

Strategic Statement on Domestic Abuse in Oxfordshire

Vision: *“Everyone in Oxfordshire lives a life free from the harmful impacts of domestic abuse”.*

Strategic aims and objectives: *In seeking to deliver our strategic vision we will work together with our partner agencies, our communities and with people affected by domestic abuse to ensure*

1. specialist services are in place to respond expertly and effectively to the needs of all people in Oxfordshire affected by domestic abuse
2. wherever possible victims and their children are supported to remain in their own home, and to sustain existing access to services (e.g. schools, work) and support networks
3. our workforces and communities are educated, informed and skilled to enable them to safely and proactively recognise and respond to people before, during, and after experiencing abuse.
4. we promote healthy, nurturing and safe relationships for children, young people living in Oxfordshire and are committed to ensuring older people and adults with care and support needs are able to be safe from abusive relationships.
5. services with skilled and knowledgeable professionals are in place to support perpetrators to reduce offending and end abusive behaviours.
6. a multi-agency and user focused approach is taken to learning and reviewing our joint and individual efforts to tackle domestic abuse with robust structures in place to oversee and implement change.

Outcomes and Indicators of Success

The following Outcomes will be sought at a multi-agency level and measured as described to indicate our effectiveness in tackling domestic abuse in Oxfordshire. Each outcome is linked with the strategic aim of the same number set out above.

- 1. Victims (adults and children) and those at risk of experiencing domestic abuse feel and are safe**
 - Timeliness of multi-agency information sharing
 - Victims report feeling safer following engagement with support services
- 2. Victims (including children) can access appropriate support to enable them to continue to live in their own homes and to recover from the abuse they have suffered**
 - Percentage of victims accessing appropriate support services in a timely way
 - Number of victims from groups recognised as having more “hidden” abuse being identified and referred to services

3. **Communities are able to recognise an abusive relationship and know how to refer domestic abuse cases for appropriate help and support**
 - Evidence of good access to relevant and appropriate information, guidance and specialist support
 - Co-ordinated domestic abuse campaigns delivered
4. **Young people enjoy healthy relationships and older people or those with care and support needs are enabled to live safely free from domestic abuse**
 - Number of young victims and percentage of repeat victims of domestic abuse
 - Number of young perpetrators and percentage of repeat perpetrating of these offences
 - Number of older people and people with care and support needs receiving specialist domestic abuse support (directly or indirectly)
5. **Perpetrators are prevented from causing physical, psychological and emotional harm**
 - Number of repeat victims
 - Number and proportion of successful prosecutions
 - Effective completion of cognitive and behavioural change programmes
 - Professionals working with families have improved understanding and confidence in taking a “whole family” approach
6. **Agencies draw on shared knowledge, data and on the experiences of those affected by domestic abuse to improve responses to incidences and patterns of abuse**
 - There exist effective mechanisms to share knowledge and data across partner agencies
 - Structures are in place to challenge and ensure learning and review processes are effective
 - Voice of those affected by domestic abuse informs both service development work and the commissioning of new services

Definition of Domestic Abuse

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 members¹ 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.