

Please circulate widely to all those engaged in addressing the issues of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Gloucestershire. Thank you!

Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse Consultation Response & Draft Bill introduced

Responses to the domestic abuse bill consultation will now be taken forward in a draft Domestic Abuse Bill:

- ❖ a **statutory definition** of domestic abuse
- ❖ establish a **Domestic Abuse Commissioner** and set out the Commissioner's functions and powers
- ❖ provide for a new **Domestic Abuse Protection Notice** and **Domestic Abuse Protection Order**
- ❖ prohibit perpetrators of domestic and other forms of abuse from **cross-examining** their **victims** in person in the family courts (and prevent victims from having to cross-examine their abusers)
- ❖ create a **statutory presumption** that complainants of an offence involving behaviour that amounts to domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal courts
- ❖ enable high-risk domestic abuse offenders to be subject to **polygraph testing** as a condition of their licence following their release from custody
- ❖ place the guidance supporting the **Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme** on a statutory footing
- ❖ ensure that, where a local authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy), this must be a **secure lifetime tenancy**
- ❖ extend the **extra-territorial jurisdiction** of the criminal courts in England and Wales to further violent and sexual offences

The draft Bill will now be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by both Houses of Parliament. There will also be a wide range of cross-government commitments which will be taken forward over the coming year. [Click here](#) to find out more

Spring 2019

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy refresh

In March 2019 the Government re-affirmed its commitment to tackle violence against women and girls by publishing a refresh of the four-year VAWG strategy launched in 2016. The strategy refresh and accompanying action plan provide details on what has been delivered so far as well as commitments to further action. Click for: [Refresh Document](#); [Action Plan update](#); [VAWG Newsletter Spring 2019](#)

Government unveils commitments to tackle abuse against men: Home Office sets out the scale of gender-based violence and abuse perpetrated against men and boys. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Government backed Stalking Protection Bill receives Royal Assent: New powers to protect victims of stalking become law. [Click here](#) to find out more.

The economic and social costs of domestic abuse: This report aims to estimate the costs of Domestic Abuse in England and Wales for the year ending 31 March 2017. It estimates the cost of domestic abuse for victims over this period to be approx. £66 billion. [Click here](#) to read the report.

Female genital mutilation (FGM): Resource Pack: [Click here](#) to access guidance, case studies and support materials. [Click here](#) for facts on FGM.

Drive Pilot Project: [Click here](#) to read the evaluation of Year 2 of the Drive Pilot to address high risk perpetrators of domestic abuse. Drive targets the perpetrators of domestic abuse and improves outcomes for victims and children.

Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA): What works with domestic abuse perpetrators? [Click here](#) for an outline of the published review findings to date in relation to 'what works with domestic abuse perpetrators'.

Information HUB

Including recent and upcoming events



Gloucestershire Framework

Agreement for Domestic Abuse (DA)

(Commissioning DA Services in Gloucestershire)

Reopening of the DA Framework: The DA

Framework will have its first annual reopening in May 2019 for new providers to apply to be awarded to lots 2 – 6:

Lot 2: Places of Safety

Lot 3: Addressing Perpetrator Behaviour

Lot 4: Young People

Lot 5: Early Identification & Workforce Development

Lot 6: Stalking

The reopening will be led by GCC Commissioning on behalf of all partners signed up to the Framework.

The reopening will be advertised on [Supplying the South West Portal](#).

Lot 4: Young People - West Mercia

Women's Aid (WMWA) have been awarded a call-off contract under Lot 4 of the DA Framework to deliver targeted healthy relationship interventions to young people aged 13-19 experiencing abuse in their own relationships or witnessing domestic abuse in the home. Interventions will also be available to young people who may be demonstrating harmful behaviour in their own relationships with partners, parents, siblings or other family members. Support will be offered through formal group work programmes and one to one sessions across all levels of risk. The proposed interventions will link in with and complement existing and planned activity in schools and other settings for young people. We are pleased to welcome WMWA to the county.

Women's Aid have published 'The Domestic Abuse Report 2019: The Annual Audit' examining the work of domestic abuse services in 2017-18. To read the report, [Click here](#).

SafeLives have published their latest strategy **The Whole Picture - to end domestic abuse, for good.** [Click here](#) to read the Strategy.

16 Days of Action 2018

Thank you to everyone who got involved in events across the county during the 16 Days of Action campaign which ran from 25 November to 10 December 2018. Gloucestershire joined a campaign across the whole South West Region coordinated by Public Health England for the South West aiming to engage with workplaces in the prevention and response to domestic abuse and sexual violence. It asked employers and employees '**what would you do?**' if you became concerned about someone at risk of or experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence. The campaign acknowledged that these issues can affect anyone, and employers have a role in safeguarding their staff.

The campaign promoted the [domestic abuse toolkit for employers](#) developed by Public Health England and Business in the Community.

The campaign also raised awareness of the [South West Survivor Pathway](#); an online directory providing information about local sexual violence services across the South West.

The [Violence Prevention Network e-bulletin](#) produced by Public Health England South West Team is a regular bulletin designed to keep subscribers in touch with violence prevention locally and nationally; as well as information on domestic abuse and sexual violence, it also includes many items about the broader violence prevention agenda which you may find interesting/helpful. To subscribe, contact lara.snowdon@phe.gov.uk

The next meeting of the DASV Information Network will be held on 10th October 2019. For information about attending this meeting please contact:

Heather.Ellis@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Please forward any information to be included in the next edition of the DASV Briefing Sheet to: Tina.Hemingway@gloucestershire.gov.uk by **Friday 27th September 2019**