



Somerset Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy Appendix Seven - Training Strategy

1 Domestic Abuse Training Standards

1.1 It has taken some time for this endorsed training programme to become established, as there is varying levels of understanding by agencies as to why domestic abuse is an issue that they need to know about.

Additionally, some agencies have also wanted to focus on risk assessing only, without fully appreciating the dynamics of domestic abuse including coercive and controlling behaviour. This risks the county not achieving an effective co-ordinated community response to tackling domestic abuse.

1.2 In order to ensure that professionals working in Somerset receive training, that enables them to understand the dynamics of domestic abuse and how to respond to identified cases, the Safer Somerset Partnership has formalized the training plan, in order that professionals in non-specialist domestic abuse services seeking training attend courses that are suitable for their level of knowledge and skill.

1.3 The following table provides details of the training standards.

Foundation Level Domestic Abuse Awareness (E-Learning and inclusion in Safeguarding courses)	
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic abuse E-learning and safeguarding training where domestic abuse is included, provide a general overview of the signs of domestic abuse and an awareness of what can be done to help
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professionals to be aware of domestic abuse as an issue • To understand their roles and responsibility to safeguard the children and vulnerable adults. • To understand the duty and limits of information sharing. • To understand the importance of multi agency working. • Professionals to have understanding of what action to take if they become aware of domestic abuse.
Target Audience	All frontline staff including administration staff and receptionists who often have first contact with service users.

Level 1: Domestic Abuse Awareness Training

Aims

- To raise awareness of domestic abuse to a multi agency audience.
- To enable professionals to understand their role, in effectively working with families where there is a domestic abuse including responding to perpetrators.

Outcomes - As per Foundation courses PLUS

- For professionals to develop an understanding of the different types of domestic abuse.
- To improve identification of domestic abuse and awareness of risk.
- To understand the dynamics of domestic abuse, the methods used by abusers to maintain power and control and to recognise domestic abuse as a continuum of abusive behaviour.
- To understand that abusers are solely responsible for the abuse and the harm it causes to the primary and secondary victims and that domestic abuse is intentional, functional and instrumental.
- To understand why leaving an abusive relationship is difficult.
- To understand the barriers to leaving an abusive relationship including those faced by LGBT victims, victims from BME backgrounds and of the complex challenges of vulnerable adults and other special needs of victims of domestic abuse.
- To understand how domestic abuse affects children
- To raise awareness of the local services and interventions available to those experiencing domestic abuse and their families and the role of relevant local agencies both statutory and voluntary.
- For agencies to be aware of and understand how to complete one standardised tool DASH (**D**omestic **A**buse, **S**talking, harassment and **H**onour based violence) risk assessment and the risk indicators.
- To understand the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process, their agency's role and referral process.
- To be aware of services available to people who are abusive to their partners and the necessity to work with the victim when perpetrator work is undertaken.
- To have an awareness of the legislative framework surrounding domestic abuse including domestic homicide reviews and the role of specialist domestic violence courts.

Target groups

Managers (of all levels) and staff who are in regular contact with the public. This may include staff working in the area of health, housing, legal advice, police, social care, benefits, early years/childcare, voluntary sector, education, vulnerable adults, substance misuse and probation.

Level 2: Intermediate Training

This will include more detailed specific programmes such as:

- So called Honour Based Abuse including Forced Marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews
- MARAC Representative
- Substance Misuse & Domestic Abuse
- Domestic abuse & law
- LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) victims of domestic abuse
- Domestic abuse & vulnerable adults
- Domestic abuse and mental health
- Domestic abuse and teenagers
- Male victims (heterosexual) of domestic abuse
- Legal interventions to support victims
- Responding to perpetrators of domestic abuse

Objectives will need to be developed for each programme and may include:

- Improving communication and information sharing between key professionals in response to any local policies and protocols.
- To consider the support needs of the non-abusing parent in order to help children to feel safe.
- To be aware of relevant recommendations from serious case reviews and homicide reviews and incorporate them into practice.

Target group: to be identified for each activity.

Anyone attending a Level 2 course, should have attended a Level 1 course in the previous 2 years.

It should be noted that there will still be gaps and emerging issues where new training will be needed.

Level 3 – Specialist Professional Training

There are a variety of professional courses available to those who want to have specialist knowledge in delivering support to victims of domestic abuse. This includes Independent Domestic Violence Advisor training offered by the national charities Safe Lives and Women’s Aid. These are NOT organised by the Safer Somerset Partnership.

2 Training Intentions for 2017-2021

- 2.1 In order to help develop an effective co-ordinated response to tackling domestic abuse, Somerset County Council on behalf of the Safer Somerset Partnership will continue to organise a programme of courses that anyone working in Somerset can attend.
- 2.2 Training will be delivered by local trainers for the Level 1 courses, and both local and external trainers as required for the Level 2 courses. Information on these training courses can be found online at [www.sometsurvivors.org.uk](http://www.somerset survivors.org.uk).

Additionally, specialist domestic abuse training opportunities will be co-ordinated and promoted between the other Community Safety Partnerships in the Avon and Somerset area wherever possible.

Courses are delivered with no budget, meaning that a charge is payable for many courses and for many professionals. See the training programme for the charging policy.

3 Useful Training Resources

- Domestic Abuse local services information at www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk
- Forced Marriage E-learning package -<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/>
- Domestic Homicide Review E learning-
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/domestic-homicide-review/>
- Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board training programme -
www.somersetsafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk

Domestic Abuse Training Enquiries
Email PublicHealthTraining@somerset.gov.uk

