Domestic Abuse Steering Group

Sarah Bowman Abouna, Public Health July 2025





DASG: Role & remit

- Mandated by the DA Act
- Membership includes representation of:
 - the interests of victims of domestic abuse
 - the interests of children of domestic abuse victims
 - Police
 - Health services
 - Voluntary sector specialist services

The objectives of the Group are to:

Oversee the delivery of system outcomes for domestic abuse, as defined in the Domestic Abuse Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees 2022-8

Facilitate the development and implementation of an action plan to deliver the strategy

Whole system approach to domestic abuse, across partners



DASG: Governance & approach

- Sub-group of Health & Wellbeing Board
- HWB development work & terms of reference / revised governance will reinforce links with / update reports to other strategic groups e.g. Safer Stockton Partnership, TSAB

Meetings are themed to align with DA Strategy (overview of progress against actions, problem-solving discussions e.g. themed discussions held on CYP, particularly education & role of Harbour's CYP workers.

Resulting actions e.g. clarified Harbour education offer to schools (and attended Heads meetings); raised awareness of Harbour CYP workers and connected in to children's services and wider colleagues.

Whole system and whole family approach e.g. wider community awareness raising work / work with adult victims and perpetrators, will impact on CYP



Our Vision

Everyone experiencing DA is listened to, supported and protected to live their life free from abuse

All victims of DA have access to inclusive, quality, affordable and appropriate safe accommodation and support

Perpetrators of DA are held to account and supported to change their behaviour



Early Years Children & Young People (EYCYP)

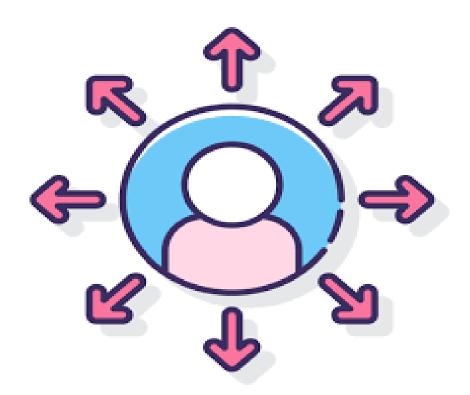
Through DASG / Strategy

The actions undertaken to date include:

- Exploring ways of working with childcare providers, including preschool
- Workforce development planning for frontline professionals working in the system for EYCYP (373 people trained to-date in yr 2 (total of 788 across 2yrs) including schools; nursery managers; childminders
- Healthy relationships training in schools & school community awareness: healthy schools approach
- Joint assessment/planning between social care and Harbour
- Establishing a CYP Team in Harbour
- Establishing a GP IDVA, working in primary care
- Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) pilot in place (OPCC) now includes a zone rather than a house. Helps protect children going to school from 'bumping' into the abuser
- Bridging the Gap (OPCC & Catalyst): understanding of picture re: DA & ethnically diverse communities across Cleveland helping shape support offer



Community awareness



Libraries 100% of libraries have received training on domestic abuse

Schools 10% of Primary Schools have received training on domestic abuse

Briefing session with **Nursery Managers**& Childminders



Early Years Children & Young People (EYCYP)

Through DASG / Strategy

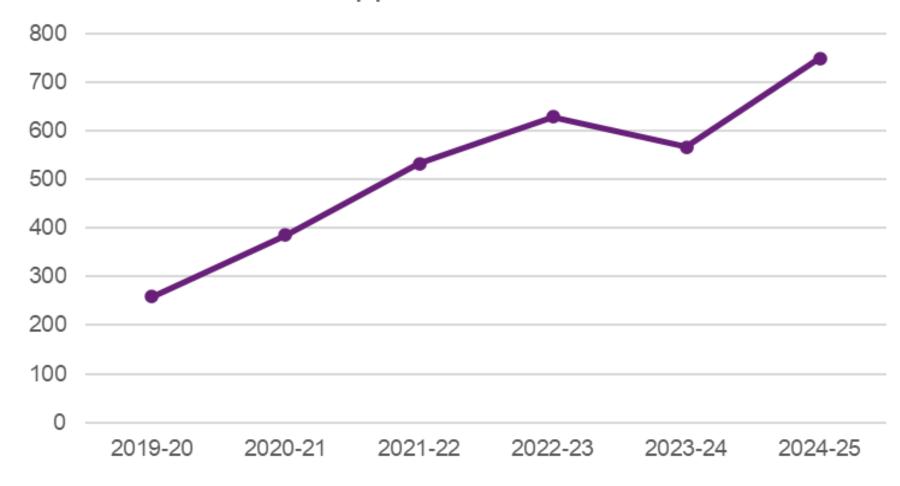
The actions undertaken to date include:

Support from services and commissioned services:

- 0-19 health visiting and public health school nursing
 - identifies and responds to DA through several approaches, including routine enquiry & arranging meetings with families outside the home when appropriate
 - response is risk-based actions tailored to level of risk disclosed. Referrals to relevant partners e.g. CHUB, Early Help, STEPS, Harbour.
 - strong partnerships with Harbour, ensuring all staff are trained to Level 3 in DA awareness and receive regular supervision. Individual cases are reviewed through deep dives to ensure effective support and safeguarding.
- CGL 'Hidden Harm Team' working with CYP, links to Harbour as needed
- Hospital IDVA (OPCC funded) links with maternity and midwifery
- Children's services and early work on children's system Families First Partnership reforms



Number of applications for Clare's Law





Outcome monitoring framework

Developed to monitor progress towards strategic priorities

Strategic priorities are aligned to Council Plan, Health and Wellbeing Strategy and other key strategies e.g. Community Safety Strategy



Priority Activities

Specialist support for victim survivors of domestic abuse

> Workforce development programme

Community awareness programme

Promote access to support Indicator (owner)

% individuals engage from starting to completing intervention with DA service (Harbour)

% of libraries with staff trained % hostels with staff trained %schools and colleges trained

% hairdressers involved % barbers involved

Recorded DA crimes

Action Plan themes

- Education and Children & Young People
- 2. Workplaces (employers)
- 3. Community awareness
- 4. Workforce development
- 5. Commissioning
- Best practice in service delivery
- 7. Pathway development (stop repeats)
- 8. Engagement in the criminal justice system

Reduced proportion of repeat victims of domestic abuse (Police data)

System Outcome

(measure)

Reduced prevalence of domestic abuse

An empowered and enabled workforce (self-reported confidence)

Increased community awareness of domestic abuse (School survey?)

Reduced levels of harm in communities (Cambridge Harm Index)

Reduced proportion of repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse (Police data)

1. Prevent domestic abuse

Strategic

Priorities

2. Intervene early

3. Support & protect victims

4. Stop repeat domestic abuse

5. Hold perpetrators to account and prevent harmful behaviours

6. Ensure data and intelligence are smart and shared

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experiencing DA is
listened to, supported
and protected to live
their life free from
abuse

All victims of DA have access to inclusive, quality, affordable and appropriate safe accommodation and support

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action



Next steps

Year 3 planning workshop

- DASG has DA & CYP as a focus area, linking with Families First Partnership agenda (working group)
- Ensuring joined up strategic outcomes re: DA & CYP inc:
 - Through H&W Board joint strategic outcomes with other key strategies e.g. Community Safety strategy
 - Families First Partnership (children's system reforms), inc. working with communities, safeguarding, family support, early help & front door to services
 - Powering Our Future Early Intervention & Prevention: Complex Lives (severe multiple disadvantage)
- Exploring opportunities to maximise identification of Domestic Abuse in maternity services (e.g. does maternity services data on patients experiencing domestic abuse equate to expected proportions?)
- Continue strengthening relationships with childcare providers to strengthen offer / prevention support
- Strengthening relationships with Safeguarding Partnership, including exploring joint training opportunities
- Whole school approach to domestic abuse (includes school community)
- Community awareness plan: expand to include bystander programme for CYP
- Continued wider work on empowered workforce, repeat perpetrators & repeat victims
- Monitoring through agreed outcomes framework

