



Domestic Abuse Action Plan for Nottinghamshire Police 2016/2017



Foreword

Tackling domestic abuse remains an important strategic priority across Nottinghamshire. It is rightly at the top of the police agenda but responding effectively is not about numbers. It is about focussing on the victims and doing what is right for them. My message is clear; we take domestic abuse very seriously and we will do everything we can to tackle the perpetrators of abuse and keep victims safe. Whilst our response to domestic abuse has improved we recognise there is more to be done. Our challenge is to work with partners to deliver this action plan and build on the good progress to date.



Susannah Fish, OBE QPM
Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police



We in Nottinghamshire Police handle more than 60 domestic abuse calls every day. You will see from this report that it is a complex issue but one where we must get our response right every single time. Experience has taught us that if we fail to deal with these calls properly then they can lead to tragic consequences. The murder of Casey Brittle by her boyfriend in October 2010

provided a watershed for Nottinghamshire Police. The learning from that investigation has led to real change within Nottinghamshire Police. Here you will read about some of those positive changes and how Investigators tackle domestic violence in all forms, not just the physical, but also the psychological, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It often includes controlling behaviour designed to isolate people from sources of support, to deprive them of their independence and regulate their everyday behaviour. All forms are unacceptable and I am determined to make sure that we do all that we can to tackle this problem.

Rob Griffin, Detective Superintendent
Head of Public Protection

Progress over the last 2 years

Nottinghamshire Police recognises the significant harm and distress domestic abuse causes to families, children and communities. We are committed to working with partners to tackle this problem and to providing effective and consistent support to survivors and their children whilst bringing perpetrators to justice.

Nottinghamshire Police cannot tackle the issue of domestic abuse alone. Over the last two years, the way in which the force and its partners identify and deal with cases of domestic abuse has changed. Key achievements in this area are detailed below -

- Provision of an effective response through dedicated domestic abuse investigation teams (DAIT's) utilising experienced detectives, professionalising investigative practice.
- Co-location of police domestic abuse investigation teams (DAIT) and Domestic Violence Safeguarding officers with Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) to provide a joined up and more efficient service.
- Strong leadership – Nottinghamshire police received their White ribbon accreditation in February 2016. We have used a strong media input to spread this message to the wider community and how domestic violence, in its various guises, can never be acceptable.



Office Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping receives the White Ribbon Accreditation on behalf of Nottinghamshire Police

- Daily Encompass meetings – a process set up in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The process reviews all high and medium risk domestic abuse incidents where a child resides within the family unit. This enables for an early information exchange and Safeguarding function with schools.
- Nottinghamshire police continue to invest in innovative evidence capture methods – for example all frontline officers across the force are now issued with body worn cameras to support evidence led Domestic Abuse prosecutions.
- Nottinghamshire Police engaged with partners and the Police Crime Commissioner's office, to participate in a domestic abuse conference in March 2016 (Chance for Change) that attracted both National and International experts in their field (Evan STARK/Coercive Control) to raise the profile and risk associated with Domestic Abuse.



- The first United Kingdom police force to bring charges using Coercive Control legislation.
- Head of Public Protection delivered on Domestic Abuse within the UK to an International Conference of Women.
- Good working relationships with Adult and Safeguarding Boards within Nottinghamshire.
- Ongoing development of an internal policy for police officers and police staff regarding Domestic Abuse within the workplace .

- Completed Marac Scrutiny Panel with Savelives and the Home Office (May 2016) regarding the effectiveness of older people within the Marac.
- Increasing police and partnership resilience towards Marac chairing, by utilising managers from other statutory agencies.
- Full review of effectiveness of ISA's for utilisation of commissioned services within Domestic Abuse.
- Comparative work with our neighbouring forces to review and incorporate areas of good working practice.
- Effective use of DVDS protection mechanisms (Right to Ask/Right to Know) to safeguard against serial perpetrators. Figures published in 2015 showed that Nottinghamshire was the third highest performing force in England and Wales in this area.
- Considered use of DVPN's/DVPO's when CPS have not authorised a charge to prevent further offending.
- DASH trained champions within force who have acquired the accredited status from Laura RICHARDS (author of the DASH homicide prevention tool) for effective risk management.
- Contributed towards a multi-agency Strategic Framework, providing a strategic focus to prevent, protect from, and reduce the risk of Domestic Abuse.
- Creation of local domestic violence courts (SDVC) through close working with Her Majesty's Court Service and creation of a service level agreement.
- Development of close working relationships with the Crown Prosecution Service to increase the volume of successful court cases and drive up the number of evidence led prosecutions whilst providing better support for victims through use of specialist court IDVA's.
- Chief Officer oversight of the Domestic Abuse Plan through a dedicated force action tracker system (4Action) for monitoring and scrutiny.
- Introduction of mandatory FMT (Forensic Management Team) considerations for all serial perpetrators and all high level violence, to try and support evidence led prosecutions.
- Increased supervisory reviews with ownership of all High Risk DA survivors resting with the Inspector Rank. Mandatory record keeping outlining safeguarding plans and initial investigations have been introduced.

The future: Plans for improvement

Leadership and governance

Nottinghamshire Police recognises that clear strategic direction, effective oversight and commitment to working with partners underpin the successful delivery of the countywide response to instances of domestic abuse. Engagement with victims and the wider public will continue to inform and shape our response.

Action	Lead	Timing
Analysis of intelligence is undertaken regularly, feeding into the forces intelligence NIM process	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 16
A comprehensive review of the DART/MASH to ensure that these are delivering effective multi-agency working and to improve/streamline practices	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 16
Dashboard indicators reviewed at monthly PP meetings, externally at DVSG Executive Board and force-wide via Management Briefings	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Complete
Monthly DA scrutiny panels to be introduced to assess and improve investigative standards	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 16

First response

Nottinghamshire Police is committed to providing a comprehensive initial service. This means responding quickly, making the right choices at the scene of an incident, dealing positively with offenders and putting the needs and safety of the victim first. Nottinghamshire Police will continue to improve information sharing and referral processes with our partners to ensure that no intervention is conducted inappropriately and in isolation.

Action	Lead	Timing
A process is in place to regularly survey Domestic Abuse victims. This feedback is sent out to supervisors and individual responses are acted upon if the survivor has expressed dissatisfaction. Any patterns are identified for corporate learning	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 16

Action	Lead	Timing
The DASU function will reduce, and frontline supervisors (Standard and Medium - Sgts, High –Insp) will be responsible for ensuring the correct completion of the DASH and reviewing the risk level allocated by attending officer	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 16
To reduce the backlog and improve the way the force shares information with Domestic Abuse partners	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Completed
Domestic Abuse quick guide to be developed incorporating the CoP guidance for front line officers	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	August 16

Investigation

Domestic Abuse investigations will be conducted thoroughly by suitably trained officers who have access to the right support from Criminal Justice partners.

Action	Lead	Timing
The force to prioritise PIP Level 2 training for officers within the domestic abuse investigation teams and review the investigatory accreditation status of supervisors and managers to ensure there is robust management of investigations	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	2017
To ensure effective supervision of daily investigations	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	August 2016
To close the gap in investigations ensuring that all investigators have bespoke DA training	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 2016

Supporting victims and managing offenders

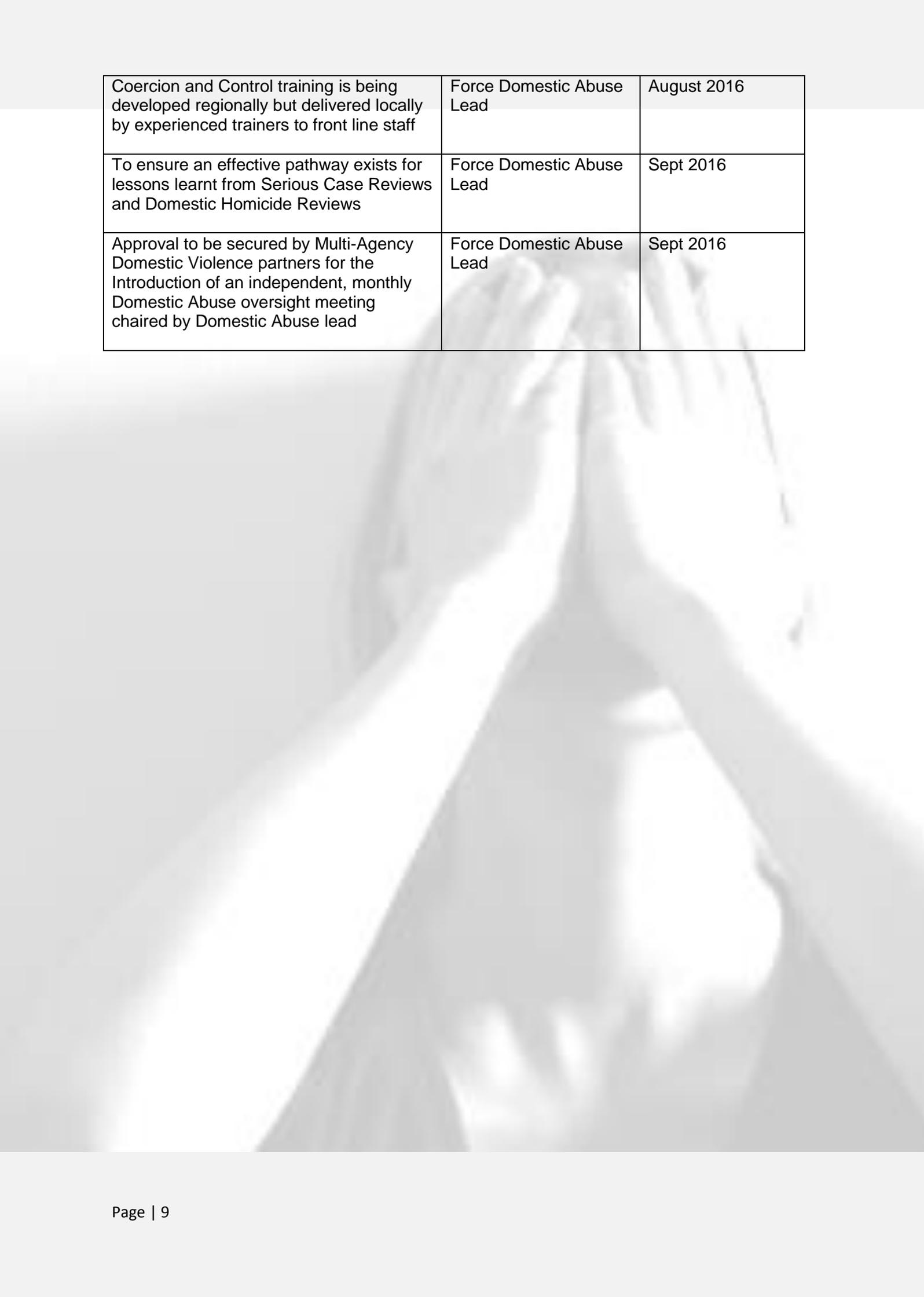
The safety of victims of domestic abuse in Nottinghamshire will always be of paramount importance to Nottinghamshire Police. However, it is clear that a co-ordinated, systemic approach is necessary – one which holds perpetrators to account and challenges their behaviour whilst at the same time supporting victims and giving them the confidence to move on from abusive relationships. Nottinghamshire Police is committed to working with partners to provide effective perpetrator interventions whilst safeguarding victims in a multi-agency environment.

Action	Lead	Timing
Relevant staff understand their role in supporting victims and managing perpetrators (neighbourhood teams)	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 2016
To develop an effective partnership approach to the management of serial perps	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Nov 2016
Project Stride is being rolled out across Nottingham City. Recommendations from partners to be fed into the organisation to identify learning practice	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 2016
Medium risk plus IDVA's, have been commissioned in conjunction with the OPCC to develop an evidence based profile to offer effective support to DA survivors with complex needs	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 2016
To review existing Marac process with partners and secure considered local position via DA executive boards on the volume and management of high risk referrals	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 2016
To develop the existing Encompass process forcewide so that there is a daily DA discussion with partners identifying risk factors for survivors and their children	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Oct 2016
To improve compliance with the victims code and VPS	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Oct 2016

Learning

Nottinghamshire Police is committed to learning the lessons of previous tragedies, both within the county and further afield. Recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews will be acted upon. Important changes in legislation and national guidance, coupled with review recommendations will be translated into effective policy and material changes seen in how domestic abuse is handled. Nottinghamshire Police staff will have the right specialist training and support to enable them to manage cases of domestic abuse effectively.

Action	Lead	Timing
To increase the skill/expertise of DA investigators	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Quarterly



Coercion and Control training is being developed regionally but delivered locally by experienced trainers to front line staff	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	August 2016
To ensure an effective pathway exists for lessons learnt from Serious Case Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 2016
Approval to be secured by Multi-Agency Domestic Violence partners for the Introduction of an independent, monthly Domestic Abuse oversight meeting chaired by Domestic Abuse lead	Force Domestic Abuse Lead	Sept 2016

Glossary



CoP	College of Policing
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
DAIT	Dedicated Domestic Abuse Investigation Teams
DART	Domestic Abuse Referral Team
DASH	Domestic Abuse Stalking/Harassment and Honour Based Violence Risk Assessment Checklist
DASU	Domestic Abuse Support Unit
DVDS	Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme
DVPN/O	Domestic Violence Prevention Notice/Order
DVSG	Domestic Violence and Sexual Group
ENCOMPASS	Project to inform schools of children at risk from DA
FMT	Forensic Management Team
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocates
ISA	Information sharing agreement
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
OPCC	Office of Police Crime Commissioner
SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Courts
VPS	Victim Personal Statement

USEFUL CONTACTS

- **Notts Women's Aid Integrated Services**
(24 hour): 0808 8000 340
- **Nottingham Rape Crisis**
0115 941 0440
- **Nottingham Sexual Assault Referral Centre**
(Topaz Centre): 0845 6001588
- **Amber House Refuge**
0115 9414279
- **Zola BME Refuge:** Tel 0115 9483794
- **Umuada Refuge:**
0115 9338202
- **Shine** (housing related support): 0115 8220833
- **Refs for Pets** (for those who need to house pets):
07971 337264
- **Broxtowe Women's Aid Project**
01773 719111
- **Nottinghamshire Women's Aid**
01909 533610
- **Newark Women's Aid:**
01636 679687
- **Rushcliffe Borough advice and support:** 07771 690411
- **Karma Nirvana** (HBA and forced marriage charity):
0800 5999 247
- **Nidas** (Support for Children/Young Persons)01623683250