestershire.

People aged 61+: Older people experiencing DVA are more likely to experience abuse from an intimate partner or adult family member than those ages 60 or under, wait twice as long to ask for help and are more likely to be living with the perpetrator after seeking help. Older people who have experienced DVA are also more likely to have a disability or care need. However, older clients are generally underrepresented among domestic abuse services.

Elder abuse: this type of DVA defined as ‘A single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person’. For the purposes of this strategy, the abuser is not a stranger. This can include family abuse, which can complicate the ability of an older person to accept or confront what is happening to them.

Disabled People: CSEW estimates that the one-year prevalence of DVA amongst women and men with a long-standing illness or disability is at least twice as high as for the general population. Those with disability related to mental illness are at even greater risk – the odds of experiencing DVA is three times greater than it is for those without mental health-related disability.

INFORMATION AND DATA... WE WILL:

- Use local data and feedback from communities and organisations to identify communities who may be more at risk of domestic violence and abuse, and provide appropriate support and information.
- Ensure all information and policies are up to date, and that the information is shared with the appropriate agencies and practitioners.
- Develop a shared information system to enable agencies to work together to identify and support those at risk, and ensure where possible they only have to tell their story once. We will provide a joined up service around the affected individual.
- Ensure an understanding of the risk and indicators of domestic abuse is included in The SGC safeguarding offer to providers of services to adults at risk.

Safe House Service

TO AIMEE, **THANK YOU FOR SAVING MINE AND MY SON'S LIFE.**

TRAINING AND AWARENESS... WE WILL:

- Ensure that all staff and agencies who work with older people are aware of 'elder abuse' and can identify and support those at risk.
- Work with Trading Standards, DWP and other agencies to provide training and information on financial abuse and how to identify and support those at risk.
- Ensure that other work to support families and at risk individuals (including on ACEs and by e.g. Breakthrough, Early Help and Troubled Families) is able to identify and support those at risk of DVA. This includes understanding and recognising that previous and current life experiences may impact on risk of DVA.
- Ensure that the online training on DVA is available to all South Gloucestershire Council frontline staff and partner agencies.
- Provide information and training to schools and other agencies to make them aware of the impact on DVA on children and how to identify and support those at risk.
- Ensure that the DVA toolkit is available to and accessed by all practitioners working with children, young people and adults at risk.
- Work with partners to better understand the risks and identification of financial abuse.
- Work with schools, early year's services and other family services to help them identify where children may be worried about DVA, to understand the impacts on the child and to provide appropriate and timely support.
- Provide information about how to raise concerns with SGC, who has a statutory duty to make safeguarding enquiries in relation to adults at risk of abuse.

COMMISSIONING... WE WILL:

- Work with commissioned services to ensure that they are able to identify and provide appropriate support for those most at risk.

PROTECTING

We will work together to protect those who have experienced DVA, work to reduce repeat victimisation, safeguard adults and children at risk and work to reduce the reoffending of perpetrators.

Some people who experience DVA may be unable to acknowledge that they are in an abusive relationship, and others face significant barriers to seeking help. These barriers can be emotional, such as guilt, fear and self-blame. There can often be financial or physical barriers (such as housing issues) which may prevent those experiencing DVA from removing themselves from the situation, or ending the relationship.

SUPPORT... WE WILL:

- Work with services to enable them to work with those experiencing DVA and their children, taking into account their voice, wishes and feelings whilst considering safety issues.
- Work across communities to provide trusted support so those who have experienced DVA are comfortable and confident to come forward.
- Recognise that each person and their situation is different, and therefore a range of support options should be available to suit their needs.
- Ensure that information is easily accessible and available to those in need, with a clear point of access.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS... WE WILL:

- Ensure that all front line staff and relevant professionals are trained to recognise and support those who have experienced DVA in an appropriate and timely manner.
- Work with colleagues in South Gloucestershire Council and partners including BNSSG CCG so that relevant plans and policies make specific reference to recognising and supporting those who are experiencing or have experienced DVA.
- Work with partners to better understand financial abuse, who is at risk and what can be done to support them.
- Work with schools, early year's services and other family services to help them identify where children may be witnessing DVA, to understand the impacts on the child and to provide appropriate and timely support.
- Provide training and information to help the wider workforce to understand that previous life experiences (including Adverse Childhood Experiences) may impact on person's current situation.

COMMISSIONING... WE WILL:

- Support commissioned services to meet the needs of those who have experienced DVA and their children/dependents, including housing, employment and financial support.
- Work together to develop/deliver programmes to support those who have experienced financial abuse.
- Recognise the needs of those most vulnerable and who continue to be most at risk.
- Recognise access requirements and issues, particularly for those in rural areas or with other needs, eg. literacy.

PERPETRATORS

When one relationship ends most perpetrators have other relationships creating new adult and child victims. A common request from survivors is for someone to work with their partner, to help them change and keep them safe from further abuse.

Perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse must be challenged and brought to justice. Domestic Violence and Abuse Prevention Programmes are well placed to help perpetrators recognise that their actions have an impact on their home life. We believe that a proactive approach should be adopted when targeting perpetrators and the use of appropriate tools and powers to target those who are not willing to change their behaviour, helping to protect the most at risk. We will also learn from perpetrator programmes, in particular about the perpetrator's journey of change.

We should target perpetrators and acknowledge that the responsibility for change should not lie with the victim.

REPORTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The South Gloucestershire PADA is the responsible body for performance managing and reporting on Strategy and action plan. Successful delivery of the Strategy and action plan will require a clear understanding of what each agency can deliver in terms of structure, resources and roles.

The action plan that supports this Strategy contains specific indicators and performance measures, and will be reported to PADA on a twice yearly basis. Update reports will also be shared with the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership, Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board. In addition, the Safeguarding Boards will share the reports of at least one multi-agency audit of DVA cases with PADA each year. Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care will also share the results of any audits or serious case reviews where DVA is a main element.

This strategy will be reviewed in two years' time to determine impact, what worked well and where additional work is needed.

An operational networking and feedback meeting will be held twice a year to provide an opportunity for commissioners, providers and service users to share ideas and best practice and work together to tackle any challenges.

CONSULTATION AND FEEDBACK

This Strategy was publicly consulted between July and September 2018 and received positive feedback. We have made additions based on consultee input, such as including an explanation of the link between domestic violence and sexual abuse and increased reference to access.

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF PROVISION

Service	Summary of Provision in South Gloucestershire	Agency responsible for delivery and client support
<p>SUPPORT FOR CYP</p>	<p>Back on Track is for young people aged 7 to 17 who have experienced domestic abuse. Young People will be able to explore their experiences of abuse through safe, confidential and interactive sessions and gain tools that will help them to move on and to feel more confident and less isolated. A programme will be provided through 8 to 10 sessions (this may also be a 3 day programme) of closed group work with expert facilitators. An approach must be used that is child and young people centred with parental engagement and support.</p> <p>The purpose of the Outreach Work is to give children and young people a safe space where they can begin to explore and articulate their experiences of domestic abuse and gain tools and strategies that will support them to move on positively with their lives. Outreach Workers will work with the child, young person and main carer (as appropriate) to devise a support plan, based on individual needs. For some this maybe understanding and processing the abuse they have experienced through therapeutic activities; for others it may be developing their knowledge and skills base so they can identify unhealthy relationships for themselves in the future and thus halt the cycle of violence. Support will be offered over an agreed period of time, in a safe and supportive environment.</p>	<p>Julian House</p>
<p>REFUGE</p>	<p>Safe Accommodation – 16 units of accommodation across 5 sites in South Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Achieving the following primary outcomes of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Providing a needs led service that is accessible to all victims. 2 Improving health and well being. 3 Reducing crime and disorder. 4 Safe Accommodation – A person centred approach to dealing with victims in crisis that need emergency support/accommodation. 	<p>Next Link</p>

Service	Summary of Provision in South Gloucestershire	Agency responsible for delivery and client support
IDVA AND OUTREACH SERVICE	<p>Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Specialist Outreach Service that will support victims assessed as high, medium and standard risk victims of domestic violence and abuse.</p> <p>SUPPORT PROVIDED INCLUDES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Planning. • Support with Civil justice and criminal justice options. • Support with housing needs and access to emergency accommodation. • Support with young people who are victims and children of victims. • Support to access mental health and primary care services. • Support access Substance Misuse Services and Sexual Health Services. • Support for LGBT, BM&E and Gypsy Traveller communities. • Support to access employment assistance, benefits advice and debt management. 	<p>Next Link</p>
IDSVA SERVICE SOUTHMEAD	<p>The Service Provider provides Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advisors (IDSVA) within Southmead Hospital in both Accident and Emergency Department and a pilot within Southmead's Maternity unit. The service supports both South Gloucestershire residents and Bristol City residents (jointly funded by Bristol Public Health).</p> <p>This service gives people experiencing domestic violence and abuse who present from within the hospital setting the opportunity to talk with specially trained staff, who can offer immediate confidential support, at the point of crisis after disclosure to the Emergency Department (ED) staff or maternity unit staff.</p>	<p>Next Link</p>
IRIS SERVICE	<p>This service provides training, support and advocacy in all GP practices in South Gloucestershire. The service enables help to be offered to service users and their children at an early stage before the abuse becomes a serious risk to mental and physical health.</p>	<p>Next Link</p>

Service	Summary of Provision in South Gloucestershire	Agency responsible for delivery and client support
<p>IDVA CO-LOCATED IN MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH) AND ACCESS AND RESPONSE TEAM (ART)</p>	<p>The aim of this pilot is to embed an IDVA with previous experience of working with children and young people within ART and MASH with a view to having a positive impact on, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-referral rate in relation to more appropriately identifying need and response at an earlier point, thus reducing a potential re-referral cycle. • Consistent and timely threshold decision making in regards to contacts/referrals where DVA is a feature. • Facilitate a multi-agency perspective to decision making in DA cases. • Improve knowledge of DVA across all practitioners within ART, especially in relation to robust signposting for cases not meeting social care thresholds. • Provide a knowledge base for direct work and safety planning with children. • Raise the profile and awareness of DVA across all internal and external stakeholders. 	<p>Next Link</p>
<p>Family, Survivor and Peer Support</p>	<p>FREEDOM PROGRAMME</p> <p>Freedom programme is a 12-week rolling programme open to any woman who wishes to learn more about the reality of domestic abuse. Contact Next Link for details of where programmes are running in South Gloucestershire. The programme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help women understand the beliefs held by abusive men and in so doing recognise which of these beliefs they have shared. • Illustrate the effects of domestic abuse on children. • Assist women to recognise potential future abusers. • Help women gain self-esteem and develop their confidence to improve the quality of their lives. • introduce women to local domestic abuse services that can help them. <p>The provider is exploring other evidence based interventions for victims whom the freedom programme is not suitable.</p>	<p>Next Link</p>

