



**WOLVERHAMPTON MULTI-AGENCY DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE STRATEGY**

**2008 -2011**

## **Strategy Aims**

In line with the National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan, the objectives of the Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Strategy are:

- Objective 1: To increase the early identification of, and intervention with, victims of domestic violence by utilising all points of contact with front line professionals
- Objective 2: To build capacity within the domestic violence sector to provide effective advice and support services to victims of domestic violence and their children
- Objective 3: To improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence
- Objective 4: To support victims through the criminal justice system and to manage perpetrators to reduce risk

These objectives support the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1: To reduce serious harm resulting from domestic violence including homicide prevention
- Outcome 2: To reduce the prevalence of domestic violence
- Outcome 3: To reduce the rate of repeat incidents for domestic violence
- Outcome 4: To increase the rate of reported domestic violence offences brought to justice

## **Local Area Agreement Targets**

The three current domestic violence related Local Area Agreement stretch targets for Wolverhampton conclude on 31 March 2009. These are:

- To increase the number of domestic violence incidents reported to police
- To increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice
- To reduce the number of repeat incidents

The first two targets will be more than met but the third target will not be met.

From 1 April 2009 the city will adopt National Indicator 32:

- To reduce the repeat victimisation rate of cases taken to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. A 1% reduction on the baseline 28% will need to be achieved by March 2010 and a further reduction of 2% by March 2011.

National Indicator 142 has also been adopted by the Local Strategic Partnership which makes provision for supporting vulnerable people, including victims of domestic violence, to maintain independent living.

### **Strategy Principles**

The principles of this strategy are that:

Principle 1: Survivors/victims and perpetrators have access to services without discrimination due to disability, sexual orientation, race, religion/faith, culture, age or income group. Women-only services will be supported as will ensuring men's access to other services.

Principle 2: Services to survivors/victims and perpetrators will be designed and proportionate to the level of risk they face or pose.

Principle 3: We are committed to providing a quality service and will draw on national and international best practice and standards.

### **Background Information**

In Wolverhampton, WDVF member agencies have adopted the definition used by The Home Office and Association of Chief Police Officers'.

Domestic violence is defined as

***“any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are or have been in a relationship together, or between family members, regardless of gender of sexuality.”***

This strategy recognises the following national and local contexts:

The impact on domestic violence survivors including children is wide ranging and includes the ultimate outcome of homicide. In England and Wales, on average 2 women are killed every week through domestic violence.

Nationally 69% of domestic violence results in injury.

In Wolverhampton in 2007/08 there were 3,870 incidents of domestic violence reported to the police. Using the British Crime Survey statistic (less than 35% of incidents are reported), the real number of incidents last year was greater than 11,000.

Domestic violence has the highest repeat victimisation rate of any crime. In 2007/08 in Wolverhampton 29% of incidents (1,100) reported to the police were repeat incidents.

Research demonstrates that there is between 30 and 66% cross-over of domestic violence and child abuse in families.

Domestic violence was a significant factor in 50% of the serious case reviews undertaken in the West Midlands between 2004 and early 2007.

The files of 45% of all entrants to Wolverhampton's Child Protection Register record a history of domestic violence. The Department of Health states that nationally 75% of children on Child Protection Registers come from homes where domestic violence is a significant factor.

Domestic violence is one factor in the lives of children and young people that can impact negatively on all five outcomes of staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, and achieving economic well-being.

The Specialist Domestic Violence Court has been in place in Wolverhampton since 2005. In 2007/08 this court brought 337 perpetrators to justice.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences have been in place in Wolverhampton since September 2006. In the 2007 calendar year, the cases of 301 individuals and their 527 children were reviewed by this multi-agency team.

In 2007/08 1,292 women and children were referred to the Haven in Wolverhampton of whom 213 women and 204 children were admitted into the Haven's refuges, 180 women were supported by their floating support service and 426 women were supported by their advocacy services.

In 2006/07 there were 175 violent relationship homelessness applications made to the city council of which 110 individuals were accepted as unintentionally homeless and were re-housed with 141 dependent children.

In 2007/08 the Wolverhampton Sanctuary Scheme was launched. Where safe, 62 families who wished to remain in their own homes were assisted to do so through the scheme. As a result of not becoming homeless, the Sanctuary scheme attracted estimated cost savings of approximately £90,000.

In 2007/08, 89% of victims reporting to the police were women and 11% were men.

The 2001 census informed us that the non-white population of Wolverhampton was 22.2% with the largest component proportion being of Indian background. The ethnicity profile of the city is changing and the number of East European people moving into the area is increasing.

Domestic violence is a high cost crime. Nationally the estimated annual cost of domestic violence to the public sector is **£3.1 billion**. In Wolverhampton the cost to the public sector has been estimated as **£66.54 million**.

### **Wolverhampton Multi-Agency Domestic Violence Action Plan 2008-2011**

The attached Domestic Violence Multi-Agency Action Plan has been developed with Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum partners. The purpose of the action plan

is to set out the main actions and responsibilities of agencies in meeting the objectives and required outcomes from this strategy.

The action plan will be reviewed annually, at the end of the financial year.

# WOLVERHAMPTON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2008-2011

ACTIVITY	ACTIONS	LEADS	RESOURCES	WHEN	PROGRESS CHECK	LINKS TO OTHER PLANS
<u>Prevention</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Re-launch preventative education programmes for primary &amp; secondary schools</li> </ul>	WCC, WDFV	Core Business, WDFV	March 09	Safer W'ton Partnership	Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trial BSR education programme in 1 MAST area &amp; develop roll out plan</li> </ul>	WCC, WDFV	Core Business, WDFV	Sept 09	Safeguarding Children Board	LAA 2005-2009
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum 4 awareness raising events per year to coincide with national campaigns</li> </ul>	WDFV	WDFV, other	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	LAA 2009-2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 multi agency Forum meetings to discuss topical issues</li> </ul>	WDFV	WDFV	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	Health Scrutiny Review 2006 Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drug Strategy
<u>Service Provision</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a multi-agency co-located DV team through a Task &amp; Finish Group</li> </ul>	WCC, PCT, WMP, Haven, WDFV	Core Business & to be identified	March 10	Safer W'ton Partnership	LAA 2005-2009
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot a Crisis Intervention Service &amp; helpline for 24 hour referrals. Review the services</li> </ul>	Haven, PCT, WDFV	PCT, Haven	March 09	PCT, Safeguarding Children Board, Haven	LAA 2009-2011 WCC Gender Equality Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify proposals for any appropriate sustainable community perpetrator programmes</li> </ul>	Probation, WMP, PCT, WDFV	WDFV, PCT, other	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	Health Scrutiny Review 2006
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue funding the sanctuary scheme to allow victims &amp; their children to remain in own homes</li> </ul>	WCC, WDFV, Wton Homes	LAA P.Priming, W'ton Homes, Supporting People, WDFV	April 09	Safer W'ton Partnership	Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing funding for the DV Link Worker to advise/ signpost victims – cases not CJS pursued</li> </ul>	WDFV, WMP	LAA Pump Priming, WDFV	May 09	Safer W'ton Partnership	Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drug Strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review Freedom Programme provision. Produce a plan to extend it city wide</li> </ul>	Safeguarding Children's Board	WDFV, and to be identified	Oct 09	Safeguarding Children Board	Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide counselling &amp; support services for DV victims; women, men and children</li> </ul>	Safeguarding Children's Board, Haven, CAF/CASS,	PCT, Safeguarding Children's Board, Supporting People,	Ongoing	Safeguarding Children Board	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide accommodation and associated support to meet a minimum of BVPI225 standard</li> </ul>	Haven, WCC, W'ton Homes, Bromford, Jericho Benedictine Society	Supporting People, Housing Revenue Acc	Ongoing	Strategic Housing Forum	Homelessness Strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote and facilitate use of the VEV project</li> </ul>	Victim Support, WDFV & others	Victim Support	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	

ACTIVITY	ACTIONS	LEADS	RESOURCES	WHEN	PROGRESS CHECK	LINKS TO OTHER PLANS
<u>Protection &amp; Justice</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue MARAC conferences (v high risk cases)</li> </ul>	WMP, all agencies	Core Business	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing funding for MARAC Administrator to support MARAC and the LAA target</li> </ul>	WMP, WDFV	LAA Pump Priming	March 09	Safer W'ton Partnership	LAA 2005-2009
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regular meetings between Police, Social Care &amp; PCT for DV cases with children/pregnant women</li> </ul>	WMP, all agencies	Core Business	Ongoing	Safeguarding Children Board	LAA 2009-2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing funding for adequate CJSSC/IDVA provision to support victims through the CJS</li> </ul>	WDFV, Safer W'ton Partnership, Haven	SSCF	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and manage any persistent and prolific DV offenders through the WOMP referral route</li> </ul>	WMP, Probation	Core Business	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	WCC Gender Equality Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sentence appropriate offenders to the Probation IDAP programme</li> </ul>	Probation, HMCS	Core Business	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue the Specialist DV Court (SDVC)</li> </ul>	HMCS, LCJG, WDFV	Core Business	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Performance manage the SDVC</li> </ul>	CJS agencies, WDFV, LCJG	Core Business, WCC Mainline	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	Health Scrutiny Review 2006
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enact the new eviction clause in tenancy agreements for DV perpetrators</li> </ul>	W'ton Homes, WCC	Core Business	Ongoing	Strategic Housing Forum	Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wolverhampton Homes to develop a working protocol for criminal damage claims to form part of CPS prosecution files</li> </ul>	W'ton Homes, WCC	Core Business	June 09	Strategic Housing Forum	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue DVEC campaigns to proactively police alcohol related DV offenders</li> </ul>	WMP	Home Office, PCT, other	Annually	Safer W'ton Partnership	Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drug Strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Learn lessons from W Mids CPS Scrutiny Reviews &amp; local SDVC reviews</li> </ul>	CPS, LCJG, WDFV	Core Business	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	Homelessness Strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify &amp; manage highest risk DV victims through Tactual Tasking &amp; Coordination Groups</li> </ul>	WMP	Core Business	Ongoing	Safer W'ton Partnership	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Examine best use of 'bind-over'</li> </ul>	WMP/CPS/LCJG	Core Business	June 09	Safer W'ton Partnership	

ACTIVITY	ACTIONS	LEADS	RESOURCES	WHEN	PROGRESS CHECK	LINKS TO OTHER PLANS
<u>Multi-Agency</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Publish, promote and disseminate the DV training programme for front line and managerial staff</li> <li>▪ Develop culturally aware services through education, training and appropriate policies, eg issues around forced marriage and so called 'honour crimes'</li> <li>▪ Collate DV, ethnicity and related statistics, eg alcohol and other substance misuse issues</li> <li>▪ Use of the Paloma database to manage MARAC cases</li> <li>▪ Ongoing funding for Wolverhampton DV Forum post March 2009</li> <li>▪ Undertake awareness raising sessions around MARAC and the DV risk assessment process</li> <li>▪ Maintain awareness of government policy on victims with no recourse to public funding</li> </ul>	<p>Safeguarding Children's Board</p> <p>All agencies, AWAAZ</p> <p>WDVF, all agencies</p> <p>WMP, WDVF</p> <p>Safer W'ton Partnership, WDVF</p> <p>WMP</p> <p>WDVF, The Haven, WCC</p>	<p>Core Business</p> <p>Core Business</p> <p>Core Business</p> <p>Home Office</p> <p>WCC Mainline funding</p> <p>Core Business</p> <p>Core Business</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Oct 09</p> <p>June 09</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Safeguarding Children Board</p> <p>Safeguarding Children Board</p> <p>Safer W'ton Partnership</p> <p>Safer W'ton Partnership</p> <p>Safer W'ton Partnership</p> <p>Safer W'ton Partnership</p> <p>Safer W'ton Partnership</p>	<p>LAA 2005-2009</p> <p>LAA 2009-2011</p> <p>WCC Gender Equality Plan</p> <p>Children &amp; Young People Strategic Partnership Plan</p> <p>Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drug Strategy</p> <p>Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy</p> <p>Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010</p> <p>Homelessness Strategy</p>
<u>Cross-Cutting Work</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure links between the DV strategy and other local strategies, including those for social inclusion &amp; housing related support, mental health, substance misuse, alcohol, safeguarding children, sexual violence, housing, and homelessness</li> <li>▪ Support alcohol arrest referral scheme proposals</li> <li>▪ Support appropriate DV research, eg PCT research in ABCD area</li> </ul>	<p>WDVF, WCC, PCT, Safeguarding Board, Aquarius</p> <p>PCT, Health Scrutiny Review Panel, Aquarius</p> <p>PCT, ABCD, WDVF</p>	<p>Core Business</p> <p>Health Scrutiny Review</p> <p>PCT</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>To be confirmed</p> <p>Nov 09</p>	<p>Safer W'ton Partnership</p> <p>Safer W'ton Partnership</p> <p>Safer W'ton Partnership</p>	<p>Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drug Strategy</p> <p>Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy</p> <p>Children &amp; Young People Strategic Partnership Plan</p>