



HAVERING
COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

STRATEGY
2005 – 2008





“One in four women and one in six men will be affected in their lifetimes, with women suffering higher rates of repeat victimisation and serious injury”.¹

Introduction

Domestic violence has a devastating effect on victims, their families and the wider community, regardless of race, geography or social background. The total cost to society is an estimated £23 billion a year in England and Wales.² Domestic Violence is a key concern for the Havering Community Safety Partnership. (HCSP). Our consultations with focus groups and survivors has found that domestic violence has a profound impact on the quality of life and the self esteem of survivors. This strategy reflects the fact that the overwhelming majority of survivors of domestic violence who use existing services within Havering are women. It should be recognised, however, that domestic violence also occurs in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender relationships and that heterosexual men are also abused by their partners or other family members.

¹ British Crime Survey England and Wales 2000. London: Home Office, 2000.

² The Cost of Domestic Violence Sylvia Walby (University of Leeds) September 2004



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Guiding principles of this strategy

The need to undermine social tolerance and approval of domestic violence

To ensure that the safety of the victim, and any dependent children, is the paramount consideration

To seek to empower people to make informed decisions and choices about their lives, and not try to make decisions on their behalf

To hold individual abusers accountable for their behaviour in such a way that not only acts as a future deterrent for them, but also as a deterrent to potential abusers

Effective co-ordination of services in Havering is needed to provide more effective and economic interventions

DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Defining domestic violence can be difficult and contentious, with different individuals and agencies wanting to stress one aspect of domestic violence over another. One approach is to agree a core definition to which all agencies can sign up. Individual agencies can then develop a fuller definition if they wish, as long as it is true to the core definition. This has been the approach recently taken by Havering Domestic Violence Forum, which agreed a core, common definition across all member agencies, based on that used by the Association of Chief Police Officers:

'Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.'

Havering Domestic Violence Forum also recognises that

- Domestic Violence is essentially a pattern of behaviour which is characterised by the exercise of control and the misuse of power by one person, usually a man, over another, usually a woman
- Domestic violence occurs within all races and ethnicities in similar numbers
- Children and young people can also be the victims of domestic violence
- Domestic violence occurs in all social classes, economic groups, cultures, religions, nationalities and age groups
- The perpetrator can be a present or former partner, or a family member
- Violence also happens in Lesbian, Gay , Bisexual and Transgender relationships and less commonly by women against men



THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CRIME AND VICTIMS BILL

Central government priorities place domestic violence firmly within the broader context of social justice. The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Bill received Royal Assent on the 24th of November 2004. The Act is the biggest overhaul of domestic violence legislation for thirty years and heralds' tough new powers for the police and the courts to tackle offenders, while ensuring victims get the support and protection they need.

Key provisions in the Act include:

- Making common assault an arrestable offence.
- Significant new police powers to deal with domestic violence including making it an arrestable, criminal offence to breach a non-molestation order, punishable by up to five years in prison.
- Strengthening the civil law on domestic violence to ensure cohabiting same-sex couples have the same access to non-molestation and occupation orders as opposite sex couples, and extending the availability of these orders to couples who have never lived together or been married.
- Stronger legal protection for victims of domestic violence by enabling courts to impose restraining orders when sentencing for any offence. Until now, such orders could only be imposed on offenders convicted of harassment or causing fear of violence.
- Enabling courts to impose restraining orders on acquittal for any offence (or if a conviction has been overturned on appeal) if they consider it necessary to protect the victim from harassment. This will deal with cases where the conviction has failed but it is still clear from the evidence that the victims need protecting.
- Putting in place a system to review domestic violence homicide incidents, drawing in the key agencies, to find out what can be done to put the system right and prevent future deaths.
- Providing a code of practice, binding on all criminal justice agencies, so that all victims receive the support, protection, information and advice they need.
- Allowing victims to take their case to the Parliamentary Ombudsman if they feel the code has not been adhered to by the criminal justice agencies.
- Setting up an independent Commissioner for Victims to give victims a powerful voice at the heart of Government and to safeguard and promote the interests of victims and witnesses, encouraging the spread of good practice and reviewing the statutory code.
- Giving victims of mentally disordered offenders the same rights to information as other victims of serious violent and sexual offences.
- Giving the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority the right to recover from offenders the money it has paid to their victims in compensation.
- A surcharge to be payable on criminal convictions and fixed penalty notices which will contribute to the Victims Fund.
- Closing a legal loophole by creating a new offence of causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult. The offence establishes a new criminal responsibility for members of a household where they know that a child or vulnerable adult is at significant risk of serious harm.

As a result there is an ambitious national drive to address these problems.

The HCSP is determined to make the most of this opportunity and rise to the national challenge and also address local concerns



WHAT IS THE HCSP?

The Havering Community Safety Partnership is a team of statutory and voluntary organisations that work collectively to address crime and disorder and drug misuse in the borough. A three year strategy has been developed in which we set out the main issues, priorities and tasks that will be done to tackle crime, disorder and drugs in the borough during the next 3 years.

The overall Mission Statement that underpins this strategy is:

To engender respect and responsibility amongst those that live, work and visit Havering

The partnership has conducted its business through a structure of action groups.

The Havering Domestic Violence Forum and the Protecting Identified Vulnerable Groups Action Group will be the key agents in both the development and delivery of the domestic violence strategy.

HAVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORUM

For the successful implementation of this domestic violence strategy it is essential for the Havering Domestic Violence forum to have representation from a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations. The Havering Domestic Violence Forum is made up of members from the following organisations:

**London Borough of Havering:
Community Safety Service, Education,
Housing and Social Services**

Metropolitan Police

Havering Primary Care Trust

Barking, Havering and Redbridge Acute Trust

Havering Victim Support

Havering Women's Aid

London Probation Service

Ashiana Women's Refuge

Sure Start Programme

HAVCO

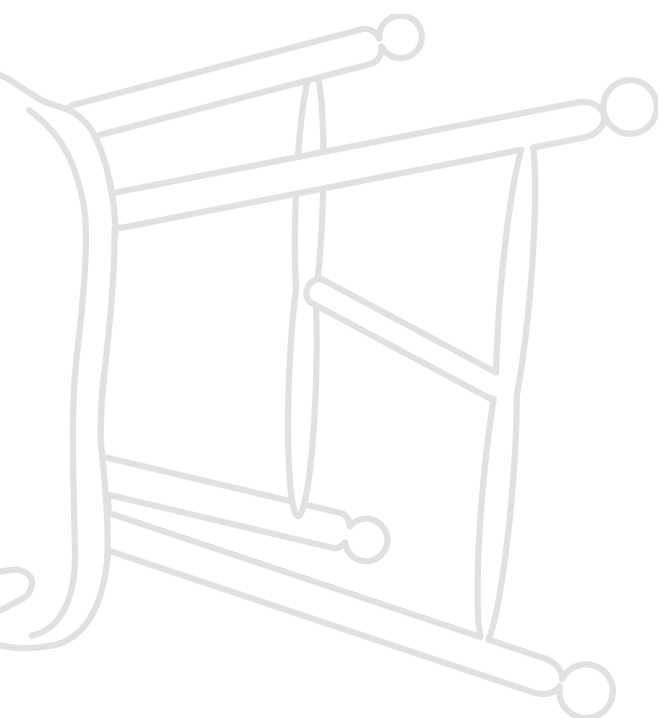
Havering Homestart

Havering Community Safety Partnership launched its first domestic violence strategy in November 2003.

The key areas of that strategy were

- Awareness raising
- Developing early and effective healthcare interventions
- Increasing safe accommodation choices for women and children
- Monitoring and data collection
- Ensuring a consistent and appropriate response from the police and crown prosecution service
- Dealing with potential homelessness and other practical housing issues

The Havering Domestic Violence Forum (HDVF) has taken the lead on the delivery and implementation of the DV Strategy.





The achievements of Havering Domestic Violence Forum in 2003 – 2005 include:

- Domestic violence strategy launched
- Domestic Violence Conference in November 2003 and 2004
- Over 850 staff across the borough trained in DV Awareness
- DV resource guide produced
- DV posters, leaflets and advice cards produced and circulated across the borough
- DV leaflet aimed at young people produced
- 30 mobile phones available to victims of domestic violence through victim support to victims of domestic violence
- 3 domestic violence drop-in clinics established
- New Area Child Protection Committee domestic violence guidelines developed and launched
- Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust have developed Domestic Violence guidelines for Midwives working at Harold Wood Maternity Unit
- All schools in the borough provided with the Westminster Domestic Violence Education Pack
- The introduction by Havering Police of the new Metropolitan Police Domestic Violence reporting booklet, to improve initial investigation and effective evidence gathering
- Provision of 30 ICEFLOW Cameras for use in enhanced evidence gathering

PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN HAVERING

Current Crime Audit 2005

This Crime, Drugs and Disorder Audit 2005 was carried out by the London Borough of Havering Community Safety Section on behalf of the Havering Community Safety Partnership (HCSP).

Crime and disorder data has been supplied by the member agencies of the Havering Community Safety Partnership, including the Metropolitan Police, Havering Primary Care Trust, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, the British Transport Police and a number of departments within the London Borough of Havering.

Key findings in relation to domestic violence

- Havering is the 7th safest borough in London for this type of offence
- There were 1,211 domestic violence reported incidents in Havering in 2003/04, indicating a 6% rise since 2002/03 (1,142)
- Domestic violence accounts for 5.4% crimes in Havering
- Romford Town, Heaton and Gooshays have the highest incidents (per thousand population) for domestic violence. These three wards have twice the average rate compared to Havering as a whole
- 62% of these offences are classified as common assault, 8% harassment, 7% actual bodily harm, and 6% account for criminal damage to a dwelling
- 75% of offenders are male; the 26 to 46 age group consists of 57.8% of those most at risk of offending
- 75% of victims are female; those aged 23 and 24 were most at risk of being victims
- The Women's Refuge provides accommodation for up to nine families at any one time. In 2003-4 the Refuge supported 200 families throughout the year, received 167 calls via the advice line and 25 women sought advice through the two drop-in sessions
- The estimated total costs in providing advice, support and assistance for those facing domestic violence in Greater London are £278 million (per annum)³

Domestic violence

Ward	2002 – 2003	2003 – 2004	percentage Change %	Per thousand population 2003 – 2004
Brooklands	99	89	-10	6.8
Cranham	34	16	-53	1.3
Elm Park	57	70	23	5.8
Emerson Park	38	34	-11	3.0
Gooshays	92	133	45	9.5
Hacton	65	49	-25	3.9
Harold Wood	58	64	10	5.3
Havering Park	79	80	1	6.5
Heaton	88	112	27	9.5
Hylands	51	28	-45	2.3
Mawneys	72	80	11	6.4
Pettits	23	36	57	2.8
Rainham and Wennington	54	95	76	7.8
Romford Town	136	139	2	10.5
South Hornchurch	74	97	31	7.7
Squirrels Heath	41	28	-32	2.4
St Andrews	38	42	11	3.3
Upminster	43	19	-56	1.5
Havering	1,142	1,211	6	5.4

Source: MPS (CRIS Data)

³ Professor Stanko, E et al. Counting the Costs. London: Crime Concern, 1998.

HAVERING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRIORITIES

In December 2004 The Home Office Violent Crimes Unit launched guidance for Local Crime and Disorder Partnerships on developing domestic violence strategies.

The guidance recommends that Local Domestic Violence strategies are developed around three key strands in accordance with the Government's own strategic framework; namely

Prevention and Early Intervention Protection and Justice and Support for Victims

In January and February 2005 members of the Havering Domestic Violence Forum attended two planning days to identify the key priority areas for this strategy. An audit of service provision aimed at Domestic Violence Forum Partners was conducted to assess existing service provision and identify gaps.

Focus groups have been held across the borough to ascertain residents' experiences of crime, including domestic violence, within the last two years.

The information gathered from these consultations forms the foundations for this strategy.

1. Prevention and early intervention

1.1 Work with Schools

Lasting reductions in domestic violence will only be achieved through changing people's attitudes to and the tolerance of, violence by men against their partners; and by implementation of education programmes which address power relationships between young men and women, by teaching conflict resolution without violence. The Respect Campaign found that 1 in 5 young men and 1 in 10 young women think that abuse or violence against women is acceptable.⁵

It is important to engage with the next generation of victims and perpetrators early, as it is vital to teach them that domestic violence is never acceptable. Those who are suffering domestic violence now, as either primary or secondary victims (largely children), also need information and support as early as possible to improve their safety.

The Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities and other statutory agencies to make arrangements in exercising their functions to ensure that they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.⁶ As well as safeguarding and promoting the safety of children, schools and colleges should include domestic violence in discussion of personal safety in the classroom with all age groups. Research undertaken by NSPCC shows that when experiencing domestic violence, what children want is support from their peers.⁷ Thus what they want from adults is for them to educate their peers to understand the issue.

The Home Office briefing paper 2000 "What works? Meeting the needs of children" states that 84% of secondary school children want lessons on domestic violence and what to do about it.

As part of a borough wide 'Education Domestic Violence Initiative' a consultation paper was circulated to all Havering Schools in January 2004. A third of all schools within the borough responded. Findings from the consultation showed that schools in Havering recognised that domestic violence is an issue for children in the borough and that teachers would welcome advice on how best to support them. Tackling domestic violence is not only right in itself, it yields practical

⁴ Developing domestic violence strategies – a guide for partnerships, Home Office violent crime unit December 2004

⁵ Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust. 1998

⁶ Children's Act 2004: Home Office

⁷ Westminster Education Pack – briefing 2003

benefits for the individual's education, health and life chances, and for the people who work with children and young people. The education system can help and in many cases already is helping by:

- encouraging professionals who work with children and young people on a day to day basis for example teachers; Education Welfare Officers; Sure Start Workers; Connexions Personal Advisers; Learning mentors- to be alert for the signs of domestic violence and abuse, and make effective referrals to relevant protective agencies where appropriate. Training and professional development are important in this respect
- Raising awareness of domestic violence as a serious issue for example through Personal, Social and Health Education lessons
- Engaging in work to support families and parents for example, 'extended schools' which provide a range of community services from the school premises

The HCSP will continue to promote prevention and early intervention by

Key actions

1. Establishing links between Havering Domestic Violence forum and the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards
2. Providing training for teachers and education staff to identify children at risk of Domestic violence
3. Providing all schools with resources to incorporate domestic violence through the curriculum
4. Providing schools and colleges with leaflets and posters which can signpost children to appropriate support services
5. Supporting the development of Extended Schools within Havering

1.2 Raising Public Awareness

The whole of society needs to recognise that stopping domestic violence is everyone's responsibility. Changing attitudes means raising awareness for everyone, from primary school children to judges. It means reaching in to both public and private spaces to break the taboo surrounding domestic violence. The first part of any awareness raising campaign is the provision of clear accessible information to the public. This should be done with reference to the community and its needs, placing posters, leaflets etc. in health settings, libraries and other public places. Typically women experiencing domestic violence make contact with 5-12 different agencies before they receive a sympathetic and appropriate response.⁸ Often victims will be reluctant to approach statutory bodies for fear that they will not be treated with respect or sympathy. By developing a media campaign aimed at the wider community the HCSP can ensure that victims of domestic violence are aware of where they can access help and support within the borough

The HCSP will continue to strive to raise awareness by

Key actions

1. Providing domestic violence awareness training for statutory and voluntary agencies
2. Providing a regularly updated domestic violence resource guide,
3. Providing domestic violence advice and information on the London Borough of Havering Website at Havering.gov.uk
4. Developing and displaying posters and leaflets in all Council buildings and other public places e.g libraries, hospitals, health centres.
5. Producing targeted publicity campaigns which highlight domestic violence and hold perpetrators accountable.
6. Exploring the use of other methods for highlighting domestic violence e.g. Bus Tickets
7. Holding a yearly domestic violence conference in November

⁸ McGibbon A, Cooper L. and Kelly L. 1989. What support? An explanatory study of council policy and practice and local support services in the area of Domestic Violence within Hammersmith and Fulham Council: Hammersmith and Fulham Council

1.3 Health Services

Health services have a crucial role to play in responding to domestic violence and abuse as they are frequently on the frontline in their work dealing with both the physical injuries of victims and children, as well as the mental health impacts. In addition Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) became 'responsible authorities'(Crime and Disorder Act 1998) in April 2004 with a remit to contribute to a wider partnership role in local crime audits and participation within Partnership activity.⁹ As domestic violence accounts for 16% of violent crime, PCT's/Local Health Boards can develop appropriate service provision by organisationally endorsing a domestic violence strategy which promotes good practice. It is estimated a woman will be assaulted by her partner 35 times before she reports him to the police and make eight visits to health professionals before disclosure is made.¹⁰ Health Professionals can provide a range of interventions to improve early identification of Domestic violence and signpost services. Professional workers across all agencies are often unsure about the extent and impact of domestic violence and how to provide support and protection to women.

All front line health professionals should be given domestic violence awareness training which should include steps to be taken following disclosure of domestic violence. The aim is to ensure that survivors are identified and supported within the health service. The Department of Health announced the introduction of routine enquiry in all health settings within an agreed framework. Routine enquiry refers to asking about the experience of domestic violence of all people within certain parameters (e.g women aged over 16), regardless of whether or not there are signs of abuse, or whether domestic violence is suspected.

The HCSP will seek to achieve this by

Key actions

1. Supporting Havering PCT in the development of a Domestic Violence policy and Good Practice guidelines
2. Providing Domestic Violence awareness training for Health Professionals
3. Supporting the further implementation of Routine Enquiry by Front line staff

1.4 Mental Health

Studies indicate that 50% or more of women in touch with mental health services have experienced violence and abuse,¹¹ the level of awareness amongst mental health professionals appears low, and women are rarely asked about these experiences. Sensitive exploration of abusive experiences and addressing their serious consequences for women's mental health are fundamental to the delivery of appropriate care and treatment.

The HCSP will seek to achieve this by

Key actions

1. Developing closer links between NELMET (North East London Mental Health Trust) and the Havering Domestic Violence Forum
2. Providing Domestic Violence awareness training for Mental Health Professionals
3. Supporting the further implementation of Routine Enquiry by Front line staff

1.5 Teenage Pregnancy

Domestic violence often starts or intensifies during pregnancy. Domestic violence is associated with increases in rates of miscarriage, low birth weight, premature birth, foetal injury and foetal death.¹² For women who suffer domestic violence research has shown that for 30% of women, the first incidence occurs in pregnancy.¹³

¹⁰ Yearnshire, S. 'Analysis of cohort', IN Bewley S, Friend J and Mezey G Eds). Violence Against Women. London: RCOG, 1997

¹¹ Women's Mental Health: Into the Mainstream DOH 2002

¹² Mezey, G C. 'Domestic violence in pregnancy', IN Bewley, S et al. Violence Against Women. London: RCOG, 1997. Ch 21 p 121

¹³ Conference Report: Domestic Violence. A Health Response: Working in a Wider Partnership. London: DoH, 2000. Dr Jeremy Coid, p 41.

The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths 2000 – 2003 found that 62% of the schoolgirls or young women under the age of 18 years whose deaths were considered by this Enquiry had suffered violence in the home. The enquiry recommends that enquiries about violence should be routinely included when taking a social history at booking or at another opportune point in the antenatal period. Routine Enquiry by Community Midwives was introduced in the borough in 2003. The Children's Act places a statutory duty on Local Authorities and their partners to work together on local needs assessment, joint planning and commissioning to meet the five outcomes set out in Every Child Matters: being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well being. Local Teenage Pregnancy Strategies should include actions to ensure support for young people experiencing Domestic Violence. There need to be closer links between agencies who support pregnant teenagers and domestic violence services.

The HCSP will seek to achieve this by

Key actions

1. Developing closer links between the Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator and the Havering Domestic Violence Forum
2. Ensuring that Staff working with pregnant teenagers receive domestic violence awareness training

1.6 Corporate social responsibility and the employer's role

Domestic violence not only impacts on the survivor and their children, but also their employer through:

- lost work time through injury or mental health problems, or through seeking help from professionals such as doctors and lawyers;
- lost productivity for the same reasons;
- lost jobs (or lost staff members from the employer's viewpoint, with the attendant costs of recruitment) as a result of poor work performance and/or the need to move area to escape a violent partner; and
- Disruption of work by the violent partner¹⁴

A recent report from the DTI on the costs of domestic violence estimates the total lost economic output due to domestic violence at around £2.7 billion pa.

Historically employers have been slow to address domestic violence in the workplace because of concerns about confidentiality, intrusion into the personal lives of employees, and a lack of knowledge of the issue. Employers have obligations to provide a safe and effective work environment that responds to employees' needs, so it makes sense to address the issue of domestic violence, minimise the risks and maximise the benefits for employees and the organisation as a whole. Many employers in the UK have already started to address domestic violence as a workplace issue by identifying and supporting those experiencing abuse and working to prevent domestic violence. For Havering PCT this will address the Improving Working Lives¹⁵ agenda as prescribed by the Department of Health and will also meet the Liveability¹⁶ agenda as laid down by the Home Office with its focus on improving the quality of life for residents.

By developing a workplace policy on Domestic Violence employers can provide a vital source of support which can assist victims seeking to break free from a cycle of violence and abuse.

The HCSP will seek to achieve this by

Key actions

1. Support the Development and Implementation of a workplace domestic violence policy for statutory and voluntary organisations within the Borough
2. Providing domestic violence awareness training for Managers

¹⁴ The Cost of Domestic Violence Sylvia Walby (University of Leeds) September 2004

¹⁵ Improving working lives standard: 2000

¹⁶ New Horizons 2004 Liveability & Sustainable Development ODPM July 2004

2. Protection and justice: action against perpetrators

The Criminal Justice System and the Civil and Family courts have a key role to play both in protecting victims and holding perpetrators to account.

Every minute in the UK, the police receive a call from the public for assistance for domestic violence. This leads to police receiving an estimated 1,300 calls each day or over 570,000 each year.¹⁷ The Metropolitan Police service is committed to the prevention and detection of crimes of domestic violence.

A common feature in most domestic violence cases is repeat victimisation.¹⁸ More than half of all victims of domestic violence are involved in more than 1 incident. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) state that the reduction of repeat victimisation and protection of victims from further victimisation should be carried out with the application of positive action policies in all cases of domestic violence. Havering Police are committed to investigating all reported incidence of domestic violence and to implementing a positive arrest policy. The requirement for positive action means that in all domestic violence cases officers should consider the incident as a whole, and should focus efforts on gathering alternative evidence in order to charge and build a prosecution case that does not rely entirely on the victim's statement. This is particularly important where at any stage the victim appears not to support a prosecution. The ACPO Guidance on Investigating Domestic Violence (Centrex 2004) states that in every incidence of domestic violence "photographic evidence should be gathered and pro-actively used throughout a domestic violence investigation and prosecution."

Whilst Partnerships have the overall responsibility for tackling domestic violence, local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) also have a role to play. LCJBs support Government in delivering criminal justice outcomes around 'offences brought to justice'

and 'confidence' in the system. Achieving positive outcomes for domestic violence survivors is an important element of meeting both of these targets, especially given the historically high attrition rates. Crown Prosecution Service evaluation of fast-track or specialist domestic violence courts showed them to be effective in bringing more offenders to justice and increasing victim satisfaction.

A major priority of the Government over the last two years has been to address the activities of prolific offenders. There is now a requirement for all local authorities alongside their statutory partners to devise a Prolific and other priority offenders (PPO) Strategy. PPOs are assessed by a scoring matrix of offending behaviour which includes domestic violence as a specific crime type. As such PPOs who engage in domestic violence will be subject to swift apprehension and action by the criminal justice process. Under the rehabilitate and resettle strand of the strategy such PPOs will also be subject to behaviour modification programmes. Women commonly think in terms of wanting help for their abuser rather than punishment. However, the most effective way of reducing recidivism is for the criminal justice system (CJS) to hold him accountable with a perpetrator programme as part of the sentencing. This means that perpetrator programmes need to be part of the CJS response, thus encouraging women to use the law. In order for such interventions not to be dangerous, however, independent help for women also needs to be available. Such programmes should also be able to be accessed by men who self-refer. The HCSP will continue to support the London Probation service in the delivery of domestic violence perpetrator programmes.



¹⁷ Professor Stanko, E. 'The Day to Count: A Snapshot of the Impact of Domestic Violence in the UK'. Criminal Justice 1:2, 2000.

¹⁸ British Crime Survey England and Wales 2000. London: Home Office, 2000.

By working in partnership the HCSP aims to support victims of domestic violence in all contacts with the criminal justice system and to hold perpetrators accountable.

Key actions

1. Supporting Havering Police in the implementation of ACPO guidelines on investigating domestic violence
2. Supporting the use of the Domestic Violence incident report book
3. Developing and implementing guidance for Havering Magistrates Court in dealing with cases of domestic violence.
This will include guidance for identification, flagging and fast-tracking of domestic violence cases.
4. Supporting Domestic violence awareness training for Havering Police Officers and Magistrates
5. Supporting the effective delivery of the HCSP PPO strategy, via the use of domestic violence perpetrator programmes.

3. Support for victims and children: improving safety

3.1 Advocacy services

Safety and protection of the victim and any children must be the over-riding priority at all times. The London domestic violence strategy vision recommends that for women who experience domestic violence, there should be:

- Co-ordinated services which prioritise her and her children's safety
- A range of services, sufficiently flexible to meet her individual needs yet standardised enough for her to be able to safely rely upon them
- Less public silence about the abuse they are experiencing

HCSP recognises the need to ensure that advice and support is readily available for victims of domestic violence living in Havering.

The HCSP will seek to achieve this by

Key actions

1. Supporting the continuation and further development of domestic violence drop-in clinics across the borough
2. Supporting the continuation of Havering Women's Aid Support group
3. Supporting Havering Victim Support to secure funding for a dedicated domestic violence case worker
4. Exploring opportunities for having a full time domestic violence advocate within the Community Safety Unit at Hornchurch.
5. Exploring the potential of a One Stop advice shop in extended school at Britton's.
6. Exploring opportunities for developing a dedicated domestic violence counselling service i.e. Women's Trust
7. Exploring the potential to develop support services for children experiencing domestic violence
8. Support Partnership approach for victims during MPS Hate Crime arrest days

3.2 Black and minority ethnic communities

Although research has shown that domestic violence occurs in equal numbers across all communities, victims of domestic violence from black and minority groups may have additional complex needs. Local domestic violence services should reflect this and services and information should be made available for all groups within the borough. The HCSP Crime Audit 2005 showed that BME communities represent just 5.0% of the borough population.

Domestic violence

Ethnicity	Havering	London	England
White	95.2%	71.2%	90.9%
Mixed	1.0%	3.2%	1.3%
Asian	1.8%	12.1%	4.6%
Black	1.4%	10.9%	2.3%
Chinese/Other	0.6%	2.7%	0.9%

However there are large numbers of people from BME communities coming into the borough to work and attend schools and colleges. Although there are many differences between the various black and minority ethnic communities there are also common problems. Women from these communities may be particularly wary of reporting domestic violence to official agencies because they fear they will be treated in a racist or discriminatory manner. Women who have entered this country in order to marry are subject to the 'two year rule'; if they leave their partner during the first two years of marriage they may be deported. Some women put up with domestic violence because of their fears of deportation. Such women should always be advised and enabled to access good legal advice. Access to services is limited for some by language barriers. Adequate interpretation by properly trained staff is crucial for these women.

HCSP is committed to developing services which are accessible to all victims of domestic violence regardless of their ethnicity.

The HCSP will seek to achieve this by

Key Actions

1. Providing domestic violence literature in all Havering community languages
2. Including awareness of issues affecting the BME community in all domestic violence training e.g. forced marriage, immigration and deportation issues
3. Ensuring that BME organisations are represented on the Havering Domestic Violence Forum

3.3 Lesbian gay bisexual and transgender communities

LGBT people experience domestic violence and abuse just as heterosexual people do, and in at least the same numbers. They need help and support to escape and survive domestic violence and abuse. There are no reliable data in Britain on the extent of domestic violence and abuse in the LGBT community because, since there are no appropriate services, few people report the incidents.

HCSP is committed to developing services which are accessible to all victims of domestic violence regardless of their sexuality

Key Actions

1. Providing information on support services for victims of same sex domestic violence
2. Including awareness of issues affecting the LGBT community in all domestic violence training
3. Ensuring that organisations representing the LGBT community are represented on the Havering Domestic Violence Forum

3.4 Housing and homelessness

On any single day nearly 7000 women and children are living in refuges in the UK to escape domestic violence and one out of every four women in Havering are likely to experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Lack of safe, affordable, housing keeps many in violent relationships. Domestic violence is therefore one of the most complex of homelessness issues. It is a significant feature of the experience of homelessness for many women and their children. Nationally, it accounts for 16% of all homelessness acceptances every year, comparatively similar to the number of cases recorded by Havering of 13%. Domestic Violence is also emerging as a major factor of repeat homelessness and its effects contribute to cause a cycle of homelessness.

Research in 2003 by the Women's National Commission found that women wanted the choice to stay safely in their own homes. However women are at greatest risk of homicide at the point of separation or after leaving a violent partner. In the findings from the Multi-Agency Domestic Violence Murder Reviews 76% of victims were murdered post separation.

Havering Community Safety Partnership wishes to empower victims of domestic violence to make informed safe accommodation choices. This will result in a reduction in repeat homelessness and repeat victimisation.

The HCSP will seek to achieve this by

Key Actions

1. Supporting the work of Havering Women's Aid
2. Working alongside Supporting People and London Borough of Havering Housing directorate, to explore the potential to increase refuge provision to meet the minimum of 1 refuge place per ten thousand populations.
3. Identifying funding to develop ,launch and promote a 'sanctuary' type scheme to enable victims and their children to remain in their own home, where they choose to do so and where safety can be guaranteed.
4. Including a specific clause in the Local Authority Housing tenancy agreement stating that perpetration of domestic violence by a tenant can be considered grounds for eviction.
5. Working closely with LBH Housing department to develop alternatives for victims of domestic violence at risk of potential homelessness

¹⁹ Women's Aid Federation of England 2000

²⁰ Havering Homelessness Strategy

3.5 Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is a significant element in domestic violence. The 2001 British Crime Survey Inter-Personal Violence module (BCS IPV) found that 54% of rapists were current or former partners of the victim.²¹ Research suggests that women forced to have sex by their partner experience the most severe forms of domestic violence and that sexual coercion and violence within a marriage is likely to occur more than once with increasing frequency and intensity. To provide support for victims the HCSP will strive to ensure that local practitioners, e.g. police, CJS, health services and voluntary organisations are aware of the links between domestic violence and sexual assault.

The HCSP will seek to achieve this by

Key Actions

1. Including information on sexual assault in all domestic violence awareness training
2. Including information on referral agencies for victims of sexual assault in literature provided

3.6 Drugs and Alcohol

There are clear and significant links between domestic violence victimisation and substance misuse. The ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY 2004²² states that 360,000 incidents of domestic violence (around a third of all reported domestic violence) are linked to alcohol misuse; and a study of inner London treatment agencies in 2000 found that 30% of women reported physical violence from their current partner. Also research by Alcohol Concern in 1998 found that women who experience domestic violence and who also abuse substances are often likely to do so as a consequence of their abuse.²³ An association has been found between domestic violence and attempted suicide, drug and alcohol misuse and psychiatric illness. Women suffering domestic violence are 15 times more likely to abuse alcohol and 9 times more likely to abuse drugs (both prescribed and illegal). Women that are problematic substance users are often excluded from services such as refuges. This group of women are therefore particularly vulnerable to long-term experiences of violence and possibly homelessness as they have fewer options of where to go to find help, support or safety. The HCSP recognises the need to provide support and advice for victims of domestic violence who have complex needs.

The HCSP will seek to achieve this by

Key Actions

1. Developing close links between the Havering Domestic Violence Forum and Havering DAAT
2. Providing Drug and Alcohol Awareness training to all domestic violence service providers
3. Together with the Havering DAAT develop a support service for victims of Domestic Violence affected by substance misuse

²¹ British Crime Survey Inter-personal Violence Module, Home Office 2001

²² Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2004

²³ Alcohol Concern 1998



INFORMATION SHARING

The Home Office recommends that Crime and Disorder Partnerships should develop domestic violence data collection systems which regularly gather information from a wide range of sources and agencies. Setting up data collection systems has resource and time implications for all partnership agencies. However ensuring that the impact of domestic violence can be measured will be central to understanding and monitoring performance, and informing spending and future strategy development.

In order to ensure that service development and provision is targeted at the most appropriate area HCSP needs to gather information from a wide range of organisations.

The HCSP will seek to achieve this by

Key actions

1. Developing data capture/collections systems for domestic violence
2. Developing a universal referral form for all domestic violence agencies
3. Developing Information Sharing Protocol

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Domestic violence strategies should have clear, objective, outcome-focused aims, and performance indicators and targets against which progress can be measured. Guidance from the ODPM states that locally developed domestic violence strategies should cover a 3 year period with an action plan reviewed annually.

The HCSP will produce annual delivery plans detailing action plans for delivery of the targets set within this strategy, including performance indicators, outputs, milestones, resource implications and lead agencies within the partnership. These delivery plans will be reviewed on a six-monthly basis and annual report published at the end of each year to let partner agencies, community groups and residents know about progress in meeting our targets. We will monitor the impact the delivery plan is having on the level of crime through statistics and local residents' experience and fear of crime

The partnership will also continue to evaluate its efforts to mainstream crime and disorder prevention through monitoring and reviewing departmental performance plans and by increasing awareness of frontline staff and acting on recommendations made by Best Value reviews

As a partnership we have improved our avenues for data collection and now have access to data from more external sources than three years ago. What was evidenced over the past three years was that in some areas of our data collection and information sharing we need to improve. In particular, we need to develop a multi agency database for recording and monitoring anti-social behaviour and disorder across the borough. It is envisaged that the purchase of ArcView Software will strengthen our ability to hotspot and monitor displacement.



Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) 225: Actions against Domestic Violence

The overall purpose of BVPIs is to contribute to and facilitate the continuous improvement in efficiency and effectiveness of services. Performance is independently monitored to ensure the robustness of the data. As a standardised suite of performance indicators, BVPIs help the public and local and central government to monitor, analyse and compare the achievements of local authorities.

This analysis and comparison serves three main purposes:

- To enable central Government to monitor progress over a period of time;
- To allow authorities to compare their performance against that of their peers; and
- To provide residents with information about the performance of their local authority

What is 'Best Value'?

The purpose of Best Value is to establish a culture within local government that encourages good management practices delivering efficient, effective and economic services that meet users' needs. It ensures that councils deliver continuous improvement in services, with regard to efficiency, effectiveness and economy and the needs and expectations of service users. It focuses on achieving high standards rather than lowest cost, emphasises genuine challenge to existing ways of doing things and encourages the involvement of service users, staff and management in creative ways.

Best Value Performance Indicators: 2005/06

The purpose of this BVPI is to assess the overall provision and effectiveness of local authority services designed to help victims of domestic violence and prevent further domestic violence.

The local authority will be monitored on eleven aspects of service provision in relation to domestic violence.

BVPI 225

1. Has the local authority produced a directory of local services that can help victims of domestic violence?
2. Is there within the local authority area a minimum of 1 refuge place per ten thousand population?
3. Does the local authority employ directly or fund a voluntary sector based domestic violence co-ordinator?
4. Has the local authority produced and adopted a multi-agency strategy to tackle domestic violence developed in partnership with others?
5. Does the local authority support and facilitate a local multi-agency domestic violence forum that meets at least 4 times a year?
6. Has the local authority developed an information-sharing protocol and had it agreed between key statutory partners?
7. Has the local authority developed, launched and promoted a 'sanctuary' type scheme to enable victims and their children to remain in their own home, where they choose to do so and where safety can be guaranteed?
8. Has there been a reduction in the percentage of cases accepted as homeless due to domestic violence that had previously been re-housed in the last two years by that local authority as a result of domestic violence?
9. Does the council's tenancy agreement have a specific clause stating that perpetration of domestic violence by a tenant can be considered grounds for eviction?
10. Has the local authority funded and developed a domestic violence education pack in consultation with the wider domestic violence forum?
11. Has the authority carried out a programme of multi-agency training in the last twelve months covering front line and managerial staff in at least two of the following groups: housing staff, social services staff providing services in the local authority area; education staff; health staff; and front line police officers?



