



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership

Strategy for addressing Violence Against Women and Girls 2017 – 2021

This document explains how we plan to tackle violence against women and girls. Specifically, this means domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual assault. It includes violence against men and boys as well.

Our Aims

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership works to help keep people safe from domestic abuse and sexual violence. We support people to recover after domestic abuse or sexual violence and make sure specialist support is in place to help victims and survivors and their children.

Why we need a Strategy

The Government has a national Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and all local authorities must also have a Strategy. Our Strategy is about people that live in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and sets out how we will work with our partner organisations such as the Police and Health Services.

What is Violence Against Women and Girls?

Any act of violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women. This includes making threats, controlling someone or taking away their rights to make choices about how they live.

This includes the following types of violence and abuse:

- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Violence
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage (FM)
- Trafficking / Prostitution
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Stalking and Harassment
- Honour-Based Violence (HBV)

From now on in this document, the things in the list above will be called VAWG. This stands for Violence Against Women and Girls.

What does the Home Office say we have to do?

Expectation 1 – Treat all victims as individuals and make sure that services are flexible. Services should help victims through their experience and they should have a say in how things are done.

Expectation 2 –There must be services in place for the perpetrators that commit these crimes so that victims can be kept safe.

Expectation 3 – Organisations must work together to make sure services are of a high standard.

Expectation 4 We should use local services that are already in place where possible. Things that work well should be share and people should be able to easily find the support they need.

Expectation 5 – We need to make sure people know about domestic abuse and sexual violence and how they can get help. We also need to make sure that people know how they can help friends or family members.

What do we think is important?

We have identified three priorities to help keep people safe from VAWG.

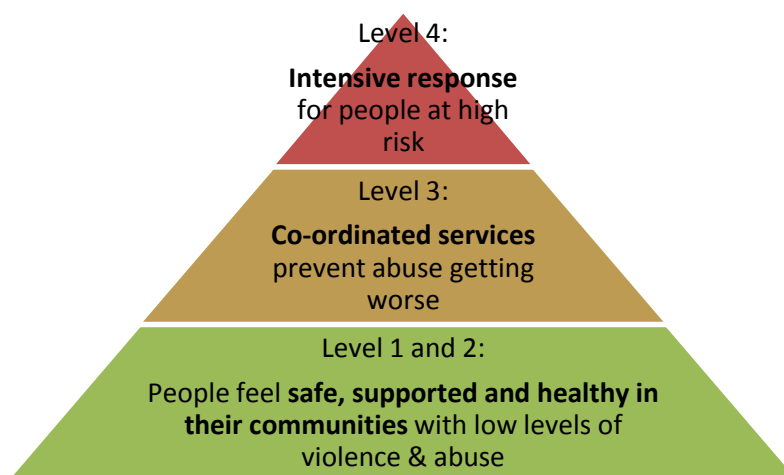
Priority 1: We will make sure that people that have experienced VAWG can get help in their community from an Outreach Service. Our Partners will work together to make sure that people can get the support they need in a way that suits them.

Priority 2: We will set up a Domestic Abuse Unit. All our partner organisations will be involved in this so that people don't have to go to lots of different places to get help. The Domestic Abuse Unit will offer support to all victims of VAWG that live in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough.

Priority 3: We will make sure that everyone can get the support they need. Some people find it more difficult to get help – for example due to disability or language barriers. We will make sure that people can get help whatever their needs are.

How will people get support?

Some people that experience VAWG need more help than others. We will make sure that people who need the most support to keep themselves and their children safe get the help they need. The triangle below shows how much support people need and how we will provide this help.



What will we do?

- We will work with schools, special education units, colleges, and universities to make sure they tell students about VAWG and how they can stay safe.
- We will support local organisations to make sure they have information for people who are experiencing VAWG. They will also have information for the perpetrators.

- We want to improve our understanding of why people work in prostitution and the sex industry and how we can help them.
- We will make sure that people who need support can get it quickly.
- We will have information available in different languages, including sign language. We will make sure people can understand our information and can find out what support is available.
- We will work with young people that use violence and abuse to help them understand what might happen if they continue with their behaviour.
- We will work with our partners across the whole county to make sure we all follow the same process when we do Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).
- Children can be harmed physically by domestic abuse and they can be harmed emotionally by seeing domestic abuse. We will make sure that children and young people are supported to recover from their experiences.
- In Cambridgeshire, we have a specialist Domestic Abuse Advisor that works with people in hospital. We will make sure that people that go to hospitals in Peterborough can see a specialist person too.
- We know that families sometimes need help so we will develop services that work with children and young people together with the parent that is not the perpetrator.
- We will work with partners in Housing services to make sure that people that are experiencing domestic abuse can be helped. This may include helping them to stay safe in their home.
- A Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Violence Perpetrator Panel (DVPP) will be developed.
- Our partners at Cambridgeshire Constabulary (police) will make sure they have a safe service for people affected VAWG.
- The partnership will work with the Crown Prosecution Service to continue to develop new ways of challenging all perpetrators of domestic abuse, sexual violence.
- We will make sure that professionals get training on how to help people that are experiencing VAWG.

How will we know if we are doing a good job?

We will have an action plan. All our partners will be responsible for doing things on the action plan and reporting back on progress. We have a Delivery Group that will be looking at the action plan to make sure everything is done.

Where can I get more information about VAWG?

We have a website that tells you more about domestic abuse, sexual violence and all the other things that are called Violence Against Women and Girls.

You can visit our website at www.cambsdasv.org.uk