
Domestic Violence and Abuse

www.enfield.gov.uk

Striving for excellence



What is Domestic violence and abuse?

The definition of domestic violence and abuse now states:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

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.” *

Domestic Abuse Statistics – Enfield

12 months from 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019

- Domestic Abuse Incidents – **5,685** decrease of **0.5%** from same time last year (**n=5,714**)
- Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury offences – **951** increased by **3%** since last year from **923**
- **36.3%** of all Violence with Injury offences (**n=2,620**) were domestic related offences (**n=951**)
- Sexual Offences – **605** offences this year decreased from **641** last year (**5.6%**)
- Rape Offences - **247** this year and **275** last year decrease of **10.2%**

What is MARAC?

- MARAC is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.
- After sharing all relevant information they have about a victim, the representatives discuss options for increasing the safety of the victim and turn these into a co-ordinated action plan. The primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the adult victim.

MARAC Continued..

- In Enfield the MARAC is run every 3 weeks and is run by the Metropolitan police.
- To refer to MARAC there are 4 categories: Professional Judgement, 4 call outs to the police in 12 months, 14 ticks or above on the DASH risk assessment or Repeat incident.

Clare's Law

- It is named after Clare Wood, who was killed by her former partner in 2009. She did not know that he had a history of violence prior to entering a relationship with her.
- Clare's Law gives members of the public the right to ask if their partner has a history of violent or abusive behaviour. Checks will be made by police and information will be revealed where there is reason for concern.
- The information means people can make informed choices about their relationship.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA)

- The main purpose of independent domestic violence advocate (IDVA) is to address the safety of victims at high risk of harm from intimate partners, ex-partners or family members to secure their safety and the safety of their children.
- Serving as a victim's primary point of contact, IDVAs normally work with their clients **from the point of crisis** to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop safety plans.

What can IDVA's offer

Advice and support on:

- Safety – DASH risk assessment.
- Sanctions and remedies available through the criminal and civil courts.
- Housing/Emergency accommodation.
- Financial.
- Services available through other organisations .

Studies have shown that when high risk clients engage with an IDVA, there are **clear and measurable improvements in safety**, including a reduction in the escalation and severity of abuse and a reduction or even cessation in repeat incidents of abuse .

Protection Orders

- Non-molestation orders
- Occupation orders
- Prohibited steps order
- Residence order
- Restraining order
- Bail conditions
- Court bail conditions

Protection orders continued...

- Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN)

A DVPN is an emergency non-molestation and eviction notice which can be issued by the police, when attending to a domestic abuse incident, to a perpetrator. Because the DVPN is a police-issued notice, it is effective from the time of issue, thereby giving the victim the immediate support they require in such a situation.

- Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO)

Within 48 hours of the DVPN being served on the perpetrator, an application by police to a magistrates' court for a DVPO must be heard. A DVPO can prevent the perpetrator from returning to a residence and from having contact with the victim for up to 28 days. **This allows the victim a degree of breathing space to consider their options with the help of a support agency.**

Safety is a priority

- Is it safe to talk?
- Where is the perpetrator?
- Discussions on risk with victims should never be held with the perpetrator nearby
- How much time has the victim to talk to you?
- Talking in person – if you're phoning, how do you know the victim's answers are not being monitored or regulated?
- Explain the reasons for asking these questions and also inform what may happen following this

Local IDVA provision

- 4 IDVA's at Edmonton Police Station, 1 dedicated to Enfield Council residents.
- 2 IDVA's at North Middlesex hospital.
- 1 IDVA dedicated to the children centres
- 2 additional IDVA's to be based in the borough
- 1 Additional IDVA to be based in Chase farm hospital.
- 2 IDVA's at Highbury Court.

Domestic Abuse draft bill

- **The government published the draft Domestic Abuse Bill 21st January 2019 with a full response to the consultation launched earlier this year.**
- **Key measures in this long awaited legislation include:**
- **a statutory definition of domestic abuse,**
- **strengthened responses to perpetrators through the introduction of new civil orders**
- **The establishment of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner in law.**

The Draft Domestic Abuse Bill

Alongside the legislative reforms, a broad package of additional measures was also announced in the Government's full consultation response covering four main areas:

- Promoting awareness
- Protection and support for victims
- Transforming the justice process and perpetrator response
- Improving performance.

Support Agencies

- Solace Women's Aid – 0808 802 5565
- Victim Support – 0808 168 9111
- Enfield's women's centre – 0208 443 1902
- Enfield Saheli – 0208 373 6218
- Men's Advice line – 0808 801 0327
- National LGBT Domestic Abuse helpline: 0800 999 5428
- National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247