

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Community Safety Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-2020



Contents

Our Vision.....	3
Foreword.....	3
1. Introduction.....	4
2. Strategic overview	4
3. What is Domestic Abuse?	6
4. National context	6
5. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead context	7
6. Strategic framework	8
7. Governance and partnership.....	9
8. Costs of domestic abuse	10
Appendix 1 – Data Tables	11
Appendix 2 – Strategic Action Plan.....	13
Appendix 3 – Glossary of terms	21

Our Vision

Working in partnership to ensure that a coordinated and effective response is provided to women, men and children in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in order to keep them safe from domestic abuse.

Foreword

The extent and nature of domestic abuse is truly shocking. The impact of the abuse affects the lives and well-being of all those involved; victims, children and communities.

Domestic abuse is rarely a one off incident. It tends to get worse over time, and should be seen as a pattern of controlling behaviour whereby the abuser seeks power and control over their victim. Abuse can begin at any time and may begin, continue or escalate after separation, occurring across all levels of society, regardless of age, gender, race, sexuality, wealth and geography. Responsibility for the abuse lies with the perpetrator. There is no excuse.

Domestic abuse remains a gendered issue with the majority of abuse being perpetrated by men against women. However this is not to dismiss the experiences of male victims.

The purpose of this document is to set out our strategic response to domestic abuse in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's Domestic Abuse Executive Group, part of the RBWM Community Safety Partnership, has developed this strategy which will be delivered in partnership by both statutory and voluntary agencies working together across the borough to tackle domestic abuse.

It is crucial that partners work together to reduce domestic abuse and its impact by ensuring a common aim and shared vision. No single agency can deal with domestic abuse alone. The issue needs to be addressed by joint and effective partnership working.

As Chair of the RBWM Domestic Abuse Executive Group, I am pleased to present the RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-20 on behalf of local partners who work to protect and support those affected by domestic abuse. This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Action Plan which provides greater detail on the activities that will be undertaken in the borough to tackle domestic abuse.

Daniel Crompton

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Acting Head of Safeguarding and Children in Care
Chair of RBWM Domestic Abuse Executive Group (DAEG)

1. Introduction

Addressing domestic abuse in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has historically been the responsibility of the Community Safety Partnership, however a coordinated community response to domestic abuse involving strategic and operational multi-agency intervention is essential in order to effectively address domestic abuse and reduce and prevent the harm it causes.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2017-2020 includes Safeguarding as a key priority with domestic abuse being highlighted as a particular crime/area to be tackled.

The RBWM Community Safety Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-2020 sets out our priorities for the next three years across four key areas:

1. Prevention;
2. Provision of services;
3. Partnership working;
4. Pursuing perpetrators.

This Strategy also sets out our vision, aims and objectives for addressing domestic abuse in the borough and the outcomes we expect to see as a result.

The key priority groups intended to benefit from this strategy include: victims and survivors of domestic abuse; children and young people who have witnessed or directly experienced domestic abuse; perpetrators of domestic abuse; partner agencies supporting anyone affected by domestic abuse.

2. Strategic overview

Our vision is supported by the four aims of prevention, provision of services, partnership working, and pursuing perpetrators. What we aim to do and the outcomes we want to achieve are listed below:

	Strategic Aim	Outcomes
Prevention	Prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place by challenging attitudes, beliefs and behaviours and intervening early where possible to prevent domestic abuse from continuing,	Royal Borough residents understand what domestic abuse is and know how and where to access support.
		Children and young people in the borough are provided with appropriate education in order to facilitate healthy relationships.

	reoccurring or escalating.	Multi agency professionals working in the borough understand what domestic abuse is, are equipped to identify and respond to domestic abuse with an appropriate level of support at an early stage.
		Increased number of reports of domestic abuse received for investigation due to robust and trusted reporting mechanisms.
		Reduced repeat victimisation rate for domestic abuse related violent crime.
		Reduced number of victims/cases involving more than 3 repeat domestic abuse events/referrals.
		More employers are able to recognise and support victims of domestic abuse in the workplace.
Provision of Services	Provide appropriate levels of support for adults and children affected by domestic abuse.	Victims are safer and have improved resources to remain safe.
		Victims are offered an equally accessible service which meets their needs.
		Victims report improved health, wellbeing and resilience for themselves and their families.
Partnership Working	Work together in a coordinated way to prevent and reduce the impact of domestic abuse.	Victims receive responsive services and well co-ordinated service pathways, which support sustained recovery and a reduction of risk of further harm.
		Children and young people at risk of harm are identified and referred appropriately.
		Improved coordination of high risk cases and cases with multiple incidents.
Pursuing Perpetrators	Reduce the risk to victims, holding perpetrators to account and supporting them to change their	Victims have increased access to justice and perpetrators are held to account through the criminal justice system.

	Perpetrators of domestic abuse are supported to change their behaviour in order to reduce incidents and improve their overall wellbeing.
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3. What is Domestic Abuse?

Home Office definition	
Domestic Abuse	<p>Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, 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. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.</p> <p><i>(For this definition, family members include mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter and grandparents, whether directly related, step-family or in-laws).</i></p>
Controlling Behaviour	A range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.
Coercive Behaviour	An act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.
<p>This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called ‘honour’ based abuse (HBA), female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.</p>	

4. National context

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone at any time and may begin, continue or escalate after separation. Domestic abuse can occur across all levels of society, regardless of age, gender, race, sexuality, wealth and geography. Responsibility for the abuse lies with the perpetrator. There is no excuse. National statistics tell us that:

- Approximately 1.8m adults aged 16 to 59 years old experienced domestic abuse in the last year - 1.2 million women (7.7% of the population) and 651,000 men (4.4% of the population)¹
- Each year more than 100,000 people in the UK are at high and imminent risk of being murdered or seriously injured as a result of domestic abuse²
- Women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse: 95% of those going to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) or accessing an Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service are women³
- Seven women a month are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales⁴
- 130,000 children live in homes where there is high-risk domestic abuse⁵
- 62% of children living with domestic abuse are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others⁶
- On average high-risk victims live with domestic abuse for 2.3 years before getting help⁷
- 85% of victims sought help five times on average from professionals in the year before they got effective help to stop the abuse⁷

5. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead context

In writing this strategy, we have drawn on the RBWM Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, completed in January 2017. Key findings included (some figures have been updated to include 2016-17 data):

1	In Thames Valley, domestic abuse accounts for 5% of calls to the police for assistance. Of these calls, 43% were from repeat victims.
2	In 2016-17 there were 2,429 incidents of domestic abuse were recorded by Thames Valley Police in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. This represents an increase of 28% over the last four years (see Appendix I, Table I).
3	The first conviction in Thames Valley under the new controlling or coercive behaviour offence was of a Maidenhead case in July 2016.
4	There was a domestic homicide in the Royal Borough in October 2010. Domestic Homicide Reviews were established on a statutory basis in April 2011.

¹ ONS (2016), Crime Survey England and Wales 2015-16. London: Office for National Statistics.

² SafeLives (2015), Getting it right first time: policy report. Bristol: SafeLives.

³ SafeLives (2015), Insights IDVA National Dataset 2013-14. Bristol: SafeLives.

⁴ ONS (2015), Crime Survey England and Wales 2013-14. London: Office for National Statistics.

⁵ SafeLives (2015), Getting it right first time: policy report. Bristol: SafeLives.

⁶ CAADA (2014), In Plain Sight: Effective help for children exposed to domestic abuse. Bristol: CAADA.

⁷ SafeLives (2015), Insights IDVA National Dataset 2013-14. Bristol: SafeLives.

5	The Dash (Domestic Abuse Stops Here) Charity (local domestic abuse service) has seen a 6% reduction in referrals to the IDVA service, a 22% reduction in referrals to the Outreach service and a 38% reduction in referrals to the Children's IDVA service over the last year (see Appendix I, Table 2). This reduction can be attributed to the Dash Charity being closed to agency referrals for a period of time over the year due to capacity issues which are currently being addressed.
6	The local domestic abuse service was closed to agency referrals for a period of time in 2016-17 due to capacity and funding issues.
7	The MARAC has seen a 63% increase in the number of high risk cases discussed over the last four years (see Appendix I, Table 3).
8	There is no perpetrator programme available in the Royal Borough, outside of the Criminal Justice System.

6. Strategic framework

In writing this strategy, we have taken account the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2016-2020 and have put governance arrangements in place to ensure that agencies are held to account for delivery of the action plan.

Other specific legislation, national and local publications we have reviewed include:

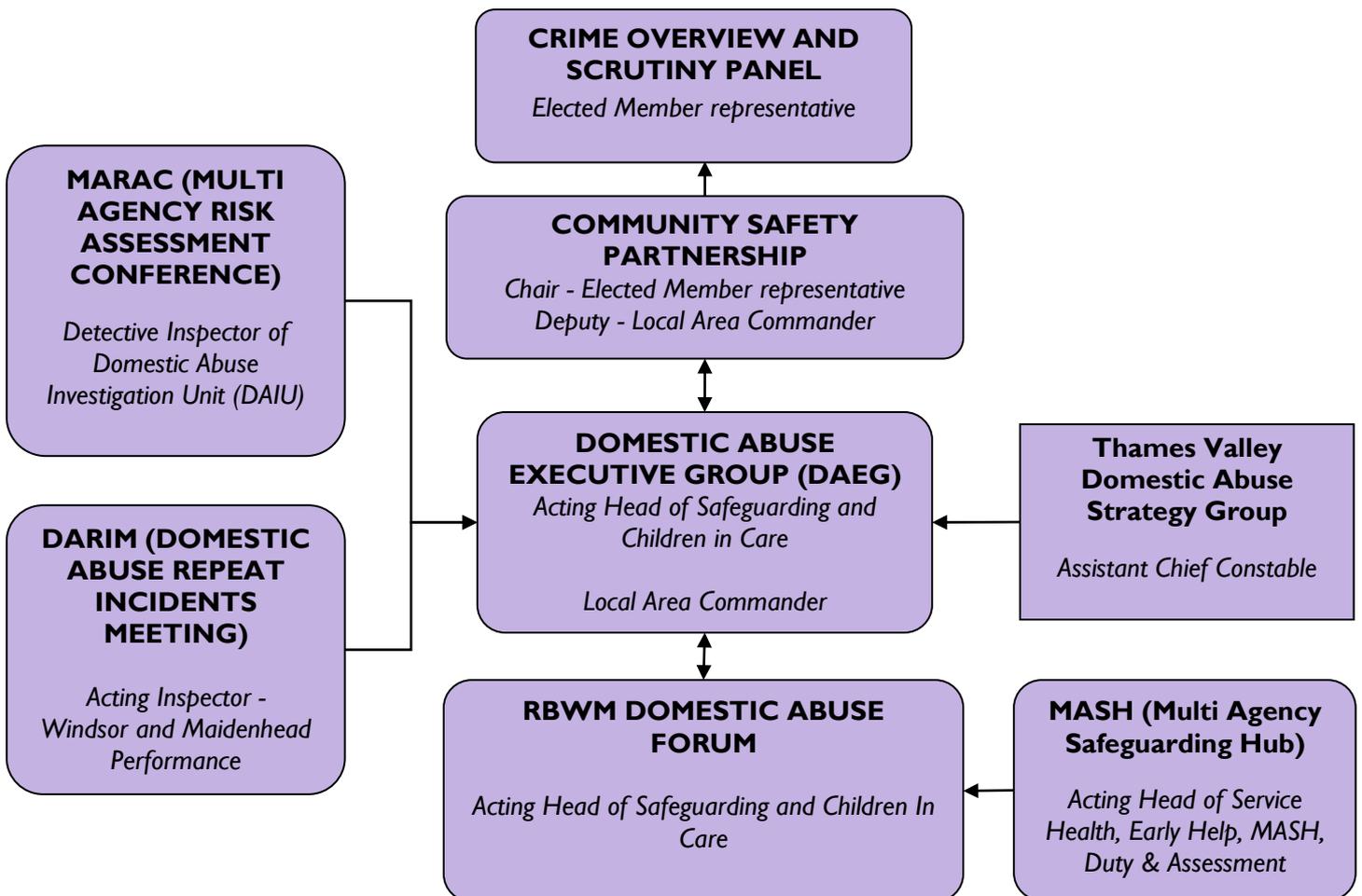
- The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004)
- The Crime and Security Act 2010
- The Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS)
- The Serious Crime Act 2015
- Home Office Domestic Homicide Reviews: Key Findings From Research (2016)
- Standing Together Against Domestic Violence – In Search of Excellence: A guide to effective domestic violence partnerships (2011)
- Home Office Violence Against Women and Girls: National Statement of Expectations (2016)
- RBWM Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2016-2020
- RBWM Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- Windsor and Maidenhead Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2017-2020
- Police and Crime Plan for the Thames Valley 2017-2020
- Thames Valley Police Delivery Plan 2016-2017

7. Governance and partnership

Governance arrangements are in place in order to ensure that decisions about domestic abuse in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead are better coordinated and prioritised.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Domestic Abuse Executive Group (DAEG) is responsible for setting the direction of this strategy. Delivery of the strategy and action plan is via the Domestic Abuse Forum and any task and finish groups. The Executive Group is made up of senior managers from a range of agencies and representatives from the voluntary sector. The group provides strategic and organisational leadership around domestic abuse for the borough and oversees decisions about funding. The DAEG reports to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Overview and Scrutiny Panel when required. The group also reports to, and seeks to ensure information is shared both ways with the RBWM Local Safeguarding Children Board and the RBWM Safeguarding Adults Board when required.

There is one Domestic Abuse Forum in the borough. The Forum is a practitioners/operational group which acts as a consultative group and is accountable to the DAEG.



8. Costs of domestic abuse

As well as damaging in emotional, physical and mental terms, domestic abuse is expensive in economic terms. The costs are not always obvious and are often absorbed within public sector budgets. The total cost of domestic abuse depends on the number of victims, number of incidents, extent of the abuse on victims and their dependents in terms of disruption and harm. Costs are primarily response costs and fall on four major sectors: Health, Criminal Justice System, Social Services and Housing.

Work done by Professor Sylvia Walby (Lancaster University) in 2009 (updated from 2004)⁸ estimates that domestic abuse costs the UK in excess of £15.7 billion per annum. This includes: £1.3 billion to the Criminal Justice System, £1.7 billion to the National Health Service from dealing with physical injuries alone, £0.28 billion to Social Services mainly spent on children, £0.19 billion to emergency housing and refuges, £0.39 billion to civil and legal services, £1.9 billion lost through economic output, £10 billion human and emotional costs (for example the cost of domestic murders and attempted murders, threatening behaviour and the subsequent pain, suffering and fear caused).

In 2009 the Home Office issued the 'Ready Reckoner' tool⁹ to help local areas estimate the scale and the cost to public services of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking. The below figures are extracted from this tool and estimate the cost of domestic abuse and sexual violence to public services in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead area:

- Physical and mental health care costs = £3,114,002
- Criminal Justice System costs = £1,961,403
- Social Services costs = £369,370
- Other costs (including housing, legal and employment) = £9,006,302
- Total = **£14,451,077** (not including human and emotional costs)
- Total with human and emotional costs = **£46,139,354**

It should be noted that the costs are likely to be higher as the figures do not include adult females over 60 years old and male victims. Nor do they include the additional costs of female genital mutilation, 'honour' based abuse and forced marriage.

Research estimates that it costs nearly £20,000 annually to support each high risk victim through key services such as police, health, housing and children's services.¹⁰ With 85 cases discussed at the RBWM MARAC in 2015/16, the total cost to the Royal Borough key services is estimated at £1.7million for high risk victims of domestic abuse alone.

⁸ 'The Cost of Domestic Violence: Up-date 2009', Walby S, Lancaster University

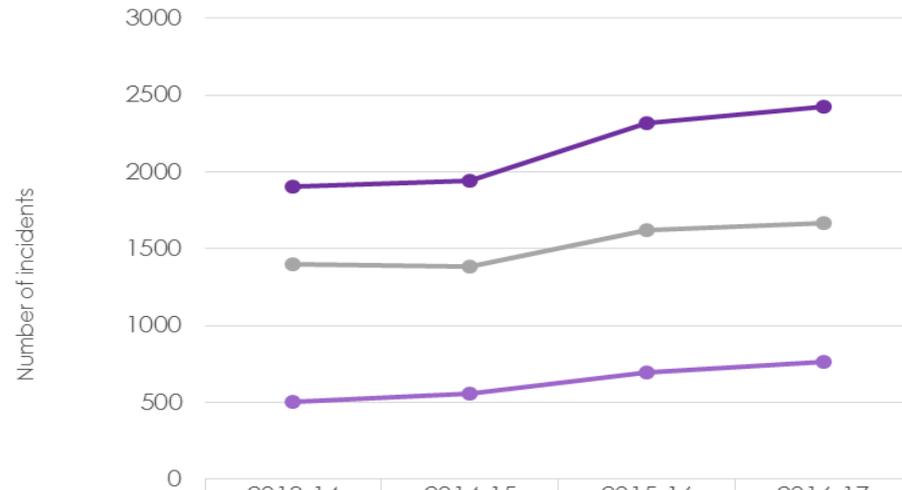
⁹

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100419081706/http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/domesticviolence/domesticviolence072.htm>

¹⁰ 'Saving Lives, Saving Money' (2010) SafeLives

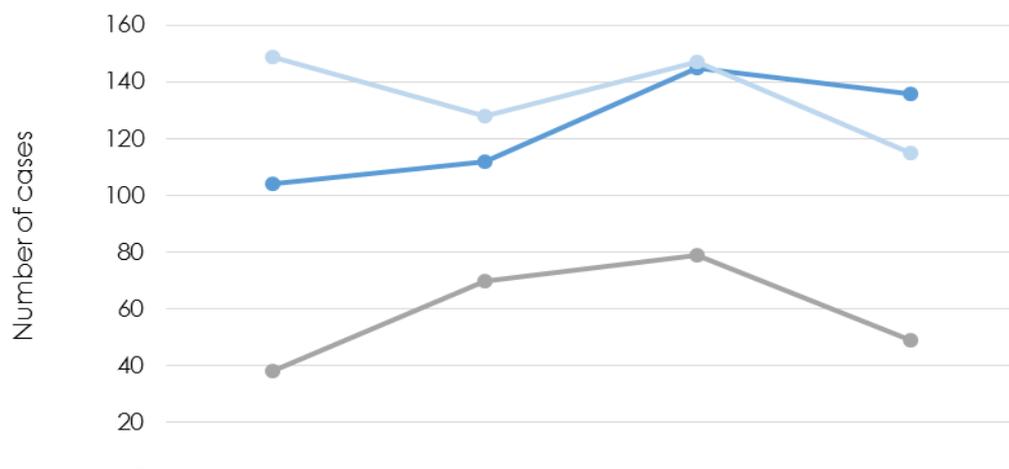
Appendix I – Data Tables

Table 1: RBWM Domestic Abuse Incidents (Thames Valley Police)



	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Domestic Abuse Incidents - Recorded Crime	508	558	698	762
Domestic Abuse Incidents - Non-Crime Occurrence	1397	1386	1623	1667
Total	1905	1944	2321	2429

Table 2: Caseload undertaken by the Dash Charity



	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
IDVA	104	112	145	136
Outreach	149	128	147	115
Children's IDVA	38	70	79	49

— IDVA — Outreach — Children's IDVA

Table 3: Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead MARAC cases

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Number of cases discussed	78	74	85	127
% repeat rate (<i>rolling 12 months</i>)	19%	19%	19%	33%
Number of children in the household (<i>note the children of repeat victims will be double counted in this figure</i>)	113	126	141	172
Referrals from police	46% (n=36)	32% (n=24)	38% (n=32)	69% (n=88)
Referrals from partner agencies	54% (n=42)	68% (n=50)	62% (n=53)	31% (n=39)
BME referrals	17% (n=13)	20% (n=15)	9% (n=8)	19% (n=24)
LGBT referrals	0% (n=0)	0% (n=0)	0% (n=0)	1% (n=1)
Referrals where the victim has a disability	0% (n=0)	4% (n=3)	1% (n=1)	1% (n=1)
Referrals with a male victim	10% (n=8)	3% (n=2)	1% (n=1)	3% (n=4)
Number of victims aged 16-17	0 (0%)	2 (3%)	2 (2%)	3 (2%)
Number harming others aged 17 or below	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)

Appendix 2 – Strategic Action Plan

AIM 1 – PREVENTION

To prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place by challenging attitudes, beliefs and behaviours and intervening early where possible to prevent domestic abuse from continuing, reoccurring or escalating.

Outcome	Ref	What we will do	Lead	Quarterly Update
Royal Borough residents understand what domestic abuse is and know how and where to access support.	I.1	Develop and deliver an effective and targeted communication plan.	DA Co-ordinator, RBWM Comms, TVP Comms	
	I.2	Ensure available resources are up to date (including posters/leaflets/cards of useful numbers/website) and distributed for display to public buildings and other suitable venues.		
	I.3	Produce quarterly newsletters to keep professionals fully informed of any developments or initiatives (locally/nationally) to address domestic abuse.		
	I.4	Raise awareness of domestic abuse across the borough by utilising existing mechanisms, materials and publicity from regional and national campaigns, and work in partnership with specific campaigns and programmes. (incl.		

		press releases, Around The Borough articles, public awareness raising days).		
Children and young people in the borough are provided with appropriate education in order to facilitate healthy relationships.	1.5	Continue to deliver a coordinated package of information and awareness of domestic abuse, including the importance of healthy relationships in school and youth settings, including support/training for staff.	Early Help and First Response RBWM	
Multi agency professionals working in the borough understand what domestic abuse is, are equipped to identify and respond to domestic abuse with an appropriate level of support at an early stage.	1.6	Continue to deliver a coordinated training package for frontline professionals to improve and increase domestic abuse identification and response.	DA Co-ordinator and other local trained practitioners	
	1.7	Identify other levels of training through Training Needs Analysis and commission where required.	DA Co-ordinator and RBWM Learning and Development Team	
Increased number of reports of domestic abuse received for investigation due to robust and trusted reporting mechanisms.	1.8	Monitor the number of domestic abuse reports to police against 2016-17 baseline of 2,429.	Thames Valley Police	
Reduced repeat victimisation rate for domestic abuse related violent crime.	1.9	Monitor the repeat victimisation rate against 2016-17 baseline of 23%	Thames Valley Police	

Reduced number of victims/cases involving more than 3 repeat domestic abuse events/referrals.	1.10	Monitor the number of cases against 2016 (calendar year) baseline of 38 subjects discussed	Thames Valley Police	
More employers are able to recognise and support victims of domestic abuse in the workplace.	1.11	Develop and promote a model workplace policy, including a training package for local organisations and employers to adopt to ensure employees affected by domestic abuse are protected and supported.	DA Co-ordinator	

AIM 2 – PROVISION OF SERVICES

To provide appropriate levels of support for adults and children affected by domestic abuse.

Outcome	Ref	What we will do	Lead	Quarterly Update
Victims are safer and have improved resources to remain safe.	2.1	Develop, agree and implement a protocol and process for undertaking a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) when required.	DA Executive Group	
	2.2	Ensure the learning from DHRs as well as those from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) are disseminated to and embedded by agencies when required.	Community Safety Partnership	
	2.3	Explore opportunities for target hardening schemes to enable victims to remain in their home (Sanctuary).	DA Co-ordinator	
Victims are offered an equally accessible service which meets their needs.	2.4	Identify, understand and engage with our diverse/hard to reach communities to raise awareness and provide appropriate support.	DA Executive Group	
	2.5	Provide an Outreach service to support standard and medium risk victims of domestic abuse.	The Dash Charity	
	2.6	Provide an IDVA service to support high risk victims of domestic abuse.	The Dash Charity	

Victims report improved health, wellbeing and resilience for themselves and their families.	2.7	Provide specialist support groups for victims of domestic abuse to help break the cycle of domestic abuse (Freedom Programme).	RBWM Children's Centres	
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AIM 3 – PARTNERSHIP WORKING

To work together in a coordinated way to prevent and reduce the impact of domestic abuse.

Outcome	Ref	What we will do	Lead	Quarterly Update
Victims receive responsive services and well co-ordinated service pathways, which support sustained recovery and a reduction of risk of further harm.	3.1	Clarify and publish clear referral pathways for agencies when they receive a disclosure of domestic abuse.	DA Co-ordinator	
	3.2	Work with local services to gain wider engagement from survivors in hearing their views and perspectives to inform services and communications.	DA Forum members	
Children and young people at risk of harm are identified and referred appropriately.	3.3	Continue with specialist provision for children and young people affected by domestic abuse (PICADA – Positive Intervention for Children Affected by Domestic Abuse).	Family Friends	
	3.4	Identify appropriate interventions for children and young people affected by domestic abuse (Children’s IDVA).	The Dash Charity	
Improved coordination of high risk cases and cases with multiple incidents.	3.5	Improve the response to high volume standard/medium risk cases via the DARIM (Domestic Abuse Repeat Incident Meeting).	Thames Valley Police	
	3.6	Review and roll out the MARAC Induction and Standard Operating Procedures Pack for Designated	DA Co-ordinator, MARAC Chair and MARAC Co-	

		MARAC Officers (DMOs).	ordinator	
	3.7	Provide strategic oversight to the MARAC to ensure that it is working to good practice levels with a focus on increasing referrals from a range of agencies.	DA Executive Group	

AIM 4 – PURSUING PERPETRATORS

To reduce the risk to victims, holding perpetrators to account and supporting them to change their behaviour.

Outcome	Ref	What we will do	Lead	Update
Perpetrators of domestic abuse are supported to change their behaviour in order to reduce incidents and improve their overall wellbeing.	4.1	Explore the feasibility for the development of perpetrator programmes for adult male non-convicted perpetrators in the borough.		

Appendix 3 – Glossary of terms

BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DAEG	Domestic Abuse Executive Group
DARIM	Domestic Abuse Repeat Incident Meeting
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence (Risk Indicator Checklist)
The DASH Charity	Domestic Abuse Stops Here
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
DMO	Designated MARAC Officer
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HBA	Honour Based Abuse
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor/Advocate
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
RBWM	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
SCR	Serious Case Review
TVP	Thames Valley Police