



Warrington Domestic Abuse Partnership (WDAP)

Strategy

2013 - 2016

Warrington Domestic Abuse Partnership (WDAP) Strategy 2013 - 2016

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1. Foreword

Warrington Domestic Abuse Partnership (WDAP) Strategy is committed to tackling all forms of domestic abuse and alleviating its effects on survivors/victims, their children and the wider community. To achieve this we are dedicated to delivering the Strategy.

The Strategy sets out a firm commitment to addressing local needs in Warrington and developing responses that support victims/survivors and their children whilst holding perpetrators to account. It is intended to enhance, strengthen and develop existing and future work within a wider strategic framework.

In 2011/12 over 1000 incidents of domestic abuse in homes and streets across Warrington were reported to the Police.¹ The impact is wide ranging and is linked to anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse, bullying, child abuse, fear of crime, health, social exclusion, homelessness and poverty. It affects individuals of all ages, cultures, genders, economic situations and religions.

WDAP firmly believes that domestic abuse should not remain hidden and that together we can reduce domestic abuse in Warrington. The Partnership works to raise awareness and understanding of all forms of domestic abuse and to ensure that appropriate support is available to those affected by these crimes. Warrington has a number of key initiatives to tackle domestic abuse including specialist support for female and male victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, outreach, counselling, interventions for perpetrators and community based group work for women and children who have been affected by domestic abuse.

WDAP will continue to develop initiatives to tackle domestic abuse with a particular focus on delivering services to people who may experience additional barriers to seeking help; those from minority communities, disabled victims/survivors, older victims/survivors, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, those with complex needs and/or substance users and those under 25 years of age.

Each and every resident in Warrington has a role to play in tackling domestic abuse by sending out a clear message that domestic abuse is unacceptable. If victims/survivors become more confident in coming forward to deal with the abuse they have suffered, then this will indicate that the strategy has been successful. While the aims of this strategy are challenging, it is achievable if we work together to tackle domestic abuse in Warrington.

Fiona Waddington
Chair of Warrington Domestic Abuse Partnership

¹ Cheshire Police Domestic Abuse Data Pack 2012

2. Vision

It is our vision to tackle domestic abuse within families: reduce incidents of abuse and end repeat victimisation across Warrington.

3. Introduction

In 2012 WDAP published the Domestic Violence Chapter for the Warrington Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). This strategy is based upon the priorities highlighted in the JSNA and sets out key areas of action we will take to tackle domestic abuse over the next three years. The strategy also supports the rationale for domestic abuse as a priority strand for Warrington's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Board, the Community Safety Partnership and the Children and Young People's Partnership.

The overriding purpose of the Strategy is to ensure that issues relating to domestic abuse retain a strong and visible focus for the agencies and partners who form WDAP. It will signal a strong and meaningful commitment on the part of Warrington to provide clear policy direction across the key agencies and to support a coordinated response to domestic abuse.

Much work has been conducted in the Borough aimed at addressing domestic abuse and from this a great deal of efficient practice has been identified. This strategy was developed in consultation with a number of stakeholders, service users and strategic partners who have requested that services are better publicised, children are provided with the support they need, and perpetrators are provided with interventions to help them address their behaviour.

Through this process key issues and gaps have been identified and plans to address each area are set out in the aims and objectives through clear commissioning priorities, performance management and governance procedures for domestic abuse.

WDAP commits to tackle domestic abuse in all its forms through an integrated approach of prevention, protection, provision, participation, partnership and performance management.

The terms 'domestic abuse' and 'domestic violence' are used interchangeably throughout this strategy.

3.1 Background

This section provides a brief overview of the national picture of domestic abuse.

In recent years tackling domestic abuse has become a significant priority on the political agenda and it is now a key government priority. HM Government: 'Call to End Violence against Women and Girls' (November 2010) provides the framework for a greater emphasis on tackling all forms of domestic abuse.

There are clear links between sexual violence and domestic abuse. It is important to note that victims of sexual violence perpetrated by a current or former partner are likely to be victims of the most severe forms of domestic violence. Approximately 51% of serious sexual assaults and rapes are committed by current or former partners of the victim (British Crime Survey 2005). Domestic abuse is also linked with sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancies and miscarriage².

According to the Home Office³, domestic abuse remains largely under-group, class, age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation or lifestyle:

- two women a week are killed by a current or former partner;
- one in four women experience domestic abuse in their lives;
- one in six men experience domestic abuse in their lives;
- victims are likely to experience 35 incidents of abuse before reporting the abuse;
- as many as 963,000 children and young people in the UK could be living with the effects of domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse has a tremendous impact upon society not only in terms of the pain and suffering experienced by the victim/survivor and their family but also in terms of the costs to public services and the local community. The Strategy recognises that employees will inevitably be amongst those impacted by domestic abuse and that clear policies and guidelines provided by employers are required. The cost of the 'average' domestic violence case has been estimated at £14,000 and this does not take into account longer-term costs of unemployment, housing and social services.⁴ The total cost to public services (criminal justice system, health, social services, housing and civil /legal) per annum has been estimated at

² Martin SL, Matza LS, Kupper LL, Thomas JC, Daly M, Cloutier S. Domestic violence and sexually transmitted diseases: the experience of prenatal care patients. *Public Health Rep.* 1999;114:262 –268

³ Home Office, (2009), *British Crime Survey, 2008/09 (England and Wales)*, HMSO London, 2009

⁴ A Process Evaluation Nov 2009 www.cardiff.ac.uk/people Funded by the Home Office

£3.9bn per year, with high-risk domestic abuse making up nearly £2.4bn of this.⁵

Statutory responsibilities fall on police, probation and local authorities through their Community Safety Partnership duties as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 2004. Domestic Homicide Reviews are a recently introduced statutory responsibility for Community Safety Partnerships. The Police and Crime Commissioner will have specific statutory responsibility through setting the Police and Crime objectives and publishing the Police and Crime Plan.

Associated obligations lie with Health services and specific service areas such as Housing and Social Care. All agencies carry statutory responsibility in relation to children's safeguarding, vulnerable adults and equalities. A list of relevant Acts is contained in Section 3.4.1.

3.2 Definition

Domestic violence is characterised by inter-personal violence and with effect from March 2013 it will be defined by the Home Office as:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 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 and emotional.

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

This definition includes 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

The definition does not cover violence by an under 16 year old against another family member.

⁵ Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) (2010) 'Saving lives, saving money: MARACs and high risk domestic abuse'. Bristol: CAADA.

WDAP has adopted the 2013 Home Office definition.

In Warrington, when the perpetrator is over 18 and the victim under 18, this is regarded as child abuse.

If both perpetrator and victim are under 18 years, consideration of the need for a child protection investigation to be undertaken would still be required but the national definition allows any abuse between 16 -17 year olds to be considered as domestic abuse.

3.3 Equalities

There is a requirement to address the needs of women and men who may be affected by domestic abuse. It is important to ensure appropriate service responses are in place to support male victims/survivors as gender may be an additional barrier to seeking help. Other groups of people who may experience additional barriers to seeking help include those from minority communities, people who lack capacity to make decisions for themselves, people with a learning disability, people with mental health needs, people with a physical disability, those with dementia, frail older victims, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, those with complex needs and/or substance users. We will seek to ensure that services are able to meet individuals' needs in a sensitive and consistent manner. This will be carried out in line with relevant legislation.

3.3.1 Gender

According to the Women's National Commission (2010)⁶ domestic abuse is a gender issue with the gender of both victim and perpetrator influencing the behaviour and the severity of risk and harm caused. The commonly cited figures of domestic violence affecting one in four women and one in six men might suggest a degree of parity but women are more likely than men to experience interpersonal violence, especially sexual violence and to experience severe and/or repeated incidents of violence and abuse. Women are more likely to be injured, more likely to be frightened and more likely to be murdered.⁷ 30% of domestic violence cases start or escalate during pregnancy.⁸

⁶ The Women's National Commission, (2010), *Domestic Violence*, [Available at: <http://www.thewnc.org.uk/work-of-the-wnc/violence-against-women/domestic-violence.html>]

⁷ Home Office, (2010), *British Crime Survey, 2009/10 (England and Wales)*, HMSO London, 2010

⁸ McWilliams, M., McKiernan, J., (1993) *Bringing it out into the open: domestic violence in Northern Ireland*: HMSO, Belfast, 1993

Research found that men were less likely to have been repeat victims of domestic assault, less likely to be seriously injured and less likely to report feeling fearful in their own homes. The research also indicates that men who report that they are victims of domestic violence are also more likely to be perpetrators of domestic violence.⁹ However, some studies suggest that men are less likely to report domestic abuse than women. George (1999) found that women were twice as likely as men to report injury in the previous year and virtually no male victims/survivors considered assaults against them to be a crime.¹⁰

3.3.2 Age

Children and young people can be victims, witnesses or perpetrators of domestic abuse. The impact on children in a household where there is domestic abuse can be profound and long lasting. It is associated with an increased risk of all forms of abuse and increasingly is seen as a form of emotional abuse in itself. Also, emotional wellbeing, behaviour, attainment, risk taking and long-term life chances are all affected and the younger the child, the greater is the risk.¹¹ The Adoption and Children Act 2002 (amended 2005) includes in the definition of harm to children 'seeing or hearing ill treatment of another' and thereby clarified that domestic abuse falls within safeguarding legislation under the Children Acts of 1989 and 2004.

An analysis of serious case reviews found evidence of past or present domestic violence present in over half (53%) of cases.¹² In 2011/12 within the families of the domestic abuse victims presented to Warrington's Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) there were 321 children and according to MARAC Case Analysis, 181 of those were under the age of five years. Domestic abuse featured as the primary concern in 31% of Warrington children on Child Protection Plans in 2011/12.

There is growing recognition that violence does not stop when parents separate. The British Crime Survey (2001) reported that, when women continue to see a violent ex-partner after separating (usually in order to maintain his relationship with children) contact visits have involved threats,

⁹ MacPherson, S., (2002) Domestic Violence: Findings from the 2000 Scottish Crime Survey, Scottish Executive: Edinburgh, 2002

¹⁰ George M., (1999), An Analysis of Male Victimization, based Home Office Research Study 191 (HORS 191) Domestic Violence: Findings from a new British Crime Survey self-completion questionnaire, Cartiona Mirrlees, Black, Home Office, 1999

¹¹ Royal College of Psychiatrists, (2004), Domestic Violence: Its Effects on Children. Mental Health and Growing Up Factsheet 17, Royal College of Psychiatrists, London 2004

¹² Brandon, M., Bailey, S., Belderson, P., Gardner, R., Sidebottom, P., Dodsworth, J., Warren, C. and Black, J. (2009) Understanding Serious Case Reviews and their Impact: A Biennial Analysis of Serious Case Reviews 2005-7. London: Department for Children Schools and Families.

abuse or violence in over a third of cases. Women are most at risk of serious violent assault when separating or within two months after separating.

The Audit Commission¹³ cites successful outcomes for children and young people affected by domestic violence who have been supported to deal with their experiences through children's programmes that offer a parallel programme for mothers to attend. Mothers are supported to understand how the violence has impacted on the child and how best to help them through recovery.

According to Office of National Statistics' projections the number of people aged 65 - 74 will continue to grow.¹⁴ Better understanding of the specific needs and risks to this group in relation to domestic abuse will inform planning for potential future services. A clear picture of the prevalence of domestic abuse in the lives of older people is largely unavailable, yet they are a population at risk because of their increased dependency on others to meet basic needs. The dynamics of power and control are the same but it may be harder for older women to seek help and that when they do, services may not always meet their needs.

3.3.3 Ethnicity

Issues such as forced marriage, female genital mutilation and 'honour-based violence' mainly concern women from minority ethnic backgrounds. However, women from minority groups who are experiencing domestic abuse may find it far more difficult to access help than the general population.

The Warrington Census from 2012 states that 7% of the resident population belong to a black and minority ethnic group (BME) but only 4% of high - risk domestic abuse cases were from BME communities in Warrington during 2011/12. Where incidents are reported, there is a lack of specialist services for people from minority groups.

3.3.4 Sexual Orientation

No exact figures are available for Warrington in terms of prevalence or actual incidence of domestic abuse for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals but it is recognised as an area of potential significant under-reporting. High-risk victims/survivors who identify themselves as LGBT account for less than 1% of cases in line with the national average of 1%. Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) estimate that Warrington services should be aiming to increase

¹³ Audit Commission (2007) Seeing the light: innovation in local public services. London Borough of Sutton: helping children who have witnessed domestic violence. London: Audit Commission

¹⁴ Office for National Statistics, (2008), Principal National Population Projections, ONS England, 2008

MARAC LGBT referrals to 5%.

3.3.5 Disability

In 2011/12, only 1% of high-risk Warrington victims/survivors were identified as having a disability. This is an under-representation of people with a disability when compared to the national average of 3% for high-risk cases.

3.3.6 Mental Health

Research shows that rates of depression are much higher among women experiencing domestic abuse than the general public.¹⁵ Domestic abuse is also likely to be the most common, single, background factor for female patients in mental health settings.¹⁶

3.4 Policy Drivers

This Strategy draws on important legislation and policy initiatives. It is consistent with national, regional and local strategies and plans which have established that domestic violence is a major cause of vulnerability for women and children and that it has a negative impact on their ability to achieve their full potential.

3.4.1 National

Adoption and Children Act 2002 (amended 2005)
Anti-Social Behaviour Act, 2003
Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Guidelines for work with Honour-Based Violence, 2008
British Crime Surveys, 2000/09, Home Office, 2001 – 2010
Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls 2010 and 2011
Children Act, 1989 and 2004
Cross Government Action plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse 2007
Equality Acts of 2006 and 2010
Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act, 2004
Domestic Violence Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012
Every Child Matters, (Department for Education and Skills) 2004
Family Law Act, 1996
Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2003

¹⁵ Helfrich et al (2008), Mental Health Disorders and Functioning of Women in Domestic Violence Shelters', *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 24(4): 437-453, 2008

¹⁶ Sutherland, et al (2002), Beyond Bruises and Broken Bones: The Joint Effects of Stress and Injuries on Battered Women's Health', *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 30(5): 609-636. Springer Netherlands, 2002

Housing Act, 2003
Human Rights Act, 1998
Mainstreaming the commissioning of local services to address domestic abuse, HM Government, 2009
Mental Capacity Act, 2005
Multi agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage 2009
National Framework for Domestic Violence, 2006
No Secrets (Department of Health) 2010
Sexual Offences Act, 2003
Statutory Guidance for Domestic Homicide Review, 2011
Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls; A Strategy (Home Office, 2009)
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989
Working Together to Safeguard Children, DCSF, 2006 and 2010

3.4.2 Regional

Cheshire Safeguarding Procedures, 2008
Police Domestic Violence Policy, 2009

3.4.3 Local

Towards a Fairer Warrington: Corporate Plan, 2011 - 2015
Warrington Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, 2012 - 2015
Warrington Children and Young People's Business Plan 2011 - 2014
Warrington Domestic Violence Strategy, 2009 - 2012
Warrington Housing Strategy, 2008 - 2012
Warrington Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 2012
Warrington Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2012 – 2014

3.5 Prevalence in Warrington

3.5.1 Who is at Risk and Why

Local data underlines a complex pattern of overlapping and repeated abuse perpetrated within a context of power and control, with women being considerably more likely to experience repeated and much more severe forms of abuse than men.

The 2011/12 Cheshire Police Data Pack for Partner Agencies records the following figures for Warrington:

- 889 female victims/survivors of domestic abuse incidents, compared with 161 male victims/survivors;
- 850 perpetrators of domestic abuse incidents were male, compared with 128 females;
- 277 high-risk cases concerned female victims/survivors compared with 21 male cases.

Difficulties have been experienced in collecting accurate data on domestic abuse. The problems relate to the hidden and private nature of domestic abuse and inconsistent approaches to data collection. The statistics available for Warrington can therefore only partially contribute to providing an accurate picture of the extent of domestic abuse in the borough.

3.5.2 Demographic Profile

According to the 2012 Census, Warrington Borough Council serves a population of approximately 202,000 people with a small but increasing black or minority ethnic (BME) population and a growing population of older people.

The British Crime Survey (2009) found that around 4.4% of women and 2.7% of men had declared themselves the victim of domestic violence in the UK. Based on Warrington's population, this equates to over 14,000 people. According to the Cheshire Police Data Pack for Partner Agencies, numbers of domestic abuse incident reports stay fairly consistent throughout the year in Warrington. In total, there were 1055 domestic abuse incidents recorded in Warrington between April 2011 and March 2012, 298 of which were assessed as high risk of serious harm or death.

Inner Warrington is relatively more deprived than outer Warrington. The most deprived areas are Bewsey and Whitecross, the Oakwood area within Birchwood, Fairfield and Howley, Latchford East, Orford, Poulton North, Poplars and Hulme. The reporting of domestic abuse correlates closely with this pattern according to early findings of the Warrington Safeguarding Project in 2011. Women in affluent families are less likely to report domestic abuse, suggesting that the stigma of domestic violence may be more acute for these women. Where women have access to greater resources to provide them with support and assistance, they may lack visibility compared to women in receipt of state benefits.

3.5.3 Alcohol and Substance Misuse

Domestic abuse and alcohol/substance misuse often co-exist. Alcohol may be a coping mechanism for people undergoing stressful issues within their lives and this may also be true for perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse. Women experiencing domestic abuse are up to fifteen times more likely to misuse alcohol and nine times more likely to misuse other drugs than women generally¹⁷. This is reflected in the Cheshire Police Domestic Abuse Data for Warrington 2011/12, which notes alcohol (28%) as a significant contributory factor and substance misuse (6%) as a contributory factor. Alcohol consumption increases during major sporting events and is a significant factor in the rise in reported domestic abuse incidents at Christmas. There is a need to fully identify the extent of

¹⁷ Stark, E. and Flitcraft, A., 1996; Maryland Department of Health, 2001

alcohol misuse amongst domestic abuse victims and perpetrators and to address any gaps in intelligence from key partners.

3.6 The Level of Need in Warrington

A large minority of victims tell no one about their experiences of domestic violence. In 2012 CAADA published *A Place of Greater Safety*¹⁸, a report aimed at commissioners and policy makers with strategic responsibility for funding domestic abuse services. The Report presents evidence that on average, it takes 5 years for a high risk victim of domestic abuse to find effective help. Different referral routes to IDVA/MARAC services influence early identification and the profile of victims who are supported. Whilst nearly half of the victims in the Report were identified through the criminal justice system, victims who were referred through health agencies were more likely to reflect vulnerable, hard-to-reach groups. These included pregnant victims, those still living with the perpetrator, the young, those with mental health and substance use issues and victims from black and minority ethnic communities. Early evidence also suggested that victims who are identified through health agencies also experience a shorter length of abuse than victims who are identified by the criminal justice system or who self refer. In particular, pregnant victims were most likely to access IDVA support through a health professional's referral and they did so at a much earlier stage of the abusive relationship than clients who were not pregnant.

Under-reporting affects substantiation of allegations in the courts, particularly where there is no police evidence. There is a reduction in successful prosecution rates but CAADA research (2011)¹⁹ found that the most significant increase in cessation of abuse is where victims/survivors have been supported by an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDVA) and where the perpetrator has been charged with an offence following a report to the police, compared to where there is no charge.

Cheshire Police Domestic Abuse Data for Warrington 2011-2012 highlights:

- Reported domestic abuse incidents of repeat victimisation reduced from 31% in 2010/11 to 24% in 2011/12;
- 24% of MARAC cases were referred back to MARAC within a 12 month period compared to 23% nationally;
- Offenders are likely to be male aged 25-39, younger perpetrators 16-24 are a growing perpetrator group;
- In 32% of cases, arrests were made;
- Children are reported to be present in over half of high risk cases;
- Low level of referrals to MARAC across the Partnership are made from agencies other than Police.

¹⁸ Insights into Domestic Abuse, *A Place Of Greater Safety* (CAADA) 2012

¹⁹ IDVA Insights into Domestic Violence Prosecutions, (CAADA) 2012

3.7 Current Services

WDAP commissions specialist domestic abuse services through the Supporting People Programme and other local commissioning frameworks in Warrington. There is a range of established forums that also contribute to the delivery of domestic abuse support, services and activities.

3.7.1 Warrington Women's Aid Refuge

The Refuge is commissioned through the Warrington Supporting People Programme to provide 13 units of supported accommodation and support for women and up to 20 children, from Warrington or other locations, who are at high risk of domestic violence. The service provides access to support staff Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm and has dedicated out of hours support. A Children's Support Worker funded by Children in Need and Lloyds TSB and an Apprentice Children's Support Worker funded through charitable donations provide dedicated support for children accommodated at the Refuge.

3.7.2 NSPCC Domestic Abuse Recovering Together (DART)

The NSPCC DART programme provides group work with children aged 7 to 11 years and their mothers where they have experienced domestic abuse and the perpetrator is no longer living with the family.

3.7.3 Warrington Refuge Independent Domestic Abuse Service

Specialist guidance and support is provided to staff and service users through Warrington Refuge Independent Domestic Abuse Service which is commissioned through the Warrington Domestic Abuse Commissioning Framework. Refuge, a national organisation, provides three Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) for victims/survivors perceived to be at high risk of serious harm or homicide and an Outreach Worker to support victims/survivors who are not considered to be at high risk of harm.

IDVAs and the Outreach Worker support men and women aged 16+ at risk of domestic abuse by providing:

- Emotional and practical support;
- Intensive support to increase short, medium and long term safety;
- Information and guidance on court proceedings and legal options;
- Access to other specialist support services

IDVAs are independent professional advisors that work with victims from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop co-ordinated safety plans. They work within a well-defined role, underpinned by an accredited training programme and offer intensive support work with service users to reduce risk. The work of IDVAs has clear and measurable outcomes in terms of improved safety

and a reduction in repeat offences. A multi-site evaluation of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (Howarth et al., 2009) found that the abuse stopped completely in two-thirds of cases where there was intensive support from an IDVA service including multiple interventions.

The Outreach Worker complements the IDVA service and provides support to individuals and groups of victims/survivors identified as being at standard to medium risk of domestic abuse.

3.7.4 Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

MARAC invites key agencies to meet formally on a fortnightly basis to ensure measures are taken to reduce harm to high risk victims/survivors of domestic abuse aged 16 years and above on a case by case basis.

Warrington might expect up to 400 MARAC referrals per annum based on its current population. In 2011/12, 298 MARAC referrals were received from a limited range of agencies and were disproportionately dominated by police referrals. Non-police referrals accounted for 24% in 2011/12 compared to an average of over 40% across Cheshire. In 2012, WDAP trained over 200 multi-agency frontline practitioners to gain a shared understanding of risk and to identify high risk cases through completion of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour based violence (DASH) Risk Identification Checklist (RIC). The DASH RIC has been designed as a common tool to help practitioners decide which cases should be referred to MARAC and what levels of support might be required.

3.7.5 The Warrington Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC)

SDVCs were established to tackle the problem of low levels of prosecutions for domestic violence cases and aims to provide an increased level of support to victims to address the issue of victims withdrawing from the criminal justice system. Warrington Court heard 424 cases between January and December 2011. There are no figures available at present to measure trends in the number of cases being heard, but there are declining numbers across Cheshire.

3.7.6 Cheshire Constabulary Public Protection Unit (Warrington)

The Public Protection Unit (PPU) manages some of the most sensitive and high-risk matters of policing. The PPU supports the Police response to domestic abuse in the following ways:

- Operational policing and investigation of all matters of domestic abuse;
- Taking effective action against offenders and, where appropriate, the subsequent management of those offenders through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA);
- Representation at domestic abuse forums/partnerships across the Force Area.

Detective Sergeants supervise and have specific responsibility for domestic abuse at the Public Protection Unit in Warrington.

3.7.7 Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

MAPPA is a multi agency public protection arrangement led by the Probation, Prison and Police services to assess and manage offenders who pose a high degree of risk. In the most serious cases of domestic abuse, MAPPA works with health, housing, social services and other agencies work in close partnership to protect victims from perpetrators e.g. at a victim's request, he or she will be kept informed of an offender's release.

3.7.8 Warrington Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB)

The local authority adult social care department plays a lead role in co-ordinating and developing local arrangements for safeguarding adults. The definition of a Vulnerable Adult is: 'A person aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation'. (No Secrets, DOH 2000). All partner agencies, however, play a vital role in ensuring the best possible outcomes for those people in our community who are vulnerable to abuse and those who have experienced abuse. The role of the WSAB is to deliver an effective and consistent multi-agency response to adult abuse. The Domestic Abuse Coordinator represents WDAP in contributing to the work of WSAB in promoting awareness of domestic abuse and signposting those affected to services.

3.7.9 Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)

WSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. The Domestic Abuse Coordinator routinely reports to WSCB. The primary purpose is to assure WSCB that the impact of domestic abuse on children is fully understood and that the services provided are delivering improved outcomes particularly in relation to ensuring the safety of the children affected.

3.7.10 WBC Children and Young People's Services

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) team leads on the integrated working agenda across Warrington and has responsibility for the implementation and operation of Warrington's Family Support Model (FSM). Through the FSM, partner agencies play a key role in delivering early help and supporting the domestic abuse agenda in Warrington with a focus on the early identification of children and young people with additional support needs and provision of appropriate, timely and co-ordinated interventions. The children's social work service takes a lead

where the identified risk is at a higher level and there is a need for statutory support/intervention. Safeguarding concerns for a child/children living with domestic violence are dealt with by Children and Young People's Targeted Services, Duty and Assessment Team.

3.7.11 Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) provides practical and emotional support to individuals who have experienced sexual violence, including support in accessing health services and the criminal justice system. Counselling and support is available to women, men and young people over the age of 13. Self-referrals and referrals from other agencies are accepted by telephone through the RASASC central office in Warrington.

3.7.12 Sanctuary Scheme

This scheme provides a secure and safe environment so that victims/survivors (and their children) can be protected from a violent partner, or ex-partner, within their own home. The service includes a full crime-prevention, home safety assessment and a range of security measures including reinforced doors, door and window locks, outside security lights and where necessary, the construction of a secure Sanctuary Room within the existing home.

3.7.13 The Cheshire Probation Service

The Probation Service has a major role to play in reducing the risk posed by perpetrators of domestic violence, changing their behaviour and responding to victims under the supervision of the Probation Service. It delivers a compulsory Community Domestic Violence Programme, which offers rehabilitation opportunities for offenders who are convicted for offences related to domestic abuse. The programme was completed by 25 male offenders in Warrington during 2011/12. The Probation Service manages very large numbers of perpetrators through specialist Offender Managers.

3.7.14 Warrington Magistrates Witness Service (Victim Support)

Emotional and practical support is provided for victims and witnesses of crime through trained volunteers to support both victims and witnesses. The Witness Service operates from both Crown and Magistrates courts and offers support before, during and after the trial. This includes a pre-trial visit to the court, sitting in the court room with the victim/witness whilst they give evidence and supporting them before they leave.

3.7.15 The Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service

This service provides fire prevention advice and guidance to those at risk of arson and domestic abuse. It also provides post incident response and

technical fire advice to the Sanctuary Scheme.

3.7.16 Voluntary Sector Providers

Warrington Children's Society and St. Joseph's Family Centre provide a wide range of services related to the needs of adults and children who are coping with family breakdown, domestic abuse and other complex pressures.

3.7.17 Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Service (YOS)

The YOS works with young people and children aged between 10 and 18 years. Many of these young people have experienced and/or committed offences of domestic abuse. Individual programmes of work with young people are used to address the relevant issues in partnership with other relevant services in Warrington and beyond to assist in reducing offending and domestic abuse.

3.7.18 Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)

The DAAT commissions drug and alcohol treatment services for those perpetrators and victims for whom drugs and alcohol is a contributory factor.

4. Aims and Objectives of the Strategy

In order to deliver the vision of the strategy, WDAP has identified a number of themed aims, objectives and initiatives which are set out in the WDAP Work Plan (Appendix 2):

4.1 Prevention

Aim: Challenge social tolerance of domestic abuse, tackle its causes and raise awareness amongst the general public.

Objectives

- Ensure people understand what domestic abuse is and prevent it from happening in the first place by intervening early.
- Broaden activities which challenge social tolerance of domestic abuse and raise awareness amongst the general public, including children and young people.
- Work in conjunction with partner agencies to promote the White Ribbon Campaign and awareness of the power of men to challenge and make a stand against male violence.
- Develop the focus on early identification and early intervention.

4.2 Protection

Aim: Safeguard victims/survivors of domestic abuse and their children so that their safety, family life and protection from abuse is upheld.

Objectives

- Strengthen WDAP links with WSCB to ensure that the needs of children affected by domestic abuse are met and their voices heard.
- Strengthen WDAP links with WSAB to ensure that the needs of adults affected by domestic abuse are met and their voices heard.
- Challenge and change perpetrators' behaviour.
- Develop and strengthen a coordinated approach to detection, increasing the rates for arrest and conviction of domestic abuse offenders.
- Enhance the effectiveness of our work with victims/survivors and their children by managing the risk posed by perpetrators.
- Reduce the number of victims/survivors experiencing repeat incidents of domestic abuse.
- Improve responses to victims/survivors with complex or multiple needs who experience domestic abuse.
- Increase the number of non Police organisations referring to MARAC.

4.3 Provision

Aim: Have the right services in place to support adults and their children at risk or experiencing domestic abuse.

Objectives

- Ensure that wherever people live in Warrington they receive the same high standard level of support and equality of access to services.
- Develop community based services for victims/survivors (and their children) who are at risk of harm. Provide effective community services, advice and support, emergency and acute services; refuge and safe accommodation.
- Enhance support for frontline practitioners to develop their skills and confidence in responding to domestic abuse.
- Ensure early identification of abuse by non specialist organisations that come into contact with victims/survivors and their children such as voluntary organisations, housing providers and schools.

4.4 Participation

Aim: Hear the voices of victims/survivors and their children in order that they can influence the direction we take in tackling every area of need.

Objectives

- Encourage the participation of victims/survivors and their children in the design and delivery of services.
- Encourage victims/survivors to be involved in the WDAP network.

4.5 Partnership

Aim: Support the development of an effective coordinated, multi-agency response to domestic abuse.

Objectives

- Ensure that partner agencies work effectively together and that the pathways for victims/survivors, their children and perpetrators are understood.
- Broaden agency involvement in the partnership response to domestic abuse.
- Develop regular themed messaging across the partnership.
- Improve access to information, signposting and referrals to appropriate services for victims/survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Work with partners in identification and prevention of domestic abuse and promotion of integrated working practices.
- Commissioning partners to forward commit to maintain, develop and, where possible, increase the current level of service provision for victims/survivors and perpetrators in the borough.

4.6 Performance

Aim: Improve data collection, analysis, information sharing and self assessment.

Objectives

- Develop and enhance the performance of the MARAC.
- Work with SDVC Operational Group to develop a consistent response to domestic violence across cases in the Court.

Domestic Abuse Key Performance Indicators 2011 - 2016

Commentary

Measure Description

Measure Description	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Target	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target	2015-16 Target	Commentary
Domestic Abuse Incidents	1055	1100	1150	1200	1250	Increase reporting
Repeat Domestic Abuse Incidents	24%	23%	22%	21%	20%	Reduce repeat incidents
MARAC Cases	298	325	350	375	400	Increase MARAC cases to recommended CAADA level
No of Children associated with MARAC Cases	321					Figures may increase in line with a projected increase in MARAC Cases
Non Police Referrals to MARAC	24%	24%	26%	28%	30%	Multi agency training will increase the confidence and expertise of practitioners
Repeat MARAC Cases	24%	25%	26%	27%	28%	Repeat MARAC cases to reach minimum CAADA recommended level of 28 - 40%
Domestic Abuse Arrest Rates	335					Increase Arrest rates once reliable data is established
Domestic Abuse Conviction Rates		90	100	110	120	2011/12 figure is not shown as the data included Halton data.
Perpetrators completing Programmes	25	25	25	35	45	Increase number of Perpetrators completing Programmes by the provision of Voluntary Perpetrator Programmes
Domestic Abuse - affected by alcohol	28%	27%	26%	25%	24%	
Domestic Abuse - affected by drugs	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%	
Victims/Survivors referred to Domestic Abuse Service	688	750	750	750	750	
Women supported at Women's Aid Refuge	135	135	135	135	135	
% Children on Child Protection Plans (where Domestic Abuse is a feature)	31%	29%	27%	25%	23%	

Appendix 1

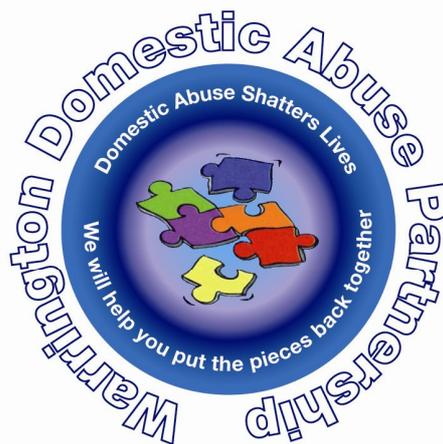
Governance and Delivery Structure

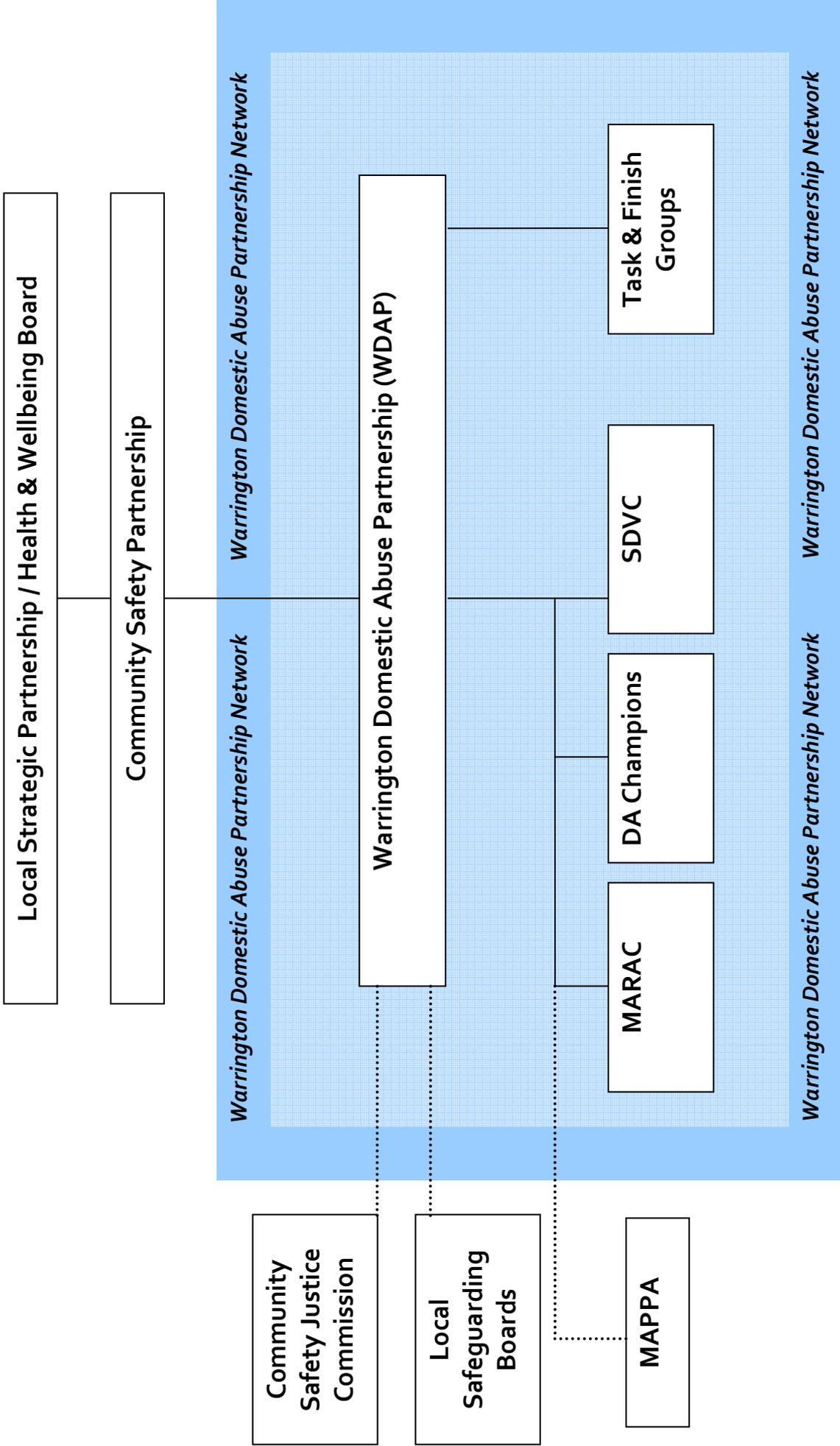
Warrington Domestic Abuse Partnership (WDAP) Group acts as an executive body for WDAP and sets the strategic direction for the Partnership by:

- Identifying the key challenges and priorities for Warrington;
- Directing and co-ordinating domestic abuse prevention activity through the work of the WDAP;
- Commissioning and performance managing specialist domestic abuse support services;
- Developing formal strategic and operational links to other strategic bodies to ensure consistency of approach and to avoid unnecessary duplication;
- Ensuring direct formal reporting mechanisms to the Local Strategic Partnership via the Community Safety Partnership, Children and Young People's Partnership and WSCB.

WDAP will monitor the application and delivery of the Strategy across Warrington and challenge and hold to account all partners responsible for its effective delivery.

The Strategy will be subject to annual review to reflect changing needs and priorities and have due regard to changing policy and financial issues





Appendix 2: Warrington Domestic Abuse Partnership Work Plan

Aims	Objectives	Initiatives	Partner Agency Lead	Complete Y1	Complete Y2	Complete Y3
<p>Prevention</p> <p>Challenge social tolerance of domestic abuse, tackle its causes and raise awareness among the general public.</p>	<p>Ensure people understand what domestic abuse is and prevent it from happening in the first place by intervening early.</p> <p>Broaden activities which challenge social tolerance of domestic abuse and raise awareness among the general public, including children and young people.</p> <p>Work in conjunction with partner agencies to promote the White Ribbon Campaign and awareness of the power of men to challenge and make a stand against male violence.</p> <p>Develop the focus on early identification and early intervention.</p>	<p>Improve and develop work with children and young people in schools and youth services to prevent domestic abuse and promote gender equality and healthy relationships.</p> <p>Develop the focus on awareness raising and information/advice in respect of alcohol and domestic abuse.</p> <p>Develop the focus on people from minority groups.</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>CF</p> <p>JDw</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>

Aims	Objectives	Initiatives	Partner Agency Lead	Complete Y1	Complete Y2	Complete Y3
<p>Protection</p> <p>Safeguard victims / survivors of domestic abuse and their children so that their safety, family life and protection from abuse is upheld.</p>	<p>Strengthen WDAP links with WSCB to ensure that the needs of children affected by domestic abuse are met and their voices heard.</p> <p>Strengthen WDAP links with WSAB to ensure that the needs of vulnerable adults affected by domestic abuse are met and their voices heard.</p> <p>Challenge and change perpetrators' behaviour. Develop and strengthen a coordinated approach to detection, increasing the rates for arrest and conviction of domestic abuse offenders.</p> <p>Enhance the effectiveness of our work with victims/survivors and their children by managing the risk posed by perpetrators.</p>	<p>Domestic Abuse Coordinator to participate in the relevant subgroups of the WSCB and report to the WSCB Executive Group in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • domestic abuse as a safeguarding issue in Warrington; • supporting partner agencies in meeting their responsibilities to safeguard children living in families affected by domestic abuse; • considering the implications of new guidance and initiatives. <p>Explore the provision of community based perpetrator programmes for those who wish to change their behaviour.</p>	<p>MG</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>

Aims	Objectives	Initiatives	Partner Agency Lead	Complete Y1	Complete Y2	Complete Y3
	<p>Reduce the number of victims/survivors experiencing repeat incidents of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Improve responses to survivors with complex or multiple needs who experience domestic abuse.</p> <p>Increase the number of non - police organisations referring to MARAC.</p> <p>Ensure early identification of abuse by non-specialist organisations that come into contact with victims/survivors and their children such as voluntary organisations, housing providers and schools.</p>	<p>Provide high quality interventions with perpetrators in order to hold them accountable for their behaviour and provide them with opportunities for change in a way that maximises the safety of survivors and their children and reduces repeat victimisation.</p> <p>Ensure information about the range of ways survivors and children can be protected is available to staff across the partnership and includes referral and process guidance.</p> <p>Provide training for professional staff on early identification of domestic abuse and intervention.</p> <p>Improve levels of practitioner referrals to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) through training.</p> <p>Publicise good news stories of people who have turned their lives around.</p>	<p>JDa</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>

Aims	Objectives	Initiatives	Partner Agency Lead	Complete Y1	Complete Y2	Complete Y3
<p>Provision</p> <p>Have the right services in place to support adults and their children at risk or experiencing domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Ensure that wherever people live in Warrington they receive the same high standard level of support and equality of access to services.</p> <p>Develop community based services for victims/survivors at risk of harm, providing effective community services; advice and support, emergency and acute services; refuge and safe accommodation.</p> <p>Enhance support and training for frontline practitioners to develop their skills and confidence in responding to domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Identify 20 domestic abuse champions in key organisations to act as the identified link person for domestic abuse within their agency.</p> <p>Provide a menu of multi-agency training for practitioners to reflect the victim's journey.</p> <p>Develop peer support/groups for victims/survivors of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Encourage screening for domestic abuse amongst partner agencies</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>JDw</p> <p>MG</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>

Aims	Objectives	Initiatives	Partner Agency Lead	Complete Y1	Complete Y2	Complete Y3
<p>Participation</p> <p>Hear the voices of victims / survivors and their children in order that they can influence the direction we take in tackling every area of need.</p>	<p>Encourage the participation of victims/survivors and their children in the design and delivery of services.</p> <p>Encourage victims/survivors to be involved in the WDAP network.</p>	<p>Evaluate the experiences and ideas of victims/survivors and their children through groups.</p> <p>Explore the way to engage hard to reach members of the community.</p>	<p>JDw</p> <p>JDw</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Partnership</p> <p>Support the development of an effective coordinated multi-agency response to domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Ensure that partner agencies work effectively together and that the pathways for victims /survivors, their children and perpetrators are understood.</p> <p>Broaden agency involvement in the partnership response to domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Train 20 domestic abuse champions to act as the identified link person for domestic abuse within their agency</p> <p>Deliver themed network meetings aimed at practitioners.</p> <p>Introduce newsletter.</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	

Aims	Objectives	Initiatives	Partner Agency Lead	Complete Y1	Complete Y2	Complete Y3
	<p>Develop regular themed messaging across the Partnership.</p> <p>Improve access to information, signposting and referrals to appropriate services for victims/survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Work with partners in identification and prevention of domestic abuse and promotion of integrated working practices.</p> <p>Partners to forward commit to maintain, develop and, where possible, increase the current level of service provision for victims/survivors in the borough.</p>	Redesign WDAP website pages.	MG	✓		
		Produce discrete information/leaflets about services	MG	✓		
		Identify a pool of 10 trainers to deliver multi-agency training programmes	MG		✓	
		Ensure that domestic abuse objectives are integrated into the strategies and plans of other service areas and agencies.	MG	✓	✓	✓
		Secure longer term funding for key services.	FW	✓		

Aims	Objectives	Initiatives	Partner Agency Lead	Complete Y1	Complete Y2	Complete Y3
<p>Performance</p> <p>Improve data collection, analysis, information sharing and self - assessment.</p>	<p>Develop performance of the MARAC</p> <p>Work with SDVC Operational Group to develop a consistent response to domestic violence across cases in the Court.</p>	<p>Establish substantive, robust data to accurately indicate the likely service use and associated outcomes for the next three to five years.</p> <p>Set up a steering group to support MARAC in line with CAADA recommendation.</p> <p>Review and analyse local data to identify any trends and issues related to domestic abuse and use to influence service development.</p> <p>Conduct annual self-assessment of WDAP, SDVC and MARAC.</p> <p>Identify prevalence, need and service gaps for vulnerable people within Adult Safeguarding.</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>FW</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>

Appendix 3

Glossary of Terms

- BME Black Minority Ethnic
- CAADA Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse
- CAF Core Assessment Framework
- CJS Criminal Justice System
- C&YPS Children and Young People's Services
- CSP Community Safety Partnership
- DA Domestic Abuse
- DASH Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence, Risk Indicator Checklist
- FGM Female Genital Mutilation
- FSM Family Support Model
- HMCTS Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service
- IDVA Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
- IOM Integrated Offender Management
- JSNA Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- LGBT Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual
- MARAC Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
- MAPPA Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
- SDVC Special Domestic Violence Courts
- WDAP Warrington Domestic Abuse Partnership
- WSCB Warrington Safeguarding Children's Board
- WSAB Warrington Safeguarding Adult's Board