

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

TOGETHER, WE CAN END THE ABUSE.



A year's overview

INTRODUCTION

This annual report is a celebration of what has been achieved in Doncaster since the launch of the strategy and a summary of what work is still needed to achieve the vision set out in the strategy.

'In Doncaster, people no longer experience domestic abuse'

The Doncaster domestic abuse partnership wanted to ensure that tackling domestic abuse is everyone's responsibility and partner agencies are working hard to create a coordinated community response.

The partnership produced a domestic abuse strategy and identified four priority areas based on extensive consultation with victims and survivors of domestic abuse, Doncaster residents, community leaders and activists and partner agencies, as well as data from a robust needs assessment. The strategy was launched in October 2021.

The four priority areas are:

- Prevent and ultimately end domestic abuse
- Support and keep victims, survivors and families safe
- Hold abusers to account
- Leadership, governance and quality assurance



The Domestic Abuse Partnership has much more work still to do and is always striving for improvements. With the ambition to keep moving forward we must not fail to reflect and recognise where improvements have been made. This annual report aims to acknowledge the hard work, passion and commitment of everyone involved in preventing and tackling domestic abuse.

Last year's

NUMBERS & STATISTICS

The numbers relate to the year commencing 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. While the figures may be attributed to a particular organisation it must be recognised that it takes a coordinated community response to bring about sustainable change. The context and explanation for this statistics are explained in more detail throughout the report.

3%*increase in referrals to the domestic abuse hub***9,784***incidents of domestic abuse reported to the Police*

Victims in refuge and other safe accommodation

47 women and 7 men supported by Riverside

84 women and 74 men supported by Phoenix WoMen's Aid

**1,914****DONCASTER
DOMESTIC
ABUSE HUB**

Referrals

The Doncaster domestic abuse hub is a partnership of specialist domestic abuse services. The Hub received 1,914 referrals from 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022



Phoenix WoMen's Aid

Provided outreach support to 1,902 people and counselling for 366 victims and survivors. They have also received 2,149 new calls to their helpline, with 31,500 support and advocacy calls made to the advice team.

Riverside

**Riverside**

Helped 410 victims in Doncaster, providing practical and emotional support

Doncaster Council

Doncaster Council's domestic abuse caseworkers provided practical and emotional support to 177 victims.

The Council's independent domestic abuse advocates (IDVAs) supported 895 victims who were at high risk of serious harm or death.

The new Survivor Liaison Worker established two new support groups for survivors, an 'experts by experience' group and provided one to one support for 33 survivors of domestic abuse.

**Doncaster
Council**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

What have we been doing about

PREVENTING DOMESTIC ABUSE

In the domestic abuse strategy the domestic abuse partnership set four objectives:

- Share learning from safeguarding reviews
- Work with educational establishments, providers of childcare, youth services and young people to develop a strategy and resources to raise awareness of healthy and unhealthy relationships with children and young people
- Work with families and wider communities to understand healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to discuss differences of opinion in a respectful way to avoid conflict
- Increase awareness of domestic abuse amongst individuals, families, employers and the wider community and improve confidence of everyone to speak more openly about it and be more comfortable in reporting it

Learning from safeguarding reviews

It is vital that as a partnership we listen and learn from situations involving serious harm or the death of an adult or child to see if we can prevent it happening again. This involves looking at national, regional and local reviews into those deaths and incidents. There are key messages that often stand out including ensuring that professionals are adequately trained in domestic abuse, risk assessment and that they refer into domestic abuse services and share information. The Doncaster domestic abuse partnership has a comprehensive training programme for domestic abuse that is embedded and accessed by partner agencies and community leaders. The training programme includes basic domestic abuse training that can be accessed by anyone and more advanced training such as forced marriage, honour based abuse (HBA), female genital mutilation (FGM), working with victims who also have care and support needs, male victims of domestic abuse and children and domestic abuse.

Work continues to review all circumstances surrounding the death of a person due to domestic abuse and findings and recommendations shared across the partnership to improve services.

Work with educational establishments

During the consultation for the strategy survivors of domestic abuse told the partnership that work with children and young people in schools about healthy and unhealthy relationships should be a top priority.

A working group has been set up to support teaching staff with raising awareness of domestic and sexual abuse in educational establishments and ensure access to support is available. The group has so far looked at what resources are available and where gaps in information, training and resources are. Work will continue into next year.

In addition the Domestic Abuse Navigator service delivered by Doncaster Children's Services Trust delivered five cohorts of 'One of a Kind' in local schools. This is a children's group work programme aimed at supporting children impacted by domestic abuse to know how to keep safe, who to talk to about any worries, the importance of being kind and how to manage big feelings. A total of 34 children have received this input in four schools.

PEOPLE TRAINED IN
DOMESTIC ABUSE
AWARENESS

1,026

PEOPLE TRAINED IN RISK
ASSESSMENT AND
INFORMATION SHARING

188

PEOPLE TRAINED IN LGBT+
AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

84

TOTAL NO. OF PEOPLE
TRAINED THROUGH THE
MULTI AGENCY
PROGRAMME

2,394

Red Flags

The #ReduceDomesticAbuse campaign was initiated by Doncaster Youth Council as a result of the UK Youth Parliament Make Your Mark ballot, and partnerships plans to develop a domestic abuse prevention campaign. Make Your Mark is a national initiative, in which young people vote annually to prioritise topics of concern. Within Doncaster in 2020, 2175 young people voted, and domestic abuse was the most voted on topic at 412 votes.



In response to this, the Doncaster Youth Council developed a campaign called Red Flags with the aim of raising awareness of coercive control among young people. A short film was created and was viewed by over 30,000 people in the first week and was then shown in cinemas across Doncaster.



Helping people understand healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to avoid conflict

Stronger Relationships – Reducing Parental Conflict training is being delivered virtually by a multi-agency workforce.

Over the last year 86 delegates have completed the face to face one day training and 9 completed the online training.

Doncaster was successfully awarded £22k for the Department for Work and Pensions Workforce Development Grant to bring in more interventions for separated co-parents to reduce parental conflict and the negative impact on children and young people.

Doncaster Children's Services Trust Parenting Team have been trained to deliver Triple P Transitions programme. Family Transitions Triple P is designed for parents who are experiencing personal distress from separation or divorce, which is impacting on or complicating their parenting. It focuses on skills to resolve conflicts with former partners and how to cope positively with stress.

A Practitioner Relationships toolkit has also been developed to support practitioners to explore and talk and support building stronger relationships.

Domestic abuse is

EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

These next few pages show how the partnership has been working together to raise awareness of domestic abuse and encouraging people to speak about it, report it and access services. This may in part explain the increase in reporting to South Yorkshire Police and the increase in referrals to domestic abuse services.

It requires a coordinated community response involving every part of our community working together to understand, recognise, prevent and respond to domestic abuse. As part of the consultation during the development of the strategy residents were asked about awareness of domestic abuse and the support available. 216 residents responded to the consultation:

- 51% said that they would not know where to turn to for help if they or someone they knew was in an abusive relationship
- 98% said that there should be more awareness of domestic abuse

The top five messages that residents said should be promoted were:

1. What services are available and how to access them
2. That domestic abuse also includes emotional abuse
3. How to spot domestic abuse in a friend, family member or colleague
4. That you are not alone
5. How to support someone who is in a domestic abuse relationship

The domestic abuse partnership has raised awareness of the different types of domestic abuse and support available throughout the year, emphasising that it can happen to anyone.



A social media campaign on International Men's Day reached 5,821 people on Facebook.



Over 6,000 were reached with an LGBT+ domestic abuse social media campaign. LGBT+ posters are also on display throughout the borough and the rainbow and trans flags are on all domestic abuse leaflets and posters.





One particular post during the European Football championships was viewed by 45,325 people with engagement from 4,196. It was the Council's top post for June 2021

Doncaster Council ran a domestic abuse campaign during the European Football championships in June 2021 aimed at both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse

A specific domestic abuse e-newsletter was sent to 10,105 residents that have signed up to receive information about specific topics. There was a 38% open rate which is high for a specific topic. Read the newsletter at: Domestic Abuse - Silence is not Golden (govdelivery.com)

For International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls on 25th November and the following 16 days of activism social media posts were shared by the partnership.

Facebook posts reached 27,121 people with 205 engagements

Twitter posts reached 14,126 people with 94 engagements

An animation was created by the partnership highlighted some of the people that are working together to tackle domestic abuse and support victims and survivors.

It was seen by 3,100 people with 277 minutes watched.



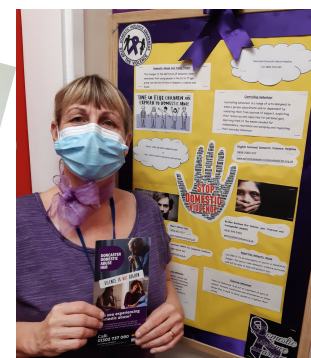
Christmas campaign - 36,087 people were reached during December, Christmas contact information was included with each post

Twitter - 10,456 people were reached with 78 engagements

Ending domestic abuse takes

A WHOLE COMMUNITY

In addition to the publicity about domestic abuse partner agencies have been holding events throughout the year to raise awareness of domestic abuse and the support available. Here are just pictures of the people involved.



A new Community Engagement Worker was employed by Doncaster Children's Trust in June 2021 to work with local community, faith and religious groups and businesses to raise awareness of domestic abuse and encourage everyone to get involved. This has resulted in:

A network of Community Domestic Abuse Champions now meet bi-monthly. This group focus on raising awareness of domestic abuse and relevant support services within their communities in addition to organising and attending community events which include a domestic abuse awareness stall.

There have been 340 contacts with local businesses, organisations, community and faith groups to discuss domestic abuse awareness resulting in invitations to team meetings to further raise awareness of domestic abuse within staff groups, increasing the reach significantly within the local community.



Riverside

Along with managing safe accommodation for victims fleeing domestic abuse and providing outreach support, Riverside employees have been busy spreading the word with employers.

Riverside's domestic abuse team visited BT, Amazon, Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Aspire, Changing Lives and Morrisons to promote prevention of Domestic Abuse and support networks in Doncaster.

Phoenix WoMen's Aid

Employees and volunteers from specialist domestic abuse charity Phoenix WoMen's Aid have been working tirelessly throughout the year.

They have not only provided outreach support and counselling for hundreds of victims and survivors, and safe accommodation for those fleeing domestic abuse, they also opened a new shop in Doncaster's Frenchgate Shopping Centre.



Generous local residents have been donating good quality furniture and household items which can be sold to raise money for the services delivered by the charity or used to help victims set up new homes.

Talk to the badge

There was a huge response from local agencies to a new initiative to encourage victims of domestic abuse to report domestic abuse.

The Talk to the Badge campaign involves professionals who have been trained in domestic abuse, and know how to support and refer people for specialist services, wearing a specially designed pin badge signifying to victims that they are a safe person to talk to about their abuse. Over 800 professionals are now wearing the badges in Doncaster. A poster campaign was developed to raise awareness of the initiative. The project is expected to grow in the next year.



What have we been doing to

KEEP VICTIMS AND FAMILIES SAFE

In the domestic abuse strategy the domestic abuse partnership set 10 objectives to help keep victims and families safe:

- Listen to and collaborate with survivors, children and families that have experienced domestic abuse
- Develop ways of preventing and reducing adolescent to parent abuse to prevent and reduce harm and encourage healthy relationships
- Increase the amount of safe, supported and suitable accommodation available to victims of domestic abuse that are unable to remain in their home – including victims with complex needs and minority groups
- Ensure clear and smooth transition across local authority boundaries for victims to ensure that their health and social needs can be met
- Work with members of the criminal justice system to improve the experiences of victims through the court system
- Explore ways of effectively dealing with the trauma suffered by children and young people in domestic abuse households at an early stage to aid recovery
- The Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group and Health Partners will consider the Standing Together Pathfinder Toolkit and the recommendations within it and use this, alongside contemporary local and national guidance and best practice, as a base to consider the development of services moving forward
- Ensure that adults with care and support needs who are experiencing domestic abuse are both safeguarded and supported by safeguarding and domestic abuse services
- Reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse and prevent people from becoming a victim of abuse again having ended one abusive relationship
- Conduct a detailed analysis of stalking and harassment and devise a plan of action for prevention and early intervention

Listen to and collaborate with survivors, children and families that have experienced domestic abuse

In June 2021 Doncaster Council recruited a Survivor Liaison Worker to ensure that survivors are listened to, that survivor voices are heard by decision makers and that we all work together to determine what works and explore ways of improving services.

The Survivor Liaison Worker is a person with lived experience of domestic abuse who has worked tirelessly over the year with survivors, providing ongoing support and working alongside those survivors who want to collaborate on developments.

The feedback from survivors that was given as part of the development of the strategy has been used to steer much of the work.

You said

'Allow survivors to take part in meeting where policies are being created where they can advise on how certain things need to be done'

'Meet with survivors'

'Involve us!'

'By having a working party to gain experience and ideas' Give us a platform to have our say

'Give us a platform to have our say'

'Private surveys are a must, not everyone wishes to admit they have suffered DV and are still suffering'

'Ask us - actively seek out/target survivors. Offer help/support/counselling to help us get through it. Listen, listen, listen and learn'

We did

Introduced an Experts by Experience group. This is a group of survivors who want to use their experiences to improve services. Voices from the group are heard at strategic meetings via the Survivor Liaison Worker.

In addition, policy makers have attended the Experts by Experience group to listen, learn and collaborate.

The Survivor Liaison Worker has facilitated private meetings between victims and individual agencies to feed back on their experiences - good and bad.

The Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner with Doncaster agencies support conducted a private survey with domestic abuse survivors about experiences and support at court. This will be used to help improve services and support available at court.

What does a good service look like for survivors?

'Regular check ins. Long term counselling. Self esteem building. Children monitored at school'

'Someone to talk to in times of need'

'Groups for survivors'

'Open ended appointment service in case the person triggers years later'

'A group where you can chat to people in the same situation.'

The Survivor Liaison Worker has provided one to one support to 33 survivors of domestic abuse since the service began in June.

She provides one to one support for as long as needed and also runs two group support sessions.

What have survivors said about the new

SURVIVOR LIAISON SERVICE

Laura you have changed my life!! I had counselling before it didn't work!! I have opened up to you, about the severity of the abuse, and how guilty I felt that it had impacted my children!! You never judged me and was always empathetic and non-judgmental. I am half way through the Freedom programme which is like a light bulb had turned on!! You helped me with self-care too!! You are awesome!! And you are funny x so thank you!

Thank you for your honesty in relation to what you went through. It's a sad but respectful comfort to know that I'm not alone especially with mental abuse. The little touches like the card package at Christmas show your gentle and thoughtful side and feel like I've known you though we never met. Thank you sincerely. xx

Thank you for all your help so far, don't know how I would have got through this without the service and support.

I feel that we are starting to listen to the voice of the survivors, rather than the perpetrators due to people like Laura fighting for us, we have a way to go, but we are heading the right way, hopefully the justice system will improve for victims and more perpetrators will have criminal convictions for their crime, which sadly doesn't happen enough in most cases and some sort of mapping system will come into place, to help prevent domestic violence.

The support I've received from my survivor Liaison Worker has been amazing she's helped me open up about things that's happened in my life that I never thought I'd be able to talk to anyone about she's also contacted numerous organisations that I am now receiving help from I couldn't thank her enough for everything she's done for me.

My Survivor Liaison Worker has given me immense strength and self-belief that I never thought I would have again. I believe in myself more and feel I have found the strength to be the strong independent woman I've always wanted to be. I am so grateful for all the support.

If it wasn't for the survivor Liaison worker I would still be feeling so helpless worthless and negative about everything in my life. I can't thank her enough for the kindness and support she has given me.

Outstanding work done by someone who understands what has happened. I've never felt the need to go over anything and the support received has helped in so many ways. Simple thank you does not cover what my SLW has given.

Laura is a one of a kind support worker. Without her I don't know where I'd be. She has helped me achieve my goals and always kept my spirits up. She's helped me become a better person and a better mum for my 3 year old. Keep up the good work.

Develop ways of preventing and reducing adolescent to parent abuse to prevent and reduce harm and encourage healthy relationships

Three cohorts of the teen to parent abuse programme 'Getting On' have been delivered during the year.

Getting On has been adapted to ensure that the number of families attending are impacted by as few barriers as possible. Therefore content has been made available to referrers if young people cannot attend to complete on a one to one basis so that mums can still receive support.



Increase the amount of safe, supported and suitable accommodation

Work has taken place to increase the amount of safe accommodation in the Borough starting with consultation with survivors and agencies about the needs and type of accommodation required.

As a partnership we have agreed that there will be an increase in accommodation and funding has been secured. The accommodation will be suitable and accessible to meet the needs of all victims including those victims that have previously found it harder to access safe housing such as people with alcohol and substance misuse problems, male victims and female offenders.

The current Sanctuary scheme in Doncaster is going to be extended to include all tenures, not just St. Leger tenants. The Sanctuary Scheme involves making the victims property more secure so that they do not feel as though they have to flee their own home. These schemes are used in conjunction with holding abusers to account.

Phoenix WoMen's Aid

During 2021-2022 Phoenix WoMen's Aid opened 21 additional units of safe accommodation that incorporate 34 bed spaces (this does not include associated children bed spaces). These are available to all, with no restrictions to victims with No Recourse to Public funds.

Doncaster's St Leger Homes rewarded for work in tackling domestic abuse

St. Leger Homes has become the first local housing provider in South Yorkshire to receive a prestigious national accreditation for its work around helping tenants affected by domestic abuse.

The nationally recognised Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation means the Doncaster housing provider is now part of a prestigious group of housing providers across the country to achieve this standard of service.



St Leger Homes manages over 20,000 properties across Doncaster on behalf of Doncaster Council.

Ensure clear and smooth transition across local authority boundaries for victims to ensure that their health and social needs can be met

The partnership has started to look at best practice and procedures when a victim and their family move out of Doncaster following domestic abuse. Work continues to ensure that partner organisations ensure a smooth transition with support put in place in the new area. Appropriate information sharing is a key part of this work.

Work with members of the criminal justice system to improve the experiences of victims through the court system

The Survivor Liaison Worker at Doncaster Council was involved in a joint initiative with Sheffield with positive results. Training was delivered to the judiciary on coercive control including the lived experience of the worker.

Court staff from across Yorkshire and Humberside were trained with the sessions recorded and put on their training portal. The Survivor Liaison Worker has also been asked to be a guest speaker at a judicial conference in Hull.

‘I just want to say a formal big thank you for your presentation.

We had a discussion about how we felt Laura had been let down by the courts and how we can improve. Her bravery in speaking has made a genuine difference to every Legal adviser present.’ – Legal advisor.

A consultation was produced by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for survivors of domestic abuse that had been through the court system. Gaps in support at court have been identified as well as delays in cases progressing through the courts. Work is ongoing to identify further funding for support at court and improving the experiences for victims.

Explore ways of effectively dealing with the trauma suffered by children and young people in domestic abuse households at an early stage to aid recovery

The Domestic Abuse Navigator (DAN) service delivered by Doncaster Children's Services Trust works with the whole family, supporting parents to stay together or separate safely and ensuring everyone receives the help and support they need to ensure they recover from their experience of domestic abuse. For those that use abusive behaviours, they are also offered support to change.

In addition the DAN service delivered five cohorts of 'One of a Kind'. This is a children's group work programme aimed at supporting children impacted by domestic abuse to know how to keep safe, who to talk to about any worries, the importance of being kind and how to manage big feelings. A total of 34 children have received this input in four schools. Supporting children to understand healthy relationships helps them make sense of their experiences and promotes positive future relationships into adulthood.



Alicia Lee, Manager of the DAN service was awarded a Star Award for 'Leading Great Outcomes' for the work she carried out during the pandemic to support victims of domestic abuse.

Doncaster Children's Services Trust Star Awards are hosted annually at the Trust. This year marked the seventh year in which the Trust recognises the dedication and excellent work, which happens across the organisation to support children, young people and families.

Alicia is fundamental in delivering as well as developing the best practices in our approach to improving the lives of those affected by abuse. She is clearly the driving force behind the DAN service and the ethos of hearing the voices of children within a whole family approach to domestic abuse.

Alicia's training helps practitioners across the county to gain a better understanding of the destructive role domestic abuse plays within children's relationships with family and peers; and promotes ways for children to have their feelings validated and begin to rebuild trust.

The Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group and Health Partners will consider the Standing Together Pathfinder Toolkit and the recommendations within it and use this, alongside contemporary local and national guidance and best practice, as a base to consider the development of services moving forward

Health partners in Doncaster have been considering the recommendations in the 'Standing Together Pathfinder Toolkit' to ensure there is best practice in the borough. Analysis has been completed and a Health Domestic Abuse Task Group established to develop this work in 2022-2023.

Ensure that adults with care and support needs who are experiencing domestic abuse are both safeguarded and supported by safeguarding and domestic abuse services



A new training package was developed in 2021-2022 for professionals working with older people and people with care and support needs. The aim is to highlight the additional risks and barriers facing older people and people with disabilities and support needs. 72 professionals attended the bespoke training which will continue in future years.

A new domestic abuse campaign was developed to raise awareness of domestic abuse with older people.

Assurance was received by Adult Safeguarding and domestic abuse services that there was information sharing and joint working for this cohort of victims.

Reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse and prevent people from becoming a victim of abuse again having ended one abusive relationship

Clare's Law

South Yorkshire Police run the national Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, also known as Clare's Law. Clare's Law requests allow disclosures to be made to victims in relation to the previous offending of a partner. These take the form of a Right to Know; where disclosures are initiated by Police to people who may be at risk of domestic abuse from a current partner and Right to Ask; where a person can request information about the risk they may face from a current partner. These disclosures allow people to make informed decisions about how to either safeguard themselves or allow agencies to support safeguarding. Doncaster continues to see the use of these higher than other districts in South Yorkshire.

CLARE'S LAW

204

RIGHT TO KNOW
DISCLOSURES MADE

CLARE'S LAW

56

RIGHT TO ASK
DISCLOSURES MADE

YWCA Yorkshire

YWCA Yorkshire are committed domestic abuse champions in Doncaster and are committed to ensuring they have the right specialist training programs for their families. Throughout 2021-2022 the organisation delivered the Freedom programme to 25 women. The Freedom Programme is a domestic violence programme created by Pat Craven.

It examines the attitudes and behaviours of abusers and the impact it has on the person subject to the abuse. The aim is to help people make sense of and understand what has happened to them. The Freedom Programme also describes how to spot signs of abusive behaviour and prevent future unhealthy and abusive relationships. The course also details how children are affected by being exposed to this kind of abuse and very importantly how their lives are improved when the abuse is removed.

'I just wanted to come on the course and understand a bit more about how/why it all came about and why me? I got a lot from the course and I have managed to put a lot more jigsaw pieces into place, so thank you xx'

YWCA Yorkshire have also supported 67 people who had experienced domestic abuse to rebuild self-esteem and supported 12 women fleeing domestic abuse into their accommodation. Quotes from people that have undertaken some of the other programmes on offer from YWCA including 'Escape the Trap' and the 'Wrap Programme' include:

'I know how to deal with things by using my toolkit, going out walking to clear my head'

'I am more aware of my triggers and I am actively working each day to avoid falling into depression'

'I am making more positive decisions and taking more action rather than dwelling on my problems'

'I now know when things are getting overwhelming'

Buddi Tag

In order to tackle repeat offending, South Yorkshire Police in Doncaster has implemented a programme of voluntary tags for offenders called Buddi Tag. A Buddi Tag is an electronic monitoring tag that operates using GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System). It is designed to be worn securely around the ankle and provides GPS location data on a continuous basis, tracking the wearer's location and movements 24 hours a day.

The tag enables the tracking of the perpetrator with warning notifications, and alerts to provide control measures that are effective in identifying and preventing re-offending.

Doncaster has access to ten Buddi Tags for use in Domestic Abuse cases with the ultimate aim of reducing reoffending by sustained behavioural change, reducing the risk posed by the perpetrator and protecting victims.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocate

RECEIVES RECOGNITION

Vicki Petty, Independent Domestic Violence Advocate working for Doncaster Council, received a 'Good Work Minute Award' from South Yorkshire Police Doncaster, in recognition for her tenacity, compassion and dedication in supporting a victim of domestic abuse. The victim of abuse had suffered significant harassment and damage to property from her ex-partner. He was arrested and summoned to court where he received a 21 month prison sentence, a four year restraining order and a 27 month driving ban.



Vicki provided support and updates during the investigation and court hearing, driving the victim to court and staying with her throughout.

South Yorkshire Police Investigating Officer Danny Birch said, 'I am sure if it wasn't for Vicki's help and support we would not have had such a good a result. A good example of the system working, and a great result because of it. '

Vicki is pictured here receiving her award from DCI Richard Hammond.

Increased funding for

SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

In 2021-2022 Doncaster Council received additional funding from the Council's Public Health Directorate and from the Ministry of Justice with support from the Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

This has enabled the Council's domestic abuse service to respond to the growing demand for support.

In November a full time domestic abuse caseworker manager and additional Hub Advisor were appointed and additional Domestic Abuse Caseworkers were recruited later in the year.

The additional funding has meant that the service has been able to introduce a domestic abuse worker for male victims and a young people worker. The new workers have been able to raise the profile of abuse towards men and of unhealthy relationships with teenagers. The Young People worker has so far delivered training to staff in young persons care homes and schools with more work planned for 2022-2023.

Freedom Programme

The Domestic Abuse Caseworkers have also completed additional training allowing them to deliver the domestic abuse 'Freedom Programme'.

Volunteers

Assistance has also been provided to set up a local support group run by volunteers.

Conduct a detailed analysis of stalking and harassment and devise a plan of action for prevention and early intervention

The needs assessment used for the development of the domestic abuse strategy highlighted that stalking and harassment was the most prevalent type of domestic abuse related crime reported to the Police in Doncaster.

Stalking and harassment campaigns were held throughout the year and a stalking pathway is being created for both domestic and non domestic abuse related stalking. There is a stalking page on the domestic abuse website and stalking and harassment training available for professionals as part of the domestic abuse multi agency training programme. In 2021-2022, 95 professionals attended the stalking and harassment training.

Further work on stalking and harassment will continue in the next year.



What have we been doing to

HOLD ABUSERS TO ACCOUNT

In the domestic abuse strategy the domestic abuse partnership set 6 objectives to hold abusers to account:

- Improve our systematic multi-agency approach to the identification and management of perpetrators including serial perpetrators
- Increase the success rate of prosecutions associated with domestic abuse crimes
- Ensure changes introduced in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 are implemented including: extending the coercive and controlling behaviour law to include post separation abuse and the inclusion of threats to share sexual images
- Work as a partnership to embed the national restructure of probation services in Doncaster
- Promote and support behavioural change amongst perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Improve the ability of businesses, organisations and communities to recognise and challenge abusive behaviour

Improve our systematic multi-agency approach to the identification and management of perpetrators including serial perpetrators

Work has started on identifying serial perpetrators of domestic abuse in Doncaster. Research into the top ten serial perpetrators in Doncaster found that they had 64 victims and 88 children linked to them.

This is a priority for the partnership and plans are in place to improve information sharing about serial perpetrators and earlier identification of new partners and children so that safeguarding work can take place and offending behaviour can be prevented.

Between April 21 and March 22 – 9784 incidents relating to domestic abuse were reported to South Yorkshire Police. This is an increase of 60 incidents reported compared with the same period in 2019-2020.

27% of incidents were repeat incidents of domestic abuse.

The arrest rate for domestic abuse in Doncaster is 50% which is above national average of 33%.

Doncaster is leading the way in the use of Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders. These are court orders that can remove a perpetrator from the home for up to 28 days.

Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC)

MATAC is now embedded in Doncaster to improve the identification and management of perpetrators of domestic abuse, with further developments planned.

MATAC meetings are held monthly at each district and are attended by a range of partners.

A discussion is held to determine the appropriate course of partnership action in relation to each perpetrator identified. A risk assessment is always carried out to ensure victims are safeguarded. Partners are tasked in relation to perpetrators who are both engaging and non-engaging with services. All actions are reviewed, recorded and a Perpetrator Management Plan completed.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PROTECTION NOTICES

340
APPLIED FOR

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PROTECTION ORDERS

300
APPLIED FOR

INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING
IN A CHARGE/CAUTION

15%

HIGH RISK PERPETRATORS
ARRESTED

94%



Doncaster was the first local authority area in South Yorkshire to have a successful stalking protection order

Increase the success rate of prosecutions associated with domestic abuse crimes

Due to Covid19 there was a back log of cases to be heard in 2021-2022 with partner agencies involved in the criminal justice system working hard to resolve the situation throughout the year.

The Crown Prosecution Service have been working with South Yorkshire Police on training the Criminal Justice Unit on evidence led prosecutions and how to build high quality domestic abuse file submissions.

A specialist domestic abuse court has been established in neighbouring Sheffield which is designed to cut down on hearings, and elicit guilty pleas in most cases where possible at the first hearing. This will be monitored carefully with a view to possible expansion to other courts in the future.

The Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, with the support of Doncaster Council's Survivor Liaison Worker, also undertook a survey with survivors of domestic abuse to map what support they had throughout their journey through the courts. The feedback will be analysed to determine gaps and any improvements that can be made.

National Innovation in Policing Winners

South Yorkshire Police, Doncaster Council and the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit worked together to implement the use of SmartWater to protect victims of domestic abuse.

The idea uses SmartWater to enhance forensic evidence. Smartwater is a clear liquid that cannot be washed off for a considerable time which contains a unique code traceable under ultra violet light or laboratory analysis.

The benefit of the approach is to reduce the volume of offences, make victims feel safer, improve victim confidence, enhance partnership working to protect victims and help bring perpetrators to justice. Although testing continues, the approach indicates the use of Smartwater can offer a 69% reduction in reported incidents, with a 94% reduction in harm and with up to 65% of the protected victims suffering no further victimisation.

The award from Police Professional involved fighting off stiff competition from other projects across the Country - from both inside and outside of the police service.



Ensure changes introduced in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 are implemented including: extending the coercive and controlling behaviour law to include post separation abuse and the inclusion of threats to share sexual images

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 is being implemented in phases with national deadlines set by the Government. Some changes are being made at a national level and others require a local response. In Doncaster all deadlines have been adhered to and include:

- Establishment of a domestic abuse partnership
- Production of the domestic abuse strategy
- Those who are homeless as a result of domestic abuse are given priority need for accommodation secured by the local authority
- South Yorkshire is one of the four regions to pilot Polygraph testing for high and very high-risk domestic abuse perpetrators released on licence
- Local authority support for victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation
- Local authorities, when re-housing an existing lifetime social tenant, or offering them a new sole tenancy in their own home, grant a new lifetime tenancy if satisfied that the tenant or a member of their household has been a victim of domestic abuse and the new tenancy is granted in connection with that abuse

The Doncaster domestic abuse partnership will continue to adopt the national changes and implement local change to protect victims and children and hold abusers to account.

Work as a partnership to embed the national restructure of probation services in Doncaster

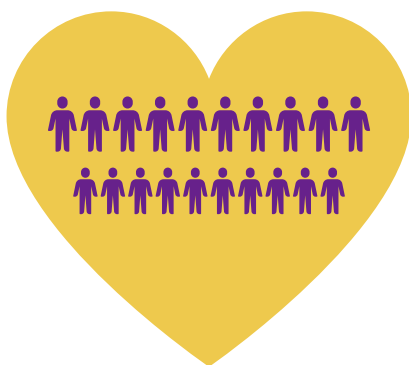
Since the launch of the unified Probation Service in June 2021 partners across the borough have been working together to support the development of the new service.

A key part of this work has been ensuring that we have new data sharing agreements and protocols in place to enable fast, reliable and accurate information exchange across the partnerships. This is an important first step in supporting other objectives contained in the strategy such as the serial perpetrator work.

In addition the partnership has worked together to ensure that the probation services are represented at key strategic and delivery meetings linked to the domestic abuse agenda.

As a provider of a statutory victim liaison scheme the probation service has been supported to link in with the survivor engagement workers and agenda across the partnership. This is the first time that this has occurred in Doncaster and represents an opportunity to consider how individuals convicted of offences may also be victims of domestic abuse and what support can be offered for this key demographic.

The partnership has also opened up further networks with the local prisons to support with the development of the unified probations service. The key area of focus has been to consider what interventions are available and therefore identifying potential gaps that create opportunities for co-commissioning.

Promote and support behavioural change amongst perpetrators of domestic abuse**Caring Dads**

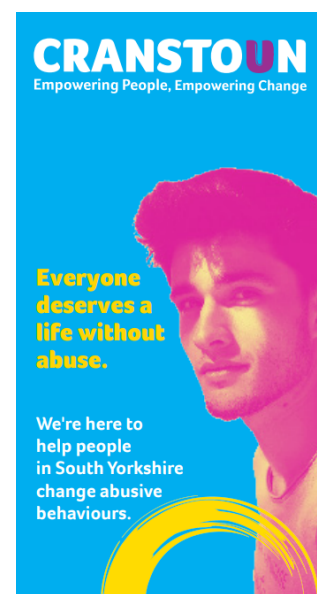
Two cohorts of the 'Caring Dads' programme delivered by Doncaster Children's Service Trust have successfully progressed during the year. The Caring Dads programme focuses on the relationship between father and child/ren in the context of domestic abuse in the adult relationship. The motivation for behaviour change is centred around the children's experience of domestic abuse.

Inspire to Change

In 2021 the four Local Authorities in South Yorkshire and the Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner commissioned a voluntary intervention programme for people who are abusive and ready to change their behaviour. The programme called Inspire to Change is delivered by Cranstoun and was launched in September 2021.

Between September 2021 and 31st March 2022 Cranstoun has received 155 referrals for support.

Inspire to Change has been designed to help participants learn new skills and find better ways to manage and control their abusive behaviour. It encourages participants to think and behave more positively to prevent harm to their partner, children and family in the future.

**Improve the ability of businesses, organisations and communities to recognise and challenge abusive behaviour**

A new Community Engagement Worker was employed by Doncaster Children's Services Trust in June 2021 and has made contact with 340 businesses and community and faith organisations in the area.

Local businesses have attended the multi agency domestic abuse training delivered with funding from the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership. Work will continue in 2022-2024 to encourage more organisations to get involved.

A new training package is planned specifically around challenging abuse behaviour and signposting and referring to the Cranstoun Inspire to Change programme for people who are abusive.

What have we been doing to improve

LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

In the domestic abuse strategy the domestic abuse partnership set 7 objectives to help improve leadership, governance and quality assurance:

- Use the survivor voice to determine what works, what isn't working, barriers and areas for improvement
- A commitment from partners to regularly update the domestic abuse needs assessment whilst developing and integrating new data sets to give fresh insights
- Measure progress made against nationally recognised standards including the Standing Together 'In Search of Excellence' and the Government's National Statement of Expectations
- Introduce a Doncaster Domestic Abuse Charter. This would consist of a set of standards for employers to adhere to which includes support for employees and customers
- Ensure long-term funding is committed to preventing and tackling domestic abuse
- Undertake further research and analysis into specific areas such as stalking and harassment in Doncaster and ways of prevention and early intervention and suicide in relation to victims and people who are abusive
- Undertake further data analysis, engagement with survivors and with organisations representing people with relevant protected characteristics, to identify any barriers to reporting and ways of improving access to support.

Use the survivor voice to determine what works, what isn't working, barriers and areas for improvement

Through the newly created Survivor Liaison Worker post and the feedback from Survivor Surveys the partnership has been able to listen and understand what is working well and areas for improvement.

You said

'I didn't tell anyone as wasn't sure where to turn'

'Agencies did nothing. there wasn't any information anywhere in buildings on what help was available to flee domestic violence/abuse'

'Police, social care and housing failed me'

'My employer was aware but didn't help'

'Wasn't aware that was being abused until years Afterwards. Told to "man up" '

'Truthfully, I think that only lip service will be paid to this survey'

'I didn't receive any support, from anyone'

'It was emotional/psychological and financial abuse. I wasn't aware it was abuse so didn't seek support'

'The worker was rubbish they just made be feel to blame'

'The police were amazing in my case and I was kept updated and reassured. I have since contacted the hub and they were very helpful and kind with a query I had and gave me advice on what to do.'

The Domestic Violence support worker, she was awesome, I felt like she understood and she listened. The advice and the work she did was great.

We did

Increased awareness of domestic abuse and the different types of abuse e.g. emotional, financial, stalking etc. and the support services available.

Survivors were consulted about the wording and images in the campaigns.

The Doncaster domestic abuse website has been improved with a wealth of information included: www.doncaster.gov.uk/domesticabuse

South Yorkshire Police has introduced a domestic abuse survivor panel to meet with survivors to gain feedback about experience with police.

Delivered a male victims campaign.

South Yorkshire Police have trained all front line officers in domestic abuse and have 200 domestic abuse champions to drive improvements.

St. Leger Homes have been working with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance to achieve an accreditation in service delivery. This was awarded in May 2022.

The Domestic Abuse Charter has been introduced to encourage agencies to have improved information and support to their employees.

There has been an increase in professionals from local agencies and in the community trained in domestic abuse.

A multi-agency domestic abuse champions network has been established to improve services.

More work is needed to ensure that anyone who is a victim of domestic abuse knows what support is available and gets the service they deserve.

A commitment from partners to regularly update the domestic abuse needs assessment whilst developing and integrating new data sets to give fresh insights

The Doncaster needs assessment will be refreshed in July 2022 in line with Government requirements and compliance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Health data is being explored by partner agencies to complement the existing information. Feedback from survivors continues to be a priority in assessing needs.

Measure progress made against nationally recognised standards including the Standing Together 'In Search of Excellence' and the Government's National Statement of Expectations

Mapping work has been completed against the Standing Together 'In Search of Excellence' report. The partnership has been able to evidence many areas of good practice. The biggest area for improvement relates to raising awareness of domestic abuse, removing barriers, encouraging reporting and accessing services for people minoritised communities. This is a priority for 2022-2023.

Ensure long-term funding is committed to preventing and tackling domestic abuse

The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities has committed multiple years of funding for domestic abuse safe accommodation. Doncaster Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have also committed long term funding for domestic abuse services.

The Government has committed further funding to tackle domestic abuse in their Domestic Abuse Plan 2022.

Further funding will continue to be sought locally to continue to prevent and tackle domestic abuse.

Introduce a Doncaster Domestic Abuse Charter. This would consist of a set of standards for employers to adhere to which includes support for employees and customers

The Doncaster Domestic Abuse Charter was introduced in 2021. There are five minimum standards for organisations/services to adhere to to achieve Charter status:

Charter Standards

AWARENESS RAISING

Domestic abuse material is displayed and is relevant to all local communities

RESPONDING TO VICTIMS

There is effective guidance in place detailing how the organisation will respond to victims

TRAINING

Staff are trained in domestic abuse to the required level

EMPLOYEES

The agency has an employee policy/procedure for employees experiencing or perpetrating domestic abuse

CHAMPIONS

There is at least one domestic abuse champion within the organisation who ensures that they keep up to date with the latest information and helps implement improvements in service delivery

Organisations that meet all five standards in the Doncaster Domestic Abuse Charter:

- Probation Service Doncaster
- South Yorkshire Police
- St. Leger Homes



South Yorkshire Police, Doncaster
Protecting Vulnerable People Team

Luke Shepherd, Head of Probation Delivery Unit accepts the Charter Award on behalf of Probation Service Doncaster



Dave Richmond, CEO of
St. Leger Homes
Doncaster

All other partner organisations are currently working towards achieving the standards and work is planned for 2022-2023 to engage with more private sector businesses to encourage completion of the Domestic Abuse Charter.

Undertake further research and analysis into specific areas such as stalking and harassment in Doncaster and ways of prevention and early intervention and suicide in relation to victims and people who are abusive

A detailed profile has been produced by South Yorkshire Police about domestic abuse related stalking.

Domestic related harassment has seen an overall decrease over the past three years. Domestic stalking has seen an increase in volumes over the three year period. It is likely that the introduction of the Stalking Protection Act 2019 has shifted the recording of Stalking and Harassment offences in favour of Stalking. This may be driven by the requirements for Stalking Protection Orders.

In 2021-2022 there were approximately 600 victims of domestic abuse stalking and harassment reporting to South Yorkshire Police. In addition there were approximately 1,000 victims of non-domestic abuse related stalking and harassment.

Doncaster was the first area in South Yorkshire to successfully obtain a stalking protection order.

A Stalking Protection Order is made on application to the magistrate's court by the police. It is a civil order where:

- The threshold to commence criminal proceedings for the commission of an offence has not yet or will not be met. This allows for early police intervention in stalking cases; or,
- Where of suspect has been charged. It is not an alternative to prosecution for stalking offences. In such circumstances an order can be used to complement the prosecution of a stalking offence.

Within an application for a Stalking Protection Order, police can request both prohibitions and/or requirements to protect the victim from the risk of stalking.

Undertake further data analysis, engagement with survivors and with organisations representing people with relevant protected characteristics, to identify any barriers to reporting and ways of improving access to support.

Intersectionality means recognising that there are cross cutting issues that impact on a person's experiences, responses, the service they receive and the barriers they face. It is a way of understanding society by examining intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers.

Tackling domestic abuse for all people in our communities is a priority for the partnership and it is an Equality Diversity and Inclusion objective for Doncaster Council.

There has been progress made with raising awareness of domestic abuse and encouraging reporting and accessing of services within the LGBT+ community as referenced in this report.

There has been engagement with specialist by and for organisations throughout the year and many more plans to produce new campaigns, improve data collection and pro-actively engage with minoritised communities in 2022-2023.

What next for

2022-2023?

Work will continue around the strategic objectives outlined in this annual report.

Priorities for 2022-2023 are:

- Work with educational establishments on prevention, early identification and intervention
- Reducing the impact and trauma on young people affected by domestic abuse
- Reduction in repeat referrals
- Improvements in prosecution rates and outcomes for victims at court
- Increased safe accommodation for victims fleeing DA or wishing to remain safely in their own homes
- Management of serial perpetrators

Work to understand the needs of minoritised groups and people with protected characteristics and remove barriers to reporting and accessing services will weave throughout this work - ensuring ALL people in our communities needs are met.

**Thank you to everyone involved in helping to
end domestic abuse in Doncaster**

For details of support services go to
www.doncaster.gov.uk/domesticabuse

For a copy of the Doncaster domestic abuse strategy go to:
www.doncaster.gov.uk/domesticabuse and click on information for
professionals