A Framework for Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse in Nottinghamshire

2016 – 2020



A Nottinghamshire where everyone lives free from domestic and sexual abuse

Nottinghamshire
Health & Wellbeing Board

Foreword

Tackling domestic and sexual abuse remains an important strategic priority across Nottinghamshire and collectively our partner agencies have a good track record of delivering results.

In 2014/15, in particular, we saw greater levels of reporting and identification of abuse, greater investment in the services available to support survivors and their families and more individuals than in any previous year being supported to recover from the harm they have experienced.

While recognising these achievements, we cannot be complacent as there is still much to do. We know that a large proportion of domestic and sexual abuse still goes unreported and that the nature, scale and complexity of these offences are ever changing.

Tragic and high profile cases at both a local and national level offer a constant reminder of the importance of getting our response right first time, while on-line abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and other forms of hidden harm continue to present critical challenges for our statutory, voluntary, specialist and non-specialist service providers alike.

This strategic framework signifies the next step on our journey to building stronger and more integrated partnerships to tackle domestic and sexual abuse across Nottinghamshire. The framework has been built upon the foundations of the Government's updated 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls' Strategy 2016 – 2020 and is structured around the objectives of:-

- **preventing abuse and changing attitudes**
- **protecting and supporting vulnerable people and**
- **reducing the risk of offending and re-offending**

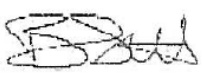
It is our ambition that through this partnership approach we will drive real and tangible improvements in the capacity, capability, consistency and connectivity of local services for survivors and perpetrators of domestic and sexual abuse and their families.

Together we remain committed to ensuring that survivors of abuse get the help they need when they need it, that survivors are listened to, understood and supported on their journey to cope and recover and that we are united in our message that domestic and sexual abuse will not be tolerated or minimised in Nottinghamshire.

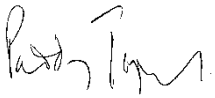
We invite you to join us.



Joyce Bosnjak
Chair of the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board



Bev Smith
Chief Executive
Mansfield District Council



Paddy Tipping
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

OUR VISION

A Nottinghamshire where everyone lives free from domestic and sexual abuse

OUR OBJECTIVES

Preventing Abuse

- Challenge harmful attitudes, behaviour and practices
- Improve early intervention and identification of risk
- Raise awareness and improve understanding

Protection and Support

- Improve provision and access to services
- Improve outcomes for survivors and their families
- Improve response to hidden harm

Reducing Risk of Offending

- Tackle the drivers and causes of offending
- Ensure perpetrators are held to account
- Manage the risk of offending and re-offending

OUR APPROACH



Education and Awareness



Integrated Partnership Working



Capacity and Capability

Deliver value for money by working together more effectively

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Improvements in positive attitudes and perceptions
- Increased referrals for early intervention and support
- Increased awareness and understanding

- Increased reporting and identification of abuse
- Improved 'cope and recover' outcomes for survivors
- Increases in identification of hidden harm

- Reductions in the assessed risk of offending
- Reductions in frequency and severity of offending
- Improvements in positive criminal justice outcomes

Tackling domestic and sexual abuse in Nottinghamshire

Domestic violence and abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, violent or abusive behaviour between people aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members - regardless of their gender or sexuality. This includes psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse, so called 'honour' based abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

Sexual violence is defined as any sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts directed against a person's sexuality using coercion by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim. This includes actual or attempted acts committed at home or work, sexual assault, rape, sexual exploitation, acts to traffic and sexual bullying.

Tackling domestic and sexual abuse in Nottinghamshire is already a strategic priority across all of our policing, health and community safety organisations, and it's clear to see why…

Domestic and sexual abuse is estimated to directly affect around 32,900 Nottinghamshire residents each year[1]

Over **61,000 women and 30,000 men in Nottinghamshire are estimated to have experienced some form of domestic or sexual abuse since the age of 16**, with women and children being disproportionately affected in terms of severity and impact

Only 21% of domestic abuse cases and 15% of sexual violence cases are estimated to be reported to the police – although there is evidence to suggest that this picture is improving

Of those experiencing abuse each year in Nottinghamshire, around **13,800 are likely to go on to suffer mental or emotional problems** and **over 1,000 are likely to attempt to take their own lives**

The economic cost of domestic abuse alone in Nottinghamshire is estimated to exceed £79 million each year, in addition to the human and emotional costs of abuse

We still have a **limited understanding of** the prevalence and impact of hidden harms such as **on-line domestic and sexual abuse**[2]**, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), 'honour' based abuse (HBA), forced marriage** and **FGM**

Although improving, criminal justice outcomes remain low. In 2013, **only 17% of all sexual offences reported to the Police and Sexual Assault Referral Centre led to an offender being charged** and of these, only a minority resulted in a conviction.

[1] Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessments of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse 2014
[2] Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Needs Assessment 2015

What are we already doing?

In addition to the work our statutory partners undertake to tackle domestic and sexual abuse, the public sector invests over £1.8m in specific services and initiatives across Nottinghamshire which are largely delivered within the third sector. Despite the economic pressures we face, we are committed to safeguarding these vital services wherever possible. This includes:-

- **Prevention activity** such as work in primary schools across Nottinghamshire to promote healthy and equal relationships as part of the 'Good Relationships are Equal and Trusting' (GREAT) project www.thegreatproject.org.uk
- **Early intervention**, including work in maternity services to identify those at risk of domestic abuse, 'Identification and Referral to Improve Safety' (IRIS) within general practice and work to reduce the risk of CSE
- **Training and support** for professionals and practitioners delivered to a range of partners across Nottinghamshire by Equation
- **Specialist roles** in police, community and health settings across Nottinghamshire, in response to issues such as FGM and HBA
- **The Topaz Sexual Assault Referral Centre** which provides specialist support to over 170 survivors of sexual assault each year
- **Helplines and triage and crisis care** for those experiencing domestic and sexual abuse. This includes refuge provision, safety and security advice via the Sanctuary Scheme and various multi-agency risk management arrangements
- **Therapeutic work** including creative therapy, personal development and psychological therapy to support survivors in coping and recovering from abuse
- **Counselling services** providing emotional support either by telephone, face to face or through group sessions. This includes targeted support for young survivors of abuse
- **Integrated support services** that support a wide range of survivor needs. This includes Independent Advocates in cases of Domestic Violence (IDVAs) and Sexual Violence (ISVAs) supporting high risk survivors and Equation's male survivor support service.

But we still need to do more…

- The volume and complexity of cases presenting to our domestic and sexual abuse services is growing significantly as identification and confidence to report increases
- There remain significant gaps in specialist counselling and mental health service provision as mainstream services are often unable to meet this area of demand
- Levels of knowledge and awareness of abuse still varies within and across agencies – particularly with regard to coercive control, on-line abuse and other hidden harm
- There is a need to strengthen and develop our approach to tackling perpetrators of abuse by building upon evidence of what works
- There are opportunities to deliver greater value for money by taking a more integrated approach to improving the consistency, capability and coverage of our services.

What are our ambitions as part of this Framework?

PREVENT domestic and sexual violence and abuse by working in partnership to:-

- Improve consistency and coverage of education and early intervention work with children and young people, particularly through healthy and equal relationships programmes
- Further develop targeted programmes of work for young people who display concerning or harmful behaviour in order to challenge attitudes, thinking and choices
- Strengthen pre-crisis support available to victims and their families in order to prevent the escalation of abuse and ensure all services make early intervention and prevention a priority
- Ensure partners, practitioners and communities are equipped with the skills and knowledge required to recognise early signs of abuse and are aware of the channels for raising concerns
- Continue to promote a shared message to residents and communities that abuse will not be tolerated, particularly via shared local and national awareness raising campaigns

PROTECT AND SUPPORT survivors of violence and abuse by working in partnership to:-

- Build confidence amongst all victims, survivors and witnesses to report abuse, safe in the knowledge that they will be believed, protected and supported and drive further improvements in the consistency and coverage of multi-agency service provision
- Improve co-ordination and integration of specialist and non-specialist domestic and sexual abuse services and ensure all high risk victims are offered an IDVA or ISVA
- Promote the further development of longer term specialist therapeutic and psychological support services and specialist provision in response to historic domestic and sexual abuse, child survivors, survivors of multiple perpetrators and other areas of complex need
- Develop a more joined up approach to monitoring and assessing outcomes for survivors and their families and improve the sharing of information within and between agencies
- Improve our shared knowledge and understanding of hidden harms including child and adult sexual exploitation, 'honour' based abuse and FGM

REDUCE THE RISK OF HARM and repeat offending by working in partnership to:-

- Strengthen and develop our approach to tackling perpetrators of abuse, particularly in building upon evidence of what works in tackling the drivers of offending
- Drive further improvements in the proportion of serious sexual offences that progress through the criminal justice system and the proportion of offenders brought to justice
- Further develop understanding and response to working with serial, enduring and multiple perpetrators of abuse and those displaying potentially harmful behaviours
- Further explore multi-agency approaches to managing and reducing the risk of sexual offending and repeat offending, including health and community based approaches
- Continue to promote and maximise the use of available tools and powers, including protection orders and notices and disclosure schemes

Our approach will involve...

Improving education and awareness with regard to domestic and sexual abuse issues

- Work with partner agencies, academic institutions and local and national practitioner support networks to develop our understanding of what works and implement best practice
- Continue to capture and embed lessons learnt, particularly through processes such as Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews at both a local and national level
- Raise awareness and improve understanding of new legislation, tools and powers including duties under the Care Act 2014 and the offence of coercive and controlling behaviour
- Continue to raise awareness of the duties and requirements of key agencies and promote the message that tackling domestic and sexual abuse is everyone's responsibility
- Develop a co-ordinated programme of public education and awareness raising activity and maximise the impact of local and national awareness raising campaigns, particularly in response to the risk of abuse committed or facilitated on-line

Driving further improvements in Integrated Partnership Working

- Improve mapping of and co-ordination across our partnerships and align individual agency policies, procedures, care pathways and strategies to this framework where appropriate
- Further embed integrated approaches to partnership working and offender management building upon areas of good practice, such as the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and the Family Service
- Strengthen the focus on outcomes in relation to perpetrators of domestic and sexual abuse, particularly in fostering stronger working links with strategic criminal justice partners
- Deliver greater value for money through more joined up planning and commissioning processes across the statutory, community and voluntary sectors
- Continue to improve the way information is shared across partner agencies to best protect those at risk of harm and ensure providers are aware of available referrals pathways

Increasing capacity and capability amongst service providers

- Protect the provision of domestic and sexual abuse services from funding cuts wherever possible and continue to ensure our collective resources are used efficiently and effectively
- Continue to invest in training and skills development across non-specialist partnerships working to tackle domestic and sexual abuse and embed specialist practitioners in mainstream teams to share and develop good practice and effective ways of working
- Develop, share and promote guidance, support and practice advice for professionals working to tackle domestic and sexual abuse
- Work to ensure compliance with the National Statement of Expectations (NSE) for partnerships and providers and other recognised quality standards for service delivery
- Further strengthen governance and accountability across shared services and initiatives, ensuring that voice of victims and survivors remains at the heart of delivery

For further information, please refer to the Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessments for Domestic and Sexual Abuse 2014 and the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Needs Assessment 2015

Reporting domestic and sexual violence

To report domestic or sexual violence you can call

- the Police reporting line on 101 or if you'd prefer to report anonymously
- Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or go to www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Always dial 999 if you are in immediate danger.

Helplines

- Nottinghamshire Women's Aid Integrated Services: Free 24 hour domestic and sexual violence helpline 0808 800 0340
- Childline: Free and confidential support and advice for young people 0800 1111
- Nottinghamshire Rape Crisis helpline: Support, counselling and referral service for survivors of sexual violence and their friends and family 0115 941 0440
- Broken Rainbow UK helpline: Confidential Domestic Violence advice and support for all members of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and Trans communities 0800 999 5428
- Karma Nirvana Supporting victims of honour based crime and forced marriage 0800 5999247
- Men's Advice Line: Advice and support for men experiencing domestic abuse 0808 8010327
- The Hideout: Site for children and young people living with domestic violence www.thehideout.org.uk

WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN.CO.UK NOTTINGHAMSHIRE