



# Domestic Abuse Forum

## *Terms of Reference*

Community Safety Unit, Chief Executive's Services, Stockport Council, Victoria House, Town Hall, Stockport. SK1 3XE.  
T 0161 474 3117 - F 0161 474 3144 - E DAF@stockport.gov.uk

### **1. Remit of the Domestic Abuse Forum (DAF)**

The responsibilities of the DAF will include the following actions:

- 1.1. To work with representatives of agencies across sectors to prevent violent and abusive behaviour within partner and family relationships in Stockport.
- 1.2. To change attitudes towards domestic abuse: increasing awareness and reducing tolerance of such behaviour, and increasing the proportion reported to the Police and other partnership agencies
- 1.3. Improve the effectiveness of services in providing protection and support to people experiencing or affected by domestic abuse, including children in households where such abuse is taking place
- 1.4. Develop and improve ways of addressing the behaviour of those responsible for domestic violence, by means of enforcement, including prosecution, and support for behaviour change.
- 1.5. To ensure that the DAF operates to the requirements of Safer Stockport Partnership, and also to the DAF strategic plans.
- 1.6. To represent and be the voice of victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
- 1.7. To allocate the DAF funds according to the DAF members' decision and based on the funding application report.
- 1.8. To receive regular reports relating to the activities and outcomes of the implementation groups, and monitor the progress being made by each project towards its targets and objectives.
- 1.9. To receive quarterly financial monitoring reports.
- 1.10. To offer support, advice and strategic direction.
- 1.11. To provide specialist knowledge and experience within and outside scheduled meetings.
- 1.12. To seek or approve further or additional funding opportunities as appropriate.
- 1.13. To review the priorities for the DAF in Stockport, and to make recommendations to the Safer Stockport Partnership(SSP) for the needs and progresses of the DAF

## 2. Accountability

- 2.1. The Domestic Abuse Forum (DAF) is part of Safer Stockport Partnership
- 2.2. The major decisions regarding the DAF will be taken by the DAF's Chair in conjunction with the DAF and the SSP.
- 2.3. The Chair of the DAF will be a member of the Crime and Disorder Executive. Other members of the Partnership may also be members of the Executive, but this will not be essential.

## 3. Membership

### 3.1. Levels of memberships

The DAF consists in three levels of membership:

- ❖ Active member part of the Domestic Abuse Forum
- ❖ Active members part of the implementation groups
- ❖ The "Circulation list" consists in all the people wishing to receive information about the DAF but may not want to be directly involved in the work.

#### *3.1.1. Active member part of the Domestic Abuse Forum*

Only one member from each agency can be represented in the forum. This however is not applicable to staff which represents an agency specialised in domestic abuse issues (i.e. DVU, SWC, SWA...).

Members will be in charge of transferring the information to their colleagues who may be interested by our work.

#### *3.1.2. Active members part of the implementation groups*

The implementation groups are open to any professional/agency who would like to join their efforts in order to improve the services for domestic abuse victims, survivors and abusers. For more information about the implementation groups, see "[3.2. Structure](#)".

If a new member wishes to attend a meeting please email the domestic abuse co-ordinator on [DAF@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:DAF@stockport.gov.uk) giving all their details.

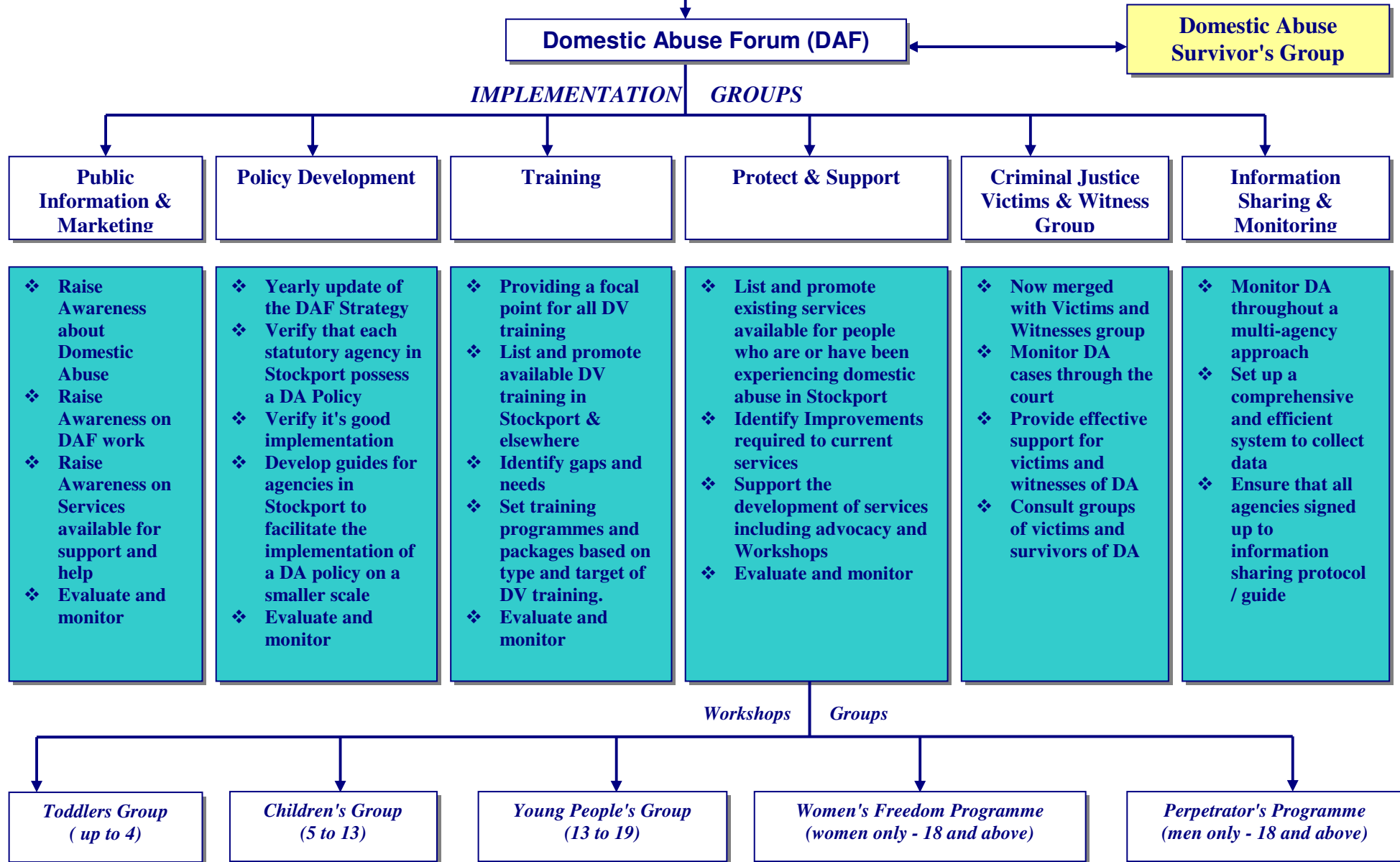
#### *3.1.3. The "Circulation list" consists in all the people wishing to receive information about the DAF but may not want to be directly involved in the work.*

This list is widely open to professionals/agencies and is managed by the co-ordinator. The type of information sent is general and consists in things such as the DAF Newsletter, information on events, training, etc.

Please email the domestic abuse co-ordinator on [DAF@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:DAF@stockport.gov.uk) to give the details of someone who would like to be part of this circulation list (via email).

For more information about the current members please ask for the DAF and implementation groups membership list available on request by email to [DAF@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:DAF@stockport.gov.uk) .

3.2. Structure



### 3.3. Agencies/Organisations represented

Although this list is not exhaustive there will be one member to act as representative from each of the following agencies/organisations including:

- ADAS
- CAFCASS
- Community Safety Unit
- Connexions
- Children's Fund
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Education Services
- Community Psychology Service
- Faith Groups
- Greater Manchester Police
- Housing and Homelessness Services
- Stockport Council Human Resources
- NHS Foundation Trust
- Primary Care Trust
- Probation Services
- Safeguarding Unit
- Social Services Children's and Adult's Services
- Stockport College
- Youth Services
- Solicitors (Independent)
- Stockport Women's Aid
- Stockport Women's Centre
- Relate GM South
- Victim Support

Each member should identify a nominated substitute to attend in their absence, to ensure consistency and continuity.

For more information see the DAF and implementation groups membership list.

## **4. Participation of victims and survivors of domestic abuse**

### **4.1. Survivor's Group**

A survivor's group constituted of persons who have experienced domestic abuse will be launched in 2005. Its aim is to provide constructive comments and feedback on the work done by the DAF as well as other services dealing with domestic abuse victims.

### **4.2. Consultation**

Workshop will be a way of providing anonymous views of DA victims.

A feedback system is due to be launched to collect comments from people using services while experiencing domestic abuse forum. This is still a project to be developed.

## **5. Meeting Arrangements**

The DAF meets every two months. The membership of the DAF and the Terms of References will be reviewed at least annually, and any changes reported to the Crime and Disorder Executive.