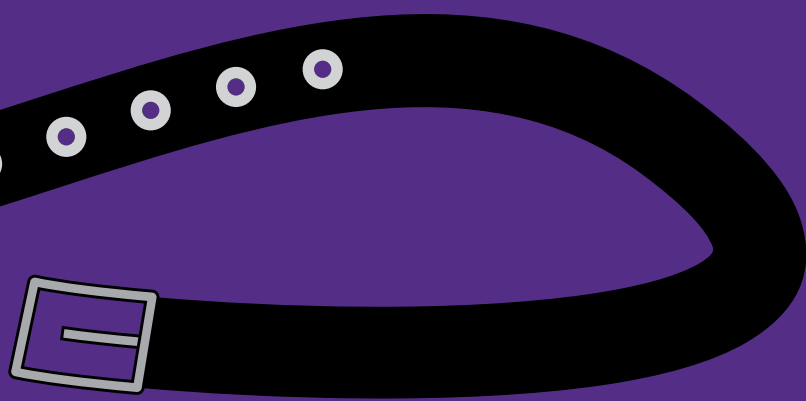


Domestic Violence Strategy 2008 to 2011





‘domestic violence: any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality’

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Foreword

Domestic violence has historically been seen as a private issue, and it is this assumption that has both enabled those who abuse to remain unchallenged, and those who are victimised to remain isolated.

We recognise that domestic violence has far reaching consequences for victims, their children, and the wider community. This is why this Strategy commits all of the key agencies in Barking and Dagenham to action to address issues around both victims and perpetrators.

It is the first domestic violence strategy covering the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. It will last for three years, and sets out a vision for effectively addressing the issue of domestic violence, with detailed the steps that will be taken to achieve that vision.

The specialist services to respond to domestic violence in the borough are strong and continue to develop. Their work is critical to the improvement of victims' lives and safety, but of no less importance is the work of mainstream agencies such as the Council, Police, health services and the Courts. All of us, plus many others, are signed up to this Strategy for the improvement of services to those living with domestic violence.

At its most overarching, the Partnership is striving for a safer, healthier and more economically secure borough. Domestic violence is a major barrier to those aims and to many other aspects of the lives of members of our community. By the end of this Strategy's life, the borough will be a safer place for victims, and the many forms which domestic violence can take will be more robustly challenged.

Anne Bristow

Chair, Safer Borough Board

Councillor Valerie Rush

Lead Member, Safer Neighbourhoods and Communities

Dave Reed

Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police

James Donovan

Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade

Carina Heckroodt

Assistant Chief Officer, London Probation

Stephen Langford

Chief Executive, Primary Care Trust

Judy Wilson

Chief Executive, North East London NHS Foundation Trust

John Goulston

Chief Executive, Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust

Jo Clarke

Chair, Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Forum

Domestic Violence – The Facts

- It has been estimated that 25% of all murders in London result from domestic violence.
- One in four women will experience domestic violence at some point in their adult lives¹.
- Every minute in the UK, the police receive a call from the public for assistance for domestic violence². However according to the latest British Crime Survey, only 13% of all domestic violence crime in the last year was reported to the Police.
- Amongst a group of pregnant women attending primary care in East London, 15% reported violence during their pregnancy; just fewer than 40% reported that violence started whilst they were pregnant; 30% of those who reported domestic violence during pregnancy also reported they had at sometime suffered a miscarriage as a result³.
- 40% of all homeless women stated domestic violence as a contributory factor to their homelessness⁴.
- Nearly three quarters of children with child protection plans live in households where domestic violence occurs⁵.
- In 2005/06 Barking and Dagenham received the highest reported domestic violence incidents per 1,000 population than any other London Borough⁶.

Terminology

To reflect the overwhelming majority of cases and for ease of reading, this strategy refers to victims/survivors of domestic violence as female and perpetrators as male. However, this is not meant to imply that domestic violence does not occur in same-sex relationships or perpetrated by women to men. All statutory services provide their services on an equal basis to both men and women. Thus most work undertaken benefits both genders and all sexualities.

Indicative costs of domestic violence to the borough of Barking and Dagenham⁷

The following estimates are based on The Cost of Domestic Violence by Professor Sylvia Walby (2004). Outlining how these figures were calculated, the report states:

“The methodology is based on the Home Office framework for costing crime (Home Office Research Study 217, Brand and Price, 2000), and develops this so as to include the specific costs related to domestic violence (derived from a review of the international literature). Information on the extent of domestic violence is taken from various sources, including the 2001 Home Office British Crime Survey self-completion module on Inter-Personal Violence (BCS IPV) (Walby and Allen 2004). This includes not only physical domestic violence, but also rape, sexual assault and stalking by intimates. Information on the costs (e.g. services) is derived from the Home Office study, the BCS IPV, or identified from reports by services on their own expenditure, or from other recent research.

Information on the actual level of service use is gathered from reports by service providers and the BCS IPV.” (Walby, 2004, p10)

The total cost of domestic violence in England and Wales from this study has been apportioned to the borough solely according to its share of the England and Wales all ages population from the 2005 mid-year estimates.

The costs have been up-rated to 2007-08 prices, using the HM Treasury GDP deflators (28 September 2006 Report). These figures are based on national averages. They take no account of the impact of London’s higher costs, in particular, the higher rate of expenditure on temporary accommodation. They do not include any costs for education services.

	£ million
Criminal justice	3.66
Health care – physical	4.39
Mental health	0.63
Social services	0.82
Housing and refuges	0.57
Civil legal costs	1.12
All services costs (sub-total)	11.19
Employment	9.62
Human	61.54
Total cost	82.35

Executive Summary

Agencies working in Barking and Dagenham have a clear commitment to making the borough a safer place for its residents to live. This is identified in our new Local Area Agreement 2008/11, where domestic violence is identified by all responsible authorities as a key priority.

Between April 2007 and March 2008, Barking and Dagenham Police received 3,733 reported domestic violence incidents. It is estimated that domestic violence costs agencies and those living in Barking and Dagenham 82.35 million pounds per year⁸. In order to reduce these costs, human being the highest, we need to deal with domestic violence more effectively, by providing victims of domestic violence with an appropriate and coordinated service at the earliest possible stage.

The overall aim of this strategy is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence, and to prevent domestic violence related homicides in Barking and Dagenham. In order to achieve this, our priority key themes are:

1. Increasing safe choices for victims and their children experiencing domestic violence.
2. Holding perpetrators accountable for their abusive behaviour.
3. Raising awareness of domestic violence in the borough through public education – ensuring domestic violence is not tolerated, and assist to increase reporting.
4. Educating children and young people as to the impact and effects of domestic violence.
5. Ensuring domestic violence is a high priority among practitioners, through effective leadership and an effective allocation of resources and improved efficiency.
6. Providing survivors with the necessary after care so that they can successfully rebuild their lives.

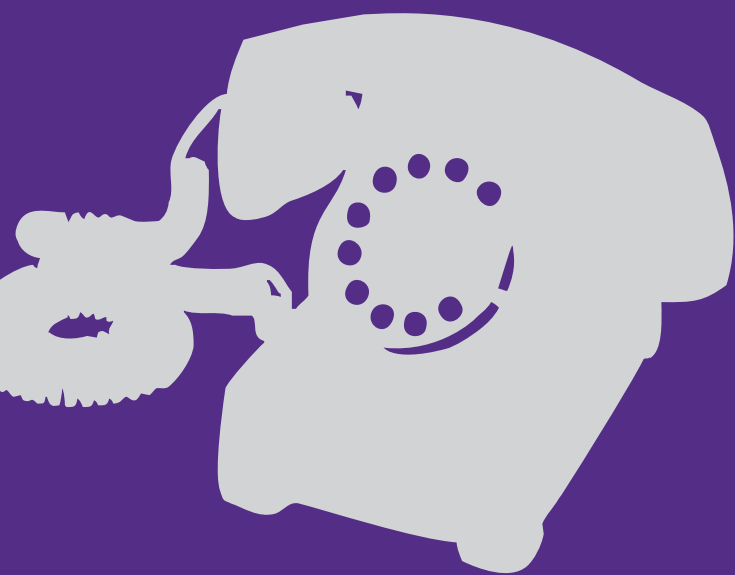
Why these six themes?

These six themes recognise that the responses to domestic violence need to be broad based and multi-layered. We need to develop a range of interventions that address all aspects of the problem. They are, of course, preventative as well as protective. We acknowledge that we need to work with victims, children, perpetrators, professionals and the community at large.

An action plan has been developed based on these themes. It identifies key ways agencies can work to achieve them, together with identifying lines of responsibility.

This strategy has been developed with members of the Safer Borough Board together with the Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Forum.

Implementation of this strategy will undoubtedly pose significant challenges to existing agency ways of working. However, the implementation of this strategy is essential if our overall aim of reducing domestic violence in Barking and Dagenham is to be achieved.



Every minute in the UK, the police receive a call from the public for assistance for domestic violence². However according to the latest British Crime Survey, only 13% of all domestic violence crime in the last year was reported to the Police.

Section One – Introduction

The definition

For coherence and consistency across the domestic violence sector, all agencies in Barking and Dagenham adopt the Home Office (2004) definition of domestic violence, which is: 'Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence and abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality'.

As referred to in the definition, abuse can take place between mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, and grandparents, whether directly related, in laws or step family⁹. A particular manifestation is so-called 'honour'-based violence. While this term identifies a particular phenomenon, it should not be forgotten that what it describes is the motivation behind the violence and that, whatever the background or excuse, the result is still domestic violence.

Domestic violence can affect people of all ages. However, the needs of older victims are often overlooked. In part this is due to service providers struggling over the distinction between 'domestic violence' and 'elder abuse'. In Barking and Dagenham we recognise that in order to provide an effective response to older victims we must ensure that our adult protection services work in partnership with our domestic violence services. Similarly, services must also

work to increase awareness and appropriate responses to younger victims of domestic violence, particularly adolescents who are experiencing abuse in their intimate partner relationships.

Victims and perpetrators – understanding the issue

Although domestic violence cut across social boundaries, factors such as substance misuse, disability, being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) or from a Black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee (BAMER) community may exacerbate the problem, by potentially adding additional barriers for victims. The Day to Count census research on 28 September 2000 found that 81% of reported domestic violence cases were of female victims attacked by male perpetrators; 8% were male victims attacked by female perpetrators; 4% were female victims attacked by female perpetrators and 7% were male victims attacked by male perpetrators¹⁰.

Although domestic violence cut across social boundaries, factors such as substance misuse, disability, being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) or from a Black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee (BAMER) community may exacerbate the problem, by potentially adding additional barriers for victims. For example a gay man may be experiencing domestic violence from his partner, but if he reports the crime, this may mean he

will need to 'come out', with which he may feel uncomfortable. Similarly, an individual from a BAMER community may fear rejection from his or her community if he/she approaches certain statutory organisations. These types of additional stigmas undoubtedly affect reporting levels of domestic violence.

Violence against women is rarely a one off incident: the British Crime Survey 2004 suggests that 72% of female victims of non-sexual domestic violence and half the victims of sexual assault had experienced more than one incident in a year¹¹. The mean average of incidents for female victims is twenty incidents¹². Domestic violence is a pattern of abuse and control over another and it will usually increase in severity over time. The violence female victims experience is also more likely to have a sustained psychological/emotional impact or result in injury or death. An example of this gender inequality is that women are at the greatest risk of heightened violence and death at the point of separation and after, whereas, if a heterosexual male victim leaves a violent relationship the violence is likely to stop.

Guiding principles of this strategy

Barking and Dagenham's Domestic Violence Strategy is based upon the following principles:

- Domestic violence is unacceptable in all communities.
- Effective intervention means the provision of appropriate service responses, at every point of contact, to empower victims to make informed decisions and choices about their lives.
- Wherever possible, perpetrators of domestic violence should be held responsible for their abusive behaviour and be held to account by the application of civil and criminal remedies.
- Domestic violence services should be sensitive to Barking and Dagenham's diversity, including race, language, culture, age, gender, sexuality, faith and disability.
- Domestic violence is a widespread and complex problem. Finding solutions requires a long term, collaborative approach across a wide range of services and professions. Integral to this is a shared commitment to behavioural, cultural and attitudinal change to ensure that the issue itself remains a public priority as opposed to a private matter within families.

Our aim

The overall aim of this strategy is to reduce the incidences of domestic violence, and to prevent domestic violence related homicides in Barking and Dagenham. In order to achieve this aim:

For any victim or child living with domestic violence there will be

a range of services, sufficiently flexible to meet their individual needs, yet standardised enough for them to be able to safely rely upon them.

For abusers who perpetrate domestic violence there will be

clear messages that their behaviour is not acceptable through interventions designed to reduce risk, change behaviour and hold them to account.

For practitioners who provide services there will be training and support for all staff as well as standard criteria against which services can be assessed and compared.

For those living in Barking and Dagenham there will be:

- a safer and more supportive community;
- better information for family and friends of those being abused, who currently provide the bulk of support;
- a reduction in the severity and dangerous nature of domestic violence;
- a reduction in repeat victimisation;
- an increase in service user satisfaction;

- a reduction in the long term negative consequences of domestic violence for victims and their children who are experiencing it; and
- an increase in understanding of domestic violence among the general public and a decrease in social acceptance.

Governance

Working in partnership to reduce domestic violence is well established in Barking and Dagenham and recognised as essential to achieving lasting change. The success of this strategy is dependent upon the cooperation and action of all partner agencies. Its implementation will be coordinated through a Safer Borough Board (SBB) sub group together with the advisory group of the Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Forum (Terms of Reference are detailed in appendix three). This two-tier mechanism will ensure that Barking and Dagenham fully meets level three of the Second London Domestic Violence Strategy Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Assessment Framework (attached as appendix two).

Section Two – Strategic Direction

National commitment to reducing domestic violence

Domestic violence is a high priority on the Government's agenda. The Greater London Authority Second London Domestic Violence Strategy 2005 sets out minimum standards for agencies to deliver on, and introduces an assessment by which Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships can be measured on performance by their responses to domestic violence through a three level standard (see appendix two). Currently Barking and Dagenham fully meets level one and meets some criteria of level two.

There are other Acts, requirements and guidelines which this strategy is built upon; these are:

- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (amended 2006)
- Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006
- National Indicator 32: Repeat Incidences of Domestic Violence (a key indicator included in the newly agreed Local Area Agreement)
- Children Act 2004 and the Every Child Matters White Paper 2004
- Children and Young People Maternity Services Framework 2004
- Crown Prosecution Service Domestic Violence Policy and Guidelines 2005
- National Domestic Violence

Strategy Reduction Delivery Plan 2005

- ACPO Guidance on Investigating Domestic Abuse 2008
- National Community Safety Plan 2006 - 2009 (incorporating the National Police Plan 2006 - 2009)
- Domestic violence policy and guidance documents for health services
- Home Office good practice guidance for working with survivors from Ethnic Minority Communities (2005)
- Housing Act 1996 (amended 2002)
- Homelessness Act 2002
- Human Rights Act 1998

Barking and Dagenham's commitment to reducing domestic violence

The Local Authority

The Local Authority has a key role in responding to domestic violence effectively. In addition to service provision, the Local Authority is well situated to lead local partnerships both internally and externally to bring agencies together around the issue.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard for the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area. In accordance the London Borough of Barking and

Dagenham Community Safety and Neighbourhood Services Division undertakes this role by advising, supporting, developing and leading on crime reduction and crime prevention.

The Safer Borough Board (SBB)

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 called for the establishment of local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) between 'responsible authorities' across England and Wales to 'formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime, disorder and the misuse of drugs'. The 'responsible authorities' who are legally required to do this work in Barking and Dagenham are: Barking and Dagenham Council; Metropolitan Police; Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust; London Fire Brigade; Metropolitan Police Authority. In order to provide a holistic response to crime and disorder, the Barking and Dagenham CDRP is called the SBB. The membership includes both statutory and voluntary organisations.

Domestic violence has been prioritised across the partnership through the 2008/11 LAA.

A new strategic sub-group of the SBB will be formed to bring together key partners to identify resources and provide the strategic direction to ensure this strategy is delivered.

Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Forum (BDDVF)

Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Forum was formed in the early nineties and has been driven throughout its history by voluntary sector and statutory sector representatives. The group also falls under the umbrella of Barking and Dagenham SBB, and meets quarterly to develop local initiatives, maximise networking opportunities and maintain a focal point for domestic violence work in the borough (see appendix one for Forum membership).

Cross Cutting Agenda

Domestic violence is cross cutting and features in various key strategies and plans in Barking and Dagenham. These include:

- Barking and Dagenham Community Strategy
- Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010
- Draft Homelessness Strategy 2007-2010
- Housing Strategy 2007-2010
- Draft Older People's Commissioning Strategy
- Local Area Agreement
- Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009
- Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding Adults 2008
- Council Housing Tenancy Agreement
- Barking and Dagenham's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008-11

There is considerable overlap between adult safeguarding and domestic violence. A priority for action will be to develop stronger links across sectors whilst formalising procedures and practices to enable us to better coordinate our holistic multi-agency packages of support to vulnerable individuals. The aim is to strike a balance between risk management and the need to support individuals to make informed safe choices. We are committed to ensuring that all social care services are delivered in a personalised way by April 2011. The actions and plans set out in this strategy take into account the personalisation agenda and will complement its delivery.

Demonstration site for London

In October 2007, the London Regional Director for Health agreed that Barking and Dagenham would be the demonstration site for health initiatives on domestic violence. This opportunity provides us with the specialist assistance of a task force including the Greater London Domestic Violence Project and Government Office for London. The intention is to develop initiatives in Barking and Dagenham, evaluate them and then roll out learning across London.

Earlier that year, the PCT and the Local Authority commissioned the Woman's Trust to carry out a mapping exercise of the local Health and Social Care response to domestic violence. The aims were to: ascertain existing health and social care policies and guidelines for

services for victims and perpetrators across Barking and Dagenham; to identify NHS approaches and guidelines; to establish and review existing information sharing and referral protocols between NHS providers and other key stakeholder agencies; to ascertain the needs of victims and perpetrators regarding health and social care; and to identify areas for improvement.

The principle findings were that:

- There is an absence of policies and guidelines around domestic violence within health and social care in Barking and Dagenham.
- There is overwhelming support for domestic violence policies to be introduced.
- There is enormous potential for work around domestic violence by the PCT to meet the responsibilities laid down by the Department of Health guidelines and policies relating to domestic violence.
- There is a real need for the greater engagement of health services to work with both agencies and individuals around domestic violence.
- Stakeholders' experiences of health and social care services are very variable.

There were 29 recommendations for future action from the Woman's Trust Report, which have been integrated into this strategy. The PCT is also intending to produce a detailed Corporate Domestic Violence Strategy which will provide the detail.

Section Three – Domestic Violence in Barking and Dagenham

Successes

Achievements in Barking and Dagenham include:

Advocacy Service

- Appointment of two Domestic Violence Advocates.
- 1300 referrals were made in 2007.
- The service receives approximately 100 referrals a month. This is a mixture of self and agency-referrals.
- The advocates have completed the Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) nationally accredited training.

Sanctuary Scheme

- 136 victims of domestic violence accessed the scheme in 2007.
- Scheme reviewed in 2008 including the introduction of Crime Prevention Officers facilitating home assessments.
- Approximately 4 to 8 referrals are received a month.

MARAC

- Development of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences for very high risk victims.
- Monthly meetings have taken place since June 2007.
- Appointment of a MARAC Coordinator October 2007.
- CAADA training for MARAC team in April and October 2008 to ensure its compliance with national standards.

Publicity

- Public poster campaign on outside and inside of buses (2007).
- Mouse mat response flowchart produced (2007).
- Directory of services booklet produced (2007 and 2008).
- Small leaflet advertising the Advocacy Service and other local domestic violence services produced (2008).
- Website for professionals and public (ongoing).

Health

- On White Ribbon Day in November 2007, 100 frontline practitioners from health and children's services attended workshops on domestic violence awareness and how to respond; 25 senior strategic staff attended round table to agree actions to tackle domestic violence in Barking and Dagenham.
- Development of the Snapshot project: one GP trained on collecting evidence of domestic violence injuries, further work in development.
- Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust has appointed a Strategic Lead for Domestic Violence, to lead strategic and operational health work in the borough.

Children and Young People

- Children's Services piloted Barnardo's Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Model for children living with domestic violence: Social Workers and other Children's Services staff trained on using tools.
- Providing training for: East Street Information Shop; Educational Psychology Service; Connexions; Youth Support and Development Service; Childminders; Children's Centres.
- Developing close working with Youth Offending Service.
- Ongoing work with schools and Children's Centres.
- Working with PCT to develop a project or service in Barking and Dagenham to support children and young people who have witnessed domestic violence.

Perpetrators

- Domestic Violence Intervention Project launched in January 2007 with approximately 45 referrals from Barking and Dagenham thus far.
- Commissioners (LB Barking and Dagenham, LB Newham, LB Waltham Forest) received Mayor of London award from the London Domestic Violence Forum in 2007.

Training

- 2-day Local Safeguarding Children Board Domestic Violence and Children training twice a year.
- Quarterly multi-agency training available to all Local Authority Staff.
- Ad-hoc training to teams identified or that request it:
 - Youth Offending Service (2007 and 2009)
 - Children's Services Family Group Conference Team (2007)
 - North East London NHS Foundation Trust (2007 and 2008)
 - Registered childminders (2008 and 2009)
 - Neighbourhood Management and Anti-Social Behaviour Teams (2008)
 - Council Members (2008)
 - Housing Advice and Estate Management (planned for 2008 and 2009)
 - Educational Psychology Service (2008)
 - East Street (2008)
 - Youth Support and Development Service (2008)
 - Substance misuse agencies (planned for 2009)

Barking and Dagenham's current services

- **Two Domestic Violence Refuges** – Eight of the bed spaces provide emergency accommodation for female victims and their children fleeing domestic violence. Four of the bed spaces provide move-on accommodation. Attached to these refuges are: a Children's Development Officer and Play Worker who provide support to children living in the refuges; an Outreach Officer who promotes domestic violence work throughout different agencies working in the borough and; two Floating Support Officers who provide medium to long term practical assistance for women in the community.
- **Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Advocacy Service** – Two Advocates provide risk assessment and short-term practical support to high risk victims of domestic violence; support includes information about legal options (including support with injunctions and attending court), information about housing options (including support with finding emergency accommodation such as a refuge), and referrals to appropriate services.
- The service leads on the day-to-day running of the **Sanctuary Project**. This is a holistic homeless prevention project which comprises target hardening to victims' properties where it is safe for them to remain there and ensure a support package is in place for victims. Target hardening measures can vary from a lock change to a full 'Sanctuary room', a safe room where an internal door is replaced with a solid core door, reversed to open outwards and the frame reinforced.
- **Woman's Trust East Counselling Service** – This cross-borough counselling service, launched in June 2006, provides 18 free one-to-one counselling sessions to victims. They also offer support groups and workshops. Woman's Trust is the only specific domestic violence counselling service in London. Although based in Stratford a satellite venue has been established in Barking and Dagenham.
- **Witness Service** – Run by Victim Support, this project works to assist victims of crime at Barking Magistrates Court.

- **East London Domestic Violence Intervention Project** – Established towards the end of 2006 with neighbouring boroughs Newham and Waltham Forest, this service is for men who want to voluntarily address their behaviour, and who are not subject to a probation order. It looks to address perpetrators' behaviour via a 32 week intervention programme. A women's support service provides assistance to partners/family members of the perpetrator attending the scheme. This is the first of such cross borough work in East London.
- **A range of other services** – Provide assistance and support to victims living or who have survived domestic violence in Barking and Dagenham.

The action plan attached to this strategy looks to ensure continued and improved services to those living with or perpetrating domestic violence.

Prevalence of domestic violence: difficulties in data collection

Considerable difficulties have been experienced in collecting accurate data on domestic violence. The problems relate to the hidden and private nature of domestic violence, associated sensitivities of the problem and inconsistent approaches to data gathering in

the borough. Some agencies have previously used the Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Forum Common Monitoring Form, which does aid us in trying to gain more accurate data, however where agencies are not using this, data collection is patchy and collected in different, incompatible ways. The action plan attached to this strategy will look at new ways to assist in data gathering.

The statistics available can therefore only partially contribute to providing an accurate picture of the true extent of domestic violence in the borough.

Reports to the Police

The table below shows the number of offences recorded by the Metropolitan Police in Barking and Dagenham between 2001 and 2008:

	Domestic violence recorded incidents
2001/02	2,000
2002/03	3,072
2003/04	3,518
2004/05	3,414
2005/06	3,784
2006/07	3,762
2007/08	3,733

Comparisons with London

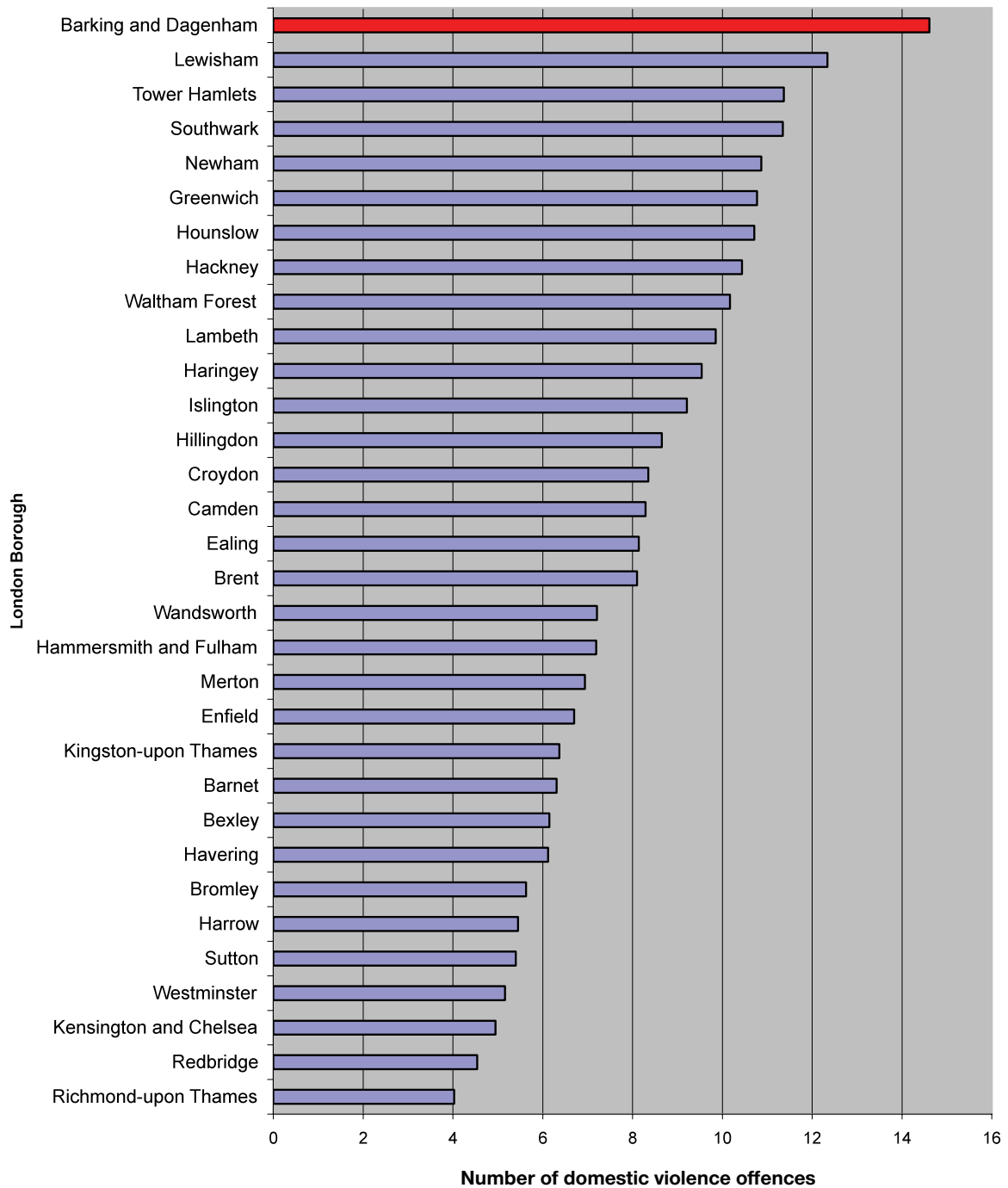
An analysis of the crime figures for 2005/06 (the latest analysis available) suggests that Barking and Dagenham compares unfavourably with the rest of London. The graphs on the next page show:

1. Number of domestic violence incidents per 1,000 population for each London borough, for financial year 2005/06.
2. % change in incidents of domestic violence for each London borough between the periods 2004/05 and 2005/06.

There were 14.61 domestic violence incidents per 1,000 population in Barking and Dagenham within the period, well above the London average of 8.13 incidents.

Between April 2004 and March 2008, domestic violence incidents increased by 8%. Agencies working in the borough see this increase as a positive reflection of victims feeling more confidence to report to the Police.

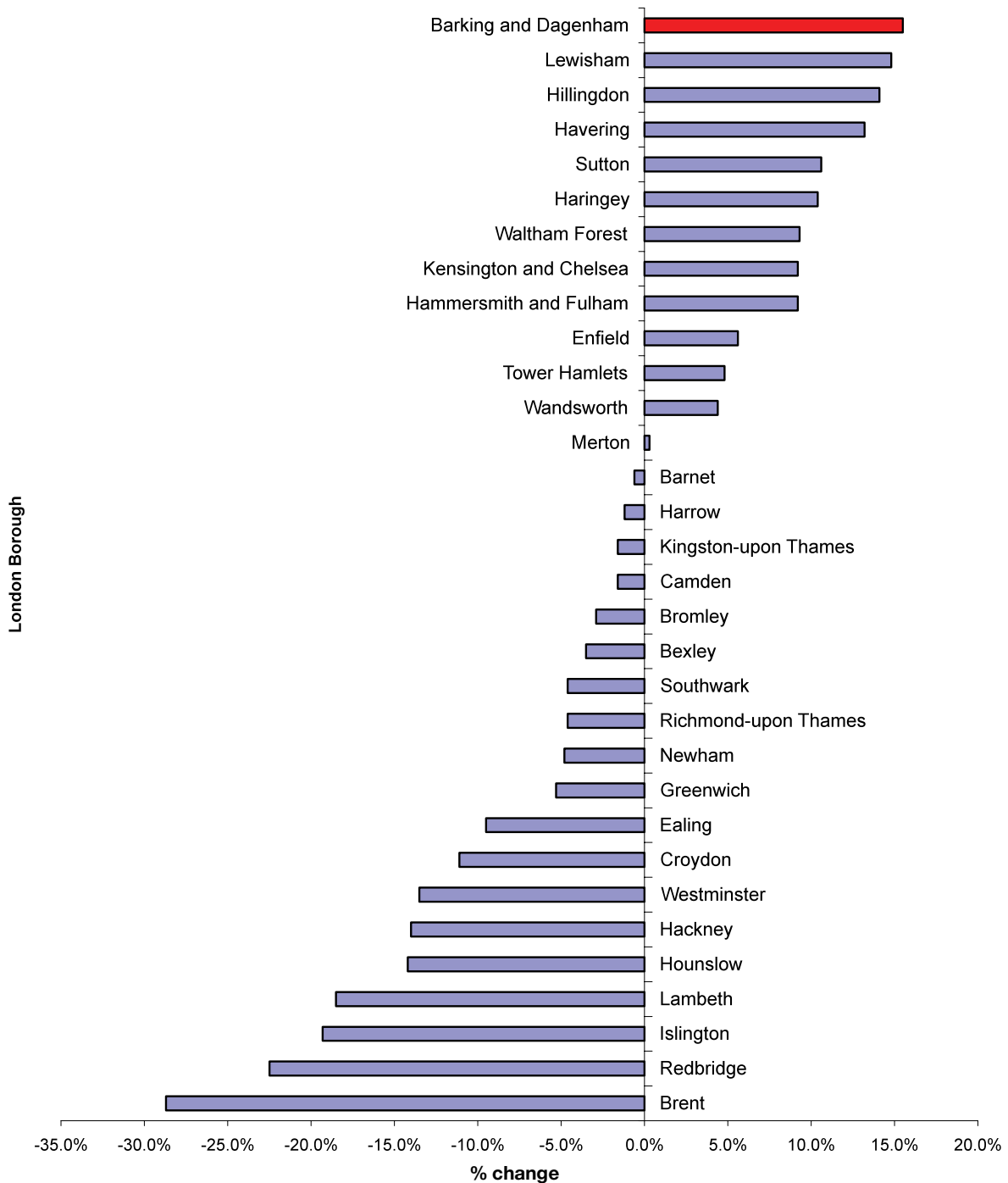
**Number of domestic violence incidences in London
per 1,000 population (2005/2006)**



Source: MPS Crime Figures for London

Population figures based on ONS 2004 Mid Year Estimates

% change in domestic incidents in London between 2004/05 and 2005/06



Source: MPS Crime Figures for London

It is important to note when reviewing the above data, that although reported figures are high this does not necessarily mean that actual domestic violence prevalence is higher in Barking and Dagenham than in any other London borough. As we saw earlier domestic violence cuts across all social boundaries including geographical area. Also see section below 'Problems with hot-spotting'.

Trends in the potential client group

Where available, police records of the profile of those charged for this crime type and the victims in 2007/08:

Accused

Gender	Age								Total
	10-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	
Female	3	31	14	18	24	3	0	0	93
Male	18	163	138	177	104	36	6	0	642
Total	21	194	152	195	128	39	6	0	735

Victims

Gender	Age									Total
	under 10	10-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	
Female	6	37	772	542	773	525	145	39	19	2,858
Male	6	20	328	215	431	296	94	39	9	1,438
Total	12	57	1100	757	1204	821	239	78	28	4,296

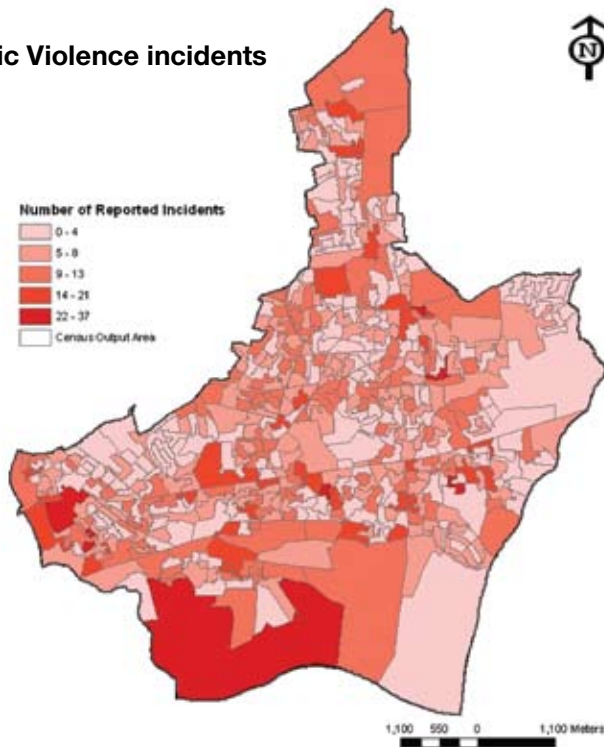
This shows that out of 4296 victims only 735 people were charged.

Location information

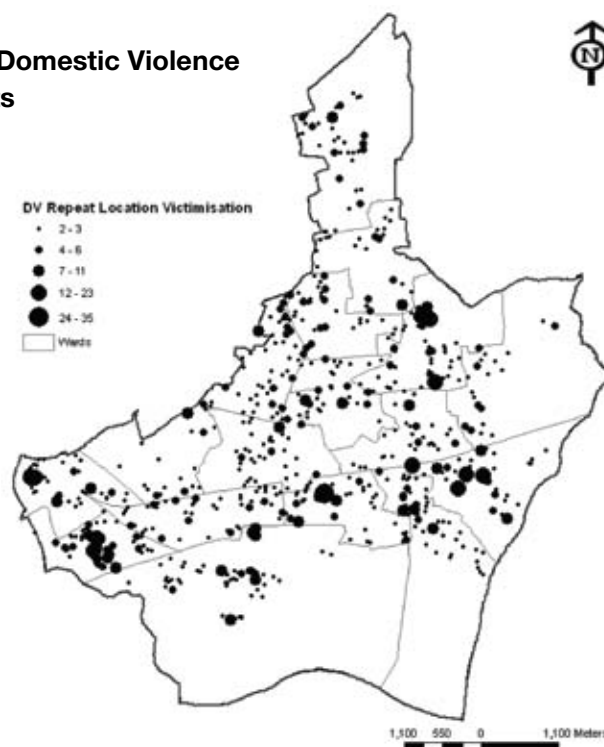
The maps opposite show incidents flagged as domestic violence as recorded by the Police. The first map shows the location of the domestic violence incidents. The second map shows areas of repeat offences (this map shows the location where more than one incident has taken place, not where repeat victims live – although it may be the same).

2006/07

Domestic Violence incidents

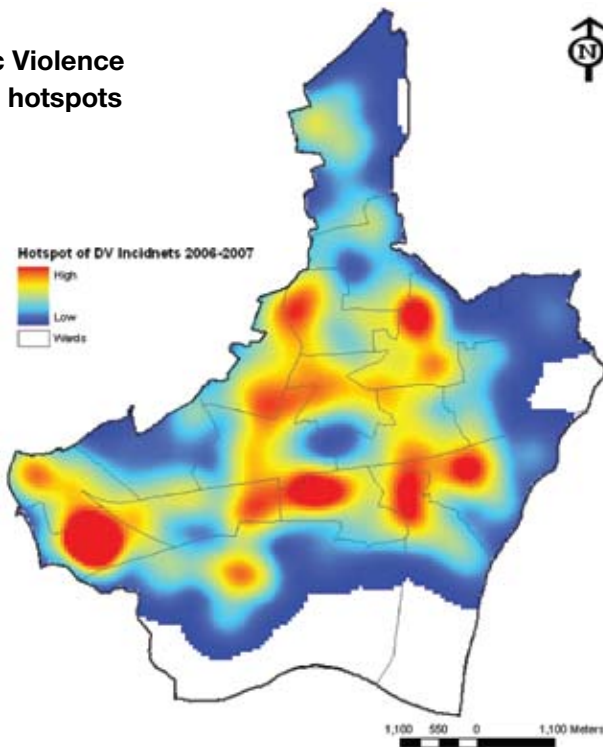


Repeat Domestic Violence incidents



2006/07

Domestic Violence incidents hotspots



The hotspot areas for both maps are essentially very similar, which indicates that these areas (locations) are where the most repeat victims are living. 18% of all locations where a domestic violence offence was committed had a repeat incident.

Problems with hot-spotting domestic violence

Hot-spotting domestic violence incidents will only reveal where domestic violence crimes are reported, which is not synonymous with prevalence. Many research

studies have proven that the only way in which geography is related to the prevalence of domestic violence is that most domestic violence occurs in homes.

This is not to say that geographical mapping of reported domestic violence incidents may not reveal some useful information. For example, it can identify which areas have higher reporting rates. This must, however, be considered against the following:

- A significant percentage of calls to the police come from neighbours. Areas where neighbours live in close proximity are more likely to appear as 'hotspots'.

- Victims report to 'the system' with the aim of receiving help. If a supportive service operates in a particular catchment area, word of mouth recommendation/ positive publicity for a service are likely to result in increased demand for the service. It is not unreasonable to assume therefore, that a geographical area not identified as a hotspot yet having similar population levels is indicative of poor service provision which in turn, leads to fewer abused victims reporting.

Types of offences

The table below shows the crime types that were classed as domestic violence incidents in 2007/08. The column on the right-hand side shows the proportion of the overall offences that were domestic violence incidents:

Offence	Number of offences flagged as Domestic Violence (2007/08)	% of Borough Total
ABH	724	36.1
Burglary in a dwelling	12	1.4
Common Assault	452	39.2
Criminal damage to a dwelling	164	18.6
Criminal damage to a motor vehicle	7	0.4
Criminal damage to other building	2	0.7
GBH	15	12.7
Harassment	220	19.9
Offensive Weapon	1	0.5
Other Criminal Damage	55	10.1
Other notifiable offences	22	10.3
Other sexual	5	2.8
Other theft	8	0.4
Other violence	6	4.4
Others – other accepted crime	2027	74.6
Robbery personal property	3	0.6
Rape	6	17.6
Snatches	1	0.7
Theft/Taking of a motor vehicle	3	0.2
Grand Total	3,733	16.9

Essentially, the table above shows that **36.1% of all common assaults in the borough in 2007/08 were domestic violence incidents**. If we take all Violence Against the Person offences in 2007/08, 30% of them were flagged as Domestic Violence.



Nearly three quarters of children with child protection plans live in households where domestic violence occurs⁵.

Section Four – Priorities for 2008 to 2011

Key themes

The overarching aim of this strategy is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence, and to prevent domestic violence related homicides in Barking and Dagenham. In order to achieve this, six key themes have been identified. Four of these themes are as those which guide the GLA's Second London Domestic Violence Strategy 2005.

The six key themes are:

1. Increasing safe choices for victims and their children experiencing domestic violence.
2. Holding perpetrators accountable for their abusive behaviour.
3. To raise awareness of domestic violence in the borough through public education.
4. Educating children and young people as to the impact and effects of domestic violence.
5. To ensure domestic violence is a high priority among practitioners, through effective leadership and an effective allocation of resources and improved efficiency.
6. To provide survivors with the necessary after care so that they can successfully rebuild their lives.

Why these themes?

This approach recognises that the responses to domestic violence need to be broad based and multi-layered. We need to develop a range of interventions that address

all aspects of the problem and are preventative as well as protective. We need to work with victims, children, perpetrators, professionals and the community at large.

Key theme one – Increasing safe choices for victims and children experiencing domestic violence

Why a priority?

Early intervention is paramount. The scale and extent of the problem in Barking and Dagenham highlights the need for a consistent, safe and accessible support services for victims of domestic violence.

In order to provide these services, service user consultation is essential, and this is an area we need to mainstream in the work of agencies.

The borough Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 recognises the need for an increase in our current refuge provision, and it is their aim to fulfil this during the length of this strategy.

In order to assist us in identifying gaps in service delivery, monitoring plays a crucial role. As we have seen earlier in this strategy, reliance on Police statistics does not provide us with an accurate nature of the problem, thus an additional appropriate monitoring system needs to be in place.

Some groups of women can face additional barriers and issues when trying to access assistance.

Research undertaken by Hanmer and Saunders in 1993 showed that on average women contacted 11 agencies before they received the help they needed, but for black women this rose to 17. Amina Mama showed from her research with black women, that although the descriptions of violence that black women give do not differ from accounts given by white women, that some Black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee (BAMER) women may be particularly reluctant to seek outside help. This may be due to issues with immigration status, fear of being ostracised from their community, fear of racism, forced marriage and language barriers. If a woman is unfamiliar with UK systems, it may be harder to know about agencies that are able to assist her.

All women exposed to domestic violence have varied needs and it is important not to homogenise all Ethnic Minority victims by assuming that they will require the same assistance. Help-seeking varies enormously across London's BMER communities. For example, Polish women living in London currently tend to report at a lower rate than Asian women, while African-Caribbean women tend to report at a higher rate than white women. Local analysis (over the page) from the Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Advocacy Service showed some women from ethnic groups reported more than others when looking at their representation within the borough.

Ethnicity	Referrals %	Borough %
White	57.75	83.51
White Irish	2.03	1.68
Mixed	0.74	1.88
Indian	1.11	2.25
Pakistani	2.40	1.86
Bangladeshi	0.92	0.41
Other Asian	3.51	0.53
Black Caribbean	2.03	2.09
Black African	6.09	4.44
Other Black	0.92	0.44
Chinese	0.18	0.90
Irish Traveller	0.00	Not known
Other	1.11	n/a
Unknown	21.22	n/a

Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Advocacy Service Analysis,
1st December 2005 to 30th November 2006

Health professionals' role in the early identification of domestic violence cases and proactive intervention is crucial for victims and their children. A study found that 80% of women in a violent relationship had sought help from the health service at least once. We also know that perpetrators are more likely to disclose their abusive behaviour to GPs than to any other professional.

Similarly, one of the most important needs of victims fleeing violence is access to safe, secure, permanent housing. The role of housing professionals can aid in the initial stages of identification and naming of the issue. One of the problems we need to get to grips with in terms of early intervention is that women frequently do not 'name' their experience as domestic violence. Agencies therefore also need to explore how to address this.

While one in four women in the general population experience domestic violence, this rises to one in two for women with disabilities. Both men and women with a limiting illness or disability are more likely to experience intimate partner violence, and are more likely to endure domestic violence for longer, because appropriate support is not available. Domestic violence agencies need to ensure they are meeting the needs of people with disabilities, and it is essential for disability services to be aware of the domestic violence their clients may be experiencing.

Thus we need to ensure we are approaching and encouraging minority ethnic groups to report domestic violence and to engage with services.

While it is acknowledged that substance misuse is not a causal factor of domestic violence and violence usually continues once substance misuse has ceased, problematic alcohol and/or drug misuse by either or both the victim and perpetrator of domestic violence can make the situation more difficult in various ways.

If a victim of domestic violence is self-medicating with either drugs or alcohol it may make it difficult to access support including refuge provision. Furthermore if the victim is subject to immigration control, the threat of deportation for illegal activities may be used.

Substance misuse may also increase the victim's isolation, not only because it may make them more reluctant or less able to seek help from various agencies, such as the Police and Children's Services, but they may also have lost contact with friends and relatives due to drug or alcohol related behaviour. Thus another possible source of support may be denied to them.

There is considerable overlap between adult safeguarding and domestic violence. Action on Elder Abuse research reveals that the most typical abusers of those with chronic illness or disability are partners, adult children, and family members. This is a key area for development for the duration of the strategy, for example targeted joint training initiatives.

A key area for development will be around the emerging issue of domestic violence in adolescents' intimate partner relationships. Research is showing that along with experiencing similar levels of abuse to adults, adolescents also have a very high level of acceptance of abuse.

Key theme two – Holding perpetrators accountable for their abusive behaviour

Why a priority?

The civil and criminal justice system plays a key role in the protection of all victims, including women and their children. Additionally the civil and criminal justice system has a role in sending clear messages to perpetrators and society that domestic violence will not be tolerated.

A common feature in nearly all domestic violence cases is repeat victimisation. Only 3% of the 542 victims who contacted Barking and Dagenham Advocacy Service between 1st December 2005 and 30th November 2006 had not reported incidents of domestic violence to an agency before. Barking and Dagenham Police are committed to reduce repeat victimisation and to protect victims from further victimisation by implementing a positive action policy in all domestic violence cases. In practice, this means that if a victim withdraws her statement, the State can, if the evidence meets the criteria set out by the Crown Prosecution Service, pursue the case without her. In some circumstances this tactic has been proven to assist in avoiding the common problem of perpetrators coercing their victims to withdraw their statement.

Instead, it places emphasis upon the Criminal Justice System to gather and use supporting evidence from alternative sources.

In Barking and Dagenham we have introduced the East London Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) perpetrator programme as a means to reduce recidivism. However in order to change the behaviour of those responsible for domestic violence and to achieve a reduction in repeat victimisation, significant resources must also be focussed upon the perpetrators of this crime. To achieve this, there must be greater coordination amongst the criminal justice agencies, namely the Police, CPS, Court, Prison Service and Probation services.

An identified priority is to work closely with the local magistrate's courts in Barking and Dagenham. Following the good practice established by the Specialist Domestic Violence Court Programme, we aim to ensure that those women who pursue a criminal justice outcome are afforded a safe, speedy and effective outcome.

Key theme three – To raise awareness of domestic violence in the borough through public education

Why a priority?

Domestic violence continues to exist in a society that attaches particular myths and stereotypes to it. It is an under recognised issue amongst the general public and by agencies. This leads to under reporting and under recording of the true extent of the problem. Research shows that in the first instance, most domestic violence victims turn to families and friends for support.

Increasing the awareness of domestic violence amongst the general public is therefore an important part of increasing support for victims. Public information needs to be readily available in accessible formats including different languages, and be culturally relevant to Black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee (BAMER) communities within Barking and Dagenham.

Key theme four – Educating children and young people as to the impact and effects of domestic violence

Why a priority?

Challenging attitudes to, and the tolerance of, domestic violence is the only way to achieve lasting reductions in domestic violence. The Respect Campaign found that 1 in 5 young men and 1 in 10 young women think that abuse or violence against women is acceptable.

Engaging with children and young people at the earliest opportunity is crucial to prevent future domestic violence. It is also important to provide those living with domestic violence – of which children form the largest group – with information and support to improve their safety and seek help.

The Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities and other statutory agencies to make arrangements in exercising their functions to ensure that they have due regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Where there are children in the family, those children witness 75% of the domestic violence incidents that occur; the NSPCC estimates that there are 750,000 children and young people living with domestic violence at home at any one time, and that 75% of children with Child Protection Plans live with, or have lived with, domestic violence. Domestic violence is now recognised in legislation and by agencies to have a significant impact on the emotional health of children. Appropriately supporting victims and children, and challenging perpetrators, will have a positive impact on all areas of the Every Child Matters Agenda.

Here are a few comments from children aged ten years who took part in the Barking and Dagenham 'Strong Ties' Programme delivered in schools. When asked what they had learnt they said:

“That people shouldn't push you around even if they are one of your family members”

“Trust in people and treat them how you want to be treated. Not to shout at your friends, it hurts their feelings”

“I learnt that we should respect each other by being kind to each other”

Key theme five – To ensure domestic violence is a high priority among practitioners through an effective allocation of resources and improved efficiency

Why a priority?

The establishment of a borough Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is an example of how Barking and Dagenham agencies are working together to reduce repeat victimisation and prevent domestic violence murders by using a pragmatic and coordinated community response to very high risk victims of domestic violence.

In order to effectively raise awareness amongst key professionals, domestic violence and good practice training must be mandatory. Such training must, however, be supported by the development of clear policies and procedures within organisations that set clear standards of practice and accountability, as well as establishing systems of monitoring and evaluation. This links to key theme four in strengthening and supporting change in the next generation.

It is crucial for the successful implementation of this strategy that statutory agencies in particular reflect the importance of domestic violence throughout their policies and procedures in order to ensure that consistent, safe and high quality responses are provided to all victims who approach their services. A lack of senior management commitment, especially in terms of the allocation of resources, has meant that we have been unable to effectively move our agenda forward.

Key theme six – To provide survivors with the necessary after care so that they can successfully rebuild their lives

Why a priority?

The previous two London Domestic Violence Strategies have prioritised the effective management of risk during crisis. This has led to the establishment of support services which provide crisis intervention based on risk. While this is clearly extremely important, it has left most boroughs in London with a gap in provision for those survivors who require post crisis support to resettle and recover from their ordeal.

We recognise that it is not uncommon for women who, facing pressure from an ex-partner, decide to return to abusive relationships because they feel unsupported and often face long periods of time in temporary accommodation, so that their confidence is undermined.

Therefore in Barking in Dagenham we are committed to developing complementary post crisis services to provide survivors and their children with the support they require to rebuild their lives.



One in four women will experience domestic violence at some point in their adult lifetimes¹.

Section Five – Action Plan

The following action plan outlines the actions and outcomes that the partnership aims to achieve over the three years of this strategy. A more detailed action plan will be developed from this, to be implemented and monitored by the Strategic Group.

Key theme one – Increasing safe choices for victims and their children experiencing domestic violence

Objective	Action / Task	Outcome
Ensure Barking and Dagenham has a minimum of one refuge place per 10 thousand population	1a. Build new refuge	Safe housing provision for victims and children
	1b. Maintain existing refuge	Safe housing provision for victims and children
	1c. Two Floating Support Officers attached to refuge	Children provided with support in refuge
Ensure holistic Sanctuary Scheme is established	1d. Review current delivery of borough 'Sanctuary Project' to ensure risk assessment processes and audit trail are in place	Victims of domestic violence provided with holistic service and able to stay in their own homes
Provide joined up first response to victims at the scene of the incident	1e. Develop Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team Initiative	Effective, safe, swift and holistic response to victims
Improve service access and outcomes for victims of domestic violence with substance misuse issues	1f. Action plan from domestic violence and substance misuse report implemented	Improved service delivery by drug and alcohol misuse services and domestic violence services
	1g. Evaluation report of achievements and new recommendations compiled	
	1h. Cross agency training on domestic violence and substance misuse to improve early identification of dual diagnosis and effective intervention	

Objective	Action / Task	Outcome
<p>Improve service access and outcomes for victims of domestic violence with mental health issues</p>	<p>1i. Agree a joint action plan between stakeholders on domestic violence and mental health</p>	<p>Improved service delivery by mental health services and domestic violence services</p>
	<p>1j. Evaluation report of achievements and new recommendations compiled</p>	
	<p>1k. Cross agency training of domestic violence and mental health training to improve early identification of dual diagnosis and effective intervention</p>	
<p>Improve service access and outcomes for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds</p>	<p>1l. Current service reviewed</p>	<p>Victims provided with holistic support and advice</p>
	<p>1m. Actions identified to respond appropriately to this client group</p>	
<p>Improve service access and outcomes for victims of domestic violence with disabilities</p>	<p>1n. Current service reviewed</p>	<p>Improved service delivery by disability services and domestic violence services</p>
	<p>1o. Action plan in place and implemented</p>	
<p>Establish Domestic Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) for very high risk victims in accordance with recognised best practice</p>	<p>1p. Review of current MARAC infrastructure</p>	<p>Reduction in repeat victimisation of those victims referred to MARAC</p> <p>Prevention of domestic violence homicide</p>
	<p>1q. What does MARAC success look like review?</p>	<p>Safer futures for victims, including women and children living with domestic violence</p>

Objective	Action / Task	Outcome
Develop a contact centre offering high vigilance contact services for use in private law cases	1r. Review current provision for high vigilance supervised contact arrangements	Children provided with a safe environment for contact
	1s. Establish a high vigilance contact centre	
Develop the Barking & Dagenham Domestic Violence Advocacy Service to meet standards for Independent Advocacy Services and ensure that it meets the diverse needs of the borough	1t. Annual review of current provision ensuring compliance with advocacy components set out in the Home Office guidance	Enhanced service provided to victims
	1u. Independent advocacy service in place	
Develop Woman's Trust counselling provision for victims of domestic violence in East London	1v. Victims accessing 18 free counselling sessions	Enhanced service delivery to victims
Develop options for victims in healthcare settings based on the principle that domestic violence is a public health priority	1w. Formalise protocols	Enhanced service delivery to victims
	1x. Raise awareness among service users and staff	Cultural, attitudinal and behavioural change across the organisation
	1y. Enhanced evidence gathering	Domestic violence embedded into commissioning arrangements
	1z. Formalise strategic infrastructure across partnership	
Develop a system for ongoing service user feedback	1za. Service user feedback questionnaire developed and distributed through all BDDVF members	Appropriate services provided to victims and children living with domestic violence Community consultation increased

Key theme two – Holding individual perpetrators accountable for their behaviour

Objective	Action/Task	Outcome
Increase the number of domestic violence perpetrators brought to justice while safeguarding victims	2a. Pre-Charge process effective	Perpetrators held accountable for their actions
	2b. Charge process effective	Perpetrators held accountable for their actions Victims provided with information
	2c. Post-charge and bail processes are effective	Perpetrators held accountable for their actions
	2d. Sentencing effective	Perpetrators held accountable Improved efficiency of agencies Victims able to safety plan
East London Domestic Violence Intervention Project developed	2e. Review of implementation	Perpetrators held accountable for their actions
	2f. Cultivate referral routes for DVIP through GPs, licensed premises, sports venues, gambling outlets, men's toilets, faith groups, DAAT	Reduction in repeat victimisation Victims and children living in safety
CPS and Police fully implement within Barking and Dagenham the London-wide 'Service Level Agreement for Domestic Violence' with respect to the handling of cases of domestic violence	2g. Full implementation of SLA between CPS and CSU	Victims and children living in safety Perpetrators held accountable for their actions
Improved victim focus of criminal justice process	2h. Establish components of a Specialist Domestic Violence Court at Barking Magistrates Court	Perpetrators held accountable for their actions Reduction in repeat victimisation of those victims going through SDVC Victims and children living in safety
Cases identified where action can be taken to evict perpetrators on the grounds of breach of their tenancy agreement	2i. Protocol in place with Legal Services, Housing and Customer Services	Perpetrators held accountable for their actions Victims and children living in safety

Key theme three – To reduce social tolerance of domestic violence and challenging inaction by individuals and organisations

Objective	Action/task	Outcome
To implement a programme of community outreach and education to increase awareness of domestic violence and empower communities to respond	3a. Implement a programme of community outreach and education to increase awareness of domestic violence and empower communities to respond	Community aware of zero tolerance of domestic violence Organisations appropriately assisting victims of domestic violence by signposting to specialist services
	3b. Awareness raised on issues surrounding domestic violence to 20 borough community groups	Cultivate community consensus
	3c. Work in Wards where reporting of domestic violence is low	Community aware of zero tolerance of domestic violence Organisations appropriately assisting victims of domestic violence by signposting to specialist services
Develop and evaluate publicity initiatives to increase awareness of domestic violence	3d. White Ribbon Day and International Women's Day events organised each year	Reduced tolerance of domestic violence Resources for events and outreach produced
	3e. Appropriate publicity materials designed to target victims/perpetrators/ children/friends/family	Public aware of support available

Key theme four – Educating children and young people as to the impact and effects of domestic violence

Objective	Action/task	Outcome
Establish work with children and young people in schools about domestic violence and healthy relationships	4a. Develop and promote work in schools on healthy relationships	Children and young people aware of domestic violence Longer term reduction in domestic violence Children and young people experiencing domestic violence supported
	4b. All schools to have domestic violence lessons incorporate into PSHE/PDE curriculum	
Explore opportunities for delivering domestic violence awareness sessions to young people outside of formal school settings	4c. Scope good practice and identify need, and develop Action Plans for each setting	Children and young people aware of domestic violence Longer term reduction in domestic violence Children and young people experiencing domestic violence supported
Establish Peer Support programme for young people / child therapeutic service	4d. Scope and establish possible interventions	Reduction of emotional impact of domestic violence on children and young people Young people experiencing domestic violence supported Longer term reduction in domestic violence

Key theme five – To ensure domestic violence is a high priority among practitioners, through effective leadership and an effective allocation of resources and improved efficiency.

Objective	Action/task	Outcome
Establish strategic governance framework to domestic violence service delivery	5a. Establish a Strategic Group under the SBB Framework	Strategic accountability Resource tasking Senior level buy in
All agencies to have a domestic violence policy in place which includes arrangements for monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness and access by disadvantaged or minority groups	5b. Domestic violence policy in place and implemented across relevant agency	Organisations demonstrate no tolerance of domestic violence. Appropriate planning and provision of services to victims experiencing domestic violence
All agencies to compile and adopt a domestic violence personnel policy	5c. Personnel policy in place	Organisations assisting staff who are living with domestic violence and holding perpetrators who are members of their staff to account Agencies not tolerant of domestic violence
Case tracking capabilities	5d. Develop an effective data collection system for all agencies working with domestic violence victims/perpetrators	More accurate estimate of prevalence Capacity to track cases across agencies to ensure effective intervention minimise risk
Ensure domestic violence is integrated into 9 or more of the strategies/plans listed in Second London DV Strategy, CDRP Assessment, Level 3 (appendix two)	5e. Domestic Violence integrated into 9 strategies/plans	Enhanced service to victims living with domestic violence
Continuation of an elected Councillor with thematic responsibility for domestic violence	5f. Political assistance	Domestic violence work promoted

Objective	Action/task	Outcome
Continue to ensure there is a named individual with responsibility for domestic violence in at least eight local statutory agencies/local authority directorates	5g. Strategic assistance	Efficient services for victims living with domestic violence
Deliver training on domestic violence issues for staff in local services	5h. Multi-agency training	Increased awareness of domestic violence across LBBB and partner agencies
	5i. LSCB training	Improved service to victims and children living with domestic violence

Key theme six – To provide survivors with the necessary after care so that they can successfully rebuild their lives

Objective	Action/task	Outcome
Ensure that survivors and their children have access to post crisis care	6a. Identify current post-crisis provision	Safer and more successful resettlement of victims post crisis
	6b. Review best practice elsewhere	Reduction in repeat victimisation of those accessing services
	6c. Develop an action plan of interventions	
Longer term emotional support	6d. Non abusive parent and child therapeutic programme services	Safer and more successful resettlement of victims post crisis
Practical support	6e. Assistance with accessing secure tenancies	Safer and more successful resettlement of victims post crisis



40% of all homeless women stated domestic violence as a contributory factor to their homelessness⁴.

References

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8. ibid
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10. Domestic Violence: A National Report, Home Office 2005
11. Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking:
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12. op cit 7
13. Mayor of London, Annual Report of the London Domestic Violence Forum 2006, p.9 (November 2006).





Appendices

Appendix One

Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Forum Membership

Anti-Social Behaviour Team, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Axe Street

Barking and Dagenham Children's Centres

Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Advocacy Service

Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust

Barking Citizens Advice Bureau

Children's Social Care Services, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Circle Anglia

Community Alcohol Team

Community Development Team, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Corporate Lawyer, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Lead Member, Communities Portfolio

Barking and Dagenham CVS (Community and Voluntary Service)

Day Break Drug Break Project

Disablement Association Barking and Dagenham

Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Domestic Violence Intervention Project East

Drive

Dual Diagnosis Floating Support Team, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

East Homes

Eaves Women's Aid Barking and Dagenham

Educational Psychology Service, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Estate Management, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Haven Whitechapel

Homestart Barking and Dagenham

Housing Advice and Homelessness Prevention Team, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

ISA/CAF Team, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Kiran Asian Women's Aid

Lillywhite Williams Solicitors

Milner Elledge Solicitors

Police Community Safety Unit

Racial Equality Council

Somali Women's Association

Sternberg Reed Solicitors

Substance Misuse Engagement Team

Subwize

UEL (University of East London)

Victim Support Barking and Dagenham

Vulnerable Adults Coordinator, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Youth Offending Service, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

YWCA The Vineries

Appendix Two

The Second London Domestic Violence Strategy – Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Assessment Framework

Level one – LDVS2 (1)

- Independent advocacy service in place, consisting of at least one full-time advocate.
- Local authority meeting at least 50 per cent of the government standard BVPI 225.
- Local police making arrests in at least 50 per cent of domestic violence incidents, where the power exists to do so.
- Evidence of survivor consultation.
- Domestic violence integrated into at least five of the following:
 - Local Public Service Agreement
 - Local Area Agreement
 - Equality Action Plan
 - Homelessness Reduction Strategy
 - Education Development Plan
 - Anti-bullying Strategy
 - Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy
 - Drug and Alcohol Action Team Treatment Plan
 - Local Policing Plan
 - Children and Young People's Plan
 - Primary Care Trust Local Development Plan

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy
- Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
- The Healthy Schools Programme Plan
- Sure Start Strategy
- Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
- Vulnerable Adult Protection Strategy
- Equality standard for local government
- A named individual with responsibility for domestic violence in at least four local statutory agencies/local authority directorates.
- Local temporary accommodation hostels have a specific domestic violence policy in place.
- An elected local Councillor with specific responsibility for domestic violence.
- CDRP allocates an annual budget to the local Domestic Violence Forum.
- Domestic violence work taking place in at least two schools.
- Inter-agency data collection systems in place, involving at least six agencies.
- Formal links existing between the Domestic Violence Forum and the Safeguarding Children Board.

Level two – LDVS2 (2)

- An independent advocacy service in place, consisting of at least three full time (or equivalent) advocates.
- A named individual with responsibility for domestic violence in at least six local statutory agencies/local authority directorates.
- A specific domestic violence policy in at least three local housing associations/housing support providers.
- All local refuge projects having at least one full time children's worker.
- Local police making arrests in at least 65 per cent of domestic violence incidents, where the power exists to do so.
- Domestic violence fully integrated into at least seven of the following (must include specific domestic violence input and outcomes):
 - Local Public Service Agreement
 - Local Area Agreement
 - Equality Action Plan
 - Homelessness Reduction Strategy
 - Education Development Plan
 - Anti-bullying Strategy
 - Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy

- Drug and Alcohol Action Team Treatment Plan
 - Local Policing Plan
 - Children and Young People's Plan
 - PCT Local Development Plan
 - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy
 - Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
 - The Healthy Schools Programme Plan
 - Sure Start Strategy
 - Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
 - Vulnerable Adult Protection Strategy
 - Equality standard for local government.
 - A contact centre offering supervised handovers.
 - Evidence of readiness for a Specialist Domestic Violence Court.
 - Local authority meeting at least 75 per cent of BVPI 225.
 - Employment of at least a part-time Domestic Violence Co-ordinator on a permanent contract or a full time Domestic Violence Co-ordinator on a short-term contract of not less than two years duration.
 - A senior member of staff with specific responsibility for domestic violence in each of the 'Responsible Authorities'.
 - Evidence of cross-sector work between domestic violence and substance abuse services or domestic violence and mental health services.
 - CDRPs allocating an annual budget to the local Domestic Violence Forum comprising at least 15 per cent of monies allocated to violent crime.
 - Evidence of on-going survivor involvement to shape local strategies and priorities.
 - Domestic violence work taking place in at least four schools.
 - A named link person in the local education authority with responsibility for ensuring children who move into the borough are found a school placement as quickly as possible.
 - A Snapshot Project operating in at least two surgeries or an A&E Department.
 - Routine enquiry in place in maternity services.
 - At least one refuge bed-space fully accessible to a woman with mobility or sensory impairment.
 - Inter-agency information-sharing protocol in place.
 - Systems in place for interventions with perpetrators who are not being managed by the CJS.
- Level three – LDVS2 (3)**
- An independent advocacy service in place consisting of at least four full time (or equivalent) advocates.
 - A holistic (i.e. voluntary sector victim support and advocacy) Sanctuary scheme in place 65.
 - Community based services for children exposed to domestic violence66.
 - CDRPs allocating an annual budget to the local Domestic Violence Forum comprising at least 25 per cent of monies allocated to violent crime.
 - Local police division are making arrests in at least 80 per cent of domestic violence incidents where the power exists to do so.
 - A contact centre offering high vigilance contact services.
 - Employment of a full-time Domestic Violence Co-ordinator on a permanent contract.
 - Local authority meeting at least 90 per cent of BVPI 225.

- Domestic violence integrated into at least nine of the following:
 - Local Public Service Agreement
 - Local Area Agreement
 - Equality Action Plan
 - Homelessness Reduction Strategy
 - Education Development Plan
 - Anti-bullying Strategy
 - Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy
 - Drug and Alcohol Action Team Treatment Plan
 - Local Policing Plan
 - Children and Young People's Plan
 - Primary Care Trust Local Development Plan
 - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy
 - Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
 - The Healthy Schools Programme Plan
 - Sure Start Strategy
 - Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
 - Vulnerable Adult Protection Strategy
 - Equality standard for local government.
- A named individual with responsibility for domestic violence in at least eight local statutory agencies/local authority directorates.
- Domestic violence work taking place in at least six schools.
- A Specialist Domestic Violence Court in place.
- All 'Responsible Authorities' have a domestic violence personnel policy.
- Evidence of cross-sector work between domestic violence and substance abuse services and domestic violence and mental health services.
- A Snapshot Project operating in at least four surgeries or an A&E Department.
- At least two refuge bed-spaces fully accessible to a woman with mobility or sensory impairment.
- Formal referral routes in place for perpetrators to programmes meeting Respect minimum standards.

Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Forum

Terms of Reference

Principles

The agencies and individuals involved in the Barking and Dagenham Domestic Violence Forum (the Forum) agree that the following principles underpin their involvement:

- Domestic violence is a crime and is unacceptable in our community.
- Any services available to a victim should be offered in a non-judgmental way and should aim to maximise his/her choices and safety.
- Abusers should be held accountable for their behaviour.
- Prevention of domestic violence through education and early intervention is key to the long term reduction of domestic violence.
- Mutual respect, trust, professionalism and a desire for sensitive and appropriate service delivery are essential to our collaboration.
- Policies, practises and procedures will not disadvantage on the basis of skin colour, race, ethnic background, nationality, sex, gender, sexual preference, marital status, age, social or economic status, disability, faith, political beliefs or health status.

Aims

- To be an information-gathering and information-sharing group.
- To be an independent advisory group to the Strategic Group (SG) supporting the implementation of the borough Domestic Violence Strategy.
- To establish a co-operative working partnership of agencies to improve service provision for victims of domestic violence and their families.

Objectives

- For the Chair of the Forum to sit on the SG, and be responsible for sharing information between the two.
- To identify issues around service delivery and practice, and provide this information and recommendations to the SG via the Chair.
- To share information on agencies' policies, practice and contracts.
- To develop best practise and disseminate within the Forum, and encourage best practice from professional service providers.
- To support the SG where training needs have been identified, both by ensuring that staff attend appropriate training, and by providing training.

Structure of Forum

- The Forum will meet every 3 months.
- Every member of the Forum has a right to place items on each meeting's agenda. The agenda, minutes and circulation list will be managed by the Domestic Violence Team in the Local Authority, with input from the Chair.
- The Chair will actively encourage inviting appropriate agencies to join the forum.
- The operation of the terms of eference of the Forum shall be monitored and will be reviewed when necessary.



For any victim or child living with domestic violence there will be a range of services, sufficiently flexible to meet their individual needs, yet standardised enough for them to be able to safely rely upon them.

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**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London



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