

Trafford Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018-2022

Document Control

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1. Trafford Partnership Vision

Domestic Abuse is a complex social issue which affects people from all communities and cultures, and impacts all services. Trafford Partnership is committed to addressing the causes, and reducing the impact of domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse is a national and local priority. In Trafford we are committed to enabling our residents, their families and communities to live a healthy life, free from abuse and violence. We will support this by reducing the impact of domestic abuse on the population of Trafford by developing and implementing a sustainable system wide approach to prevention, early intervention, response and support.

To reflect the national domestic abuseⁱ priorities, Trafford will:

- promote awareness; raising the profile of domestic abuse across all Trafford Partnership organisations and services.
- protect and support; we will work locally to ensure our services enhance the safety of victims and the support that they receive, promoting earlier identification and harm reduction.
- pursue and deter; we will work in partnership with Greater Manchester Combined Authority, (GMCA) and our partners to ensure an effective, evidence based response to perpetrators through to conviction and management of offenders, including rehabilitation and behavioural change programs.
- improve performance – to drive consistency and better performance in the response to domestic abuse across all local areas, agencies and sectors.

Understanding and experiencing healthy relationships during childhood and adolescence is fundamental for good health and social wellbeing. A commitment to preventing, identifying and tackling domestic abuse will have residual effects on issues such as child sexual exploitation, missing from home, and mental ill health.

2. What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is endemic within all our communities. Trafford accepts the official government definition of domestic abuseⁱⁱ¹:

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
- 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.

¹ The Domestic Abuse and Violence Bill is expected to be published in August 2018, this may impact on the current definition, www.gov.uk/government/consultations/domestic-abuse-bill-consultation

- 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.

The Government definition includes 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. This definition of domestic abuse is inclusive and extends to all genders and ethnic groups and people of differing sexuality.

3. Domestic Abuse as a Population Health Issue

Domestic abuse has a significant impact on our communities, services and society. There is much published evidence about the impact of domestic abuse including:

- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will be affected by domestic abuse in their lifetimeⁱⁱⁱ
- Two women are murdered each week in England and Wales as a result of domestic abuse, and 30 men per year^{iv}
- 16% of all violent crimes are domestic abuse related, however it is still the violent crime least likely to be reported to the police^v
- Domestic abuse has more repeat victims than any other crime (on average, there will have been 35 assaults before a victim calls the police)^{vi}
- Is the single most quoted reason for becoming homeless^{vii}. In the Northwest, breakdown of violent relationship is the primary reason of homelessness acceptance compared to nationally where this is the fourth reason nationally^{viii}.
- In 2010 the Forced Marriage Unit responded to 1735 reports of possible Forced Marriages in the UK^{ix}.

Approximately 400 people commit suicide each year who have attended hospital for domestic abuse injuries in the previous six months, 200 of these attend hospital on the day they go on to commit suicide^x.

In addition to the human cost, there are significant financial costs resulting from domestic abuse. Research by the University of Leeds, (2009),^{xi} estimated the total costs of domestic abuse to be £15.7 billion a year. This is broken down as follows:

- costs to services (Criminal Justice System, health, social services, housing, civil legal) amounts to £3.8 billion per year.
- loss to the economy resulting from women taking time off work due to injuries estimated to be £1.9 billion per year.
- the human and emotional costs of domestic abuse amount to almost £10 billion per year.

4. Domestic Abuse in Trafford

Sadly, in 2011, a Trafford family was catastrophically affected by domestic abuse, with a mother and son dying as a result of a fire started with intent by the mother's former partner. Two other children experienced significant physical and mental harm as a result.

Understanding the true prevalence of domestic abuse is difficult because many cases are undisclosed.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is a survey which estimates the prevalence of domestic abuse among adults aged 16-59 living in households.

For the year ending March 2016, CSEW estimates that, among 16 to 59 year olds living in households, 7.7% of women and 4.4% of men experienced any type of abuse in the last year.

Assuming that Trafford has the same prevalence as the England and Wales average, this would amount to around 4,800 women and 2,800 men in Trafford having experienced domestic abuse in the last year.

Overall, 26% of women and 14% of men had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16. Again, assuming this same prevalence in Trafford, this would amount to 15,600 women and 8,200 men.

The CSEW estimates prevalence in our population aged 16-59, it is important to note the prevalence across the wider life course. Understanding and responding to domestic abuse in relationships between young people aged under 16 is complex and will require a safeguarding response. For our old population, those aged over 60, understanding the pattern of domestic abuse is difficult due to underreporting. Domestic abuse of older people is often hidden (whether that be because of long term abuse throughout the relationship or new abuse relating to new caring responsibilities, for example, abuse by a child of a parent often happens when they become the parent's carer). Also the onset of dementia can trigger a domestic abuse situation where there had never been one previously, and this again is often hidden.

Evidence also demonstrates variation in prevalence across our localities with high rates seen in the North Locality and lower rates in the South Locality.

The Trafford Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, 2017 provides a comprehensive profile of need for the borough.

5. Our Vision and Objectives

Trafford Partnership is committed to preventing and reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse by developing and implementing a sustainable system wide approach to prevention, early intervention, response and support.

A Trafford Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment was completed in 2017 and has informed our local domestic abuse priorities.

Aligned to the national themes our local objectives are:

- to promote awareness by raising the profile of domestic abuse across the Trafford Partnership, with a particular focus on strengthening prevention and early intervention.
- to protect and support people affected by domestic abuse; we will work locally to ensure our services enhance the safety of victims and the support that they receive, promoting earlier identification and harm reduction. We will work to ensure that all services, especially specialist domestic abuse services respond in a way that addresses inequalities and is inclusive of all communities and groups affected.
- to pursue and deter perpetrators of domestic abuse; we will work in partnership with Greater Manchester Combined Authority, (GMCA) and our partners to ensure an effective, evidence based response to perpetrators through to conviction and management of offenders, including rehabilitation and behavioural change programs.
- to ensure the prevention and reducing the harm of domestic abuse is everybody's business. There will be a commitment to improving the performance of our services and to drive consistency and quality across all local areas, agencies and sectors.

A detailed action plan presents how Trafford Partnership will achieve these objectives. Sections 5.i.-5.iv describes some key delivery commitments.

5.i. Promoting Awareness

5.i.i. Domestic Abuse as a Trafford Safeguarding Priority

Reducing the impact of domestic abuse is a priority for Trafford's Strategic Safeguarding Board and is a priority theme for the Personal and Family Safeguarding sub-board. The Strategic Safeguarding Board is multi-agency and includes three statutory partners, police, health and local authority along with other agencies delivering services within Trafford. This approach will ensure that domestic abuse is considered by these partner agencies, and assurance will be sought regarding the effectiveness of safeguarding practice including risk factors and impact.

5.i.ii. Prevention and Education

Protecting our children and young people from domestic abuse by giving them the knowledge and skills to recognise domestic abuse, reducing the risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse is a key aim of this strategy.

To reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, children and young people need to understand what a healthy relationship is; the Partnership is committed to delivering a schools based healthy relationship programme. This programme will be extended to settings where our vulnerable young people access to ensure that those who do not engage in school receive this important intervention.

5.i.iii. Commitment to Awareness Raising Campaigns

Members of Trafford's Safeguarding Board are engaged with the Greater Manchester domestic abuse campaign End the Fear², Sitting Right with You?³ Continuing to support awareness campaigns is an important population level intervention that facilitates the de-stigmatisation of domestic abuse.

5.ii. Protecting and supporting people who are affected by domestic abuse

5.ii.i. Early Identification and Harm Reduction

Outcomes for people and their families will only be improved if domestic abuse is identified at an earlier stage.

Recent research has shown that the impact of events in childhood is much greater than had been previously understood^{xii}. Children experiencing neglect or abuse have poorer health, educational and economic outcomes in adulthood. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) impact on a child's social and physical development. Living in an adverse environment or prolonged exposure to adverse experiences subject the developing body to an extended period in the "fight or flight response" which can alter the way the brain, nervous and immune systems develop^{xiii}.

Supporting individuals and families to recognise domestic abuse and reduce the harm from this will positively impact on current and future generations. Enabling our residents to access early help including parenting support is key. To be able to do this, we need to make every contact count by helping people who work with families to understand the impact of domestic abuse, how to ask the question and respond appropriately.

² <http://www.endthefear.co.uk/>

³ <http://www.sittingrightwithyou.co.uk/>

Families may live with domestic abuse for a significant period before getting effective help^{xiv}. On average, high-risk victims live with domestic abuse for 2.3 years before getting help^{xv} and 85% of victims sought help five times on average from professionals in the year before they got effective help to stop the abuse^{xvi}. There are many reasons why people remain in a relationship where domestic abuse is present, this may include difficulties in recognising the behaviour as domestic abuse, fear of the stigma, concerns about losing access to their children if they tell someone what is happening at home, and safety linked to separating from the perpetrator.

A key reason why victims do not disclose is because they are not asked about domestic abuse in a meaningful and appropriate way. The success of the local Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) programme is based on how the question is framed and the response to the disclosure.

Trafford will aim to become a borough with a zero tolerance approach to domestic abuse. Front line staff and services will be trained to appropriately ask their clients about their experience of domestic abuse, whether current or historic. The concept of ACEs will underpin the training to support a link between domestic abuse, ACEs and the wider social economic impacts.

It is important to note that many people employed in the public sector and other Partnership organisations will be residents of Trafford, therefore there will be residual affects including identifying domestic abuse within our workforce and raising awareness within our communities.

5.ii.ii. Service Provision and Partnership Response

The vision is to have a core service that integrates into and across Trafford's health and social care services. The service delivery will consider the evolving landscape of Trafford's services, ensuring that it operates within the Model of Primary Care, Local Care Alliance and One Trafford Response values and parameters. The core service will work collaboratively with other services and stakeholders, ensuring that wider determinants such as housing, employment, early help and education are all incorporated into the response. Where appropriate the One Trafford Response case worker approach will be implemented.

The ambition is to have 4 Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, (IDVAs). The IDVAs will all be trained to deal with the complexities that high level DA presents, however they will each have their own specialism including mental illness, substance misuse and honour based violence.

The core service will also employ two Domestic Abuse Support Workers, (DASW), one will be generic and the other post will support children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

The IDVAs and DASW workers, although operating as a core service model, will work out in the four neighbourhoods using restorative practice approaches. It is anticipated that the workers will be able to use rooms in different health and social care settings including primary care practices. This approach will support engagement and service user safety at a community level.

Trafford domestic abuse pathways will be place based focussed, equitable, and underpinned by an Integrated Commissioning Strategy and supported by a Partnership Domestic Abuse Coordinator.

5.ii.iii. Early Help: Operation Encompass and Strive

Trafford Partnership is supporting an Early Help approach to tackling domestic abuse. Two interventions which we will continue to support are Operation Encompass and STRIVE.

Operation Encompass informs schools when the police have attended a home in response to a domestic abuse incident and there are children and young people present. The aim is to ensure that the Children and Young People are safe and supported, early help interventions are delivered if appropriate and that ultimately they continue to engage in education, thereby improving their health, wellbeing and social economic outcomes.

STRIVE was launched in Trafford 2016 using Home Office Innovation funding. Working in partnership with Greater Manchester Police and Talk Listen Change, our provider for volunteer co-ordination and the professional development programme, 25 dedicated local volunteers have been providing support to victims and their families. Additional funding for 2018-19 has been provided by the Safer Trafford Partnership.

The Trafford STRIVE model has been championed across Greater Manchester. In 2017, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) undertook a deep dive evaluation into STRIVE on behalf of the Deputy Mayor. The qualitative evaluation conducted with both professionals involved in the delivery and volunteers, has shown that the holistic, whole family approach of STRIVE is widely praised and well regarded. Observations highlighted that un-announced re-visits by non-uniformed staff were preferable and that the delivery of STRIVE was found to be most effective when there was a dedicated police resource to help support the process of information sharing and risk assessment.

In early 2018 GMCA agreed to provide core funding and roll the Trafford model out across Greater Manchester. During 2017-18 Trafford STRIVE provided support to over 250 families, with only one of these reporting repeat victimisation in the 3 months after the support had ended.

5.ii.iv. Workplace Approach

All partner organisations will be encouraged to have a workplace domestic abuse policies in place to support employees affected by domestic abuse whether victim or perpetrator. It is important to note that many people employed by Trafford Partnership organisations will also be residents of borough.

5.iii. To pursue and deter perpetrators of domestic abuse

In addition to the statutory response provided by Greater Manchester Police, National Probation Service, CRC and the Courts, Trafford will continue to work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to identify an appropriate perpetrator response for Trafford.

5.iv. To ensure the prevention and reduction of harm from domestic abuse is everybody's business

5.iv.i. Working Together

Reducing the impact and prevalence of domestic abuse cannot be achieved by organisations working in isolation. Domestic abuse is a complex social issue which affects people from all groups, genders and cultures. The causes and effects of domestic abuse are numerous and significant. Across Trafford there are a range of organisations that work directly or indirectly with residents affected by domestic abuse.

Trafford Council, Trafford NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust, the voluntary sector, criminal justice services amongst others are involved in identifying, and protecting people affected by domestic abuse.

Due to the complexity of the issues presenting, it is necessary to tackle domestic abuse in a multi-agency way. Partnership working involves agencies taking action both individually (by sharing information) and collectively.

The new model will support services to work effectively together with a co-ordinated approach to commissioning. The model will be robustly assessed to ensure equity amongst all groups, especially protected ones such as black and minority ethnic groups (BAME) and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, (LGBT) to support access and engagement. This strategy demonstrates a commitment from Trafford Partnership to work together to tackle domestic abuse.

5.iv.ii. Needs Led and Evidence Based Approach to Service Planning

There is national guidance which supports domestic abuse system design and best practice. Safe Lives (previously Co-ordinated Actions Against Domestic Abuse, CAADA), Local Government Association, (LGA) and the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence, (NICE), have all produced evidence based guidance. As a local partnership, Trafford will ensure that its service delivery is evidence-based thereby ensuring efficacy and cost effectiveness.

A core minimum dataset including demographics and outcomes will be included in all contracts, to support monitoring of effectiveness but also provide evidence to inform prevention, early help commissioning and identify emerging issues or gaps in provision.

6. How will we know we are making a difference?

6.i. Governance and Accountability

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, local authorities have a statutory duty to work with other agencies in order to reduce crime and disorder in their area. Trafford Domestic Abuse Strategic Forum, led by the Council, meets quarterly and reports against an action plan. The Forum provides an opportunity for partners to highlight barriers which prevent a coordinated and effective multi-agency response.

Trafford's Health and Wellbeing Board is accountable for this Domestic Abuse Strategy and action plan. Responsibility is delegated to Trafford's Strategic Safeguarding Board via the Personal and Family Safeguarding Sub- Board. The Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategic Forum is the task group which oversees operational delivery of this strategy.

6.ii. Action Planning

A partnership action plan compliments this strategy to ensure that the vision and objectives are achieved. This is a fluid action plan informed by national and local evidence.

6.iii. Performance Monitoring

The action plan will be performance monitored with outputs reported to the Domestic Abuse Strategic Forum. Exception reporting to the Personal and Family Safeguarding Board will be required if progress does not align to the action plan timeframe.

6.iv. Service User Engagement

Service User engagement and listening to *the lived experience* is essential if this strategy is to achieve its vision. Service user engagement will be part of the performance monitoring and evaluation process for this strategy.

6.v. Strategy Review and Refresh

This Strategy will be reviewed in Autumn 2021, by Trafford's Domestic Abuse Strategic Forum. A refreshed strategy will be launched in April 2022.

7. References

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- ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.lwa.org.uk/understanding-abuse/statistics.htm>
- ^{iv} <http://www.lwa.org.uk/understanding-abuse/statistics.htm>
- ^v <http://www.lwa.org.uk/understanding-abuse/statistics.htm>
- ^{vi} <http://www.lwa.org.uk/understanding-abuse/statistics.htm>
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