



SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

DOMESTIC ABUSE ACTION PLAN

I. Short Terms Actions – All actions achievable within six months

Action	Lead Agency	Target date	Outcomes	Status
I.1 Nominated Domestic Abuse representative within each agency	Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership	March 2007	Improved communication across agencies Increased availability of accurate information	Domestic Abuse Working Group has been set up and has quarterly meetings.
I.2 Ensure information is available to all agencies for access & availability of panic alarms	Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership	Ongoing	Increase safety for families at risk of harm Increase safety for adults and young people at risk of harm. Improved victims' sense of security Reduce use of temporary housing	Agencies requesting panic alarms when required. There are approximately 50 in West Kent. Agencies can also access adult social services as an extra resource
I.3 Web links to domestic abuse information on Sevenoaks District Council website. Input from all agencies	SDC Domestic Abuse Working Group	Ongoing	Accurate and appropriate information available to all those with Internet access	All members of Domestic Abuse Group ensure their links are in place and information is up-to-date through SDC.

2. Support in the Community

Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Outcomes	Status
2.1 Development of a holistic support service across the District (linked to 3.1)	Domestic Abuse Working Group	March 2008	Increased safety of families affected Supported victims lead to increased conviction & reduced attrition rates	Domestic Abuse Working Group is up and running and sharing information about needs and services.
2.2 Seek funding for a Play Therapist for children/young people affected by Domestic Abuse	Children's Consortium Domestic Abuse Working Group	March 2008	Help with wellbeing & emotional support of young people & their families.	Funding Bids are being sought on a regular basis. FWA are looking at possibility of using trainee Play Therapists for work placements in the short term
2.3 Investigate availability of a rolling Freedom Programme	Building Bridges	Ongoing	Provision of rolling support for families experiencing Domestic Abuse	The freedom programme has been a rolling programme in Edenbridge & Sevenoaks, with the aim to start a new programme in Swanley
2.4 Information and advice available relating to Domestic Abuse	Building Bridges	Ongoing	To signpost enquiries such as – floating support services	The group holds information of other members services to be able to signpost information on Domestic Abuse
2.5 Investigate ways of delivering the Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy of Training Standard Manual to all staff working with those affected by domestic abuse	Kent & Medway Domestic Violence Strategy Group Co-ordinator	Manual available from May 2007 Training Delivered September 2007	Trainers identified Training delivered Improved knowledge & awareness across all sectors leads to improved service delivery	Training Manual has now been produced and training days have been attended in June 07. There will be 2 more assessment days

2.6 Increase awareness of availability of legal advice to victims	Community Legal Service/ CABx working with County Co-ordinator	March 2007	Increased availability to legal advice leads to improved safety and improved means of holding perpetrators to account	Working Floating Support providers and workers from Refuges have been asked to keep records of difficulties they have faced regarding legal representation. This will be studied in November by the National Centre of Domestic Violence in order that they can produce protocols relating to legal advice from solicitors.
2.7 Safe Haven and Panic Room initiatives to be continued.	SDC Housing	Ongoing	Improved safety for families affected Reduced need for refuge and temporary housing	Scheme currently in place.

3. Support for Children

Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Outcomes	Status
3.1 Investigate development of appropriately supervised contact centres	Children's Consortium/Domestic Abuse Working Group	March 2008	Provision of safe facility gives courts wider scope for contact orders and improves safety	Sevenoaks Churches Together are interested in helping to provide Supervised Contact Centres. There maybe funding available in order that premises used for Supervised Contact Centres are to the required national standards. Sevenoaks Churches Together and Alison Gilmour will work together in September regarding Contact Centres
3.2 Increased availability of children's mental health services	Children's Consortium	March 2008	Improved mental health and well being of children Increased positive social interaction & relationships.	Referrals can be made to SSKY Project. CAMHS are producing a strategy across Kent. The PCT are funding a Tier 2 level CAMHS full-time post which will be a resource to link with the SSKY project already working in schools

4. Safe & Supportive Housing

Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Outcomes	Status
4.1 Develop Children's Services in refuge	West Kent Refuge	Subject to external funding bid	Support for children increases health and well being	Tunbridge Wells Refuge does not have the space to add teenage rooms and family rooms. Supporting People are looking at funding another Refuge in West Kent, which will be able to provide Family Units with their own bathrooms and facilities, in order that older male children can stay with their family. No date confirmed as yet.
4.2 Investigate availability of refuge accommodation for teenage children families	West Kent Refuge	ongoing	Support for teenage children increases health and well being.	Supporting People are looking at funding another Refuge in West Kent, which will be able to provide Family Units with their own bathrooms and facilities, in order that older male children can stay with their family. No date confirmed as yet.

<p>4.3 Investigate standardised housing procedures, including fast track transfer/exchange mechanism, across the three boroughs</p>	<p>SDC/ With housing providers/T&M and Tunbridge Wells</p>	<p>March 2007</p>	<p>Streamlined access to appropriate temporary housing leads to improved safety of victims</p>	<p>Informal arrangements in place to transfer, but a formal agreement to be investigated as part of the sub-regional working agenda. A West-Kent sub-regional housing strategy is being developed and this will be included as an action.</p>
<p>4.4 Investigate 2nd stage refuge accommodation and resettlement service and alternative solutions to assist families leaving refuge & temporary housing</p>	<p>SDC through bi-monthly meetings with T&M and Tunbridge Wells</p>	<p>March 2007</p>	<p>Increased independence and reduced isolation leads to more sustainable re-housing</p>	<p>Moat Housing has re-designated two units for move-on accommodation. WKHA uses two of its units for the same purpose. Occupiers of refuge given housing advice and assistance, such as Rent-in-Advance and Deposit Bond schemes, the Sevenoaks District Housing Register, a specialised floating support service to assist with re-housing. WKHA secured tender to provide advice & assistance on domestic abuse cases, legal advice or housing, non-molestation orders and injunctions.</p>

5. Perpetrators

Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Outcomes	Status
5.1 Establishment of accredited programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse, available to court-ordered and voluntary attendees, including partners' support	The Probation Service	On going	Improved sanctions; educates perpetrators; acts as deterrent; support victims	In place for offenders of Domestic Abuse
5.2 Investigate joint preventative programmes/Partnership of the Community Programme	Kent & Medway Domestic Violence Strategy Co-ordinator	September 2007	Work with men who want to address their problems with domestic abuse issues.	Community Domestic Abuse Programme for West Kent in place and held at Wealden Centre, Tonbridge

6. Education & Prevention

Action	Lead Agency	Target Date	Outcomes	Status
6.1 Specialist input from a Domestic Abuse Safe Schools Officer into the school Personal, Social & Health Education curriculum	Kent & Medway Domestic Violence Strategy County Co-ordinator	September 2007	Improved peer support for child witnesses Sets tone for respectful relationships in future life Development of Safe Schools Officer	school curriculum has been set up and visits are being made to schools and advice given on Domestic Abuse by the Kent & Medway Domestic Violence Strategy County Co-ordinator .
6.2 Awareness raising campaign using various media, including radio and newspapers	Sevenoaks District Domestic Abuse Working Group	On-going	Improved awareness of general public improves support for victims and conveys message of unacceptability to perpetrators	Information regarding the Freedom Programme has been recently aired on Invicta Radio. Press release sent to local papers advertising the Programme. Also DA information has been released through the Council's InShape magazine.
6.3 Design and production of general information leaflets and posters	Sevenoaks District Domestic Abuse Working Group	On-going	Increased availability of accurate and appropriate information leads to improved service access	Leaflets to be produced by December 2007
6.4 Support the development of a women's support training programme	Building Bridges	On-going	Improved understanding by victims of the nature of abusive relationships leads to improved safety of families	The Freedom Project is in place.