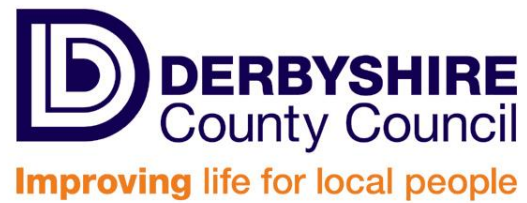


Public



**SUMMARY  
OF THE  
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
ON  
DOMESTIC ABUSE**

For service clients who took part in the  
Focus Group consultations

**October 2015**

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Adapted from the Executive Summary on the Health Impact Assessment on domestic abuse services commissioned by Derbyshire County Council June 2015.

**Acknowledgements:**

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Lisa Morris, Domestic Abuse Manager, Derbyshire County Council

Richard Keeton, Public Health Manager, Derbyshire County Council

**Special thanks must go to you the service-client and other individuals affected by domestic abuse, for the time you gave to take part in the consultation and for your willingness to share your personal experience**

### **What is domestic abuse?**

#### **A cross-government definition of domestic abuse<sup>1</sup>**

*“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender and sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse.*

*Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape, and regulating their everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”*  
(2015)

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.gov.uk/domestic-violence-and-abuse>, accessed (10 November 2015)

**GLOSSARY: a definition of key terms**

Accommodation and Housing Related Support Services	<p>Accommodation services in Derbyshire are available for those affected by domestic abuse needing to flee their home and go to a safe refuge. The refuges are available to those out of the area. Consideration will be made to those affected locally but the main priority is the safety of those supported in accommodation. Accommodation includes emergency temporary accommodation staffed by specialist support teams 365 days per year.</p> <p>Housing related support services are available to all male and female clients and support takes place within the home or in a safe place within the community. This is a housing related support service and can help and support with varying support needs which include but are not limited to securing safe/alternative accommodation, make the current home safer, look at refuge accommodation if needed, set up a new home, reduce any debt, access correct benefits, get into employment or education, access health care providers, obtain furniture and support with developing life skills as well as emotional support to cope with the domestic abuse. Support can be provided for up to 2 years in total.</p>
Advocacy services	<p>Advocacy services are those that inform, guide and help people affected by domestic abuse to access a range of support and services, and ensure their rights and entitlements are achieved. Effective advocacy services have been shown to improve access to community resources, reduce rates of intimate partner violence, improve safety, decrease depression, reduce stressors and improve children's wellbeing.</p>
Agency/Agencies	<p>An organisation or organisations that act as the agent, representative, or subcontractor of another organisation. For example, partner agencies such as the police, fire, social and health services who are involved with domestic abuse.</p>
Children's Domestic Abuse Support Services	<p>Services in Derbyshire are available to children and young people aged between 0-18 years (or 19 years if the referral is made before the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday) to lessen the impact of domestic abuse. The service aims towards four positive outcomes: increase confidence and self-esteem, improve expectations of interpersonal relationships, increase ability to keep safe, and personally grow and develop. The service is offered through individual sessions and group work. The service is time limited and offers on average of 6-8 sessions although, this can be increased to 12 if needed. The service also supports families to</p>

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	integrate into the community by introducing the family to services in the community who can also offer support.
Commission/Commissioners	A fee paid to an agent for providing a service/someone who has the authority to commission the provision of a service. Commissioning is also the process of identifying gaps in services and aims for further development to meet service need.
Community Profile	Community profiles are a way of understanding the life in local communities and help us to find ways to make improvements by looking at the latest available data across a range of indicators such as, for example, domestic abuse.
Community Safety Department	A department within Derbyshire County Council whose scope of responsibility includes working in partnership to reduce anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, drugs and alcohol, and safeguarding adults
Consultation	A discussion aimed at finding out opinions
Counselling services	Counselling services based on brief education, cognitive behavioural therapy and motivational interviewing have been shown to reduce depression and increase empowerment of people affected by domestic abuse.
Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Helpline	This is a confidential 24 hour helpline, available 7 days a week to provide guidance and support to people experiencing domestic abuse. During daytime hours callers are able to select an option which will divert them to their local domestic abuse outreach providers. Out of hours, including weekends and Bank holidays, the helpline is covered by Call Derbyshire where call handlers have been trained to provide immediate support and risk assessments.
Expert Knowledge	A person who has extensive skill or knowledge about a particular subject or field of work such as, for example, in domestic abuse.
High Risk Services	These address the safety of individuals at high risk of harm or homicide from intimate partners, ex-partners or family members to secure their safety and the safety of their children
Inequity	Lack of fairness or justice
Medium Risk Outreach Services	The services in Derbyshire provide practical and emotional support to medium risk domestic abuse individuals' and their families. The services also provide awareness raising training for professionals and organisations in their local area.
Perpetrator	Someone who commits or is responsible for something, usually something criminal or morally wrong such as an act or acts of domestic abuse, for example.
Perpetrator Programme	A Derbyshire-wide scheme that assists men to stop

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	<p>their abusive behaviour towards their female partners. Working alongside the programme for men there is a dedicated female partner support service that will support women and families whose partners are on the programme. This support will include risk assessments and safety planning. The programme is voluntary and does not work with men who are currently being investigated or waiting to appear before the courts for a domestic violence or serious violence offence.</p>
Public Health	<p>The science and art of promoting and protecting health and well-being, preventing ill-health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society.</p>
Service provider	<p>An organisation that provides a specific service or services</p>
Skill building services	<p>Skill building services provide teaching, training, experiential or group learning opportunities that enhance skills such as coping, safety planning and conflict resolution, decision making, danger assessment and economic education. Such services have shown to have a positive effect on an individual's coping skills, wellbeing, decision-making abilities, safety and reduction of abusive behaviour.</p>
Therapeutic programmes	<p>Therapeutic programmes are more intense than counselling and may be effective for improving post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, depression, parenting-related outcomes and may reduce risk of re-abuse.</p>
Research Evidence	<p>This is information which has been gathered to do with domestic abuse. It can be from different educational and academic sources and can include statistical information as well as written information such as, studies which have assessed the positive and negative effects on health of programmes for people affected by domestic abuse, for example.</p>
Service professional(s)	<p>Those individuals engaged in an occupation which conforms to the standards of skill, and competence expected within a particular role.</p>
Stakeholder	<p>An organisation that has an interest or concern in something. For example, organisations involved with domestic abuse.</p>

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF HIA ON DOMESTIC ABUSE FOR SERVICE CLIENTS WHO TOOK PART IN THE FOCUS GROUP CONSULTATIONS**

Domestic abuse is a significant Public Health issue because it is associated with poor health.

Derbyshire County Council purchases services which offers support to you, as affected by domestic abuse, your family members and friends, and perpetrators. The services are:

- Independent Domestic Violence Advisor, High Risk Services
- Medium Risk Outreach Services
- Children's Domestic Abuse Support Services
- Accommodation and Housing Related Support Services
- Perpetrator Programme
- Domestic Abuse Telephone Helpline

(A full description of the services can be found in section 4 of the main Health Impact Assessment document).

The Health Impact Assessment was part of the wider consultation to help define the future of service delivery. These services will be re-commissioned from April 2016.

### **Aim of the Health Impact Assessment**

The aim of the Health Impact Assessment was to examine how current Domestic Abuse services have an effect on health and, to make recommendations on how to maximise the positive health effects and minimise the negative health effects, within the new service to be re-commissioned in April 2016.

### **How we organised the Health Impact Assessment**

The Public Health and Community Safety departments organised a project team to oversee the practical co-ordination of the Health Impact Assessment.

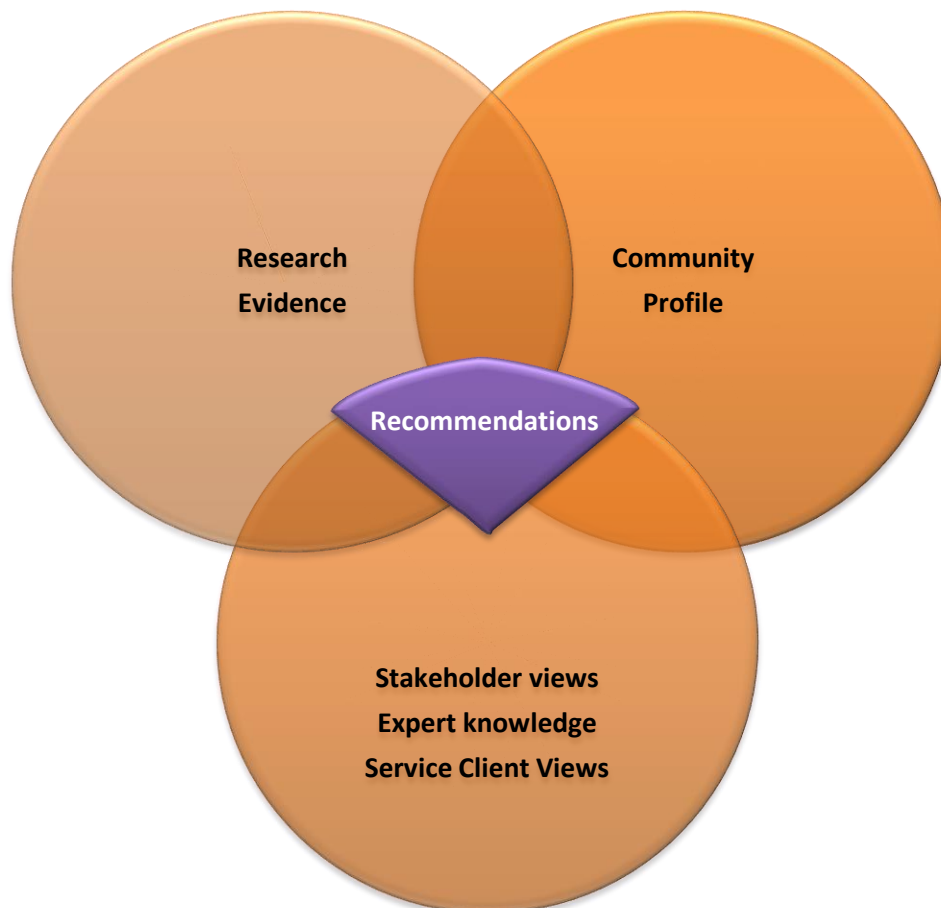
The Project team were supported by locality public health staff from across the county who assisted with the Focus Group discussions.

The Derbyshire City and County Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence Governance Board acted as the Steering Group for the Health Impact Assessment, to make recommendations.

All of the information we gathered from you and from our services, was reviewed by the Appraisal Panel. The panel was made up of volunteers from members of the Derbyshire City and County Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence Governance Board, and Public Health.

The types of information we gathered are explained in the next section.

## The groups of information we gathered which helped to inform the Health Impact Assessment on Domestic Abuse Recommendations



This diagram shows the groups of information we gathered on the impact on health of domestic abuse that helped to inform **Recommendations** for the development and re-commissioning of services.

Population statistics informed the **Community Profile**; academic research papers, the **Research Evidence**. Your viewpoints, as **Service Clients** and that of **Stakeholder** organisations and agencies with **Expert Knowledge** make up the third circle of gathered information.

We also developed a questionnaire, which could be completed online.

The tables below show the number of focus groups consulted, the online survey responses, and overall total

<b>Discussions with Focus Groups</b>	<b>Number of Focus Groups</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>
<b>Service clients</b>	8	43
<b>Professionals</b>	6	90

<b>Online survey and partner responses</b>	<b>Total Number</b>
<b>Public</b>	151
<b>Service providers</b>	38
<b>Partner surveys</b>	23
<b>Overall total</b>	212

The Appraisal Panel examined all the information gathered from these sources.

### **What we discovered about Domestic Abuse**

It is difficult to know to what extent domestic abuse happens in our society, as many cases go unreported. The best available information suggests that in England, approximately 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men experience domestic abuse within their adult lives.

A number of population groups experience higher rates of abuse; including women, young adults, the disabled, and those with a disability or long term health condition.

### **Key Facts for Derbyshire – Community Profile**

In 2013-14 there were more than 13,000 reported cases to the police of domestic abuse incidents in Derbyshire

- This is higher than the England rate. But it is not possible to be sure whether this locally high recorded rate is due to more domestic abuse being committed or if it is because of systems of better reporting and recording procedures by the police
- In Derbyshire, the rate of reported domestic abuse crimes is higher against women (7.1 per 1,000 population) than men (2.0 per 1,000 population) (source: Derbyshire Police 2013/14 in Figure 6, p. 22)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Great Britain Derbyshire County Council (2015) *Health Impact Assessment of domestic abuse services commissioned by Derbyshire County Council*

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- In Derbyshire, the highest rate of reported domestic abuse crime for both men and women by age is 16-24 years. Girls experience higher levels of abuse than boys.
- People living in Derbyshire and affected by domestic abuse often live in geographical areas of low economic and social opportunities. Such as, for example in employment, education skills and training, health and disability, their living environment to do with housing and services.

## What we discovered about the health effects of domestic abuse – Research Evidence

We looked at the Health impacts of Domestic Abuse and the health impacts of Domestic Abuse services. This next section explains what we discovered.

### The Health Effects of Domestic Abuse

The information you shared with us about your experiences of the effects of domestic abuse agreed with the information identified from the wider research on domestic abuse: that as well as physical injuries, people report significant harmful effects on their sense of emotional health and well-being. And that this can result in unhealthy behaviours such as, **excessive alcohol intake; poor diet, significant financial burdens and an impact on employment, education and housing**, (we have added the website addresses and contact numbers of organisations on page 12 which you may find useful).

### Health Effects of Domestic Abuse Services

Within academic research, studies of services which demonstrate strong evidence on the positive effects on health in people who have experienced domestic abuse are; *advocacy, skill-building, counselling and therapeutic programmes*. A description of each of the services mentioned here is outlined in the Glossary section.

The information we gathered from you highlighted the following services currently provided in Derbyshire, as having a **positive** effect on you and your family's health:

- services that supported individuals to adopt healthy behaviours
- services that provided financial education, employment and housing support
- services that helped individuals to access health, and social care support

These services were often described as helping to lessen the impact on your feelings of isolation, and of increasing your personal sense of confidence, and sense of gaining control.

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Services highlighted from the consultation which demonstrate the **negative** effects on health from our consultations with you are:

- exposure to the drug and alcohol use of others
- inequity in access to services across the county
- limitation in the availability of accommodation; for example, for families including children
- inconsistent access to health, social care and other support services
- worsened feelings of isolation and the perceived stigma of being a domestic abuse service client

## Analysis

The Appraisal Panel identified that there were positive and negative impacts on health from the point of view of:

- the people affected by domestic abuse
- their family members and friends
- the perpetrators
- the service professionals

And that there was scope for services to further reduce the negative impact on health and enhance the positive impacts reported by those groups.

## Main Recommendation

The main recommendation from the Health Impact Assessment is for Derbyshire County Council to continue to provide domestic abuse services and to act upon the remainder of the recommendations to ensure services have the maximum positive impact on the health of service clients. The full list of recommendations is shown on pages 9-12.

Additional recommendations we identified for commissioners, service providers, the Derbyshire City and County Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence Governance Board, other teams within Derbyshire County Council, and other agencies, are:

- to ensure that services are provided fairly across the county and support individuals to adopt healthier lifestyles
- to provide access to support and specialist services in a way that is reliable and fair.

Adoption of the recommendations will enable domestic abuse services to have the maximum positive impact on the health of service-clients.

The full list of the 39 recommendations for commissioners of domestic abuse services can be found in Section 8, pages 56-60 of the main Health Impact

Assessment of Domestic Abuse Services document, commissioned by Derbyshire County Council.

An electronic copy of the main document can be accessed from the Derbyshire Observatory website address below. A paper copy of the main document can also be made available to you if you prefer.

[http://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/IAS/Custom/resources/HealthandWellbeing/Health\\_Impact\\_Assessments/HIA\\_of\\_domestic\\_abuse\\_services\\_June2015.pdf](http://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/IAS/Custom/resources/HealthandWellbeing/Health_Impact_Assessments/HIA_of_domestic_abuse_services_June2015.pdf)

If you would like more information on Domestic Abuse please contact Lisa Morris, Domestic Abuse Manager at Derbyshire County Council on telephone 01629 538482 or mobile 07827873708, or by email: [lisa.morris@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.morris@derbyshire.gov.uk)

For information on the Health Impact Assessment document please contact Richard Keeton, Public Health Manager at Derbyshire County Council on mobile 07768858780, or by email: [richard.keeton@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.keeton@derbyshire.gov.uk)

### **Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Helpline**

This is a confidential 24 hour helpline, available 7 days a week to provide guidance and support to people experiencing domestic abuse. During daytime hours callers are able to select an option which will divert them to their local domestic abuse outreach providers. Out of hours, including weekends and Bank holidays, the helpline is covered by Call Derbyshire where call handlers have been trained to provide immediate support and risk assessments.

## Useful website addresses and contact numbers:

### Derbyshire County Council Call Derbyshire 01629 533190

Our call centre 'Call Derbyshire' is open between 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday and 9.30am to 4pm Saturdays to provide you with a speedy and direct response to many of the enquiries we most commonly receive.

Call charges may vary and calls from mobile phones may cost considerably more

### Derbyshire County Council <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/>

Provides information on community banks and advice on budgeting:

[https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social\\_health/adult\\_care\\_and\\_wellbeing/money\\_and\\_legal\\_matters/managing\\_money/savings\\_credit/default.asp](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social_health/adult_care_and_wellbeing/money_and_legal_matters/managing_money/savings_credit/default.asp)

Drug and alcohol advice [https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social\\_health/public-health/health\\_improvement/alcohol\\_and\\_drugs\\_support/default.asp](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social_health/public-health/health_improvement/alcohol_and_drugs_support/default.asp)

Food and portion control:

[https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/heart\\_of\\_derbyshire/portion-control/eating-in/default.asp](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/heart_of_derbyshire/portion-control/eating-in/default.asp)

Education: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/>

Housing:

[http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social\\_health/adult\\_care\\_and\\_wellbeing/accommodation\\_and\\_housing/default.asp](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social_health/adult_care_and_wellbeing/accommodation_and_housing/default.asp)

Derbyshire Alcohol Advice Service: <http://alcohol-advice.co.uk/> or Telephone 01246 206514

### Drinkaware (independent charity based in London)

<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/> aims to reduce alcohol-related harm by helping people make better choices about their drinking. **Drinkline (0300 123 1110)** is a confidential helpline you can call if you're worried about your drinking.

### NHS Choices the Eatwell plate:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodfood/Pages/eatwell-plate.aspx> the Eatwell plate

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highlights the different types of food that make up our diet, and shows the proportions we should eat them in to have a healthy, balanced diet.

**NHS Derbyshire Community Health services, Your Sexual Health Matters:**

<http://www.yoursexualhealthmatters.org.uk/>

If you do not have access to the internet health information leaflets can also be found from your GP practice, health clinics, local pharmacies, health and wellbeing zones, and some local libraries.

If you are interested in finding out more about data and statistical information **The Derbyshire Observatory** website provides different types of health evidence for Derbyshire including district health profiles. This website is best viewed in Google Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer 9 or above.

<http://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/IAS/>

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