

List of local LBBB domestic and sexual violence services

Core

Hestia Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Service

Barking and Dagenham Public Health commissions a specialist Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Service (currently provided by Hestia) which provides crisis and emergency support to high risk victims of domestic violence. This service provides specialist advocacy to victims ensuring that they access services including: housing, benefits, criminal justice services, education for children, employment and health services.

In addition to the community IDSVVA service, the service provides a Children's IDSVVA co-located in the Children's Services Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. It also now provides a Young Person's IDSVVA (working with young victims aged 11-18) funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

Hestia supported accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic abuse

Hestia also provide the Borough's supported accommodation scheme for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. Barking and Dagenham have two borough refuge accommodation sites with a total of 12 bed spaces providing medium to long term accommodation support to victims of domestic violence and their children. This provision is funded by Public Health. The general premise is that women are placed outside of their borough to avoid the risk of future victimisation. This means that boroughs fund provision in their own borough on the assumption that their residents will be able to access other boroughs' provisions.

Victim Support domestic violence case worker

Victim Support, funded by Public Health, provides a low to medium risk IDSVVA Support Service via one full time worker based in the community. This worker provides support to victims who do not meet the threshold for the above services and takes referrals automatically from the Police and via the IDSVVA service.

Metropolitan Police Operations

The Metropolitan Police have a number of operations targeted at reducing domestic and sexual violence and bring perpetrators to justice. The 'core' operations include:

- Community Safety Unit - a specialist unit that investigates reports of domestic violence; and
- Sapphire Unit - a specialist unit that investigates reports of sexual violence.

Supporting

Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Manager

LBBD employs a Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Manager based in Adult and Community Services. This role is funded by Public Health in order to develop and deliver a strategic and coordinated response to domestic violence. Work includes the delivery of domestic violence projects, commissioning of external domestic violence services and contract monitoring of existing commissioned services.

MARAC and MARAC Coordinator

A Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) has been running in Barking and Dagenham since June 2008. The panel is held monthly to discuss high risk domestic violence cases and is chaired by the Metropolitan Police Community Safety Unit Detective Inspector. MARAC partners share up-to-date case risk information at the conference with a timely assessment of a high risk victim's needs in order to link clients directly to the provision of appropriate services. A safety plan is implemented for all clients and onward referrals are made where appropriate.

Public Health also fund a MARAC Coordinator to ensure that the MARAC operates within a coordinated response model. MARAC data monitoring is maintained locally to record repeat victimisation and domestic violence homicide and is provided quarterly to Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA).

Children's Services Domestic Violence and Child Sexual Exploitation Coordinator

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Children's Services department employs a Domestic Violence and Child Sexual Exploitation Coordinator who is funded by Public Health. This worker is located with the Adult Services department alongside the Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Manager and MARAC Coordinator to ensure a coordinated response.

Troubled Families Domestic Violence Coordinators

Troubled Families Domestic Violence Coordinators (1.5 FTE) have been commissioned and are currently seconded from Victim Support to work with a cohort of 40 families identified by Children's Services where domestic violence is prevalent alongside further complex and multiple needs. They are based across the Council Adult and Community Services and Children Services departments. This project commenced locally on 1st August 2014 and is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government on a payment by results basis.

Metropolitan Police

The Metropolitan Police have a number of operations targeted at reducing domestic and sexual violence and bring perpetrators to justice. The 'supporting' operations include:

Operation Dawn Thunder, a Metropolitan Police Service initiative, is conducted daily to arrest wanted domestic violence suspects in early morning raids;

a Domestic Violence Crime Advisor (Detective Sergeant) initiative working within a Emergency Response Patrol Team 24/7, which is currently being piloted in Barking and Dagenham; and

the Police in Barking and Dagenham have also negotiated with the Association of Chief Police Officers to gain lead pilot status for Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO's). The first DVPO in London was issued by Barking and Dagenham and offender breached the Order and was consequently remanded for six weeks. Work to issue further DVPO's is underway.

London Probation Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme

London Probation delivers an Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme for perpetrators of domestic violence who have been ordered via the courts to attend the programme as part of their conviction. This is a nationally funded programme.

RESPECT Perpetrator programme

A non court ordered perpetrator programme can be sought via Respect which is a national charity. London based programmes include a non court ordered perpetrator programme delivered by the Domestic Violence Intervention Programme (DVIP).

Victim Support Witness Service

Victim support delivers a Witness Service to support victims of domestic violence attending court in relation to the prosecution of their abusers. This is a nationally funded service.

Victim Support and Hestia – Special Measures provision at court

Victims are also supported through the court system via IDSVA support from Victim Support and Hestia. Work includes the use of Special Measures (such as separate entrances to the Court and screens while testifying) for victims of domestic violence in the criminal justice system. Victim attrition has been an issue in Barking and Dagenham and this initiative has seen victim non-attendance at court fall from 40% to 3%.

East London Rape Crisis Centre

The East London Rape Crisis Service is commissioned by MOPAC with contributions from the seven East London Quadrant boroughs; London Borough of Tower Hamlets, London Borough of Hackney, London Borough of Waltham Forest, London Borough of Redbridge, London Borough of Newham, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and London Borough of Havering. This service is delivered by the Nia Project across two sites based at a hub in the London Borough of Hackney and in the London Borough of Redbridge from the Loxford Lane Polyclinic in Ilford Lane. The service comprises telephone support and counselling for victims of rape, as well as signposting to other available services.

LBD Children's Services – Domestic Violence Children's Treatment Programme

Barking and Dagenham Children's Services are coordinating delivery of a Domestic Violence Children's Treatment Programme endorsed by Against Violence and Abuse (AVA). This programme is aimed at families where domestic violence is no longer present and the non-abusing parent is no longer residing in the family home. The programme is being delivered by Children's Services officers with support from colleagues in partner agencies.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Forum

A Domestic and Sexual Violence Forum meets quarterly which allows specialist local providers to network, share good practice and advise of gaps in service delivery or concerns about service delivery that clients may encounter. This forum is chaired by Alison Lines, Parent Support Advisor of Godwin Primary School. Reports from the forum are reported upwards to the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategic Group quarterly and used to inform strategic decisions.

LBD Youth Offending Service Girls Group

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Youth Offending Service delivers a girls group which delivers a domestic violence awareness session during to female young offenders. Girls are given the opportunity to talk to a specialist and signposted to confidential support services should they need them. This delivery is funded by the Council.

Metropolitan Police

The Metropolitan Police have a number of operations targeted at reducing domestic and sexual violence and bring perpetrators to justice. The 'supplementary' operations include:

All Metropolitan Police Barking & Dagenham teams are being enhanced with a rolling programme of attachments for Emergency Response Policing Team (ERPT)

and officers are being attached to the Community Safety Unit for a month at a time, with the ambition to expose all officers to seeing enhanced victim care and investigative process; and

Operation Dauntless - a pan-London, multi-strand project which is owned by the local Senior Management Team to look at all aspects of domestic abuse and improve performance. Repeat and prolific perpetrators will be reviewed as part of this operation.

Victim Support – Sanctuary Project

The Sanctuary project is delivered by Victim Support and provides target hardening for homes of residents experiencing domestic violence regardless of housing tenure. Target hardening helps to make the home secure and prevent perpetrators from entering the property. This service is funded by the Council.

Arc Theatre – Sexual Exploitation Project in Schools

Community Organisation Arc Theatre is commissioned by MOPAC to deliver a sexual exploitation awareness project in secondary schools in Barking and Dagenham. Over 400 young people have received delivery of the project in 2014/15 to date, with over 90% of these young people rating the project as informative.

Shpresa

Shpresa, an Albanian speaking community group, delivers a domestic violence women's support group locally in Barking and Dagenham to raise awareness of domestic violence and to provide a support network for Albanian women experiencing domestic violence.

Kiran Woman's Aid

Kiran Women's Aid, an Asian speaking voluntary sector organisation, delivers a weekly domestic violence support drop in service at Gascoigne Children's Centre. This complements existing service provision in the community for women wishing to access specialist support in Asian languages.

The Daniel Project Cherished Girls Mentoring programme

The Cherish Girls Mentoring programme is delivered by The Daniel Project for girls aged 11 to 18 years old who may be at risk of sexual exploration, who have low self esteem or who need extra help or support. The programme is funded by MOPAC.

Training

Domestic Violence training is delivered via the Local Safeguarding Children's Board for all staff to access and is funded within council training provision.

Publicity

Local domestic and sexual violence publicity materials are renewed periodically and are available from the Community Safety and Offender Management team. An online Domestic and Sexual Violence Directory of Services has been drafted for publication during White Ribbon events 2014.