

Domestic Violence 2007-2010 Everyone's Business

South Gloucestershire Domestic *Violence/Abuse* Strategy



Everyone's Business

South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence/Abuse Strategy 2007-2010

Acknowledgements

South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence partnership would like to acknowledge the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum Strategic Group, for their contribution to the development of this Strategy and Action Plan. Membership of the Strategic Group includes representatives from South Gloucestershire Council, South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Survive and Safer South Gloucestershire.

Many thanks also to every member of the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum, for making themselves available for consultation, for sharing their experiences and opinions in the development of this strategy and for their continued enthusiasm and commitment to its transformation from theory to practice.

Dedicated to all of the families who have found the strength to survive; who currently are or might one day experience the fear and destruction of domestic violence...may you no longer suffer in silence.

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List of Abbreviations

ABC	Acceptable Behaviour Contract
ABH	Actual Bodily Harm
ACC	Assistant Chief Constable
ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
AWP	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust
BCS	British Crime Survey
BVPI	Best Value Performance Indicator
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory Service
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CP	Child Protection
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
CSCI	Commission for Social Care Inspectorate
CVS	Community and Voluntary Sector
CYP	Children and Young People
DA	Domestic Abuse
DAIT	Domestic Abuse Investigations Team
DCI	Detective Chief Inspector
DfES	Department for Education and Skills
DH	Department of Health
DI	Detective Inspector
DV	Domestic Violence
EACH	Educational Action Challenging Homophobia
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HMCS	Her Majesty's Court Service
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LCJB	Local Criminal Justice Board
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NAMC	North Avon Magistrates Court
NBT	North Bristol Trust
NCH	National Children's Home
NHS	National Health Service
NSPCC	National Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
PAHC	Partnership Against Hate Crime
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PPU	Public Protection Unit
PSHE	Personal, Social, Health Education
RSLs	Registered Social Landlords
SA	Safeguarding Adults
SARI	Support Against Racist Incidents
SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
SGDVF	South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum
SSG	Safer South Gloucestershire
UWE	University of the West of the England
UK	United Kingdom
WCU	Witness Care Unit

Definition

South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum defines Domestic Violence/Abuse as:

*“The use, attempt or threat of violence; whether physical, emotional, sexual, psychological or economic, within an intimate and/or family-type relationship. Domestic Violence/Abuse forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour”**

*Domestic Violence/Abuse occurs across society, regardless of age, gender, race, sexuality, wealth and geography. Research shows, however, that it consists mainly of violence by men against women and it is not necessary for partners to have cohabited.

It is hereby acknowledged that the terms ‘Domestic Violence’ and ‘Domestic Abuse’ will be used interchangeably within this document and that both terms refer to the above definition.

The Government define Domestic Violence as:

*“Any violence between current and former partners in an intimate relationship, wherever and whenever the violence occurs. The violence may include physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse.”**

*Domestic Violence occurs across society, regardless of age, gender, race, sexuality, wealth and geography. However, it is predominantly women that suffer as a result of it.¹

In order to maintain relevance these definitions will be amended according to any national changes. It is also acknowledged that some agencies will have their own definitions rather than subscribing to either of those provided above, for example ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) and Women's Aid.

“There were so many occasions when he would put me down. If we were out shopping, he would make me walk in front of him because he didn't want to be seen with me. I almost wished he'd hit me rather than telling me I was ugly and useless – bruises heal, but if you're constantly put down you believe it”.

Caroline, A South Gloucestershire Survivor

¹ Secretary of State for the Home Department, (2003) *Safety and Justice: The Government's Proposals on Domestic Violence – Executive Summary*, HMSO: London.

References

Statement of Purpose

Agencies and individuals living and working in South Gloucestershire are committed to tackling Domestic Violence/Abuse and making it *Everyone's Business*. We acknowledge that experiencing domestic violence is not socially determined, and therefore it is an issue potentially affecting every member of any community.

Domestic Violence is an infringement of an individual's basic human rights and furthermore, the behaviours associated with domestic violence are usually criminal and should be addressed as such.

It is a fundamental principle of the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum and the below listed signatory agencies, that embedded throughout this strategy, action plan, work and our attitudes, we strive for and advocate equality, equity and safety for all victim/survivors of domestic violence and their families.

The signatories of the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2010 commit to ensure effective and responsible collaborative working to address the causes, consequences and dynamics of domestic violence.

“But while the broken bones, black eyes and bruises are the most obvious signs of the damage being done by domestic violence, the repercussions of these attacks go much deeper. Victims suffer on many levels. They live in a shadow of fear and lose the freedom to carry on their lives as they would choose”.

Smith, J Minister for Women and Equality (2004) Foreword in Walby, S (2004) *The Cost of Domestic Violence*. Department for Trade and Industry: London.

Signatures

Signed by Cllr John Calway, Leader of the Council:



On behalf of South Gloucestershire Council and the Conservative Group

Signed by Cllr Ruth Davis:



On behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, South Gloucestershire Council

Signed by Cllr Roger Hutchinson:



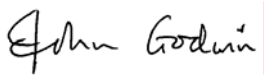
On behalf of the Labour Group, South Gloucestershire Council

Signed by Amanda Deeks, Chief Executive:



On behalf of South Gloucestershire Council and as Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership - Senior Officers Group

Signed by Cllr John Godwin, Chair:



On behalf of the South Gloucestershire Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership

Signed by Peter Murphy, Director:



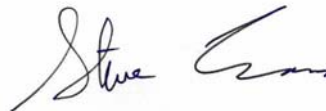
On behalf of South Gloucestershire Council Community Care & Housing Department and as Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Committee

Signed by Therese Gillespie, Director:



On behalf of South Gloucestershire Council Department for Children and Young People and as Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board

Signed by Steve Evans, Director:



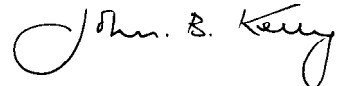
On behalf of South Gloucestershire Council Community Services Department

Signed by Dave Perry, Director:



On behalf of South Gloucestershire Council Chief Executive and Corporate Resources Directorate

Signed by John Kelly, Head of Service:



On behalf of Safer South Gloucestershire

Signed by Chief Superintendent Andy Francis:



On behalf of Avon & Somerset Constabulary South Gloucestershire Police District

“I can’t put into words how grateful I am for the confidence South Gloucestershire’s domestic violence services have given me. They were (and still are) there whenever I needed to talk . . . Without South Gloucestershire’s Services, I wouldn’t have my life. They’ve given me back my family and kids by helping me heal my broken spirit”.

Caroline, A South Gloucestershire Survivor

Signed by Penny Harris, Chief Executive:



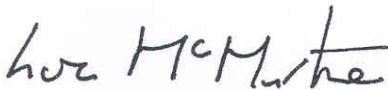
On behalf of South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust

Signed by Sonia Mills, Chief Executive:



On behalf of North Bristol NHS Trust

Signed by Laura McMurtrie, Chief Executive:



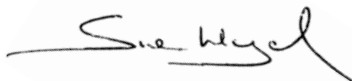
On behalf of Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (AWP)

Signed by Dawn Taylor, Chief Executive:



On behalf of Survive

Signed by Sue Lloyd, Chief Executive:



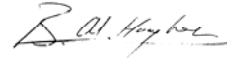
On behalf of Victim Support Avonvale

Signed by Carol Meters, Director:



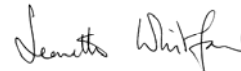
On behalf of Next Link

Signed by Barry Hughes, Chief Crown Prosecutor:



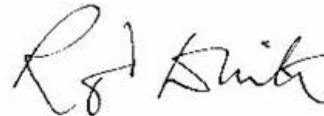
On behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service And Chair of the Avon & Somerset Criminal Justice Board

Signed by Jeanette Whitford, Chief Officer:



On behalf of Avon & Somerset Probation Service

Signed by Rod White, Area Director:



On behalf of Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS)

Signed by Trevor Simpson, Service Manager:



On behalf of the Child and Family Court Advisory & Support Service (CAFCASS)

*"I wish that every woman putting up with domestic violence knew about the sort of help they could get and that they can come out on top. You **can** go from feeling that you're ugly and dirty and awful and not being able to bear people looking at you, to there being no dark cloud anymore and looking forward to every single day. If my story helps one person, I'd be happy".*

Caroline, A South Gloucestershire Survivor

Signed by William Roberts, Group Manager:



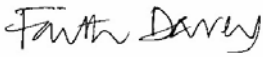
On behalf of Avon Fire & Rescue Service

Signed by Kevin Pearson, Chief Fire Officer:



On behalf of Avon Fire and Rescue Authority

Signed by Faith Davey, Chief Executive:



On behalf of The Care Forum

Signed by Angela Gascoigne, Director of Housing Services :



On behalf of Knightstone Housing Association

Signed by Andy Graham, Operations Director,



On behalf of Merlin Housing Society

Signed by Emma Collier, Chief Officer:



On behalf of the Council for Voluntary Service South Gloucestershire (CVS)

Signed by Jonathan Charlesworth, Chief Executive:



On behalf of Educational Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH)

Signed by Batook Pandya ,Chief Executive:



On behalf of Support Against Racist Incidents (SARI)

Signed by Carl Saunders, Chair:



On behalf of the South Gloucestershire Partnership Against Hate Crime (PAHC)

Signed by Charlotte Badlan:



As the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Co-ordinator

“If I could talk to someone who is experiencing domestic violence, I’d say get help if and when you’re ready. Too many people still don’t come forward. It can happen to anyone – I’m an intelligent woman and I had a middle class, affluent lifestyle and it happened to me. The biggest thing I’ve come to understand is that with domestic violence, they’re the problem; it’s not your fault. I do keep going and I will get through this - this time next year things will be very different for me. I’ll never allow it to happen to me again and I’m strong enough so that he will never find a big enough gap to get through”.

1. Introduction

The South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence partnership, led by the Domestic Violence Forum has devised this three-year Strategy and Action Plan, which aims to be of ongoing relevance and will be subject to consistent review.

This Strategy document will:

- Set out the aims of the signatories for tackling domestic violence in South Gloucestershire.
- Highlight the proportionate commitment of all signatories to provide the necessary resources to successfully achieve our aims.
- Make a public statement that domestic violence will not be tolerated in South Gloucestershire.

The National Picture

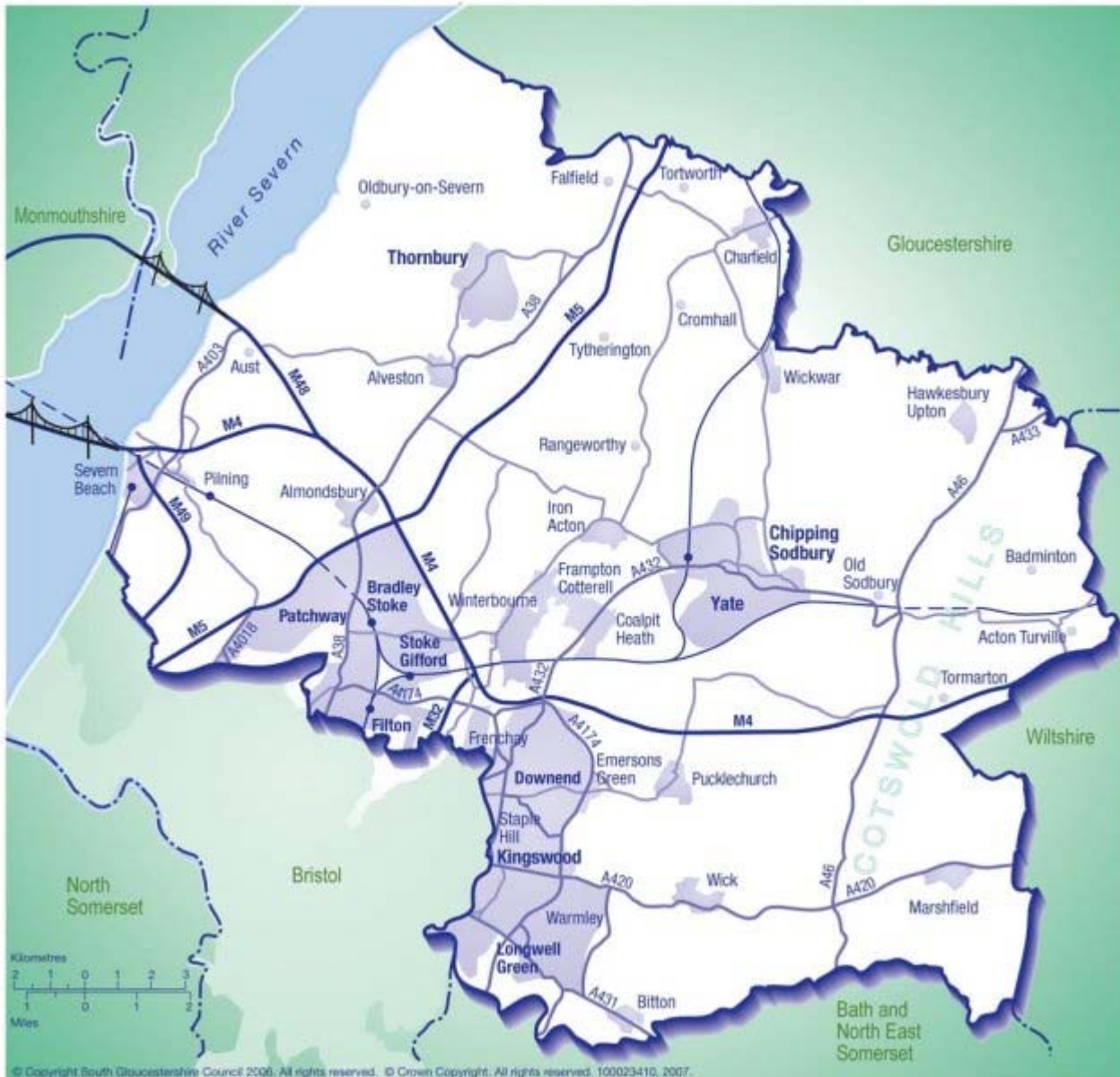
“For the last thirty years domestic violence in the UK has gone from being a largely unspoken subject to one, which is being tackled and confronted by Government and Statutory Bodies and the voluntary sector. In 1971 Refuge opened the first safe house for women and children experiencing domestic violence. Today there are over 400 refuges nationally and domestic violence receives much greater attention.”¹

- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will experience domestic violence at some point in their lives.²
- 2 women every week will be murdered in England and Wales at the hands of a current or former partner.³
- The Police receive a 999 call to stop domestic violence every 60 seconds.⁴
- On average, a victim of domestic violence will experience 35 separate incidents of abuse before reporting it to *anyone*⁵.
- It is estimated that only 40% of domestic violence is ever reported.
- Domestic violence costs society in excess of £23 billion every year.⁶

The Picture in South Gloucestershire

South Gloucestershire is a Unitary Authority in the South West of England, with a population of approximately 250,000. South Gloucestershire is approximately 23% urbanised, the rest is predominantly rural in character with areas of outstanding natural beauty. It is one of the least deprived authorities in the Country and one of the fastest growing economic areas in Europe; in October 2000, only 180 people had been out of work for over a year. Demographics help set the scene for a Strategy, but by no means are they characteristics of where domestic violence does and does not happen; it happens everywhere.

Map of South Gloucestershire



Domestic Violence in South Gloucestershire

Outlined below are agency specific statistics for the level of reported domestic violence in South Gloucestershire. Please note the period of time for which the figures apply, vary for each agency as a result of data collection methods.

South Gloucestershire Police, Domestic Abuse Investigations Team (DAIT)

The table below shows the monthly breakdown of reports of domestic violence to the South Gloucestershire DAIT. As 'domestic violence' itself is not a crime category, the offences reported in these figures are wide ranging, including for example: verbal arguments, Actual Bodily Harm

(ABH), Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), common assault, rape, sexual assault, criminal damage, witness intimidation, nuisance phone calls and harassment.

Table 1: Reported Domestic Violence to the Police DAIT Team in 2006

	Jan 2006	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2006	May 2006	Jun 2006	Jul 2006	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Nov 2006	Dec 2006
No. of DV reports	259	158	209	219	175	281	253	219	231	211	218	213
Total for 2006										2646		

Research estimates less than 40% of domestic violence is ever reported; in addition, the Police are the third most likely agency a victim will disclose to; with health agencies being the most popular, followed by the voluntary sector specialist services. So we could estimate that there are at least a further 6,000 incidents being reported every year in South Gloucestershire and thousands more victims suffering in silence.

Survive

The figures below outline the number of referrals for specialist domestic violence services received by Survive during the year April 2006 – March 2007, and the nature of the support provided.

- Survive received referrals from **435** women and families requiring their support
- **70** women were supported in refuge accommodation
- **60** women were supported through outreach and resettlement services
- **92** children and young people accessed specialist services
- **18** women engaged in the Freedom Programme (January-March 2007)
- **21** women engaged in the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) service (January – March 2007).

Department for Children and Young People, South Gloucestershire Council

The overlaps between domestic violence and child abuse are well documented (see Chapter 3 (3b) for more detail). Since April 1st 2006, of the 63 Child Protection Case Conferences held in South Gloucestershire, **21** (33%) had domestic violence recorded as an identified risk.

The links between child protection and domestic violence have recently gained strength, with the change in legislation; as a result South Gloucestershire will be improving their monitoring systems to make them more robust in identifying domestic violence as a contributory factor in child protection cases.

Housing Needs, South Gloucestershire Council

During the year April 2005 – March 2006 South Gloucestershire Council accepted 31 people as homeless as a result of partner domestic violence, and 5 as a result of domestic violence from an associated person. This equates to approximately 12% of total acceptances.

South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

In May 2006 South Gloucestershire became the first area in Avon and Somerset to establish Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), a best practice initiative supported by the Home Office. The MARACs are held on a four-weekly basis and are designed to identify and support the highest-risk cases of domestic violence in the area. A multi-agency risk conference is held, with representation from statutory and voluntary agencies in South Gloucestershire including:

- South Gloucestershire Police Domestic Abuse Investigations Team
- South Gloucestershire Council
 - Department for Children and Young People
 - Community Care and Housing Department
 - Housing Needs Department
- Survive
- Victim Support Avonvale
- Next Link
- South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust
- North Bristol NHS Trust
- Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health NHS Trust
- Merlin Housing Society
- Avon and Somerset Probation Service

Agencies share information they hold on the victim and any children, within strict information sharing protocols and the risks are assessed. A multi-agency action plan is then implemented to address issues such as immediate safety, housing, financial support, child protection issues, security, emotional and practical support etc.

Between May 2006 and April 2007, **61** cases were referred to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in South Gloucestershire. Cases referred to MARAC are done so because they have been assessed as 'high-risk' by the referring agency. The category 'high-risk' implies the victim is likely to be at risk of immediate and/or serious harm, injury or death. Of the 61 victims referred to MARAC between May 2006 and April 2007, **60** were female and 1 was male, who between them had a total of **110** children.

South Gloucestershire Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC)

In January 2007 South Gloucestershire established a Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) at North Avon Magistrates Court in Yate, South Gloucestershire. The South Gloucestershire SDVC operates on a cluster formation, whereby all domestic violence trials and remand cases are heard on a Wednesday, when two courtrooms are dedicated for this purpose. As part of the process of establishing the SDVC, a programme of specialist training was delivered to individuals from all agencies linked with the Criminal Justice System (CJS) including Victim Support, Witness Support, Witness Care Unit, Police, Probation and Crown Prosecution Service staff as well as Magistrates, court ushers and legal advisors.

In addition, a separate, secure witness suite has been established in an annexe of the Court to enable vulnerable victims and witnesses to enter the court via a separate entrance to the offender and their family – and to allow them to remain separately until appearing in court. The witness suite provides meeting rooms, comfortable waiting rooms, toilets, facilities for children, a kitchenette, and the witness service office. There is also a video link room, for those extremely vulnerable witnesses to provide their evidence to the court via a video link rather than appearing personally.

Survive were successful in obtaining funding to employ an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), who provides intensive support to high-risk victims of domestic violence, many of whom will be engaged in the criminal justice process. The IDVA has a close working relationship with relevant agencies, whilst retaining independence, in order to offer emotional and practical support to victims. This service is crucial to the successful delivery of the SDVC system, and a role very much advocated by the Home Office.

The SDVC is a best practice initiative supported by the Home Office, with the aim of increasing victim confidence in the CJS, increasing the number of victims and witnesses who support a criminal prosecution, increasing the number of perpetrators who are brought to justice and who subsequently receive appropriate support and rehabilitation.

“From then on, the beatings became part of everyday life, his moods were darker and he was bleeding me dry financially. I carried on standing up to him because I knew he'd never change. But he was almost like an addiction to me - he still has the power to make me fall to pieces, but now I know that he needs me more than I need him”.

Jane, A South Gloucestershire Survivor

References:

¹ Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic Violence, (2005) *Domestic Violence: A National Report*, HMSO: London

² Secretary of State for the Home Department, (2003) *Safety and Justice: The Government's Proposals on Domestic Violence – Executive Summary*, HMSO: London.

³ Home Office (1999) *Criminal Statistics*, HMSO: London

⁴ Stanko, B. (2000) *The Day to Count: A Snapshot of the impact of domestic violence in the UK*.

⁵ Walby, S. and Allen, J. (2004) *Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking: Findings from the British Crime Survey*, Home Office: London

⁶ Walby, S. (2004) *The Cost of Domestic Violence*, Women and Equality Unit & The Department for Trade and Industry: London.

2. The Cost of Domestic Violence¹

In 2004, Sylvia Walby of the University of Leeds conducted a piece of research into the costs of domestic violence. The research included domestic violence against both women and men. It did not include violence from family members who were not intimates. The three major types of costs included were:

1. Services largely funded by government:
 - Criminal Justice System
 - Health Care
 - Social Services
 - Housing
 - Civil Legal
2. Economic output losses, sustained by employers and employees.
3. Human and emotional costs, borne by the individual victim.

The costs are for one year for England and Wales, centred on 2001.

Criminal Justice System (CJS) = £1 billion

This is nearly one quarter of the total CJS budget for violent crime. The largest single component is that of the Police. Other components include: prosecution, courts, probation, prison, and legal aid.

Health Care

Physical Injuries = £1.2 billion

Physical injuries account for most of the NHS costs; these include costs to GPs and hospitals.

Mental health = £176 million

Mental health care is an important element of dealing with the effects of domestic violence.

Social Services = £0.25 billion

This is overwhelmingly for children rather than for adults, especially those caught up in the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse.

Housing = £1.6 billion

Expenditure on emergency housing includes costs to Local Housing Authorities (and other social landlords) for housing those homeless because of domestic violence; housing benefit for such emergency housing; and, importantly, refuges.

Civil Legal = £0.3 billion

About half of this cost is borne by legal aid, and half by the individual. This includes both specialist legal actions such as injunctions to restrain or expel a violent partner as well as actions consequent on the disentangling of marriages and relationships such as child custody and divorce.

Economic Output = £2.7 billion

This is the cost of time off work due to injuries. It is estimated that around half of the costs of such sickness absence is borne by the employer and half by the individual through lost wages.

Human and Emotional = £17 billion

Domestic violence leads to pain and suffering that is not counted in the cost of services. The methodology to estimate these costs is based on the public's 'willingness to pay' to avoid such trauma.

The Cost of Domestic Violence to South Gloucestershire:

Using the formula presented by Sylvia Walby, 2004 we can estimate the costs of domestic violence to South Gloucestershire services. These estimates account for domestic violence against both women and men, and do not include violence from family members who were not intimates. We have also inflated the costs by approx 2.3% to account for inflation.

Table 2: Annual Costs to South Gloucestershire Services (based on ONS mid-year population figures of 248,100):

Service	Estimated Cost
Criminal Justice System (mainly Police)	£ 5,254,300.00
Health Care (Physical)	£ 6,303,100.00
Mental Health	£ 909,300.00
Social Services	£ 1,177,900.00
Housing and Refuge	£ 816,300.00
Civil Legal	£ 1,611,900.00
Employment	£ 13,804,700.00
Human and Emotional	£ 88,273,800.00
TOTAL	£ 118, 151, 300.00

Cost of domestic violence services in South Gloucestershire

Survive is South Gloucestershire's main provider of outreach and resettlement services and the only provider of refuge accommodation; the total income received by Survive in 2005/2006 was £324,973.00; the table below outlines the origins of this income.

Table 3: Income received by Survive 2006/2007

Origin	% of Total Income
Supporting People	44%
Accommodation Charge	26%
South Gloucestershire Council	10%
Donations/Fundraising/Other	2%
Grants	18%

Considering the costs borne by agencies in responding to domestic violence, as outlined in table 2, it is our hope for both an increase in mainstreamed services and increased investment by statutory agencies in the invaluable work of the voluntary sector.

References

¹ Walby, S. (2004) *The cost of domestic violence*, Women and Equality Unit and Department for Trade and Industry: London.

3. Impacts and Consequences of Domestic Violence

3a. Victims/Survivors

“Every year around one hundred and fifty people, (120 women and 30 men) are killed by a current or former partner, and domestic violence affects the lives of thousands more. One in four women and one in six men will be a victim of domestic violence at some point in their lives...For too long, society has tolerated or ignored domestic violence.”¹

The impacts of domestic violence on victims/survivors can be convoluted, far-reaching and long lasting. Decisions about separating or remaining in the relationship are very complex and involve difficult and different types of issues, further complicated when children are involved.

“But while the broken bones, black eyes and bruises are the most obvious signs of the damage being done by domestic violence, the repercussions of these attacks go much deeper. Victims suffer on many levels. They live in a shadow of fear and lose the freedom to carry on their lives as they would choose”.²

Consequences of domestic violence can manifest themselves in many ways, examples of which are outlined below:

- **Physical** - isolation, injury, exhaustion, self-harm and death
- **Financial** - loss of income, home, possessions
- **Emotional** - living in fear of a partner or family member; agencies response; the unknown; our own and our children's safety; confusion and dilemmas; anxiety, guilt and self-blame; anger, loss of confidence and self-esteem and depression.
- **Social** - loss of opportunity, isolation, loss of employment, as well as homelessness.

It is frequently questioned as to why victims stay in abusive relationships, a question that can probably only be answered by each individual themselves. However answers frequently given include:

- Not recognising there is anything wrong with the behaviour exhibited towards them, certainly not that it is criminal
- Fear of further or more severe violence
- Not wanting to disrupt the children, and move them away from friends, family, school etc.
- Love for the perpetrator, perception that the violence will stop
- Unsure where support is available from
- Having no money in order to leave, or nowhere else to go
- Physical restraints e.g. being locked in the house / no transportation / isolation
- Scared of leaving social networks, pets, homes, material possessions

See also sections 3c Domestic violence and health, 3d Housing and 3f Employers and businesses for more information about the consequences and impact of domestic violence on victim/survivors.

3b. Children and Young People

*“...More worryingly, a recent survey by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) revealed that far too many of our young people are already being subjected to relationship abuse in teenage years. This illustrates that we still have much to do if we are to create a culture change that makes domestic violence socially unacceptable for the next generation”.*³

Children are frequently described as the ‘forgotten victims’ of domestic violence. They often know it is happening and even if they are not abused themselves they will be affected by living in an environment where someone they love is being repeatedly abused. Children who witness their parents being attacked are left severely traumatised by the experience and are also at much greater risk of being abused themselves; research suggests that the presence of children in a household is a recognised risk factor of increasing the likelihood of domestic violence towards women.⁴

Sometimes children have to leave home, leaving everything behind (clothes, toys, pets, family, friends and schools), without understanding why. This may be to go into a refuge or temporary accommodation such as bed and breakfast. Leaving home is not enough to guarantee safety; victims and their children may continue to be assaulted and abused; until they can feel absolutely safe, children continue to suffer.⁵

Children show distress in their own ways, depending on their age and developmental stage. They may have physical, emotional, learning, behavioural or developmental problems; they may become a victim of bullying or display bullying and anti-social behaviour themselves; their educational performance and achievement may also be affected. These symptoms can easily be misdiagnosed or wrongly assessed as illness, permanent learning difficulties or naughtiness.⁶

A child or young person experiencing domestic violence may be bullied at school and be less likely to tell anyone if ‘permission’ is not given to speak about such behaviour. For many pupils, the experience of domestic violence increases their risk of being bullied, as they may: abruptly change their location, leaving behind all their friends and other support networks; be unable to fully participate in school life due to restrictions imposed by the abuse; appear secretive about their home life; not allowed to socialise with other children and young people. These factors create a heightened risk of becoming a target of bullies.

Conversely, a child or young person experiencing domestic violence may become the bully at school as this may be the only environment in which they have ‘control’.⁷

There is little evidence to suggest that a child who experiences or witnesses' domestic abuse will grow up to be a perpetrator or to experience further abuse in adult life. Attitudes, however, can be affected by living with abuse. A recent study by the NSPCC and *Sugar* magazine highlighted:

- **31%** of girls hit regularly by their boyfriends have seen their parents hit each other.
- **11%** of girls who believe it is acceptable to be hit by a boyfriend have been hit by a parent.
- **20%** of teenage girls have been hit by a boyfriend.
- **33%** say cheating justifies violence.

Domestic Violence and Child Protection

Children witnessing domestic violence are likely to suffer emotional harm and show signs of deep distress, which can be long lasting. It is now recognised in law that witnessing domestic abuse is harmful to children; Section 120 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 amended the Children Act 1989 to make it clear that *"Significant Harm... includes the harm a child may suffer as a result of the witnessing the ill-treatment of another person"*.

The National Children's Home (NCH) Action for Children study (2002) found that children living with domestic violence frequently experienced direct physical and sexual assault and that 10% had witnessed their mother being sexually assaulted.

Abusers may involve children in the abuse in a range of ways, such as making them watch or encouraging them to be abusive themselves.

- **90%** of children living in violent households will be in the same or the next room when the violence occurs⁸.
- **70%** of children living in refuges have been abused by their father.⁹

There is an increasing tension around victims successfully supporting criminal action against their perpetrator, and then having to face them in the family courts to settle child contact arrangements. Research indicates that many women face ongoing emotional and psychological abuse by their perpetrator as a result of them manipulating contact arrangements, demanding contact, or by depriving the victim from seeing their children. We are keen to learn from pilots currently happening, how we can improve the service victims receive from the family courts, in particular to ensure that domestic violence is given the recognition it deserves during any contact proceedings, to prevent the possibility of continued victimisation and to appropriately protect vulnerable children.

3c. Domestic Violence and Health

*“The NHS has a particularly important role to play in tackling domestic violence. Not only because health professionals deal with injuries caused by domestic violence, but also because they are often a woman's first or only contact with a professional who could provide a lifeline to safety”.*¹⁰

Domestic Violence is a major cause of health problems for women; compared with male victims, women experience more serious physical and repeated assaults (approximately 90% of domestic violence is perpetrated by men against women¹¹). Female victims of domestic violence present frequently to health services requiring wide-ranging health interventions. They are likely to be admitted to hospital more often than non-abused women and are issued more prescriptions.

In the last few years it has been increasingly recognised by health professionals and the Department of Health that health services have a critical role in providing access to help and protection for abused women and children, and as a front line point of contact for many individuals who are experiencing domestic violence.

Domestic Violence: A Public Health Crisis?

*“For women aged 19-44, domestic violence is the leading cause of morbidity, greater than cancer, war and motor vehicle accidents”.*¹²

Victims of domestic violence visit Accident and Emergency Departments not just with injuries but with a wide range of other illnesses including chest pain and irritable bowel syndrome; 46% of abused women also suffer from anxiety and depression.¹³

The impacts of domestic abuse on a victim's health are great, including:

- Turning to drugs, alcohol or other substances in an attempt to cope with their situation
- Having increased problems at work due to increased time off, or inability to concentrate
- Becoming isolated from friends and family – important support networks
- Ability to parent is compromised

Pregnancy has been shown to be a time of extreme vulnerability; often domestic violence can begin or will worsen. For almost 30% of women who suffer from domestic violence in their lifetime, the first incident of violence occurred during pregnancy.¹⁴

Crossovers between domestic violence and health¹⁵:

- **75%** of domestic abuse will result in physical injury or mental health consequences for women

- More than **14%** of maternal deaths occur in women who have told their health professional that they are in an abusive relationship
- Abuse is more common in pregnant women than gestational diabetes or pre-eclampsia (both conditions for which pregnant women are routinely screened for)¹⁶
- Domestic abuse is the largest cause of morbidity in women aged 16-44 greater than war, cancer and road traffic collisions
- There are significant links between domestic abuse and mental health consequences / use of drugs and alcohol
- **20%** of women in England and Wales say they have been physically assaulted by a partner at some point.¹⁷
- It costs the NHS **£1.2 billion** every year to deal with the physical injuries of domestic violence alone

3d. Housing

*“For many victims, escaping domestic violence means leaving their home, possessions and financial security. They have an impossible choice between freedom in poverty or staying in an abusive relationship”.*¹⁸

Housing is one of the most crucial provisions for any individual, and in particular when supporting a victim of domestic violence. It can also be a very complex process to access the necessary support.

Many people, who flee violent households, will return usually more than once, in the hope their abuser will have changed. Temporary accommodation can vary from refuge, bed and breakfast, private rented, local authority temporary housing or staying with friends and family. Regrettably there are also a number of victims who will be unable to secure alternative temporary accommodation and who, as a result, will become homeless. Regardless of the type of accommodation, it can be unsettling; having left behind your possessions, friends, social support, children's schools and financial security. This is why it is so important that agencies working with victims of domestic violence are aware of the circumstances, emotional and practical, that they are living in.

Refuges constitute a most important source of emergency housing for women experiencing domestic violence. Not only do refuges provide a safe place to stay, but they also provide many additional support services such as emotional and practical assistance, support for children and young people and resettlement services. These services may also be offered to women living in the community and to former refuge residents as appropriate.

The process of setting up a new life can be daunting and fraught with practical difficulties, with which resettlement services may be of support. While there have been changes of policy designed to remove the violent partner, rather than the victim, these do not remove the need for emergency safe housing in a crisis situation. It is also crucial that in each situation, the victim has the opportunity to make their own choices about their needs and wishes.

Fifteen percent of those households that were accepted as homeless by Local Authorities in England and Wales 2001/2002, that is, 18,234 households, gave domestic violence as the reason for the loss of their last settled home. It is thought the figure is probably higher than this, but victims are more likely to give another reason to save embarrassment and questioning, or to explore other options of changing their accommodation, such as merely ending their tenancy and applying for a new one in their sole name.

A survey carried out by Women's Aid Federation England, found that on one day, February 8th 2000¹⁹:

- 2,256 women were living in refuges.
- 3,055 children were living in refuges.

Of these women:

- 940 had been accepted as homeless
- 610 had applied to be considered as homeless and were waiting for a decision
- 72% had children or were pregnant
- 46% of the children were under 5 years old.

3e. Communities

Despite the frequent attitude that domestic violence is a private issue, which should be kept behind closed doors, it is indeed an issue that wider communities should be taking a stand against.

Domestic violence is vastly underreported, and therefore any opportunities that can be made available for victims to talk about their experiences and seek help, are vital. The links between domestic violence and children have been briefly documented above; one issue of paramount importance to communities is the rise in anti-social behaviour. In order to address such behaviours it is important to seek out the root causes and in many cases unfortunately domestic violence is a factor in the lives of the person displaying anti-social behaviour, whether they are children living in violent households, or indeed if it is the domestic violence itself that is considered an anti-social behaviour by neighbours.

Communities can support awareness campaigns and host support groups for victims of domestic violence who already live in the community or who may have moved there in the process of fleeing an abusive relationship. Making posters and leaflets available with sources of help and support are essential. It is also a matter of shifting attitudes, to encourage communities to be intolerant of domestic violence and report any acts of violence they witness.

The Home Office in 2007, ran a second year of a month of action to tackle domestic violence, under the heading of '*Enough*'; the campaign promotes third party reporting in domestic violence situations, in order to take the responsibility away from the victim, who may face further harm or risk when reporting.

3f. Employers/Businesses

Domestic violence reduces a person's capacities and capabilities in many ways, one of which is the ability to work. This may include: lost days of employment as a result of injuries, fear, anxiety, time spent seeking help and seeing doctors and lawyers; lost productivity and promotion as a result of working beneath potential as a result of injuries, fear, anxiety; lost jobs as a result of poor work performance and of the need to move locality in order to escape a violent partner or former partner²⁰.

Employment losses affect the individual victim, the employer, the government and society more generally. While the individual loses income, promotion and jobs; the employer faces the costs of days taken off sick; lower productivity because of poor concentration and possible disruption of a violent partner at work; the costs of recruitment and re-training if a person leaves their job. The government loses tax revenue, from national insurance and income tax. Society as a whole loses when the UK economy loses productivity and output from victims of domestic violence²¹.

Domestic violence may prevent people working because injuries, both physical and mental, lead to persistent absences that employers may not tolerate. Repeated acts of domestic violence can remove someone from employment altogether, leaving them either unemployed or economically 'inactive'. The 2001 British Crime Survey of interpersonal violence found that 2% of women and men who had been employed and suffered domestic violence lost their jobs as a result of the violence.

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4. Partnerships

“Domestic violence is a priority across government. Dealing with its effects and trying to alleviate the problem require a multi-agency approach – no one agency has all the answers. But by working together, central and local government, criminal justice agencies, voluntary sector organisations and the NHS have a greater chance of meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence”.¹

South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Partnership

South Gloucestershire boasts a partnership of many agencies and individuals who support and drive the tackling domestic violence agenda in the district. Pivotal to the partnership is the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum; however it is important to acknowledge that they do not work exclusively, as not all agencies have the capacity to commit the time to the Forum.

The wider partnership contribution has been vital in particular in establishing the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and Specialist Domestic Violence Courts in South Gloucestershire.

The partnership that has contributed to and will deliver this Strategy and Action Plan has been recognised in the signature list. (Partnership Structure Diagrams can be found at Appendix 1 and 2).

South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum

The South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum (SGDVF) was formed in 1996 in response to a growing awareness of the impact of domestic violence on our society and now boasts a membership of over 60 individuals, and approximately 30 agencies. The SGDVF has operated under various structures since 1996, with the latest reorganisation establishing six Specialist Groups, with the aim of introducing three additional Specialist Groups (see below in italics) with the launch of this Strategy:

- Children and Young People's Group
- Adult Support Group
- Training Group
- Communications Group
- MARAC Steering Group
- SDVC Operational Group
- *Health Group*
- *Perpetrators Group*
- *Justice Group*

The South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum has recently established a Strategic Executive, with the objective to oversee and support the work of the Specialist Groups and the

Domestic Violence Forum in delivering this Strategy and Action Plan, and to improve links with other Strategic Partnerships and organisations, for example:

- South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Committee
- South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board
- South Gloucestershire Corporate Equalities Forum
- Town and Parish Councils
- Partnership Against Hate Crime
- South Gloucestershire Drug and Alcohol Service
- Local Criminal Justice Board
- Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership
- South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust
- Survive
- Victim Support AvonVale
- South Gloucestershire Police District
- Her Majesty's Court Service
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Avon and Somerset Probation Service

The Domestic Violence Forum is in the process of nominating and electing an Independent Chair for the Domestic Violence Strategic Executive, to ensure that decision making is fair and all processes are transparent.

The structure of the Forum and its committees is reviewed annually, and is focused on facilitating the delivery of this Strategy and its Action Plans. (A structure diagram for the SGDVF can be found in Appendix 2).

Signatory Agencies

Information on all of the signatory agencies can be found at the following website addresses or visit www.safersouthglos.org.uk/domesticviolence.

South Gloucestershire Council www.southglos.gov.uk

Safer South Gloucestershire www.safersouthglos.org.uk

Avon & Somerset Constabulary www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust www.southglos-pct.nhs.uk

Safeguarding Children Board www.swcpp.org.uk - click on South Gloucestershire

Survive www.survivedv.org.uk

Victim Support www.victimsupport.org.uk/avonvale

Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum www.bdaf.org.uk

North Bristol NHS Trust www.nbt.nhs.uk

South Gloucestershire Youth Offending Team www.southgloucestershireyot.org.uk

Crown Prosecution Service www.cps.gov.uk

Avon & Somerset Probation Service www.aspa-online.org.uk

Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) www.hmcs.gov.uk

Avon & Somerset Criminal Justice Board www.lcjb.cjsonline.gov.uk/avonandsomerset

Child and Family Court Advisory & Support Service (CAFCASS) www.cafcass.org.uk

Avon Fire & Rescue Service www.avonfire.gov.uk/avon

Connexions www.connexionswest.org.uk

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership www.awp.nhs.uk

South Gloucestershire Drug & Alcohol Service www.saferouthglos.org.uk

The Care Forum www.thecareforum.org

Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) <http://communities.southglos.gov.uk/sites/cvs>

Commission for Social Care Inspectorate (CSCI) www.csci.org.uk

Merlin Housing Society www.merlinhs.co.uk

University of the West of England (UWE) www.uwe.ac.uk

Support Against Racist Incidents (SARI) www.sariweb.org.uk

Educational Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH) www.eachaction.org.uk/

References

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Everyone's Business

South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence

Action Plan 2007-2010

Introduction to Action Plans

The following Action Plans provide a broad overview of the priorities identified to tackle domestic violence across South Gloucestershire over the next three years. They have been broken down into four categories:

- Victim and Survivors
- Children and Young People
- Perpetrators
- Strategic Partnerships

Each section in turn is then tackled under the headings 'Prevention', 'Protection' and 'Provision'. Excluding the Strategic partnerships section, this merely addresses partnership working.

The overarching Aims and SMART targets outlined at the beginning of each section will be met through the implementation of the objectives documented in the Action Plans. Given the complex nature of domestic violence we do acknowledge that many of the objectives will contribute to meeting the aims and SMART targets throughout the document, they are not restricted by sections.

The following Action Plans have been kept deliberately broad to cover a three year period. This will enable the development of implementation plans to cover the more detailed tasks needed to meet these objectives. Implementation plans will be determined on an annual basis, in line with agency and national priorities and funding capacity. Implementation Plans will be produced by the appropriate agencies and Specialist Groups of the Domestic Violence Forum and will be monitored and reported upon accordingly. A template Implementation Plan can be seen in Appendix 4.

When the term 'Safer South Gloucestershire' or SSG is used within the Action Plans, this may also refer to various voluntary agencies commissioned through Safer South Gloucestershire – particularly those involved with the delivery of drug and alcohol treatment including:

- Addiction Recovery Agency (ARA)
- Battle Against Tranquilisers (BAT)
- Bristol Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services
- Drugs and Homeless Initiative (DHI)
- Nilaari
- Progress2work

- The Robert Smith Unit
- South Gloucestershire Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service
- Walsingham House

1. Victims and/or Survivors

Policy Context

- **Crime and Disorder Act, 1998**
- **Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act, 2004**

The provisions of this Act include:

 - Making common assault an arrestable offence.
 - Giving the Police the Power of Arrest, taking the responsibility away from the victim.
 - Making a breach of a non-molestation order an arrestable offence.
 - The provision of a victim's fund.
 - Provision of Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews.
- **Safety and Justice: The Government's Proposals on Domestic Violence, 2003**

This outlines the Government's proposals to help prevent domestic violence, improve support and protection for victims and bring more perpetrators to justice. It builds on the domestic violence proposals outlined in *Justice for All* White Paper in 2002. The Government's strategy for tackling domestic violence is focused on three elements:

 - **Prevention** – working to prevent it happening in the first place, and working with victims and offenders to prevent it recurring.
 - **Protection and Justice** – increased legal protection for victims and their families.
 - **Support** – for victims to rebuild their lives.
- **South Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement 2006/2009**
 - To target health promotion activity at individuals with high health need.
 - To improve adult mental health
 - To reduce crime, the harm caused by drugs and alcohol and to reassure the public by reducing the fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and by improving safety in homes and public spaces.
 - To improve the quality of life for those people and communities in the greatest need, through targeted service delivery.
- **South Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement Stretch Targets 2007/2010**
 - Decrease the harm to individuals and society caused by alcohol misuse by increasing the provision of structured alcohol treatment available to South Gloucestershire residents.
 - Reduction in the numbers of people at risk of financial exclusion.
 - Reduction in violent crime
- **Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) 225 – Actions Against Domestic Violence**
 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 10,000 population?
 3. Does the local authority employ directly or fund a voluntary sector-based domestic violence coordinator?
 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 year by that local authority as a result of domestic violence.

- **Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier, 2004 – White Paper on Public Health**

This White paper established three core principles to a new public health approach: Informed Choice – allowing people to make decisions about choices; Personalisation – tailoring support to the reality of individual lives and Working Together – progress is dependent on effective partnership working across agencies.

- **Tackling Sexual Violence: A Cross-Government Action Plan, 2006**

A Cross-Government Action Plan and Guidance for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) on identifying and tackling all types of Sexual Violence, including sexual abuse within a domestic violence context.

- **South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Committee: Joint Police and procedures for Safeguarding Adults from Abuse, 2007**

Aims and Targets for Victims and/or Survivors

Outlined below are the overarching aims of the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Strategy Action Plan in relation to Victims and / or Survivors.

2A. Prevention

Aim: To promote an understanding of the causes, consequences and dynamics of domestic violence and appropriate responses.

SMART Targets:

- To increase the average number of referrals, in a calendar year, into South Gloucestershire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) by 150% from a baseline average of 4.7 referrals per MARAC (from May 2006 - March 2007 - 12 MARACs) by 2010.
- To increase reports of domestic violence made to the Police Domestic Abuse Investigations Team (DAIT) by 15% over three years (2007-2010) from the baseline of 2696 reports in 2006/2007.

	2006/2007 BASELINE	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	Total increase
Total Reports	2696	2831	2966	3100	15%
Increased number of reports		135	135	134	404

**For the purposes of this Strategy, we have chosen to use the reporting figures from the Domestic Abuse Investigations Team, rather than the official figures from Police Head Quarters in order to ensure as much reporting is captured as possible, and to reflect reports of domestic violence by people under 18 years of age (as per the South Gloucestershire definition of domestic violence).*

- To ensure that three one-day multi-agency domestic violence training courses are provided annually over three years (in addition to agency-specific training also delivered). Training courses should include information about the dynamics, causes and consequences of domestic violence and 45 people should be trained.

**The figure of 45 people is based on evaluations from previous courses, which suggest no more than 15 people should attend each course, as the issues covered are emotive and therefore support may need to be offered to attendees.*

All Objectives contained in section 2A of the action plan will contribute to the SMART targets and aim outlined above.

2B. Protection

Aim: To promote swift and effective safeguarding measures to limit the harmful effects of domestic violence.

SMART Targets:

- To maintain the number of MARAC victims not experiencing repeat incidents of domestic violence post MARAC, at 70% on a rolling year.

**After one year of MARAC 72% of cases heard had not experienced a repeat incident post MARAC. Please note for some cases this indicates a period of 12 months violence free, for others it may only be a month, depending on when the case was first heard.*

All actions contained in section 2B of the action plan will contribute to the SMART targets and aim outlined above.

2C. Provision

Aim: To provide, improve and develop appropriate and effective services for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

SMART Targets:

- To conduct one multi-agency 24hour Snapshot of domestic violence in South Gloucestershire annually from 2007-2010. This will identify trends in reporting and patterns of domestic violence, and the resulting demands on agencies. Subsequent recommendations will be made within 3 months of the Snapshot.
- To increase the number of women, children and young people accessing refuge accommodation, outreach and resettlement services through Survive by 25% over three years from the 2006/2007 baseline of 256.

	2006/2007 BASELINE	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	Total increase
Total service users	256	277	298	320	25%

- To support a reduction in the percentage of all domestic violence prosecutions where the victim retracts to 17% of all domestic violence prosecutions by 2009/2010 - from the baseline of 32% in 2006/2007.

**Please note the above baseline was calculated using data from the Crown Prosecution Service for Quarter 3 of 2006/2007, to generate an estimated annual retraction rate. More accurate baselines will be established during 2007/2008 using new data collection systems implemented in April 2007.*

	2006/2007 BASELINE	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	Total reduction
Total Retractions	32%	27%	22%	17%	15%

All actions contained in section 2C of the action plan will contribute to the SMART targets and aim outlined above.

1. Victim / Survivor Action Plan					
Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Group Action Holder	Responsible Agency
1A. Prevention	<p>AIM: Promote an understanding of the causes, consequences and dynamics of domestic violence and appropriate responses.</p> <p>SMART TARGETS:</p> <p>To increase the average number of referrals, in a calendar year, into South Gloucestershire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) by 150% from a baseline average of 4.7 referrals per MARAC (from May 2006 - March 2007 - 12 MARACs) by 2010.</p> <p>To increase reports of domestic violence made to the Police Domestic Abuse Investigations Team (DAIT) by 15% over three years (2007-2010) from the baseline of 2696 reports in 2006/2007.</p>	<p>1A1. Identify need, develop and circulate appropriate and accessible information about services available in South Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>Information for victim/survivors will be accessible to all.</p> <p>There will be an increase in earlier reporting by victim/survivors preventing serious harm associated with repeat victimisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Communication o Adult Support o CYP o Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Safer South Glos o ALL Signatory Agencies.
		<p>1A2. Co-ordinate and implement effective, accessible communications and publicity to advertise services and projects within South Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>An increase in reporting of DV/A both by victim/survivors and third parties.</p> <p>Adoption of zero-tolerance attitudes towards DV – resulting in more support for victims and their families, an increase in perpetrators being brought to justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Communication o Strategic Exec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All signatory agencies.
		<p>1A3. Ensure the provision of effective and accessible training for agencies / professionals and staff working with survivors of domestic violence.</p>	<p>Implementation of effective and safe interventions in South Gloucestershire, and an increase in enquiry about domestic violence by statutory and voluntary agencies. In turn reducing the harm suffered by victims and their children and earlier more timely interventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Training o Health o Adult Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All signatory agencies.

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Group Action Holder	Responsible Agency
	<p>SMART Targets cont....</p> <p>To ensure that six one-day multi-agency domestic violence training courses are provided annually over three years. Training courses should include information about the dynamics, causes and consequences of domestic violence and 90 people should be trained</p>	<p>1A4. Develop and support the role of employers and businesses in identifying and supporting individuals experiencing domestic violence.</p>	<p>Developments in the understanding of the impact of domestic violence for employers and business, leading to appropriate and effective responses to support victim/survivors and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec ○ Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG ○ ALL Signatory Agencies.
		<p>1A5. Advocate the implementation of routine / selective enquiry about domestic violence (including FGM and Honour Crimes amongst appropriate professionals, using robust risk assessments and supported by adequate training and protocols.</p>	<p>Victims of domestic violence, previously unknown to agencies will be identified earlier, and appropriate support can be offered. Preventing serious harm associated with repeat victimisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec ○ Training ○ Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG ○ SG PCT ○ NBT ○ SG Council ○ RSLs
		<p>1A6. To promote the inclusion of domestic violence awareness within the training of key professionals (including health practitioners and teachers) at all operational and strategic levels.</p>	<p>Key professionals will be equipped with information about domestic violence for use in the workplace, to identify and appropriately support victim/survivors and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec ○ Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ALL signatory agencies.

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Group Action Holder	Responsible Agency
1B. Protection	AIM: To promote swift and effective safeguarding measures to limit the harmful effects of domestic violence.	1B1. Maintain participation in and monitoring / evaluation of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) in South Gloucestershire.	High-Risk victims of domestic violence will be given enhanced support and safeguarding, to prevent repeat victimisation and reduce risks of homicide/suicide and serious injury / harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Strategic Exec o MARAC Steering Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o ALL signatory agencies (as appropriate).
	SMART TARGETS: To maintain the number of MARAC victims not experiencing repeat incidents of domestic violence post MARAC, at 70% on a rolling year.	1B2. Maintain, develop and promote appropriate provision of target hardening and Sanctuary Schemes for victims of domestic violence living in South Gloucestershire, in line with robust risk assessments and protocols.	To provide the necessary security and support to victim/survivors and their families including creating the choice of staying in their own homes if appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Adult Support o Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Safer South Glos o A&S Police o SG Council o RSLs o Survive o Victim Support o Next Link
		1B3. To promote and implement available Police procedures and powers - following best practice guidelines and reflecting Avon & Somerset Constabulary and ACPO policies - to protect victim/survivors of domestic violence and their families and offer them comprehensive choices for safety and protection.	To ensure that the various powers available to the Police are offered as appropriate – including provisions covered by the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act (2004) and use of Victim personal Statements etc. In turn ensuring as many choices / options for safety are offered to victims/survivors of domestic violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Strategic o Adult Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A&S Police

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Group Action Holder	Responsible Agency
		<p>1B4. Develop, promote and monitor the access to various housing options for victim/survivors of domestic violence.</p>	<p>To establish demand and increase the capacity to meet the need for emergency and refuge accommodation and the implementation of protective clauses in Tenancy Agreements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec ○ Adult Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survive ○ RSLs ○ Safer SG
		<p>1B5. Advocate the implementation of appropriate risk assessments, needs assessments and safety planning within agencies working with victim/survivors of domestic violence.</p>	<p>To ensure that risks posed to victim/survivors and workers are paramount at all times, and that appropriate needs assessments and safety plans are implemented to combat any risks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adult Support ○ Health ○ Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies.
		<p>1B6. To implement and advocate the good practice of appropriate information sharing within and between agencies, in line with protocols, confidentiality and data protection.</p>	<p>To understand that different agencies hold snapshots of information and by sharing the picture of risk is more complete. Safe information sharing also prevents victim/survivors having to repeat their stories to lots of agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adult Support ○ Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies.
		<p>1B7. To ensure strategic and operational links with relevant bodies, in tackling domestic violence and supporting victim/survivors. In particular vulnerable adults.</p>	<p>To ensure a joined up approach across South Gloucestershire to understanding and addressing the dynamics and consequences of domestic violence, and providing appropriate support to victim/survivors and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Execu ○ Adult Support ○ Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safeguarding Adults Committee ○ SG PCT ○ SG Council ○ NBT ○ AWP

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Group Action Holder	Responsible Agency
1C. Provision	<p>AIM: To provide, improve and develop appropriate and effective services for victims and survivors of domestic violence.</p> <p>SMART TARGETS:</p>	<p>1C1. Provision of specialist support services including refuge, one-to-one outreach, resettlement and Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy to victims of domestic violence in the community.</p>	<p>To provide appropriate emotional and practical support to enable victims of domestic violence to live their lives free from violence and fear.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adult Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survive ○ Next Link ○ Victim Support
	<p>To conduct one multi-agency 24hour Snapshot of domestic violence in South Gloucestershire annually from 2007-2010. This will identify trends in reporting and patterns of domestic violence, and the resulting demands on agencies. Subsequent recommendations will be made within 3 months of the Snapshot.</p>	<p>1C2. Provision of group based services that enable peer support and education in line with best practice.</p>	<p>To provide education and support about the dynamics of domestic violence, to prevent repeat victimisation and offer support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adult Support ○ Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survive ○ SG PCT ○ CVS
	<p>To increase the number of women, children and young people accessing refuge accommodation, outreach and resettlement services through Survive by 25% over three years from the 2006/2007 baseline of 256.</p>	<p>1C3. Specialist health service support to families living in refuge in South Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>To provide consistency of health support for families living in refuge, in particular C&YP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adult Support ○ Health ○ C&YP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survive ○ SG PCT
		<p>1C4. Provision of support for victims of domestic violence who misuse drugs / alcohol.</p>	<p>To enable victim/survivors with complex needs to safely access appropriate practical and emotional support to move towards a life free from violence and the fear of violence., whilst meeting any needs relating to their substance misuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adult Support ○ Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survive ○ Victim Support ○ Next Link ○ The Care Forum ○ Safer SG ○ SG PCT ○ AWP

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Group Action Holder	Responsible Agency
	<p>SMART TARGETS cont:</p> <p>To support a reduction in the percentage of all domestic violence prosecutions where the victim retracts to 17% of all domestic violence prosecutions by 2009/2010 - from the baseline of 32% in 2006/2007.</p>	<p>1C5. Development and monitoring of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) @ North Avon Magistrates Court (NAMC).</p>	<p>To increase domestic violence victims' confidence in the CJS, placing their needs at the heart of the process and reducing the number of victims who retract their statements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic ○ SDVC Steering Group. ○ SDVC Operational Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG ○ A&S Police ○ A&S Probation ○ Survive ○ Victim Support ○ Witness Care Unit ○ CPS ○ HMCS

2. Children and Young People

“For most parents, our children are everything to us: our hopes, our ambitions, and our future. Our children are cherished and loved. But sadly, some children are not so fortunate. Some children's lives are different. Dreadfully different. Instead of the joy, warmth and security of normal family life, these children's lives are filled with risk, fear, and danger: and from what most of us would regard as the worst possible source – from the people closest to them”.¹

Policy Context

- **South Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement, 2006/2009**
 - To improve the health of children and young people
 - Early interventions to improve the outcomes for children and young people in geographical areas of greatest need
 - To raise standards of achievement in 14-19 year olds
- **South Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement Stretch Targets, 2007/2010**
 - Reduce anti-social behaviour through the timely use of early interventions such as case conferences and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs).
- **Every Child Matters: Change for Children (2003)**

The aim outlined in this Government Green Paper is to ensure that every child has the chance to fulfil their potential by reducing levels of educational failure, ill health, substance misuse, teenage pregnancy, abuse and neglect, crime and anti-social behaviour among children and young people. The five outcomes, which mattered most to children and young people and which structure the Every Child Matters agenda are:

 - **Being Healthy** – enjoying good physical and mental health and living a health lifestyle.
 - **Staying Safe** – being protected from harm and neglect.
 - **Enjoying and Achieving** – getting the most out of life and developing the skills for adulthood.
 - **Making a Positive Contribution** – being involved with the community and society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour.
 - **Economic Well-Being** – not being prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life.
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2006**

Working Together sets out the governments expectations on how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Agency specific points include:
Schools and further education institutions under the Education Act 2002, and the Children Act 1989 have a duty to:

 - Identify where there are child welfare concerns and take action to address them in partnership with other organisations where appropriate.
 - In making children and young people aware of behaviour towards them that is not acceptable, and of how to keep themselves safe.

- **Children and Adoption Act, 2002 – Amendment to the Children Act, 1989.**
This outlines that the definition of 'harm' to a child "includes the witnessing of the ill treatment of another person".
- **Department for Education and Skills - Social Inclusion: Pupil Support – Circular No. 10/99.**
This document gives schools guidance to assist them in reducing the risk of disaffection amongst pupils.
- **Department for Education and Skills – National Healthy Schools Status (2005).**
A Healthy School promotes the health and well-being of its pupils and staff through a well planned, taught curriculum in a physical and emotional environment that promotes learning and healthy lifestyle choices. The National Healthy Schools programme National Audit provides the following criteria for healthy Schools Status that is highly relevant to identifying and appropriately responding to domestic violence:
 - 1.5 has up-to-date policies in place developed through wide consultation, implemented and monitored and evaluated for impact – covering Sex and Relationship Education, Drug Education and Incidents, Safeguarding and Confidentiality.
 - 1.7 involves professionals from appropriate external agencies to create specialist teams to support PSHE delivery and to improve skills and knowledge, such as a school nurse, sexual health outreach workers and drug education advisors.
 - 1.8 Has arrangements in place to refer children/young people to specialist services who can give professional advice on matters such as contraception, sexual health and drugs.
 - 1.9 Uses local data and information to inform activities and support important national priorities such as reducing teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and drug/alcohol misuse.
 - 1.10 Ensures provision of appropriate PSHE professional development opportunities for staff – such as the Certification Programmes for teachers and nurses offered by DH/DfES
 - 4.1 Identifies vulnerable individuals and groups and establishes appropriate strategies to support them and their families.
 - 4.2 Provides clear leadership to create and manage a positive environment which enhances emotional health and well-being in school –including the management of behaviour and rewards policies.
 - Has clear, planned curriculum opportunities for children and young people to understand and explore feelings using appropriate learning and teaching styles.
 - Has a confidential pastoral support system in place for children/young people and staff to access advice – especially at times of bereavement and other major life changes – and that system actively works to combat stigma and discrimination.
 - 4.5 To have explicit values underpinning positive emotional health which are reflected in practice and work to combat stigma and discrimination.
 - 4.6 To have a clear policy on bullying, which is owned, understood and implemented by the whole school community.
 - 4.7 Provides appropriate professional training for those in a pastoral role.
 - 4.8 Provides opportunities for children and young people to participate in school activities and responsibilities to build their confidence and self-esteem.
 - 4.9 Has a clear confidentiality policy.

- **The National Curriculum (PSHE and Citizenship).**

This is a non-statutory framework, providing schools with options to develop innovative preventative work with pupils. The programme of study gives pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to:

- Recognise and manage risks in different situations and then decide how to behave responsibly.
- Judge what kind of physical contact is acceptable and unacceptable.
- Recognise when pressure from others (including people they know) threatens their personal safety and wellbeing and develop effective ways of resisting pressure.

- **Respect Action Plan, 2005 (www.respect.gov.uk)**

The Respect Action Plan represents the cross-Government commitment and strategy for tackling anti-social behaviour and its causes. The agenda acknowledges the issues of unstable homes, and lack of capacity to parent among the possible causes for various manifestations of anti-social behaviour: *Poor parenting, lack of parental supervision and weak parent/child relationships all increase the risk of anti-social behaviour. The case for supporting parents of vulnerable children and teenagers earlier is strong: it improves outcomes for children and families; it improves outcomes for communities; and it represents good value for money.* It is therefore logical and indeed crucial to ensure the two agendas are entwined.

- **South Gloucestershire Children and Young People Plan 2006 – 2009:**

Describes the shared vision to transform the way agencies in South Gloucestershire support children and young people. Working closely with parents and carers the document outlines how South Gloucestershire aims to ensure their approach helps to promote the changes that will make a positive difference to ensure all children and young people have the best possible start in life. The vision set out in this document links closely with the tackling domestic violence agenda and highlights their commitment that South Gloucestershire children and young people have a right to a life in which they:

- Enjoy the best possible physical and mental health and live a healthy lifestyle.
- Have equality of opportunity.
- Are given encouragement and opportunities to learn, develop, enjoy and achieve both inside and outside school.
- Are protected from harm and neglect and feel safe both at and outside of home and school.
- Are supported by their parents and carers and their peers.
- Are encouraged to play a full part in their communities and behave in a socially responsible manner.

- **Business Plan of the South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board 2007/2008:**

This Business Plan is aligned to the stay safe outcomes in the Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009. Priorities within this document that overlap with the tackling domestic violence agenda include:

- To monitor re-registrations to the Child Protection Register and seek to address the underlying causation of this trend.
- To ensure Child Death Review Panel is set up and functioning as required by statute.
- To contribute to initiatives decrease the incidents of domestic violence whilst safeguarding those children affected by it.
- To co-ordinate action across agencies, including schools, to improve awareness of and understanding of bullying and strengthen strategies to address it.

- Reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and racial harassment involving young people.

- **Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) 225 – Actions Against Domestic Violence**
 9. Has the local authority funded and developed a domestic violence education pack in consultation with the wider domestic violence forum?

Aims and Targets for Children and Young People

Outlined below are the overarching aims of the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Strategy Action Plan in relation to Children and Young People.

1A. Prevention

Aim: To promote healthy attitudes and relationships in children and young people.

SMART Target:

- To develop and deliver 3 training events annually over three years to agencies working with children and young people. Training should cover identifying domestic violence and appropriate responses, and 60 people per year should be trained.
- To develop and circulate at least one appropriate information resource and one specialist support service (based on identified need) for children and young people, in consultation with C&YP by 2010.

1B. Protection

Aim: To safeguard children from the harmful effects of domestic violence.

SMART Target:

- To deliver three two-day multi-agency domestic violence and child protection training courses annually over three years, to train at least 60 individuals working with children and young people.
- To develop and implement a robust monitoring system to indicate the number of Child Protection Case Conferences with any element of domestic violence as a contributory factor by 2010.

1C. Provision

Aim: To provide, improve and develop appropriate and effective services for children and young people affected by domestic violence.

SMART Target:

- To develop and implement a robust monitoring system to explore the existence of links between domestic violence, attendance at school and anti-social behaviour, by the end of 2010.

References

¹ Prime Minister Tony Blair (2003) *Foreword in Every Child Matters, Change for Children*, DfEs: London

2. Children & Young People Action Plan

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Action Holder	Responsible Agency
2A. Prevention	<p>AIM: To promote healthy attitudes and relationships in children and young people.</p> <p>SMART TARGETS:</p> <p>To develop and deliver 3 training events annually over three years to agencies working with children and young people. Training should cover identifying domestic violence and appropriate responses, and 60 people per year should be trained.</p>	<p>2A1. Identify need, develop and circulate appropriate and accessible information about services available in South Gloucestershire.</p>	C&YP experiencing domestic violence will be able to access information and seek support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C&YP ○ Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG ○ Survive ○ SG Council ○ SG PCT
		<p>2A2. Co-ordinate and implement effective communication and publicity to advertise services and projects within South Gloucestershire.</p>	To raise awareness of domestic violence and the message that abusive behaviour should not be tolerated – promoting healthy relationships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C&YP ○ Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG
		<p>2A3. To advocate and support the inclusion of domestic violence awareness in schools and community settings in South Gloucestershire.</p>	To promote healthy attitudes and relationships in C&YP, and to identify and offer appropriate support to C&YP experiencing domestic violence. To complement exiting PSHME and Citizenship curriculum requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C&YP ○ Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG Council ○ Connexions ○ Safer SG ○ Survive
		<p>2A4. Ensure the provision of education/training in schools and other relevant groups that promotes healthy relationships</p>	To support professionals with the promotion of healthy relationships amongst C&YP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training ○ C&YP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG Council ○ Safer SG ○ Connexions ○ LSCB ○ SG PCT ○ Survive

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Action Holder	Responsible Agency
	<p>SMART targets cont...</p> <p>To develop and circulate at least one appropriate information resource and one specialist support service (based on identified need) for children and young people, in consultation with C&YP by 2010.</p>	<p>2A5. To explore the interest in and implement a 'Youth Group' to the Domestic Violence Forum.</p>	<p>To offer an opportunity for C&YP to consult and advise on responding to domestic violence and service development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec ○ C&YP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG ○ Connexions ○ Youth Service ○ SG Council ○ Survive
		<p>2A6. To improve multi-agency processes and preventative approaches to more effectively safeguard children from abuse or neglect.</p>	<p>Ensures that safeguarding of children living with domestic violence is inherent in multi-agency work, resulting in more effective and timely responses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec ○ C&YP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG ○ SG Council ○ LSCB ○ Survive

<p>2B. Protection</p>	<p>AIM: To safeguard children from the harmful effects of domestic violence.</p> <p>SMART TARGETS:</p> <p>To deliver three two-day multi-agency domestic violence and child protection training courses annually over three years, to train at least 60 individuals working with children and young people.</p>	<p>2B1. Ensure the provision of training and monitoring of those trained to facilitate the early detection of domestic violence in order to minimise the impacts on C&YP.</p>	<p>Key professionals will be equipped with the tools to identify and ask C&YP about domestic violence, and will feel confident to respond or signpost appropriately.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training ○ C&YP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG Council ○ Connexions ○ Safer SG ○ LSCB ○ SG PCT
		<p>2B2. Implementation of multi-agency policies and procedures to ensure the safeguarding of children experiencing domestic violence.</p>	<p>Ensures that C&YP living with domestic violence are appropriately and swiftly safeguarded from harm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C&YP ○ Strategic Exec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies ○ LSCB ○ SG PCT
		<p>2B3. Ensure the provision of training to facilitate the identification of domestic violence as a child protection issue and proportionate responses.</p>	<p>Ensures that agencies fulfil their responsibility to safeguard children from harm, acknowledging the impact experiencing domestic violence can have on the wellbeing of C&YP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training ○ C&YP ○ Strategic Exec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LSCB ○ All signatory agencies

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Action Holder	Responsible Agency
	<p>SMART Target cont...</p> <p>To develop and implement a robust monitoring system to indicate the number of Child Protection Case Conferences with any element of domestic violence as a contributory factor by 2010.</p>	<p>2B4. To implement and advocate the good practice of appropriate information sharing within and between agencies, in line with protocols, confidentiality and data protection. Including appropriate referrals to MARAC.</p>	<p>Ensures any child protection issues or domestic violence is identified and appropriately responded to in a timely, professional and sensitive manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec ○ C&YP ○ Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies.
		<p>2B5. Advocate the implementation of appropriate risk assessments, needs assessments and safety planning within agencies working with C&YP and families experiencing domestic violence. Including appropriate referrals to MARAC.</p>	<p>Ensures that risks posed to C&YP, families and workers are paramount at all times, and that appropriate needs assessments and safety plans are implemented to combat any risks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C&YP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies.
		<p>2B6. Advocate training and support with key professionals and parents/carers to Improve the physical safety of children and young people in terms of preventable or unintentional injury.</p>	<p>Minimises serious harm and injury amongst children and young people living in domestic violence households.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec ○ C&YP ○ Health ○ Adult Support ○ MARAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All Signatory agencies.
<p>2C. Provision</p>	<p>AIM: To provide, improve and develop appropriate and effective services for children and young people affected by domestic violence.</p>	<p>2C1. Extension of community based support for C&YP experiencing domestic violence, including individual and group work.</p>	<p>Ensures the needs of C&YP experiencing domestic violence can be met and the impact and subsequent harm caused by domestic violence is minimised. Using consultation and needs assessment procedures with C&YP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C&YP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survive ○ Victim Support ○ Safer SG ○ SGPCT ○ SG Council ○ CAMHS ○ Connexions ○ Youth Service

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Action Holder	Responsible Agency
	<p>SMART TARGETS:</p> <p>To develop and implement a robust monitoring system to explore the existence of links between domestic violence, attendance at school and anti-social behaviour, by the end of 2010.</p>	<p>2C2. Development and implementation of innovative work in schools and other agencies to identify and support C&YP experiencing domestic violence.</p>	<p>Safeguards C&YP whilst in a safe environment at school, to provide them with information and options for support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C&YP ○ Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG Council ○ Survive ○ SG PCT ○ LSCB ○ Connexions ○ Youth Service ○ CAMHS
		<p>2C3. To consider the links between C&YP involved in anti-social/offending behaviour and domestic violence and appropriate interventions for support.</p>	<p>Identify C&YP with complex needs and works to address causes for their negative behaviours and to implement timely and appropriate support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C&YP ○ Strategic Exec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG ○ A&S Police ○ YOT ○ Survive ○ SG Council
		<p>2C4. Consultation, development and circulation of appropriate information resources for C&P experiencing domestic violence.</p>	<p>Ensures that information on healthy relationships and appropriate support is accessible to all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communication ○ C&YP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG ○ SG Council ○ SGPCT ○ Survive ○ Connexions ○ Youth Service
		<p>2C5. To establish a picture of current attitudes to healthy relationships and access to services by C&YP in South Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>Ensures that services and information is appropriate to need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C&YP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies.
		<p>2C6. Development of a pathway plan for C&YP disclosing domestic violence.</p>	<p>Ensures that C&YP experiencing domestic violence are offered appropriate support and risk management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C&YP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survive ○ SG Council ○ SG PCT ○ Victim Support ○ Connexions

		<p>2C7. To ensure that children and young people feel safe and secure and that risk is appropriately managed for and with them.</p>	<p>Reduces the fear of crime amongst children and young people and ensures that the incidence of serious harm and injury is reduced through comprehensive management of risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec ○ C&YP ○ MARAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies.
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3. Perpetrators

Policy Context

- **Safety and Justice: The Government's Proposals on Domestic Violence, 2003**
This outlines the Government's proposals to help prevent domestic violence, improve support and protection for victims and bring more perpetrators to justice. It builds on the domestic violence proposals outlined in *Justice for All* White Paper in 2002. The Government's strategy for tackling domestic violence is focused on three elements:
 - **Prevention** – working to prevent it happening in the first place, and working with victims and offenders to prevent it recurring.
 - **Protection and Justice** – increased legal protection for victims and their families.
 - **Support** – for victims to rebuild their lives.

- **South Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement 2006/2009**
 - To target health promotion activity at individuals with high health need.
 - To improve adult mental health
 - To reduce crime, the harm caused by drugs and alcohol and to reassure the public by reducing the fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and by improving safety in homes and public spaces.

- **South Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement Stretch Targets, 2007-2010**
 - Reduction in violent crime

- **Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) 225 – Actions Against Domestic Violence:**
 9. Does the council's tenancy agreement have a clause stating that perpetration of domestic violence by a tenant can be considered grounds for eviction? (for local authorities that have transferred their housing stock, the clause should be contained in the LSVT organisations' tenancy agreement).

Aims and Targets for Perpetrators

Outlined below are the overarching aims of the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Strategy Action Plan in relation to Perpetrators.

3A. Prevention

Aim: To promote a 'zero tolerance' attitude towards violent behaviour.

SMART Targets

- To ensure that three one-day multi-agency domestic violence training courses are provided annually over three years (in addition to agency specific training also delivered). Training courses should include information about the dynamics, causes and consequences of domestic violence and 45 people should be trained.

**The figure of 45 people is based on evaluations from previous courses, which suggest no more than 15 people should attend each course, as the issues covered are emotive and therefore support may need to be offered to attendees.*

- To develop and implement a monitoring system, to identify the numbers of people seeking support for violent behaviour by 2010.

3B. Protection

Aim: To ensure that relevant systems and processes are clear and proportionate.

SMART Targets:

- To increase the number of arrests made as a proportion of domestic violence crimes reported.

**Baselines to be established during 2007/2008 using data from data collection systems implemented in April 2007.*

- To increase the number of domestic violence perpetrators making an early guilty plea during criminal case proceedings over three years*.

**Baselines to be established during 2007/2008 using data from data collection systems implemented in April 2007.*

3C. Provision

Aim: To provide, improve and develop effective service provision to enable perpetrators to acknowledge and change their behaviour.

SMART Targets:

- To develop a community-based perpetrators programme and women's safety work for South Gloucestershire, in a joint project with Bristol by 2010.
- To increase the capacity within South Gloucestershire to provide the court mandated IDAP programme, in order to reduce waiting times and meet demand by 2010.

**Baselines to be established during 2007/2008 using data from data collection systems implemented in April 2007*

3. Perpetrator Action Plan

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Action Holder	Responsible Agency
3A. Prevention	<p>AIM: To promote a 'zero tolerance' attitude towards violent behaviour.</p> <p>SMART TARGETS:</p> <p>To ensure that six one-day multi-agency domestic violence training courses are provided annually over three years. Training courses should include information about the dynamics, causes and consequences of domestic violence and 90 people should be trained.</p> <p>To develop and implement a monitoring system, to identify the numbers of people seeking support for violent behaviour by 2010.</p>	<p>3A1. Ensure training provision acknowledges the complexities, dynamics and causes of domestic violence</p>	Effective training contributes to breaking the cycle of domestic violence and ensures effective interventions with Perpetrators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training ○ Perpetrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG ○ A&S Police
		<p>3A2. Identify need, develop and circulate appropriate and accessible information about services available in South Gloucestershire.</p>	Ensures appropriate information is accessible to all, to support with identifying and responding to domestic violence, and to promote a zero tolerance attitude.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communication ○ Strategic ○ Perpetrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signature agencies
		<p>3A3. Co-ordinate and implement effective communication and publicity to advertise services and projects within South Gloucestershire.</p>	Identifies gaps in services provision, and supports communities with seeking appropriate help.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communication ○ Perpetrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG ○ A&S Police
		<p>3A4. Ensure that information is available to all communities about the dynamics, causes and consequences of domestic violence, and appropriate interventions with perpetrators.</p>	Advocates third party reporting of domestic violence and to assist Perpetrators with identifying and taking responsibility for their own behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communication ○ Perpetrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signature agencies
		<p>3A5. To ensure that appropriate training and resources are implemented in community settings to educate and promote zero tolerance attitudes to violent behaviour.</p>	Promotes a zero tolerance attitude towards violence in South Gloucestershire, Targeting perpetrators to address their behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training ○ C&YP ○ Adult Support ○ Communication ○ Perpetrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signature agencies

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Action Holder	Responsible Agency
3B. Protection	<p>AIM: To ensure that relevant systems and processes are clear and proportionate.</p> <p>SMART TARGETS:</p> <p>To increase the number of arrests made as a proportion of domestic violence crimes reported.</p> <p>To increase the number of domestic violence perpetrators making an early guilty plea during criminal case proceedings over three years*.</p>	<p>3B1. To ensure that the implementation and development of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) in South Gloucestershire addresses proportionate responses to violent behaviour.</p>	<p>Ensure that whilst the SDVC addresses the needs of the victim and any children, the process is also fair and proportionate towards perpetrators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic ○ Perpetrators ○ SDVC Steering Group ○ SDVC Operational Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safer SG ○ A&S Police ○ CPS ○ HMCS
		<p>3B2. To ensure that appropriate risk and needs assessments are implemented in any domestic violence situation.</p>	<p>Ensures that situations are dealt with appropriately, Maintaining the safety of victims, children, perpetrators and any workers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic ○ Training ○ Adult Support ○ Perpetrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies
		<p>3B3. To ensure all relevant staff have received the necessary training to deal with situations of domestic violence fairly and safely.</p>	<p>Ensures the safety of all parties and proportionate responses to incidents of domestic violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training ○ Strategic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies

Theme	Aim	Objective	Outcome	DV Forum Action Holder	Responsible Agency
3C. Provision	<p>AIM: To provide, improve and develop effective service provision to enable perpetrators to acknowledge and change their behaviour.</p>	<p>3C1. Development of community based perpetrator programmes in line with Respect standards for service delivery.</p>	<p>Provide perpetrators with an option to access community-based help and support for addressing their violent behaviour, without the requirement of Court ordered programmes. Complemented by appropriate support for victims and children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic ○ Perpetrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A&S Police ○ Probation ○ YOT ○ Survive ○ Safer SG

	<p>SMART TARGETS:</p> <p>To develop a community-based perpetrators programme and women's safety work for South Gloucestershire, in a joint project with Bristol by 2010.</p> <p>To increase the capacity within South Gloucestershire to provide the court mandated IDAP programme, in order to reduce waiting times and meet demand by 2010.</p>	<p>3C2. Monitor and seek to develop the capacity to deliver the Court mandated Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) in South Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>Ensures that if a perpetrator is ordered by the court to attend an IDAP programme, there is sufficient capacity to meet this demand. With appropriate women's safety support being offered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Strategic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Safer SG o Probation o LCJB
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4. Strategic Partnerships

Policy Context

- **Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 & Police Reform Act, 2002**
The above Acts place a statutory duty on the Local Authority, Police, Primary Care Trust, Police Authority and Fire and Rescue Authority to work together to produce a three year strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder.
- **Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 – Amendment 2004**
In 2004 Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) were given 'responsible authority' status within Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP). This enforced a statutory duty for PCTs to work with other local agencies to reduce crime.
- **Public Service Agreements (PSAs)**
 1. Reduce crime by 15%, and further in high crime areas by 2005/2008
 2. Reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour; and building confidence in the criminal justice system without compromising fairness
 3. Improve the delivery of justice by increasing the number of crimes for which an offender is brought to justice by 1.25 million by 2005/2008
 6. Increase voluntary and community engagement, especially amongst those at risk of social exclusion.
 7. Reduce race inequalities and build community cohesion
- **South Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement 2006/2009**
 - To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services by increasing the strength, capacity and engagement of local communities to create local solutions.
- **South Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement Stretch Targets 2007/2010**
- **Community Safety & Drugs Partnership: A Strategy for the reduction of crime, disorder, drugs and alcohol misuse in South Gloucestershire, 2005-2008.**
The Strategy sets out Safer South Gloucestershire's priorities, aims and objectives against which successes will be judged between 2005-2008 and includes the Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs), as well as additional local priorities.
- **Working Together, 2006¹**
Working Together sets out the governments expectations on how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
The document outlines the need for a shared responsibility in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children – and in particular protecting them from significant harm. In order to achieve this joint working, there needs to be constructive relationships between individual workers, promoted and supported by: a strong lead from elected or appointed authority members, and the commitment of chief officers in all agencies – in particular, the LA's Director for Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services.
- **Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) 225 – Actions Against Domestic Violence**

4. Has the local authority produced and adopted a multi-agency strategy to tackle domestic violence in partnership with other agencies?
5. Does the local authority support and facilitate a local multi-agency domestic violence forum that meets at least four times a year?
6. Has the local authority developed an information sharing protocol and had it agreed between key statutory partners?
11. Has the local authority carried out a programme of multi-agency training in the last twelve months, covering front line staff in at least two of the following groups: housing staff, social services staff, education staff, health staff and front line police officers?

Aims and Targets for Strategic Partnerships

The overarching aim of the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Strategy in relation to Strategic Partnerships is:

To ensure effective and responsible collaborative working – to address the causes, consequences and dynamics of domestic violence.

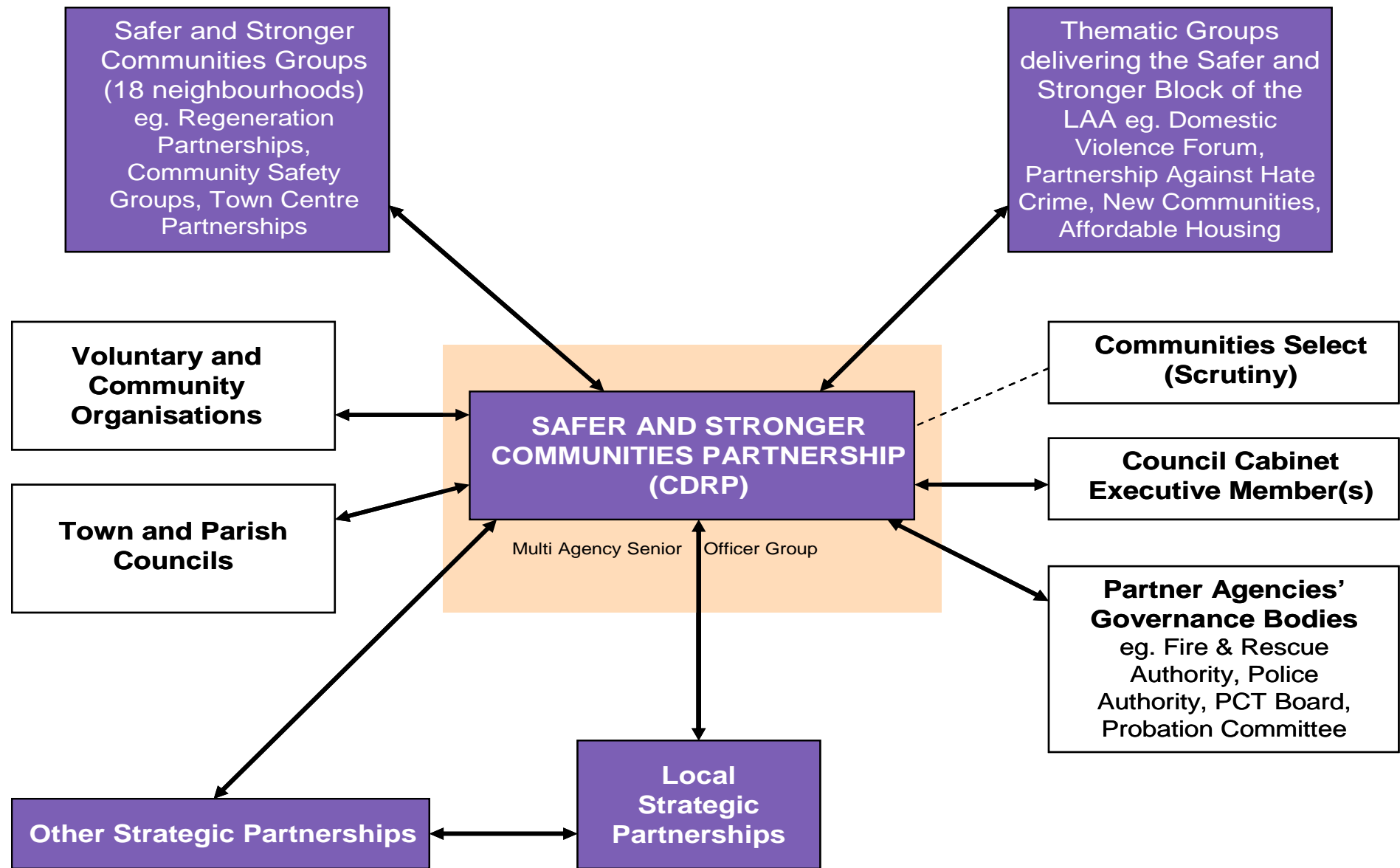
Reference

¹ HM Government, 2006: *Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children*, HM Government: London

4. Strategic Partnerships Action Plan

Theme	Aim	Task	Outcome	DV Forum Action Holder	Responsible Agencies
4.A Partnerships	To ensure effective and responsible collaborative working – to address the causes, consequences and dynamics of domestic violence.	4A1. Ensure accurate information is available from agencies and organisations in South Gloucestershire, in order to glean reporting patterns and types of abuse happening.	To enable effective service provision and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec ○ Adult Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies.
		4A2. Development/adoption, implementation and review of agency specific domestic violence policies and procedures.	To enable agencies to effectively meet the needs of those affected by domestic violence, reflecting best practice wherever possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies
		4A3. Promote collaborative working through the provision of training to multi-agency groups and through multi-agency delivery – supported at managerial and Chief Officer level.	Effective multi-agency response to victim/survivors, perpetrators and strategy. To ensure cohesive policy and service development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies
		4A4. Ensure the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Strategy and Action Plans are monitored for performance and progress and linked to relevant policies and strategic plans within South Gloucestershire and nationally.	Ensure effective implementation and ongoing relevance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies
		4A5. Ensure funding and resourcing of domestic violence services in South Gloucestershire are considered at a Strategic, multi-agency level.	Effective service provision enabling joined-up working.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies
		4A6. Ensure the sharing of best practice, and a commitment to developing and implementing best practice in tackling domestic violence.	Ensures continued development of services and responses to domestic violence, and standards of delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Exec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All signatory agencies

Appendix 1a: Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Structure Diagram



Appendix 1b: Membership of South Gloucestershire Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership:

Merlin Housing Society – representing all South Gloucestershire Registered Social Landlords

Federation of Small Businesses

Faith Groups

Kingswood Community Safety Group

Council for Voluntary Services

Avon & Somerset Constabulary

South Gloucestershire Race Equality Network/Black Development Unit

Victim Support Avonvale & Avon and Somerset Local Criminal Justice Board

Tenant Liaison Area Panel

District Neighbourhood Watch Association

Connexions

South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust

Avon Fire and Rescue Authority

Avon Fire and Rescue Service

Partnership Against Hate Crime

North Avon Magistrates

Patchway Community Safety Group

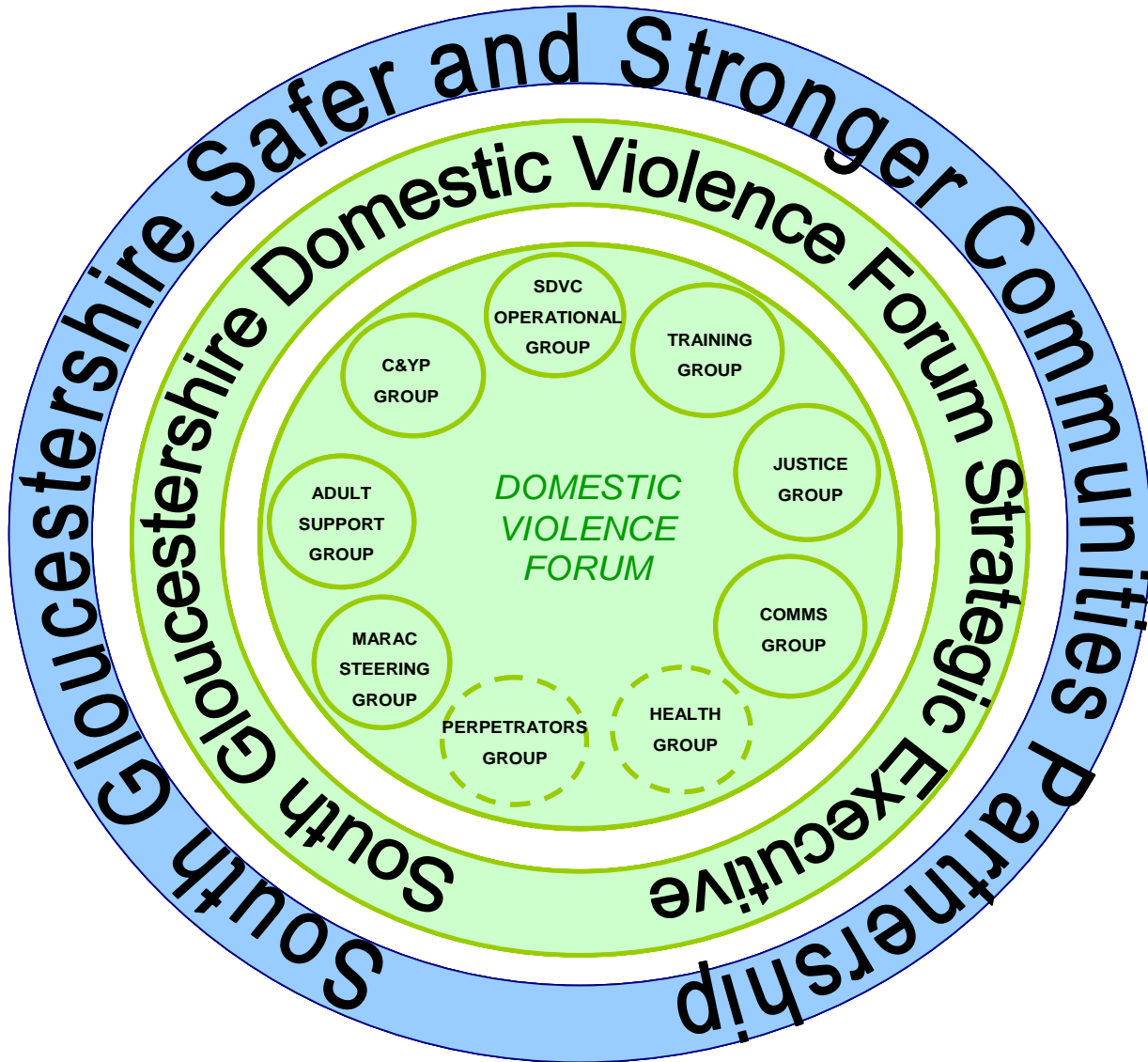
Cultural Forum

Avon & Somerset Probation Area

Avon & Somerset Police Authority

South Gloucestershire Council

Appendix 2: Domestic Violence Forum and Partnership Structure (2007)



Explanation:

In order to streamline the work of the South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum (SGDVF) and wider partnership working, the following delivery and performance monitoring structure will be implemented:

The South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum will be a network of individuals and agencies, committed to tackling domestic violence in South Gloucestershire. They will meet twice a year to share best practice, network and for training opportunities, (one of these meetings may coincide with the Regional DV Awareness Week).

In addition, members of the SGDVF will form **9 Specialist Groups within the SGDVF**. These Groups will be tasked with the development and delivery of specialist areas of work to tackle domestic violence in South Gloucestershire (e.g. children & young people, adult support and health) – in line with the priorities set out in *Everyone's Business* The South Gloucestershire Multi-Agency Strategy.

The work of the Specialist Groups will be guided and monitored by the **Domestic Violence Strategic Executive**. In order to facilitate communication, strategic support and performance monitoring between the Specialist Groups and the Strategic Executive; the Groups will each be Chaired by a member of the Strategic Executive.

The Strategic Executive will in turn be Independently Chaired and will develop formal monitoring lines with the **South Gloucestershire Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership**. Who simultaneously report to the Government Office for the South West, Primary Care Trust Executive Board and the Senior Officer's Group (SOG).

Each **Specialist Group**, as a result of the appointment of a Strategic Chair, should also have improved lines of communication to relevant groups, for example: C&YP Group to the Safeguarding Children Board.

Appendix 3: Template for South Gloucestershire Domestic Violence Forum Specialist Groups

ACTION PLANS:

Objective	Tasks	SMART Targets	Action Holder	Resource