

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy 2024-2027

Progress in Year One, 2024/25

Strategic Vision for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

To reduce the harm, risks and costs associated with domestic abuse & sexual violence and to prevent these crimes happening across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Victim/Survivor Voice

Every victim's experience is different, and their views must shape the delivery of local services and support in a way which meets their needs. Developing further opportunities to capture, and listen to, the feedback from victims and survivors and then co-produce services with them and members of the partnership will be a future workstream. This will help inform partnership and agency responses.

Achievements in Year One:

- Cambridge Women's Aid Survivor Event and feedback to agencies and DASV Board
- Peterborough Women's Aid Survivor Board
- Rape Crisis feedback, participation and co-design methods with survivors
- Rape Crisis & PWA have a former service user on their trustee board
- Police engagement with women at the Meadows in Cambridge
- Police victim survey
- Council Housing Teams collecting feedback as part of their Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation work
- Safelives Survey for those affected by DA in the area.
- Survivor groups consulted on issues including communications materials and Parental Conflict information

Work/Priorities for Year Two:

- Survivors and Children to be represented at the Board
- Peterborough to hold a conference with focus on Survivors Voices
- CPFT to undertake a project with DA Survivors who are patients and carers

Awareness

Feedback from specialist services highlighted the importance of continuous awareness raising, around what DA & SV is and how to respond (by the partnership and agencies sitting underneath the partnership) across a wide range of services, and for staff to have access to training. All agencies across the DASV Partnership should have policies and procedures for those they serve and their staff.

Achievements in Year One:

- All district councils, Peterborough City Council, hospital trusts, specialist DASV services, drug & alcohol services, GP surgeries and CPFT have staff and service user policies in place
- Hospitals and CPFT have sexual safety policies
- CUH has signed up to the sexual safety Charter and have both patient and staff DA policies
- Maternity services at CUH have domestic abuse champions
- Elected members DA policy in Peterborough
- Cambs County Council have a staff DA policy
- Police have a DA policy where this is perpetrated by a police officer
- Peterborough DASV Conference – 170 attendees at the Mosque
- DASV SWAYs with Safeguarding Board seen by over 1,800 people, Stalking SWAY reached 16,460 people
- Safeguarding Board DA Training reached 164 professionals over 5 sessions
- Free Elearning available on DASV Website
- DASV delivered 49 bespoke sessions to 1,265 professionals
- Child to Parent Abuse one day training to 73 professionals
- 8 Webinars in the 16 days of action, to 219 professionals
- 240 Police Sergeants received “Shelock” DA Training
- Mandatory DA Elearning completed by 92% of Peterborough City Council Staff (2,332 professionals)
- DA Training embedded across all council housing teams
- 8 topics delivered to DASV Champions across 12 sessions
- Over 350 professionals signed up as champions across most services
- Two “It Starts with Men” events held
- 4 councils and 2 housing associations have Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation, with others working to achieve this status.

Trauma Informed Working

In 2022, the Partnership agreed the principles of Trauma Informed Working that services should be working to:

- **Safety** – the physical, psychological & emotional safety of service users and staff is prioritised
- **Trust** – transparencies in policies & procedures, building trust among staff, service users and the wider community
- **Choice** – Shared decision making with service users, joint goal setting, not imposing solutions
- **Collaboration** – valuing staff and service user experience in overcoming challenges and improving systems
- **Empowerment** – efforts made to share power and give individuals a strong voice at an individual & organisational level
- **Cultural Consideration** – move past stereotypes and biases based on gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, geography, race or ethnicity

Achievements in Year One:

- All specialist DASV staff have been trained in the provision of trauma informed care.
- “Trauma Information Cards” are available and being used in a number of organisations across the area.
- A number of organisations are collaborating to ensure that Trauma Informed Practice is delivered as a system wide approach as part of Changing Futures
- Health agencies, local councils, mental health services and others are building on their trauma informed approach with guidance, awareness and training.

System Wide Collaboration

To respond effectively to the challenges presented to individuals and agencies from domestic abuse and sexual violence, all parts of the system need to work effectively together, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Family centred response across the system, which responds effectively to all those affected by the abuse.
- Clear processes and seamless pathways across organisations
- Open and transparent systems which are aiming to continuously improve.
- Strong working relationships of professionals across services

Achievements in Year One:

- Multi Agency scrutiny groups monthly held by police re DA Topics
- Scrutiny of Out of Court Disposal Mechanisms
- DASV Newsletter distributed to more than 500 professionals
- Agencies consistently attend and feed into Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews
- Learning from DARDR shared in training and via DASV Champions sessions
- Housing teams, CGL, Aspire, Children's Early Help audits of DA Cases with the DASV Team
- Rape Crisis share feedback with Police and CPD to inform & improve responses
- CUH Maternity audit of routine enquiry re DA
- NWAFT hold DA clinical audits
- CGL, Aspire, NWAFT, CPFT, East Cambs, Cambridge City, Peterborough City Council, South Cambs, Fenland and Hunts District Council all have dedicated posts to address domestic abuse within their organisations.
- Changing Futures network includes most key organisations across the partnership

Data

All agencies record different information about domestic abuse and sexual violence which prevents the partnership from developing a true picture of need. Gaps in knowledge have been identified where these crimes affect minority communities and children and young people.

Achievements in Year One:

- Housing Teams, CPFT, NWAFT, Probation, Children's early help can all identify those using their services where DA has been identified.
- Safelives independent review of MARAC has been underway throughout the year
- JTAI exercise in Cambs to consider the multi agency response to children aged 0-7 who are victims of domestic abuse

Aim: Working to prevent people becoming offenders of domestic abuse and reducing victimisation by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster domestic abuse & sexual violence

Achievements in Year One:

- Healthy relationships group for PSHE and specialist agencies
- Young Peoples IDVAs delivered sessions in schools and colleges
- Dedicated Police Officer supporting PSHE curriculum in schools
- Safer Streets work in Cambridge and Fenland, includes work in schools by Rape Crisis
- Cambridge City Council gained Purple Flag status
- Peterborough Targeted support have a specific healthy relationships project for young people
- Education Safeguarding Conferences supported by Rape Crisis
- PWA delivering the ESCAPE programme in schools and reached 1700 children
- 108 children supported by PWA via the healing together programme
- Cambs County Council have a Harmful sexual behaviours service for young people
- CUH, CPFT, ICB and NWAFT are signed up to the Sexual Safety Charter
- Increased CCTV and lighting in towns and cities
- Resources for retail workers in Cambridge re sexual harassment
- Training for Stagecoach drivers from Rape Crisis
- Ask for Angela promoted in licenced premises
- Op Glacier working to safeguard those who are street sex working in Peterborough
- Op Glacier maximising opportunities to pursue those who exploit or harm sex workers – 60 Community Protection Notices issued to these men
- White Ribbon Accreditation for Cambridge City, South Cambs, Peterborough, East Cambs and Cambridgeshire Councils

Aim: Reducing the risk to victims and intervening to prevent it from continuing, recurring or escalating.

Achievements in Year One:

- 1,237 cases heard at the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Health agencies considering how they will provide information and representation at MARAC
- IDVA restructure and separated across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
- 4,599 referrals to IDVA service, 63% engagement – 2,897 supported
- DASS Mobile Advocacy service – 772 new referrals, supporting 623 people
- 258 DA victims supported by the Victims & Witness Hub
- IMPAKT DASS working towards Leading Lights Accreditation
- 98 women and 107 children supported in local refuges
- 8 properties of dispersed accommodation
- Additional security/Target Hardening in 482 homes
- Libraries identified as safe spaces with training for staff
- Council buildings in Ely, Littleport, Cambourne and Northstowe identifies as safe spaces
- Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme responding to requests and publicised
- Police officers now using “DARA” to risk assess with victims of DA
- Family suffering Child to Parent Abuse supported by the Family Respect Project
- “Butterflies” group at Aspire supports family members who may be subjected to abuse due to substance misuse of adult children
- 76% of women receiving maternity care at the Rosie CUH have been asked about DA at least once during their pregnancy and increasing numbers of woman are being asked in the postnatal period.

Aim: Perpetrators are appropriately pursued and challenged.

Achievements in Year One:

- Police reported DA Incidents, Cambs 8,796 and Peterborough 5,065
- Sexual offences reported to police, Cambs 2,270 and Peterborough 1,509
- Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel – 22 meetings, discussing 47 perpetrators in the North and 48 in the South of the force.
- BBR & Stepwise Perpetrator Programme in Probation
- Use of CARA for DA Conditional Cautions
- Perpetrator training with substance misuse services

Aim: Ensure all victims have access to appropriate and proportionate outcome-focused support.

Achievements in Year One:

- SARC supported 267 adults and 151 children
- Specialist DA Services funded, including One Voice 4 Travellers, Cambridgeshire Deaf Association, Hourglass for Older People
- Dahlia Project supporting South Asian victims in Peterborough
- Specialist Lithuanian Outreach Worker
- Support for those with No Recourse to Public Funds
- BUnited specialist support for male DA Victims
- Schools alerted to police DA incidents for pupils in their schools, in Peterborough there were notifications for over 2,250 children
- Discretionary Section 42 in Adult Social Care where the carer is a victim of DA from the person they are caring for
- Specialist Carers support post for Carers subjected to DA, based in Caring Together